



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

Project reference	IWT064
Project title	Determining the Deterrent Effect of Combatting Wildlife Crime
Country(ies)	Malawi
Lead organisation	Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
Partners(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	Jonny Vaughan
Report date and number (e.g., HYR1)	HYR3 – October 2021
Project website/blog/social media	N/A

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 project has regained momentum and is largely back on track after the COVID-19 pandemic caused further delays (due to a 3rd wave in Malawi) between April and August 2021. The following section provided an outline of progress made to date with regards to all of the project's Output activities.

Output 1 Activities

Output 1 is the final published and presented report that demonstrates the disruptions and deterrents of wildlife trafficking and trade in Malawi. The full development of this report can only commence once the detailed analytical reports from Output 2 and 3 have both been completed. The detailed Output 2 report has now been completed (see below) but data collation is currently ongoing for Output 3. The technical reporting for Output 3 will be completed in January 2022. The production and government approval of the disruption and deterrent report is expected at the end of Quarter 4. As such, there was no significant progress to report in the first half of Year 3 with regards to Output 1 activities (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4). That said, activities for this Output remain on target and largely in accordance with the project's revised implementation timetable. Overall, Output 1 activities are on track.

Output 2 Activities

Activities 2.1 to 2.11 have now been completed and a final draft report on offender motivations and perceptions of deterrents has been produced by the University of Southampton (please see accompanying attachment). As such, this specific set of activities under Output 2 are

slightly ahead of the project's schedule as provided by the implementation timetable.

Activities 2.12 to 2.21 have been ongoing during the first half of Year 3. As such, spatial-temporal data collection and analysis of disruptions, methods and arrests etc. have continued, as planned, throughout the period. Report writing for this part of Output 2 will commence in December 2021, slightly ahead of the schedule presented in the project implementation timetable.

Overall, Output 2 activities are on track.

Output 3 Activities

The DNA analysis of historic and seized specimens has been further delayed due to the extension of COVID-19 imposed international travel restrictions to and from Malawi. However, in this reporting period the team did work to collect ivory specimens from the stockpile and secure CITES Export and Import permits for the specimens to be sent to TRACE in the UK – as a contingency measure. The samples are currently awaiting shipping. Now that Malawi has been removed from the UK COVID-19 Red List, TRACE have scheduled their visit to Malawi for November 2021. It is anticipated that analysis will be able to commence in early December 2021 (either in country or via the shipped samples) and should be completed the same month. Output 3 report writing will then be completed in January 2022. As such, activity 3.3 is behind schedule and activity 3.4 slightly behind schedule. That said, the project team remain confident that the work will be completed in time for the project to deliver the final (Output 1) report on time. Overall, Output 3 activities are slightly delayed.

Output 4 Activities

Activities 4.2 and 4.3 were ongoing during the reporting period and Activities 4.5 to 4.7 are to be completed by the end of Year 3. As such, all outstanding Output 4 activities remain as planned in the project's implementation timetable. Overall, all Output 4 activities are on track.

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.

There have been further delays enforced upon Output 3 activities due to the COVID-19 restrictions on international travel. In response, the project team received remote training from TRACE on sample collection and worked to secure permission and permits to ship samples to TRACE in the UK. This option remains the project's contingency planned. It is still hoped that TRACE will complete the work in country in November/December 2021. However, with a contingency plan in place the risk of further delays to the project have now been reduced. As such, at this time, no further changes to the project's budget or timeline are expected. Lastly, we have learnt that DNA sampling and analysis can be completed in shorter timeframes and with in-country personnel (if they can be adequately trained).

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.

Please see above – the delays to Output 3 are related to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 on international travel, meaning TRACE have been unable to visit Malawi.

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:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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 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?

No, thanks.

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.**