



**Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects**  
**Half Year Report**  
**(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)**

<b>Project reference</b>	IWT067
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening Implementation of Zimbabwe's Wildlife Crime Legal System
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Zimbabwe
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Space for Giants (SFG)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Speak Out For Animals (SOFA)
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Katto Wambua - Senior Criminal Justice Advisor, SFG.</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	<i>30 October, 2020, (HYR2)</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://spaceforgiantstest.squarespace.com/wildlife-law-justice">https://spaceforgiantstest.squarespace.com/wildlife-law-justice</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/spaceforgiants">https://twitter.com/spaceforgiants</a> <a href="http://www.speakoutforanimals.org/">http://www.speakoutforanimals.org/</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 end September).**

The reporting period April to September, 2020 involved delivery of one in-person inter-agency rapid reference guide prosecutorial training for 15 prosecutors and investigators (7 female and 8 male) in Masvingo from 29 September to 01 October, 2020. Also delivered was court monitoring in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic national lockdown, related travel restrictions and court shutdowns/slow-downs. From April to June, 2020 court monitoring was done of **74 wildlife crime cases in 43 courts** across the country, most of which were ongoing. The concluded cases resulted in a **91.6% conviction rate**. From July to September, 2020, court monitoring was undertaken in **120 wildlife crime cases in 47 courts**, most of which are ongoing. The concluded cases resulted in a **91.1% conviction rate**. This means the prosecution outcomes are holding steady or are marginally improving considering the average **90.4%** conviction rate in wildlife cases from 2015-2019 in Space for Giants Zimbabwe's Wildlife Crime Baseline Report. A clearer picture will begin to emerge when we publish a 2020 Annual Court Monitoring report and into 2022. A positive trend noted from monitoring cases this year has been the increased prosecution of law enforcement and security personnel in 3 cases involving an army officer, airforce officer, and two police officers one of whom is a senior Criminal Investigations Division Detective. This includes a case involving **14.6 tonnes of ivory**. This is very rare and was lacking in 2015-2019 based on the Zimbabwe wildlife crime baseline report. Our monitoring is working with investigators, prosecutors to manage these cases well and ensure a just outcome. A negative impact of the Covid Pandemic includes a backlog of wildlife cases and suspects absconding court attendance having been given bail as part of measures to decongest the prisons/remand facilities and the courts. We are working with authorities to tackle this and other challenges emerging from our court monitoring programme. The 4 court monitors have undertaken data clean-up and entry for a 2018-2019 baseline survey based on a new KAZA region-wide data capture format developed by the SFG legal team.

Space for Giants was expected in partnership with SOFA to deliver **10** training and mentoring workshops to at least **75** prosecutors and judicial officers. The implementation of this is expected to result in **4** workshops being delivered in **2019-2020**, **3 workshops delivered in 2020-2021** and **3 workshops in 2021-2022**.

Between 2019-2020, **2 of the expected 4** workshops were delivered due to delays in production and launch of a Rapid Reference Guide which was launched on 1st October, 2019. In 2020-2021, **2 of the expected 3 workshops** have been delivered bringing the cumulative training from inception to date to a total of **75** persons, comprising 72 prosecutors, 2 investigators and 1 judicial officer. Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, the project's team plan to deliver 3 more trainings in 2020 to cover for lost ground has not been possible. The Masvingo workshop delivered in September, 2020 was originally scheduled to be held from 23-26 March, 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 global crisis. Zimbabwe was on a national lockdown from 30 March to 11 May, 2020. This necessitated a shut down of the courts as well. The re-opening has been phased with inter-cities/towns travel restricted until July, 2020. Despite the reopening of courts and government operations, conditions have not been favourable for delivery of training. Moreover, the SFG legal team was also in a lockdown in Kenya until August, 2020. Space for Giants and SOFA explored delivery of the training electronically e.g., on Zoom and concluded this was not viable due to erratic power supply in Zimbabwe which has only worsened during the pandemic. This is even more so given the varied, underserved and distant rural areas participants are in where many lack both internet access and electricity. The Space for Giants legal team however trained the small SOFA legal team of 5 persons to deliver in-person training in May and June, 2020 in a series of online training and exercises at the SOFA offices. Despite these challenges Space for Giants and SOFA are confident that the six required workshops for 2020-2022 will be delivered successfully. It is noteworthy to indicate that we have so far matched the overall project's training target of 75 prosecutors in 4 training workshops.

**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 no notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons encountered over the last 6 months, other than Covid-19 related delays/problems.

**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.**

As indicated above, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in national lock-downs and travel restrictions in Zimbabwe and Kenya. These have persisted during the reporting period and have affected project activities severely. It hampered our ability to deliver on 5 training workshops in 2020 as planned by Space for Giants and SOFA. We had to cancel scheduled training and have only delivered 2 of the 5 we had planned to deliver. We explored the possibility of delivery of training online first by delivering train-the-trainer training to the SOFA legal team of 5 persons from their office in May and June, 2020. However, delivering the same to would be participants from their homes proved impracticable due to internet access and electricity issues in Zimbabwe. This ensures that now SOFA has the necessary capacity to deliver training. Once the restrictions eased off in September, 2020 we held the Masvingo workshop successfully. Despite these challenges, we have so far matched the project's training target of at least 75 prosecutors and judicial officers since inception with a year left to the project. We have also managed through remote/online and in-person court attendance approaches (in full compliance of government Covid-19 rules) done court monitoring and given assistance/legal advice to prosecution teams during this pandemic. We have also taken the lockdown time to refine data capturing tools. We are confident that we can deliver the remaining project activities in time and without need to adjust our budget.

**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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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 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 Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

N/A

**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 [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**