



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

Project reference	IWT 060
Project title	LeAP: Learning and Action Platform for Community Engagement Against IWT
Country(ies)	Global, Tanzania, Zambia
Lead organisation	IIED
Partners(s)	IUCN SULi, Zambia CBNRM Forum, Tanzania Natural Resources Forum
Project leader	Dilys Roe
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR4, 29 October 2021
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/learning-action-for-community-engagement-against-wildlife-crime

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).

Output 1: Evidence base built and disseminated

We remain on the lookout for case studies however for this final year we are now more focused on producing reviews and syntheses of the information we've collected over the past three years. We now have 115 case studies on the People not Poaching platform. Over the last 6 months we have received on average 1,068 new users to the platform and countries with the highest levels of traffic include the UK, US, India, Kenya, Canada and China. We share the case studies via social media twice a week and through our newsletter. Our Twitter account has 1,002 followers and our Facebook page has 80 followers.

In June we produced a case study compilation for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region as part of an online learning event we held with the IUCN East and Southern Africa office. An overview of the lessons learned from these case studies was presented during the event (please see under output 3 for more information).

In August we submitted an article titled 'Community based approaches to tackling illegal wildlife trade - what works and how is it measured?' to the journal *Frontiers in Conservation Science* and this has very recently been published: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2021.765725>

Output 2: Community voices in policy discussions

In Zambia: For the last 6 months the Zambia CBNRM Forum has primarily been working to finalise their national-level framework strategy for engaging communities in tackling IWT. They have held recent discussions with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and the finalised document is expected in the coming weeks. This will be followed by an official launch ceremony. Zambia CBNRM Forum have also been collecting endline survey responses with policy makers to understand their views on community engagement in tackling IWT. A formal

analysis of these responses, including any changes from the baseline surveys, will take place in the final 6 months of the project.

In Tanzania: The Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) have also been working towards finalising their national framework for engaging communities in tackling IWT over the last 6 months. In early October they held meetings with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism as well as other stakeholders to discuss how they might collaborate on this work going forward. Throughout September TNRF carried out endline surveys in communities adjacent to both Serengeti National Park and the Selous Game Reserve to understand their perspectives on IWT and how they'd like to be engaged in future anti-IWT projects. As above, a formal analysis of these responses will take place in the final 6 months of the project.

Output 3: Networking and peer-to-peer learning

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to hold the planned in-person learning event in Namibia (please see details in AR3). In place of this we worked with the IUCN East and Southern Africa office to hold an online learning event on experiences of engaging communities to tackle IWT in the SADC region. The event was attended by over 50 government representatives from countries across the SADC region and took participants through the rationale of why we should engage communities in anti-poaching initiatives as well as providing an overview of how this is playing out in practice. Our partner from Zambia CBNRM Forum, Rodgers Lubilo, also spoke about community perspectives on IWT and gave an overview of how they have been successfully collaborating with the Zambian Government on this issue. The event ended with an overview of tools for improving community engagement and strengthening CBNRM, including the First Line of Defence (FLoD) initiative. A second event will be held on the FLoD initiative in more detail in December 2021. Details of the event are available at: <https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/event/engaging-local-communities-tackling-illegal-wildlife-trade-experience-sadc-region>

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.

In AR3 we reported problems with the ability of our in-country partners to deliver on their workplans. Whilst both partners have faced slight delays in carrying out their endline surveys and in finalising their respective national frameworks, we anticipate that all deliverables will be achieved by the end of this calendar year.

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.

We had hoped to carry out an in-person learning exchange in Namibia between April-September this year, however due to ongoing travel restrictions this no longer became a feasible option. Instead, and as agreed via a change request, we are holding two online learning events with SADC representatives (one was held in July and the other is planned for December) on communities and IWT. Given we had a significant amount of budget allocated for the learning exchange we submitted a further change request in July to reflect subsequent increases to other budget lines (e.g. publication costs, staff time). We also requested a further 6-month extension to the project to ensure that we had enough time to complete all activities, including producing reviews/syntheses of the People not Poaching case studies and analysing changes to the perspectives of community representatives and policy makers in Tanzania and Zambia.

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.

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?

Nothing further to raise

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.**