



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

Project reference	IWT 068
Project title	A price on their heads: Addressing jaguar trafficking in Bolivia
Country(ies)	Bolivia
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partners(s)	SERNAP, CIPTA, CRTM, DGB/MMyA, POFOMA
Project leader	<i>Robert Wallace</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31st October 2020, (HYR2)</i>
Project website/blog/social media	www.wcsbolivia.org & www.facebook.com/wcsbolivia

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).

Output 1: Through multi-agency effort, define priorities and actions to strategically address jaguar teeth trade, fast-tracking the application of lessons learned and successful strategies to mitigate IWT from Asia, Africa and other Latin American countries.

The IWT intelligence database and the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Jaguar will serve as the basis for improving multi-agency efforts to define priorities and actions for jaguar conservation and combatting jaguar related IWT in Bolivia. We have already shared the database structure (see advances in Output 2 below), and we are very happy to attach the published digital version of the Jaguar Conservation National Action Plan, which is being printed this week and will be distributed in the first week of November 2020. This Action Plan stresses the importance of tackling IWT and has a while section outlining the priority actions and actors identified to do so over the next 5 years.

Output 2: Improve strategic, efficient, and effective enforcement of wildlife trafficking-related laws to increase convictions.

Over the last six months we shared our IWT intelligence database structure for registering IWT events and cases in Bolivia in an online training event with key local partners including the Ministry of the Environment and Water and the main prosecutors office for Bolivia, as well as NGOs working on combatting IWT in Bolivia including Panthera, Savia (IUCN), WWF. All participants expressed their intention to employ the database structure to systematize information and this has been adopted by the Jaguar Working Group as the recognized database structure. Meanwhile, our team advanced with further research on IWT visibility on social platforms online, broadening search terms beyond those appropriate for jaguars.

Secondly, the database has been applied to systematize existing digital IWT data at the Ministry of the Environment and Water at the Direccion General de Biodiversidad y Areas

Protegidas and the Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas. Similarly, we have systematized IWT data for 10 other governmental and non-governmental organizations: POFOMA (only jaguar records), Regional Government of La Paz, La Paz Municipality and La Paz Animal Health Center, the National zoo in La Paz, two animal rescue centers (ONCA and Parque Machia), the regional government of La Paz, and the Customs, National Food Safety and Quality Institution, and Post Office. This has resulted in a database with 1,655 records of which 63 pertain to IWT cases or events related to the jaguar (36 seizures and 27 online). The rest are for other species, especially turtles, tortoises, macaws and parrots.

Activities to systematise IWT data in the Bolivian Forestry and Environment Police (POFOMA) have been paused at the time of reporting due to Covid-19 (see Output 4 below).

Output 3: Conduct a comprehensive outreach and communication campaign to educate rural and urban populations on the illegality of jaguar trafficking.

The communication specialist, Carina Osio, has developed a communications strategy for our campaign to educate urban rural and populations on the illegality of jaguar trafficking (see attachment). The social media campaign is well underway and we also attach a comprehensive report on the impact to date. In summary, 3 social media campaigns with 19 different messages have reached at least 595,000 Bolivians on Facebook, and generated at least social media 110,000 interactions. As such we are well on the way to reaching our stated targets. These social media campaigns will continue through to the end of December, and should the Change Request be approved through to the end of March 2021 (www.facebook.com/wcsbolivia).

The communication specialist is now developing the content for rural outreach, however, given that communication features in the priorities of our local partners in their subgrants (see Output 4 & 5), the work is being coordinated with the Madidi and Pilon Lajas protected areas and the Tsimane-Moseten (CRTM) and Tacana (CIPTA) Indigenous Peoples. Content will be developed in the next couple of months and then implemented until the end of March 2021 (assumin approval of Change Request).

Output 4: Establish basic capacities and enforcement protocols for addressing trafficking incidents, as well as evidence-based interventions to significantly reduce jaguar killing and trafficking through effective actions and impositions of sanctions that act as a deterrent.

Building on the preliminary pre-COVID-19 meetings and workshops with indigenous organisations, municipal governments, park guards and protected area authorities, and ecotourism agencies, and the resulting public declarations against wildlife trafficking from these important local actors in the Bolivian portion of the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape, we have continued to establish the local intelligence network to combat jaguar and wildlife trafficking. In this reporting period we made subgrants to Madidi National Park (SERNAP) to assist park guard patrols, resulting in one detected case on jaguar trafficking and an arrest. In the last month we have made parallel grants to Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory and the Tsimane-Moseten Indigenous People (SERNAP & CRTM), and a second grant to Madidi National Park and the Tacana Indigenous People (SERNAP & CIPTA) with both grants dedicated to support IWT focused park guard patrols and to develop communication materials and content for indigenous communities. These grants are underway and assuming approval of a further extension (Change Request) will continue until the end of March 2021.

Our work with the Bolivian Police has been delayed due to a) major political upheaval and changes in the government including positions in the Police, and b) the COVID-19 global pandemic which has meant significant priority changes for the Police. At the time of writing Bolivia has come through the first wave of the pandemic and we hope that over the next five months we can engage more intensively with POFOMA. We will be delivering the next set of online and systematized IWT data to POFOMA at the end of November. The other two activities that we would like to try and complete by the end of March 2021 in order of importance are: a) capacity building in the use of the intelligence database, and b) the systematization of IWT data at POFOMA. The first activity could be achieved through remote

training sessions, but due to the legal sensitivity of POFOMA information the second activity may need to be presential at the POFOMA offices.

We agreed to financially and logistically support a Chinese Masters student at the University of Oxford, Yuhan Li (MPhil Biodiversity, Conservation and Management), to interview Chinese Bolivian residents in coordination with Chinese Embassy in La Paz. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has meant that Yuhan Li has completed a desktop thesis at Oxford, with no travel possible up until now. There is a possibility that she could travel in 2021 to complete the intended study outside of the realm of her Masters thesis, but this will depend on how the pandemic evolves in Bolivia over the next couple of months. However, if Yuhan Li cannot come then given the circumstances and the time frame, it is unlikely that we will be able to complete activity 4.2, which was focused on gaining knowledge and understanding surrounding the Chinese population, their demographics, mobility, employment and opportunities to increase knowledge surrounding IWT.

Output 5: Local indigenous organizations have demonstrably improved control and vigilance capacities to safeguard natural resource management livelihood options.

Due to our commitment to reducing COVID-19 transmission risks and infection rates, we are not travelling to the field from our La Paz base. Rather we are working through the local subgrants contemplated in the project. Given the impossibility of travel, to simplify that process we are combining the indigenous subgrants to CRTM and CIPTA with the Madidi and Pilon Lajas protected areas. Much of the rural communication and outreach focus are the indigenous communities (see previous output).

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 COVID-19 pandemic, we will require an additional 3-month extension to the project until the end of March 2021. Firstly, field work by WCS staff has been suspended since mid-March until present. Secondly, at the request of the Police we have been unable to systematize IWT information at the POFOMA offices, largely because the Police have been engaged in the COVID-19 response and have also been an infection hotspot. Accordingly, we will send a Change Request Form for this 3-month extension in a separate accompanying message to the submission of this Half Year Report. In short, we want to engage in outstanding activities, particularly with respect to POFOMS, between January and March 2021.

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 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?

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.**