



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

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)	31/10/20 - HYR2
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 Training Sessions

IWTCF approved the Change Request for funds from this activity to be spent in Year 2 since it was not possible in Year 1 due to COVID-19. Coordinating partner Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) have still been unable to conduct the training due to COVID-19 restricting an external trainer from being brought into Zambia. Hopeful to conduct activity within the next two quarters.

Activity 1.2 Refresher Training

This activity has yet to be conducted and will be done once Activity 1.1 is completed.

Activity 1.3 Purchase of Equipment

Equipment for night operations will be procured within the next two quarters.

Activity 1.4 DNPW Capacity Building

CLZ is supporting 8 personnel from DNPW through IWTCF funds to further their skills and education in various ways. An invitation to apply to CLZ for support was provided to senior DNPW personnel and CLZ management reviewed the applications and decided who would be selected for support. Thus far, four Officers have obtained drivers licences. Two Officers driving training has been paid for and they are yet to complete their course. One officer is currently enrolled in Excel lessons and the Senior Ranger is completing his final year of his Master's Degree with 50% funding through this grant.

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 780 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 15 arrests and confiscated 1 illegal ivory tusk, 15 snares and 212kg of bushmeat during this reporting period. After the loss of one working dog in 2019, leaving only one dog, this year the Unit underwent an expansion where two more dogs and one more handler was brought in and trained to be part of the Unit.

Due to the K9 Unit going through an expansion and securing donor funding for those activities, there was a surplus of funding in Year 1 resulting in an under expenditure on this budget line. This was communicated to IWTCF in a Change Request that was approved and the over expenditure was put towards urgent community support in Year 2 due to COVID-19 for community members that lost jobs in tourism and were suffering significantly. The under expenditure has been spent on various COVID-19 interventions, including providing hand sanitising stations and disinfectants, distributing booklets offering information on symptoms and preventions, providing thermometers, gloves, disinfectants and medications to hospitals. Support was also given through sewing machines and materials for the local women's groups to make masks that were distributed widely. Seeds were also given to farmers for quick growing produce to help sustain themselves and their families.

Activity 2.2 Rapid Response Unit Operations

The DNPW/CLZ Rapid Response Unit conducted 1,124 patrol 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 Rapid Response Unit had 19 arrests and confiscated 6 firearms, 1 illegal ivory tusk, 9 rounds of ammunition, 133.5kg of bushmeat during this reporting period.

Activity 2.3 Technical Advisor

As there was an under expenditure on this budget line in Year 1 due to the TA having to return to his home country due to COVID-19, through a Change Request that was approved, funds were put towards supporting more Community Scout Patrols in Output 4, Activity 4.1. For Year 2, CLZ is looking to engage the TA once more as international travel within Zambia is opening up again.

Output 3 – Intelligence and Investigation Unit Training

Activities 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3

All activities under this output are yet to take place and will be reported on in the next report.

Output 4 – Community/Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Activity 4.1 Community Scout (CS) Patrols

This IWTCF grant supported two CS patrols per month this reporting period, as well as an additional 2 patrols per month due to the approved Change Request and under expenditure from Output 2 Activity 2.3, totalling 24 patrols in six months supported through IWTCF funding. These patrols support 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

To be conducted in November 2020.

Activity 4.3 Polytape Hippo Fences

One Hippo Fence with a Women's group has been erected and monthly reports are coming in to show its effectiveness. Thus far, the women are reporting that it is protecting their crops better than any method previously used. The second fence will be erected with another group within the community in October 2020.

Output 5 – Operations Meeting

Activity 5.1 Project Management Annual Operations Meeting

To be conducted in February/March 2021.

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.

N/A

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 in Year 1 resulted in a number of under expenditures and through an approved Change Request, funds have been spent in Year 2. The Pandemic has continued to affect certain activities in Year 2, in particular the trainings requiring external expertise. These activities are on hold until borders open up again and, if, within the next few months this is still not possible, CLZ will consider alternatives to ensure activity completion. CLZ will be putting in a Change Request for review given COVID-19 circumstances hindering expenditure of funds.

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.**