Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin/IWT Report" Information Note: (https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)
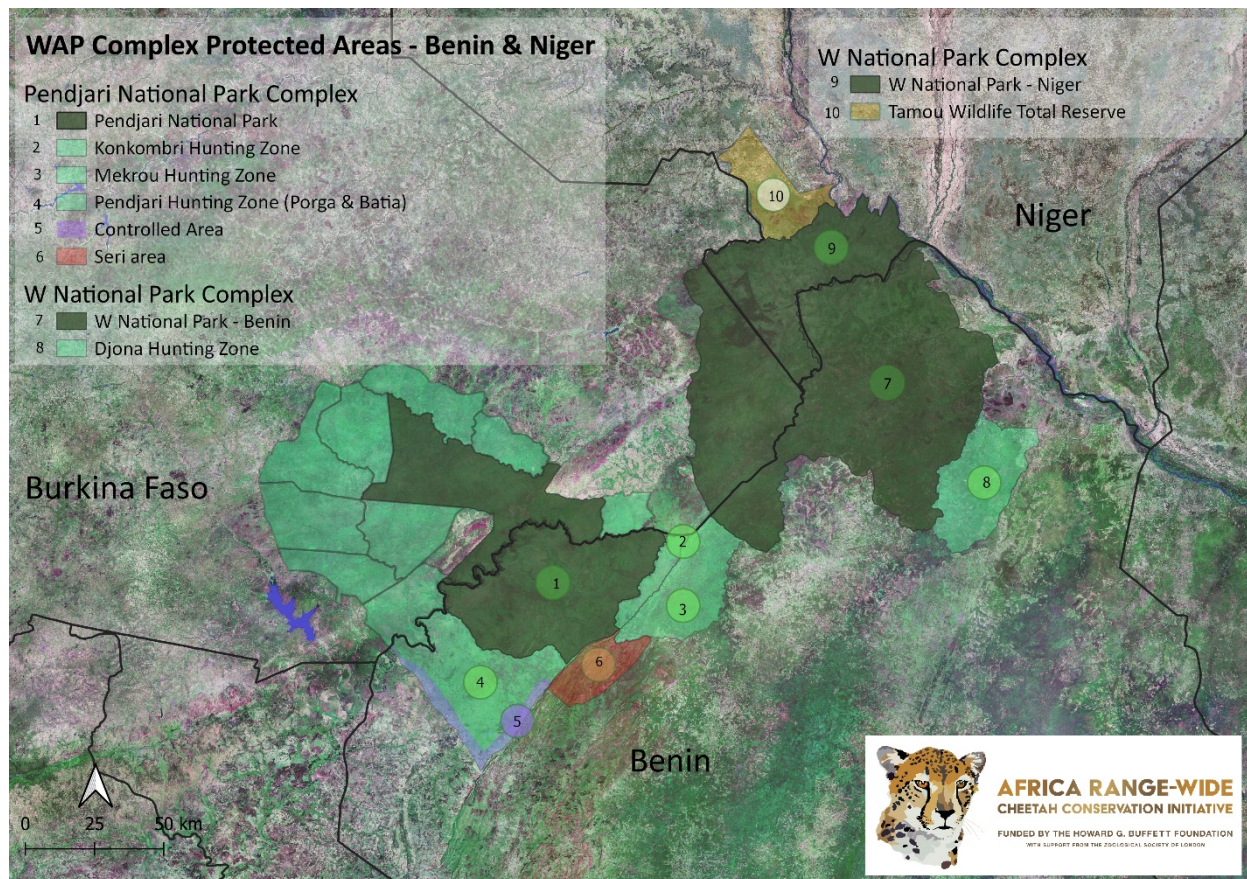
Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

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 (Niger), AVIGREF, Communes, Police, Judiciary, University of Portsmouth, Panthera
IWT grant value	£387, 149
Start/end dates of project	July 2018 – September 30 2021 (extension from March 31 2021)
Reporting period (e.g. April 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	March 2020 – March 2021 Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Eleanor Harvie, Africa Programme Manager As of April 2021, Changed to: Katherine Secoy (Katherine.secoy@zsl.org)
Project website/blog/social media	https://zsl.org/ Twitter:@zslafrica https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/west-african-carnivores-and-elephants-in-the-savannah
Report author(s) and date	Eleanor Harvie, April 2021

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. 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.

WAP Complex Protected Areas - Benin & Niger

Pendjari National Park Complex
1   Pendjari National Park
2   Konkombri Hunting Zone
3   Mekrou Hunting Zone
4   Pendjari Hunting Zone (Porga & Batia)
5   Controlled Area
6   Seri area

W National Park Complex
7   W National Park - Benin
8   Djona Hunting Zone

W National Park Complex
9   W National Park - Niger
10   Tamou Wildlife Total Reserve

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.

The project was due to end in April 2021, but due to delays to project activities caused by both changes in the landscape (new partnerships which have required rescheduling and coordination of activities), restrictions to movement both nationally and internationally as a result of Covid-19 and a number of security incidents which have caused hiatuses in project activities, led to the submission and approval of a financial change request in February 2021, to extend the project implementation period until September 30th, 2021. This final quarter will see the completion of project activities (assuming no major escalation of lockdown or Covid-19 cases within project countries).

During the reporting period, ZSL began implementation of another project in the W-A-P Landscape, which provided match funding to this project and will continue progress made under this IWT CF project, thus contributing to the sustainability of the project outputs. This US State-Department funded project began in October 2020, and will support counter-wildlife trafficking efforts across the landscape and direct support to Protected Area Management in W Niger via patrols, infrastructure and capacity building of rangers.

2.   Project partnerships

During this project period, ZSL strengthened existing partnerships and developed new partnerships in the landscape to continue progress made under this IWT project.

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), have had an MoU since 2016 in Niger. Our direct partners are 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, course content and 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. Example of a monthly reports are included in **Annex 11.**

The MOU with the DFC/PR was renewed in June 2020 and amended in February 2021 to adapt the support of ZSL to DFCPR on patrols inside W NP in Niger in the context of the changing security situation. The relationship that exists between the Niger Wildlife Authorities and ZSL continues to be strong and with high levels of cooperation. **Annex 6**

In May 2021, a new MOU including a new partner Wild African Conservation (WAC) Niger, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH – Germany) and African Parks Network (APN) will be elaborated with the start of the 'PIP' project financed by the EU, GIZ and ZSL match funds (INL). This agreement will define the role of each actor in this 2-year project to manage the WNP Niger with partner inputs defined according to their area of work – comprised of NGOs, private actors and government agencies.

The General Director of Water and Forest (Niger) has approved the renewal of the MOU signed in 2016 that will expire 2021. ZSL will propose a new MOU considering the new activities that will be implemented under the US State Department (INL) grant which started in September 2020. This MOU will also include the new ministerial responsibilities with the new President elected in April 2021.

ZSL has had an MoU with CENAGREF (Centre National De gestion des Reserves de Faune), Benin since 2014 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-year period. The ZSL activity report is regularly shared with CENAGREF. As the role of CENAGREF has changed with the management of the Pendjari and W NP by APN, ZSL is currently drafting an MOU with the DGEFC (Direction Général des eaux, forêts et Chasse) who are directly managing forestry agents at the border and in parks and reserves to enforce the wildlife law.

A training session for rangers from the W NP in Niger led by Panthera (ZSL's partner) was initially planned in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to the regional security situation (the training had to be moved to Benin) and the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the re-evaluation of the security situation in Niger, Panthera have declined to travel to the region and have requested that ZSL fulfils its obligations in partnership with the other project partners. Panthera remain a valued technical partner in the landscape.

APN (African Parks Network), have taken over the management of Pendjari NP since 2017 and, since mid-2019, manage W NP in Benin in collaboration with CENAGREF. Since their arrival in the landscape, ZSL has collaborated 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). ZSL and APN signed an MOU to collaborate in the Benin landscape in July 2020. **Annex 15.**

Y3 of the project has also seen two new partnerships develop. In Benin, ZSL is informally collaborating with IFAW, who are working with the police and forestry agents on a dog detection programme at the airport and Port of Cotonou. ZSL and IFAW are developing an MOU to deliver joint trainings for police, customs and forestry agents on research techniques and illegal wildlife trade, including national and international law (including CITES). ZSL is also collaborating informally with Nature Tropical, representative of EAGLE on intelligence, investigation and training. We are also working on an MOU to

collaborate on training delivery as they have expertise on law enforcement in Benin. The EAGLE network is well known to ZSL and has partnered extensively in other regional programmes.

In the region, ZSL is also collaborating with Born Free Foundation who implemented a project to tackle IWT through legislative reviews, analysis of judiciary capacity and training. They trained trainers in Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin on CITES, and ZSL will work with them to deliver training in Benin and Niger. The project did a training needs assessment which will be invaluable for informing future training needs for law enforcement agencies in the region.

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

BLET courses were delayed due to the training resource being unable to travel due to international travel restrictions (Covid-19). These courses will be delivered by the end of July 2021, to police, forestry agents, Customs and CAAT agents at Cotonou airport, with further events planned until year end. An evaluation visit was conducted to the airport by the ZSL team in March 2021 and a workshop to identify the needs of those agents at the airport, port and land border was hosted by the Director General of Customs. This needs evaluation was realized by ZSL Benin team with the law enforcement advisor of ZSL. This evaluation also identified a trainer cadre previously trained as trainers, by Born Free. These resources will be used to ensure the ZSL training compliments and builds upon the existing skills, creating a lasting legacy.

Customs in Niger have requested modules for inclusion within the new entrant recruitment programme, to establish foundation level skills in CITES and IWT enforcement. DFCPR have requested support from ZSL to conduct an inventory of its ivory stocks in accordance with the Recommendations of CITES Res Conf 10.10(COP18). These requests illustrate the awareness raised by authorities on IWT. The training for new customs agents and the inventory of ivory stocks should be delivered by July 2021 through ZSL's INL project, which is a match fund of this project.

Despite ongoing security issues, DFCPR have continued to patrol and tackle illegal activities in the W NP in Niger. ZSL is still financing some ranger teams with IWT and INL fund as a continuity of IWT project. In February 2021 a large quantity of both primate and warthog meat was seized from three poachers by a patrol. The poachers had entered the park by bicycle and had a number of mantraps (snares) in their possession. They were armed with clubs and spears. The individuals were arrested and passed to the police for investigation and prosecution. Five individuals were arrested, who were known to be involved in poaching and other forestry crime. The individuals had two firearms (rifles) and each were armed with a machete and a club. *(Photographs available for both incidents)* **Annex 6**

At the end of Y2, ZSL supported a group of judges and forestry agents to revise the wildlife protection law from 1998 and to draft the CITES implementation decree. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the presidential election in Niger, the final workshop to validate those new laws was delayed. It will be carried out in May 2021. This national workshop will allow the representatives of the justice, water and forest departments to introduce the law before the National Assembly votes. In total, 29 intelligence reports were raised during Y3 which shared security information from the field, with landscape partners. (TOR of the final workshop, the draft documents, and the work group TOR to prepare this workshop are in **annex 13)**

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

A fatal attack in December 2020 on La Tapoa, Parc HQ in W Niger, has had a significant impact on progress towards this output. More detail on this attack is detailed in a confidential report **annex 12.** This document has been shared with appropriately vetted partners. A group of insurgents estimated to be between 60 –100 arrived on motorbike through the bush in the early hours of the morning and attacked the base with automatic weapons. The base was manned by both rangers and the military. The base was over run, and friendly forces were forced to flee into the bush. Fatalities were taken and individuals

kidnapped including a senior officer. Three vehicles were taken but may have been destroyed in the counter attacked by coalition aircraft strikes on the insurgent group. After this attack, the ZSL – supported team of forestry agents - resumed patrols in February and March 2021 with IWT and INL funds, but with revised patrol tactics and with the support of the army. One of the kidnap victims of this attack was the SMART data manager. This resulted in a reduction in quality and accuracy of more recent SMART reports, due to lower technical capacity in the remaining patrol team and the new SMART data manager. With the new project Priority Intervention Plan implemented by DFCPR and the NGO WAC, financed by GIZ, UE, and ZSL for the Parc W, new rangers will be recruited and trained in the coming months to strengthen the capacity of surveillance inside the park. The experience of SMART under IWT illustrates the importance of training and regular follow up to ensure that it is used correctly. WAC and ZSL will be training the new rangers, to use Earth Ranger, which is a friendlier system to use, but less detailed. The plan is then to build knowledge and capacity through a series of training events, to upskill the recruits to be competent to use SMART for the patrol report. SMART is regularly used in Pendjari and W NP in Benin and in Niger for biodiversity surveys and continues to deliver great results.

A workshop was organized in Kandi beginning of March 2021 with DFCPR and ZSL to analyze what was done under IWT project to support the surveillance and security of W NP in Niger but also to present and identify how to implement with which actors this project financed by INL. This workshop allowed us to prepare selection of rangers in May 2021 and the project PIP with the identified needs from IWT project lessons learned. This workshop also helped us prepare the mission of ZSL in Niamey to identify the main actors to meet to work on the implementation of INL project. **Annex 16 (TOR).**

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.

In Niger, we mentioned in our half year report, that most of the production of moringa that ZSL financed for 2 groups of women in 2 villages at the periphery of W NP, was damaged by severe floods. ZSL could not travel to Niger due to covid 19. The team visited in March 2021. Where they met the different NGOs working in the region for economic development, to exchange ideas and opportunities for collaboration on activities with the communities, focussing on those around Park W, who had suffered from flooding, but also threatened by poor security from regional instability. The evaluation of the impact of the moringa production supported by ZSL, through IWT CF, will be completed in June 2021. This will be shared with those aforementioned NGO's to learn from this experience and identify possible future collaborative community projects. In Benin, the two livelihood initiatives are ongoing. The finance management and entrepreneurship training were followed by regular support towards the group of beneficiaries managing the soap production and the vegetable garden. Thus, ensuring the sustainability of those livelihood activities, after the project ends. The last follow up, was conducted at the end of March 2021 and beginning of April 2021 and the impact evaluation, will be done by August 2021. In this last follow up, we can already mention a benefit of the soap production group of GBP one part will be used to buy new materials to continue the production and shared between the group. Even, if this revenue is low, the group already mentioned that this production and the trainings provided by ZSL helped them not only to produce soap but also to well manage the finance of this activity and of their household. For the vegetable production, the group just started to sell the vegetable, so we were not yet able to calculate the revenue for the group. Both groups started monthly contributions to support the activity after the project, that shows their motivation and the durability of those livelihood initiatives. An individual socio-economic survey carried out prior to the project, will allow an evaluation of the economic impact and social well-being of this activity, for each individual and household as well as the impact on their dependency on the park's resources.

The awareness raised in these two villages in Benin around wildlife conservation and environment protection, can already be illustrated through the development of environmental initiatives in their own villages. Both groups raised their motivation, to improve waste management in their villages, recognising waste could be a threat to both domestic and wild animals. They also organised awareness sessions at the school, on wildlife and environment conservation. With the remaining budget of IWT for the community pilot project, ZSL supported the initiatives of those villages, to reforest the school of Nipouni with fruit trees. This will provide shade, biodiversity and fruit for the school; to train and implement a

compost site in the village of Kanderou and in the school of Nipouni using the biodegradable waste of the village as a resource for the compost. Then putting in place better garbage processes, in the villages to improve the sanitation in their villages. In March 2021, the community officer and the field manager of ZSL along with the facilitator of APN, conducted awareness sessions at Nipouni schools on the legal and illegal activities inside the WNP and the different wildlife species to be found and their protection status. These awareness activities will be continued by APN and RWCP project supported by ZSL.

Annex 7 – Pictures of Kanderou livelihood initiatives and TOR of the activities

Annex 8 – Pictures of Nipouni livelihood initiatives and TOR of the activities

Annex 9 – Pictures and TOR of the activities of Nipouni and Kanderou environnemental activities: reforestation and fence refurbishment for Nipouni, garbage distribution for Nipouni and Kandérou.

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

In January 2021, ZSL, APN, Panthera, The Rangewide Wild dog and Cheetah Project (RWCP) and GIZ, started a camera trap survey of cheetah and leopard in Pendjari and W NP in Benin. This will compare the data from the previous survey for Pendjari and provide a first baseline of carnivore population for W NP (Benin). This survey will be finalized in June 2021. The aim, if the security situation improves in W NP in Niger, is to conduct a survey in the park, to compare the data between W NP in Benin and in Niger delivering a regional biodiversity plan and follow up across the WAP. **Annex 18 TOR**

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

ZSL is well recognized as a key actor in conservation in the WAP. The programme manager was invited to share her experience from IWT and INL project in different regional meetings: FSOA quarterly meetings, IUCN meetings to implement the Regional Governance of Protected Areas in West Africa project, 4th session of the monitoring committee of the RBT WAP project financed by GIZ.

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 number of enforcement agents in Benin trained in human intelligence handling by the beginning of the project is 7. The Panthera – led security training, which was planned in year 3 for eco-guards in Niger was cancelled because of covid 19. However, the PIP project which is started in April 2021 will select and train the new rangers on law enforcement including managing human intelligence, scenes of crime investigation techniques and provide core policing skills. The training through the project will be delivered by APN and ZSL by September 2021. In April 2021 a new needs analysis was conducted with all actors in region to ensure the effective use of skills available to maximise the delivery impact.

1.2.   # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum. Target 50/yr by end of project.
29 Intelligence reports have been disseminated to appropriate partners, following evaluation, enhancement by ZSL from information identified from the WAP from April 2020 to March 2021. These have covered IWT, narcotics smuggling and security incidents including the identification of suspect insurgents.

1.3.   60 frontline enforcement agents (including CAAT officers) trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including best practice in forensic crime scene management.
No BLET training was delivered in Y3 of IWT due to Covid19 restrictions that prevented the trainers from travelling. The opportunity to conduct the BLET training for police, customs, forestry agents, and CAAT agents of the airport of Cotonou in June/ July 2021 follows a needs analysis of issues identified during the

mission of ZSL's Law Enforcement Advisor, Grant Miller in March 2021. This training will be part of a two-year training plan financed by INL.

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. Working Committee established and first draft of decrees enacting the law by end of Y2. Implementation plan for the decrees drafted and agreed by end Y3.

Updating of Niger's wildlife law of 1998 with decrees enacting the law supported through facilitating working group committee. Covid 19 and the Presidential election in Niger, delayed the national workshop that was planned for March 2021 to validate the actualization of the wildlife protection law from 1998. This is scheduled for May 2021.

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.

As part of the new project PIP led by WAC, all forestry agents of the W NP in Niger will pass a new selection event in May 2021, financed by IWT to compliment the new patrol training programme delivered by APN and financed by the EU. Post selection, the new forestry agents will be trained and equipped to patrol in WNP. Training will include use of Earth Ranger to gather and monitor their patrols data. Once competent, they will transition on to using SMART.

2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels by end of project period to focussed intelligence led patrols, proactively targeting high risk areas. The effectiveness of the patrols will be measured against actionable intelligence reports. Aim for: End Year 1 (baseline), End Year 2 – 20 pd/m, End Year 3 – at least 20 pd/m
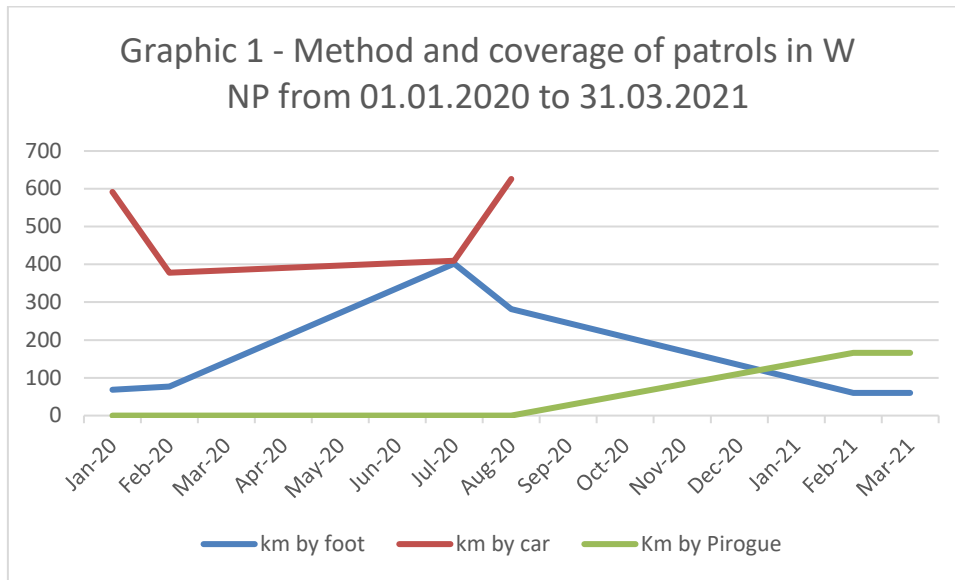
In Year 3 of IWT, ZSL supported 15 agents to patrol inside W NP in July and August 2020 who realized 20 days of patrols per month and 15 forestry agents in February and March 2021 under IWT and INL grant who realized 10 days of patrol per month and 5 days of surveillance in a guard post.

2.3. Patrols will be all intelligence led and will focus on key hot spot areas subject to the security situation. Number of patrols and personnel available will be increased as further funding comes online. Proportion of W Niger being patrolled by foot increases by end of project period to ensure at least 50% park coverage in the preceding quarter: 20% coverage by end year 1 (Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months), year 2 and 3 the patrols will focus on effectiveness by including intelligence inside the SMART reports.

In July 2020, the patrols team covered 402 km by foot and 410 km by car, in August 2020, 282 km were covered by foot and 626 by car. For February and March 2021, the distance covered was less important (around 200 km for both months) and the patrols were done mostly by foot and pirogue because of security reasons (60km by foot and 166km by pirogue for each month). The forestry agents were not allowed to go inside the park and were mainly at the border of the park and on the Niger river. A recent detection of cannabis was directly linked to the actioning of intelligence, with rangers deploying to an identified threat.

The sharp increase in arrests and detection of criminal activity, in a deteriorating security situation clearly evidences the effectiveness of activity focused on intelligence led activity in accordance with internationally recognized standards (National Intelligence model for policing).

The Graphic 1 is representing the method and the coverage of each patrols per month from January 2020 to March 2021:

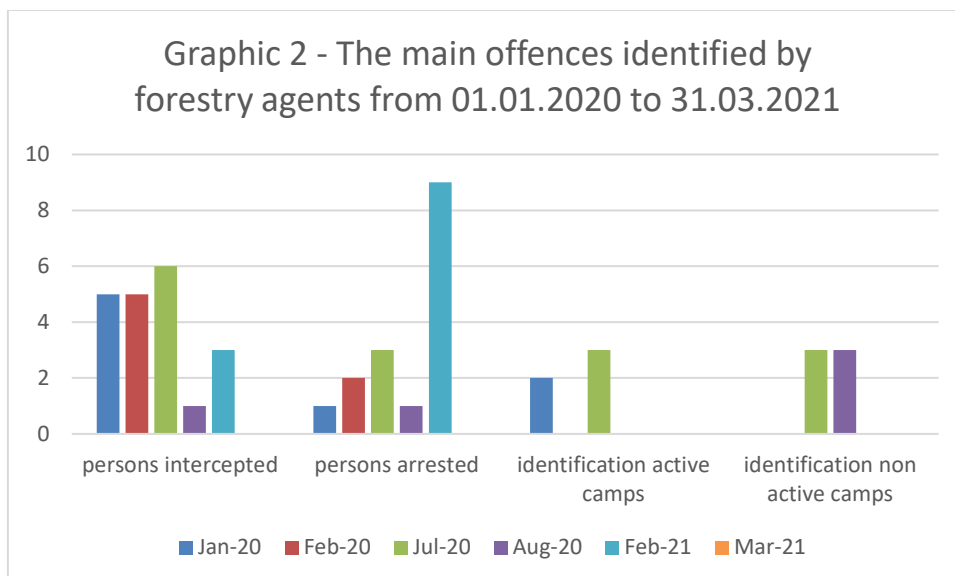Graphic 1 - Method and coverage of patrols in W NP from 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2021

2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through target-led performance scheme (Poacher camps, Animal tracks, identification of entry points or egress from the park, snares or other evidence of poaching activity and seizures of contraband and firearms/ munition 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 Perelegou sector in Year 1 and is on-going in Year 2, and year 3 restricted to 4 months for this last year. 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 and assures kms covered and when appropriate, details incidents where poachers are arrested and animal species that were identified during the patrols.

In July 2020, 3 poachers were followed by the forestry agents during a patrol, but they failed in arresting them and 3 breeders were arrested, and their domestic animals seized (82 cattle, 47 small livestock) as they were inside the W NP. In August 2020, one armed person was arrested for being illegally in the Park but had no wildlife products with him, so he only had to pay a fee. In February 2021, one person who was trafficking 8kg of cannabis, four poachers with bushmeat, four herders were arrested, and four operators of forest products were intercepted by this team of forestry agents, but they failed to arrest them. A total of 13 people were intercepted, and 9 persons arrested in February 2021. It is an increase of 800% for the persons arrested from January 2020 to March 2021. Each month DFCPR provides a report with the information of the persons arrested, camp inside the park identified and wildlife animals identified.

The graphic 2 represent this evolution of infractions identified by forestry agents:

Graphic 2 - The main offences identified by forestry agents from 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2021

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 Y2, 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. The youth in the focus groups were between 20 and 29 years of age. The detail was mentioned in the last annual report.

3.2. Potential livelihood initiatives 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 year 2, 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.

In year 3, ZSL implemented and continued the follow up of the 4 livelihood initiatives started in year 2. Other environmental initiatives were also identified and financed through the IWT fund. In Nipouni, the group of women supported to develop soap production enterprises was engaged to improve the protection of the environment in their village by putting in place garbage collection in the health centre and at the school to improve sanitation for domestic animals and wildlife. They also planted fruit trees at the school to increase the shade and the biodiversity in the village. A compost site at the school was also created to utilise biodegradable waste in the village. The fence to protect the vegetable garden at the school, for the canteen, was also restored. In Kanderou, the group supported with the vegetable garden production, also decided to improve the sanitation with garbage and compost facilities in the village. In Nipouni, ZSL started awareness sessions with the school students and those activities will be continued through APN in the two villages.

3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted: 1) At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end of month 21. 2) At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24.
- Two livelihood initiatives were implemented in Benin and in Niger so a total of 4 in year 2 of the project and was continuing in year 3 with different follow up of expert (vegetable garden and finance management/ entrepreneurship trainers). The two livelihood initiatives were implemented in Niger, but because of flooding, it was halted in 2021.
- As mentioned above in Y3, a total of 3 other initiatives were identified in Kandérou and Nipouni in Benin to improve the sanitation and protect the environment of the village around the W park: 1) reforestation of Nipouni's school, 2) and 3) garbage and compost management in Nipouni and Kandérou. 4) refurbishment of the fence of the vegetable garden of Nipouni's School.
- 6 awareness sessions were delivered to the students at the schools of Nipouni, there were organized by class, so each level of the school (3 levels) received 2 different awareness sessions on definition of the park and the specificities of the park W, protected species, illegal activities inside the park and flora particularity of the park. In total 103 students including 35 girls participated at the 2 sessions.

3.4. # of persons who benefited from the livelihood initiatives declared that their entrances (visits) in the park have reduced as a result of this economic support

This indicator will be answered with the impact evaluation that will be realized with the different beneficiaries of the livelihood initiative by August 2021.

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 relation to incidents, identified while on patrol) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9-12): Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels as surveillance system established and survey effort increases. Increasing 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 enforcement activity and effect, delivered through proactive patrolling is established to counter against illegal activities.*

This outcome result will be part of the final report of the project.

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.

This outcome result will be part of the final report of the project.

0.3 # of illegal incidents detected and arrests from year 2 to year 3 of the project t) in Benin and Niger: Increase by at least 25% by end of year 3.

At the end of Y3 we can already monitor an increase of illegal incidents detected and arrests as in January 2020, the patrols teams arrested one person, and in February 2021, 13 persons were intercepted and 9 persons arrested including poachers, herders and a drug dealer. We can measure an increase of 800% between January 2020 and March 2021 (from 1 arrest to 9 a month). Intelligence suggests a convergence of crime types, with suspects from narcotics forestry, illegal wildlife trade crime sand being content to switch commodities.

0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased knowledge on IWT and existing wildlife conservation laws (baselines established in year 2) by end of project period of at least 50%.

This indicator will be answered in the next report after the impact evaluation with the communities around W NP in Benin and Niger.

3.4   Monitoring of assumptions

New assumptions included in last report:

Assumption 1: The Security situation allows and enables full support for project intervention.
The security situation in the WAP has continued to deteriorate in year 3 of the project. This has impacted on the delivery of certain activities in particular those around communities and eco guard training. The identified threat from terrorist insurgency from neighbouring countries (Niger and Burkino Faso) continues to remain at a critical level with attacks on the WAP complex. The base at La Tapoa suffered an attack in December 2020, with fatalities, hostages taken, and equipment destroyed. Insurgents were repulsed as a result of coalition air strikes. This attack resulted in a review of security and a new patrolling methodology was implemented, including withdrawing from the parc at night. The base has suffered a further attack resulting in significant fire damage in March 2021. The FCO travel advise states "All travel to the Parc du W National Park and continuous hunting zones of Mekrou and Djona, the area between Park 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" as of 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. This group has been able to provide real time intelligence to coalition forces to support the protection of communities. 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.
At the time of our last report, the project team and partners were in full lockdown and there have been various lifting and tightening of restrictions in response to outbreaks in Benin, Niger and in the UK (where ZSL's counter-trafficking advisor is based). Early in the pandemic (April 2020), the WAP team created guidelines for staff and partners to follow when they are in contact with each other, project stakeholders and partners to limit risks to communities, government partners and stakeholders in the landscape **(Annex 14).** These guidelines have been implemented in addition to adherence with all national guidelines of project countries. This assumption has held true, in that despite the pandemic, the project partners have maintained full support for project interventions. However, this has meant delaying some activities (such as the ranger training originally scheduled for March 2020) and moving meetings with project partners online where possible. After a significant hiatus in project visits to Niger, and all contact with ZSL's W-A-P team being online, the team travelled in Niamey in February 2021 for essential meetings with project partners. All safety protocols were observed.

No other significant amendments have been made to other assumptions.

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[1]) and which is under significant pressure from the global IWT, exacerbated by political instability in the region. This project has directly supported 60 patrol days in Parc W (Niger), 20 days of patrols per months in July and August 2020 and February to March 2021. In 2020, ZSL supported less patrols directly. This was because of an increase in military patrols due to the deteriorating security situation and the Park not being considered safe for the rangers to patrol due to the risk from armed groups. ZSL decided in February and March 2021 to support the patrols after reviewing the health & safety protocols and patrol tactics. Only one team was supported to patrol around the river part of the park and not around Perelegou and the border of Burkina Faso because of security reasons. Lessons learned from the attack in December 2020, were identified and consulting military and security regional experts, these lessons were embedded in a new highly mobile and unpredictable patrol method operandi. However, those patrols team had difficulties to use SMART to report their work as the data manager of SMART was kidnap in December 2020 during the attack of La Tapoa. The individual has at this time remained, missing in action. Another person from DFCPR was recruited in this position of SMART data manager but he has less experience in managing SMART data (**annex 6**). Business continuity plans have been adapted to respond to this loss, in conjunction with regional partners. Despite the security challenge in the W NP in Niger, from year 1 of the project to year 3, we can monitor an increase in terms of arrests and criminal activities identified and disrupted inside the park W NP. From one arrest in January 2020, the patrols arrested 9 individuals in February 2021.

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 material for police, customs officers and forestry agents at ports and airports has been developed to build upon and compliment regional training delivered previously by Born Free. The law enforcement training that will be delivered in year 4 of IWT under this grant and INL grant will be delivered with the trainers trained by Born Free, who are now CITES focal point in their agencies to continue the capacity building in country. The experience of IWT training financed under this grant, has allowed ZSL to build a two-year training plan for police, customs and forestry agents working at the airport, port and land borders in Benin and Niger through INL fund. In March 2021, ZSL team met the director of the magistrate school in Cotonou who agreed to include a module on illegal wildlife trade and national and international laws to the technical courses, including the protected species status to ensure that all judges will be trained to enforce the law on wildlife conservation.

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[1] Durant S.M. et al. 2017. The global decline of cheetah. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Jan 2017, 114 (3) 528-533; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1611122114.

This project is working towards human development and the wellbeing of communities in the WAP through improved financial and natural capital. Under ZSL's livelihoods work in Y2 and Y3, the group of livelihood initiatives already shared with the trainers and community officers their satisfaction, savings capacities (savings for production investment and personal goals), better understanding of environmental protection. The support of the women group who were supported in soap production to improve sanitation and reforestation of the school of their village illustrate that these pilots enhanced 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**

- Throughout the grant, 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.

- Following a request from our partners in DFC Niger in Y2, 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. 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. A final validation workshop is to be carried out in May 2021 now that Covid 19 permits travel. The second phase after the validation of the documents will consist of communication and raising awareness of the communities, but also trainings of the personnel of the judicial system, the eco-guards and the park authorities in general to implement this law.

- Initial meetings have taken place with the judiciary university in Benin. Appropriate training sessions have been identified, where the new legislation can be rolled out once the legislation is fully adopted. This material will be delivered to both existing judicial staff but also those within the training environment. Key actors have been identified to deliver this training including the country manager for the Eagle network.

- As part of the US State Department co-funded project, visits to the Port of Cotonou and Cadjehoun airport have been carried out, where meetings with key enforcement and authority management were conducted. The visit identified areas of weakness, in integrated border controls and the effective use of technology. These issues which will be covered in training.

- A cross agency "CITES focal" point trainers have been identified and provide a cross agency training resource.

- 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, who currently use park resources as a source of income due to lack of other economic resources. An end line survey in Y4 will provide information on how attitudes towards the illegal use of park resources and the illegal wildlife trade is perceived.

- 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. **Annex 5 (TOR and the final strategy)**

- ZSL has engaged with the Royal foundations, United for Wildlife Transport task force and has commenced to identify key transport sector and enforcement partners, to collaborate with and bring into the West and Central African Chapter under the US State Department Grant which will run for the next 2 years.

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 under INL grant. **(Annex 5)**

Despite difficulties mainly linked to the security context, the regular presence 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 (Y3 of IWT) for 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, and Pendjari was conducted in order to assess the number of lions and hyenas in the complex in 2019 and in 2021 for Benin. This survey will ideally be replicated every year if the security situation allows. This will give us an additional measurable indicator to evaluate the impact of the project on target species. **(Annex 19)**

In 2019, ZSL (RWCP project) and Panthera supported APN to implement a camera trap survey in Pendjari to identify the population of cheetah and leopard to be able to monitor the impact of APN management on these populations. In 2021, ZSL, Panthera and APN started the implementation of the same survey in Pendjari and WNP in Benin as W NP is under management of APN since 2020. The result by September 2021 of this survey will give key information on the evaluation of the population of cheetah and leopard in Pendjari NP and a new baseline for W NP. **(Annex 18)**

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 4 of IWT and under INL project to implement training on this new law to the enforcement, prosecutors and judiciary empowered with enforcing these regulations. **(Annex 13)**

6.   Project support to poverty alleviation

The livelihood initiatives in Benin and Niger were implemented and followed up by one community officer in both country from the communities in Y3. In Benin, the community officer learnt through the training provided to the beneficiaries, how to manage financial activities, how to manage a saving group, and how to implement a productive vegetable garden and compost facility.

The trainers on the vegetable garden and soap production, were both from the region of Banikoara. It was a choice to support pair to pair training, to raise motivation from the villagers and to facilitate the exchange in local language.

An endline socioeconomic survey will be carried out with the target communities by July 2021 which will provide data to measure impact of the project on poverty alleviation for the livelihood initiative beneficiaries.

7.   Consideration of gender equality issues

Gender mainstreaming was similar in Year 3 of the project as in Year 2 of the project. The main new elements are: The trainers and the community officer recruited to support the groups in Benin in soap production and the vegetable garden were 2 women and 2 men, ZSL took steps to ensure both genders were represented as an example to the communities. For the awareness session with the students of Nipouni schools, in total 103 students including 35 girls participated at the 2 sessions realized.

8.   Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation challenges and solutions mentioned in Y2 annual report remain the same with some particularity from the current context.

- From February 2020 to February 2021, ZSL team could not travel to Niger to meet our partners, however, the park authorities are regularly reporting information to Yekini Chabi N'diaye, field manager through emails, video calls and WhatsApp message. Between 2 to 3 call per months were organized between DFCPR in Niger and ZSL. In March 2021, DFCPR travelled to Kandi to realized a workshop with ZSL on activities and results under IWT grant and the activities planned under the new project financed by INL.
- To monitor the impact of the livelihood initiatives with the 4 groups of beneficiaries in Benin and Niger, a baseline survey was realized with Survey CTO in February and March 2020, and an endline survey will be realized by July 2021 to be able to compare the quantitative data. We also realized participatory activities to be able to have qualitative information on their economic situation and their dependence on park resources. Those activities revealed that the answers were similar when there were anonymous and when they were giving during interviews, that illustrated the good work of investigator to make the interviewed feel comfortable. The same participatory activities will be also implemented at the end of the project to compare the quantitative and qualitative data.
- At the beginning of each training for the groups who were supported with livelihood initiatives, the trainer asked questions orally to identify their knowledge and needs but also to compare their answer at the beginning of the training and at the end. It was done orally and reported in a table in the trainer's report as most of the beneficiaries have low literacy levels. The same process was done at the beginning of each awareness session with the students at the school and at the end to measure their understanding and their satisfaction.

9.   Lessons learnt

The loss of the SMART data manager during the attack at La Tapoa, resulted in a decrease in the quality of SMART reporting. Contingencies need to be implemented to ensure key activities are able to continue if an individual is not available. This situation was made worse due to Covid where additional training could not be implemented to fill the gap due to travel restrictions coupled with the security climate.

Covid 19 and security issues in Niger caused us difficulties in managing the activities in Niger without regular in-person meetings. We responded to this by developing more regular phone and message communication, to illustrate our strong commitment despite remoteness. Our partner in Niger, mentioned his satisfaction with ZSL and IWT project, in being able to adapt activities funded, according to the situational context, and our reactivity, to support them through international partners (USFWS, US embassies) when there were security problems inside the park W NP in Niger.

ZSL team successfully continued the activities with the communities around the W NP, during Covid 19, thanks to procedure implemented to follow the national rules and ensure the security of our staff and beneficiaries.

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

The following comments and queries were received in response to the last annual report:

1. *If the market surveys are a formal component of the project and not external to it, they should be integrated as activities under outputs. (Next Half Year Report)*

Market Surveys were part of the original proposal as M&E activities at project outcome level. As these are related to outcome level indicators and part of the originally approved logframe, we sought advice of the IWT reviewers about how they would best integrate these under outputs. The results of the market surveys (which are project M&E) will be included in the final report.

> 2. *Supporting documentation should be provided to convey terms of reference for the IEC Strategy. (Next Annual Report)*

These are attached as **Annex 5**

> 3. *Wording of the new assumptions should be reconsidered as per recommendations in this review. (Discuss with IWT)*

A separate change request amending the logframe, was made in July 2020. Within this, the assumptions were reviewed and the revised logframe was approved.

> 4. *More detailed reporting on project management is required (Next Annual Report).*

Decision making is described as 'collaborative' and a monthly reporting system mentioned in the Y2 report, but no further detail has been provided or evidence submitted to illustrate general project management processes.

Section 2 of this report includes more details on the partnerships involved in this project. We attach evidence of monthly field reports from the WAP Field Manager to the Programme Manager, minutes of meetings between project partners and ZSL's indicators tracker and workplan. (**Annex 11)**

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Staff Changes: The final quarter of the project will see a change to Project Lead (Eleanor Harvie) and WAP Programme Manager (Manon Gruner). Both staff members will be taking up other posts. However, WAP Field Manager Yekini, who has been leading the implementation of field activities in Northern Benin, and manages the relationships with key partners (DFCPR, APN, WAC) will continue to lead on activities on the ground and will be supported by counter-trafficking advisor Grant Miller, who will lead technical quality assurance on IWT interventions, holds relationships with all project stakeholders in the region (a key part of his in-country mission in February 2020). Recruitment of a new WAP Programme Manager is in its final stages and appointment is imminent.

Security in Region: The region has seen a deterioration in the security situation, with both Government forces and NGO workers suffering fatal attacks. In August 2020, 6 French NGO workers, the President of the park guides and a driver were killed in an ambush in Koure wildlife park in the Tillaberi region. Investigation has identified the attackers arrived on motorbike and plotted up, to ambush tourists. To date no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Park was regularly visited by tourists and US and French government advice identified the area as being relatively safe. In 2021 attacks in West Tillaberi have continued by armed groups targeting both civilian and military targets. In 2021, 317 people have died and a further 78 injured in multiple attacks in the region.

Within the Park itself there have been two further attacks on the La Tapoa HQ. In the first attack (Dec 2020) both rangers and the military were on site. Insurgents, estimated to be 100 strong, arriving on motorbikes attacked in the hours of darkness. Military and ranger personnel lost their lives and individuals were kidnapped. The attack was repulsed with the support of coalition military aircraft. Vehicles were taken or destroyed during that attack. A further Firebomb attack was made on the unmanned site in March destroying infrastructure.

ZSL risk assessments currently allow visits to Niamey in Niger and road travel from Niamey to Kandi, when escorted by Niger Government officials. Within Benin, Kandi and Cotonou and travel between both is allowed. A review is ongoing into the safety of travel to Alfakoara. No activity in the Park W is allowed at this time for ZSL team. However, ZSL is succeeding to implement activities through partners including DFCPR in Niger and APN in Benin. ZSL team is allowed to work and travel in the communities around the parc W in Benin.

A successful visit to the region of the Technical Advisor from London was undertaken in March, with the easing of covid restrictions. Along with complying with Government's guidance on covid testing additional measures around testing using lateral flow test kits were put in place by ZSL. This was done to ensure those visiting did not inadvertently bring covid into the communities they were visiting.

12. Sustainability and legacy

DFCPR and ZSL have established a relationship of trust over the period of the grant. A healthy dialogue is evident where issues are openly shared and discussed. In ZSL's meeting in March 2021, DFCPR requested the assistance of ZSL to conduct an inventory of seized Ivory held by the department. Acknowledging they did not comply with CITES res conf 10.10, full access to the storage facility was given. ZSL will support this work and have entered into a dialogue about trialling an innovative "private sector" approach to marking seized Pangolin scales.

ZSL will be a key partner in the new project PIP lead by the NGO WAC and DFCPR that will implement a new management of the WNP in Niger. ZSL will be a technical partner on law enforcement and wildlife survey of this project to strengthen the capacity of the government agencies on these areas during the 2 years project.

ZSL has identified a number of NGO's active in the region most notably Born Free and IFAW. To ensure value for money, the training team officers, established by Born Free will be used as delivery partners in both Niger and Benin to implement law enforcement training under IWT year 4 of the project and INL project fund. A meeting to review materials in both Niger and Benin was conducted with ZSL in March 2021. The trainers in Benin were resources in the recent enforcement launch meeting conducted under the INL grant. At this meeting colleagues from the NGO, IFAW were invited to speak on the detector dog programme being established with the Beninese police service. Their activity is currently restricted to the airport. ZSL has therefore used its network at Cotonou maritime port to support and allow access to the facility for the detector dog ZSL is also in close collaboration with APN in the Pendjari and W NP in Benin to implement wildlife survey. In January 2021, ZSL with Panthera organized a training to APN staff on camera trap survey for cheetah and leopard. The aim is to reinforce APN staff to be able to use camera traps in the parks they managed. Later during the year, ZSL and Panthera will also organized a training on how to analyse the pictures from the camera trap to determine the population of cheetah and leopard.

In Benin and Niger, ZSL is communicating regularly with the other NGOs working with the periphery of W to ensure the experience from the livelihood initiatives and conservation awareness will serve to other project but also to ensure a continuity between those pilots financed by IWT project with new project starting in the area. As ZSL team could not travel to Niger from March 2020 to March 2021, a workshop was realized in March 2021 with the different NGOs working in the periphery of W NP in Niger to exchange on their activities, results and challenges. A table with the different activities planned by each NGOs will be realized to ensure a good collaboration in 2021 to implement sustainable activities with the communities concerned. In Benin, the awareness sessions with schools in Nipouni and Kandérou will be continued by APN and RWCP project. The two groups supported by ZSL to develop livelihood initiatives in Benin, the village chief and the director of the schools were involved in all the activities in the village (waste management, awareness sessions, reforestation) to ensure that those environmental protection initiatives will continue after the end of IWT project.

From March 2020 to September 2021, the Information Education and Communication strategy was elaborated through a participatory approach with the communities around the park W in Benin and Niger by consultants recruited by ZSL and financed under IWT project. To ensure that this strategy is not a strategy of ZSL, two workshops were conducted in Benin (Kandi) and in Niger (Niamey) to adapt this strategy with the feedbacks of all the actors working in conservation. This strategy was diffused and used as a base to develop activities in 2021 in the periphery of WNP in both countries.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

This project and the activities supported by it are regularly included in ZSL's Social Media outputs. Examples are below:

https://twitter.com/ZSLAfrica/status/1349060110392422402?s=20

https://twitter.com/ZSLAfrica/status/1289129511171301377?s=20

https://twitter.com/ZSLAfrica/status/1277608034831917057?s=20

https://twitter.com/ZSLAfrica/status/1382325582239830016

This project was also featured in the March 2021 newsletter of Nature Tropicale (number 119) to illustrate the meeting realized in March 25 with the water, forest and hunting direction, the customs direction and police direction to present the results of IWT project and the new project financed by INL, both aim to tackle illegal wildlife trade. This meeting was the opportunity to understand more the responsibilities of each agents working at the land borders, airport and port of Cotonou, and to identify their needs in term of equipment and trainings. Nature Tropicale is a key partner of ZSL to support those actors as they are working with those directions on investigation and capacity building. (**Annex 10)**

However, the deteriorating security situation in the region, in addition to the sensitive work being done under the project, limits the amount of promotion of the work under this grant which can be done. Since its commencement, UK military personnel have been deployed to the Sahel region as part of a wider UN mission. This has legitimised the Union flag as being a legitimate target in the wider region. Security protocols have been put in place to protect the enforcement officers and ZSL employees. These have included restrictions being put in place on photographs identifying HQ's, patrol bases and the personnel engaged in these duties. In the last 12 months three attacks have taken place, one at Perelogou and two at La Tapoa. All branding at these sites has been removed to ensure the insurgents could not use it for propaganda. When hosting meetings, workshops in safe locations the IWT CF has been promoted in resulting media in text and in pictures.

We have been able to promote the IWT CF identity as part of the livelihood's initiatives. The logo of UKaid was used on garden fence and garbage with conservation awareness message in the two villages in Benin where ZSL implemented livelihood initiative thanks to IWT fund. Those messages were "let's protect the W park as we protect our garden" and "let's protect the periphery of Park W by better managing our waste". Photographs of these are included in **(Annex 7, 8, 9)**

14.   Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The project was due to end in April 2021, but due to delays to project activities caused by both changes in the landscape (new partnerships which have required rescheduling and coordination of activities), restrictions to movement both nationally and internationally as a result of Covid-19 and a number of security incidents which have caused hiatuses in project activities led to the submission and approval of a financial change request in February 2021, to extend the project implementation period until September 30th, 2021. This final quarter will see the completion of project activities (assuming no major escalation of lockdown or Covid-19 cases within project countries). Mostly, the activities that were impacted by Covid-19 were trainings, as both in Benin and Niger between March and August 2020, meetings were forbidden, and after this period until now have been restricted to a very small number of participants. The difficulties from external sources, like the technical advisor from ZSL UK and trainers (Panthera) inability to travel, also impacted the planning of training and the start of INL project as match funding of the IWT grant.

During the pandemic, we put in place regular virtual meetings with our partners in Benin and Niger to maintain our relationship and ensure that the activities were continuing, despite the fact that the ZSL team could not travel to Niger between February 2020 and February 2021. We also asked all consultants to sign and put in place a guideline for Covid-19 protocols to follow in order to limit the risks for them and the project beneficiaries. In a way, the pandemic eased organising and working through virtual meetings, but for some activities like training and needs assessments, face to face meetings and observation are necessary, especially when the aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of local government.

ZSL also distributed masks and alcohol gel to the beneficiaries from the livelihood initiatives and the schools in those villages in Benin and Niger: a total of approximatively 300 masks and 40 disinfectant gel were donated across both countries. From March to September 2020 at the beginning of each session with the communities or each meeting with partners, Covid-19 protocols were also explained to raise awareness.

Annex 14: guideline for intervention in the field and picture of masks distribution.

15.   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 aligned to this commitment including; Dignity and Respect at Work ,Global Safeguarding Policy; Safeguarding Policy for UK staff; Global Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure; Global Code of Conduct; DBS and Criminal Convictions Policy; Employing Younger Workers Policy; Disciplinary Policy and Procedure; Reference Request Policy; Violence and Aggressive Behaviour Policy; The 4 Rs safeguarding procedure; Staff handbook.

These policies are easily accessible on ZSL's internal intranet and have been translated into languages relevant to our work. Existing and newly joined staff, consultants and partners are made aware of the requirements of these policies and ZSL standards. They participate in an induction into the policies, related procedures and implications irrespective of the length of time they will be working/collaborating with ZSL.

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

•   designating a Safeguarding Lead (Head of Legal, Governance and Risk Management, Simon Lee).

•   a number of Designated Safeguarding Officers and Deputies.

•   DSL meets DSOs and DSDs quarterly & with the DG monthly to consider the rollout of safeguarding and to provide direction. Our Safeguarding Trustee, Designated Safeguarding Lead, along with a wider working group to help lead implementation.

•   receiving 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

•   raising awareness of the updated Global Whistleblowing Policy by creating posters in different languages to be distributed amongst ZSL staff.

•   rolling out more formal feedback mechanisms to report any safeguarding issues as part of international programming.

As part of the ZSL safeguarding policy formal feedback mechanisms and reporting is being streamlined and rolled out across our programmes in a phased approach. This includes some online training in adapting mechanisms to suit communities through a participatory approach. This is supplemented with training within communities. COVID-19 has led to some delays in the field work but it is hope this will be rolled out through 2021.

All photographs of enforcement officers / alleged offenders are pixilated out, to ensure they cannot be identified. To provide security but also to protect Human rights. All photographs from the community programme are published with the express permission of the individuals in the photograph. Minors or vulnerable individuals are not identified in photographs without the child's and or guardian's permission.

16.   Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2020-March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)

Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

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?

17.   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).

- 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. 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. A final validation workshop is to be carried out in May 2021 now that Covid-19 permits travel. **(Annex 13 – TOR and the documents draft).**
- During the visit of the law enforcement advisor from ZSL UK, initial meetings have taken place with the judiciary university in Benin. They mentioned first their interest to include for the students who are finishing in June the theorical part, a conference to introduce them CITES and national laws on wildlife protection. Secondly, they would like to work together to elaborate a module to include in the curriculum for judges on wildlife crime and wildlife laws. Key actors have been identified to elaborate and deliver this training including the country manager of the Eagle network and the focal point CITES trained by BornFree.
- During the technical law enforcement mission in March 2021 in Niger, ZSL met the General director of customs with the person in charge of trainings. They mentioned that new agents are now being trained for 6 months, and they have requested modules for inclusion within the new entrant recruitment programme, to establish foundation level skills in CITES and IWT enforcement.
  In Y3, ZSL continued to follow up the 4 livelihood initiatives started in Y2. Other environmental initiatives were identified and financed through IWT fund. In Nipouni, the women developing soap production enterprises were engaged to improve the protection of environment in their village by establishing garbage collection in the health centre and school to improve sanitation for domestic animals and wildlife. They also planted fruit trees at the school to increase the shade and biodiversity in the village. A compost site at the school was also created to utilise biodegradable waste in the village. In Kanderou, the group undertaking vegetable garden production, also decided to improve the sanitation of the village with garbage and compost facilities Six awareness sessions were delivered to students in Nipouni, which covered definition of the park and the specificities of Park W, protected species, illegal activities and native flora in the park. In total, 103 students including 35 girls participated, and through pre- and post-session questionnaires, had a greater knowledge of wildlife in the park and their status. Activities with Nipouni school were developed with Educo Bénin and APN, and through ongoing projects will continue. **(Annex 7,8 and 9)**

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact W-Arli-Pendjari is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement and good governance, supported by communities with reduced poverty, and with increasing populations of species previously targeted for IWT.			
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 relation to incidents, identified while on patrol) 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; • Increasing 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 enforcement activity and effect, delivered through proactive patrolling is established to counter against illegal activities 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. 0.3. # of illegal incidents detected and arrests from year 2 to year 3 of the project t) in Benin	0.1 Data of arrested persons in year 3 is illustrating the results of law enforcement training and bonus to eco-guards who are patrolling actively and regularly: A total of 14 persons were arrested during the 4 months of patrol but not all of them were judges, some of them had to pay a fee to the park authorities. 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). Under INL grant, a second market survey will be implemented in July and August in Benin and Niger to evaluate the evolution from 2019 to 2021. 0.3 Community initiative were started in the end of year 2 and the follow up was	0.1 Upcoming selection of rangers followed by the BFR training by APN will increase the capacity of number and capacity of rangers in the park W. The start of the PIP with the collaboration of the army will improve the security of the park W. 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 4, 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 4 under INL grant will allow to follow the trend in monitored illegal products. 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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	and Niger: Increase by at least 25% by end of year 3. 0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased knowledge on IWT and existing wildlife conservation laws (baselines established in year 2) by end of project period of at least 50%.	done during all year 3 of the project. 4 livelihood initiatives were implemented, 6 environmental activities were implemented in 2 villages: reforestation of Nipouni school and fence for the vegetable garden, 2 compost at the 2 schools, implementation of garbage in the 2 health centres and 2 schools. 4 awareness sessions implemented in 2 schools.	Niger to measure the impact of their actions to protect the wildlife in W NP. 0.4 The endline survey to evaluate the impact will be done in year 4.
Output 1. Enabling Environment and 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 (43 in total at the end of the project). 1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum. Target 50/yr by end of project. 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. 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.	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 in collaboration with APN and WAC by September 2021 to 30 rangers of WNP in Niger selected in May 2021 in the PIP framework. 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. From y1 to y3 of the project, 35 intelligence reports were done by ZSL team in the field and ZSL law enforcement advisor and share with ZSL partner and embassies. 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 BLET level 2 in Y2 of the project. (evidence provided in Law Enforcement Advisor's mission report). Another BLET training is planned in year 4 to achieve the indicator of 60 enforcement agents for the agents working at the airport of Cotonou by July 2021 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 4. This workshop is planned in May 2021.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	• Working Committee established Y2; • First draft of decrees enacting the law-by end of Y2; • Validation and implementation of the decrees in Y3		
Activity 1.1 Delivery of intelligence and basic law enforcement trainings and refreshers		Realized in Y1 and Y2 of the project.	1 intelligence and 1 basic law enforcement trainings will be delivered in Y4
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. During Y3, 29 intelligence reports were realized thanks to information collected in the field by ZSL team and the LEA of ZSL.
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 to May 2021.
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. 2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels by end of project period to focussed intelligence led patrols, proactively targeting high risk areas. The effectiveness of the patrols will be measured against actionable intelligence reports. Aim for: • End Year 1 (baseline) • End Year 2 – 20 pd/m	2.1 Ranger trainings were planned to start in year 2 but was postponed because of Covid 19 and security situation. Our partner Panthera could not implement the training because of the security situation in Niger. At the same time, a new project PIP that should be officially signed in May 2021 will change the management of the parc W in Niger and will recruit and train new rangers to improve the security inside the park. Therefore, ZSL according to the change request from February 2021 will financed the selection of new rangers that will be trained on patrol skills by APN. ZSL will delivered a law enforcement training to the new rangers by September 2021. 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.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	• End Year 3 – at least 20 pd/m 2.3. Patrols will be all intelligence led and will focus on key hot spot areas subject to the security situation. Number of patrols and personnel available will be increased as further funding comes online. 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 (Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months), year 2 and 3 the patrols will focus on effectiveness by including intelligence inside the SMART reports. 2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through target-led performance scheme (Poacher camps, Animal tracks, identification of entry points or egress from the park, snares or other evidence of poaching activity and seizures of contraband and firearms/ munition.) increases over course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1.	In year 3 of the project, 60 days of patrols were realized in July and August 2020 and February to March 2021. 2.3 All the reports from the patrols team and DFCPR include elements on people arrested, signs of illegal activities and intelligence that they received to lead the patrol. They are also including the numbers of animals identified during their patrols. 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 and year 3: number of foot patrols conducted every mission, and geographical objectives visited each patrol day (evidence provided in activity convention, monthly patrol reports and patrol payment status). The scheme will evolve with reward being result driven, in particular focussing on the generation and actioning of intelligence. To ensure patrols are deployed to the correct location at the correct time, to maximise the effectiveness of activity.	
Activity 2.1 Selection of ecoguards, field supervision and patrol reporting		12 Eaux et Forets agents, including 2 local trackers and 1 local driver have been patrolling in year 1,2 and 3 of the project. 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). In year 3 because of the security situation, the forestry agents could not patrol in all the area of the park, they were mainly around Bata post guard and the Niger river. The ecoguards received regular bonuses accordingly (based on	With the start of the PIP project in May 2021, 30 to 40 rangers will be selected to be trained and equipped by WAC, APN and ZSL on patrol method and law enforcement by September 2021.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		patrol successes). Park management staff received performance bonuses for their participation in patrol organisation and assistance in patrol reporting.	
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 year 2, gathering information on basic socio-economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics. 3.2. Potential livelihood initiative 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. 3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted: • At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21. At least a total of 4 schemes by end of month 24. 3.4. # of persons who benefited from the livelihood initiatives declared that their entrances (visits) in the park have reduced with this economic support	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. In Benin, 130 interviews were conducted, discussions were held with 51 women in focus groups and with 112 persons in village assemblies. 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. 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 Y2: 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. This endline survey will be conducted in June 2021. In year 3 of this project, 3 other initiatives were developed in Benin decided by the groups supported with livelihood initiative in year 2: 1) Reforestation of the Nipouni school to provide shade and fruits (fruit trees) for the students 2) Refurbishment of the fence to protect the garden of Nipouni school. This garden is providing the canteen with vegetables. 3) Compost in place at the school of Nipouni and Kanderou, the students were trained to manage the compost.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		4) Garbage in the health centre and at the schools of Nipouni and Kandérou to improve sanitation in the villages and limit illness for domestic and wildlife animals. 6 awareness sessions were delivered to the students of the schools of Nipouni, there were organized by class so each level of the school (3 level) received 2 different awareness session on definition of the parc and the specificities of the park W, protected species, illegal activities inside the park and flora particularity of the park. In total 103 students including 35 girls participated at the 2 sessions. 3.4 The endline survey will be implemented in June 2021 to respond to this indicator.	
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.	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. 3.2. The baseline survey as realized in February 2020 with SurveyCTO. 3.3. and 3.4. it was realized during this socio-economic survey realized in February 2020. 3.5. 4 initiatives schemes have started in March 2020 in 4 villages (2 in Niger and 2 in Benin). 6 other initiatives were implemented in Benin in year 3 and 6 awareness sessions in link also with the outcome 0.4.	3.6. The follow up of those initiatives schemes was done in Y3 and their assessment will be realized in year 4: 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 cross those results 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.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: W-Arli-Pendjari is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement and good governance, supported by communities with reduced poverty, and with increasing populations of species previously targeted for IWT. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: A reduction in IWT in the WTBR through; strengthened wildlife protection, better use of intelligence and investigative tools to target those involved in wildlife crime, and increased support from communities. (Max 30 words)	0.1. Change in detection of poaching incidence by unit effort (distance covered by foot patrols in relation to incidents, identified while on patrol) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9-12): • Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels as surveillance system established and survey effort increases; • Increasing 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 enforcement activity and effect, delivered through proactive patrolling is established to counter against illegal activities. 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; 0.3. # of illegal incidents detected and arrests from year 2 to year 3 of the project t) in Benin and Niger: • Increase by at least 25% by end of year 3;	0.1. SMART reports produced by W Niger SMART focal point, supported by ZSL SMART field officer, including data analysis on patrols and poaching 0.2. Wildlife market survey reports produced by ZSL market surveyors including data on illicit wildlife products available, numbers of items and % of new items available on repeat visits. 0.3. Police/ gendarme reports, court proceedings related to case prosecutions, gathered by ZSL team through contacts within agencies, regional courts and collaborating organisations (EAGLE), reviewed and collated by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor. 0.4. Community members' perception survey results disaggregated to ensure representation of age, gender and ethnic groups and provided	African Parks Network assumes management of W Benin by 2019 as planned and effective surveillance and protection systems established. African Parks is managing with Benin's CENAGREF (government direction in charge of the parks) the park W since 2019 until 2021 under a common agreement to move to full management of the park by African Parks by 2021. Reducing wildlife crime reduces pressure on wild populations of elephants, big cats and other species affected by trafficking in the WAP. 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. Efforts to combat IWT through project activities do not lead to displacement to other adjacent protected areas of the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.

	0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased knowledge on IWT and existing wildlife conservation laws (baselines established in year 2) by end of project period of at least 50%.		Wildlife products in Benin and Niger are stocked with products extracted from parks and periphery in Benin and Niger. Covid 19 may have an impact on government priorities. Wildlife conservation may not be the priority in the first months of the crisis to handle this health crisis.
Outputs: 1. Enabling Environment and 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 43 in total at the end of the project). 1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum. • Target 50/yr by end of project. 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. 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. • Working Committee established and first draft of decrees enacting the law by end of Y2 • Implementation plan for the decrees drafted and agreed by end Y3	1.4. Training reports produced by LE Advisor, including information on course contents, number of trainees and knowledge evaluation through course delivery. 1.2. TRAFFIC global database record summary produced under existing MoU agreement between ZSL and TRAFFIC overseen by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor 1.3. Court and local enforcement agency records of successful prosecutions attributed to those units/officers in receipt of training to be collated when available. 1.3. Feedback regarding crime scene management and retrieval of forensic evidence from prosecution authorities and forensic delivery partners. 1.4 Minutes of working committee and workshop reports. Draft of implementation plan for decrees.	Improved acquisition and dissemination relating to wildlife crime, supports improved protection and Law Enforcement. Increased professionalization and enhanced investigative skills lead to more successful prosecutions for wildlife crime offences. 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. Restrictions on gatherings and travel by the COVID 19 pandemic are lifted by August 2020 allow training to take place. Working Committee members make themselves available for committee meetings; National Assembly supports decrees and there is not an extended period of review or significant delays to the review process.

			The workshops to enact the wildlife law and develop implementation plan will be able to take place through lifted restrictions on gatherings in place due to Covid 19 epidemic.
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. 2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels by end of project period to focussed intelligence led patrols, proactively targeting high risk areas. The effectiveness of the patrols will be measured against actionable intelligence reports. Aim for: • End Year 1 (baseline) • End Year 2 – 20 pd/m • End Year 3 – at least 20 pd/m 2.3. Patrols will be all intelligence led and will focus on key hot spot areas subject to the security situation. Number of patrols and personnel available will be increased as further funding comes online. 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 (Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months), year 2 and 3 the patrols will focus on effectiveness by including intelligence inside the SMART reports. 2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through target-led performance scheme (Poacher camps, Animal tracks, identification of entry points or egress from the park, snares or other evidence of poaching activity and seizures of contraband and firearms/ munition increases over	2.1. SMART training records provided by SMART field officer + list of participants of the training + pre and post-test. 2.2. & 2.3. SMART reports produced by SMART field officer analysing patrol effort and coverage (based on dividing total park surface area into 5x5km^2 grid squares and estimating proportion of squares visited by patrols). 2.4. SMART reports including patrol plans and targets linked to bonus payment records provided by SMART field officer.	Turnover of government staff does not deplete skillset within relevant trained teams. Security situation enables full support for project intervention. African Parks Network take over management of other parks in the WTBR as planned in 2019. Existing transboundary cooperation at wildlife division level continues to facilitate co-ordination and sharing of relevant information. Maximum number of eco-guard patrols to be supported is reached by Y2 (and therefore patrol days and area coverage will stabilise) and efforts will be focused on making patrols more intelligent and effective

	course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1		
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 year 2 of the project, gathering information on basic socio-economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics. 3.2. Potential livelihood initiatives 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. 3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted: • At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21. 3.4. # of persons who benefited from the livelihood initiatives declared that their entrances (visits) in the park have reduced with this economic support	3.1. Community assessment reports provided by the community technical lead and including socio-economic data, IWT impact and baseline perspective metrics. 3.2. Livelihood initiatives reports and socio-economic survey report provided by the community officers . 3.3. livelihood initiatives evaluation report provided by the community officers and the field manager including detailed information on community perspectives, and suitability for development. 3.4 Data from the baseline and endline survey of each person who benefited from the socio-economic survey	Engaging communities ensures a stake in efforts to address IWT in and around the WAP. In the context of Covid 19, the implementation of activities at the community level will be adapted to continue their implementation whilst respecting protective measures (including PPE and observing social distancing) to avoid contamination of consultants and communities.

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

0.1 Intelligence led patrols evaluated against distance covered, information gathered in high risk areas, feeding back into modelling for future patrols.

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. A second market survey will be conducted to measure the evolution from 2019 to 2021 on the presence of wildlife products for sell in the markets in Benin and Niger and to measure the impact of the information, education and communication strategy on the sellers and buyers of wildlife products.

0.3 A data collection on knowledge, attitudes and practices on IWT, existing wildlife law and protected species but also on how to raise and implement awareness campaign was carried out to produce an Information, Education and Communication strategy. This strategy will be implemented with adapted materials and activities for Niger and Benin according to the different public.

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

1.1 Development of protocols, guidelines and risk mitigation plans for the managing of sources and intelligence in line with the UK College of policing guidelines.

1.2 Training and mentoring in basic recruitment and management of human sources and intelligence to law enforcement agents (3 BLED and 2 LED training will be completed by the end of the project to law enforcement agents including eco-guards and forestry agents.). Knowledge assessments carried out before and after to evaluate success and student feedback. Assistance and guidance provided as required to ensure an established well run human source and intelligence structure is embedded within the enforcement structures.

1.3 Provision of basic policing skills to enable lawful enforcement action to be taken in a professional manner.

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

1.5 Annual record summary report produced.

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

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 , 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 livelihood initiatives, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods and evaluating any existing initiatives.

3.5 Based on these consultations pilot and the socio-economic survey livelihood initiatives were identified to improve the economic situation of some communities and reduce their dependence on park resources.

3.6 livelihood initiatives assessed and report written up and made available with end of project social surveys to include plan sustaining successful initiatives.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1   Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								

In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2   Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

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

Annex 5 – IEC strategy: final document and TOR

Annex 6 – DFCPR report patrols and convention – We are still waiting for the last reports from our partner DFCPR for February and March 2021, our field manager is supporting them for the SMART data analyse. Those reports will be shared in the final report of the project.

Annex 7 and 8 – TOR of the livelihood initiatives implemented in Kandérou and Nipouni, both village in Benin with pictures of the activities.

Annex 9 – TOR and pictures of the environmental activities in Kanderou and Nipouni launched in Y3 as a result of the engagement of the beneficiaries of the livelihood initiatives from y2 (end).

Annex 10 – TOR of the visit of TA LE from ZSL London and meetings in Benin

Annex 11 – monthly intern report and internally M&E plan

Annex 12 – intelligence report

Annex 13 – wildlife law from 1998 actualization process in Niger (TOR of the final workshop and of the work group which is preparing the workshop, and draft documents of the revised laws)

Annex 14 – Covid 19 guideline and pictures of distribution and awareness session

Annex 15 – MOU APN - ZSL

Annex 16 – TOR of the visit of TA LE from ZSL London and meetings in Niamey

Annex 17 – TOR of the livelihood initiatives implemented in Niger with pictures of the activities.

Annex 18 – TOR camera trap survey APN, Panthera and ZSL

Annex 19 – TOR lion counting APN and ZSL

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked	

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