



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	IWT068
Project title:	A price on their heads: Addressing jaguar trafficking in Bolivia
Country(ies):	Bolivia
Lead organisation:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Collaborator(s):	SERNAP, CIPTA, CRTM, DGB/MMyA, POFOMA
Project leader:	<i>Robert Wallace</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	31 st October 2019, (HYR1)
Project website/blog/social media:	www.wcsbolivia.org

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).

Originally the start of the project was the 1st April 2019, but we have requested to delay the start until the 1st of July 2019. Therefore, here we are reporting on the first 3 months of this 15 month project.

In this period we have made real progress in establishing the local intelligence network to combat jaguar and wildlife trafficking in the Bolivian portion of the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape. Preliminary meetings with indigenous organizations, municipal governments, park guards and protected area authorities, and ecotourism agencies, led to a series of workshops with these actors on the problem of wildlife trafficking.

As a result of these meetings and workshops there have been a number of public declarations against wildlife trafficking from these important local actors. We attach two of these declarations, the first from the Consejo Regional Tsimane-Moseten (CRTM - Tsimane-Moseten Regional Council), the indigenous representative organization for the Tsimane and Moseten indigenous people who co-manage the Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory, a 400,000 hectare national park and indigenous territory in the Bolivian Amazon. The second declaration is from the Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana (CIPTA – Tacana Peoples Indigenous Council) who manage a 389,000 hectare indigenous territory which lies adjacent to and overlaps with the world’s most biologically diverse protected area, Madidi National Park and Natural Integrated Management Area, and is also adjacent to Pilón Lajas.

Based on these workshops, additional declarations will be forthcoming from at least four of the ecotourism businesses in Rurrenabaque and San Buenaventura – two neighbouring towns that are the urban centre to this landscape in the Bolivian Amazon. Similarly, a multi-institutional declaration from four municipalities, two protected areas and the overall tourism council for the region is awaiting one signature which is expected in early November 2019. Once we receive these additional declarations we will be coordinating local and national press coverage for

these important developments. The statements clearly support efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and we will assist these actors in dissemination of these statements with member communities, businesses, as well as the local population. The statements will also form the basis of coordinating park guard patrols, indigenous control and vigilance mechanisms and subsequent coordination with POFOMA regarding information from the local intelligence networks.

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.

A combination of late notification of the Award in April 2019, as well as WCS negotiation regarding the terms of the award with DEFRA, led to us not executing DEFRA funds for our IWT project within the first quarter of the award (April 2019 to June 2019). We have been booking expenses and conducting project activities since July 2019.

The main problem that we have encountered in the initial project period is a specific political position regarding NGOs in general from the Vice Minister of the Environment, especially with regards to efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. This was evident at the recent Jaguar IWT event in Santa Cruz where invited NGOs were essentially confined to a parallel meeting, with minimal opportunities to coordinate and interact with government officials at the meeting, hugely contrasting with the subsequent event in October in Lima (the First High Level Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade). It is important to mention that in the last three years WCS has received prizes and formal recognition from the Ministry of Education and the Bolivian Parliament, and this week (October 31st) is collecting a prize with funding from the Ministry of Development Planning. We have also been collaborating with SERNAP (Bolivian Parks Service) for more than a decade, through annual work plans.

We have attempted to mitigate this position prior to the delayed beginning of the project, including meetings together with British Embassy staff. Unfortunately, there appears to be no way forward and so activities under Output 1 with the Ministry will have to be adapted. In the majority of the activities under other outputs, the Ministry was either not identified as an actor or was only one of the actors involved and so for those Outputs we do not anticipate changes.

As an alternative for Output 1, we propose to develop the proposed documents with SERNAP – The Bolivian Protected Area Service.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: Yes

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.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None.

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.**