



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

Project reference	IWT063
Project title	Combatting cross-border illegal wildlife trade in the Lower Zambezi, Zambia
Country(ies)	Zambia/Zimbabwe
Lead organisation	Conservation Lower Zambezi
Partners(s)	Wildlife Crime Prevention
Project leader	Ian Stevenson
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/21 – HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	www.conservtionlowerzambezi.org www.facebook.com/CLZAfrica www.twitter.com/CLZAfrica www.wildlifecrimeprevention.org www.facebook.com/WildlifeCrimePrevention

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 – Border Training to Combat IWT

Activity 1.1 Cross-Border Training

Coordinating partner Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) were able to conduct the training during this reporting period. A 14-day course was held in Chilanga, Zambia (near the DNPW HQ) with two international trainers, for 34 attendees from DNPW, Zambia Police, Zambia Revenue Authority, Zambia Drug Enforcement Commission, investigation and intelligence officers and representatives from WCP and CLZ. The objective of the training was to improve the competency of the Officials of the various Departments who are responsible for addressing wildlife crime within the Lower Zambezi Region.

Activity 1.2 Cross Border Refresher Training

As Activity 1.1 was only just completed during this reporting period due to delays caused by COVID-19, this activity will be conducted in the next reporting period.

Activity 1.3 Purchase of Equipment

Equipment (boat and outboard engine) were purchased in Year 1 and in Year 3 have continued to be used effectively for operations.

Activity 1.4 DNPW Capacity Building

This reporting period, three members of DNPW Management are being supported with tertiary education from Zambian Universities. The Senior Ranger, Shadreck Silumesi is finishing his final year of a Master's Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development. The DNPW Chirundu Area Accountant Patrick Mukomena is being supported with his Master of Business Administration in Finance. The DNPW Chirundu Revenue/Acting Commercial Officer is being supported with her Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management.

Output 2 – Dog Unit and Rapid Response Unit Operations and Technical Advisor

Activity 2.1 Dog Unit Operations

The DNPW/CLZ Lower Zambezi Dog Unit conducted 984 patrol man-days this reporting period. 40% of these days were spent on borders surrounding the Lower Zambezi National Park as requested for under this project and funded by IWTCF. The K9 Unit had 4 arrests of poachers as well as 115 arrests of illegal miners during joint helicopter operations. They have also confiscated 74 pieces of illegal mining equipment, 1 illegal firearm, 6 illegal ivory tusks, 10 wire snares, 20kg of bushmeat as well as a number of skins including Genet, crocodile, python, and pangolin scales during this reporting period.

Activity 2.2 Rapid Response Unit Operations

The DNPW/CLZ Rapid Response Unit conducted 887 patrol days this reporting period. From April to June, 40% of their days were spent on borders surrounding the Lower Zambezi National Park as requested for under this project and funded by IWTCF. The Rapid Response Unit had 10 arrests of poachers as well as 64 arrests of illegal miners during joint helicopter operations. They have also confiscated 26 pieces of illegal mining equipment, 8 illegal firearms, 6 illegal ivory tusks, 1 wire snare, 12kg of bushmeat as well as a number of skins including Genet, crocodile and python during this reporting period. From July to September however their schedule and patrolling style changed as explained in Section 2 below.

Activity 2.3 Technical Advisor

CLZ have engaged Technical Advisors from “Resolve” to provide the Lower Zambezi law enforcement with a long-term in-house training programme for the area. The TAs have spent time in and around the Lower Zambezi from June to September, meeting with DNPW management, CLZ, working in the operations room, doing refresher trainings for the specialised units and developing the long-term training plan.

Output 3 – Intelligence and Investigation Unit Training

Activity 3.1 IIU Training

Conducted in Year 2 and reported on.

Activity 3.2 IIU Refresher Trainings

To be conducted during the next reporting period.

Activity 3.3 Equipment for IIU Trainings

Equipment was procured, used and handed over during Activity 3.1 and any remaining equipment required will be purchased during Activity 3.2.

Output 4 – Community/Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Activity 4.1 Community Scout (CS) Patrols

This grant has supported two CS patrols per month in July, August and September. These patrols have supported farmers by patrolling high-risk areas around the villages and crop fields. The scouts are able to deter elephants and respond to any cases of Human-Wildlife Conflict.

Activity 4.2 Elephant Behaviour Workshops

Conducted in Year 1 and Year 2 and reported on.

Activity 4.3 Polytape Hippo Fences

Ongoing monitoring of the fences are being conducted and communities are maintaining them well and are reporting less crop raiding is occurring on their fields as a result of these fences.

Output 5 – Operations Meeting

Activity 5.1 Project Management Annual Operations Meeting

To be conducted in February 2022

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.

Output 2, Activity 2.1

Maintaining the health of these specialised dog breeds in a harsh bush environment has been a risk factor. During this reporting period, all three dogs faced health issues despite taking all precautions possible. In each case however the dogs were treated and fully recovered. Unfortunately, Bar, CLZ's oldest and most skilled dog, experienced major health issues, vomiting violently sporadically for weeks. Finally, it was identified that a piece of wire was lodged in his abdomen, likely causing his illness and it was removed during an operation in June. During the same period, he incurred a herniated disc in his back which physical therapy has not seemed to remedy and therefore, he will be sent to South Africa for an operation.

During this reporting period, the K9 Unit also experienced some staffing issues, with the departure of one of the female attachments and Unit members attending various trainings. However, the Unit was still operational. Thankfully a recently trained female Community Scout, was selected this September to be part of the K9 Unit and has fill this gap in the workforce.

Output 2, Activity 2.2

In June 2021, the RRU was accused of misconduct which led to temporary suspension of the Unit. Following a tribunal, the Unit was given written warning by DNPW and CLZ and have been demoted back to Community Scouts and Rangers. CLZ and DNPW take matters of this nature very seriously and have a zero-tolerance policy for dishonourable behaviour and have therefore decided to conduct a selection process for a newly designated Rapid Deployment Team to ensure that integrity and ethics are kept to the highest standard.

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.

COVID-19 caused a number of delays in activity implementation in Year 1 and 2 however, CLZ has still be able to continue to conduct activities and work towards achieving the outcomes of this grant. With the flexibility of IWTCF through approved change requests on the movement of funds between years, between activities and a further no-cost extension, all activities are on track to be completed by the end of Year 3 of this grant.

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?

N/A

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.**