



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.

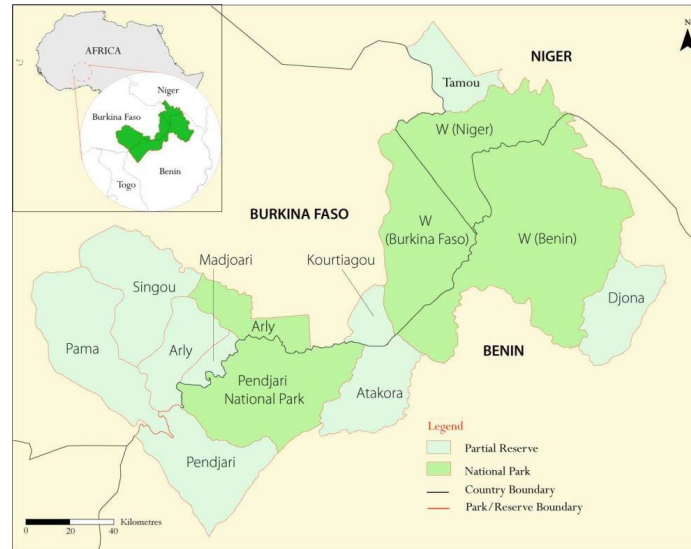
IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

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)
Project Leader’s name	Katherine Secoy: Head of International Operations
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/west-african-carnivores-and-elephants-in-the-savannah
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1. Project summary

The W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) complex covers ~35,000km² in Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger, encompassing five protected areas, hunting concessions and community lands. It is globally recognised as a conservation priority, home to the last significant populations of the endangered savannah elephant in West Africa¹ (~77% of the region’s 11,489 individuals), the critically endangered West African Lion² (~350 of the remaining 400 individuals), and also one of the last sites with Northwest African cheetahs.

The WAP is under immense pressure from IWT, compounded by a low capacity to respond. Poaching levels are high, especially of elephants and big cats. CITES MIKES highlighted Pendjari as a key site for concern in Africa. Benin is the key trafficking hub linked to the WAP, and 2017 ZSL market surveys found products from big cats, pangolin and elephant openly for sale, with traders offering to source larger amounts. Links to international traffickers were also identified.



IWT is a direct threat to tourism-related livelihoods with around 300 families depending on employment at lodges/hotels, hunting concessions and as guides. Many more benefit indirectly as tourists visit the region. As poaching has escalated, visitors have decreased by almost 40% to <5,000 in 2015. Local communities are typically poor, and both implicated in and adversely affected by IWT. Despite this, their role has been largely neglected by governments and funders. Engaging them effectively is critical to secure a long-term future for the landscape. The last 18 months has seen the arrival of the African Parks Network (APN) with plans to manage four of the five protected areas in Burkina Faso and Benin. As the Nigerien government has not expressed an interest in this management model, W Niger urgently needs support to ensure it doesn't become a focus for IWT and act as a sink on wildlife populations elsewhere in the WAP.

Funding from the IWT Challenge Fund has been instrumental and integral in the establishment of a wider ongoing programme of work within the WAP landscape. Many of the deliverables funded by IWT area already being built upon with co-financing secured by ZSL and partners. ZSL is responsible for the implementation of the project entitled: *'Combating Wildlife Trafficking in the countries of the WAP Complex'*. The project is part of a wider collaboration between Wild Africa Conservation (WAC), African Parks Network (APN) and the Zoological Society of London, entitled: W National Park Priority Intervention Plan (PiP); where WAC and APN have received funding from the European Union and GIZ, Germany for the delivery of the PiP programme. ZSL funding from the UK government's IWT Challenge Fund (DEFRA) and US Government's Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) is co-financing the PiP programme. WAC has been mandated by the Nigerien government to develop and implement a feasibility study and a Priority Intervention Plan for W Niger National Park.

Despite operating in challenging circumstances linked to security concerns, this project has successfully engaged the Governments of Niger (Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte Contre la Désertification) and Benin (Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasse (DGEFC)) and improved local capacity in the management of the WAP particularly around enforcement against the illegal wildlife trade. We have worked to build support for the WAP complex from surrounding communities and helped to secure livelihoods – thereby demonstrating positive incentives from living in close proximity to the WAP. The project has responded to specific requests from the authorities in Benin and Niger for assistance in developing the capacity of law enforcement agents and increasing the effectiveness of protected area management and has provided a foundation on which future interventions can build.

2. Project Partnerships

The project was implemented in partnership with Wild Africa Conservation (WAC), African Parks Network (APN) and the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MESU/DD) in Benin and the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte Contre la Désertification of Niger.

All project activities were planned and implemented with the express cooperation of government authorities and directly addressed specific needs identified by relevant authorities.

Good relationship with partners were maintained throughout the project period through informal contacts between ZSL staff based in Cotonou and regionally, and formally through MoUs and agreements. WAC were responsible for implementing and reporting on patrol activities in the landscape since the security situation made it impossible for ZSL and other NGO staff to directly engage in this area. APN has taken on management responsibility in several of the important protected areas in the landscape and provide weekly security updates to relevant ZSL staff in Benin, regionally and in London.

Strong links have been established with staff in the US Embassies in Cotonou and Niamey, including security personnel, USAID and INL country representatives. There is no UK Commission or Embassy in either country, the nearest representation is in Accra, Ghana, and no formal involvement was made. However, ZSL regional staff based in Cameroon are in contact with relevant regional staff where necessary.

Frequent remote meetings between key management staff in London and regionally (ZSL Regional Lead for West and Central Africa based in Cameroon) and WAC management have ensured that all parties are aware of work plans and reporting on progress.

Partners provided reports on activities which were used in the preparation of this report.

3. Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

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

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

Due to the extreme insecurity in Niger and parts of Benin, making field trips outside of the capital cities of Cotonou and Niamey impossible, directly addressing human source and intelligence management was deemed inadvisable.

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

On the side-lines of two of the four BLET and LEAP training sessions described in activity 1.6, law enforcement officers from Benin and Niger have been strengthened in their intelligence gathering capacity.

These training sessions provided participants with the basic skills necessary to understand the information gathering process, identify gaps in intelligence management and be able to identify sources of human intelligence (HIS) and covert sources (CHIS) which may have useful information. At each training session, knowledge assessments carried out before and after the training for to evaluate success. (Annexes 5,6,7).

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

Due to the extreme insecurity in Niger and parts of Benin, making field trips outside of the capital cities of Cotonou and Niamey impossible, directly addressing human source and intelligence management was deemed inadvisable.

Activity 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). Fiche TRAFFIC.

Using the TRAFFIC database model, ZSL set up a protocol to conduct surveys in the markets of Benin and Niger in order to identify and quantify the products and subproducts of wildlife species in the markets for facilitate actions to combat wildlife crime. During the year one of project two investigators were recruited for each country and were trained on MIST (Market Investigation Survey Training) by the Cops Without Borders (CWB) consultant for the first phase and by the ZSL law enforcement advisor for the second phase of the study. For the first phase of this study, in southern Niger, investigations were carried out in 62 markets located around the W Regional Park from January to March 2019. Data in Benin were collected on 56 markets spread across the whole countries and over two time periods, from July 2017 to January 2018, then from December 2018 to April 2019. For the second phase of this study, year 3, the data collection which will take place over two months is underway under INL project. The data collected in this study is analyzed to assess whether, for each species, wildlife products are available in markets due to local availability of wildlife or accessibility for export to, or import from, other countries and identify the IWT trade roads. The results of these investigations will be discussed with law enforcement officials in two countries for enforcement action. Relevant data will be shared with INTERPOL and other existing networks by the ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor, as appropriate. (Annex 8).

Activity 1.5 Annual record summary report produced.

This activity can only be completed once full surveys and data are accumulated and will be fulfilled under other funding sources from INL during 2022. The market surveys will be completed and data analysed.

Activity 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.

During the project period, ZSL with the help of expert consultants from CWB (Cops Without Borders) and ZSL Law Enforcement Technical Advisor organized two levels of training in four sessions in Benin and Niger. It was not possible to programme all intended trainings during the project period due to travel restrictions. Further trainings introducing more advanced topics will be carried out in 2022 with funding from INL.

The first level of training (Basic Law Enforcement Training) saw the participation of law enforcement officers including Water and Forestry officers, Customs officers, and border police in both countries. This Level 1 course provides the basic skills needed to understand the information gathering process, identify gaps in intelligence management and be able to identify Human Intelligence Sources (HIS) and Secret Sources (CHIS) who may have useful information.

Through this training, participants developed their skills on:

- The importance of keeping precise notes, ready to be used by the courts,
- The value of intelligence and how it can be used to inform an investigation,
- The value of informants and the establishment of a report to obtain other information,
- The proactive options available to advance an investigation,
- The need to be professional and credible in legal situations (in court),
- The value of treating detainees appropriately and how to use these relationships to advance an investigation,
- The importance of preserving the integrity of evidence,
- The importance of mastering the above principles to successfully prosecute.

Based on the level 1 training (BLET), CWB provided the level 2 Proactive Law Enforcement Training on 18th, 19th and 20th November 2019. This Proactive Law Enforcement Training (which is also known as Level 2 Policing Techniques) provides the participants with an appreciation and understanding of some rudimentary policing skills, designed to enhance evidence and intelligence gathering, operational planning and proactive investigative skills, leading to the acquisition of levels of evidence sufficient for a prosecution. The training is part of CWBs COPS (Conservation Oriented Policing Skills) concept. COPS input is designed to be conservation-centric, with input and practical exercises designed around countertrafficking and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) offences. The COPS concept is designed to ensure that IWT crime is understood as a transnational organised crime, and that criminal offences

concerning trafficking and associated crime is treated and considered accordingly, with a proactive mindset. 69 Law enforcement officers were trained in BLET (Benin and Niger) and 51 officers on LEAP. (Annex 5,6 & 7).

Activity 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

ZSL supported the DFCPR to initiate the preparation of the draft CITES decree for Law 2019-47 of October 24, 2019, repressing offenses relating to international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora in Niger and the revision of Law 98-07 of April 29, 1998 on the hunting and wildlife protection regime. A workshop to amend the two projects was organized by ZSL in Niamey on July 07 and 08, 2021 the Department of Wildlife, Hunting and Parks and Reserves (DFC / PR) of the Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification (ME / LCD) of Niger. This workshop was chaired by the Secretary General of the ME / LCD and brought together several actors including executives from the ME / LCD, the DGE & F, the DFC / PR, the Technical Committee for the Verification of Texts (COTEVEC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and NGOs and Associations. (Annex 9).

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

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

Wild Africa Conservation (WAC), African Parks Network (APN) and the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MESU/DD) in Niger signed a memorandum of understanding in August 2019 to produce a concerted feasibility study to enable the rehabilitation and development of the Niger component of park W. This study should define the various objectives, strategies, material, human and financial resources, and see what changes to consider for the long-term management and financing structure (beyond 2020). The Terms of Reference for this study have been produced but the study not yet implemented. This will be done under the co-financing provided by the INL grant in 2022. The study requires active input from a wide range of actors and meetings that were not possible for periods of the project period.

In parallel to this feasibility study, to respond to threats, a priority intervention plan (PIP) for W Niger, focused on security, surveillance and the integration of local actors in governance in order to ensure socio-economic development of peripheral areas was implemented on the model of that produced by African Parks Network (APN) in W Benin. ZSL's involvement in the implementation of this PIP led to the signing of a grant contract between ZSL and WAC to support the training of eco-guards on paramilitary tactics, the management of surveillance patrols and the coordination of operations with other defence and security forces for the year three of the project.

The feasibility study will allow to carry out an in-depth assessment of the need for protection of the site in the context of increasing insecurity and to assess the needs for the W Niger National Park.

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

ZSL built a first phase of support for the W-Niger Park as a pilot project, targeting a strategic area, securing it in a concrete and regular manner while controlling costs as much as possible, in order to make this model replicable, efficient, and effective. sustainable across the park.

During the first 6 months of year one, the objective was to identify strategic sites within the park, to support the maintenance of a regular surveillance pressure, to diversify the security methods, to identify the training needs and rangers' equipment and not to allow poachers, illegal breeders, or others to adapt to the routine of patrols. ZSL then proceeded with the construction and renovation of the infrastructure of the Perelegou post, which again became operational monitoring post consisting of offices, a borehole, a solar installation, and patrol equipment.

ZSL provided the other surveillance teams and the management of the W-Niger Park with surveillance equipment and then provided regular training to the rangers and the management team of the W-Niger Park in accordance

with their requests. This first phase of work was only possible thanks to the total collaboration and the great proactivity of the Nigerien authorities, with the full support of the Department of Wildlife, Hunting and Protected Areas, and the Department of the W Niger park.

Regular monitoring has been put in place jointly by the Nigerian authorities and ZSL (i.e., use of SMART, monthly meetings with the Park Manager, monthly ZSL reports sent to the national authorities and the Park Manager). Communication has steadily improved between the partners during this period.

The satisfaction expressed by the Nigerian authorities encourages them to consider this model of support for the W-Niger Park as effective with an optimized cost / results ratio. ZSL suggests maintaining or even strengthening the efforts of the parties to develop it into a management model applicable to the entire W-Niger Park.

Activity 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).

Two training sessions on SMART were organized for eco-guards. The first session carried out in 2018 at Tapoa and Perelegou for 26 eco-guards and 9 managers and in 2019 for 14 eco-guards and 4 managers. The envisaged participation of Panthera in training sessions was not realised because Panthera staff were unable to travel to Niger due to security concerns. 8 Further training sessions will be carried out in 2022 under INL co financing. It was not possible to complete all envisaged trainings due to period of travel restriction during which international trainers could either not travel due to restrictions or their safety was compromised.

Ongoing patrolling and ecological monitoring were combined with training on the use of SMART / CyberTracker tools for data collection. This laid the foundation for the large mammal survey and the general anti-poaching activities.

During the project period, data collection and reporting improved steadily, alongside capacity building for W Niger staff. Notable milestones are listed below.

- a. As part of the regional collaboration of the W complex, an exchange meeting between SMART managers from different sites (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) was organized in Kandi for better data collection and standardized reports. This has resulted in a continuous sharing of information and reports between these sites and in a consultative and coordinated upgrade of the protocols.
- b. The ZSL Field manager provided daily SMART data management support to the field team in W Niger to inform program design support. Towards the end of this reporting period, W Niger staff began to increasingly use the reports generated by SMART to inform strategic decisions on the deployment of patrols.

An additional training on the use of the drone was given to eco-guards based in Perelegou to strengthen the effectiveness of the patrols.

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

During the project period, for efficiency in patrol operations, the rangers of W Niger benefited from day-to-day support from the ZSL field manager. This support allows to ensure the quality of the data collected during the patrols, the analysis and the reporting.

Monthly surveillance patrols July 2018 to March 2021 were carried out in W Niger with the support of the IWT and INL project by eco-guards supported by the army.

In addition to recording data on signs of the presence of large mammals, the patrollers also recorded signs of human activities that threaten the ecological integrity of the conservation area, direct human encounters or other indirect signs of human presence such as camps, cartridges, gunshots, traps and snare lines, footpaths, footprints, etc.

a. Patrol effort

The table below shows the patrol effort during the project period.

Table 1: Patrol effort by rangers during the three years project period

Year	Transport type	# of Patrol	Distance covered	Man-day
2018	Foot	65	688.35	1405
2019	Foot	11	247.27	94
	Vehicle	27	1143.41	229
2020	Foot	33	684.17	352
	Vehicle	25	1036.68	242
2021	Foot	6	164.89	205

In 2018, the rangers carried out 65 patrols by foot for a total patrol distance of 688 km, mobilizing 1405 man-days. In 2019, on the other hand, the patrols were carried out by vehicle and a total distance of 1143 km was covered for 27 patrols and a man-day effort estimated at 229. And in 2020, 33 patrols by foot vs 25 patrols by vehicle were carried out, covering respectively 684 km and 1036 km for a man-day effort estimated at 352 and 242. The security situation in 2021 did not allow the team to be present on the ground following the multiple attacks in the park. Despite this constraint, a total of 205 man-days of patrolling were completed in 2021. During this time, ZSL has continued to train and mentor law enforcement agents in advanced techniques of Basic Law Enforcement and has overseen the training of 40 out of a force of 52 eco-guards. The implementation of the SMART patrolling system will assist in the future development of reliable indicators to track progress towards outcomes designed to reduce IWT in the landscape. The patrolling carried out henceforth will utilise the training and equipment provided under the IWT grant to maximise results for reduced effort and patrolling will become more focused and effective.

b. Human activities indicators

12 people were arrested by the patrol team in 2019. Two people arrested for lion poaching were sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment and a transactional fine of 2000,000 FCFA each by the Say Tribunal. The other people arrested were tried and released after their hearing.

Activity 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.

Two SMART training sessions were organized during the year one of project. The first session based on data collection was intended for 14 data collectors (rangers) and the second training for analysis and reporting of patrols was intended for 3 staff managers. For each training, an assessment of the level of knowledge was carried out.

The day-to-day support of the site based ZSL Field Manager allow to assess the progress for the collectors and the managers of the database. Based on the patrol data analysed and the patrol reports produced we were able to assess the improvement in the level of knowledge and understanding of the staff on the SMART process and to identify gaps for the need for further training.

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

The establishment and use of the SMART approach in W Niger with the help of the IWT project has improved data collection and reporting of patrol missions in order to effectively inform methods of managing adaptive patrols and to maximize the efficiency of the rangers.

A standard patrol report template has been developed to be generated monthly in order to guide Park management decisions and for strategic planning of future missions based on the evidence (see monthly patrols reports). This responds to the adaptive management cycle of the wildlife and Human Activities Monitoring Program.



Fig. 1: The Wildlife and Human Activity Monitoring Program Adaptive Management Cycle

This SMART approach in W Niger was also useful for evaluating patrol efforts (evaluation of the performance of guards), evaluating the efficiency of management, improving the coordination of patrols, motivating eco-guards, reducing errors due to data entry and develop a database to track spatiotemporal trends in populations of large mammals.

Activity 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 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).

The main mission of the eco-guards in W Niger is to protect the Park. This protection is done by fixed or mobile patrols throughout the park. The patrol effort (number of days patrolled, distance patrolled, number of active hours of patrol, etc.) and the results of patrols (seizures of wildlife products, number of arrests, traps destroyed, etc.) are criteria for evaluating the performance of eco-guards in their missions. All these criteria are measurable using SMART software.

The establishment of a performance system for eco-guards would provide motivation for the accomplishment of their tasks. Considering the local management context, a bonus system was set up, based on the criterion of participation in the patrols. A bonus of 5,000 FCFA was allocated to each eco-guard per day of patrol in addition to the food ration allowance (Meals) for field missions. In addition, a patrol team could benefit from 5,000 FCFA per day of patrol if the SMART data collected was of good quality. This system allows to make the patrols efficient and improve the quality of SMART data. In 2018. Following the implementation of the bonus scheme, Eco guards were effectively patrolling. Attacks in late 2020 led to an escalation of risk in the area which reduced patrol effort during the period from 2020 to 2021. However, despite a reduction in patrol hours, the quality of data collected was improved.

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.

Activity 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.

Communities from villages living in the periphery of W Niger in Benin and Niger were identified as those most affected by the presence of the park and involved in the IWT. This identification was made possible by the collaboration of ZSL with the manager of the W Benin park and the NGO AVIGREF for the communities of Benin and by the collaboration with the NGO COGEZOH (Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides du Niger) for the villages in Niger. The villages Nipouni and Kandèrou Yabadou in Benin and the villages Tondey and Goungou Makoni were the ones chosen as a partner for the actions of the IWT project. In a FPIC (Free, Prior Informed Consent) approach,

women's groups joined the initiative to fight against IWT and benefited from support for the establishment of income-generating activities.

Activity 3.2 Baseline surveys carried out on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions to issues around IWT including development and application of 'support metrics.

In year two, a baseline survey was carried out among households in 9 villages Involving 371 people including 130 in Benin and 241 in Niger on the periphery of Parc W in Benin and Niger. This survey provided data on the socio-economic situation of the target groups, their perception of the IWT and their economic dependence on the resources of the W park and led to the participatory identification of the activities to be developed by the target groups to improve the income.

Activity 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.

The analysis of the results of socio-economic surveys (individual surveys and focus groups) carried out in year one allows to identify the Income Generating Activities (IGA) to be set up in certain villages bordering the W park (Benin and Niger). Thus, in Niger, the villages of Goungou Makoni and Tondey were selected for the production and exploitation of Moringa leaves, while in Benin, the villages of Nipouni and Kanderou were selected respectively for the production. soap ball and market garden products.

Activity 3.4 Consultation on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods and evaluating any existing initiatives.

Through a participatory approach based on individual or focus group discussions, consultation meetings with the target groups of the four selected villages were organized in 2020 to identify empowerment and community development initiatives that can contribute to the fight against wildlife crime. A consultant was recruited to lead the community consultation process.

Activity 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.

Based on the conclusions of the consultations with the target groups in Benin and Niger, 92 people (32 in Benin and 60 in Niger) formed in groups per village were selected to benefit from the support of the IWT project for the establishment of IGAs.

Substantial technical support has been granted to these groups of villages to set up IGAs: Moringa cultivation in Niger and soap production and market gardening in Benin in 92 households with the support of the ZSL Consultant and the Field Manager, including training sessions in entrepreneurship, financial management and Moringa culture for these beneficiary groups.

After training sessions, particularly in entrepreneurship, financial management and Moringa culture, these groups benefited from day-to-day support from the ZSL Consultant and Field Manager for the success of the actions undertaken.

These target groups have also been actively involved in raising awareness on the fight against illegal trade in live wild animals and / or their sub-products.

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

During year 3 of the project, two socio-economic surveys were carried out by a consultant with the communities of the villages living around the cross-border biosphere reserve W Benin and Niger who benefited from the IWT

project. This study was carried out from June 22 to July 22, 2021 and aimed to assess the socio-economic impact of Income Generating Activities (IGA) implemented between May 2020 and April 2021 by ZSL in the villages of Nipouni and Kandèrou Yabadou in Benin (52 people interviewed individually including 20 witnesses) and in the villages of Tondey and Goungou Makoni in Niger (70 people interviewed individually including 10 witnesses who were not beneficiaries of the project).

Overall, with the intervention of the actions of the project in favour of the communities, the perception of the surveyed on the conservation of the resources of the park rose from 73% to 87% for Benin and from 87% to 93% favourable opinions for the Niger.

73% of beneficiaries in Benin versus 39% in Niger felt that ZSL's interventions have a positive impact that they feel less dependent on the resources of the W park. (Annexes 10 & 11).

3.2 Outcome

The project built on the progress made by ZSL in year one and two of the project and produced critical conservation results despite the security situation that deteriorated from year two, and the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, making it difficult to monitor our indicators of results.

The project directly contributed to the effective protection of wildlife in the W Niger Park, to the fight against the illegal wildlife trade from WAP landscape and to promote the well-being of the communities living in the periphery of the WAP landscape in Benin and in Niger.

Specific conservation outcomes include:

- Improving the level of involvement of 92 households from local communities in the fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trade as well as improving the income of target groups;
- Duly trained 120 law enforcement officers (police, customs, gendarmerie, foresters) applying their skills in surveillance, protection and the fight against illegal trade in wildlife;
- Strengthening of the technical and operational capacities of 40 out of a total of 52 rangers to secure wildlife.

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.

We can attest that activities designed to achieve the stated outcome were implemented and that wildlife protection was strengthened. However, in the context of this landscape, it is extremely difficult to reliably monitor and evaluate specific progress. Due to the limited possibilities of directly engaging with local communities, assessing their level of support is difficult. Similarly, accurate records of law enforcement activities on the part of both governments are scarce and we do not have accurate baselines against which to measure progress, given no data was gathered previously. Arrests and confiscations are few and data is not systematically available. However, ZSL and partners, under the INL grant which is presently ongoing, and through proposed future grants which have already been submitted to IWT Challenge Fund and others, have committed to supporting the governments of Benin and Niger to improve all aspects of the management of law enforcement activities, including the improvement of monitoring and storage of seized IWT products. This IWT funded project has developed a good base from which to continue to build the capacity and long-term effectiveness of law enforcement agents, which will increase the overall security of the region.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumptions made at the conception of the project mostly centred around the continuing willingness and ability of the governments of Benin and Niger to support international efforts to view illegal wildlife trade as a significant and serious crime requiring action. This has continued to be the case. Both countries have recently begun the process of reviewing their wildlife laws and increasing the importance of international CITES regulations. While both governments clearly have very severe security issues to deal with, they continue to see the relevance of increasing capacity to deal with IWT as contributing to this effort.

The APN has taken over responsibility for management of several protected areas in the landscape as was presumed at project conception.

Assumptions around local community participation in supplying intelligence have not been met primarily due to the impossibility of safely engaging with them in this activity. Communities have participated in income generating activities and the assumption that they will engage with community surveillance-based activities as carried out successfully in other countries such as Cameroon remains an assumption but cannot be confirmed.

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

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.

Any assessment of the long-term impact of the project and related efforts to tackle IWT in the WAP needs to be seen in the context in which all actors operate. The countries in the region are extremely poor and facing extreme and present danger from insecurity along a number of axes, including criminal gangs who benefit from and contribute to, this instability and Islamic State affiliated terrorist groups engaged in active insurrection.

During the period of this project, the CITES and associated wildlife laws in both Benin and Niger were revised. ZSL and other partners in the region such as BornFree and IFAW have made concerted and effective efforts to increase the profile of IWT. US Embassy staff involved in INL and USAID have expressed interest in future collaboration and IWT related work is viewed as an important way to bolster the general security situation. It is often the case that ecoguards find themselves as the first line of defence at land borders and play an important role in upholding law enforcement, supported by the military and other law enforcement agencies. This is recognised by the governments of both countries.

The activities completed during this project in supporting local communities, increasing the competence of law enforcement agents to tackle illegal activities and supporting the management of protected areas, have made a small but valuable contribution to the long-term goals of the region, but cannot be expected to have directly affected community socio-economic status or populations of wildlife in a directly measurable way. Even without the additional constraints of the security situation, this is difficult to demonstrate. However, we can conclude that the cumulative effect of this and other past and ongoing activities indicates the direction of travel that needs to be maintained and reinforced in order to realise this impact over the next decade.

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

The main objectives of this project include strengthening wildlife protection and law enforcement, as well as increasing support for efforts to combat IWT amongst local communities affected by IWT:

- The establishment of a site-based protection and surveillance system for W Niger and strengthening regional capacity for law enforcement to address IWT, including training and mentoring of enforcement agents and protected area staff in the WAP Landscape. This supported the following commitments: XIII, XV, XX (London Conference Declaration), 5 (Kasane Statement), actions C and D (Hanoi Conference).
- Better understanding of the links between the IWT and communities within the WAP landscape, as well as actions to support incentive / livelihood projects that have helped reduce the impacts of IWT and involve local communities in wildlife conservation and efforts to combat IWT. This in support of the following commitments: XIX, XXIV (Declaration of the London Conference), 12 and 13 (Declaration of Kasane).

5. Impact on species in focus

The project focused on 5 species classified on the IUCN Red List, namely: African elephant, West African Lion, Northwest African Cheetah, Leopard and White-bellied pangolin.

The illegal killing of these species for illegal trade is the main threat to their continued existence in the region. With the support of the project, effective measures have been put in place to help local actors deal with key threats -

strengthening surveillance and protection in W Niger, strengthening national capacities to enforce the law and proactively disrupt and deter trafficking networks via major roads across Benin, resulting in improved arrest and prosecution rates for wildlife crimes from current low baselines; and engaging neglected local communities in the WAP landscape to have a stake in reducing IWT and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

These changes, we hope, have helped to reduce poaching of focal species over the lifetime of the project and will lead to long-term changes that will further reduce the impact of IWT. The last inventories of large carnivores in W Niger were carried out in 2019, the first year of the project. The next inventories will allow us to establish with precision whether the populations of focal species have stabilized or are increasing thanks to the efforts undertaken by the project.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

ZSL with the financial support from the IWT Challenge Fund of DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), supports the communities living on the periphery of the W Benin and W Niger National Park, those of the villages of Kandèrou Yabadou and Nipouni in Benin and those of the villages of Tondey and Goungou Makoni, in Niger in the implementation of income-generating activities (IGA) to reduce poverty and reduce the dependence on WAP natural resources. In particular, the communities of the periphery of W Benin chose soap production and market gardening and those of the periphery of W Niger had chosen the cultivation of Moringa as income-generating activities.

Support for IGAs has benefited to:

- 30 women and 2 men in the Benin villages (22 women in Nipouni and 8 women and 2 men in Kanderou Yabadou)
- 60 women in the Niger villages (40 women in Tondey and 20 women Goungou Mokoni)

A socio-economic survey was carried out in year 3 of the project to assess the impact of the project's support to communities on the improvement of living conditions. It emerges from this study that the beneficiary households of the ZSL project in general report an improvement in their economic situation, in the stability of their income and in their daily diet.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

All project activities, mainly community support activities, considered gender involvement. ZSL has ensured that appropriate methodologies are applied to collect information that considers the diversity of the community, such as the use of focus groups comprised of women for education, awareness and communication campaigns on wildlife, environmental protection (reforestation, waste management, etc.), which guarantees an equitable approach in sharing the knowledge that men have. ZSL has also taken gender into account in the empowerment of women through support for income-generating activities in the villages on the periphery of W Benin and Niger. Of the 92 beneficiaries of IGAs, 90 are women.

In all training of law enforcement agents in both countries, efforts are made to encourage a gender balance in participants, although it should be noted that women make up a small minority in these agencies. Active efforts were also made to discourage any distinction in expectation between male and female participants, for example in clearing away after meals and fetching water etc. Active female participation in all activities was encouraged.

8. Sustainability and legacy

DFCPR and ZSL have established a relationship of trust over the period of the grant, which is sustained by ongoing work in the landscape under ZSL's other existing grants, notably INL. Issues are openly shared and discussed, leading to a collaborative relationship. 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 continue to 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 were 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. ZSL has used its network at Cotonou maritime port to support and allow access to the facility for the detector dogs. ZSL is also in close collaboration with APN in the Pendjari and W NP in Benin to implement wildlife surveys. ZSL with Panthera has organized training of APN staff on camera trap survey techniques for cheetah and leopard. The aim is to reinforce APN staff to be able to use camera traps in the parks they manage. It is hoped this collaboration can be continued between ZSL and Panthera with training on how to analyse the pictures from camera traps to determine the population of cheetah and leopard in the region.

In Benin and Niger, ZSL communicates regularly with other NGOs working in the periphery of W to ensure the experience from the livelihood initiatives and conservation awareness will be of use to other projects and to ensure a continuity between those pilots financed by the IWT project with new project starting in the area. As ZSL team could not travel to Niger, a workshop was realized 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 disseminated and used as a base to develop activities in 2021 in the periphery of WNP in both countries.

The results of the market surveys that will be completed in 2022 will be disseminated among partners. The data collected in this study will be analyzed to assess whether, for each species, wildlife products are available in markets due to local availability of wildlife or accessibility for export to, or import from, other countries and identify the IWT trade roads. The results of these investigations will be discussed with law enforcement officials in two countries for enforcement action. Relevant data will be shared with INTERPOL and other existing networks by the ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor, as appropriate.

These activities will form the basis for continued collaboration between ZSL and other NGOs active in the region and between the NGO forum and government agencies. Further opportunities to develop this collaboration will be provided under ZSL's INL grant and ongoing existing activities. ZSL has made a commitment to continue work in the landscape and this will involve creation of a landscape strategy in collaboration with local government and NGO conservation partners. The activities implemented during this project were done so to address demands for assistance from authorities in Niger and Benin, and the activities were planned and implemented in full cooperation of these authorities and partners. This will provide the basis for continued future work in the landscape.

9. Lessons learnt

What worked well:

The intervention of the IWT project made it possible to set up a new partnership framework with law enforcement services and agencies in Benin and Niger (Customs, border police and magistrate) through capacity building activities. The project also enabled ZSL to maintain good relations with existing partners in the implementation of project activities (APN, CENAGREF and DFC), which was useful in developing new MoUs. Park authorities regularly report information to the ZSL field manager through emails, video calls and WhatsApp messaging groups. Between 2 to 3 call per months have been organised between DFCPR in Niger and ZSL.

The intervention of the project made it possible to improve the perception of local populations on conservation, because of the benefits drawn from the establishment of IGAs.

The project was designed to meet specific needs expressed by the government law enforcement agencies in Benin and Niger, who were extremely responsive and receptive to the project, solidifying an already good relationship between government and NGO conservation partners.

The successful engagement of law enforcement agencies for training and capacity development is a very positive outcome of the project and we believe this is an area that can be reinforced in future activities in the region. This would involve the provision of advanced Law Enforcement techniques, building on the BLET training so far administered. The training team is now familiar with the personnel and can assess the suitability of candidates for advanced training.

Similarly, the governments of Niger and Benin have shown willingness to increase the effectiveness of their storage and monitoring of seized products of the IWT and future efforts should also include training and support in improving the standards of care and treatment of seized live animals.

These activities are logical next steps based on the successful relationship developed between ZSL and government agencies, and address needs expressed by these agencies. Future grant proposals should concentrate on these activities where active engagement is possible and likely to be successful.

What didn't work well:

The resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and into 2021 was a major constraint in the implementation of the several activities of the project. This was unforeseen and delayed the completion of some activities in the second, third and final year, mainly due to the restriction in international travel. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic epidemic, many countries had restricted overseas travel, so trainings involving trainer travel were postponed causing a delay in implementation. A restriction on numbers able to be trained was also imposed and venues had to be sought which would allow smaller and more socially distanced groups to be accommodated.

The deteriorating security situation also made any attempt to engage directly with human intelligence sources impossible due to the risks involved of travelling and in making the necessary background verification required to implement such activities effectively and safely.

The ever-growing insecurity caused by the jihadists has been a major handicap in the protection activities of the W Niger park. Two large-scale attacks were carried out during year 2 of the project in the main camps in W Niger (Tapoa and Perelegou). This made it difficult to maintain the permanent presence of rangers on the site to ensure the protection of wildlife and the effectiveness of patrols and support in the field of ZSL staff for capacity building. This situation made it difficult to measure some outcome indicators.

The situation had not improved by the end of the project, and it is not likely that travel outside Niamey, the capital of Niger will be possible for ZSL staff in the near future. African Parks Network shares data on the prevalence and location of security alerts in the region with ZSL's Law Enforcement Advisor and Regional Lead for West and Central Africa and this is relayed where appropriate to ZSL Health and Safety staff. Monthly internal Security meetings are held by ZSL in-country, regional and London-based staff.

9.1 Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation challenges and solutions mentioned in previous annual reports generally remain unchanged, although the security situation in Niger and along the land borders of Benin is deteriorating. Travel to Niger is restricted to Niamey and government guidelines prevent movement outside of the capital. ZSL staff are

also severely restricted in their ability to travel around the north of Benin and field visits to Park W are not currently possible. This imposes restrictions on our ability to fully monitor activities and track progress, particularly with regard to long term changes in socio-economic status of communities. This will be continued under further grants.

Park authorities regularly report information to Yekini Chabi N'diaye, ZSL field manager through emails, video calls and WhatsApp messaging groups. Between 2 to 3 call per months have been organised between DFCPR in Niger and ZSL. In March 2021, DFCPR travelled to Kandi to realize 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 end-line survey in 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.

During training of law enforcement agents, before and after questionnaires were administered to gauge the effectiveness of the training. This was an informal process designed to assess the effectiveness of the training methods rather than a pass/fail test for participants.

9.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

As has been indicated in responses to previous Annual Reports, the successful implementation of the project has been severely threatened by a number of factors outside the influence of the implementing agencies. Namely, an escalation in the threat of Islamic State affiliated attacks in both Niger and the borders of Benin, and the disruption caused by a global COVID-19 pandemic. Although, as indicated in previous responses, the COVID pandemic did not impact Niger and Benin strongly in terms of numbers affected directly, Benin and Niger both instituted measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic which impacted directly on the ability of ZSL and partners to successfully complete activities. Travel bans and quarantine measures meant that for some periods, no activities were possible. It should be noted that although numbers are small, the risk is clear and real and that 2 ZSL international staff were infected with COVID while in Benin to carry out project activities, and that this necessitated a two and a half week imposed stay in quarantine conditions.

The IEC strategy document is included as Annex 12 as requested in feedback to Annual Report Y3. (Annex 12).

10. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The work done during the implementation of this project formed a part of the larger WAP landscape and the activities were designed to be complementary with work being implemented by APN, WAC and other NGOs such as Born Free and IFAW. The role played by the UK government was acknowledged wherever relevant at meetings and trainings.

Regular social media reports in the form of Tweets and postings are made by ZSL London using material provided by the ZSL team in Benin and other projects in Africa. Weekly bullet points are provided on progress and monthly highlights are provided. However, it should be noted that given the security situation and in light of the fact that

most collaborators in Benin and Niger are government law enforcement agents, the opportunity for direct social media reporting is limited.

Government authorities with whom ZSL collaborates are aware of the source of the IWT funding and are engaged actively in activity implementation. All proposals also pass-through appropriate channels and input is given.

Given that Benin and Niger are both Francophone countries of West Africa, there is limited scope for direct contact with UK Government institutions. There is no UK consulate in either Cotonou or Niamey and most institutions with which government officials engage directly are French, Belgian or American. The nearest regional office for UK relations is in Accra, Ghana.

11. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The global COVID-19 has continued to cause disruption to planned activities right until the end of the project. In August 2021 trainers were forced to quarantine in Cotonou for 2 weeks due to COVID infection during training and the programmed follow-on trip to Niger was delayed and completed in November 2021 through funds from INL. The latest development in December 2021 is that Benin authorities have cancelled all travel between the UK and Benin due to the recently emerged Omicron variant and we wait to see how that will affect ZSL's activities in the region after the completion of the IWT grant.

Delays to project activities have been caused by both changes in the landscape (new partnerships which have required rescheduling and coordination of activities), ongoing restrictions to movement both nationally and internationally as a result of Covid-19 and a number of security incidents have caused delays in project activities and to the submission and approval of a financial change request in February 2021, to extend the project implementation period until September 30th, 2021. Mostly, the activities that were impacted by Covid-19 were trainings, as both in Benin and Niger restricted travel between the countries for periods during the project implementation, and imposed restrictions on the number of participants able to attend. 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 for some periods during project implementation. 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. The pandemic necessitated the use of 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. In the future, the use of remote meetings will continue, but regular face-to-face meetings will still be required, perhaps less frequently than previously.

Throughout the last 20 months, ZSL has 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 approximately 300 masks and 40 disinfectant gel were donated across both countries. Any future activities requiring face-to-face meetings will be similarly supplied for the protection of participants until the threat of COVID has abated or the effects mitigated through other means.

All trainings and meetings have been conducted according to the guidelines put in place by the respective authorities and the internal recommendations of ZSL. This has included mandatory wearing of face masks during trainings and the provision of handwashing gels at all venues. As described above, however, this did not prevent 2 ZSL staff from contracting COVID during training in Cotonou and having to isolate there for 2 weeks.

All ZSL staff travelling to the region and country-based staff are encouraged to have COVID vaccinations, which are available in both Niger and Benin.

12. Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

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)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau, US State Department	
TOTAL	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau, US State Department	
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

The project provided capacity development and training for government agencies in Benin and Niger and supported the provision of equipment and patrolling. These activities are core activities that ZSL implements in other programs, notably in Cameroon, and so ZSL was able to rely on considerable expertise and experience to provide value for money, bespoke training, carried out by experienced and well-regarded partners such as Veterans for Wildlife. The ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor is a senior and experienced figure in the law enforcement sector and his input into training curricula and sourcing of suitable trainers provided excellent value for money solutions.

13. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the (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)

This project was always envisaged as a means of building capacity to combat IWT in a region facing multiple challenges. The needs to be met through implementation of this project were designed to address specific requests made by the governments of Benin and Niger. During the course of carrying out the activities, the relationship with local law enforcement agents and their superiors has prospered even beyond initial expectations. Participants in trainings set up their own support groups through social media channels such as WhatsApp and invited the international trainers to become members so as to assist further collaboration. This relationship will be the basis for building a strong local and regional network of relevant authorities and partners to effectively address IWT in Benin and Niger.

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert application logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>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)</p>			
<p>Outcome: A reduction in IWT in the WTBR through; strengthened wildlife protection, better use of intelligence and investigative tools to target those involved in wildlife crime, and increased support from communities. (Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1. Change in detection of poaching incidence by unit effort (distance covered by foot patrols) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9- 12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels (established by month 12) as surveillance system established and survey effort increases; • Declining over period (18 months to end of project period) by up to 30% from levels (established by month 18) as effective protection established and anticipated 	<p>SMART reports produced by W Niger SMART focal point, supported by ZSL SMART field officer, including data analysis on patrol effort and poaching. Wildlife market survey reports produced by ZSL market surveyors and including data on illicit wildlife products available, numbers of items and % of new items available on repeat visits. Police/gendarme reports, court proceedings related to case prosecutions, gathered by ZSL team through contacts within agencies, regional courts and collaborating</p>	<p>African Parks Network assumes management of W Benin and W Burkina Faso by 2019 as planned and effective surveillance and protection systems established. 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.</p>

	<p>deterrence of illegal activities.</p> <p>0.2. # of items of selected wildlife products available for sale (elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, vulture and pangolin) at local markets around W Niger, W Benin and key markets through Benin (baselines established by end month 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2; • Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period; <p>0.3. # of convictions/year relating to wildlife crime increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 12 month period) in Benin and Niger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2; • Increase by at least 50% by end of project period. <p>0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased support for efforts to address IWT (baselines established by end of month 12) by end of project period of at least 50%.</p>	<p>organizations (EAGLE), reviewed and collated by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor.</p> <p>0.4. Community members' perception survey results disaggregated to ensure representation of age, gender and ethnic groups and provided by the community technical lead.</p>	<p>Efforts to combat IWT through project activities do not lead to 'leakage' to other adjacent protected areas of the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Enabling Environment and investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.</p>	<p>1.1. A total of at least 24 enforcement agents in Benin and Niger trained in recruiting sources and managing human intelligence by ZSL Law Enforcement (LE) Advisor per year (72 in total at the end of the project).</p>	<p>1. Training reports produced by LE Advisor, including information on course contents, number of trainees and knowledge evaluation.</p> <p>2. TRAFFIC global database record summary produced under</p>	<p>Improved intelligence acquisition and dissemination relating to wildlife crime supports improved protection and Law Enforcement.</p> <p>Increased professionalization and</p>

	<p>1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 50/yr by end of project. <p>1.3. 60 frontline enforcement agents (including CAAT officers) trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including use of essential forensic crime scene management.</p> <p>1.4 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation and implementation of the decrees 	<p>existing MoU agreement between. ZSL and TRAFFIC overseen by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor.</p> <p>1.3. Court and local enforcement agency records of successful prosecutions attributed to those units/officers in receipt of training.</p> <p>1.3. Feedback regarding crime scene management and retrieval of forensic evidence from prosecution authorities and forensic partners.</p> <p>1.4 Minutes of working committee and workshop reports. Draft of implementation plan for decrees.</p>	<p>enhanced investigative skills lead to more successful prosecutions for wildlife crime offences.</p> <p>Better trained and supported Law Enforcement agencies, equipped with appropriate skills, knowledge and attributes, lead to increase in effective and just rule of law, augmenting quality of life for human and wildlife populations.</p> <p>Restrictions on gatherings and travel by the COVID 19 pandemic are lifted by August 2020 allow training to take place.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>2. Effective system for site based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.</p>	<p>1. At least 60 eco-guards (foresters and community scouts) and management staff in W Niger trained annually in patrolling skills, anti-poaching strategies and use of the SMART approach.</p> <p>2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels (assessed over 3 months to month 6) by end of project period. Aim for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 - 300 pd/m; • Year 2 - 400 pd/m; • Year 3 - 600 pd/m. <p>2.3. Proportion of W Niger being patrolled by foot increases by end of</p>	<p>1. SMART training records provided by SMART field officer.</p> <p>2. & 2.3. SMART reports produced by SMART field officer analysing patrol effort and coverage (based on dividing total park surface area into 5x5km² grid squares and estimating proportion of squares visited by patrols).</p> <p>2.4. SMART reports including patrol plans and targets linked to bonus payment records provided by SMART field officer.</p>	<p>Turnover of government staff does not deplete skillset within relevant trained teams.</p> <p>Security situation enables full support for project intervention.</p> <p>African Parks Network take over management of other parks in the WTBR as planned in 2019.</p> <p>Existing transboundary cooperation at wildlife division level continues to facilitate co-ordination and sharing of relevant information.</p>
	<p>project period to ensure at least 50% park coverage in preceding quarter: 20% coverage by end year 1, 40% coverage end year 2. Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months.</p> <p>2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through targeted performance scheme (e.g. distance patrolled, time spent on patrols, data collected correctly, etc.) increases over course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1.</p>		

<p>3. Improved understanding of the context for local communities with relation to IWT in the WTBR periphery zone, and information used to inform efforts to combat IWT and pilot or enhance incentive schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community surveys carried out in at least 8 communities in the Nigerian and Benin part of the WTBR by end of month 12, gathering information on basic socio- economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics. 2. Potential incentive options to enhance support for wildlife conservation and efforts to reduce IWT and promote economic resilience reviewed/evaluated and prioritised through a participatory process with communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 communities assessed by end month 15; • 8 communities by end of month 18. <p>3.3 # of community incentive</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community assessment reports provided by the community technical lead and including socio-economic data, IWT impact and baseline perspective metrics. 2. Incentive review reports provided by the community technical lead and assessing relevant options for communities to define a series of incentives interventions. 3. Incentive schemes evaluation report provided by the community technical lead including detailed information on community perspectives, and suitability for development. 	<p>Engaging communities ensures a stake in efforts to address IWT in and around the WAP.</p>
	<p>schemes piloted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21. • At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24. 		

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

- 1.1. Development of protocols, guidelines and risk mitigation plans for the managing of sources and intelligence.
 - 1.2. 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.
 - 1.3. Ongoing collection of information on cases and prosecutions via trusted contacts in police/judiciary, collated and reviewed by Law Enforcement Advisor.
 - 1.4. Training and mentoring in basic recruitment and management of human sources and intelligence to law enforcement agents (2 training sessions per year, with 2 sessions of refresher training/mentoring activities in the field). Knowledge assessments carried out before and after to evaluate success.
 - 1.5. Assistance and guidance in the establishment of a transparent and auditable human source and intelligence management structure.
 - 1.6. 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).
 - 1.7. Annual record summary report produced.
 - 1.8 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.
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- 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. raining 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).
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- 3.1. Identification of potential partner communities in W Niger, and W Benin periphery, building on existing relationships with Niger communities and AVIGREF, prioritising those communities most affected/implicated in IWT and free prior informed consent obtained for participation.
 - 3.2. Baseline surveys carried out on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions to issues around IWT including development and application of 'support metrics'.
 - 3.3. Community needs assessment carried out in target communities through a participatory process, gathering information on socio-economic status, natural resource use, market gardening, cattle management and grazing, relationship with protected areas and Law Enforcement.
 - 3.4. Consultation on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods and evaluating any existing initiatives.
 - 3.5. Based on these consultations pilot or support existing incentive schemes linked to that can reduce community vulnerability to IWT and support efforts to reduce e.g. benefits from community centred wildlife monitoring/Law Enforcement, training in sustainable livelihood options, supporting valorisation of market gardening, shea butter/honey production, etc.

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

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>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.</p>		<p>The project has improved the safety of people and wildlife in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape despite the degrading security situation on the W Burkina Faso side which has also affected W Niger, and the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The technical and operational capacities of the rangers have been strengthened to combat poaching and effectively enforce the law.</p> <p>Capacity building for border police, customs and foresters will help fight illegal wildlife trade in the long term.</p> <p>Support for improving the living conditions of communities around W park will help reduce their heavy dependence on the park's natural resources and increase their involvement in the fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trade.</p> <p>Due to the border closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the feedback from law enforcement officers on the results of the seizures, the arrests were not effective, however the project activities put in place as described below will have their major impact.</p>

<p>Outcome A reduction in IWT in the WTBR through; strengthened wildlife protection, better use of intelligence and investigative tools to target those involved in wildlife crime, and increased support from communities.</p>	<p>0.1. Change in detection of poaching incidence by unit effort (distance covered by foot patrols) in W Niger (baselines established in month 9-12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing over period (12-18 months) by up to 50% relative to baseline levels (established by month 12) as surveillance system established and survey effort increases; • Declining over period (18 months to end of project period) by up to 30% from levels (established by month 18) as effective protection established and anticipated deterrence of illegal activities. <p>0.2. # of items of selected wildlife products available for sale (elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, vulture and pangolin) at local markets around W Niger, W Benin and key markets through Benin (baselines established by end month 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease by up to 20% by end of year 2; • Decrease by up to 40% by end of project period; <p>0.3. # of convictions/year relating to wildlife crime increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 12 month period) in Benin and Niger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase by at least 25% by end of year 2; • Increase by at least 50% by end of project period. <p>0.4. Community members at sites of project intervention report increased support for efforts to address IWT (baselines established by end of month 12) by end of project period of at least 50%.</p>	<p>0.1. Evolution of the detection of the incidence of poaching per unit of effort (10Km of foot patrol) decreased from 0.48 to 0.10 arrests between 2019 and 2020 in W Niger.</p> <p>In month 18, the security situation made it impossible to measure the indicators.</p> <p>0.2. At the end of month 10, the proportion of targeted wildlife products (Lion, Leopard and cheetah) available in the markets of Benin and Niger was 67.3%, 4.1% and very insignificant respectively for the lion, leopard and cheetah in the markets of Benin, and 48.5%, 1.5% and very insignificant respectively for the same species in the markets of Niger.</p> <p>Data analyses at the end of the project will allow the trend to be assessed. The results of these investigations will be discussed with law enforcement officials in two countries for enforcement action. Relevant data will be shared with INTERPOL and other existing networks by the ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor, as appropriate.</p> <p>0.3. Two convictions were obtained in 2019 (Out of eight decisions rendered from 2018 to 2019).</p> <p>0.4 The communities' perception of efforts to fight against IWT established in month 18 rose from 73% to 87% for Benin and from 87% to 93% favourable opinions for Niger at the end of the project.</p>
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<p>Output 1. Intelligence gathering network established and operational, investigative capacity enhanced to tackle wildlife crime affecting the WTBR.</p>	<p>1.1. A total of at least 24 enforcement agents in Benin and Niger trained in recruiting sources and managing human intelligence by ZSL Law Enforcement (LE) Advisor per year (72 in total at the end of the project).</p> <p>1.2. # Intelligence reports passed to ZSL LE Advisor (from mentored agents or other local information sources), assessed by LE Advisor and stored on secure TRAFFIC global database and/or shared with INTERPOL and/or other relevant agencies per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 50/yr by end of project. <p>1.3. 60 frontline enforcement agents (including CAAT officers) trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including use of essential forensic crime scene management.</p> <p>1.4 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation and implementation of the decrees 	<p>1.1 In 2018 15 law enforcement officers were trained in source recruitment and human intelligence management by ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor (LE) Advisor. That number rose to 72 in 2019 and 33 in 2021, for a total of 120 law enforcement officers trained at the end of the project.</p> <p>1.3 By the end of the project 64 frontline enforcement agents (including 6 CAAT officers) were trained by ZSL LE Advisor in core policing skills through Basic Law Enforcement Training, including use of essential forensic crime scene management.</p> <p>Law 98-07 of April 29, 1998, governing hunting and wildlife protection has been revised. The draft CITES decree for law 2019-47 of October 24, 2019, has been submitted for adoption by the National Assembly of Niger.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1 Development of protocols, guidelines, and risk mitigation plans for the managing of sources and intelligence.</p>		<p>Not completed due to security issues</p>
<p>Activity 1.2. Training and mentoring in basic recruitment and management of human sources and intelligence to law enforcement agents (2 training sessions per year, with 2 sessions of refresher training/mentoring activities in the field). Knowledge assessments carried out before and after to evaluate success.</p>		<p>In July 2018, March, and November 2019 then in August 2021, ZSL had organized training sessions for law enforcement officers, in BLET and LEAP as described in activity 1.6. These sessions included a specific module on the process of collecting information, identifying gaps in intelligence management and being able to identify sources of human intelligence (HIS) and secret sources (CHIS). At each training session, knowledge assessments carried out before and after the training to assess success. 100% completed</p>

<p>Activity 1.3. Assistance and guidance in the establishment of a transparent and auditable human source and intelligence management structure.</p>	<p>Not completed due to security issues</p>
<p>Activity 1.4. Establishment of protocol and framework for storing, evaluating, and disseminating criminal intelligence for enforcement action, linked to TRAFFIC global database (under ZSL's existing MoU with TRAFFIC).</p>	<p>In 2018, ZSL set up a protocol to conduct surveys on the markets of Benin and Niger based on the TRAFIC protocol to identify and quantify the products and by-products of wildlife species to facilitate the actions of fight against wildlife crime. Two investigators were recruited for each country and trained in MIST (Market Investigation Survey Training) by the CWB consultant. This protocol was used for the investigations carried out in 62 markets located around the W Regional Park from December 2018 to April 2019 for the first phase and in 2021 for the second phase. The results of these surveys will be discussed with the highest-level law enforcement authorities in two countries during the regional meeting to be organized in May 2022. Relevant data will be shared with INTERPOL and other existing networks by the ZSL Law Enforcement Advisor, as applicable. 50% Will be completed in 2022.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5. Annual record summary report produced.</p>	<p>Annual report will be produced when all data has been collated during 2022.</p>
<p>Activity 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.</p>	<p>CWB and ZSL Law Enforcement TA delivered four proactive law enforcement training sessions in July 2018, March and November 2019, and then in August 2021, including BLET and LEAP.</p> <p>The first level of training (Basic Law Enforcement Training) saw the participation of law enforcement officers, in particular water and forestry officers, customs officers and the police in both countries. This Level 1 course provides the basic skills necessary to understand the information gathering process, identify gaps in intelligence management, and be able to identify sources of human intelligence.</p> <p>The second level of proactive law enforcement training (also known as level 2 policing skills) allows participants to appreciate and understand some rudimentary policing skills, designed to improve evidence gathering and policing. intelligence, operational planning, and proactive investigative skills, leading to the acquisition of sufficient levels of evidence to initiate prosecutions. 100% completed</p>

<p>Activity 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</p>	<p>ZSL supported the DFCPR to organize a workshop for initiate the preparation of the draft CITES decree for Law 2019-47 of October 24, 2019, repressing offenses relating to international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora in Niger and the revision of Law 98-07 of April 29, 1998, on the hunting and wildlife protection regime.</p> <p>A workshop was held by the DFC/PR with the support of ZSL team to amend the two projects in July 2021. Both bills have been submitted to the National Assembly for adoption. 100% completed.</p>
<p>Output 2. Effective system for site-based protection and surveillance in W Niger established utilising the SMART approach.</p>	<p>2.1. At least 60 eco-guards (foresters and community scouts) and management staff in W Niger trained annually in patrolling skills, anti-poaching strategies and use of the SMART approach.</p> <p>2.2. # of eco-guard foot patrol days per month (pd/m) in the park increases from baseline levels (assessed over 3 months to month 6) by end of project period. Aim for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 - 300 pd/m; • Year 2 - 400 pd/m; • Year 3 - 600 pd/m. <p>2.3. Proportion of W Niger being patrolled by foot increases by end of project period to ensure at least 50% park coverage in preceding quarter: 20% coverage by end year 1, 40% coverage end year 2. Baseline coverage to be established over first 9 months.</p> <p>2.4. # of performance related bonuses secured by eco-guards through target-led performance scheme (e.g. distance patrolled, time spent on patrols, data collected correctly, etc.) increases over course of project. Bonus scheme established by end year 1.</p>
<p>2.1. In 2018, 26 eco-guards and 9 management staff were trained in patrol techniques and the use of the SMART approach for data collection, analysis and reporting. In 2019, 14 eco-guards and 4 managers were trained on the same skills.</p> <p>2.2. The man-day patrol effort carried out during the project period is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1: 1405 man-day • Year 2: 446 man-day • Year 3: 205 man-day <p>2.3. The proportion of coverage of W Niger by foot patrols in year one of the project was estimated at 15%. This proportion rose to 35% in year one + 6 months and to 60% at the end of the project.</p> <p>2.4. The bonus linked to the performance obtained by the eco-guards involves the daily participation of each eco-guards in the patrols. The number of bonuses during the project period evolved as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3556 bonuses in 2018 • 1764 bonuses in 2019 • 3584 bonuses in 2020 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 759 bonuses in 2021 (from January to March)
<p>Activity 2.1. Site based surveillance and protection review and needs assessment produced for W Niger National Park.</p>	<p>A priority intervention plan (PIP) for W Niger, focused on security, surveillance, and the integration of local actors in governance in order to ensure the socio-economic development of peripheral areas was implemented on the model of that produced by African Parks Network (APN) in W Benin after a needs assessment. ZSL's involvement in the implementation of this PIP resulted in the signing of a grant contract between ZSL and WAC to support the training needs of 25 eco-guards, site-based surveillance, protection, and coordination of operations with other defence and security forces for the year 3 of the project. 100% completed.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2. Design operationalization plan to include training, resourcing, and implementation for W Niger.</p>	<p>ZSL built a first phase of support for the W-Niger Park as a pilot project, targeting a strategic area, securing it in a concrete and regular manner while controlling costs as much as possible, to make this model replicable, efficient, and efficient. sustainable throughout the park.</p> <p>In 2019, the ZSL technical team provided the surveillance teams and the management of the W-Niger Park with field equipment and then provided regular training to the rangers and the management team of the W-Niger Park.</p> <p>A regular monitoring system has been put in place jointly by the Nigerien authorities and the ZSL (use of SMART, monthly meetings with the Park Manager, monthly ZSL reports sent to the national authorities and the Park Manager). Communication has steadily improved between partners during this period. 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 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).</p>	<p>Training sessions were organized in 2018 and 2019 by ZSL for 14 rangers from Parc W Niger. Ongoing patrols and ecological monitoring were combined with training on the use of SMART / CyberTracker tools for data collection. This laid the groundwork for the large mammal survey and general anti-poaching activities.</p> <p>During year one and early year 2, the ZSL field manager provided daily SMART data management support to the field team in W Niger to inform program design support and W Niger staff began to increasingly use the reports generated by SMART to inform strategic decisions on the deployment of patrols. 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 2.4. Ongoing support for patrols in W Niger through integration of project team in patrols, providing mentoring and on-the-job training.</p>	<p>To maintain the efficiency of the patrol operations, the rangers of W Niger benefited from the daily support of the ZSL field manager from 2018 to</p>

	<p>2019. This support allows to ensure the quality of the data collected during the patrols, analysis, and reporting.</p> <p>Monthly surveillance patrols were funded in W Niger with support from the IWT project. Following the deterioration of the security situation in W Niger, ZSL did not maintain the presence of its field manager on the site. This did not allow day-to-day support for the eco-guards. 60% completed</p>
<p>Activity 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.</p>	<p>During year one of the project, two SMART training sessions were organized on SMART data collection for 14 data collectors (rangers) and the second training in patrol analysis and reporting for 3 park managers. For each training, an assessment of the level of knowledge was carried out. Site-based ZSL Field Manager's day-to-day support helps assess progress for collectors and database managers. Based on the analysed patrol data and the patrol reports produced, the progress of staff's level of knowledge and understanding of the SMART process was assessed and identified gaps for the need for further training. 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 2.6. SMART reports being generated and being used to inform management decisions on protection and surveillance.</p>	<p>In 2018, Technical Advisor ZSL developed a standard patrol report template in SMART to be generated monthly to guide fleet management decisions and for evidence-based strategic planning of future missions. This system put in place made it possible to respond to the adaptive management cycle of the wildlife and human activities monitoring program.</p> <p>This SMART approach in W Niger has also been useful for evaluating the efforts of the patrols (evaluation of the performance of the guards), evaluating the efficiency of the management, improving the coordination of the patrols, motivating the eco-guards, reducing errors due to the data entry and develop a database to track spatiotemporal trends in populations of large mammals. Following the temporary suspension of patrols in W Niger following the deterioration of the security situation, reports were not generated. 70% completed</p>
<p>Activity 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).</p>	<p>In August 2018, based on discussions with the management of the W Niger park, a performance bonus system for eco-guards was set up to motivate their work based on the criterion of participation in patrols. A bonus of 5,000 FCFA is allocated to each eco-guard per day of patrol. In addition, a patrol team could benefit from an amount of 5,000 FCFA per patrol day if the SMART data collected is of good quality.100% completed</p>
<p>Output 3. Improved understanding of the context for local communities with relation</p>	<p>3.1. Community surveys carried out in at least 8 communities in the Nigerien and Benin part of the WTBR by end of month 12, gathering information on</p>
<p>3.1. Information on basic socio-economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics was collected in 9 communities around the WTBR in Benin and Niger in February 2020.</p>	

<p>to IWT in the WTBR periphery zone, and information used to inform efforts to combat IWT and pilot or enhance incentive schemes linked to reducing the impact of IWT.</p>	<p>basic socio-economic indicators, IWT issues and establishing baseline metrics.</p> <p>3.2. Potential incentive options to enhance support for wildlife conservation and efforts to reduce IWT and promote economic resilience reviewed/evaluated and prioritised through a participatory process with communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 communities assessed by end month 15; • 8 communities by end of month 18. <p>3.3 # of community incentive schemes piloted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least a total of 4 schemes underway by end month 21. • At least a total of 8 schemes by end of month 24. 	<p>3.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 communities were followed in year 2 until the end of the project. <p>3.3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 3 schemes were put in place in year 2 until the end of the project. 37.5 % completed.
<p>Activity 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.</p>		<p>In February 2020, ZSL in collaboration with the park manager of W Benin and the NGO AVIGREF on the Benin side and with the NGO COGEZOH (Contribution to the Management of Wetlands in Niger) for the Niger side had carried out the identification communities most affected by park activities in both countries. Groups from the four villages (Nipouni and Kandèrou Yabadou in Benin and Tondey and Goungou Makoni) were selected as partners for the actions of the IWT project, following a participatory approach based on the CLIP (Free, Prior Informed Consent). 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Baseline surveys carried out on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions to issues around IWT including development and application of ‘support metrics.</p>		<p>In year two of the project (2020), a baseline survey was conducted among households in villages living on the outskirts of Parc W in Benin and Niger. In total, 130 people belonging to 51 women's groups in 4 villages in Benin and 241 people belonging to six groups in five villages in Niger participated in the survey.</p> <p>This survey provided data on the socio-economic situation of the target groups, their perception of the IWT and their economic dependence on the resources of the W park and led to the participatory identification of the activities to be developed by the target groups to improve income. 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 3.3 Community needs assessment carried out in target communities through a participatory process, gathering information on socio-economic status, natural resource</p>		<p>The analysis of the results of the basic socio-economic surveys (individual surveys and focus group) carried out in 2020 have allow to identify the Income Generating Activities (IGA) to be implemented in the selected</p>

<p>use, market gardening, cattle management and grazing, relationship with protected areas and Law Enforcement.</p>	<p>villages bordering the W park (Benin and Niger). In Niger, the villages of Goungou Makoni and Tondey were selected for the production and exploitation of Moringa leaves, while in Benin, the villages of Nipouni and Kanderou were selected respectively to produce soap and market garden products. 100% completed</p>
<p>3.4 Consultation on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods and evaluating any existing initiatives.</p>	<p>Through a participatory approach based on individual or focus group discussions, consultation meetings with the target groups of the four selected villages were organized in 20120 to identify empowerment and community development initiatives that can contribute to the fight against wildlife crime. A consultant was recruited to lead the community consultation process. 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 3.5 Based on these consultations pilot or support existing incentive schemes linked to that can reduce community vulnerability to IWT and support efforts to reduce e.g., benefits from community centred wildlife monitoring/Law Enforcement, training in sustainable livelihood options, supporting valorisation of market gardening, shea butter/honey production, etc.</p>	<p>From May 2020 to March 2021, 92 people (32 in Benin and 60 in Niger) formed into groups for 4 villages benefited from the support of the IWT project for the establishment of IGAs.</p> <p>Significant support was given to these village groups for the establishment of IGAs identified by themselves: Moringa cultivation in Niger and soap production and market gardening in Benin with the support of the ZSL Consultant and the Field Manager for the success of the actions undertaken. Training sessions, particularly in entrepreneurship, financial management and Moringa culture were organized for these beneficiary groups.</p> <p>These target groups have also been actively involved in raising awareness about the fight against illegal trade in live wild animals and / or their by-products. 100% completed</p>
<p>Activity 3.6 Incentive schemes assessed, and report written up and made available with end of project social surveys to include plan sustaining successful initiatives.</p>	<p>In July 2021, ZSL carried out socio-economic surveys among the communities of the villages around the W park which benefited from the support of the IWT project. These surveys aimed to assess the socio-economic impact of Income Generating Activities (IGA) implemented between May 2020 and April 2021 by ZSL in the villages of Nipouni and Kandèrou Yabadou in Benin and Tondey and Goungou Makoni in Niger. A total of 122 people were interviewed.</p> <p>Overall, with the intervention of the actions of the project in favour of the communities, the perception of the respondents on the conservation of the resources in the park rose from 73% to 87% for Benin and from 87% to 93% of favourable opinions for the Niger. And 73% of beneficiaries in Benin against 39% in Niger estimated that ZSL's interventions have a positive</p>

	impact that they feel less dependent on the resources of the W park. 100% completed.
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Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1: Project reporting against IWT Challenge Fund Standard Measures

Project Ref and Title: IWT 055 Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.					
Code	Description	Total	Nationality (if relevant)	Gender (if relevant)	Title or Focus (if relevant)
Sustainable livelihoods and economic development measures					
1A	Number of individuals who received training in sustainable livelihood skills	32	Benin	30 Women 2 Men	Entrepreneurship and financial management of associations
1B	Number of households who received training in sustainable livelihood skills				
1C	Number of individuals benefitting from training (i.e. broader HH of individual directly trained)				
1D	Number of training weeks provided	32	Benin	30 Women 2 Men Student	Information, education and communication campaign on wildlife and environmental protection (IEC)
2A	Number of cooperatives established				
2B	% cooperatives established that are functioning at project end (at least a year after establishment)				
3A	Number of credit and savings groups established				
3B	Number of loans provided to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)				
3C	Total value (£) of loans provided				
4A	Number of sustainable livelihoods enterprises established				
4B	Number of existing enterprises receiving capacity building support				
5A	Number of households that have experienced an increase in household income as a result of involvement	92	32 in Benin 60 in Niger	90 women 2 men	
5B	Average percentage increase per household against baseline				
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training				

Project Ref and Title: IWT 055 Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.

Code	Description	Total	Nationality (if relevant)	Gender (if relevant)	Title or Focus (if relevant)
6B	Number of training weeks provided				
7	Number of (i.e., different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country				
Law enforcement and legal framework measures					
8	Number of illegal wildlife trade management plans, action plans, or strategies produced for use by Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country				
9	Number of field guides/manuals produced to assist work related to IWT product identification, classification and recording	1			IEC Strategy on Illegal Wildlife Trade in WAP.
10A	Number of customs officials trained	26	Benin Niger	25 Men 1 Woman	BLET LEAP
10B	Number of prosecutors/judges trained	2	Niger	Man	BLET LEAP
10C	Number of police officers trained	26	Benin Niger	25 Men 1 Women	BLET LEAP
10D	Number of trainers trained				
10E	Number of individuals who attended refresher training				
10F	Number of other specialist services trained (Forestry).	58 14	Benin Niger Niger	55 Men 3 Women, Men	BLET LEAP SMART
11A	Number of criminal networks/trade routes mapped/identified				
11B	Number of illegal wildlife shipments detected				
12	Duration or frequency of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project	167 patrols	Niger		
13A	Number of arrests (linked to wildlife crime) facilitated by the project	12	Niger	Men	During patrol

Project Ref and Title: IWT 055 Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.

Code	Description	Total	Nationality (if relevant)	Gender (if relevant)	Title or Focus (if relevant)
13B	Value of illegal wildlife products seized through law enforcement action facilitated by the project				
13C	Number of wildlife crime cases submitted for prosecution				
13D	Number of individuals charged for wildlife crime				
13E	Number of individuals successfully prosecuted for wildlife crime cases, charges brought for wildlife crime offences using non-wildlife crime specific legislation – e.g. money laundering	2	Niger	Men	Conviction for killing lions
13F	Number of actioned cases handed to/received from another agency				
14	Value of assets seized through money laundering or proceeds of crime legislation				
15A	Number of intelligence reports fed into management decisions on species protection				
15B	Number of intelligence or information reports exchanged with INTERPOL or the World Customs Organization				
15C	Number of amendments to national laws and regulations in project countries				
16A	Number of databases established in project countries				
16B	Number of databases established that are operational in project countries				
16C	Number of databases established that are used for law enforcement				
17A	Number of people who received other forms of education/training (which does not fall into the above category)				
17B	Number of training weeks provided				

Behaviour change for demand reduction measures

Project Ref and Title: IWT 055 Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.

Code	Description	Total	Nationality (if relevant)	Gender (if relevant)	Title or Focus (if relevant)
18A	Number of individuals surveyed on relevant IWT behaviour pre-intervention (baseline)				
18B	Number of individuals surveyed on relevant IWT behaviour post-intervention				
18C	Number and type of IWT behaviour change materials produced / Number and type of IWT behaviour change materials distributed				
18D	Number of communication channels carrying campaign message				
18E	Number of champions/key influencers speaking on behalf of the demand reduction campaign				
18F	Number of appropriate partners with direct influence on target audience that have distributed campaign message(s)				
18G	Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging (i.e. audience)				
19	Number of individuals that have had their relevant IWT behaviour changed				
20	Number of stakeholders/key influencers that have actively discouraged the purchase/use of IWT products e.g. pledges signed				
Cross cutting measures					
21A	Number of papers published in peer reviewed journals				
21B	Number of papers submitted to peer reviewed journals				
21C	Number of other publications produced				
22A	Amount of match funding secured (£) for delivery of project during the period of the IWT Challenge Fund grant <i>(please note that the figure provided here should align with financial information provided in section 12.2)</i>				

Project Ref and Title: IWT 055 Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.

Code	Description	Total	Nationality (if relevant)	Gender (if relevant)	Title or Focus (if relevant)
22B	Funding leveraged (£) for work after the IWT Challenge Fund grant ends <i>(please note that the figure provided here should align with financial information provided in section 11.2)</i>				
23	Estimated value (£) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)				
24A	Number of Bachelor qualifications (BSc) obtained				
24B	Number of Masters qualifications (MSc/MPhil etc) obtained				
24C	Number of other qualifications obtained				
25A	Number of undergraduate students who received training				
25B	Number of training weeks provided				
25C	Number of postgraduate students who received training				
25D	Number of training weeks proved provided				
26A	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings				
26B	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which findings from IWT project work will be presented/ disseminated				
26C	Number of individual media articles featuring the project				

Publications

Table 2: Details of project publications

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Nationality of lead author	Nationality of institution of lead author	Gender of lead author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. web link, contact address etc)

Pamphlet	LOI 2021-04 du 08 Juillet 2021 portant protection et règles relatives au commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction en République du Benin	Beninois	Beninois	Male	Cotonou, Benin	
Report	Strategie IEC pour la lutte contre le commerce illegal et la chasse illegale de la faune. Périphérie des parcs Parc W Benin et Niger et leurs zones d'influence. Author : Laurie ALAPINI	Beninoise	Beninoise	Female	Unpublished	
Report	ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE: An analysis of carnivore products found in markets in Benin and Niger	Redacted (for reasons of security)	Redacted	Redacted	Unpublished	

Annex 4 IWT Contacts

Ref No	IWT 055
Project Title	Combatting illegal wildlife trade in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) landscape.
Project Leader Details	
Name	Katherine Secoy
Role within IWT Project	Provides overall management support to project.
Address	
Phone	
Fax/Skype	
Email	
Partner 1	
Name	Thomas Rabeil, Executive Director
Organisation	WILD AFRICA CONSERVATION (WAC)
Role within IWT Project	
Address	
Fax/Skype	
Email	
Partner 2 etc.	
Name	
Organisation	
Role within IWT Project	
Address	
Fax/Skype	
Email	

Annex 5 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?	
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.	X
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.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	