



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

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, MBE
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2 – October 2020
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 past 6 months have been challenging, but not significantly damaging, for the project. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the departure of the original Project Leader from the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) and substantial delays to in-country activity implementation. These matters were communicated to LTS and a change control request subsequently approved by LTS on 27th May 2020. A new Project Leader was appointed and changes to the agreed project implementation timetable were also confirmed. Details of these changes can be found in the approved change control request (which is available upon request as needed). Also, detailed in the same change control request was the approval of a small, but important, pragmatic shift in the focus of Objective 2, based our initial analysis of Year 1 data. This refinement of Objective 2 was also detailed in the same approved change control request. In short, this refinement consisted of the inclusion of additional deterrence metrics, several covering behavioural changes and others covering changes in national legislation and the value of low-level arrests.

Further refinement of the project's objectives was then undertaken in response to the feedback received from the external review of our Year 1 Annual Report. The feedback strongly recommended that we made further amendments to the project's log-frame. After testing we agreed that improvements were needed and, as such, the delayed project implementation timetable allowed us time to review the project's logic and assumptions and subsequently adjust the original Output statements (especially Output 1) and, as such, also the Outcome. We also took the opportunity to improve indicators and include some annual indicator milestones for each output. These changes were submitted to LTS in July 2020, further refined through August 2020, and finally approved by LTS on 25th September 2020. Details of these changes

can also be found in the approved change control request (which is available upon request as needed). The new project log-frame, indicator milestones and agreed project implementation timetable is attached to the cover email of this report.

As such, this half-year report hereby outlines progress made against this new agreed project implementation timetable and indicator milestones. An update is provided below, although, please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions field-based activity during this reporting period has been limited (which is in accordance with the new implementation timetable).

Outcome

No substantial progress to report with regards to Outcome Indicators as interim milestones now set at end Year 2 and into Year 3.

However, the work undertaken by the project team to improve the Outcome and Outcome indicators has provided a sound base upon which progress to Outcome can be tracked and the project expectations reached. Currently on track.

Output 1

Indicator milestones now set for end Year 3, but the work undertaken by the project team to improve this Output and Output Indicators has provided a sound base upon which progress can be tracked and Output expectations reached. Currently on track.

Output 2

All MoUs and partnership agreements for Output 2 had already been approved and were reported as such in the Year 1 Annual Report. Although our MoU with Malawi Prison Services was in place, the COVID-19 pandemic led to the Malawi Prison Services rightly postponing the implementation of any prison-based work e.g. prison interviews. This temporary ban has just been lifted and LWT recently received confirmation that the prison interviews can commence from 1st November 2020.

The delay in field-based activities presented the project team with an opportunity to spend time refining and improving the prison survey methodologies. These improvements included ensuring that the prison interview transcripts were suitable for trafficking offenders (as opposed to poaching offenders) and incorporated most of the SES components of the wider study. This meant the team had to resecure permission to proceed from the University of Southampton's Ethical Committee – which was granted in September 2020. The COVID-19 induced delay also enabled the project team to refine and complete the deterrence metrics, data capture forms and data analysis strategies with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime & Law Enforcement. This included completion of the following tasks:

- Developed debrief templates to measure deterrence at the individual level
- Developed lifestyle survey to monitor deterrence indicators
- Piloted debrief templates with 2 historical case studies
- Finalised trafficker grade matrix
- Finalised court monitoring analysis strategy

As such, all project MoUs, methodologies, tools and preliminary assessments for component 1 / 2 have now been completed and, as such, we are on track with regards to the indicator milestone set at September 2020. Furthermore, the training of enumerators/interviewers, including the carrying out of “mock” interviews was also completed (in September). Consequently, new data capture and analysis can now commence as planned i.e. in accordance with the new project implementation timetable (noting that data on methods and behaviours used by people involved in wildlife crime continued to be collected from all arrests

completed throughout the reporting period). Currently on track.

Output 3

This Output is also currently on track with the new project implementation timetable. International travel restrictions to Malawi have recently been lifted and TRACE have confirmed that they are likely to be able to travel to Malawi early December to host the inception meeting. At that meeting TRACE and DNPW will decide how to sample the items in the stockpile and agree on protocol for collecting specimens and DNA analysis from all arrests/seizures made over the project. Analysis is expected to commence in early 2021.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

As per new project implementation timetable – albeit IACCWC meetings were not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. These can recommence from November 2020 onwards. The mid-term review may also be best placed at end Year 2, once new data capture and analysis is well underway. 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.

Such problems have been detailed in the two associated change control requests which are available upon request. We are pleased that we have found solutions to such issues and the project is now hopefully back on track with a tight but manageable new timeline for implementation, and a much clearer project logic.

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.

Again, these have been detailed in the two associated change control requests that were approved during the reporting period. In short, COVID-19 mitigation restrictions led to the 7-month postponement of prison interviews and an 8-month delay for international experts to visit Malawi e.g. for ivory stockpile analysis. We hope these matters have now been resolved, but if there are further delays caused by a re-emergence of COVID-19 (and reinstatement of restrictions) then a project extension will most likely be needed. However, if we can implement in accordance with the new agreed project implementation timetable then we have a good chance of delivering the project's Outputs and Outcome by the end of Year 3.

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?

Nothing at present thanks. We have found the LTS team to be extremely helpful and understanding during these challenging times. Thank you.

Note the response to the Annual Report Review is a new, refined, and improved Project Log-Frame which was approved on 25th September 2020 (and is attached with the cover email of this report).

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.**