



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

Project reference	IWT 060
Project title	LeAP: Learning and Action Platform for Community Engagement Against IWT
Country(ies)	Global, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia
Lead organisation	IIED
Partners(s)	IUCN SULi, Zambia CBNRM Forum, Tanzania Natural Resources Forum, Namibia Nature Foundation
Project leader	Dilys Roe
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	29 October 2020, (HYR3)
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).

The in-country activities of the project have been delayed over the last 6 months due to COVID-19, although the desk-based activities related to the web portal have been able to proceed as planned. In Tanzania in particular, our project team has been personally affected by COVID-19 and was unable to work for several months. Activities have resumed from September. Progress under each output is detailed below:

Output 1: Evidence base built and disseminated

We are continuing to collect case studies through call-outs on social media and via newsletters, literature reviews and connections made with relevant organisations. Over the last 6 months we have added 11 case studies to our database bringing the total now to 109. During this time we have received on average 650 new users to the website each month. Countries with highest levels of traffic include the US, UK, China, India, South Africa, Zambia and Guyana.

We shared the case studies via social media twice a week as well as through our newsletter. We now have 613 Twitter followers, 40 Facebook followers and 104 subscribers to our newsletter. Our users who come to the website via Twitter are particularly engaged, for example their average duration on People not Poaching was 12 minutes per session in September 2020.

We produced a case study compilation for Tanzania for TNRF to use to publicise the project and raise awareness about communities and IWT at their National Elephant and International Rhino Day on Sept 2020 (see below).

Output 2: Community voices in policy discussions

In Zambia: The Zambia national dialogue on communities and IWT was organised in late March

– just prior to Covid19 lockdowns. One of the recommendations of the dialogue was to develop a national-level framework strategy for engaging communities in tackling IWT. This has been a key focus of the team over the last 6 months. Between May and July Zambia CBNRM Forum surveyed 60 Community Resource Board members to understand their perceptions on their community's role in combating IWT, including what actions the Zambian Government could take to better support communities in anti-poaching efforts. This has helped inform the development a the draft national framework. Consultation meetings have also been held with government and NGO representatives and a draft framework has been produced. This is currently undergoing further review and we expect will be finalised in early 2021.

In Tanzania: To celebrate Elephant and Rhino Day on Sept 22nd, Zambia country partners TNRF Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) teamed up with Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), World Wide Fund (WWF), Nyerere National Park, Representative from District Council (Wildlife) and community leaders from Ikona, Enduimet, Burunge Wildlife Management Areas to share experiences on the role of communities in tackling poaching and Illegal wildlife trade in the WMAs. A roundtable discussion was held in Tunduru District in the Ruvuma landscape of southern Tanzania, an area with high levels of human elephant conflict and poaching. The event highlighted the need to operationalize the anti-poaching strategy and well as to the human wildlife conflict strategy, in both case looking at how to support affected communities as well implementing effective species protection.

Output 3: Networking and peer-to-peer learning

Our main activity under this output was to team up with IUCN East and Southern Africa to prepare and deliver a series of online learning events on communities and IWT. The events were targeted at the East African region (due to the specifics of the IUCN project we collaborated with). The first webinar was held on 15th September and provided an overview of the rationale for engaging communities in tackling IWT, as well as tour of the PeopleNotPoaching web platform and highlights of some of the East African case studies collected to date. The second webinar was held on 30th September and provided an overview of the First Line of Defence (FLoD) methodology for engaging communities in tackling IWT. Over the next few months a detailed online training course will provide practitioners with in-depth training on applying the FLoD approach. Details of these webinars are available.

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.

No notable problems beyond Covid-19

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.

The team in Tanzania was badly affected on a personal level by Covid19. This made communications very challenging for several months. The teams in both Tanzania and Zambia have been severely constrained in their ability to follow-up on the national dialogues they held in Year 2 due to limitations on travel and hence interactions with local communities. Both country teams have developed revised workplans for the remainder of the project in order to account for the delay. They expect to be able to complete their activities by March 2021. However, to ensure that they have time to complete their M&E activities and analysis we requested a 6 month extension to the project and a budget carry forward of just under £. The extension period is also crucial to use being able to carry out our planned South South Learning Exchange. International travel restrictions and border closures have made any face to face event impossible so far. We have carried on with online learning events but still hope restrictions will be eased later in 2021 to allow a face to face event to happen.

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.

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.