



## 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: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

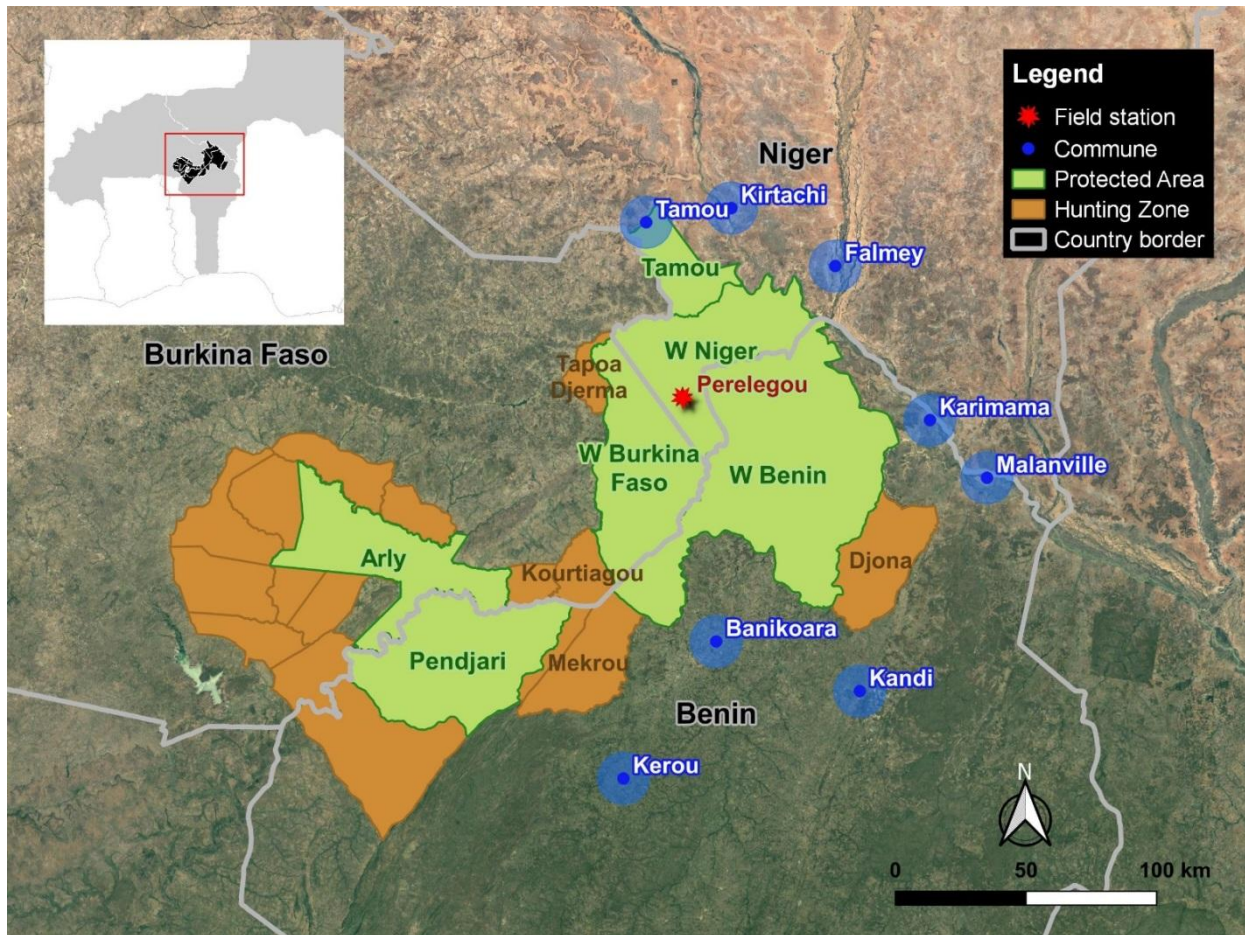
### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT 055
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 2019-Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	March 2019 – March 2020 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Eleanor Harvie, Africa Programme Manager
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://zsl.org/">https://zsl.org/</a> Twitter: @zslafrica <a href="https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/west-african-carnivores-and-elephants-in-the-savannah">https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/west-african-carnivores-and-elephants-in-the-savannah</a>
Report author(s) and date	Eleanor Harvie, April 2019

### 1. Project summary

The W Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (WTBR) is a key part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape, recognized as a conservation priority and last stronghold for elephant, lion and cheetah in West Africa. IWT is the major threat to these species in the WAP. This project will help address this by, strengthening protection of wildlife in W Niger park; better targeting of traffickers along the main trafficking route through Benin; and providing incentives for local communities to support efforts to combat IWT.

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. The Illegal Wildlife Trade 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. This includes training and mentoring of enforcement agents and protected area staff in the WTBR;
- A more effective targeting of traffickers focussing on the main trafficking route through Benin and developing a better understanding of the linkages between the IWT and communities within the WTBR;
- Supporting incentive/livelihood projects that help reduce the impacts of the 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 (now called MESU/DD Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Salubrité Urbaine et du Développement Durable), signed an MoU in 2016 on the Biodiversity Conservation in Niger. As during Year 1, our direct partners were: the Director of the Wildlife Division (DFC/PR), the W Niger Park management team (Conservator, Head of Surveillance, Head of Database) and Ecoguards (Water and Forest agents and local scouts). The decision-making process has been collaborative particularly regarding the ecoguard recruitment, patrol organisation, planning, and training (trainee selection, contents, agenda). A monthly activity report is edited and sent to the DFC-PR and the Park Conservator. Positive and constructive feedback, comments and suggestions were regularly exchanged, during meetings and/or through emails.

A 12-months Convention with the DFC/PR was signed on the 6th of December 2019, which enhances the excellent relationship that exists between the Niger Wildlife Authorities and ZSL.

This Convention is enabling ZSL to continue its support to the Niger Wildlife Authorities through the training of patrol members and law enforcement agents. Also the continued provision of, financial support for patrols, the refurbishment of guard posts, and the supply of fieldwork equipment.

Collaboration with the Police and/or the Judiciary department is framed through a specific agreement signed with the MESU/DD in Niger.

In October 2014, ZSL signed an MoU with CENAGREF (Centre National De gestion des Reserves de Faune, The Protected areas and wildlife authority structure in Benin) to support the conservation of the WAP complex in Benin. This memorandum was renewed on the 9th of December 2019, (including Panthera as a third Party), for a further 5 years period of collaboration. The ZSL activity report is regularly shared with CENAGREF. CENAGREF has also invited ZSL to attend relevant meetings on wildlife conservation in Benin: in December 2019, the ZSL team attended the workshop to review and update the elephant conservation strategy.

A training session for rangers from the W NP in Niger led by Panthera (ZSL's partner) was initially planned to take place in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to the regional security situation (the training had to be moved to Benin) and the recent Covid-19 linked health pandemic.

APN (African Parks Network), have been in charge of Pendjari NP management since 2017 and, since mid-2019, are also leading the management of W NP in Benin in collaboration with CENAGREF. Since their arrival in the landscape, ZSL has been collaborating with APN on an ecological survey (focused on large cat population monitoring - camera trap surveys in 2017 and 2019 in PNP) and on social aspects (socio-economic surveys in communities around the WNP Benin in 2020). A potential collaboration may arise in Year 3 with APN as they plan to implement the SMART software in WNP including a joint training for the W NP rangers from Benin and from Niger.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

##### **Output 1: Enabling Environment and operational, investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR**

Thanks to the lessons learned from the first two Basic Law Enforcement Techniques (BLET) training events delivered in Year 1 in Benin in 2018 and in Niger in March 2019, a third BLET training event was organized in November 2019 on the Policing Techniques for Law Enforcement - Level 2. Attendees were 15 agents from law enforcement agencies, specifically those in the frontline of the IWT (from DFC/PR, National Police, Gendarmerie, judiciary members): and were trained on evidence gathering and testimony, importance of written notes and proactive investigation techniques involving practical exercises.

In December 2019, the DFC/PR requested ZSL support to update their 1998 Law on hunting and wildlife protection law and on decrees in order to implement the CITES law voted in October 2019 by the Niger Government. A workshop to establish the ToR for this activity and the financial support conditions from ZSL was held in February 2020. Consequently, from the 20th of February to the 20th of March, one leader and four consultants from the different relevant directions of the Government linked with wildlife conservation, justice and IWT worked together to update the legislation and to write the decrees for the CITES law. As international travel was prohibited due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the final workshop to introduce this consultancy results had to be postponed until the situation is stabilized and safe. However, due to the support from the consultants and of the DFC/PR, the two documents have been finalized and are attached to this report (Annex 8).

On the 16th and the 17th of December 2019 in Parakou, Benin, Yekini Chabi-N'Diaye, and Manon Gruner attended the workshop organized by MIKES and CENAGREF in order to update the elephant national conservation strategy to tackle IWT of elephants, better monitor the population and putting in place actions to preserve them.

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

After the sweep operation conducted in March 2019 (See Year 1 report), regular patrols have continued to be conducted successfully around the Perelegou guard post in W Niger. However, the Water and Forest staff (rangers, forest agents, eco-guards), a group intended to be assigned solely to the Perelegou guard post, have only become consistently allocated since March 2020 due to staffing issues within MEDD. Despite the security difficulties in May 2019 after the kidnapping of two tourists and the death of a Beninese guide in Pendjari NP in Benin and the attack in the middle of March 2020 of the eco-guards at the post Perelegou (mentioned in section 11), the eco-guards were patrolling from April 2019 to beginning of March 2020. IWT successfully financed 205 days of patrols from April 2019 to beginning of March 2020. They stopped in May 2019 after the kidnapping to evaluate the security in the parc, and they reduced the coverage of their patrols during the rainy seasons in June-July- August as some part of the park were not accessible.

Given the constant turnover of staff members, the security training led by Panthera was initially postponed until March 2020, then again with the recent emerging Covid-19 issue, until further notice. However, the performance-based bonus system for rangers was successfully implemented with the current team against agreed performance indicators i.e. if planned coverage was achieved (kilometres for patrol to cover) and if SMART is used to produce monthly report. SMART Reports are attached to this report (Annex 4).

In order to increase his capacity to effectively support patrols in the WNP-Niger, the ZSL field manager, Yekini Chabi-N'Diaye, attended a SMART training in Cameroon with qualified ZSL Smart Trainer and TRIDOM manager Oliver Fankem 17 – 21 February 2020. This training covered different modules with simulations on computer:

- Module 1: installation of SMART 5.0.3 and Cybertracker software for exercises and 6.0.2 for ZSL sites
- Module 2: Configuring a Conservation Area (Creating a configurable data model)
- Module 3: Using SMART's Mapping Functions
- Module 4: Creating, editing and managing Patrols
- Module 5: CyberTracker Plug-In and transfer of the data model to a PDA
- Module 6: Applications and Abstracts
- Module 7: Reporting

In addition to the desk-based training, a practical training exercise was conducted. This was a complex patrol simulation and was carried out (e.g. driving off with different teams with stops for observations and data recording) around the training centre to collect SMART data and then download them once back at the training site for SMART reporting.

This training has equipped ZSL Field Manager to provide greater support and on-the-job training to his counterparts in W Niger. This training will be used in Y3 to provide additional SMART training to rangers in W NP – Niger through on-the-job support. There are also plans to deliver more formal SMART training in year 3 to eco-guards, combined with upcoming Panthera security training. There has been some interest shown by APN (African Parks Network) in use of SMART software for the APN-managed parks in the WAP (Pendjari and W Benin) which ZSL will provide in Y3 if needed.

## **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.**

This activity was delayed because of HR issues as described in the half year report (31<sup>st</sup> of October) and finally started in October 2019, whereby two community officers were recruited to implement a socio-economic survey with the communities living in the periphery of the WNP-Benin and WNP- Niger. The survey was implemented thanks to SurveyCTO software to facilitate the data collection. However, the two community officers and the investigators didn't have any

experience using this software, extra cost was incurred to implement this survey. However, the use of Survey CTO allowed the community officers to collect more data and has realised interesting analyses. The results of this survey have allowed them to identify in collaboration with the communities, which livelihood project should be implemented to support them economically and to reduce IWT in the targeted areas: 2 livelihood initiatives in 4 different villages were identified by the community officers and the communities (2 in Niger and 2 in Benin).

Those livelihood projects have started in 2 villages in Niger, two women groups will be supported to start the production of moringa which is an essential food in this country. In Benin, market gardening was chosen as an activity by a mixed group of men and women in one village, and soap production by a group of women in the second. We will report the results of those livelihood projects in the half year report.

#### **Other activities to strengthen the WAP programme's implementation and safety of the team:**

The security situation in Niger and in North Benin at the border with Burkina Faso ( the kidnapping in May 2019 of two tourist and their driver killed in Parc Pendjari) led to the relocation of Yekini Chabi-N'Diaye from La Tapoa (WNP-Niger) to Kandi (North Benin), and the limitation to the team travels. Consequently, a change request approved in September 2019 financed the participation of the ZSL WAP Team : Audrey Ipavec, RWCP Regional Coordinator, Yekini Chabi N'Diaye, WAP Program Field Manager and Manon Gruner, WAP Program Manager at a PFST training ( Personal field Security Training for aid workers) in March 2020 near Paris, France. This training, which included different simulation exercises, equipped the team with clear tactics and tools in case of incident or attacks in the field, as well as strengthen their capacity to plan activities with security in mind. The report from this training is attached to this report as Annex 5. Through this training, the team identified a critical need for first aid training for the eco-guards in Niger to ensure that they are able to use the medical kit they will receive, and to respond effectively in case of injuries. In order to further strengthen the team's capacity to communicate to all stakeholders (including reports and presentations at regional security meetings , SMART and donor reports), the SMART and security training was complemented by a course in English language for WAP Field Manager Yekini Chabi-N'diaye at the SOPODIVA Centre in Accra, Ghana.

#### **Other activities, ZSL participated in regional conservation forum and the support of this IWT CF-financed project was recognised as a key regional actor:**

Yekini Chabi-N'Diaye attended the 3rd Session of the Monitoring Committee of the RBT-WAP/ICM-WAP Programme in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in December 2019 during which activities carried out in the protected areas were introduced and recommendations regarding the security situation in the program's intervention area have been made. WAP protected areas directors, technical and financial partners, academics, UEMOA representative, national and international NGOs, representative of hunting concessionaires and communities were present. Directors of WNP-Benin and WNP-Niger mentioned the lion spoor census led by ZSL and Panthera in 2019. The Director of the WNP-Niger also introduced the IWT - funded patrols and the refurbishment of the Perelegou guard post (completed 2019 with USFWS support).

## **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

### **Output 1 : Enabling Environment 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).*

The total of enforcement agents in Benin trained in human intelligence handling by the beginning of the project is 7 persons. The Panthera – led security training planned in year 3 to eco-guards will cover Patrolling skills, field craft, first aid, basic command and leadership, signalling, crime scene analysis and gathering of evidence. Through this training, eco-guards will also receive source management training. This will cover, recruitment, management and tasking of resources by the Law Enforcement Advisor of ZSL. Training material will be in line with UK standards as



laid down by the College of Policing. This will further enhance the information flow around IWT threats and incidents in the Park. The delivery of this training has been delayed due to the deteriorating security situation and CV 19.

*1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on the secure TRAFFIC global database.*

Since the departure of the LE advisor in HQ and the technical advisor Vincent from ZSL, and the relocation of the field manager Yekini Chabi N'diaye from La Tapoa to Kandi, those intelligence reports were on standby from May 2019 to March 2020. However, the presence of a new LE advisor at HQ will allow us to start again this activity in April 2020 to achieve the target of fifty intelligence reports that will be generated annually by the end of the project (ZSL intelligence handling protocol in Annex 11). Information will be shared with appropriate law enforcement agents like INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation through recognised intelligence pathways in compliance with local legislation. Non-nominal records of these will be available for inspection. Feedback will be provided on all reports as to action taken and reports will be quality reviewed on a quarterly basis by the ZSL LE advisor. ZSL enforcement coordinators from the region will be connected to best identify targets involved in transnational crime and share best practice. Target 50/yr by end of project.

*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.*

BLET level 1 was delivered in year 1 to 34 agents, in year 2, 15 more agents received the Basic Law Enforcement Training level 2 in Niger. Most of the participants were from the DFC/PR, national police, gendarmerie and judicial system, who are likely to encounter or deal with IWT crime in and around Parc 'W', and frontline personnel, who spend 50 per cent or more of their active duty time in the field or on patrol. At the end of year 2 of the project, a total of 49 persons received a BLET. This mix of agencies was productive and the participation of two Court president was of great advantage to the training to understand the importance of gathering and acquiring proper evidence and information pertaining to a case.

Training evaluation documents will feature in all training events with a pre and post training knowledge test forming part of all training events. This will be used to evaluate quality of training, ability of students and identify future training needs. Training evaluation documents will feature in all training events with a pre and post training knowledge test forming part of all training events. This will be used to evaluate quality of training, ability of students and identify future training needs. Training evaluation documents will feature in all training events with a pre and post training knowledge test forming part of all training events. This will be used to evaluate quality of training, ability of students and identify future training needs. Training evaluation documents will feature in all training events with a pre and post training knowledge test forming part of all training events. This will be used to evaluate quality of training, ability of students and identify future training needs. Training evaluation documents will feature in all training events with a pre and post training knowledge test forming part of all training events. This will be used to evaluate quality of training, ability of students and identify future Training evaluation documents will feature

*1.4 Updating of Niger's wildlife law of 1998 with decrees enacting the law supported through facilitating working group committee.*

Two documents were finalized through two small workgroups of consultants (one consultant in lead who is the presiding judge of Say and 4 consultants from the different direction of the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development. As this activity was under implementation to follow the health measure of Niger government in link with Covid 19 crisis, the workshop with different representatives of the government has been postponed and will be delivered in year 3, to ensure that those documents will be recognized, validated and signed by the government.

## **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.*

Security training was planned for delivery in March 2020 for 36 eco-guards, to be delivered by Panthera security experts. This training was originally due to take place in Q4 2019 but was postponed to March 2020 as the high turnover in forest agents would have devalued the impact of the training. The training material covers Patrolling skills, field craft, first aid, basic command and leadership, signalling, crime scene analysis and gathering of evidence. Training material and trainers are secured, and we await confirmation of the easing of travel restrictions. A secure training location has been identified which will allow all elements of the course to be delivered safely. Safeguarding checks have been completed on all trainers with the disclosure and barring service of the United Kingdom. On completion of the security training, ZSL will deliver training on the SMART patrol system to ensure all staff are able to use the more advanced features of the system making best use of rangers time and resources. A permanent patrol team has now been established at the Perelgou guard post allowing the training to be delivered with long term gains. Due to the deteriorating security situation and the international health situation (Covid-19) that resulted in border closures, preventing group meetings, the training will be delivered in Year 3 and 36 eco-guards will be trained.

The achievement of this indicator has been hindered by a lack of available human resources by W Niger. As of March 2020, only 20 eco-guards are patrolling in W NP in Niger and 12 of them are financed directly by ZSL through this IWT CF grant. This year, DFCPR will be recruiting more dedicated eco guards, and ZSL, with a new grant provided by the US Department of State (INL) plan to train up to 36 more eco-guards. ZSL's training was targeted at the eco-guards deployed specifically by DFCPR under this grant, to ensure that the training is delivered to a team that is likely to be in place for at least the duration of the grant with limited turnover, to ensure the long term legacy of the project.

In order to provide a SMART training to 36 eco-guards, combined with the security training of Panthera in 2020 (Y3), the ZSL field manager, Yekini Chabi-N'Diaye, attended a SMART training in Cameroon with a qualified ZSL Smart Trainer and TRIDOM manager Oliver Fankem 17 – 21 February 2020. This training has equipped the ZSL Field Manager to provide greater support and on-the-job training to his counterparts in W Niger.

*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.

In Year 2, the patrols were covering the area around the Perelegou and Bata guard post 20 days per month by 12 forest agents covering on foot around 200km per month and by car 600 km per month.

Match funding was due to commence in Y2 (from the US INL fund) but this is now due to commence in June 2020. This match funding was due to refurbish the guard post of Bata and support an expanded area of patrols. This explains why the foot patrols have not doubled during Y2.

The eco-guards covered from April 2019 to February 2020, 6056,71 Km (by car and on foot), each sector has a 10km radius.

The security situation has centralised patrols to key areas of risk within the park. This focussing of resources has been achieved through the use of SMART but also greater reliance on the use of intelligence resulting in better proactive and efficient patrols. This methodology will be enhanced further with the delivery of the Security training to the rangers and a move from reactive to a proactive work ethos. This activity will see patrolling resource deployed to areas of maximum conservation impact.

*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 and Bata sector, the patrols covered an area of 380 km<sup>2</sup> (GPS data), representing 17% of the total park area. The deteriorating security situation has impacted on the patrolling activity. Military support to the patrols and to secure the landscape from insurgents and similar crime groups will allow patrolling targets to be met should they deliver the anticipated benefits of an enhanced security picture. The securing of aerial support to the park through the use of light aircraft from neighbouring Benin (APN) and the deployment of UAV's to observe the landscape will allow more proactive patrols. UAV are currently deployed through the RBT WAP project, delivered by GIZ and will benefit the park authorities through a collaborative approach between landscape partners. The ability to carry out aerial surveillance ahead of the patrol formation will ensure the risk from ambush is greatly mitigated whilst also allowing the early identification of wildlife crime incidents. Aerial footage will provide a useful additional asset in the investigation of crime scenes allowing the area to be viewed whilst retaining the forensic integrity of the crime scene.

*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 implemented since the beginning of patrols in the Perelegeou sector in Year 1 and is on-going in Year 2. The bonus scheme was established to ensure that the patrol teams are patrolling 4 weeks per month. The use of SMART by the patrol leader allows a report to be compiled that evidences kms covered and when appropriate, details incidents where poachers are arrested and animal species that were identified during the patrols. In Y2, the project, eco-guards identified active camps and non-active poacher camps (4 active camp and 6 non-active camp in total of the year), they identified 33 poachers during the year but only 4 of them were arrested (mentioned in the indicator 0.1). This illustrates the capacity of eco-guards to arrest poachers and the need for security training (which will be provided in Y3 by Panthera). The capture of incident data will be analysed to identify status change in the likely level of poaching incidents in the park but also critically to ensure the patrols do not merely cover distance but proactively enhance the intelligence picture on the ground. This will include identified poaching incidents, poacher trails, camp sites, vehicle tracks etc. SMART reports are sent monthly to Yekini Chabi- N'Diaye to review and to follow up with the SMART data base manager of the WNP.

**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.**

*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.*

Community surveys were carried out in February 2020 in 5 villages in Niger and 4 villages in Benin around WNP.

In Niger, 139 interviews were conducted of 139 persons interviewed, 55% were men and 45% were women., discussions were held with 136 women in focus groups, 50 young people in focus groups and 241 villagers in assemblies.

In Benin, 130 interviews were conducted, of the 130 persons interviewed, 66% were men and 34% were women, discussions were held with 51 women in focus groups, and with 112 persons in village assemblies.

The youth in the focus groups were between 20 and 29 years of age.

**Data for Niger**



Villages	Interviews	Participants women in focus Groups	Participants in focus young Groups	Participants in village assembly
Tafa	25	24	15	52
Tonday	27	32	20	61
Goungou makoni	25	25	0	30
Natangou	23	12	0	27
Korogoungou	39	43	15	71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>241</b>





### Data for Benin

Villages	Interviews	Participants women in focus Groups	Participants in village assembly
Kpanré	40	11	15
Igrigou	30	13	18
Nipouni	30	12	31
Kanderou	30	15	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>112</b>

SurveyCTO Data Explorer - Monitor

Socio-economic survey W Benin and Niger

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This screen shoot is the data of the socio-economic survey using SurveyCTO. There were more submissions of questionnaire than the numbers of persons reported because the team of investigators did some test with the app SurveyCTO and of the questionnaire to ensure that the questions were relevant, and they were able to realize this survey in a reasonable time.

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:*

- 4 communities assessed by end month 15;
- 8 communities by end of month 18.

During this year, assessments of 9 villages were undertaken; 5 in Niger and 4 in Benin. Of these, 4 livelihood initiatives (2 villages in Benin, 2 in Niger) were identified for community livelihood initiatives and incentive options assessed through a participatory process. The selected options will provide livelihood options to reduce pressure on natural resources within the Parks for a total of 80 households.

3.3 *# of community incentive schemes piloted:*

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

1 livelihood initiative in 2 villages in Benin and in Niger (total of 4 initiatives) are underway at the start of Y3; around 80 people will be targeted as direct beneficiaries, with the potential for 400 indirect beneficiaries (average household size 5.2).

Two groups of women in Niger will produce moringa, one group of women in Benin will produce local soap, and a mixed group of men and women will engage in horticulture in Benin. These

groups were already in place before the ZSL assessment, but were having difficulties in setting up sustainable economic activities and were seeking support to energize their groups. ZSL, through the IWT grant, will provide a budget to energize the group and to train the participants (in moringa production, soap production and basic horticulture), and to purchase the necessary equipment to start these activities. However, to ensure community involvement and the sustainability of these livelihood activities, each group will co-fund these income generating activities by providing materials and financial support according to their available resources.

During the third year, community leaders will continue to monitor these activities to ensure the sustainability of the project.

As the first four schemes now underway are in pilot phase, ZSL will assess the success and impact of the activities and based on results from M&E in Y3, as well as further assessments and community-identified needs, further funds may be sought to strengthen these 4 activities or to start new ones in other previously - surveyed villages. Whilst we monitor the first 4 pilot initiatives, we will assess whether funds are best used to support the first phase of projects for sustainable outcomes or expand this support to further groups.

A change request will follow to amend this indicator to measure the sustainability of these livelihood initiatives and to measure their impact on the economic situation of the households that participated in them.

### 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.*

In year 2 of the project, eco-guards deployed by W Niger arrested 4 persons (April 2019 one person, October 2019 two persons, who were hunting together inside the WNP in Niger, and one person in January 2020). Of those 4 arrested, one person has been convicted by the court in Say. The basic law enforcement training provided has upskilled the eco –guards making activity on the ground proactive in nature from a starting position of reactivity. The deterrent effect of proactive patrolling is historically hard to measure. It is recognised as deterring wildlife criminals and disrupting their activities. Upcoming security training coupled with SMART data capture training, will increase the evidence gathered around activity of poachers and become less reliant on occasional arrests to accurately map out the threat and its direction of travel.

*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;*

The market surveys were conducted in April 2019 and the report has been finalized. The target species of the study were the lion (*Panthera leo*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), serval (*Leptailurus serval*), caracal (*Caracal caracal*), pangolin (*Manis sp*), gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and vulture (*Gyps fulvus*).

To collect relevant information, the surveyors travelled to 41 of Benin's 77 communes to observe markets and shops: in total, 94 sellers were approached in 50 national markets (24 markets in the South and 26 in the North). In Niger, they investigated in 62 markets in three different regions (Falmey, Tamou and Niamey).

In Benin, it appears that by-products from lion and elephant are the most common; 36.75% and 33.73% of the observed products respectively belong to these two species. The availability of by-products varies according to the region: lion and elephant by-products are more available in northern markets while pangolin (*Manis spp*) by-products are more available in the south. Based on sellers' words, the origin of the products is more international (60%), mainly from Nigeria (42%), than national.

Among the 62 markets investigated in Niger, 30 offered products from some of the targeted species. The main products encountered were pieces of skin, vulture wings and animal fat. Like in Benin and still from the sellers' statement, 50% of the available by-products came from the three neighbouring countries: Nigeria, Benin and Burkina Faso.

As part of the strategy to achieve this indicator, we have used the results of the market surveys to build an IEC strategy to tackle IWT that will be implemented in Year 3. This IEC strategy, targeting sellers and customers, will help measure changes in IWT trends between two market surveys. To elaborate this strategy the teams of consultants recruited will realized a document review, several interviews with resource persons, and a few focus groups with the communities surrounding Park W to identify their knowledge of illegal wildlife trafficking, existing laws and protected species, as well as the media to be used to inform and raise awareness on these issues. The report of this survey and the strategy will be finalized and shared in the next half year report. The next market survey is planned in 2021 with the INL Grant.

*0.3. # of convictions/year relating to wildlife crime increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 12 months 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.*

The legal environment within which this project is operating has prevented a baseline from being established. This is due to both Benin and Niger not maintaining an updated and easily accessible wildlife crime database. It is envisaged that this will be established in month 16. Procedures around the actions being taken are now better understood. The use of financial penalties or fines is common place on dealing with first time offenders. This allows the establishment of "guilty knowledge" if an offender is caught for a second time. These monies are receipted and paid to the National Parks department. On the second offence the offender should be dealt with through the judicial process at tribunal. It has been identified that a number of persistent offenders are not taken to tribunal but are dealt again by way of a fine. Law enforcement account for these incidents by identifying resources both physical and financial that precluded them from taking the individual to the tribunal.

*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%.*

The community surveys conducted during the second year, in February 2020, collected information on the KAPs (knowledge, attitudes and practices) of the communities around PN W in Benin and Niger, on IWT, wildlife laws and the park's resources in general. In addition to this survey, a team of consultants was recruited in March 2020 to produce the IEC strategy on IWT and on protected species for ZSL under this grant. Their first task is to review all existing documents on illegal trafficking, wildlife and protected species legislation, and then to interview the community living on the periphery of the W National Park in Benin and Niger on how to raise awareness and change community attitudes on illegal trafficking (what messages and media to use depending on the audience, which may be children in school, vendors and customers of wildlife products, eco-guards, etc.). The IEC strategy will be finalized in May 2020 and should be implemented in the third year. The implementation of this strategy and the livelihood initiatives should together impact community members to increase their efforts to address the problem of illegal wildlife trafficking and reduce their pressure on the park's resources that we could measure at the end of the project. At the end of the livelihood initiatives, the community officers will evaluate the impact of those initiatives on their economic situation but also on their attitudes towards park resources and IWT by asking the same question of the survey realized in February 2020 to have reliable comparison.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

#### Original Assumptions:

***African Parks Network assumes management of W Benin and W Burkina Faso by 2019 as planned and effective surveillance and protection systems established.*** In 2020, W NP in Benin is under a double management of APN and CENAGREF as a transition to a full management of the park by APN in 2021. However, APN is not managing W NP of Burkina Faso, and it is not planned for this year.

***Reducing wildlife crime reduces pressure on wild populations of elephants, big cats and other species affected by trafficking in the WAP.*** The first available data on cheetah and leopard populations were obtained by camera trap study in 2017 and 2019 in Pendjari NP, and W NP in Benin funded by USFWS and IWT. Three surveys on lion population were conducted in Pendjari NP and W NP in Benin in 2012, 2014 and 2019. The most recent survey, financed by IUCN, provides more available data on this population. Thanks to these databases, we will be able in the coming years to measure the impact on these populations of the various activities implemented to reduce wildlife crime. However, it will be difficult to specifically identify which activities have had an impact, as different factors may be contributed to the result. The management of APN, the livelihood initiatives implemented by the ZSL in year 2 funded by IWT, the implementation of the IEC strategy on IWT in year 3 funded by IWT among others.

*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.* After two years of the project, both governments are still supporting international efforts to consider illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime, the solicitation of the Government of Niger to support them in the development of wildlife conservation laws evidences this ongoing commitment.

***Existing transboundary cooperation at wildlife division level continues to facilitate coordination and sharing of relevant information.*** After two years of the project, this transboundary cooperation continues (sharing of materials, information on poachers and armed groups, meeting).

***Engaging communities ensures a stake in efforts to address IWT in and around the WAP.*** The information collected during the market surveys and by exchanging with different partners including eco-guards in W Niger NP, it is that raising awareness on IWT, on wildlife existing law and on protected species is needed to stake the efforts to address IWT. It is for this reason that we used the budget of market surveys in year 2 to recruit a team of consultant to produce an IEC strategy on IWT (Information, Education and Communication) to change the attitudes of the communities and of the different actors target towards IWT and protected species.

#### ***New Assumptions at the beginning of Year 3***

**Assumption 1: The Security situation allows and enables full support for project intervention.**

Comments: The security situation in the WAP has deteriorated in year 2 of the project. This has impacted on the delivery of certain projects, in particular those around communities and eco guard training. The identified threat from terrorist insurgency from neighbouring countries (Niger and Burkina Faso) continues to remain at a critical level with evidence that the threat now impacts directly on the WAP complex. The FCO travel advise states "All travel to the Parc du W National Park and continuous hunting zones of Meerkou and Djona. The area between Parc Du W and the border with Niger. The Pendjari National Park and the adjacent hunting grounds. All other areas within a 5km distance of the border with Burkina Faso on 29.04.20. The security threat has prevented ZSL staff from travelling to high risk projects, where a clear terrorist threat has been identified. The situation is proactively monitored to mitigate risk and resume activity when safe to do so. A security network has been established with both government and key partners to deliver reliable and secure situation reports, Thus ensuring ZSL are best able to respond to the changing situation on the ground. ZSL has embedded this in its adaptive approach to the delivery of key

elements in the project. When unable to work in areas resources are redirected to activities in different areas in the WAP thus ensuring activity is maintained in a safe but constructive manner.

**Assumption 2: The Covid –19 pandemic allows full support for project intervention.**

Comments; The Covid –19 global pandemic has seen international borders closed and restrictions placed on institutions and private individuals around their movement and direct contact. From the 19<sup>th</sup> of March entry visas have been restricted to “extreme necessity” only. Cases of the infection have been identified across the region and social distancing measures have been implemented across the country. First world health systems to deal with the outbreak are not present and resources and infrastructure are limited. One of the impacts is the postponement of planned security training by Panthera. The project will be guided by expert Government, Health and safety advisors to mitigate the risk the pandemic presents. When advised it is safe to do so we will recommence all the activities. For this purpose, the WAP team created a guideline of rules to follow for the staff and consultants when they are in contact with the communities to limit the risks the pandemic presents both to them but also remote communities. .

**Assumption 3: Accessible government statistics around the criminal justice system would facilitate measurements of success**

Comments: To date no reliable statistical recording of arrests, prosecutions, convictions is gathered. This prevents accurate analysis of impact beyond the recognised “Deterrent effect phenomena” delivered through regular, structures and intelligence led patrolling. Work is ongoing to deliver a more robust record system around judicial reporting in collaboration with other stakeholders. This would include access to incidences where financial fines are levied upon offenders in lieu of court proceedings. “

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

**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 Cheetah<sup>1</sup>) and which is under significant pressure from the global IWT, exacerbated by political instability in the region.** This project has directly supported 205 patrol days in Parc W (Niger), 20 days of patrols per months from April 2019 to February 2020, and one week in May 2019. In May, eco-guards patrolled only one week because of the kidnapping of two tourists and the death of a Beninese guide in Pendjari NP in Benin which happen beginning of May. After this event, the patrols stopped to evaluate the security risks in W NP in Niger with a revised security protocol in place. Peregrou area (W, Niger) saw 17% patrol coverage (up from an estimated 5%). This presence provides both stability for species who are at a decreased risk from the IWT. It has also provided a presence in an area at risk of terrorist activity and support for communities under the threat of violence from these groups who are now spilling across international borders.

**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. It introduces a set of best-practice law enforcement tools for authorities to use in their work tackling IWT in line with UK’ College of Policing standards. These tools will establish a complementary and coordinated method of working across borders. When law enforcement agents are lost through staff turnover (transfers between parks), the training they have undergone will contribute to a cadre of trained law enforcement agents across the WAP region, who will continue contributing to tackling the IWT in a consistent and professional manner. .

**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

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<sup>1</sup> 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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violence from terrorism and political unrest) and historical resettlement schemes in the 1920s. Limited opportunities for enhanced livelihoods exist in the area, exacerbated. This has created high levels of poverty, resulting in little interest in wildlife conservation (and therefore disincentives community support for activities to tackle the IWT). Through the increased law enforcement presence in W Niger, this has seen a return of the potential income generation from tourism in the area. This should in the future see increased incomes for 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 deliver 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 to 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).

#### **4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement**

In Year 1 and 2, 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 the 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.

In Y2, by request of our partners in DFC Niger, ZSL, with IWT funds, contributed to the Government of Niger's efforts to develop an effective legal framework for wildlife protection. In December 2019, the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development lobbied the Directorate of Forests, Hunting, Parks and Reserves (DFC/PR) to update the 1998 Wildlife Law and draft implementing decrees for the CITES law passed in October 2019. Since 1998, the law has not been updated, therefore it did not include changes of status of protected species, neither did it take into account strict prohibitions and sanctions on hunting and illegal trade. The commitment of the Ministry and the DFC/PR to put in place this new legal framework was successfully supported by ZSL to produce the Wildlife Protection Law and the CITES Enforcement Orders in March 2020. With the current restrictions in place due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the final workshop to validate these documents by the government has been postponed, but all the documents are ready to go further as soon as the public health context allows. The second phase after the validation of the documents will consist of communication and raising awareness of the communities, but also of the personnel of the judicial system, the eco-guards and the park authorities in general to implement this law.

At the end of the second year, we started livelihood initiatives in two villages in Benin and Niger (4 initiatives in total) on the periphery of the PNW. The aim is to develop sustainable livelihoods for people affected by the illegal wildlife trade and who use park resources as a source of income due to lack of other economic resources. The results of these livelihood initiatives are firstly to build trust between ZSL and the communities, and secondly to improve the economic situation of households in these villages to reduce the pressure on park resources and support for the illegal trade.

The market studies carried out by ZSL thanks to the IWT grant in 2019 (first year of the project) have enabled ZSL to have the relevant information on the fauna products sold in Benin and Niger (quantity and type of species). However, we did not have information on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of sellers, customers and communities in general regarding the illegal trade, protected species and applicable laws. The socio-economic survey of communities in the periphery of PN W in Niger and Benin in February 2020 provided us with information that is being used by a team of consultants to produce an IEC (information, education and communication) strategy on the illegal trade and protected species. The implementation of this strategy will raise public awareness on the illegal trade, current legislation and the status of protected species in



order to achieve a change in attitude that should reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products and thus result in the decrease in wildlife products on the markets.

## **5. Impact on species in focus**

The market surveys realized in 2017 and 2019 in Benin and Niger provided a picture of the national market for protected species and illustrated the lack of knowledge from the sellers and communities regarding protected species and the illegal wildlife trade. This prompted ZSL to use the information from the market surveys from Y1 to take forward related actions that would provide tools to implement an awareness campaign on protected species and the Illegal Wildlife Trade. The implementation of this strategy in Y3 (20/21) of the project will allow us to measure the change between the market surveys in 2017 and 2019, and the one that we will conduct in 2021. The emerging discussion around the cause of Covid 19 an opportunity for an evidence – based awareness campaign directed towards the communities around the risks connected to bushmeat consumption and on the laws that protect those species from hunting.

Despite difficulties mainly linked to the security context, the regular presence, for the first time in several years, of patrols in one the most vulnerable 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. It is difficult to measure an increase or decrease in poaching at this time, but the record of arrests of several poachers this year illustrates for the first time the establishment of a proactive system of sanctions and monitoring. This progress will be built upon through upcoming training events to upskill the technical ability of the eco-guards and enhance the capacity of the organisation to deliver intelligence led effective patrols.

A large carnivore spoor survey in W Benin, W Niger and Pendjari was conducted in order to assess the number of lions and hyenas in the complex. This survey will ideally be replicated in two years if the security situation allows. This will give us an additional measurable indicator to evaluate the impact of the project on target species.

The support of ZSL to the government of Niger to revise the law which regulate hunting and protection of wildlife from 1998 with its actual needs will provide a new robust law enforcement framework to tackle the IWT. It will be important in year 3 of IWT to implement training on this new law to the enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary empowered with enforcing these regulations.

## **6. Project support to poverty alleviation**

- 4 investigators (2 in Benin and 2 in Niger) received work experience and income from the market surveys in Year 1. They were all students, and this work brought them valuable experience in addition to financial recompense. A significant positive is that it has been reported that the students have used these funds to support personal scholarships.
- 2 community officers were recruited to implement a socio-economic survey in the communities of the peripheries of the park W Niger and W Benin. They were working with 3 investigators in Benin and 2 in Niger who were trained on survey methodology and on the possible links between livelihood and IWT.
- After the socio-economic survey, 1 livelihood initiatives in 2 villages in Benin and in Niger were identified by the communities to support them economically and to reduce IWT in the targeted areas: around 80 persons will be targeted, so consequently 80 household will generate income or increased revenues by the end of the project. This will be reported against the baseline provided by this year's socioeconomic survey.

According to the results of socio-economic surveys conducted in the communities of the 4 villages in Benin (Kpanré, Nipouni, Idgirigou and Kanderou), the communities selected to benefit from ZSL's support for livelihood initiatives are Kanderou and Nipouni. It was decided to finance groups or cooperatives in order to have the maximum possible impact on the largest possible number of people and to encourage community initiatives. The village of Kanderou already has a functioning mixed (men-women) cooperative whose activity is market gardening.

This well-organized activity is struggling to evolve but the group are putting in place improved practices to increase revenue. The village of Nipouni will be supported for its project of production and marketing of ball soap. In this village, there was a women's cooperative that had received initial training in the production of ball soap. The communities therefore wished to revitalize this cooperative and to set up the activity.

Supporting these activities will have a positive economic impact on the populations and thus reduce the pressure on the resources of the W NP in Benin.

Analysis of the individual survey data clearly identifies the following issues as contributing factors to biodiversity loss within Park W Niger. These are:

1. The poverty of the majority of the population;
2. The level of education of the population;
3. The non-existence or very reduced number of basic social structures (health centres, schools, roads, wells, boreholes,....) ;
4. The little attention these populations receive from the Park W managers.

Among these four points, some can be influenced in the short term, others in the medium and long term through certain projects or micro-projects.

The other aspect of the analysis of the survey results shows that the most common activities are agriculture, fishing, market gardening and animal husbandry. Of these four activities, the most easily influenced in the short term are market gardening and animal husbandry. We propose to start ZSL's intervention in only two of these five villages. These villages have the advantage of having sites next to a water point, other than the river, which recedes at this dry time of the year. The project aims to intervene in the villages of Goungou Makoni and Tondey, to influence the poverty of the most vulnerable strata, namely women, through the production and exploitation of Moringa leaves. The Moringa sector is very promising in Niger and can be a source of income and food supplement for communities. This project should make it possible to produce and plant 500 Moringa plants in two sites that will be developed for this purpose. The women of the two villages constitute the target group, the direct beneficiaries. The beneficiaries will be organized into groups, trained and equipped with the appropriate production equipment.

## **7. Consideration of gender equality issues**

The majority of the project's direct beneficiaries in the first two years of this project were linked to park protection and field-based law enforcement, where men are overrepresented, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

However where possible, this project has looked to support gender equality through capacity building of law enforcement (25% of the police officers from the Cotonou port anti-trafficking unit trained were female and 25% of the market survey team were female).

ZSL has been able to target gender equality more effectively through community engagement activities, through the hiring of a female community officer and through taking into account gender dynamics of the communities with whom we work and directly targeting this.

For the community surveys, the community officers tried to reach as women as men for individual interviews:

- In Benin, of the 130 persons interviewed, 66% were men and 34% were women.
- In Niger, of 139 persons interviewed, 55% were men and 45% were women.

However, they mentioned that it was more difficult to reach women for individual interviews, which led to the hosting of a specific focus group with women to ensure to get information on their knowledge, attitudes and practices towards the park resources and on their economic situation.

In Niger, 136 women participated in focus groups and 51 in Benin.

Of the four community groups selected to receive support for income generating activities, 75% of these are female-only groups and one is mixed.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

Some activities provided significant challenges in monitoring (and in evaluating their success), notably those which are linked to legal cases. There is very little available data; both W parks do not keep track of arrests, seizures, prosecutions. This is one of the reasons for the introduction of the ZSL incentive scheme for eco guards. This requires the park managers to provide data of arrests that occurred during the patrols that were supported by the project. It should be noted that ZSL does not have influence over other patrols that might be conducted out of the system we are implementing (and may be supported by other landscape. This system is working, as evidenced by the 4 people who were arrested in 2019, and the conviction of one of the poachers arrested by the park teams. This activity shows the positive evolution since the beginning of the project and the progressive implementation of a system of sanctions and control.

The use of SMART is essential for monitoring and evaluation of the project. The use of SMART by the eco-guards during the patrols in W Niger provides the project with the means to monitor both the implementation of the activities by the project (i.e. the patrols themselves), the extent to which they are being delivered (coverage of the park and patrol tracks) and evaluate their effectiveness (as well as the aggregated effectiveness of the project) by providing information about signs of illegal activity encountered, direct contact with suspects and with any counter-trafficking actions taken. More training will be delivered in Y3 as this will further enhance their ability to use SMART to its full potential and thus gather more relevant data from their patrols.

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, our strong collaboration with our partner DFC/PR and park authorities enable us to have current information on the difficulties and achievement of patrols as also the security difficulties. The park authorities are regularly reporting information to Yekini Chabi N'diaye, field manager, even remotely with the Covid 19 situation that prevent him travelling to Niger. A system for the collection of information, enhancement into an intelligence package and method of dissemination has been designed and is laid out in an easily understood flow diagram (Annex 11)

## **9. Lessons learnt**

The other biggest difficulty we encountered over this year is directly linked to security and regional instability. There is a serious and growing terrorist threat 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, since February 2020, the attacks around the park W Niger are more regular and the last attack in March against the forest element in Perelegou guard post is pushing the government and their partners to revise our way of working inside the park to tackle both armed groups and the IWT. ZSL with GIZ have written a letter to the ministry of the environment, urban health and sustainable development, requesting that they take strong measure to limit the risk of attacks in the park. The two important measures identified are the presence of the army who are specialized in anti-terrorist work and that they now provide support to the mandate of forest elements and to protect the forest elements who are not trained in this work. Also to ensure the withdrawal from guard posts that currently expose rangers to attack. Critical infrastructure was removed to ensure it could not be used by insurgents. Activity now operates from highly mobile camps that change daily. Those changes will have an impact on the activities for year 3 of the IWT project.

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 more than two years ago. It has taken longer than envisaged despite the fact that ZSL have promptly responded to requests from the Beninese administration. The securing 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 year 3 of the IWT project.

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

- **The project appears to be ‘at risk’ based on the evidence provided and there is an allusion to ‘redirecting activities’ that are not explained.** This report was written at a time of uncertainty due to the challenges faced around security and our team’s ability to enter the field and provide on-the-ground support to our partners in the WAP. ZSL halted staff travel to the field around the time of the annual report in 2019 in order to evaluate with our in-house Health and Safety team and security providers around how the project could continue to provide critical support to tackle the IWT whilst not placing their staff at risk. During this time, the WAP Field manager was relocated from La Tapoa (Niger) to Kandi (Benin), an area with a reduced risk profile. This coincided with the rainy season, which also prevented cross-border travel (along roads which were not secure). However, this brief pause provided the opportunity for the project to develop an approach which continued to contribute to the project objectives (in particular directing further support to patrols within W Niger and allocating increased funds to allow our Field Manager to travel to Niger by air, confirmed in the change request of 26 August 2019) and further elaborated on in the semi-annual report. ZSL have kept LTS informed of progress throughout the year where new security measures have had to be implemented.
- **Assumptions and indicators have not been reviewed within the report. These are key strategic and project management actions and should be addressed as soon as possible.** These have been reviewed
- **Recognition of support from IWT Challenge Fund and UK Government needs to be given in all appropriate platforms** Recognition of the fund has been given on all appropriate platforms (further elaborated in section 13).

## 11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

**Security and health issues in the region:** Since May 2019, The WAP Field Manager was moved from La Tapoa (Niger) to Kandi (Benin) in May 2019. The level of support provided to W Management has remained the same, but the level of ad-hoc technical support, and day-to day field monitoring by ZSL’s Field Manager has only been possible remotely, and via monthly visits since May 2019. The ZSL WAP Field Team continue to have regular (almost daily contact) with intelligence networks in both countries, and ZSL’s Africa team in London review Health and Safety procedures on an almost weekly basis with ZSL’s Health and Safety department (and its security providers). In immediate response to the instability in the WAP, our Health and Safety team advised against travelling to Niger through the road which passes through Parc W. We have therefore had to temporarily travel via air in order to have our monthly meetings with Parks Niger and provide support to patrols. However, with the Covid 19 international situation, ZSL team is not able to travel from Benin to Niger. To ensure the collaboration and the support of ZSL to our partners in Niger, regular exchanges are maintained through emails, phone calls and whatsapp groups.

**Staff changes:** There was a gap in staffing during this year of implementation, the result of a failed round of recruitment and necessary review of project needs. There was a round of recruitment undertaken for Vincent’s direct replacement, but no suitable candidates were found. ZSL used this opportunity to review the staffing structure and revise it to ensure both technical delivery and staff safety, as well as project management experience, were part of the candidates. Therefore, based on the high levels of performance by Yekini Chabi Ndiaye in his pre-existing role, the collaborative relationships he has built up with project partners and his familiarity with the context, Mr Chabi Ndiaye’s role was enhanced and he has been given extra training in order to meet the increased demands of the job (including in emergency preparedness and English). In order to prioritize operational issues, the recruitment of the WAP Programme manager was undertaken and Manon Gruner, started in October 2019. Whilst the project has been able to

deliver training in intelligence gathering and law enforcement techniques, there has been a lack of a Law Enforcement Advisor, with the necessary dedication needed for the establishment of intelligence networks (along with the sensitivity of the information). The Law Enforcement Advisor started in November 2019 and is highly experienced. He is currently reviewing the project's assumptions and indicators will be reviewed, and any necessary modifications will be made via a technical change request before the end of May 2020.

**Community Officer:** As notified to LTS on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019, ZSL encountered an issue of non-delivery by a consultant to whom we paid as an advance for work regarding scoping of community activities. After two failed letters issued by ZSL, the decision was taken, upon advice by the ZSL legal team, to report this incident to the national police, who followed up on behalf of ZSL. This method was successful because on April 2nd we received all the reimbursement of the amount allocated to this consultant. ZSL has learned from this experience by changing the terms and conditions of contracts and the payment of consultants. The money returned was used to recruit a third community officer who began the implementation of livelihood initiatives in Benin following the measures taken by the Government of Benin. With COVID,19 the government set up a health cordon around coastal towns, limiting travel from these towns to other cities in the country. Thus, the community officer who was supposed to carry out this activity will not be able to travel, so she is supported by an agent from the communities to ensure the implementation and monitoring of these initiatives while respecting the government's measures and limiting the risks of spreading Covid 19.

**Partnership:** In Y2 of the project ZSL team put a lot of efforts to reinforce collaboration with our government partnership and with others actors working in this sector. In December 2019, the MOU with the DFC/PR and MEDD ( Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development - Directorate of Forests, Hunting, Parks and Reserves DFC/PR) was renewed for one year, and the MOU with CENAGREF was renewed for five years.

In addition, ZSL this year has begun to collaborate with GIZ, a key actor in the wildlife conservation in the RBT WAP. Yekini Chabi-N'Diaye attended the 3rd Session of the Monitoring Committee of the RBT-WAP/ICM-WAP Programme in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in December 2019 during which activities carried out in the protected areas were introduced and recommendations regarding the security situation in the program's intervention area have been made. Directors of WNP-Benin and WNP-Niger mentioned the lion spoor census led by ZSL and Panthera in 2019. The Director of the WNP-Niger also introduced the IWT funded work and the refurbishment of the Perelegou guard post. After the attack in mid-March 2020 at the Perelegou guard post, GIZ and ZSL together wrote a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development and DFCPR to take new measures to ensure the safety of the eco-guards working in PN W in Niger. This collaboration is essential to ensure that the two organizations have a harmonized discourse and way of working with this ministry. The Ministry and DFCPR have reacted and taken the requested security measures to limit the risk of attacks against the eco-guards, therefore, GIZ and ZSL will continue to support DFCPR and the park authorities jointly.

## **12. 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 the institutional capability will improve across all agencies mandated to protect the WAP landscape and result in a more enabled criminal enforcement network.

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 ensuring a collaborative environment where resources work in unison to deliver the best outcomes. .

The implementation of livelihood schemes aims to empower communities over the long term. Those schemes have been developed with the communities and will be implemented with their input giving financial and material support (the different groups committed themselves to pay and / or provide some materials to start the activity). This will ensure that they are engaged, that these initiatives are theirs and not ZSL's. COVID 19 is likely to have a negative impact on the economic situation of the communities in the periphery of Pendjari, W NP in Niger and Benin. Firstly because of the decreased revenue from tourism. Tourism decreased initially in Pendjari NP in Benin after the kidnapping of two tourists and one guide being killed in May 2019. Secondly because of COVID 19, it is expected that very few tourists will be able to travel to or in Benin and Niger in the coming year. Suddenly ceasing activities in both countries due to Covid would have meant withdrawing support when most needed by vulnerable communities and ending activities without measures to ensure sustainability. ZSL has been able to continue to provide support, whilst respecting the public health measures in place by the governments of both Niger and Benin. With the support of the Health and Safety department of ZSL, we have been able to continue the activities started with the communities in the periphery of W NP in Benin and Niger, remotely where possible. The livelihood initiatives identified in March will be implemented and continued in the coming months, whilst ensuring ZSL limits the risk of increasing the pressure on park resources because of the COVID 19 pandemic crisis.

### **13. IWT Challenge Fund identity**

ZSL has 8 social media channels covering the major social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) with 17 accounts in total, including a dedicated 'Africa ZSL' Twitter account and 'Our Sea Our Life' (Mozambique). Via their online presence, ZSL has a total reach of 64.9 million (Facebook) with 4 million unique users to the ZSL website per annum. @ZSLConservation has over 24,000 followers on Twitter, which regularly features Africa-specific posts on ZSL's overseas conservation work, complemented by @ZSLAfrica, which posts about ZSL's Africa conservation work around 10 times per month.

We use this extensive social media reach to publicise our donors' support (including IWT). All social media posts reporting on project activities credit the donors responsible (whereby IWT Challenge Fund/DEFRA and the UK Government are recognised and logos added to images where possible) or via the use of a hashtag (following guidelines presented at LTS' grantee workshop in 2019). In addition to crediting donors in social media, each ZSL Africa country programme has a page on the ZSL Conservation website where all donors are listed next to the project which they support. In addition, ZSL's external communications to its Fellows, Members and supporters, via direct mail and printed communications, list DEFRA IWT CF as a key supporter of our Conservation and Policy work.

As IWT CF are currently the sole donor for work in this landscape, they are recognised as the sole supporter of the project currently, but where further funds are secured, DEFRA will continue to be recognised as a key contributor to the activities for which they are responsible.

ZSL is frequently required to attend workshops and stakeholder meetings in country, which often include presentations by ZSL staff to other conservation stakeholders and government partners, including transboundary fora where Ministerial - level representatives from government are present. Where IWT supported projects are reported on, IWT CF is mentioned and the logo is included in written materials. The inclusion of IWT CF and UK government logos on project - specific printed materials is key in raising the profile of the IWT CF in country amongst high-level stakeholders.

Where large equipment or infrastructure is installed to support community livelihoods or poverty alleviation measures using project funds and signage installed, ZSL credits IWT CF to raise awareness of the fund amongst communities.

However, ZSL also exercises caution on communications around sensitive activities (like covert surveys, arrests, etc.) and publication of information or pictures that could put some people in danger, which limits ZSL's capacity to publish publicly on law enforcement and counter trafficking



issues. In countries where there is a kidnapping risk, ZSL has tempered our promotion of the IWT CF given that reference to it (Union Jack flags) may risk increasing likelihood of attacks.

We are confident that over the next year of the project, positive results and materials will be available to further publicise the IWT Challenge Fund and its Government sponsors.

## 14. Safeguarding

ZSL has invested heavily in its safeguarding policies and procedures both in the UK and globally. The Council of Trustees and Executive Management Committee have formally recognised safeguarding as a key area of responsibility and are fully committed to strengthening and rolling out ZSL safeguarding approach. Where necessary these efforts are applicable to staff, partners and other stakeholders ZSL works with. Relevant policies have been updated and new policies and procedures implemented and policies to align to this commitment including; Global safeguarding policy; Safeguarding policy for UK staff; Global whistleblowing policy and procedures; Global code of conduct; DBS and criminal record check policy; Employing younger worker policy; Disciplinary Policy and procedures; Reference request policy; Violence and aggressive behaviour policy; The 4 R's safeguarding policy; Staff handbook.

ZSL has also implemented measures to ensure the effective delivery of these policies by:

- designating a named 'Safeguarding Trustee' who meets regularly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (HR Director, Fiona Evans).
- a number of Designated Safeguarding Officers.
- a strategic group which meets every few months to consider how the rollout of ZSL's safeguarding is going and to provide direction (our Safeguarding Trustee, Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Head of Legal) along with a wider working group to help lead implementation.
- received updated global safeguarding training from independent experts including 'train the trainer' sessions to allow safeguarding leads to provide this training in-house in ZSL; and
- raised awareness of the updated Whistleblowing Policy by creating posters in different languages to be distributed amongst ZSL staff.
- All contractors are required to provide a positive disclosure and debarring certificate.

In the WAP programme, those policies are shared and explained to each staff and consultants to ensure that all the persons who are representing ZSL for a short or long period are respecting those policies.

These policies easily accessible and have been translated into a number of key languages in the countries we are operating in. Existing and newly joined staff, consultants and partners are made aware of these and participate in an induction into the policies, related procedures and implications irrespective of the length of time they will be working/collaborating with ZSL.

In addition to these safeguarding efforts, ZSL is looking to develop and transition its environment and social management system to align to the [IUCN ESMS standards](#) – as a minimum standard of operating. Several projects are currently trialling to inform the transition plan. The IUCN standards include undertaking a project level Social and Environment Impact Assessment, which will include the recently developed Security and Human Rights Screening. A Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process may be triggered at this point to safeguard indigenous people's rights to give or withhold consent to a project that may impact them and/or their way of living or their land. In accordance with legal guidelines they will have the right to withdraw consent at any given stage of a project. The ZSL process will align to FAO guidelines to meet FPIC requirements through the whole project cycle - including monitoring and evaluation, to be participatory and accommodate indigenous group's needs.

The results of the review and recommendation of the assessment will be captured and managed through an Environmental and Social management plan (ESMP) with a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Grievance Mechanism adapted to be appropriate for

the context of each project. All will be developed in an inclusive and participatory manner in collaboration with partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

ZSL is committed to enabling Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) throughout project implementation with targeted activity to provide entry points to marginalised groups within different recognised groups e.g. women and those with disabilities. ZSL is developing an institutional indicator framework to ensure projects are delivering impact in this area, established through 2020’s socioeconomic surveys in Benin and Niger.

<sup>1</sup> FPIC is legally recognised under the following international regulations which many ZSL implementing countries will have recognised or ratified: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), The International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO 169), The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and relevant national laws.

**15. Project expenditure**

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2019-March 2020)**

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2019/20 Grant (£)	2019/20 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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by IWT?

- A Financial Change Request was approved on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 which moved £ from 2020-21 to 19/20, changing the total budget for Y2 (19/20) from £ to £.

**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 (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

**Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020**

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></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><b>Outcome</b> 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"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <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</p>	<p>0.1 Data of arrested persons in year 2 is illustrating the results of law enforcement training and bonus to eco-guards who are patrolling actively and regularly: 4 poachers were arrested and one has been convicted to the court in Say.</p> <p>0.2 Market surveys data collection has been fully achieved in month 9 in year 1. In year 2 of the project, market surveys were not implemented. Instead, a strategy to inform and raise awareness on IWT, existing laws and status of protected species is elaborated (starting in March 2020 and is ongoing).</p> <p>0.3. It was not possible to establish a baseline due to difficulties in legal environment (change request to be submitted in May 2020 to address this)</p> <p>0.4 Community incentives were initially planned at the end of year 1 but the difficulties we had with the</p>	<p>0.1 Upcoming security training coupled with SMART data capture training, will increase the evidence gathered around activity of poachers and become less reliant on occasional arrests to accurately map out the threat and its direction of travel.</p> <p>0.2 The socio-economic surveys which gather information on KAP (knowledge, attitudes and practices) of the communities towards IWT and protected species is a baseline and in year 3, the same question will be asked to the persons who benefited from the livelihood initiatives to measure the impact of this activities but also of the IEC strategy on IWT. The replication of market survey in year 3 will allow to follow the trend in monitored illegal products.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>(baselines established by end month 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2;</li> <li>Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period;</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2;</li> <li>Increase by at least 50% by end of project period.</li> </ul> <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>consultant recruited has obliged us to review the planning to recruit new consultant. The community incentive had started in March 2020 and we will be able to measure the results in June.</p>	<p>0.3 ZSL will continue to support the legal environment to have more relevant data on wildlife crime to strengthen the capacity of the government of Niger to measure the impact of their actions to protect the wildlife in W NP.</p> <p>0.4 The livelihood initiatives are ongoing, the first months of year 3 will be focused on the implementation and follow up of those initiatives to ensure their sustainability and evaluate the impact for the communities.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> <a href="#">Enabling Environment and</a> 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</p>	<p>1.1 7 people received intelligence training or refreshing in Benin (Evidence provided in Law Enforcement Advisor's mission report). An intelligence training will be delivered at the end of the security training provided by Panthera to 36 eco-guards in year 3.</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. 49 frontline enforcement agents :14 in Benin and 20 in Niger received Basic Law Enforcement trainings which included forensic crime scene management in Y1 and in Y2, 15 frontline agents in Niger received</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target 50/yr by end of project.</li> </ul> <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>1.4 Updating of Niger's wildlife law of 1998 with decrees enacting the law supported through facilitating working group committee and initiating the review process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Committee established Y2;</li> <li>• First draft of decrees enacting the law-by end of Y2 ;</li> <li>• Validation and implementation of the decrees in Y3</li> </ul>	<p>BLET level 2 in Y2 of the project. (evidence provided in Law Enforcement Advisor's mission report). Another BLET training is planned in year 3 to achieve the indicator of 60 enforcement agents.</p> <p>1.4 The two documents: actualization of the wildlife law from 1998 and the decrees to enforce the CITES law voted in October 2019 were finalized in March 2020. The final workshop to validate those documents by the government of Niger has been postpone because of Covid 19 but will be planned as soon as the situation is stabilized during year 3.</p>	
Activity 1.1 Delivery of intelligence and basic law enforcement trainings and refreshers			1 intelligence and 1 basic law enforcement trainings will be delivered. Intelligence trainings will aim at delivering more specialized skills in order to allow agents to gather information and create intelligence products / reports and to be able to manage sources more efficiently.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
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.
1.7 Support to working committee with the DFC/PR for new wildlife law through technical expert support, workshops and facilitation of legal review process		The two documents: actualization of the wildlife law and the decrees of CITES law were finalized in March 2020.	With the covid 19 situation, the final workshop to validate those documents by the government has been postpone until the situation can allow it.
<b>Output 2.</b> 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 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"> <li>• Year 1 - 300 pd/m;</li> <li>• Year 2 - 400 pd/m;</li> <li>• Year 3 - 600 pd/m.</li> </ul> <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</p>	<p>2.1 Ranger trainings were planned to start in year 2 but was postponed because of Covid 19. It will happen Q1 Y3 of the project (travel permitting). SMART training will be delivered as part of this ranger training and WAP Field manager will provide ad-hoc support to the W Niger management and SMART focal point. This training will include an additional module on intelligence management training to those eco-guards to enable them to provide intelligence information to the park authorities.</p> <p>2.2 20 patrols days per months have been conducted (evidence provided in monthly patrol report given to W Niger Wildlife Authority) from April 2019 to March 2020 with only one week in May 2019 and one week in March 2020 because of security instabilities. 205 days of patrols were realized by eco-guards in W NP in Niger in year 2 of the project.</p> <p>2.3 17% of W Niger has been covered by foot patrols</p> <p>2.4 Bonus scheme has been established and the ecoguards received performance bonus in accordance with two main targets in year 1 and year 2: number of foot patrols conducted every mission, and geographical</p>	



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>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>objectives visited each patrol day (evidence provided in activity convention, monthly patrol reports and patrol payment status).</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1 Selection of ecoguards, field supervision and patrol reporting</p>		<p>12 Eaux et Forets agents, including 2 local trackers and 1 local driver have been recruited. They patrolled 20 days per month when the situation allowed it (eg the security context was assessed by ZSL, Niger authorities and French and US embassies as secure). All the ecoguards have reached the objectives and allowed a W Niger coverage of 17%, while it was not reported at all before 2018 (and evaluated as less by 5% by ZSL). The ecoguards received regular bonuses accordingly (based on patrol successes). Park management staff received performance bonuses for their participation in patrol organisation and assistance in patrol reporting (Annex 4).</p> <p>The ecoguards received SMART field training in 2018 and have been using SMART since May 2019.</p>	<p>Two ranger trainings will be delivered by ZSL's partner Panthera in year 3 ( two training to 18 eco-guards each, a total of 36 eco-guards will be trained), and they will receive a SMART training to ensure that the eco-guards are using all the functions of SMART to improve their monthly reports.</p> <p>After the attack on the Perelogou Base in March 2020, the eco-guards will no longer use the post inside the parc, but they will patrol from La Tapoa station in groups of 3 in 3 different sectors. They will camp during their patrols without using the post guards.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>The patrols stopped middle of March 2020 because of an attack at Perelegou post guard. The eco-guards will continue the patrols based at La Tapoa and with the support of the army.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.</b> 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"> <li>• 4 communities assessed by end month 15;</li> <li>• 8 communities by end of month 18.</li> </ul> <p>3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21.</li> </ul> <p>At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24.</p>	<p>3.1 Community surveys were carried out in February 2020 in 5 villages in Niger and 4 villages in Benin around WNP. In Niger, 139 interviews were conducted, discussions were held with 136 women in focus groups, 50 young people in focus groups and 241 villagers in assemblies.</p> <p>In Benin, 130 interviews were conducted, discussions were held with 51 women in focus groups and with 112 persons in village assemblies.</p> <p>3.2 9 Communities (5 Niger, 4 Benin) were assessed during Y2, with 4 initiatives (2 Benin, 2 Niger) identified by the communities to support them economically and to reduce IWT in the targeted areas: around 80 persons will be target (groups of persons) so consequently 89 household will improve their revenues by the end of the project.</p> <p>3.3 Community incentive schemes which include supporting 4 businesses (4 groups in the communities in 4 different villages) were identified and starting in Q1 Y3: two groups will produce moringa in Niger (500 plants in two sites), one group will produce soaps and another one will receive a support to dynamize their market gardening (horticulture) in Benin. These schemes are underway, the community officers will monitor the implementation of those schemes, and an end line socioeconomic survey will be completed after 12 months for those groups who have benefited of those schemes.</p>	
<p>3.1 Identification of potential partner communities in W Niger, and W Benin periphery, building on existing relationships with Niger communities</p>		<p>Carried out in February 2020 and currently under analysis. Report will follow in half year report.</p>	<p>3.6. The follow up of those initiatives schemes and their assessment will be realized in year</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>and AVIGREF, prioritising those communities most affected/implicated in IWT and free prior informed consent obtained for participation.</p> <p>3.2 Baseline surveys carried out on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions to issues around IWT including development and application of 'support metrics'.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3.4 Consultation on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods and evaluating any existing initiatives.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3.6 Incentive schemes assessed and report written up and made available with end of project social surveys to include plan sustaining successful initiatives.</p>		<p>3.1. The communities were identified in January 2020: the villages of Kpanré, Nipouni, Idgirigou and Kanderou in Benin, and the villages of Tafa, Tondey, Goungou Makoni, Natangou and Korogoungou in Niger.</p> <p>3.2. The baseline survey as realized in February 2020 with SurveyCTO.</p> <p>3.3. and 3.4. During this socio-economic survey realized in February 2020, communities needs were assessed and the community officers with the communities identified livelihood initiatives to implement to improve their economic situation and reduce the pressure on the park resources.</p> <p>3.5. 4 initiatives schemes have started in March 2020 in 4 villages (2 in Niger and 2 in Benin).</p>	<p>3: the community officers will measure the impact of those livelihood initiatives on the economic situation of the households and the impact on park resources. It will be interesting to crossed those information with the impact of the implementation of the IEC strategy on IWT as it will raise awareness on IWT and should have an impact on the attitudes of the communities towards IWT.</p>

**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](mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk) if you have any questions regarding this.*

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> 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)</p>			

<p><b>Outcome:</b> 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>(Max 30 words)</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"> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2;</li> <li>Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period;</li> </ul> <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>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>0.3. Police/gendarme reports, court proceedings related to case 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>African Parks Network assumes management of W Benin and W Burkina Faso by 2019 as planned and effective surveillance and protection systems established.</p> <p>Reducing wildlife crime reduces pressure on wild populations of elephants, big cats and other species affected by trafficking in the WAP.</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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2;</li> <li>• Increase by at least 50% by end of project period.</li> </ul> <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><b>Outputs:</b>  <b>1. Enabling Environment and investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.</b></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"> <li>• Target 50/yr by end of project.</li> </ul> <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>1.4 Updating of Niger's wildlife law of 1998 with decrees enacting the law supported through facilitating working group</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>1.4 Minutes of working committee and workshop reports. Draft of implementation plan for decrees.</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>

	committee and initiating the review process.		
<b>2. Effective system for site based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.</b>	<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"> <li>• Year 1 - 300 pd/m;</li> <li>• Year 2 - 400 pd/m;</li> <li>• Year 3 - 600 pd/m.</li> </ul> <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>2.1. SMART training records provided by SMART field officer.</p> <p>2.2. &amp; 2.3. SMART reports produced by SMART field officer analysing patrol effort and coverage (based on dividing total park surface area into 5x5km<sup>2</sup> 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>
<b>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</b>	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	3.1. Community assessment reports provided by the community technical lead and including socio-economic data, IWT impact and baseline perspective metrics.	Engaging communities ensures a stake in efforts to address IWT in and around the WAP.



<p>schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.</p>	<p>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"> <li>• 4 communities assessed by end month 15;</li> <li>• 8 communities by end of month 18.</li> </ul> <p>3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21.</li> <li>• At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24.</li> </ul>	<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><b>Activities</b> (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)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>0.3 Ongoing collection of information on cases and prosecutions via trusted contacts in police/judiciary, collated and reviewed by Law Enforcement Advisor.</p> <p>1.1 Development of protocols, guidelines and risk mitigation plans for the managing of sources and intelligence.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.3 Assistance and guidance in the establishment of a transparent and auditable human source and intelligence management structure.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>1.5 Annual record summary report produced.</p>			

- 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.
- 1.7 Support to working committee with the DFC/PR for new wildlife law through technical expert support, workshops and facilitation of legal review process
- 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-guards (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-guards (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**

In future years it is our intention to develop a series of standard measures in order to collate some of the quantitative measures of activity, input and output of IWT projects. These will not be measures of the impact or effectiveness of IWT projects but will contribute to a longer term dataset for Defra to draw upon. The collection of standard measures data will be important as it will allow us to understand the combined impact of all the UK Government funded Challenge Fund projects. This data will therefore provide useful information for the Defra Secretariat and for Defra Ministers regarding the Challenge Fund.

The standard measures for the IWT Challenge Fund are currently under development and it is therefore not necessary, at present, to complete this Annex. Further information and guidance about the IWT standard measures will follow.

**Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)**

**Checklist for submission**

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk">IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the subject line.	X
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk">IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> 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.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	