



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2019)**

Project reference	IWT067
Project title	Strengthening Implementation of Zimbabwe's Wildlife legal System
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Zimbabwe
Lead organisation	Space For Giants
Partner(s)	Speak Out For Animals
Project leader	<i>Shamini Jayanathan</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>01 October 2019</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.speakoutforanimals.org , facebook (<i>Speak Out For Animals</i>)

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

The project commenced in April 2019, with the recruitment of 3 legal monitors initially and an administrator. The legal monitors attended all the magistrates courts (52) in Zimbabwe from April to date, introducing the project aims and objectives.

In June 2019, a senior official was recruited, a former High Court Prosecutor as it was difficult for three lawyers to manage the whole country, thereby giving a total of 4 legal monitors. From April to September, the legal monitors undertook an exercise to collect data on all wildlife cases for 2018 at 52 courts countrywide. This data is still raw and is yet to be analysed and processed.

In June 2019, the monitoring of live wildlife cases commenced, consisting of court attendance at each hearing, support to the prosecution services upon request and advice to the Parks Authority. This is an ongoing process. Legal monitors have managed to build a good relationship with the court officials as well as other law enforcement agents such as the Zimbabwe Republic Police Force and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority through their lobbying and advocacy activities.

The organization has managed to rent offices in two regions of the country where two of the four monitors are stationed. The other two currently work from home but the NPA and Zim parks are currently being engaged to offer office space to the other two monitors, something that has worked with a similar project run by Space for Giants in Botswana.

From April to June, SOFA has been using 2 of its private vehicles for the project. In June 2019, the organisation managed to purchase one vehicle for the Project using project funds and is currently awaiting imminent funds to purchase the other vehicle.

Despite the challenges highlighted below, the Rapid Reference Guide on wildlife crime was developed, validated and finalised. Due to non-availability of the NPA and other key

stakeholders, launch was delayed until the 1st October and followed immediately by two back-to-back trainings in Bulwayo and Harare between the 2nd and 9th October .

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.

Due to the hyper- inflation in Zimbabwe and inconsistent government policies it has been difficult to constantly plan and budget, as prices are changing every day. From April to June, Zimbabwe was using a multi-currency system but from June to August the use of foreign currency was banned. At the end of August a new policy allowing use of foreign currencies for certain transactions was authorized. The main challenge is that there is no cash in the banks and so SOFA has to use electronic and mobile money which is now taxed (as of October 2019) at 2% for every single transaction which amounts to a significant cost over time. The delay in receiving funds has caused delays in the buying of assets and equipment as SOFA had to advance the costs from April to mid-August when it received money for the 1st quarter. Thus, for the second quarter SOFA is advancing costs towards the project though it has limited resources.

It has been determined that the case load in Harare is too high for one monitor – there are two magistrates courts and one High Court that handles appeals and bail appeals; there are cases nearly every other day scattered across these courts making it impossible to achieve full coverage by the one monitor. Accordingly, a fifth court monitor is required to address this deficit.

Due to serious fuel shortages in the country, monitors at times use buses to travel to court for case monitoring; though this cheaper there are additional risks regarding personal safety and SOFA has had to invest in health and emergency care coverage.

Zimbabwe is also facing power cuts and electricity outages of between 12-19 hours a day since June which impacts upon efficiency of managing the project due to lack of connectivity and absence of means to charge laptops and phones. Monitors are having to work in internet cafes or at midnight at home when electricity is turned on. . Thus, there is a need to invest in back-up power e.g. a battery and inverter for each office.

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 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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 Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

The Zimbabwean economy is hyperinflationary so early disbursement of finances will be critical for meeting of objectives. Due to the complexity of arranging for 4 legal officers to travel to the courts by buses, SOFA needs more administrative support, to ensure the smooth running of the project.

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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 Darwin-Projects@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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**