



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Final Report

*To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes.*

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

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
Partner institution(s)	Wildlife Crime Prevention
IWT grant value	£335,683
Start/end dates of project	01 July 2019 – 31 March 2022 (end date extended through approved Change Request)
Project Leader’s name	Ian Stevenson
Project website/blog/social media	www.conservtionlowerzambezi.org www.facebook.com/CLZAfrica www.twitter.com/CLZAfrica www.wildlifecrimeprevention.org www.facebook.com/WildlifeCrimePrevention
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1. Project summary

In response to a surge in trans-border wildlife crime and trafficking through the Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit (LZAMU), Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) in partnership with the local wildlife authority – Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) as the cooperating partner, aimed to disrupt IWT through a number of strategic and cohesive projects building enforcement capacity, strengthening investigations, supporting effective law enforcement and increasing the engagement of community stakeholders. With the goal of strong collaborations and essential capacity building to enable the relevant authorities to take down middle-higher tier criminal actors that are using the Lower Zambezi as a transit route for wildlife products.

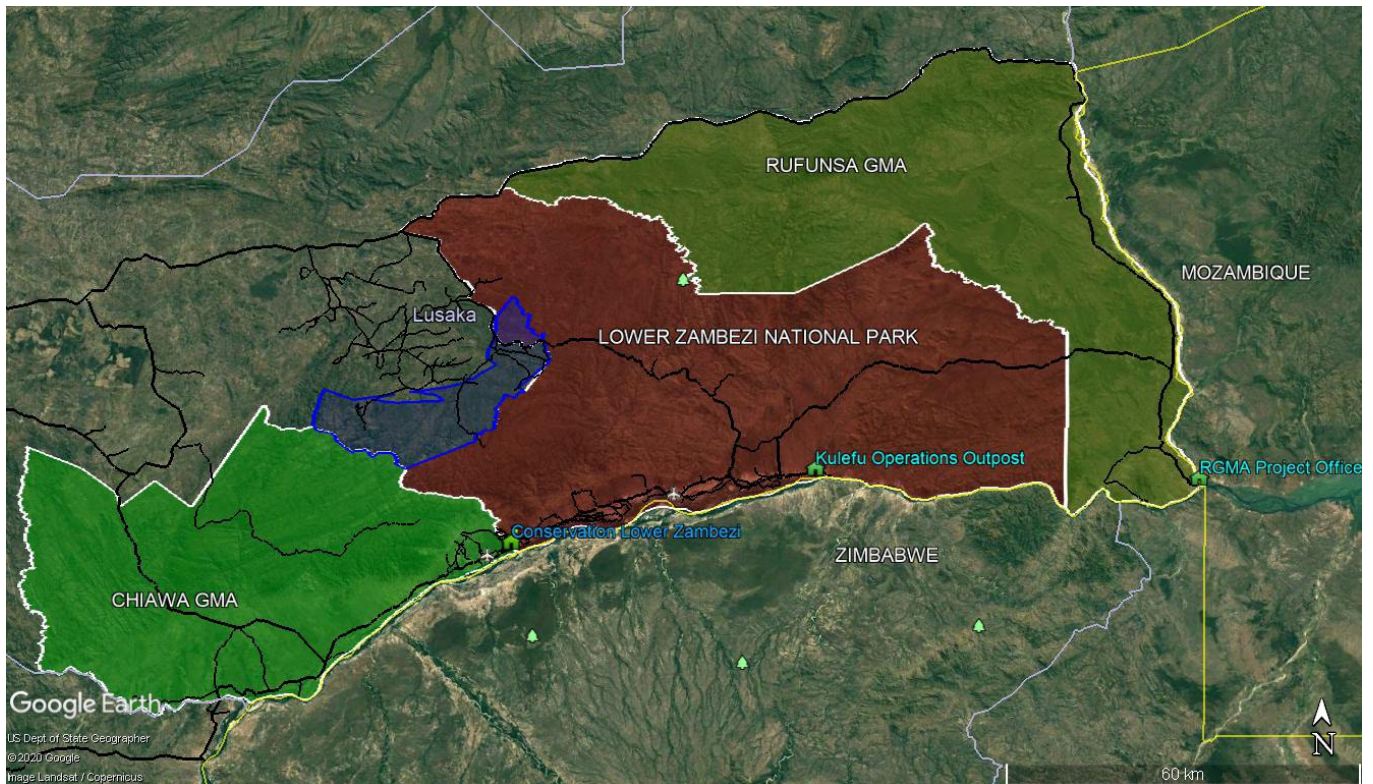


Figure 1: This project focused on the Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit in Zambia and its key bordering countries Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The focus of the activities conducted by this project were concentrated in and around the Lower Zambezi National Park (4,092 km²) and its surrounding Game Management Areas (GMAs) which are inhabited with communities and affected by IWT. The Conservation Lower Zambezi Basecamp (as indicated on the map) is based just outside the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZNP) in the Chiawa Game Management Area (2,344 km²) where most of the community work done through this project is focused. The IWT law enforcement operations and cross-border initiatives conducted through this project were on key transit routes around the LZNP and at known trafficking border sites.

2. Project Partnerships

CLZ have been working in collaboration with WCP since their establishment in 2015 and has worked with the senior individuals from WCP in their previous capacities at other organisations (including at CLZ itself). The partnership for this project was based on the joint needs to combat IWT in the Lower Zambezi by both organisations. The combination of skill sets that each organisation brought to the activities, complemented each other and allowed for effective achievements. WCP provided support through their work nationally with the Investigations and Intelligence Units (IIUs) and their knowledge on the judicial system relating to wildlife crime. CLZ brought experience of working in the Lower Zambezi and implementing successful projects in the area for over 25 years. Through open and trusted communications between WCP and CLZ and experience collaborating on other grants together, this partnership has proven successful. WCP were key to providing information for sections of this grant report that related to the activities within Output 1 and 3 that they were tasked to them to lead.

Other relevant bodies involved in this project included DNPW and Community Resource Boards (CRBs). All activities implemented by CLZ and WCP through this grant received approval from DNPW. They have been directly involved in the activities through their Rangers and IIUs. The CRBs are involved in this project indirectly as this project supports Community Scout (CS) patrols and these CSs are employed under the CRBs. While these are the governmental bodies that are in place to support the protection of the Lower Zambezi, they are severely underfunded and thus lack the resources to fulfil their mandates. CLZ, through donor funding, play a technical and advisory role, supporting them with resources to mobilise, communicate, and effectively protect the LZAMU while being able to monitor and understand successes and failures in order to have pro-active and technologically advanced mechanisms in place for wildlife protection.

CLZ has engaged the British High Commission and both the previous High Commissioner – Fergus Cochrane-Dyett and the current one – Nicholas Woolley have visited the organisation in the Lower Zambezi, and are aware of the projects being undertaken as well as the funding from the UK Government.

Through the continued need to fight for the protection of wildlife in the Lower Zambezi and guard one of the last remaining wild places in the world, it is most certain that these partnerships will and have continued after this project completion.

3. Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1 – Border Training to Combat IWT

Training provided through Activities 1.1. and 1.2 exposed officers and border officials to the correct procedures for crime scene handling in order to ensure that arrests lead to successful prosecutions. These trainings delved into the wildlife laws to be able to clearly differentiate the level of misdemeanour and severity of the crimes being committed and ensure the best procedures are followed to lead to the highest prosecutions. These learnings can be attributed to the exponential increase in the number of arrests that led to prosecutions since the baseline given for the grant in 2017 as answered in Question 3.2 Indicator 0.4 below (102% increase).

Through the completion of Activity 1.3, DNPW officers in the Luangwa Boma area of the Lower Zambezi that borders Zimbabwe and Mozambique are able to conduct more effective cross border patrols, contributing to combatting the cross-border movement of IWT. Through the purchase of the boat from this grant in Year 1, continued regular patrols have been ongoing (Annex 5) and in 2020, during an aerial survey being conducted in Zimbabwe over Mana Pools, the plane sadly crashed and CLZ's K9 Unit was called by the Zimbabwe authorities to help support the search and rescue mission. This boat purchased through the grant was used to ferry the team back and forth from Zambia and Zimbabwe during this mission showcasing the strengthened cross-border collaboration, necessity and use of the equipment, as well as the recognition of CLZ's K9 Unit. In Year 2, the equipment purchased was being used effectively to ensure 24/hour communication with all teams on patrols for security and law enforcement responses, as well as enabling officers to continue their efforts more efficiently. This equipment will continue to prove useful even once the grant has ended.

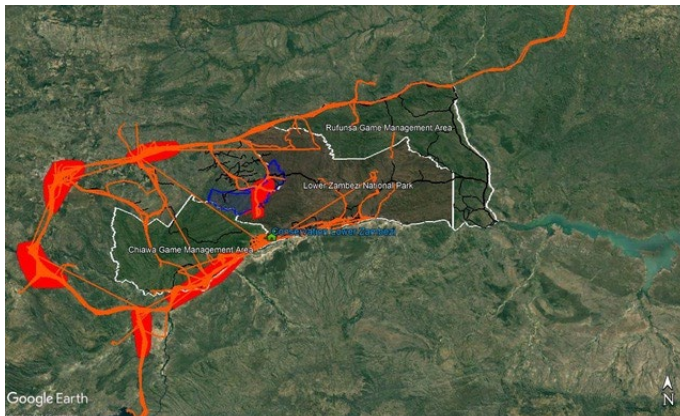
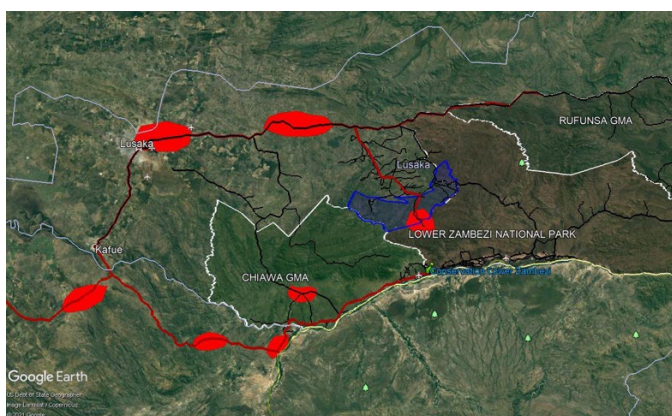
While this grant originally set out to support two people from DNPW Management with Tertiary level skills from an international university through Activity 1.4, due to COVID-19 and the closure of borders and schools, CLZ put in a change request (that was approved) in order to instead use the funds to support more than two DNPW Management by saving costs and supporting them with degrees and qualifications locally. This enabled some DNPW staff to receive licences which now enables more mobility to extend further support to teams in the field. University degrees in wildlife related fields has enabled Officers to be more equipped with the skills and resources to combat IWT and handle a higher level of decision making for improved proactive operations through their gained knowledge. While others are still undergoing their courses, the DNPW Senior Ranger has achieved his Master's Degree and is using his learnt knowledge on the deployments of patrols and with the combination of specialised teams in the field.

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

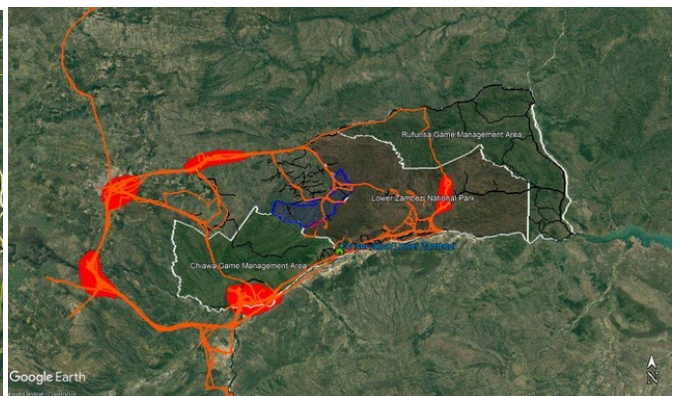
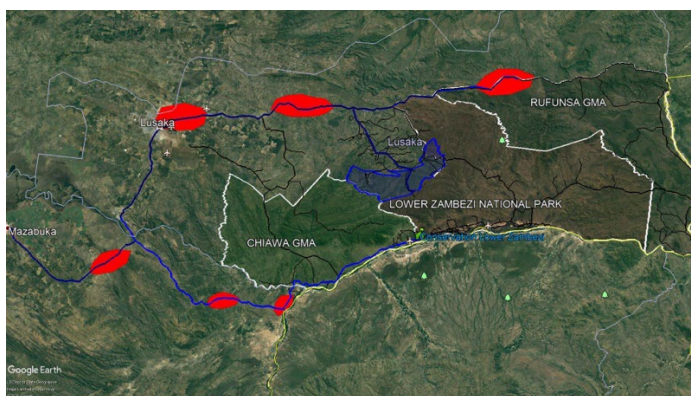
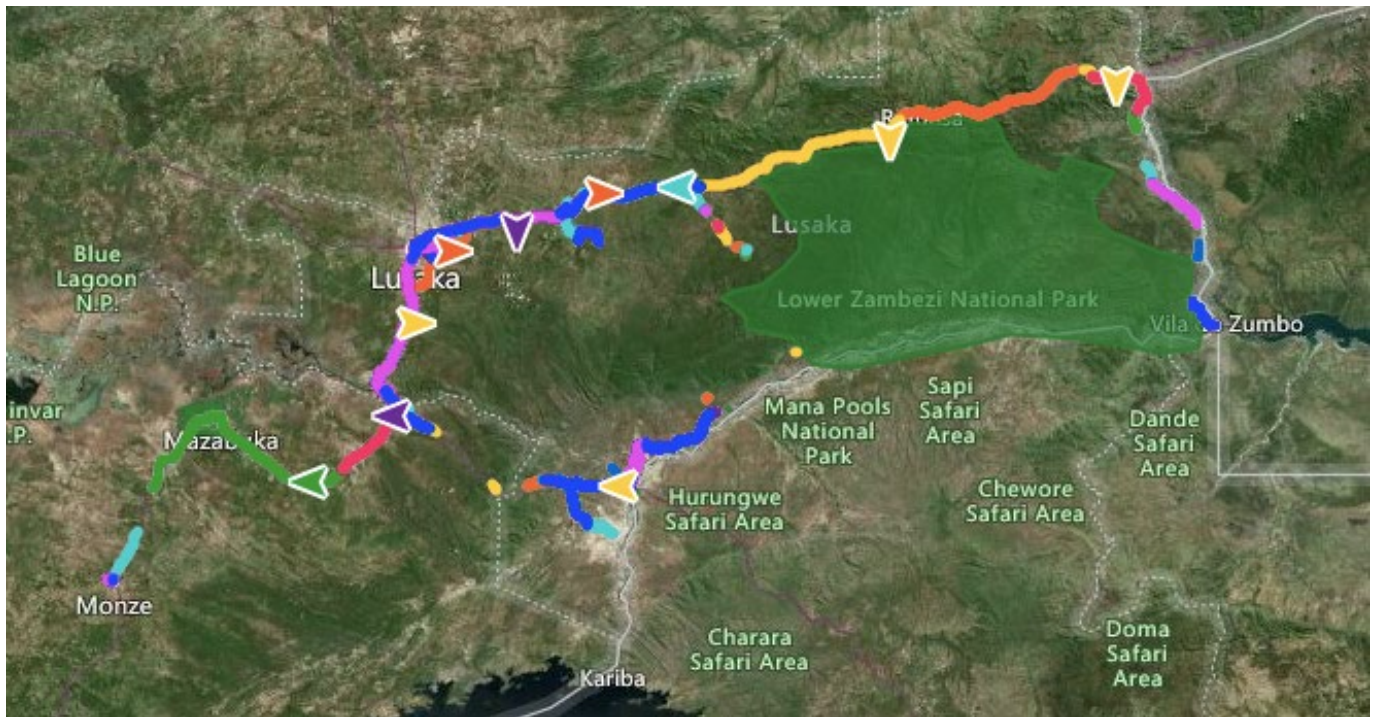
Through Activities 2.1 and 2.2, the Lower Zambezi Dog Unit and Rapid Response Unit have focused 27% and 43% (respectively) of their operational time along border areas (Chirundu, Siavonga and Luangwa) as can be seen from Figures 2 to 7 below. While the K9 Unit and RRU are both weaving their own informer networks, they have also reinforced their relationships with the IIUs and border officials in order to strengthen border security and law enforcement. During all three years of this grant, the K9 Unit and RRU have conducted multiple joint operations with the various IIUs from Chirundu, Chongwe, Siavonga and Luangwa. These combined operations have led to higher success rates by using all their various skill sets and intelligence to crack down on IWT. In addition, the maintained efforts but reduced findings (Annex 5) of the K9 Unit and RRU at border posts indicates a reduction or displacement in IWT.

Technical Advisors were engaged in Year 1 and Year 3 of the grant to help investigate and strengthen CLZ's law enforcement data and use the robust systems in place to show trends and key improvements, as well as gaps in efforts and where to focus attention to. In Year 3 CLZ expanded into a new Control

Centre and had collared 10 elephants, therefore the TA was critical to training, embedding and mentoring the Law Enforcement personnel in the Control Centre to understand how to use the new technology installed in the system to be able to effectively use it in the field to inform decisions. The Operations Manager, DNPW Officer and staff that operate the Control Centre to date have full knowledge on the software's, hardware and systems in the Centre and they put them to use daily, which can be attributed to the increases in successes in the field over the years.



Figures 2,3 and 4: K9 Unit movements over Year 1, 2 and 3 of the grant, focusing on major road networks including Chirundu and Siavonga.



Figures 5,6 and 7: RRU movements over Year 1, 2 and 3 of the grant, focusing on major road networks including Chirundu and Siavonga.

Output 3 – Intelligence and Investigation Unit Training

Through all activities within in this output, the information learned from the training on how to handle wildlife crime scenes and collect evidence in order to make a stronger case in court is ensuring higher convictions of wildlife criminals, and the IIUs are now better geared with the equipment required to handle crime scenes more thoroughly and therefore are working more efficiently within the system. While data has shown increases in successes that can be attributed to this training, further improvements will be seen in the coming years as these trainings were completed later in the grant with successes still to be shown in the future.

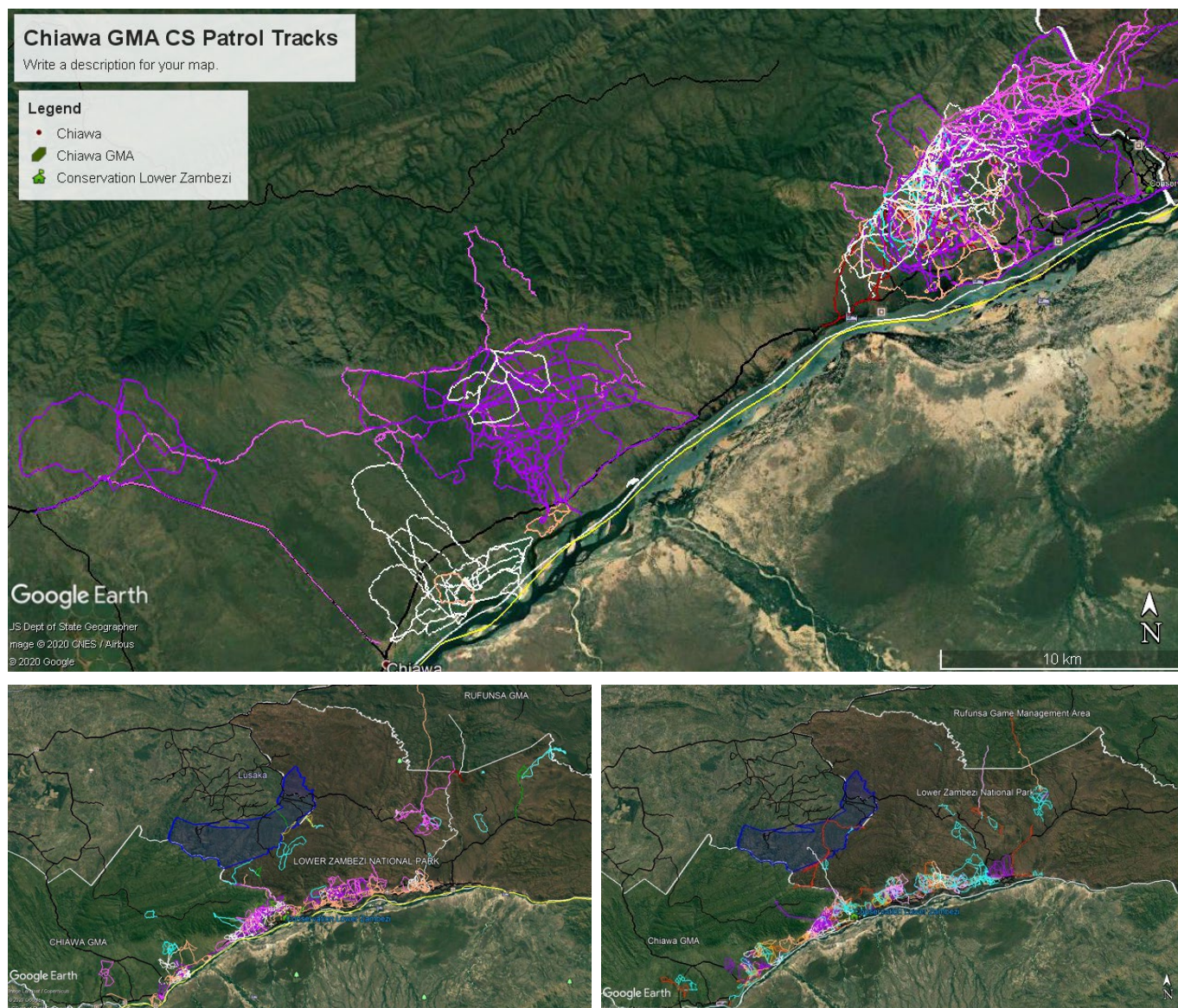
Output 4 – Community/Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Through conducting Activity 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, this output has been achieved as communities have been supported and equipped with more understanding on HWC and how to manage it. Through Activity 4.1, in total, through this project period, 225.9 CS long patrols have been conducted (10,483 Man-days), 31% of which were supported by this IWTCF grant. Patrol tracks in the Chiawa GMA and LZNP can be seen in figures 8 to 10 and monthly breakdown of man-days and long patrols in Annex 5.

Through Activity 4.2 the Chilli Workshop, it was evident that community members were often using unsustainable and dangerous methods to ward off animals from their crops, such as using fireworks, fires, torches, and shooting around the animal, and after the workshop, 92% of attendees said they would put up chilli fences around their farms in order to use that method to protect their crops instead. 82% of the attendees mentioned that they had a better understanding on the importance of humans and wildlife

coexisting. Through the Anti-Snare Campaign, 94% of community members that participated said that after this workshop they had a much better understanding of the importance of coexistence between humans and wildlife. By moving away from unsafe practices and understanding wildlife better, the communities are more equipped to reduce fatalities and injuries, ultimately protecting both the humans and the wildlife.

Through the erection of the two electric tape hippo fences in Activity 4.3, these communities have another level of security for their livelihoods from wildlife interference and are able to continue to grow their livelihood and economic income, while not wanting to harm wildlife.



Figures 8, 9 and 10: Community Scout Patrols conducted in Year 1, 2 and 3 of the grant in the Chiawa GMA to protect the communities and their crops as well as the LZNP to support species protection.

Output 5 – Operations Meeting

Activity 5.1 which enabled the three Operations Meetings held annually throughout the period of this grant, were critical to enabling key challenges to be addressed and then worked on annually within the Law Enforcement personnel in the Lower Zambezi. Most notably, is the topic of long-term training that was brought up in the 2020 Operations Meeting. The topic delved into the issues of lack of ongoing training for the officers in order to continue to develop skills in the field, boost morale and ensure higher levels of integrity within units to avoid corruption and illegal behaviours or corroboration by the Rangers. Since this was highlighted as a priority issue, throughout the course of 2020 and into 2021 and now further, CLZ has developed with DNPW a long-term training programme for the Lower Zambezi to ensure continued refresher courses and higher-level trainings. The Technical Advisor brought in through this grant in Year

3 under Activity 2.3 has been critical to developing this Training Programme and is now part of the company engaged to conduct the ongoing training.

3.2 Outcome

As highlighted below, the measurable indicators identified in the grant application have been exponentially achieved. This can be attributed to the increased efforts on the ground, increased capacity and training and further mobilisation support, portions of which were financed through this grant. With the continued efforts going forward, CLZ hopes to see continued reductions in poaching and increases in arrests and successful prosecutions in the area.

Indicator 0.1

The baseline in 2017 was 28 elephants poached in the Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit. In 2021 there were 17 elephants poached in the LZAMU, which indicates a 39% reduction in the illegal killing of elephants in the LZAMU, thus overachieving the 20% reduction goal set out.

Indicator 0.2

The baseline in 2017 for the number of wildlife crime arrests that resulted in successful prosecutions was 27. In 2021 212 arrests led to successful prosecutions, indicating a 685% increase, thus overachieving the 25% increase goal set out.

Indicator 0.3

The baseline in 2017 for the length of the shortest sentence for wildlife crimes in the Lower Zambezi was 9 months and longest sentence 60 months. The fines in the area were up to ZMW 3,000 (USD 290). In 2021 the length of the shortest sentence was 1 month and longest sentence 60 months. The fines in the area varied from ZMW 1,000 – ZMW 240,000 (USD 60 – 14,000).

Indicator 0.4

The baseline in 2017 was 106 arrests (this is a correction from incorrect 78 arrests that was put in the application to IWT). In 2021 there were 214 arrests, which indicates a 102% increase, thus overachieving the 30% increase goal set out. This is due to the fact that in 2020 the small-scale illegal mining became an emerging significant threat within the Lower Zambezi due to more people being involved in illegal mining as a response to the financial hardship faced as a result of COVID-19 and through a number of efforts, there has been a rise in arrests. It is important to note that community support during this exacerbated hardship also increased through funding from this grant and other donor support.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Output 4 (Assumption 1): Communities support the combined effort of combatting IWT, generating sufficient income and a reduction in involvement in IWT activities.

Comments: This assumption was made based on the fact that support from IWT to uplift and support communities living in HWC areas would help to reduce these community members engaging in illegal activities. While support has continued (and increased in some cases), and communities have been engaged, unfortunately, in 2020 the number of poached elephants in the GMA increased by 40%, snaring increased by 200% and HWC incidences increased by 50% from 2019. It is believed that these drastic increases in poaching in the Chiawa GMA are linked to COVID-19 and its impact on the communities through wide spread and severe revenue and job losses from the closure of the tourism industry. In order to help communities during these difficult years, through this grant as well as other emergency community support grants secured, CLZ was able to continue to bring support to these communities during a time of great need, while also maintaining Community Scout patrols. It is worthy to note however that while the overall HWC incidences increased in 2020, the specific communities which were engaged through Output 4, Activity 4.3 reported less HWC incidences, therefore showing that even through unforeseen circumstances, the activities pursued under this grant are still working towards the intended purpose.

All other outcome and output level assumptions still hold true.

3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

The impact of this project was: Reduction of wildlife crime and trafficking of wildlife products in and around the LZAMU and disruption of the cross-border transit routes between Zambia-Zimbabwe and Zambia-Mozambique.

Activities conducted through this project in Outputs 1, 2, 3 and 5 can all be directly related to contributing to the outlined impact of reducing IWT. While other projects conducted by CLZ all contribute to this as well, this project in particular has a higher-level impact due to it tackling not just the Lower Zambezi in Zambia, but including the cross-border efforts in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. By expanding the scope of this project and the areas of focus, greater awareness and efforts have been made, reaching more people and thus supporting a bigger system of protection. The trainings in Output 1 and 3 were essential to building capacity within law enforcement officers to improve the competency of the Officials of the various Departments who are responsible for addressing wildlife crime.

Activities conducted through this project in Output 4 have contributed to the impact on human development and wellbeing and poverty alleviation. Support from HWC patrols (Activity 4.1) where scouts patrol the high HWC areas and safely ward off wildlife from houses and crops, gives the community direct personal security and also allows them to protect their livelihoods (crops) from being raided and destroyed by wildlife. This enables their crops to flourish and generate income to provide for themselves and their families sustainably. In addition, Community Scouts are hired and trained from the local communities, thus this funding enabled revenue generation within the communities through job retention. From the 43 Community Scouts hired by CLZ, 70% of them did not have jobs (or skills) before becoming Community Scouts. Support to the communities on understanding elephant behaviours (Activity 4.2), also gave them the opportunities and skills to protect themselves from accidents or fatalities. Uplifting community members by providing security from wildlife has assisted in allowing their growth of income. During the Elephant Behaviour Workshops, the communities were taught to grow chilli fences around their crops. These fences help ward off elephants from their fields, thus protecting their crops. Communities that have attended these workshops in the past have now used the chillies as a cash crop thus creating further income showcasing multiple benefits from this activity. In addition, with the added provisions to the communities through COVID-19 relief, they were supported during an unprecedented time when many community members around the area had lost jobs and revenue from the fall in the tourism industry. Therefore, this added support enabled community members to have measures in place to also fight the pandemic and keep themselves aware and safe. Through erecting the two hippo fences (Activity 4.3), communities were given an added layer of protection to their crops which have helped them to increase their income as the fences are enabling them to safely grow and harvest their crops for consumption and sale.

4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

As can be seen from the outputs, outcomes and impact achieved through this grant from the responses to question 3, this project has worked to support all the four themes set out by the IWT. Through working with the communities in Objective 4, this project directly addresses developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT. The vulnerable communities and their crops (main income) are being protected through Community Scout patrols and through awareness raising workshops funded by this project. Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 5 of this grant, directly addresses strengthening law enforcement, ensuring effective legal frameworks and reducing the demand for IWT products. Through the increase in operations conducted by the specialised units (K9 and RDT) working in collaboration with the IIUs and on intel, they are managing to cover key trafficking hot spot areas to strangle the road networks and reduce the movement of illegal products. Simultaneously, legal systems are being monitored and cross-border capacity building was enabled and conducted in order to further support officers and government officials with the resources to combat IWT.

5. Impact on species in focus

The Lower Zambezi is home to one of sub-Saharan Africa's few population strongholds for the African Elephant. Other focal species in the areas include African lion, Pangolins, African Wild Dog, Hippopotamus and Leopard. This project is protecting these species in three different ways:

1. Increased security. By providing equipment for law enforcement activities (Activity 1.3) and support towards patrols conducted by the K9 Unit, Rapid Response Unit and Community Scouts (Activities 2.1, 2.2 and 4.1), this project is assisting in the direct protection of the wildlife. Patrolling in and around the LZNP by these units and following intel, allows for an increased presence in these high poaching areas thus leading to more arrests (Indicator 0.4, Question 3.2) and less wildlife crime in the area. Poaching of elephants in the Lower Zambezi has been on the decline since 2017 (Indicator 0.1 Question 3.2) following the implementation of these specialised units and more intel led operations. In addition, the annual law enforcement coordination meeting (Activity 5.1) ensures the planning for the year is put in place to streamline wildlife protection initiatives throughout the year and improve on and learn from challenges from the years before.
2. Increased capacity building. By supporting DNPW in enhancing their tertiary level education in relation to wildlife conservation (Activity 1.4) and with the training and resources provided to the Investigations Officers and Rangers (Activity 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3), as well as the more personal and in-depth specialised training provided by the Technical Advisor (Activity 2.3), law enforcement officials are able to make better decisions on the management of the Lower Zambezi which will ultimately benefit the wildlife. Through the information learned from these activities, they have been equipped with more knowledge and skills to enable more efficient and better law enforcement decisions.
3. Increased awareness and support to the local communities. By conducting workshops in the communities mostly affected by IWT (Activity 4.2), and equipping people with resources to protect their livelihoods from being destroyed by wildlife (Activity 4.3), people are better able to understand why the wildlife need to be protected. They are taught various ways in which to protect themselves from wildlife and given resources to do so and once they do not see the wildlife as a threat to their livelihoods anymore, they will be less likely to be involved in wildlife crimes.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project (through Output 4) supports the very low-income communities surrounding the Lower Zambezi National Park. While these communities already have very little income generating opportunities and many rely on tourism and conservation to get by, their main form of income is through subsistence farming. These community members live with the daily fear that their crops could be raided and in one night their livelihoods destroyed, which both negatively affect the people and their perception on wildlife and therefore the security of the wildlife as well. While patrols support the wellbeing of community members and their crops and the workshops bring awareness on ecosystem services and the importance of keeping wildlife alive, as the community continue to be safeguarded and start to develop, there are longer term ecosystem benefits that may come up with regards to their perception on wildlife.

Please see response to question 3.4 (last paragraph) for how this project is assisting these communities through activities from Output 4.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Through all activities conducted during this grant, CLZ has encouraged women to take part in the project wherever possible.

Output 2 – Activity 2.1. After the expansion of the K9 Unit and adding permanent DNPW and Community Scout attachments, 22% of the Unit is now female (originally was 0%). Similarly, Activity 2.2, the RDT which was also originally 0%, now has 14% female representation.

Output 4 – Activity 4.1. There are 2 female Community Scouts in the Lower Zambezi in the Rufunsa GMA. Applications for women scouts have been available when recruiting and has been encouraged. Women are given a fair chance during the selection process and are not discriminated against when making the selection. In 2021, CLZ and DNPW established Zambia's first all-female 10-woman Community Scout Unit through other donor funding.

Output 4 – Activity 4.2. During the two Elephant Behaviour Workshops, funded by IWT (and any community activity that CLZ conducts), equal attendance of females is encouraged and where possible enforced. 50% and 57% of both these two IWT funded workshops had female participation. In addition, through the two

groups set up with hippo fences in the Chiawa GMA, one group is 100% female and the other group is 96% female.

CLZ and WCP will continue to encourage women empowerment in all project activities even after the life of this grant.

8. Sustainability and legacy

It is anticipated that project achievements will most likely endure and even strengthen after the completion of this grant. This is because, as indicated throughout the report, through conducting the activities set out, outputs and outcomes have been achieved, reaching higher than indicators set out originally. While some of these activities conducted have only just ended, it will take a while to take the skills learnt and prove their use in the field. Therefore, since this grant had a high-capacity building component through trainings and education, and positive results have already been seen in the short term, in the long term, these results will only improve as more time is given to use these skills and for situations to come up where specialised trainings are put to the test.

The planned exit strategy outlined in the application is still valid. As mentioned above, support has been provided to DNPW through capacity building so even if funding reduces or stops, they are still equipped with improved knowledge and the equipment that was provided to them to be able to succeed. CLZ and WCP have continued to provide DNPW with further support even after the end of this grant, through other donor funding.

9. Lessons learnt

The K9 Unit has provided law enforcement with new and more advanced techniques to combat the illegal wildlife trade which are irreplaceable however, maintaining the health of specialised dog breeds in an unforgiving bush environment has proved challenging. Each of the three dogs experienced health issues in 2021 in spite of all the precautions taken to protect the animals including regular preventative medication, tick collars, targets placed around camp to repel tsetse flies, daily tick checks, insect-proof kennels and transport cages, and fly-spray application before and during every field deployment. Thankfully CLZ has been able to rely on a Lusaka based veterinarian who has invested incredible amounts of time and care into the dogs and successfully provided treatment for two dogs with parasitic infections in 2021.

Sadly however, Bar—CLZ's most senior and skilled tracking dog – faced severe health issues in 2021. Bar fell ill in the first half of 2021 with weeks of severe and intermittent vomiting and trips to the veterinarian in Lusaka. It was very difficult for the veterinarian to diagnose the problem however, finally a small piece of wire was discovered in Bar's abdomen which was determined to be the source of the issue. An operation was conducted to successfully remove the wire, however, Bar had also suffered a herniated disk in his back possibly due to forceful vomiting. After attempts at physical therapy were not as effective as hoped, Bar was sent to South Africa to assess if surgery would resolve the issue but unfortunately, the veterinarian spinal expert determined that surgery would not be a viable option. Bar is a passionate dog who loves to work and for the time being he is continuing to do so at a very reduced level with his health and pain management as the top priority.

CLZ has since explored the option of establishing a K9 project using dogs from the local area as they are more adapted to the region and therefore may be more resilient to local diseases and the harsh environment compared with breeds imported to Zambia from abroad. With the funding secured for 2022 and 2023, the short-term goal is to begin this project with a pilot programme. If the pilot is successful, then the long-term goal would be to grow the programme and eventually be able to provide village dogs to other law enforcement and wildlife protection organisations in Zambia.

In the beginning of 2021, the K9 Unit also experienced some staffing issues with the departure of one of the attachments for personal reasons which left the K9 Unit short one staff member. Thankfully one of the newly trained female Rangers, Patricia Chilala, was selected to be part of the K9 Unit and fill this gap in the workforce.

In 2021 the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) was accused of misconduct resulting in the suspension of the team. Following a tribunal, the team was given a written warning by DNPW and CLZ. The team members were demoted from being members of the RRU back to the level of normal field Ranger. CLZ and DNPW take matters of this nature very seriously with a zero-tolerance policy for discreditable behaviour.

Therefore, as part of the new long-term training programme and the overall improvement of law enforcement standards across the board, DNPW and CLZ conducted an even more rigid selection process for a newly designated Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) to ensure that integrity and ethics are kept to the highest standard. The new team was selected in October 2021 with a total of 7 members, one female and six males, who attended an intense three-week initial level-one training course directly after being chosen.

The reselection and training of the RDT was conducted by the Technical Advisor brought in through this grant in Output 2, Activity 2.3. Thus, highlighting the various ways in which the Technical Advisor supported the organisation throughout the grant. This activity was one of the big successes within this project because it supported a priority gap in law enforcement that DNPW and CLZ decided needed to be addressed during the Operations Meeting (Output 5, Activity 5.1) and the expertise was readily available, addressing the needs almost immediately.

9.1 Monitoring and evaluation

While there were approved shifts between budget lines and slight activity changes throughout the life of the grant, the logframe remained almost completely unchanged with the indicators, outputs, outcomes and impact still remaining the same, therefore all indicators were reported at the end of the grant, compared to the baseline levels provided at the beginning of the grant.

CLZ has an established database/data management system that is dedicated to collecting and storing all data regarding law enforcement operations – from patrol teams (patrol tracks, wildlife encountered on patrols, illegal activities recorded on patrols etc.), aerial patrols, data relating to the Dog Unit and RRU operations and information gathered through intelligence, as well as number of arrests, confiscations, types of confiscations etc. The database is managed by CLZ's Data Management Officers and is used to evaluate CLZ's/DNPW's wildlife protection efforts on a daily, monthly and annual basis. CLZ also collaborate with WCP with regards to information on the legal operations tapping into their extensive court case monitoring database information on the Investigations and Intelligence Units. All data is shared with and belongs to DNPW.

Through these established data management systems, CLZ has been able to generate the quantitative figures required to support the indicators outlined in this grant, thus showing how the project has worked to achieve the outcome. After completing this grant, the indicators show that this project has worked to achieve the overall project outcome with some results that will show in the long-term.

9.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

Seven points were brought up to address from the Year 2 review, that CLZ have taken on to resolve.

1. The project timeline has been updated and is available in Annex 5. The three-year project began on 1st July 2019 and ended on 31st March 2022.
2. The outcome level reports indicate progress over the life of the grant and in this report highlights the improvement from the baseline in 2017.
3. The reviewer requested that CLZ revise indicator 0.3 by using a median value for length of sentence rather than a range. While it has been possible to identify median value for the length of sentence from 2019 to 2021, the CLZ Legal Assistant began work with CLZ at the end of 2018 and was only able to report on data from 2019 onwards. Median length of sentences for high-level wildlife cases (pangolin and ivory) were as follows: 2019 = 71 months, 2020 = 60 months and 2021 = 60 months.
4. To clarify the difference between indicator 0.2 and 0.4, indicator 0.4 looks at the number of arrests made in the field by the Rangers on the ground whereas indicator 0.2 looks at how many of these arrests lead to successful prosecutions. In the past, while the number of arrests in the field were increasing due to more boots on the ground and improved law enforcement technology, mobility and efforts, there was little to no indication of what happens to the arrested suspects once handed over to the police. Therefore, since 2018, CLZ has been working with WCP and has brought in a legal assistant who is now able to monitor wildlife cases in court and has built a database to understand how many cases have been dropped as a result of corruption or bribery, how many have been prosecuted and how many convicted. Through this monitoring as well as engaging the magistrates to highlight the efforts being put into wildlife conservation, it is evident (through

indicator 0.2) that over the years, there has been a significant increase in the number of arrests that have led to successful prosecutions. This shows that wildlife crimes are being taken more seriously and therefore acts as a deterrent for committing wildlife crimes.

5. As requested by the reviewer, reporting on wildlife crimes under Output 2, Activity 2.1 and 2.2 have been broken down by the number of arrests, confiscations of illegal contraband etc. (seen in Annex 5).
6. Change requests for any major changes within the project were submitted to and approved by IWT.
7. Reporting of progress against indicators have used the same metrics as appear in the indicator.

10. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

Any activities funded by IWTCF in Year 2 that have been mentioned on any of CLZ's media platforms (social media or in CLZ's newsletter – links below) has been credited to IWTCF and the UK Government for funding the activity. For Activity 4.2, one of the workshops provided t-shirts to attendees with awareness slogans on it, including the UK Government logo and IWTCF acknowledgement in writing. In addition, COVID-19 booklets printed for distribution within the communities also included the UK Government logo. Through Activity 4.3, plaques were put up at both the hippo fences with the UK Government logo and IWTCF acknowledgement in writing. Links below for online acknowledgement and pictures provided in annex 4 on printed visibility.

CLZ Website (Donor Page): <https://www.conservationlowerzambezi.org/supporters/>

CLZ 2019 Annual Report: <https://view.publitas.com/clz/clz-impact-report-2019/page/34-35>

CLZ October 2019 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/4bcc4399da09/oct19news?e=7efdfd5e51>

CLZ November 2019 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/13a56b155d56/nov19news>

CLZ 2020 Annual Report: <https://view.publitas.com/clz/impact-report-2020-conservation-lower-zambezi/page/40-41>

CLZ February 2020 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/4a630d2d21dc/feb20news>

CLZ July 2020 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/f86a1d559850/july2020news>

CLZ August 2020 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/b790f960b92a/aug2020news>

CLZ September 2020 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/59e9827bef47/sept2020news>

CLZ November 2020 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/96adcf3c44b5/nov2020news>

CLZ February 2021 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/80b6e5fd296b/feb2021news>

CLZ October 2021 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/517cef0d2895/oct2021news>

CLZ November 2021 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/7252164e6cb6/nov2021news>

CLZ March 2022 Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/c15ff8b69d9b/mar2022news>

11. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on CLZ as well as the livelihoods of the people in the Lower Zambezi. Tourism in the Lower Zambezi plays a vital role to providing jobs and income to very low-income community members and due to most operators either closing down or operating at minimum capacity in 2020 and parts of 2021, many people were let go and had no means to provide for themselves and their families. CLZ also receives a generous amount of membership fees annually from tourism operators and due to the situation, were receiving significantly less in fees or none at all (estimated loss is \$145,000). This put a very serious strain on the organisation as the money from memberships is used as unrestricted funds to operate the camp and for administration costs such as salaries, maintenance and unplanned/unbudgeted support to DNPW and the community. CLZ came up with financial measures to take to try to support the staff and retain jobs (80% of the CLZ staff are hired from the local community).

This project was specifically affected by COVID-19 in a number of ways. Activities from Output 1, 2 and 3 that involved any aspect of training was delayed due to not being able to convene large groups of people as well as not being able to bring in external trainers. At the end of the project period however, CLZ and

WCP were still able to conduct the activities even if some had to be modified to ensure the safety of people as well as abide by COVID-19 regulations.

Activities that involved the communities required a different approach as they were heavily impacted financially and therefore were unwilling to reason with the need to protect wildlife over having to feed their families. Therefore, through an approved change request, as well as support from IWTCF Emergency Fund (that CLZ was only eligible to apply for because of receiving funding at the time for this grant) as well as a number of other donors, CLZ was able to provide relief to community members with COVID-19 awareness, masks, hand sanitising stations, medications, food in some cases, and more to be able to tide them over during an extremely difficult time.

Throughout the project period CLZ continued to operate, therefore activities continued. While some activities were not able to happen at certain times and were postponed and conducted when possible, as mentioned above, other activities that were funded by the grant such as K9, RRU and CS patrols all continued. For all activities that continued, added protocols for health and safety were initiated in order to protect everyone that was working at full capacity during this time.

12. Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend	2019 - 2022 Grant (£)	2019 - 2022 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				N/A
Consultancy costs				N/A
Overhead Costs				N/A
Travel and subsistence				N/A
Operating Costs				N/A
Capital items (see below)				Project Partner WCP were unable to purchase the remaining equipment in time, therefore there is an underspend in this budget line
Others (see below)				N/A
TOTAL				

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
N/A	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
Crime Scene Investigation Kits	
Boat	
Outboard Engine for Boat	
Radios and Radio Batteries	

Garmin InReach Devices	██████████
Garmin GPSs Cases and Screen Protectors	██████████
Head Torches and Flashlights	██████████
Solar Field Battery Chargers	██████████
Spot Lights	██████████
Patrol Bags	██████████
Rechargable Batteries	██████████
Mobile Phones	██████████
Printers and Toners	██████████
TOTAL	██████████

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
N/As	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
USFWS - K9 Unit, RRU, River Patrols and Community Scout Unit	██████████
Vulcan - Support to IIUs around the Lower Zambezi National Park	██████████
US INL - Legal Assistant, Prosecutions Support, Border Capacity, Aerial Support	██████████
CITES MIKE - Law Enforcement Capacity	██████████
IWTCF Rapid Response Grant - Community Support	██████████
IUCN SOS - K9 Unit Expansion and Law Enforcement Salaries, Scout Patrols and Equipment	██████████
Oak Foundation - Community Support	██████████
Lion Recovery Fund - Law Enforcement Support	██████████
Explorers Against Extinction - Community Scout Patrols	██████████
International Elephant Foundation - DNPW Patrols and K9 Unit	██████████
Wildlife Conservation Network - DNPW Support	██████████
Project Ranger - K9 Unit and RRU	██████████
Tusk - Law Enforcement Support	██████████
USFWS - Law Enforcement Support	██████████
TOTAL	██████████

*Note that from the original application, the funds secured from Vulcan was project partner WCPs match funding. The remainder of the funding outlined above is CLZ secured funding for related activities during the lifetime of this IWTCF Grant.

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
US INL - Legal Assistant, Prosecutions Support, Border Capacity, Aerial Support	██████████
CITES MIKE - Law Enforcement Capacity	██████████
Conservation International / AFD – Community Support	██████████
Lion Recovery Fund – Law enforcement, capacity building, Long-term Training Programme, and equipment	██████████
USFWS – Law enforcement, Long-term Training Programme, operation of forwarding and communications bases at Chilapira and Kulefu, Special Operation Groups, and equipment	██████████
SwissAfrican Foundation – Law Enforcement	██████████
Tusk – Law enforcement, community workshops, equipment and subscriptions, Long-Term Training Programme, and Special Operation Groups	██████████
International Elephant Foundation – Village K9 Project	██████████
TOTAL	██████████

12.3 Value for Money

Due to the remote location of the CLZ Basecamp and its outposts, the closest town to the Camp is about 70km away, which brings an added cost to every purchase due to having to bring it in. CLZ has therefore had to develop ways in which to efficiently run a fully operational Basecamp and cater for anywhere between 20 to 80 people at any given time, but within a budget. Since the organisation has been running for over 25 years now, methods to save costs on all purchases has been done through the development of better planning systems in place, procurement policies, vendors chosen due to proximity and availability of tried and tested products and ensuring utilising all movements to full potential in order to save costs.

13. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	N/A
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?	N/A
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	