



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	IWT057
Project title	Building capacity to reduce illegal trade of shark products in Indonesia.
Country(ies)	Indonesia
Lead organisation	Cefas
Partners(s)	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Rekam Jejak Alam Nusantara Foundation (Rekam), University of Salford
Project leader	Joanna Murray
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2021 HYRP4
Project website/blog/social media	<i>Social media</i> – @Joanna M Murray , @cefasgovuk <i>Blog</i> - https://marinescience.blog.gov.uk/

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

The following report covers progress on activities between April – September 2021. A traffic light system indicates where the activity is complete (green), ongoing (orange) or yet to be started (red).

2.8 *Monthly submission of seizure records collated and analysed by MMAF, WCS and Cefas*
Currently, we have access to monthly recommendation letter/permit issuance from B/LPSPL and MMAF regarding wildlife trade/export. Initial analysis shows that it can be used to monitor the implementation of CITES requirements and the percentage of rejected recommendation letter/permit request can be compared with the number of issued permit. Further development of data analysis methods and outputs will be discussed with MMAF.

2.9 *Academic paper drafted by Ph.D student on dual identification of elasmobranch products*
The first peer-reviewed paper from this Ph.D (“Shark and ray trade in and out of Indonesia: “Addressing knowledge gaps on the path to sustainability”) has now been published in [Marine Policy](#). The second chapter (Lab in the field) and third chapter (Bolstering shark and ray trade monitoring through environmental DNA) of the Ph.D will be produced by December 2021.

2.10 *MMAF deliver advanced training programme to remaining four BPSPL offices.*

Training of BPSPL, quarantine, and law enforcement staff on the identification of wedgefish and giant-guitar fish, as well as shark and ray carcasses is planned for a hybrid workshop (a combined online and in-person training) in October 2021. Workshop planning took place between August and September 2021 in online meetings between DG-PRL (MMAF), Rekam, and representatives from BPPSL/LPSPL to discuss training preparation, training materials, as well as the development process of the carcass ID video.

2.11 *Cefas follow up visitation to assess implementation of improved customs procedure.*

This visitation delayed until 2022 due to international travel restrictions.

3.2 *Provide law enforcement agencies with evidence and support to conduct investigations and arrests of illegal traders of elasmobranch products.*

In early 2021, WCS continued to support law enforcement agencies in gathering information regarding the illegal trade in elasmobranch products. The intelligence data was collected by observers from 12 Facebook groups and 19 individual accounts that advertised protected marine species. In March 2021, LPSPL Serang collaborated with quarantine and marine surveillance agencies to seize 374.5 kg of illegal shark products. The products consisted of 5 protected and CITES-listed species (including silky sharks, hammerheads, wedgefish, giant guitarfish, and protected freshwater rays). This case is currently in progress. In May 2021, BPSPL Denpasar seized one sawfish rostrum from a restaurant in Bali. The response unit of BPSPL Denpasar, with coordination with the PSDKP-MMAF then followed-up reports and seized the rostrum from the owner. Following the change of project partner, Rekam is still discussing the continuation of WCS investigation work previously led by WCS, under the Rekam Foundations recently developed Natural Resource Crime Unit (NRCU).

3.3 *Publicise Indonesia's response to marine wildlife crime by publishing cases in national and international media.*

Over the last six months there were at least 16 publications on Indonesia's response to wildlife crime, with at least 6 articles related with illegal wildlife trade (turtle and shark).

3.4 *Collect, collate and analyse intelligence and law enforcement data, and use for monitoring and informing enforcement action*

Together with partners, NGOs, Marine Police, DKP at district level, and marine law enforcement agencies, WCS continued marine patrol in two provinces, East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara. Previously in East Nusa Tenggara, WCS has facilitated marine patrol activities for a total of 68 patrol days. Meanwhile, in West Nusa Tenggara, WCS facilitated 19 patrol days. Two cases have been handled: one suspect was apprehended for blast fishing, and four boats suspected of destructive fishing (found with explosives) were confiscated.

4.2 *At the end of Y3, three key members from MMAF have visited Cefas and DEFRA in the UK to shadow scientific advisors and policy makers on the interpretation of scientific evidence into policy and knowledge sharing*

Delayed visitation in planning stage for mid-March 2022, travel restrictions permitting.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

There are no significant problems or unexpected developments in project implementation during the last 6 months.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Travel restrictions continue to be the limiting factor in progressing project implementation as planned although having officers in the field has meant that some aspects of the project have continued (e.g. investigations and arrests of illegal traders). Training of visual ID methods for implementing staff have been planned although in-person training is more favourable to trainers and participants given the physical nature of shark and ray product inspections.

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

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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

Yes No Estimated underspend:

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

We will be submitting a change request form in the next week for the extension of the projects end date. However, plans for one of the key remaining activities (4.2) have been initiated in the last few days and will take place this FY (due to easing travel restrictions and Indonesia being removed from the UK's red list). Detailed reforecasting is underway and will be provided in detail in the change request form.

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

None

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

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

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