



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

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), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), University of Salford (UoS)
Project leader	Joanna Murray
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	30/10/2020, (HYR3)
Project website/blog/social media	<i>Social media</i> – @cefagovuk <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 identified in the updated (through a formal change request – June 2020) project implementation timetable between April – September 2020. 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*

Pilot data were collected between January-February 2020 from five of the six BPSPL offices across Indonesia. Around 2,000 records were gathered, and 2.5 tonnes of products inspected then sub-sampled into 1 tonne. These inspections found five records (15.7 kg) of restricted products. Over the last six-months a zero-inflated model was run to examine the probability of finding restricted products. However, the analyses failed to provide meaningful insight. The next steps will involve conducting dual testing to measure the detection level and determine the confidence intervals surrounding detection across BPSPL staff. These data could examine the risk level across BPSPL offices and help inform on suitable capacity building.

2.9 *Academic paper drafted by Ph.D. student on dual identification of elasmobranch products*

The first paper output from this Ph.D. (“*Disentangling the shark and ray trade in Indonesia to reconcile conservation with food security*”) is in the final stages of co-author comments prior to submission to the Marine Policy journal. Work towards this second paper is underway incorporating many of the samples and data collected during the field visit in January 2020. However, there have been subsequent delays in processing of these samples due to Covid-19 closing the laboratory. The laboratory is now back open, and the processing is underway.

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic hampering travel and classroom delivery of training, the advanced training to the remaining four BPSPL offices has been postponed until 2021. However, additional support and resources available in 2021 will mean that the future training will also aim to increase MMAF staff skills in new CITES-listed species identification, specifically Wedgefish and giant guitarfish, and advanced training in the identification of shark trunks. In preparation for future training, MMAF staff and WCS have been helping experts to develop Wedgefish and shark trunk identification guides. This has started with the collection of photographs from exporter facilities, with two online meetings being held to review and gather inputs from MMAF staff (verifiers) for identification guidebooks. The latest of these online meetings was held on 7 October 2020 involving 11 people from six MMAF's Marine and Coastal Resources Management Unit. The next step is the final review of the guidebook by performing field test at exporter facilities with MMAF staff (scheduled for November 2020).

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

This visitation has been delayed until 2021 due to Covid-19 hampering international travel.

3.1 *WCS to conduct training of customs officers in species identification protocols for at least four major exit ports.*

This deliverable, building upon the first training event (September 2019), has been delayed until 2021 due to Covid-19 hampering travel and in-person training of customs officers.

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

Work on this activity has been making good progress through the project life, with an established observer network gathering information on the illegal trade of elasmobranch products. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, field activities have been limited. Efforts have been redirected to focus on data collection online. Thus far, four accounts have been identified advertising shark fins on Facebook. This finding further confirmed initial findings on the trade network of the shark and ray commodities that include Nusa Tenggara, Surabaya, Maluku, and Sulawesi.

In response to the annual report reviewers' comment to "Review indicator 3.2 to ensure that it is achievable within the timeframe of the project" whereby the indicator reads: "By the end of Y3, at least 30 cases of illegal trade in CITES-listed shark and ray species have been investigated, with at least 10 of those effectively being brought to judicial trial" this has been taken onboard and especially in light of Covid-19 related delays to monitoring and enforcement in country this may be subsequently revised. However, the track history of the Indonesian government with 29 legal cases against illegal elasmobranch traders since April 2014, leading to 19 successful prosecutions is a strong foundation from which this work builds upon.

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

Over the last six months, 11 articles have been produced on activities in Lamakera. Three of these related to destruction of ray gills as evidenced from previous IWT cases and seven articles regarding law enforcement against destructive fishing activities in Sumbawa.

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

During the last six-months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, information regarding shark and ray trade has been restricted to being gathered from online. This approach has its limitations where it is almost impossible to confirm whether the traded species are those that are protected under Indonesian regulation and law. The *modus operandi* in illegal activities related to shark and ray trade was not only restricted to the trade of protected species such as whale shark, sawfish, and manta ray (protected under Indonesian regulation and law), but also included deception of

exported goods' weight, and trade of species that are banned for export (under Indonesian regulation) such as oceanic white-tip and mobula ray. However, work is continuing surrounding communication with government officers including the MoEF and customs to provide updates and support the establishment of risk assessments against illegal wildlife trade in seaports.

Between April – September 2020, WCS supported DKP and marine police to conduct 38 patrol days in the East Nusa Tenggara province. The intensity of the patrols can be seen in Figure 1.

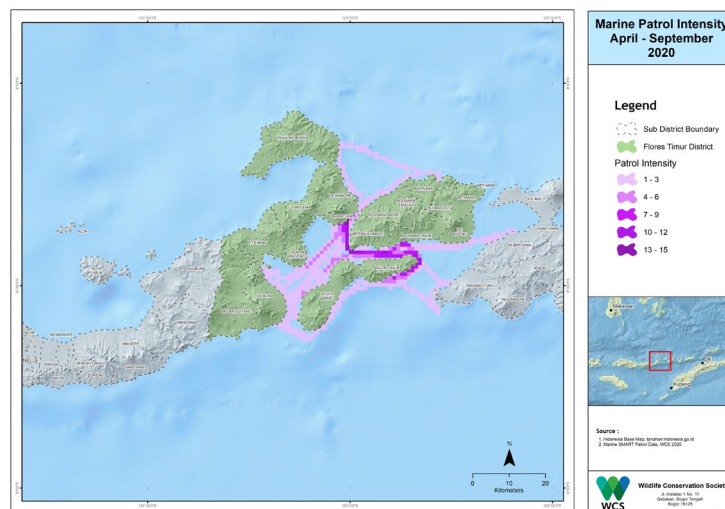


Figure 1. Map of marine patrol activity in East Nusa Tenggara from April –September 2020

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

The impact of Covid-19 on this project has been significant, hampering some data collection in the field in Indonesia and delaying scheduled training and in-country visits. This has been communicated with LTS and formalised through a project change request.

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

Discussed with LTS: 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.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no

guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

At the time of submitting the formal Change Request Form the Covid-19 pandemic was in its early stages. Now the full extent of the severity and longevity of this virus is becoming apparent, there is a strong likelihood that further changes to this project, particularly relating to in-country and reciprocal visits and training plans will need to be made. Any changes will be discussed with LTS and formal change requests made where necessary.

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.**