



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	IWT 058
Project title:	Securing Africa's ivory: Developing gold-standard stockpile management systems
Country(ies):	Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi
Lead organisation:	Stop Ivory
Collaborator(s):	EWCA Ethiopia, UWA Uganda, DNPW Malawi
Project leader:	<i>John Stephenson</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	<i>April 2019-September 2019, (HYR 2)</i>
Project website/blog/social media:	www.elephantprotectioninitiative.org www.stopivory.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable

Progress on the project between 1st April 2019 – 30th September 2019 has been steady on achieving Output 1 and 2, and we are on track of completing the work within the project period.

Within the first 6 months of Year 2 for Output 1:

- The Guidelines and template SOPs for Ivory Storerooms are freely available to download on the EPI website in English, French and Portuguese. The audit assessment tool is being improved based on field-testing then it will be uploaded onto the website. www.elephantprotectioninitiative.org/ivory-management
- An information presentation about the Gold Standards tool is available on the CITES website https://cites.org/eng/imp/ivory_stockpile_mgmt.html.
- Other countries have expressed interest in using the Gold Standards, including Mozambique who have begun initial planning with Stop Ivory to implement the standards. Nigeria, Angola and Cote d'Ivoire are launching work towards meeting the Gold Standards, through an US State Department INL grant to the EPI Foundation.
- The reporting for the CITES deadline of 28th February 2020 will be covered in the Annual report for Year 2, however all three countries have been maintaining their inventory up-to-date, and are on course for being able to report before the deadline.
- The Stockpile Management System tool is being well used in Uganda and aided in promoting strong intragovernmental collaboration when the Uganda Wildlife Authority successfully inventoried a big seizure in the custody of Customs (Uganda Revenue Authority).

Within the first 6 months of Year 2 for Output 2:

Uganda: The first audit of 3 main storerooms was undertaken in May 2019 by our security

consultant (Report available on request). During the audit Ms Jadress Komugasho, a UWA warden was trained on the audit process. In June 2019, Jadress audited a following 5 storerooms around the country and compiled a comprehensive report on all 8 storerooms audited, clearly outlining the aspects needing improving at each storeroom (Report available on request). The main improvements identified were the following:

- Many storerooms are shared with the armoury, requiring a means to divide up the storerooms (e.g. installing a cage welded to the wall), so ivory or high value items can be segregated from items that require regular access (e.g. arms for patrols);
- Personal Protection Equipment and fire extinguishers are required for most storerooms;
- Security fences around 3 storerooms were identified to secure the storerooms perimeter;
- Certain storerooms required bars on windows or making windows opaque;
- The main storeroom needs expanding due to lack of space and it was proposed to modify an adjacent room into a storeroom.

Most of the improvements required for the storerooms meet the minimal standards for physical security and are not vast. However, it was recommended that there is work to be done on protocols for key management and chain of custody, which need improvement. It was also recognised that the government of Uganda has no clear vision of the long-term plan for wildlife product items within Government custody.

A planning meeting was held with UWA in August to discuss the outcome of the assessments, identify the priorities and agree next steps. The priority is to expand the central storeroom to an adjacent room, this requires approval from UWA senior management. Our UWA focal point for the project placed it on the agenda for over a month before it was finally discussed. The expansion was approved in October 2019 (outside of 6 month period). Whilst waiting for approval, quotes for the improvements have been collated and further detail gathered on certain aspects before the budget is finalised. It is anticipated that by the beginning of November the budget and time-lined work plan will be agreed with UWA, including which improvements can be undertaken within the remits of this grant, and work will commence to make the physical improvements to be completed by March 2020.

A UWA workshop was held in May with representatives from the different protected areas and head office staff to and determine how the Gold Standard SOPs could be adapted to fit UWA requirements. The next steps for modifying the SOPs and Protocols is scheduled for Year 2 Q4 and Year 3.

Malawi: Following on from the security audit in April 2019, quotes for the improvements have been collected and a time-lined work plan developed. This includes the costs of moving the central storeroom to DNPW owned land, upon request of DNPW. We are currently discussing what improvements can be covered under the remit of this project before the final modifications and budget is approved. It is anticipated improvements will commence in November 2019.

Ethiopia: A desktop study has been conducted to establish where ivory is held around the country. The security audit was undertaken in September 2019 by our security consultant with a focus on the storerooms in Addis Ababa and the protocols (Report available on request). The key outcome was the EWCA central storeroom was deemed totally inappropriate and insecure, and unable to be improved to meet the minimum-security requirements. Therefore, it has been agreed with the Director General of EWCA that the main priority is to identify a new central storeroom. It will be an interim storeroom for 5-10 years as EWCA is planning on building a new Head Office in Addis, which will have the storeroom in the basement. However, EWCA are awaiting approval on the budget from Parliament, and it is unknown when this might be approved.

Various options for the location of a central storeroom have been discussed, before agreeing that moving to the Federal Police land is the best option. The process to obtain approval has been launched at the end of September. The costs for the improvements are being collated by EWCA, and we hope to have a final decision by beginning of November 2019. The development of SOPs and chain of custody has been postponed until the decision regarding

the location has been determined.

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.

It has taken longer than anticipated to obtain quotes and budgets for the improvement recommendations for each of the countries, which has resulted in a delay in commencing the improvement work. However, with Malawi and Uganda the budget and time frame are nearly agreed and the improvements can commence in November 2019.

For Ethiopia, there remains a challenge to have a confirmed site for the central storeroom. Political issues and civil unrest at present is preventing cross department discussions to advance the approval. The aim is to have a final plan by mid November, if a plan is not agreed, we will be unlikely to achieve the work within Year 2, and would need to request the budget for the improvements to be transferred to Year 3.

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 – we requested information on reporting on funding across the year end.

Formal change request submitted: No – a decision will be made pending as it is pending the outcome of the approval deadline in mid-November

Received confirmation of change acceptance NA

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. *Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year. If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.*

There is a risk we cannot spend the funds allocated for Ethiopia this financial year if a solution cannot be found for the central storeroom. We should know by the middle of November and be able to discuss with DEFRA/LTS our options. We have match funding available which we may be able to be moved over to the next financial year rather than the DEFRA funds.

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

One of the comments brought up in the review of the Year 1 Annual report was regarding the baselines in order to measure change, see attached M+E log frame with information. We have reviewed the Log frame for monitoring, and will be submitting a request to slightly modify the indicators, as the original stated indicators have not been possible to obtain.

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.**