



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	IWT064
Project title:	Determining the Deterrent Effect of Combatting Wildlife Crime
Country(ies):	Malawi
Lead organisation:	Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
Collaborator(s):	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Malawi Prisons Service Dr Andrew Lemieux, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime & Law Enforcement Dr Michelle Newberry, University of Southampton Dr Rob Ogden, TRACE Wildlife Forensic Network
Project leader:	Dr Stuart Williams
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	October2019, (HYR1)
Project website/blog/social media:	N/A (to date)

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 agreement was signed on 15 May 2019 (following a series of discussions regarding the logframe, which was duly adjusted, and alignment of activities with the logframe).

Since the signing of the agreement, the following activities have taken place:

1. *Recruitment of Project Manager* position – this position has been filled by Donna Banks
2. *Convening of project inception meeting.* The project inception meeting was held in Lilongwe on 26 July 2019. The participants included:
 - a. Stuart Williams (LWT Director of Programmes and Project Lead)
 - b. Michelle Newberry (University of Southampton and lead on the prison interviews)
 - c. Andrew Lemieux (Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement and lead on the analysis of spatio-temporal patterns in trafficking and trading wildlife products)
 - d. Stephanie Pietsch (TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network and here to represent

Rob Ogden; TRACE are leading on the molecular analysis of wildlife products to determine the geographical origin of the products and to track changes to this over time.

- e. Matt Husher (LWT Technical Advisor, Investigations and Law Enforcement)
- f. Donna Banks (LWT – IWT064 Project Manager)

The meeting included the following points:

- a. Welcome to LWT & Malawi, Introduction to LWT, Introduction to the project (Stuart Williams, Project Lead);
- b. Each participant: introductions and their interest in the project
- c. Practicalities - overall and of each section: partnership agreements, ethics and consent forms, data sharing agreements/protocols, logistics, planning, TOR that need to be written, translations; agreeing on action plans and next steps; roles and responsibilities; timelines.
- d. Review logframe

The minutes of the meeting are appended herewith.

3. *Team meetings* (26 – 30 August 2019; 16 – 20 September 2019). Two team meetings were held following the Inception Meeting. These were held at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) for two reasons: i) convenience for all parties and ii) to reduce the project's carbon footprint. At the first meeting, Stuart and Andrew met and discussed two components of the project (prison interviews and spatio-temporal analysis) – as well as other potential research projects within IWT. At the second meeting, Stuart, Andrew and Michelle met to discuss the prison interviews, including:
 - a. Informal interview with Marie Rosenkrantz Lindegaard from NSCR – she carried out prisoner interviews among a cohort of violent offenders in South Africa and shared her lessons learned
 - b. Extensive discussions about the format, ethical aspects, selection of interviewers, socio-cultural implications and clearances – including how to avoid inadvertent impacts.
4. *Meeting with Malawi Prisons Service* (10 October 2019) – to secure agreement to access all people serving custodial sentences for wildlife crime in all prisons across the country.
5. *Reaching out to Chimwemwe Msukwa* (meeting expected on 04 November 2019) – one of the champions in Malawi – so that the socio-cultural aspects of the interview schedule can be cleared

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. 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 to date.

However, there is (renewed) talk of burning the ivory stockpile in Malawi and, as a result, it is imperative that the sampling of the stockpile commences sooner rather than later.

One of the lessons that has been learned is that start-up discussions and meetings for a complex project such as this are necessary and important. In addition, we have had to adapt from holding such meetings in Malawi to holding them in Europe: this not only reduces the project's carbon footprint but it also offers opportunities to draw off excellent resource people who may be found in some insititutions.

2b. 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/No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No N/A

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No (Not at present) 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.

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 at present.

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.**