



## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	IWT069
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening intelligence-led enforcement to combat IWT between Indonesia and Malaysia
<b>Countries</b>	Indonesia and Malaysia
<b>Lead organisation</b>	WCS
<b>Partners</b>	National Police (INP), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (PPATK), Aviation Security, Airport and Seaport authorities (Angkasa Pura and Pelindo), Sarawak Forest Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, Royal Malaysian Police, Malaysian Army, Facebook, Indonesia E-Commerce Association (IDEA), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), APE Malaysia (Sabah), and Sarawak Eco-Warriors (Sarawak)
<b>Project leader</b>	Sofi Mardiah
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR3; 1 April – 30 September 2021
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

### 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. Activity 1.1.** We conducted a source of information (Sol) training for 12 participants (all male) from Lubok Antu District in Sri Aman, Sarawak, on 25 July 2021. A total of 123 Sols have been trained (Indicator: Y1-Y3 >100 people trained) to form our community informant network deployed across five provinces in Kalimantan and Sarawak. A consultant team completed a socio-economic scoping study to help us better understand local people's motives for being involved in IWT in Central and West Kalimantan provinces. This study took place in 10 villages in these provinces (in four conservation sites). We made the following observations: 1) widespread infrastructure expansion has triggered demographic changes, increased ethnic diversity, and integrated coastal-inland community economic activities; 2) livelihood diversification (away from farming), 10 years ago, has seen a raise in IWT providing a secondary income; 3) the role of local wisdom in supporting human-wildlife coexistence cannot be clearly defined and might not be directly related to IWT; and, 4) the role of national park staff, forestry staff, and police is prominent in preventing IWT. The consultants are preparing the final report.

**Activity 1.2.** We updated the i2 chart on the hornbill trade network in Indonesia with information from recent arrests, local informants, and government websites. This chart includes 161 people and two organizations that are proven or suspected to be involved in the hornbill trade in Indonesia (Fig. 1). We analysed the roles and relationships between these people in their respective "work" areas: North Sumatra, Aceh, Southern Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Java. In 2021, we identified nine additional people suspect to be involved in the hornbill trade. From a total of 161 suspects believed to be involved in the hornbill trade, 44 were apprehended and 29 have so far been prosecuted and convicted in court. We conducted a Social Network Analysis (SNA) to create an indicative chart to assess the transfer of helmeted hornbill commodities (beaks and live specimens) within Indonesia's trade network. In the SNA

concept, there are two important components that help to understand the network: nodes/entities (in this case “cities/districts”) and edges/vertices (link/relations between the nodes). To develop the i2 chart, we measured the betweenness (connectivity) value and identified the five cities/districts with the highest values and that are key transit points in the helmeted hornbill trade: Jakarta, Tangerang, Muko-Muko District, North Bengkulu District, and Medan. On trade routes, in 2021, perpetrators were detected transporting helmeted hornbill beaks from Kalimantan to Jakarta via Central Kalimantan (Iskandar Airport-Pangkalanbun-West Kotawaringin) to Semarang (Fig. 2). A shipment of helmeted hornbill beaks was previously detected from Kalimantan to Jakarta via West Kalimantan (Pontianak and Ketapang), indicating a trade route shift, possibly to avoid detection: based on IWT case records, over 20 illegal shipments of wildlife were seized by West Kalimantan authorities in two years, while there were only nine in Central Kalimantan. It is still possible for perpetrators to use old trade routes in West Kalimantan. The i2 chart and analyses helped law enforcement officers update their networks and develop accompanying strategies. WCS Malaysia supplied two pieces of information on IWT to SFC from April 2021-September 2021, leading to the arrest of two traders. WCS Indonesia provided the Government of Indonesia (GoI) with four pieces of information, leading to the arrest of four poachers and traders.

**Activity 1.3.** Through Sol monitoring in Indonesia and Malaysia, at least four pieces of information were provided to government agencies, which led to four sting operations within this period. We also supported GoI through data analyses, providing legal assistance, and conducting trainings for government officers. Consequently, a total of six sting operations were conducted by governments within this reporting period (four in Indonesia and two in Malaysia) and 10 people were apprehended; two people were convicted and each sentenced to one month in prison and a MYR 1,000 (~USD 240) fines, five are part of ongoing legal processes, and three became case witnesses. The information transferred and subsequent government arrests are summarised in Appendix 3 (Link).

**Output 2. Activity 2.1.** In August 2021, three WCS staff were resource persons at an annual training event (“Education and Training for the Formation of Prosecutors”) held by the Attorney General Office Training Centre. More than 100 young prosecutors were trained on wildlife crime case handling, including the application of alternative laws to complement the conservation law (Law No. 5/1990 on the Conservation of Natural Resources and its Ecosystem) for prosecuting IWT cases, such as the Customs Law or Fishery law. During this training (Fig. 6), we held discussions and presented case studies to increase the participants’ learning experiences. The events were conducted both in person (in Jakarta) and online in August 2021 (114 prosecutors). We continued to communicate with PPATK and MoEF regarding training plans for financial investigation techniques, particularly on IWT. The event will be conducted both online and in person and aims to share information regarding anti-money laundering laws, modus operandi, and cases connected to wildlife crimes, in addition to increasing coordination and collaboration between related agencies, including MoEF, PPATK, INP, the Commission of Corruption Eradication, Attorney General Office, Supreme Court, and Indonesia Maritime Security Agency. For **Activity 2.3**, we supported GoI analyse a pangolin trafficking network linking traders from a 2016 pangolin-tiger case. A frozen fish shipping company operating in Jakarta is suspected of being involved in trafficking pangolin meat and scales to Taiwan-China and in a pangolin trafficking case in Surabaya.

**Output 3. Activity 3.1.** Initial discussions with SFC on piloting capacity assessments in seaports and airports in Sarawak were positive. However, permissions to proceed are still pending from the respective port directors. For **Activity 3.2**, COVID-19 prevented trainings for government partners in Sarawak during this reporting period. SFC’s Training Unit advised against conducting training workshops until at least September 2021 and we are planning for upcoming workshops after Sarawak entered its National Recovery Phase 3 in October. This eased inter-district travel and allowed training workshops at an 80% capacity. The workshops will possibly include IWT investigations and species identification modules and may be conducted in early November and December, respectively. Our previously developed training materials will be adapted for the IWT investigations training. For **Activity 3.3**, WCS Indonesia and Malaysia have continued to monitor the online trade of protected species on Facebook and online market places. In Indonesia, we recorded and reported 1,561 advertisements from 812 accounts between April and September 2021. One account belonged to a person who lives in East Kalimantan. Across four e-commerce sites (Bukalapak, Lazada, Shopee, and Tokopedia), we also recorded 16 advertisements from 12 accounts that belong to people who live in Kalimantan. From the 1,561 advertisements reported to Facebook, 1,115 advertisements and 15 groups were removed (Indicator: Yr 1–3, >20 illicit accounts shut down). A total of 443 advertisements have not been reviewed by Facebook and, following review, three advertisements were not removed because the Facebook team concluded that these did not violate their community standards. We gathered further information from these traders and reported this to MoEF and INP for further action. We calculated that approximately 3,178 individual animals from 92 species (comprising 31 families) were sold via online markets in Indonesia. Our cyber patrol team identified and reported these advertisements. However, we do not report all accounts because of the potential for consequent law enforcement actions (arrests), and accounts that are connected to the previously detected trafficking network are also not reported to further develop the existing network. WCS Malaysia

monitored 19 active social media accounts and groups operating in the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. We reported three Facebook and two Shopee posts on various IWT ads in Sabah and Sarawak. To date, all reported posts have not been removed. Based on our online monitoring, we found several firearm sellers from Kalimantan who advertised their products on Facebook hunting groups and aimed these at poachers based in Sarawak. For **Activity 3.4**. We provided INP with network analysis support for two pangolin trafficking cases and the police apprehended three suspects.

*Output 4. Activities 4.2. & 4.3* have been removed due to the uncertainty of being able to conduct bilateral meetings between Indonesian-Malaysian governments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**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.**

N/A

**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.**

The second wave of COVID-19 in June 2021 affected project activities and delayed field data collection, in-person meetings, and the socioeconomic survey. Gol's COVID-19 policies limited travel between provinces and districts and the mobility of Sols and field teams in gathering IWT information. Several WCS and government staff contracted COVID-19 and self-isolated. All recovered. This further delayed coordination with governments, many of whom have also prioritized resources to reduce COVID-19 impacts. In response, Sols focused on collecting information in their own areas and online, communicating findings to law enforcement officials online. These changes affected the project timeline and budget, we proposed an extension of the timeline to the donor, which has now been approved.

**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: 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. N/A

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

N/A