



## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	IWT-055
<b>Project title</b>	Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Benin, Niger
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
<b>Partners(s)</b>	Panthera
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Eleanor Harvie</i>
<b>Report date and number</b>	31/10/2020, (HYR3)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/west-african-carnivores-and-elephants-in-the-savannah">https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/west-african-carnivores-and-elephants-in-the-savannah</a> (website), @ZSLAfrica (Twitter)

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to the end September).

Key progress during the reporting period:

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

Law enforcement - An Intelligence network has been established with key partners in the landscape to share both IWT, Crime and Security intelligence in real time. To date, six sources have contributed to the network resulting in the production and dissemination of twenty-one intelligence logs. Feedback from the US Government stated the logs were providing an invaluable insight into the region.

A workshop to finalize the wildlife law actualization of 1998 in Niger, is planned to be delivered by the end of 2020. Two specific training events on law enforcement are planned to begin in the first quarter of 2021 to meet the indicators in this output.

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

Since March 2020, a new methodology to patrols has been put in place, allowing the park to be patrolled in a more secure and efficient manner. ZSL, through this grant, has directly supported a team of rangers to patrol inside the W Park to test this new way of patrolling for July and August. During those two months, the team of 10 forestry agents and 5 eco-guards patrolled around Bata and Perelegou with the army in this last sector. In total, 682 km were covered by the patrols by foot. They met with breeders to who they explained the law prohibiting entry into the park and had it enforced.

The patrol team have fed back a requirement for upskilling in security patrol techniques, pursuit of poachers, that would make them effective on the ground. In addition, some errors in the use of SMART evidence the need to invest in them to be able to use this data collection and analysis tool to its full potential. Learning from this two-month experience, ZSL would like to continue to support Park W with these teams of rangers.

### 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, the livelihood projects supported two women's groups in Goungou Makoni and Tondey to influence the poverty of the most vulnerable segments of the population through the production and exploitation of moringa leaves. The Moringa sector is currently very promising in Niger and can be a source of income and food supplements for communities. At the start of the year, sessions to revitalize the two groups were provided, as well as awareness raising on Covid 19 and necessary safety measures, with the distribution of 234 masks and 14 hydro-alcoholic gels. A general assembly selected women from each groups to participate in the training., In Goungou Makoni, 20 of were selected and in Tondey, 40., The training was delivered to 95 women and 600 moringa plants were produced and 400 germinated and sowed in the gardens laid out by the womens groups. However, the rainy season has been extremely heavy this year and flooding in these areas has occurred and there have been severe losses of this moringa after an early harvest. The government of Niger is engaged to support the communities who suffered from the flooding and it will be important to follow up on the measure taken to identify how ZSL can support these two villages by the end of the project.

In Benin, in the village of Nipouni, a women's group was supported to produce soap. The group was already formed and therefore a structure of management was already in place, enabling progress in activities to be swift, and easy dissemination of materials and information around Covid 19 (t 23 Surgical masks, 50 masks manufactured locally, 27 Disinfectant Gels). The 22 members of the group were trained in soap production, enabling them to produce 657 soaps initially. In August, the group produced 136 soaps and in September, 194 soaps. These later batches provided small profits to the group, but this experience of production and sale made them realize that the price of soap had to be adapted. In response to these needs, a 3-day training course was delivered in September on basic financial management skills with simple tools adapted to their capacities and needs (cash journal with drawings, role plays to learn how to manage stocks and social pressure in the community for purchases on credit). At the beginning, 3 people out of 20 were able to answer the trainer's questions on financial management, while all the participants were able to answer the same questions at the end of the training.

The second village, Kanderou, in Benin was supported for the establishment of market gardening. In addition to the distribution of PPE for Covid 19, a study for the development of the garden was carried out, and activities identified. However it was decided these should only be delivered after the conclusion of the rainy season to carry out this work and begin the preparation of the garden. After the successful experience of the group in Nipouni, technical training in market gardening is planned in October/ November, to be accompanied by training in financial management so that the group can manage its profits autonomously also at the end of the project.

For these four economic 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.

**Project partnerships**

This past six months, ZSL team strengthened their partnership with the key actors working in the WAP to ensure effective and long-term collaboration for larger impact on conservation in the WAP landscape. In July 2020 we signed an MOU with APN who is managing the Parc Pendjari and W parc in Benin (since September.

ZSL is pleased to recognise and work with a new actor, WAC, in the region. They will start a project on management reforms of the park W financed by the European Union (emergency fund) from February 2021 for two years. ZSL will continue to support rangers of the W NP until February 2021. By then, a formal framework will be implemented with WAC to allow a continuity of our support to the patrols but with the collaboration of the various actors involved in the security of the park W.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and**

**whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The region has been impacted on by the Monsoon weather, leading to widespread flooding, displacement of a large number of persons and damage to strategic infrastructure.

The security situation within the region continues to deteriorate. This has impacted on ZSL's ability to travel freely within the region.

CV-19 has seen international travel restrictions being put in place. This has reduced the ability to safely travel to the country with Borders closed and flight options reduced. This had an impact on the planned training towards rangers on security technics and on the law enforcement training.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance NA

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

**If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

The security training for rangers, that will be delivered with our partners Panthera, has been delayed as a direct result, with students and training staff unable to travel to the training venue. Trainers remain available to deliver the courses, once the current restrictions are lifted. ZSL forecast this will be delivered in the first quarter of 2021. A venue on the outskirts of Kandi has been identified as being suitable to deliver the training in both a secure and professional manner. ZSL remain in regular contact with all training stakeholders and are monitoring the current situation to identify the earliest window of opportunity to deliver these events.

The security situation is being actively monitored and training plans remain deliverable in their current format.

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report** by email to [IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**

**Response to Annual Report Comments:**

- 1. Regarding Assumptions:** A separate change request, in order to amend the logframe, was made in July 2020 (after the submission of the report). Within this, the assumptions were reviewed. Is another review of assumptions requested in addition to the amended logframe after the submission of this report?
- 2. Market Surveys:** These were part of the original proposal, included as M&E activities at project outcome level. As these are outcome level indicators and part of the original ly approved logframe, we seek advice of the IWT reviewers about how they would best integrate these under outputs.

*I attach to this report, the most recently approved logframe. We will seek further feedback from LTS proposed changes to the point above.*