

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)

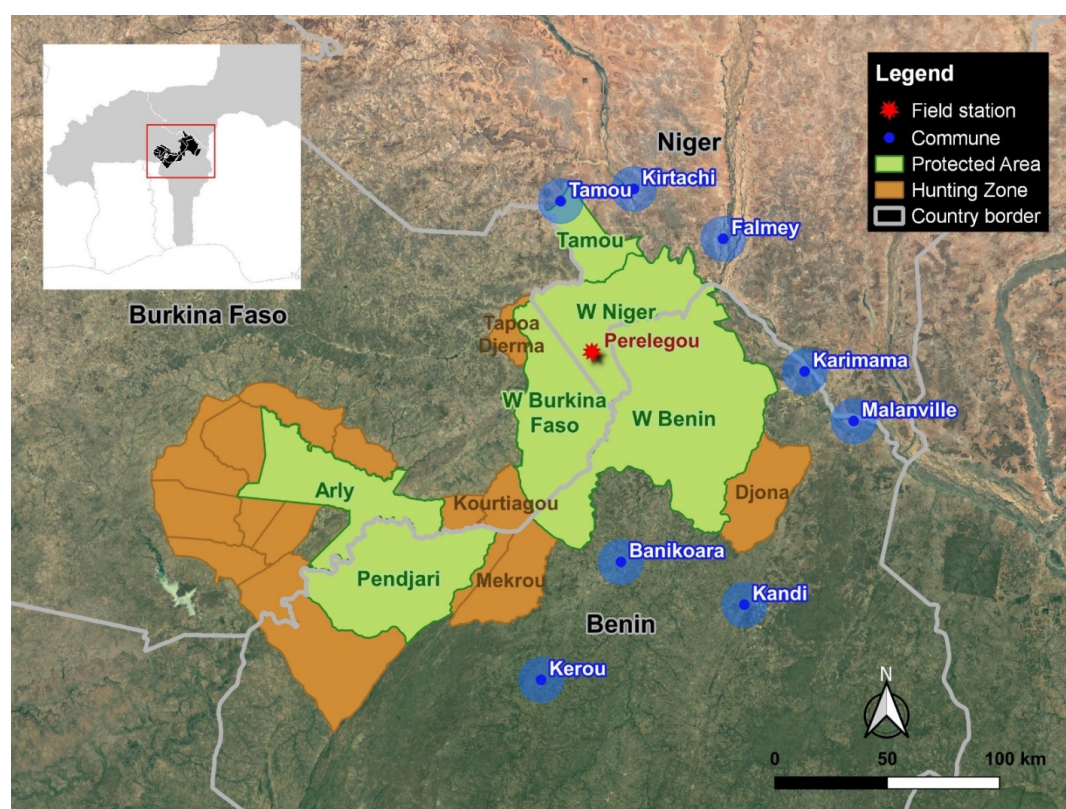
Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT055
Project title	Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.
Country/ies	Benin, Niger
Lead organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partner institution(s)	MEDD, AVIGREF, Communes, Police, Judiciary, University of Portsmouth, Panthera
IWT grant value	£387, 149
Start/end dates of project	July 2018 – March 2021
Reporting period (e.g. April 2018-Mar 2019) and number	July 2018-March 2019, Annual Report 1
Project leader name	Eleanor Harvie, Africa Programme Manager
Project website/blog/social media	https://zsl.org/ Twitter: @zslafrica
Report author(s) and date	Vincent Lapyere and Eleanor Harvie, April 2019

1. Project rationale

The W Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (WTBR) is a key part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape:



This area is recognized as a conservation priority and a last stronghold for elephant (listed as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), lion (critically endangered) and cheetah (critically endangered) in West Africa. IWT is the major threat to these species in the WAP, where opportunistic poaching and organised crime are trafficking animal parts like ivory, bones, skins and other products. This project helps address this by:

- Strengthening protection of wildlife in W Niger park, with the establishment of a site based protection and surveillance system for W Niger and by strengthening regional capacity for law enforcement, including training and mentoring of enforcement agents and protected area staff in the WTBR;
- A better targeting of traffickers along the main trafficking route through Benin and a better understanding of the linkages between IWT and communities within the WTBR;
- Supporting incentive/livelihood projects that help reduce the impacts of IWT and engage local communities in wildlife conservation and efforts to address IWT.

2. Project partnerships

ZSL and the Niger **Ministry of Environment and sustainable Development (MEDD)** signed an MoU in 2016, where they agreed to collaborate for the preservation of the biodiversity of Niger. For Year 1 of this project, we worked directly with the Director of the **Wildlife Division (DFC-AP)**, the W Niger Park management team (Conservateur, Head of Surveillance, Head of database) and ecoguards (Eaux et Forets agents and local scouts). Everything was discussed before any action was carried out, notably: ecoguard recruiting, patrol organisation and planning, and organisation of training (selection of candidates, content, agenda). A monthly activity report was sent to both the DFC-AP and the Park Conservateur, and feedback, comments and suggestions were regularly exchanged, during meetings and through emails. The decision-making process has been collaborative throughout.

We do not have formal written agreements with Police or Judiciary, but collaborate with them through the MEDD in Niger, and directly in Benin – where we sign for each activity through specific conventions.

Regarding market surveys, we officially inform the **MEDD** in Niger and the **CENAGREF** (The National Agency responsible for Wildlife management) in Benin, and ask them to provide candidates to undertake the surveys. We also ask Universities and other recognized organisations (other large NGO's, technical international cooperation agencies) to recommend suitable candidates. We keep these collaborators regularly informed of the survey progress and monitor the security of our investigators through them.

During this first year, we did not collaborate directly with the AVIGREF (Benin) and Communes (Niger) as we have just begun preliminary work including questionnaires. They have been regularly informed of our activities, through informal discussions, emails, and meetings.

ZSL and the **University of Portsmouth** delivered a joint training in July 2018 to 14 law enforcement agents in Benin. The UoP training focused on crime scene management and the use of forensic gel transfer techniques. The next step of the collaboration is the use of these forensic techniques on the ground to assist prosecution cases linked to IWT.

We have a general MoU with the NGO **Panthera**, and they will intervene from Year 2. Like all the other partners, we have been keeping them informed regularly – we have other activities in common and therefore are regularly in contact.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Year 1 of the project started in July 2018 and lasted for 9 months. During that period, we carried out the second phase of a wildlife market survey conducted in Benin in 2017. For this purpose, we identified and hired 2 new investigators from Niger and 1 from Benin. They were trained in November 2018 by our Law Enforcement Advisor Christian Plowman in covert market survey techniques, in addition to two investigators from African Parks, who manage the Penjari National Park (part of the WAP complex), previously received the same training as this is a Park which suffers the same threats. Meanwhile, the 2 Beninese surveyors who conducted the covert market surveys in 2017 received a refresher from ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor (ZSL LEA). The market surveys were carried out from December 2018 to March 2019 in Benin, and from January to March 2019 in Niger. Results are now being analysed and a report will

be made available by the end of June 2019. This will give us the trend for Benin and the baseline knowledge for Niger for our focus species (elephant, lion, cheetah, leopard and pangolin).

Meanwhile, any information about cases and prosecutions has been collated and reviewed by ZSL LEA and IWT Coordinator, who keep a record of these in a secured database.

Intelligence gathering network established and operational, investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.

ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor supported the development of protocols, guidelines and risk mitigation plans for the management of sources and intelligence since 2016. These documents are updated when necessary and disseminated in a confidential manner to intelligence managers.

Since 2016, ZSL has also been developing an informant network in Benin, based on these guidelines and under the supervision and mentoring of ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor. For the Year 1 of the IWT funding, we also provided a Criminal Intelligence Awareness Techniques training to 2 representatives from African Parks, 1 Beninese investigator, and 4 Beninese specialist police officers from Cotonou port Anti-Trafficking Unit. Both feedback from the attendees and evaluation of the trainer were positive, and recommendations were made to deliver longer and more specialized sessions for people to follow on from this basic training. The main difficulty for intelligence training is the identification of suitable candidates, and a Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) is often required to aid in this. We delivered two BLETs over Year 1. The first took place in Benin in July 2018, where 14 agents from Cotonou port and airport Anti-Trafficking Units, Drug Enforcement Police Unit and Water and Forest Services received a BLET and an introduction to the forensic gel lift technique from the University of Portsmouth. The other happened in Niger in March 2019, where 20 participants from National Police, Ministry of Environment (MEDD) and Judiciary (court of Say and court of Boboye) attended a BLET. This was the first ever training we delivered in Niger, which created an opportunity to identify candidates for upcoming and more specialized training and, as a third step, to bring support to operational activity.

Effective system for site-based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.

From July to October 2018, ZSL brought support to regular patrols in the Perelegou sector, an area covering approximately 15% of W Niger Park. Our Field Assistant took part in all of the patrols conducted by the two teams of rangers dedicated to Perelegou protection, bringing ongoing mentoring in patrol techniques, logistic support and SMART data collection training. 20 days of patrols were achieved for the months of July and August, while none were possible in September due to heavy seasonal flooding in the project area and on the roads, making it inaccessible. In October, 14 days had been completed when a terrorist alert was issued, which forced the teams to return to the park headquarters. In November, the security level dropped rapidly and all activities in the park were suspended for all partners. State of emergency was declared the same month and until March, no activity was allowed. In mid-March, with ZSL's support, a large sweep operation took place in order to reduce the threat level. 45 agents were deployed for 12 days, patrolling the whole park until it was declared clear of direct danger from terrorists. At the end of March, we were getting ready to resume patrols in Perelegou sector, and two new teams of rangers (ecoguards and Park agents) were identified to start regular patrols in another sector (called Bata). A performance-based bonus system for rangers has been discussed with park authorities and agreed and will be developed when SMART is being regularly used by patrol teams, as soon as they have resumed their protection work.

Improved understanding of the context for local communities with relation to IWT in the WTBR periphery zone, and information used to inform efforts to combat IWT and pilot or enhance incentive schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.

Work began to identify potential partner communities around W Benin periphery in March 2019. The report is currently being compiled, with recommendations for the selection of villages. The selection will be validated in month 10 of the project (April 2019).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Intelligence gathering network established and operational, investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.

1.1. A total of at least 24 enforcement agents in Benin and Niger trained in recruiting sources and managing human intelligence by ZSL Law Enforcement (LE) Advisor per year (72 in total at the end of the project).

7 people (6 law enforcement agents and 1 ZSL investigator) received the first level of source and intelligence management training by ZSL LEA. There have been some delays in Niger as the safety conditions were not suitable for delivering training between November 2018 and March 2019. For Benin, we did not achieve our objective of 12 people trained, as prior basic law enforcement trainings are ideally required to identify suitable candidates for intelligence trainings. Since the process of delivering BLET trainings both in Benin and Niger has been successfully initiated, and considering that Years 2 and 3 will be longer than Year 1 (12 months compared to 9), we believe that the overall objective of 72 agents trained will be achieved.

1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum.

Target 50/yr by end of project.

ZSL LEA started to collate intelligence from mentored agents and ZSL in-country staff. It is too early to obtain full reports as it takes time for newly trained and mentored agents to be able to go through the full process of intelligence report writing. For now, ZSL LEA recorded all significant piece of intelligence in a secured and confidential database, and information is passed to relevant agencies when necessary. We believe that it will take 6 to 12 months in Year 2 before we can get regular and complete reports from mentored agents. The objective of 50 reports passed to ZSL LEA per year (i.e. approximately 1 per week) is achievable.

1.3. 60 frontline enforcement agents (including CAAT officers) trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including use of essential forensic crime scene management.

For Year 1, we delivered 2 trainings, in comparison to the 3 planned for Years 2 and 3. 34 agents have already received a BLET in Year 1 (14 in Benin and 20 in Niger). We systematically target frontline agents, who are in a direct position to intervene at different stages of IWT. For the first two sessions, we trained personnel from the Wildlife Department (Eaux et Forêts), Police agents working around the parks, members of port and airport Anti-Trafficking Units, and judges from local and regional courts. We are confident that we can train 60 agents per year until the end of the project.

Output 2. Effective system for site based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.

2.1. At least 60 eco-guards (foresters and community scouts) and management staff in W Niger trained annually in patrolling skills, anti-poaching strategies and use of the SMART approach.

Ranger trainings are planned to start in Year 2. The agenda remains unchanged.

2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels (assessed over 3 months to month 6) by end of project period. Aim for:

- Year 1 - 300 pd/m;
- Year 2 - 400 pd/m;
- Year 3 - 600 pd/m.

The project started with patrols over only one W Niger Park sector (Perelegou). Over at least the last 3 years, no patrols had been conducted in this area. We helped identify two teams of ecoguards (1 community scout and 6 Eaux & Forêts agents in each), and brought support in logistics (gas, food, water) and field supervision. From zero, we assisted 140 patrol days in July and August. The schedule was modified in September (when no patrols were possible due to heavy rains and flooding) and October (98 patrol days were achieved before a terrorist threat forced us to stop all activities). All partners had to suspend fieldwork between October and March, until ZSL helped the Niger authorities to organise a sweep operation over the whole Park. 45 agents from Eaux & Forêts, Police and Republican Guard patrolled the entire Park for 12 days, which makes 540 patrol days in March, and a total of 918 patrol days for Year 1.

This equals to 102 patrol days per month (including the 5 months where patrols were not possible), and 229.5 patrol days per month of patrol activity excluding these five months. At the end of March, thanks to the sweep operation, W Niger Park was declared clear of direct terrorist risk by Niger authorities and ZSL began, in coordination with the Park management team, to plan for patrols to be resumed in Perelegou and to start in a new sector (Bata) in April. During the months of patrol activity, we supported 126 patrol days per month. With patrols starting in Bata sector, and the number of patrol days planned to be increased to 210 patrol days per sector per month from April, the objective of 400 patrol days per month in Year 2 is achievable.

2.3. Proportion of W Niger being patrolled by foot increases by end of project period to ensure at least 50% park coverage in preceding quarter: 20% coverage by end year 1, 40% coverage end year 2. Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months.

In Perelegou sector, the patrols covered an area of 380 km² (GPS data), representing 17% of the total park area. Once patrols have started in Bata sector, between 30 and 35% of the park will be covered in Year 2.

2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through target-led performance scheme (e.g. distance patrolled, time spent on patrols, data collected correctly, etc.) increases over course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1.

A bonus scheme has been in place since the beginning of patrols in Perelegou sector. SMART is not yet fully implemented, and only distances and time spent on patrol can be measured. After the first patrols, we were able to identify various points of interest to be regularly visited and decided to assign two objectives every day to the ecoguards: time (a minimum of 6 hours per patrol) and mandatory waypoints. As SMART is being progressively implemented, we will be able to modify patrol objectives while updating the bonus scheme. Lastly, in order to have all levels involved, we decided to attribute bonuses to the park director, the head of surveillance and the head of patrol database when all of the patrols planned have been conducted normally every month. We will increasingly link these patrols to patrol reporting, planning and regular debriefings.

Output 3. Improved understanding of the context for local communities with relation to IWT in the WTBR periphery zone, and information used to inform efforts to combat IWT and pilot or enhance incentive schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.

Scoping for these communities began in March 2019. Community officer Jeannot Cocou visited up to 8 villages over a period of 10 days in March 2019 around W Benin regarding illegal wildlife crime and trafficking of illegal species. His outputs for the mission were as follows:

- prepare questionnaires on the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of the target communities of W Benin, including a protocol for implementing the questionnaire;
- identify two potential sites to develop small community incentive activities as pilot projects. Ideally one for alternative protein sources, the other one for the valorisation of non-timber products.

The results and reports from this mission are currently undergoing review, analysis and collation.

The security context around W Niger and the target communities remains uncertain – we will continue to monitor the situation, using our intelligence networks and institutional security provider to inform if, and when these activities can be implemented in Niger.

The majority of activities under this output will be undertaken after Y1.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: A reduction in IWT in the WTBR through; strengthened wildlife protection, better use of intelligence and investigative tools to target those involved in wildlife crime, and increased support from communities.

0.1. Change in detection of poaching incidence by unit effort (distance covered by foot patrols) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9-12):

- *Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels (established by month 12) as surveillance system established and survey effort increases;*
- *Declining over period (18 months to end of project period) by up to 30% from levels (established by month 18) as effective protection established and anticipated deterrence of illegal activities.*

The security context did not allow the project to establish the baselines so far, since the teams of patrols have been trained in data collection through SMART, but did not get enough time on patrol to implement it. Year 1 had only 9 months and months 10, 11 and 12 should allow us to get this baseline information as planned.

0.2. # of items of selected wildlife products available for sale (elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, vulture and pangolin) at local markets around W Niger, W Benin and key markets through Benin (baselines established by end month 10):

- *Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2;*
- *Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period;*

All market surveys have been achieved on month 9, and data will be analysed in months 10 and 11, which will allow us to establish the baselines. The agenda should be adhered to or may be one month late.

0.3. # of convictions/year relating to wildlife crime increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 12 month period) in Benin and Niger:

- *Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2;*
- *Increase by at least 50% by end of project period.*

There has been an anticipate a slight delay in establishing the baseline levels related to wildlife crime, because both Benin and Niger don't maintain an updated and easily accessible wildlife crime database. It is suggested that this will be established in month 16.

0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased support for efforts to address IWT (baselines established by end of month 12) by end of project period of at least 50%.

See section 3.1 - preliminary identification of sites was undertaken in March 2019 and the report, with recommendations for target communities, will be validated in Q1 Y2.

The security situation in W Niger may prevent us from achieving our outcomes in W Niger, but will continue in the W Benin area.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Security situation enables full support for project intervention.

Comments: The security situation in the WAP has fluctuated significantly during the first 9 months of the project, which has left some activities (particularly those around communities in W Niger) with uncertain futures. There is very serious and growing terrorist threat level in Niger and neighbouring Burkina Faso, with concerns about this threat spanning the borders of the WAP Complex. The FCO's Travel Advice states "Terrorist activity is increasing in south-eastern Burkina Faso, including confirmed attacks in the Burkina Faso part of the Parc du W. The Parc is tri-national and shares an open border with Benin and Niger. There is a risk of terrorist attacks throughout the Parc" [FCO, 18 April 2019](#).

This security threat has prevented our staff from travelling to project areas at which there is high risk of terrorism, and we are unsure when and if they will be able to resume. Our response to this has been to establish thorough security networks through which we are able to receive reliable information and rapidly respond. This has been accommodated in our adaptive work approach – if we are not able to work in originally identified areas, then we will redirect these activities to a different area across the WAP landscape.

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

Impact included in application: *W-Arli-Pendjari is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement and good governance, supported by communities with reduced poverty, and with increasing populations of species previously targeted for IWT.*

The key impacts of this project and other work by ZSL and its partners in the WAP landscape are :

1. **Providing law enforcement in a landscape which is both the last stronghold for a number of West African species (West African Lion, N-W African Cheetah¹) and which is under significant pressure from the global IWT, exacerbated by political instability in the region.** As mentioned in Annex 1, this project has directly supported 126 patrol days in Parc W (Niger) , provided 3 basic law enforcement training to eco-guards and supported the refurbishment of a scout outpost in an area previously devoid of coverage. The Peregrou area (W, Niger) saw 17% patrol coverage (up from an estimated 5%) . This presence provides both stability for species who are at decreased risk of IWT , but also provided a presence in an area at risk of terrorist activity and for communities under threat of violence spilling across national borders.
2. **Providing support on a transboundary level and providing law enforcement agencies with a universal set of tools with which to tackle threats of IWT.** The training delivered under this grant (in law enforcement techniques and intelligence) to both authorities in Niger and Benin is developed in coordination with, and approved by national authorities, but introduces a set of best-practice law enforcement tools for authorities to use in their work tackling IWT. These tools will enable a complementary and coordinated way of working across borders, and even if law enforcement agents are lost through staff turnover (transfers between parks), the training they have undergone has contributed to a cadre of trained law enforcement agents across the WAP region who will be contributing to tackling IWT.

This project is working towards human development and the wellbeing of communities in the WAP through improved financial and natural capital. The communities bordering Parc W have seen significant challenges and suffering through instability (including high levels of violence from terrorism and political unrest) and historical resettlement schemes in the 1920s. Limited opportunities for livelihoods in the area have created high levels of poverty and little interest in wildlife conservation (and therefore disincentives for supporting activities to tackle IWT). Through increased law enforcement presence in W Niger, this has seen a return of tourism potential in the area, and should in the future see increased incomes of communities receiving funds through the arrangement by which 50% of tourism income is distributed to local municipalities. This, in addition to direct livelihood interventions under this project in Y2, should see communities directly benefitting from wildlife conservation, and therefore a change in attitudes to IWT from the baseline survey in Y1. Under ZSL's livelihoods work in Y2, female groups, because of their marginalised position in Niger, will be the main focus of income generating activities, in line with previous work in the region. This will provide economic empowerment and enhanced resilience for vulnerable households. Support will be provided to existing effective community sustainable activities as well as piloting other opportunities with communities in W Niger and Benin. This project will therefore enhance the engagement of women in combatting IWT and increase their capacity to generate income from sustainable livelihoods (SDG5).

¹ Durant S.M. et al. 2017. The global decline of cheetah. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Jan 2017, 114 (3) 528-533; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1611122114.
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5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

In Year 1, ZSL's project has been directly addressing the strengthening of law enforcement, through the establishment of site-based protection and surveillance for W Niger Park and the strengthening of the regional (Benin and Niger) capacity for law enforcement agencies to address IWT. It then supports the following commitments: XIII, XV, XX of the London Conference Declaration, 5 of the Kasane Statement, and actions C and D of the Hanoi Conference.

6. Impact on species in focus

The project is directly targeting the main threats to the species on focus by reducing poaching through an increased level of park protection, a reinforced capacity to enforce the law on trafficking locations and routes, and the integration of wildlife protection by communities, all organized in a way that will allow their long-term existence. This will be monitored through the number of arrests, seizures and prosecution cases, the level of available products on the black market, and the acceptance level by communities. It is too early at this stage to evaluate the impact of the project, as we are setting the baseline for it. But ZSL and the MEED signed, in November 2018, for the extension of the protection support we are bringing to W Niger Park. We agreed to double our support, which will help us to have a broader impact and shows the trust the Niger authorities have in the project.

Through market surveys, this project is creating the ability to ascertain availability of trafficked species at the demand side. This information, which will provide a picture of the national market for protected species, and will provide key information to tackle the illegal wildlife trade of key species. This information will be used to design effective measures to target communities to reduce demand for specific species (under output 3).

Despite difficulties mainly linked to the security context, the regular presence, for the first time in several years, of patrols in one the most threatened and yet most strategic area of W Niger Park (the sector of Perelegou) should be seen as the laying of the foundation stone of the new protection system in this part of the W Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Thanks to these patrols, we were able to ensure the water supply for the Perelegou outpost through the refurbishment of a solar pump. As well as providing critical law enforcement presence to protected target species, a positive externality of this renovation has been the overflow from the solar pump to the Perlegou waterhole, where previously absent wildlife now thrives, including lions, cheetah and elephants. During the dry season prior to the project, it was found drought caused widespread wildlife deaths, and many animals were forced away from the areas surrounding the Perelegou water hole towards other parts of the park, where no patrols were present, and were consequently more exposed to poachers.

In addition to this project, ZSL is currently conducting a large carnivore spoor survey in W Benin, W Niger and Pendjari, in order to assess the number of lions and hyenas in the complex. This survey will be replicated in two years ideally, which will give us an additional measurable indicator to evaluate the impact of the project on target species. This will be used to inform regional conservation strategy for large carnivores and provide up to date population estimates highlight current conservation status for these globally endangered species.

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

Since the project started, various people have been directly financially benefiting from it. For now:

- 12 Eaux et Forêts agents and 3 local community members have been regularly employed to patrol in W Niger Park.
- They received substantial performance-based bonuses - between per mission, considering they undertook two missions per month, this makes an income of between XOF per month or between GBP per month, in a country where the mean income is GBP per month (source: World Bank, 2017).
- In November 2018, ZSL and the MEDD signed for the extension of the project over Bata sector, for which we will employ approximately 15 new ecoguards (Eaux et Forêts agents and local scouts). Because of the security context previously detailed, we were not able to start as soon as the agreement was signed, but the sweep operation ZSL supported in March 2019 will allow us to

employ these new ecoguards from April. Their level of income will be the same as the ecoguards who have been working in Perelegou sector. In all, around 30 people (and consequently 30 families) will directly live off the protection of the park from the start of Year 2.

- 4 investigators (2 in Benin and 2 in Niger) received work experience and substantial income from the market surveys in Year 1. They were all students, and this work brought them valuable experience in addition to financial means which they all reportedly have used as personal scholarships.
- Since incentives of local communities will be mainly conducted in Years 2 and 3, the project has not reached its full impact on poverty alleviation. But one local consultant was hired at the end of Year 1 and has been working on questionnaires and evaluation needs already. He will continue this work in Year 2, alongside another local consultant in Niger (who has not yet been hired owing to the uncertainty of the safety conditions over Year 1).

The project is having an important impact on the park and the local communities on a security level. Thanks to ZSL support, the park is now considered cleared of terrorist threats. The sweep operation and the regular patrols that will resume are increasing the security for all community members around the park, and tourists are now allowed to visit the park, bringing direct income to the park, to tour guides – all from local communities - and to tourism infrastructures (1 hotel and 1 ecolodge). As the security level increased in the end of Year 1, it was not possible to measure the financial improvement, but figures will be available for the Year 2 report.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

During this first year, the majority of activities were linked to park protection and law enforcement, where men are overrepresented, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

But ZSL hired 1 woman amongst the 4 market survey investigators, and trained 1 woman amongst the 4 Police officers from Cotonou port anti-trafficking unit.

We will be more able to target women when local communities incentives start, but we will still favour the involvement of women in every other activity or training where possible, as we did in Year 1.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

In Year 1, the majority of indicators were quantitative and the project was able to monitor with ease, such as number of people trained, amount of bonuses paid, number of patrol days conducted, etc. In addition, they are objective indicators which can be easily verified by supporting documents.

Some activities provided significant challenges in monitoring (and in evaluating their success), notably those who are linked to legal cases. There is very little available data ; both W parks do not keep track of arrests, seizures, prosecutions. Moreover, there is a significant turnover in park staff and cases are not forwarded to newcomers. In addition, many cases are not officially reported, as crimes may be dealt with informally, or cases may never reach trial due to interference or influence at various stages of the judicial process.

This is one of the reasons for the introduction to our bonus scheme, the necessity for the park managers to draw up minutes of arrests that occurred during the patrols supported by the project. But we do not have control over other patrols that might be conducted out of the system we are being implementing. We are currently discussing this issue with other partners assisting with park protection in other areas of W Niger, to encourage the implementation of a common bonus payment system. This would be the first time for W Niger that an ongoing, objective and verifiable monitoring system of the protection would be set up, and thus a significant improvement in the management of the park.

Due to a number of external factors (significantly a lack of resources to monitor legal cases, a lack of transparency around the judicial process, high staff turnover which sees the removal of staff trained under the project), there remains significant challenges in linking project activities and outputs to outcomes. However, we will continue to innovate new methods of M&E to trace the impact of our work beyond outputs.

10. Lessons learnt

- The most difficult part of the project is the management of time. Many aspects are really time consuming in this part of the world. Administrative processes, recruiting of people, travels, purchases, availability of materials and people, etc. It is important to set ambitious objectives as the current situation in illegal wildlife trade requires rapid response and dramatic changes, but it is important to keep in mind that the global context is challenging in developing countries. Anticipating more than expected is one of the keys that will allow the project to reach its goals in due time.
- The registration of ZSL in Benin has also been a challenge. The process is particularly long and requires specific attention. ZSL was aware of this and started the process for more than a year now, but it has been taking longer than envisioned despite the fact that we promptly responded to requests from the Beninese administration. The obtention of additional funds for the global initiative of ZSL in Benin (notably from a US Department of State) is linked to the full registration of the charity in country. A part of the project co-funding was linked to these funds and, even if DEFRA's support is complete in itself, additional partners' funding would help ensure ZSL's long term commitments to conservation within the landscape whilst simultaneously facilitating the development of the current IWT project. We are working on the finalisation of our registration and are in regular contact with the US administration. Funding will be made available during the course of the year 2 of the IWT project.
- The other biggest difficulty we encountered over this year is directly linked to security, with a very serious and growing terrorist threat level in Niger and neighbouring Burkina Faso. Despite the fact that our project aims at strengthening the protection of W Niger Park, we are supporting a patrol system designed to counter poaching, illegal cattle herding, and other threats of this kind and not terrorist activities which is above and beyond our remit. However, we have been assisting with this by establishing trusted relationships with Niger authorities and influential chancelleries (France and USA). Our situation allows us to gather information on the ground, at the geographical roots of the problem, and we are in a position to share intelligence with partners who can in turn react. The level of trust we have been building eventually allowed us to bring direct support to the first sweep operation that ever took place in W Niger, after all activities were suspended for several months when a group of jihadists were thought to be establishing a base within W Niger park. We were able to adapt and to transfer the expertise we have in intelligence gathering and park protection support, including logistics and geographic information system management, to a military operation designed to ultimately secure the park, which is finally one of the main goals of this project. We did not take part of the sweep itself, which was out of our competencies, responsibilities, and risk level acceptance but, thanks to this project, we filled a gap and efficiently assisted securing the park, which was declared cleared of immediate terrorist risk at the end of March 2019.
- We will continue to monitor the level of threat in and around W Niger park. The long-term risk remains and outside the park remains a risk to security and wildlife populations. Within our range of expertise, we will take advantage of the positive feedback of the sweep operation to resume the patrols and extend their range. Potential criminals must feel that this protected area can't be a safe haven for them, and a regular presence of the park authority, supported by the project, remains a key and achievable output. It is important for the sake of sustainability and for ZSL to make clear that Niger authorities are securing their park, and that we are assisting them in that process. It must stay a sovereign role, which keeps the project as a support –even if direct and, of course, visible.

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

N/A

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

A Key challenge in Q1 2019 has been the resignation of Law Enforcement Advisor, Christian Plowman. He resigned from his permanent post at ZSL in Q4 2018, but continues to provide law enforcement advice and training under this project. ZSL will be submitting a revised budget which moves the Law Enforcement Advisor from the 'staff' to the 'consultancy' budget line in order to include Mr Plowman and his law enforcement inputs, which include provision of training, ongoing mentoring and technical advice to the Benin team and the ZSL law enforcement programme as a whole. ZSL have made efforts to recruit a replacement for Mr Plowman in early 2019, but were unable to find a suitably qualified replacement.

13. Sustainability and legacy

Provision of training to front line enforcement in basic and proactive policing techniques will improve the long term capacity of agencies to detect, deter and disrupt illicit activities associated with the illegal wildlife trade across the WAP landscape. By providing this training and refresher training to individuals over the length of this project it is hoped that institutional ability to across agencies mandated to protect the WAP landscape

Owing to the installation of the water supply for the Peligrou outpost (supplied via solar pump) , this post is now a long term infrastructural investment in Parc W from which to launch patrols and will ensure long term coverage in this previously neglected area.

Throughout the project, we will continue to ensure all interventions are delivered in a manner which ensures sustainability of capacity building - by training across different levels of authorities and including police, eco guards and customs officials, this project is ensuring a joined – up approach across IWT law enforcement authorities for effective and coordinated activities.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

In any meeting with officials, partners and other donors, ZSL has been making clear that this project is funded by the UK Government through the IWT Challenge Fund. In the same view, any donation (equipment, vehicle, etc.) that will be made during the project will be made in the name of the IWT CF. Advertising has not been made large for now, as the implementation of field activities is recent and we prefer to get visible achievements first. We also have to be careful about communicating on sensible activities (like covert surveys, arrests, etc.) and publication of information or pictures that could put some people in danger. But we are confident that over the next two years of the project, positive results and materials will be available to publicise the IWT Challenge Fund and its Government sponsors.

15. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2018/19 Grant (£)	2018/19 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section

Despite difficulties mainly linked to the security context, the regular presence, for the first time in several years, of patrols in one the most threatened and yet most strategic area of W Niger Park (the sector of Perelegou) should be seen as the laying of the foundation stone of the new protection system in this part of the W Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Thanks to these patrols, we were able to ensure the water supply for the Perelegou outpost through the refurbishment of a solar pump, and to guarantee its long-term function since it is protected from human degradations or theft. This water is used by the teams of ecoguards, and the overflow is discharged to the Perlegou waterhole, where previously absent wildlife now thrives, including lions, cheetah and elephants. During the dry season prior to the project, we found that many animals died of thirst, the majority of which were baboons. Many animals were forced away from the areas surrounding the Perelegou water hole towards other parts of the park, where no patrols were present, and were consequently more exposed to poachers.

Following this example, we will replicate this protocol in Year 2 in another sector of the Park, Bata, in the heart of the most touristic area of W Niger.

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>W-Arli-Pendjari is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement and good governance, supported by communities with reduced poverty, and with increasing populations of species previously targeted for IWT.</p>			
<p>Outcome A reduction in IWT in the WTBR through; strengthened wildlife protection, better use of intelligence and investigative tools to target those involved in wildlife crime, and increased support from communities.</p>	<p>0.1. Change in detection of poaching incidence by unit effort (distance covered by foot patrols) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9-12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels (established by month 12) as surveillance system established and survey effort increases; • Declining over period (18 months to end of project period) by up to 30% from levels (established by month 18) as effective protection established and anticipated deterrence of illegal activities. <p>0.2. # of items of selected wildlife products available for sale (elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, vulture and pangolin) at local markets around W Niger, W Benin</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline has not been established in year 1 (9 months only, while the objective is its establishment in Months 9-12).</p> <p>0.2 Market surveys data collection has been fully achieved in month 9 and is currently being processed and analysed.</p> <p>0.3 Data is being collated to establish baseline.</p> <p>0.4 Community incentives were initially planned in year 2 and then reallocated in order to start at the end of year 1. A local consultant has been hired and started to prepare the protocol for community surveys (identification of target communities, preparation of questionnaires).</p>	<p>0.1 Detection of poaching incidence will be established in the first 3 months of year 2 through SMART data. Then the change in detection will be monitored through the same process (SMART).</p> <p>0.2 Baselines for available items of selected wildlife will be established by end of month 3 of year 2. The replication of market survey in year 2 will allow to follow the trend in monitored illegal products.</p> <p>0.3 Baseline level will be established by the end of month 3 of year 2. Number of convictions/year will then be monitored over the course of the project.</p> <p>0.4 The protocol for community surveys will be reviewed in months 1 of year 2. The surveys will start as soon as the protocol will be validated by ZSL.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>and key markets through Benin (baselines established by end month 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2; • Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period; <p>0.3. # of convictions/year relating to wildlife crime increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 12 month period) in Benin and Niger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2; • Increase by at least 50% by end of project period. <p>0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased support for efforts to address IWT (baselines established by end of month 12) by end of project period of at least 50%.</p>		
<p>Output 1. Intelligence gathering network established and operational, investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.</p>	<p>1.1. A total of at least 24 enforcement agents in Benin and Niger trained in recruiting sources and managing human intelligence by ZSL Law Enforcement (LE) Advisor per year (72 in total at the end of the project).</p> <p>1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC</p>	<p>1.1 7 people received intelligence training or refreshing in Benin (Evidence provided in Law Enforcement Advisor's mission report).</p> <p>1.2 Intelligence is being collated by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor from mentored agents and other available and trusted sources. Most significant intelligence is passed directly to law enforcement agencies. Full reports are not available at this stage of the project since monitored agents have too little experience.</p> <p>1.3 34 frontline enforcement agents (14 in Benin and 20 in Niger) received Basic Law Enforcement trainings which included forensic crime scene management (evidence provided in Law Enforcement Advisor's mission report).</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 50/yr by end of project. <p>1.3. 60 frontline enforcement agents (including CAAT officers) trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including use of essential forensic crime scene management.</p>		
Activity 1.1 Delivery of intelligence and basic law enforcement trainings and refreshers		3 trainings (1 intelligence training, 2 BLETs) and 1 refresher (Intelligence) have been delivered from July 2018 to March 2019.	2 intelligence and 3 basic law enforcement trainings will be delivered. Intelligence trainings will aim at delivering more specialized skills in order to allow agents to share proper intelligence reports and to be able to manage sources more efficiently.
Activity 1.2 Local and remote mentoring by Law Enforcement Advisor, collection of intelligence, dissemination to suitable agencies when necessary		ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor collated and stored pieces of intelligence rather than full intel reports which are difficult to get early in the project. Most significant info was shared with law enforcement agencies in country (mainly Police and anti-trafficking units) and the EAGLE (Eco-Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement) network.	In accordance with activity 1.2, ZSL will collate more comprehensive intelligence reports.
Output 2. Effective system for site based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.	<p>2.1. At least 60 eco-guards (foresters and community scouts) and management staff in W Niger trained annually in patrolling skills, anti-poaching strategies and use of the SMART approach.</p> <p>2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park</p>	<p>2.1 Ranger trainings were planned to start in year 2.</p> <p>2.2 126 patrol days per months have been conducted (evidence provided in monthly patrol report given to W Niger Wildlife Authority).</p> <p>2.3 17% of W Niger has been covered by foot patrols. A sweep operation supported by ZSL at the end of year 1 was conducted over the all area of W Niger (operation report will be available early in year 2).</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>increases from baseline levels (assessed over 3 months to month 6) by end of project period. Aim for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 - 300 pd/m; • Year 2 - 400 pd/m; • Year 3 - 600 pd/m. <p>2.3. Proportion of W Niger being patrolled by foot increases by end of project period to ensure at least 50% park coverage in preceding quarter: 20% coverage by end year 1, 40% coverage end year 2. Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months.</p> <p>2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guardians through target-led performance scheme (e.g. distance patrolled, time spent on patrols, data collected correctly, etc.) increases over course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1.</p>	<p>2.4 Bonus scheme has been established and the ecoguards received performance bonus in accordance with two main targets in year 1: number of foot patrols conducted every mission, and geographical objectives visited each patrol day (evidence provided in activity convention, monthly patrol reports and patrol payment status).</p> <p>Indicators seem appropriate, and the way to measure them is straight forward. Objectives are ambitious but reachable.</p>	
Activity 2.1 Selection of ecoguards, field supervision and patrol reporting		<p>12 Eaux et Forets agents, 2 local trackers and 1 local driver have been recruited and organized in two teams of ecoguards. They patrolled 20 days per month as long as the situation allowed it (eg the security context was assessed by ZSL, Niger authorities and French and US embassies as satisfying). All the ecoguards have reached the objectives and allowed a W Niger coverage of 17% while it was not reported over at least the 3 previous years (and evaluated as less by 5% by ZSL). The ecoguards</p>	<p>The strategy will be replicated over another area of W Niger. Between 12 and 14 new ecoguards will be recruited and the total patrol coverage will be aimed to reach a minimum of 35% of W Niger area.</p> <p>Two ranger trainings will be delivered by ZSL's partner Panthera in year 2 (this will be reported as a second activity in Year 2 report) and patrols will start to collect patrol data through SMART, to be reported every month.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>received regular bonuses accordingly. Park management staff received performance bonuses for their participation in patrol organisation and assistance in patrol reporting.</p> <p>The ecoguards received a SMART field training but did not get the opportunity to collect data regularly since patrols were suspended in November.</p>	
<p>Output 3. Improved understanding of the context for local communities with relation to IWT in the WTBR periphery zone, and information used to inform efforts to combat IWT and pilot or enhance incentive schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.</p>	<p>3.1. Community surveys carried out in at least 8 communities in the Nigerien and Benin part of the WTBR by end of month 12, gathering information on basic socio-economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics.</p> <p>3.2. Potential incentive options to enhance support for wildlife conservation and efforts to reduce IWT and promote economic resilience reviewed/evaluated and prioritised through a participatory process with communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 communities assessed by end month 15; • 8 communities by end of month 18. <p>3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21. <p>At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24.</p>	<p>3.1 Community surveys can't be carried out around W Niger until further notice since the state of emergency has been declared in the region because of terrorist threats. The initiative started in Benin at the end of year 1.</p> <p>3.2 Was planned in year 2.</p> <p>3.3 Was planned in years 2 and 3.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.1 Community surveys		A local consultant has been hired and is currently working on the protocol for the surveys around W Benin.	The protocol for Benin will be validated in month 10, The surveys will be conducted by end of month 12. For Niger, the security situation will be regularly monitored in order to assess whether it will be reasonably possible to carry out the surveys over the project period.

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
Impact: W-Arli-Pendjari is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement and good governance, supported by communities with reduced poverty, and with increasing populations of species previously targeted for IWT. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: A reduction in IWT in the WTBR through; strengthened wildlife protection, better use of intelligence and investigative tools to target those involved in wildlife crime, and increased support from communities. (Max 30 words)	0.1. Change in detection of poaching incidence by unit effort (distance covered by foot patrols) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9-12): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels (established by month 12) as surveillance system established and survey effort increases; 	0.1. SMART reports produced by W Niger SMART focal point, supported by ZSL SMART field officer, including data analysis on patrol effort and poaching. 0.2. Wildlife market survey reports produced by ZSL market surveyors and including data on illicit wildlife products available, numbers of items and % of new items available on repeat visits. 0.3. Police/gendarme reports, court proceedings related to case	African Parks Network assumes management of W Benin and W Burkina Faso by 2019 as planned and effective surveillance and protection systems established. Reducing wildlife crime reduces pressure on wild populations of elephants, big cats and other species affected by trafficking in the WAP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining over period (18 months to end of project period) by up to 30% from levels (established by month 18) as effective protection established and anticipated deterrence of illegal activities. <p>0.2. # of items of selected wildlife products available for sale (elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, vulture and pangolin) at local markets around W Niger, W Benin and key markets through Benin (baselines established by end month 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2; Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period; <p>0.3. # of convictions/year relating to wildlife crime increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 12 month period) in Benin and Niger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2; Increase by at least 50% by end of project period. <p>0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased support for efforts to address IWT (baselines established by end of month 12) by end of project period of at least 50%.</p>	<p>prosecutions, gathered by ZSL team through contacts within agencies, regional courts and collaborating organisations (EAGLE), reviewed and collated by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor.</p> <p>0.4. Community members' perception survey results disaggregated to ensure representation of age, gender and ethnic groups and provided by the community technical lead.</p>	<p>The governments of Benin and Niger continue to support international efforts to view illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime and support efforts to address it.</p> <p>Efforts to combat IWT through project activities do not lead to 'leakage' to other adjacent protected areas of the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.</p>
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<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Intelligence gathering network established and operational, investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.</p>	<p>1.1. A total of at least 24 enforcement agents in Benin and Niger trained in recruiting sources and managing human intelligence by ZSL Law Enforcement (LE) Advisor per year (72 in total at the end of the project).</p> <p>1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 50/yr by end of project. <p>1.3. 60 frontline enforcement agents (including CAAT officers) trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including use of essential forensic crime scene management.</p>	<p>1.1. Training reports produced by LE Advisor, including information on course contents, number of trainees and knowledge evaluation.</p> <p>1.2. TRAFFIC global database record summary produced under existing MoU agreement between ZSL and TRAFFIC overseen by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor.</p> <p>1.3. Court and local enforcement agency records of successful prosecutions attributed to those units/officers in receipt of training.</p> <p>1.3. Feedback regarding crime scene management and retrieval of forensic evidence from prosecution authorities and forensic partners.</p>	<p>Improved intelligence acquisition and dissemination relating to wildlife crime supports improved protection and Law Enforcement.</p> <p>Increased professionalization and enhanced investigative skills lead to more successful prosecutions for wildlife crime offences.</p> <p>Better trained and supported Law Enforcement agencies, equipped with appropriate skills, knowledge and attributes, lead to increase in effective and just rule of law, augmenting quality of life for human and wildlife populations.</p>
<p>2. Effective system for site based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.</p>	<p>2.1. At least 60 eco-guards (foresters and community scouts) and management staff in W Niger trained annually in patrolling skills, anti-poaching strategies and use of the SMART approach.</p> <p>2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels (assessed over 3 months to month 6) by end of project period. Aim for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 - 300 pd/m; • Year 2 - 400 pd/m; • Year 3 - 600 pd/m. 	<p>2.1. SMART training records provided by SMART field officer.</p> <p>2.2. & 2.3. SMART reports produced by SMART field officer analysing patrol effort and coverage (based on dividing total park surface area into 5x5km² grid squares and estimating proportion of squares visited by patrols).</p> <p>2.4. SMART reports including patrol plans and targets linked to bonus payment records provided by SMART field officer.</p>	<p>Turnover of government staff does not deplete skillset within relevant trained teams.</p> <p>Security situation enables full support for project intervention.</p> <p>African Parks Network take over management of other parks in the WTBR as planned in 2019.</p> <p>Existing transboundary cooperation at wildlife division level continues to facilitate co-ordination and sharing of relevant information.</p>

	<p>2.3. Proportion of W Niger being patrolled by foot increases by end of project period to ensure at least 50% park coverage in preceding quarter: 20% coverage by end year 1, 40% coverage end year 2. Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months.</p> <p>2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through target-led performance scheme (e.g. distance patrolled, time spent on patrols, data collected correctly, etc.) increases over course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1.</p>		
<p>3. Improved understanding of the context for local communities with relation to IWT in the WTBR periphery zone, and information used to inform efforts to combat IWT and pilot or enhance incentive schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.</p>	<p>3.1. Community surveys carried out in at least 8 communities in the Nigerien and Benin part of the WTBR by end of month 12, gathering information on basic socio-economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics.</p> <p>3.2. Potential incentive options to enhance support for wildlife conservation and efforts to reduce IWT and promote economic resilience reviewed/evaluated and prioritised through a participatory process with communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 communities assessed by end month 15; • 8 communities by end of month 18. <p>3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted:</p>	<p>3.1. Community assessment reports provided by the community technical lead and including socio-economic data, IWT impact and baseline perspective metrics.</p> <p>3.2. Incentive review reports provided by the community technical lead and assessing relevant options for communities to define a series of incentives interventions.</p> <p>3.3. Incentive schemes evaluation report provided by the community technical lead including detailed information on community perspectives, and suitability for development.</p>	<p>Engaging communities ensures a stake in efforts to address IWT in and around the WAP.</p>

- At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21.
- At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24.

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)

0.2 Wildlife market surveys carried out using protocols and approach developed in ZSL Benin surveys in 2017 – repeated in Benin and expanded to Niger with recruitment and training of 2 Nigerien surveyors by the Law Enforcement Advisor. Analysis carried out by IWT research assistant supported by Law Enforcement Advisor.

0.3 Ongoing collection of information on cases and prosecutions via trusted contacts in police/judiciary, collated and reviewed by Law Enforcement Advisor.

1.1 Development of protocols, guidelines and risk mitigation plans for the managing of sources and intelligence.

1.2 Training and mentoring in basic recruitment and management of human sources and intelligence to law enforcement agents (2 training sessions per year, with 2 sessions of refresher training/mentoring activities in the field). Knowledge assessments carried out before and after to evaluate success.

1.3 Assistance and guidance in the establishment of a transparent and auditable human source and intelligence management structure.

1.4 Establishment of protocol and framework for storing, evaluating and disseminating criminal intelligence for enforcement action, linked to TRAFFIC global database (under ZSL's existing MoU with TRAFFIC).

1.5 Annual record summary report produced.

1.6 Training in core policing skills comprising Basic Law Enforcement Training. This training underlines and refreshes rudimentary skills to ensure effective evidence gathering, appropriate management of crime scenes and exhibits, followed by real world operational activity to support implementation of those skills in the field. 3 training sessions per year. Knowledge assessments carried out before and after to evaluate.

2.1 Site based surveillance and protection review and needs assessment produced for W Niger National Park.

2.2 Design operationalization plan to include training, resourcing and implementation for W Niger.

2.3 Training on data collection, patrolling skills and strategy and use of SMART approach for eco-guardians (foresters and community scouts), and protected area staff in W Niger (4 formal training sessions annually, including Panthera security team in year 2).

2.4 Ongoing support for patrols in W Niger through integration of project team in patrols, providing mentoring and on-the-job training.

2.5 Training assessments conducted before and after SMART training to assess staff knowledge and understanding, with regular on the job assessment of further training requirements.

2.6 SMART reports being generated and being used to inform management decisions on protection and surveillance.

2.7 Establishment of a performance-based bonuses system for eco-guardians (foresters and community scouts), linked to data provided by SMART, these need to be tailored to the local context and from past experience at other sites; can be process based (e.g. awards for proper collection of data) or linked to surveillance/protection targets (e.g. distance covered, spending time in more remote areas, increasing effort in poaching hotspots).

- 3.1 Identification of potential partner communities in W Niger, and W Benin periphery, building on existing relationships with Niger communities and AVIGREF, prioritising those communities most affected/implicated in IWT and free prior informed consent obtained for participation.
- 3.2 Baseline surveys carried out on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions to issues around IWT including development and application of 'support metrics'.
- 3.3 Community needs assessment carried out in target communities through a participatory process, gathering information on socio-economic status, natural resource use, market gardening, cattle management and grazing, relationship with protected areas and Law Enforcement.
- 3.4 Consultation on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods and evaluating any existing initiatives.
- 3.5 Based on these consultations pilot or support existing incentive schemes linked to that can reduce community vulnerability to IWT and support efforts to reduce e.g. benefits from community centred wildlife monitoring/Law Enforcement, training in sustainable livelihood options, supporting valorisation of market gardening, shea butter/honey production, etc.
- 3.6 Incentive schemes assessed and report written up and made available with end of project social surveys to include plan sustaining successful initiatives.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

N/A

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.	
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.	Y
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. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	N
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	