



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	IWT066
Project title:	Legal Intelligence for Cheetah Illegal Trade (LICIT)
Country(ies):	Ethiopia, Somalia/Somaliland, Yemen
Lead organisation:	Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)
Collaborator(s):	IFAW, Legal Atlas
Project leader:	Edwin Brown, CCF
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	23 October 2019, (HYR1)
Project website/blog/social media:	

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 start date for the LICIT project was 1 July 2019, so this report covers only a period of three months from 1 July – 30 September 2019.

Progress during the period covered by this report includes the following:

I. CCF and IFAW Project Coordinators began working together to start building the networks necessary to carry out the LICIT project in the target countries, through contacts with national and local level government officials, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

From June 25 - July 2, 2019, Dr. Marker, LICIT Project Director, and Christopher Dietrich, CCF's IWT Law Enforcement Advisor, had a series of meetings with Somaliland government officials about the LICIT project in Hargeisa. During the meetings, the foundations for the 2020 cheetah stakeholder workshop and future training in Hargeisa with LICIT partners were laid. Subjects discussed related to law enforcement, legal frameworks, cheetah handling and reporting, and how to approach creating a means to encourage cross-border cooperation for enforcement agents.

From Sept 5 - 12, 2019, Dr. Marker led an international team of veterinarians, veterinary students and volunteers in conducting comprehensive health examinations on 31 cubs intercepted from the illegal cheetah trade under the care of CCF in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Tests were administered to determine the presence of disease, viral loads, and genetic disposition; test results are not complete; results that are available are under analysis.

These contacts were also used to prepare for a series of LICIT-focused meetings and consultations that will take place in Ethiopia and Somaliland in early November, 2019.

These activities relate to Output 2 and Indicators 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 2.1, and 2.2 of the project logframe/timetable

II. In consultation with partners, Legal Atlas created a plan for the gathering and compilation of a LICIT bibliography of materials needed to conduct its analysis of laws and regulations in the four target jurisdictions. The scope of resources sought included both general and country-specific types of documents identified as relevant to LICIT. Resources gathered totaled 117 laws initially collected including 46 general resources on cheetahs, CITES, sharia law and wildlife crime, plus national resources from the four targets. A lack of comprehensive and reliable official sources in all four jurisdictions required the use of secondary sources. The collaboration of national stakeholders will be crucial to verify, and complete the frameworks published at this preliminary stage. As networks are consolidated, it will be possible to engage them in this task.

For Ethiopia, research initially identified 56 pieces of legislation. After a preliminary screening for relevance to wildlife trade, 35 were selected to be published as part of the LICIT IWT Ethiopia legal framework. The list currently includes the new draft Wildlife Proclamation, which is expected to supersede the current 2007 version of the law.

For Somalia, 19 laws were initially identified using secondary sources, as official national sources could not be found. Seventeen of these laws have been selected as relevant to IWT. The existence of some laws is indicated in bibliographic resources but the actual legislation has not yet been located. The draft text of a new Wildlife law, which will supersede the current 1969 law, was obtained by direct contact with Somali authorities. The new law is still in development and a time line for its approval is not known. Legal Atlas will look for opportunities to use the LICIT analysis to support further development of this new law.

For Somaliland, Legal Atlas gathered and analyzed 19 pieces of legislation, largely from secondary sources, selecting 13 as relevant to IWT and preparing overviews. Some laws are not available in English and will need to be translated if necessary for further analysis (Google translations are being used to assess basic relevance during the initial screening process).

For Yemen, three official web sites were identified that publish Yemeni legislation, but only in Arabic. Research was supplemented using secondary sources offering English translations. As with Somaliland, preliminary Google translations were done for Arabic-only documents, permitting an initial screening to confirm relevance to IWT. The need for professional legal translation will be identified at a later stage. A total of 23 pieces of Yemeni legislation were collected and analyzed, with 18 assessed as related to IWT issues.

The four legal frameworks were published on the Legal Atlas platform. They are accessible by registering with the platform at <https://legal-atlas.net>; selecting the Topic of "Wildlife Trade"; selecting the Database of "Legal Framework"; and then selecting the specific jurisdiction from the map or the dropdown menu. Once selected, the frameworks are presented as a list of clickable laws on the right side of the page. Each law included in the frameworks contains a short overview describing its role in relation to the regulation of IWT that can be accessed by clicking the (i) icon to the right of the law.

III. With the initial frameworks assembled, Legal Atlas began its review of the collected resources to identify critical elements providing context to the legal challenges to combating IWT in the LICIT target countries and the Horn of Africa region. Information of value was extracted and referenced in anticipation of being included in country assessments and legal agendas to be developed. Analysis included development of legal strategies, legal hierarchies, and legal timelines for each of the frameworks, which are elements of standard Legal Atlas analysis methods. Legal strategies show the general areas of law used by the selected jurisdiction to regulate wildlife trade. Legal hierarchies show the relationship between laws and regulations and can aid in conflict of law questions, as well as in tracking how mandates are implemented within the legal system. Timelines show when each law or regulation in the framework was published or last amended and are designed to assist reviews where time relationships are important, such as signing of international agreements and implementation in national law, time lags in developing implementing legislation, or frequency of amendments.

The LICIT strategies, hierarchies, and timelines were prepared in the form of visuals that can be viewed online by accessing the Visuals dropdown menu when viewing the national Legal Frameworks. The visuals highlight similarities and differences in the major areas of law applicable to the topic. For example only two of the four LICIT jurisdictions (Somalia and Ethiopia) are using 'Finance' related legislation to combat wildlife trade. Similarly, only two (Somaliland and Ethiopia) are using 'Transport' related legislation for this purpose. The visuals allow researchers to rapidly identify gaps and better organize inquiries into how each area of law is, or could be, used to better regulate wildlife trade.

IV. As part of preparation for the LICIT assessments, Legal Atlas produced a preliminary approach to evaluate country compliance with the CITES convention, based on the CITES Recommended 'Legislation Checklist.' The 70 items on the checklist were classified as relevant (24 items), possibly relevant (19), or excluded (27), and criteria for each decision were recorded. Guidelines were established for the relevant items according to the type of content being targeted in the LICIT assessments.

V. Lastly, Legal Atlas developed a preliminary outline for the Country Reports, including a draft Table of Contents and initial assessment comments.

These activities relate to Output 1 and Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 1.3. and 1.4 of the project logframe/timetable

VI. The partners have also pursued opportunities to leverage additional support for the LICIT project. This has resulted in an offer by the United States government to help organize and fund a wildlife enforcement workshop in Hargeisa, Somaliland in early 2020. This event will focus on strategies and actions necessary to achieve the goals of the LICIT project, including network building, and on integrating LICIT with other cheetah conservation and wildlife enforcement initiatives in the target countries and the region. Discussions with other potential partners are ongoing.

These activities also relate to Output 2 and Indicators 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 2.1, and 2.2 of the project logframe/timetable.

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.

LICIT has not encountered any significant problems or unexpected developments during the period covered by this report.

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

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?
No

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.**