

<b>Project reference</b>	IWT071
<b>Project title</b>	Reducing demand for wildlife products among Chinese nationals in Laos
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Laos (Lao PDR), China
<b>Lead organisation</b>	TRAFFIC International
<b>Partners(s)</b>	WWF Laos, CITES Management Authority (MA), National Forestry & Grasslands Administration of China (NFGA), Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Shanghai CTS Private Overseas Affairs Co., LTD
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Ling XU</i>
<b>Report date and number</b>	30 October 2020, HYR2
<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).**

The project implementation has been challenging since the outbreak of Covid-19 globally. The team are trying their best to make adaptive plans to move forward. In general, the project is progressing well but with some unavoidable delays due to the pandemic and related travel restrictions and general risk management.

- 1.1 Two behaviour change campaign materials in Laos including a big [billboard](#) and a [poster](#) focused on consumer/traders insights in Laos have been finalised by WWF and the Lao government to be delivered in October 2020. TRAFFIC China is working with WildAid to develop a behaviour change campaign targeting rhino horn demand, which aims to reach identified Chinese consumer market segments. This campaign will be delivered by December 2020.
- 1.2 Main border crossings and the other hotspot targets along China and Laos borders have been identified for offline campaigns. The campaign in Laos will be conducted together with Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Network taskforce including border authorities by distributing materials to restaurants, shops, hotels and other areas along borders on 10-20 October 2020. Even though the border is still closed to passenger traffic, there are still a lot of Chinese nationals living in those communities where vehicles regularly transport goods across borders. The rhino horn campaign from China side will be delivered by end of 2020.
- 1.3 The social marketing campaign for rhino horn will be delivered through social media platforms by December 2020. Target audience to be reached will be identified based on the GlobeScan's consumer research for outbound Chinese travellers (4.4).
- 2.1 Logistics for the bilateral meeting between China's Ministry of Culture & Tourism (MCT) and Lao PDR's Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism (ICT) is being coordinated. It was planned to be combined with the bilateral meeting between CITES implementation agencies (3.1) as well as during the event of forming the Responsible Tourism Alliance RTA (2.2).

- 2.2 The concept note for forming the RTA was supported by NFGA and MCT from China. The event is aimed to take place in early December partnered with China Wildlife Conservation Association, World Tourism Alliance and WildAid, at which we will try to set up a virtual session for the exchange between MCT and ICT.
- 2.3 No workshop has been organized as outbound travel is still restricted. Adaptively, we are targeting travel agencies to raise their awareness and taking social responsibilities as 2.2. a training workshop will be organized by travel agencies in December.
- 2.4 WWF Laos met local government authorities and the China Chamber of Commerce and Souphanouvong University on 16-23 August 2020 to discuss the event organization on awareness raising and consumption reduction for illegal wildlife products among Chinese travellers and workers in Laos. The university agreed to co-host the workshop in December with the support from local government authorities.
- 2.5 The responsible tourism guideline for Chinese travellers to Laos was done and distributed in Y1. The Lao version is being developed and will be uploaded into WWF-Laos' website and Facebook if available.
- 3.1 A virtual bilateral meeting between China CITES MA and DOFI of Lao PDR is being coordinated with Laos and China governments. The first virtual planning call was organized on 14 August 2020 with 13 participants from WWF, TRAFFIC and DOFI.
- 3.2 The Green Investment Guideline as well as a CSR guide for Chinese companies in Laos are being developed and aiming to have drafts by November. WWF had a meeting with the Board of Directors from the China Chamber of Commerce in Luang Prabang Province to follow with the commitments made during the tour guide workshop in 2019.
- 3.3 The advocacy workshop for the Chinese companies/workers is proposed to be combined with the tour guide workshop (2.4). Souphanouvong University or DOFI will send invitation to targeted Chinese companies
- 4.1 The Y2 market survey was conducted between July to August focusing on the same locations of Y1 and additional market locations in Luang Prabang and Vientiane Capital. A market survey report will be developed by WWF and TRAFFIC by the end of the project.
- 4.1 The market survey results in Laos has been shared with Lao law enforcement agencies to for action.
- 4.2 The market survey report including the dynamics of the availability of illegal wildlife products will be completed and released by the end of the project in 2021.
- 4.3 The study on Ivory Consumption of Outbound Chinese Travelers is going through internal review from WWF and TRAFFIC and aim to be released by October.
- 4.4 The formation of RTA in China and the tour guide and advocacy workshop in Luang Prabang are the follow-ups for the commitment in 2019.

**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 are no notable problems except the impact from Covid-19.

**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.**

- Restriction on travel and meeting organization has affected the project implementation in the 1<sup>st</sup> half year of 2020. With restrictions lifting from May in Laos and China, market surveys in Laos have been conducted and offline workshops have also been scheduled in both countries to catch up on timeline delays.
- From the amount of progress made during this reporting period, it would appear that there will be shortfalls in spending and achieving the planned activities as per agreement. The main constraint is the closing of international borders, where no Chinese tourists can enter Laos and Chinese and Lao authorities cannot meet physically. However, to mitigate this, we are targeting more on Chinese nationals living in Laos as well as exploring virtual meeting between the two governments.
- The challenge remains with the availability of government personnel to participate due to their backlog of competing commitments from within their own agencies and other external providers.

**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, we will discuss it with LTS soon.

Formal change request submitted: No, we will submit it soon.

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

**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: GBP

**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?**

TRAFFIC will submit a change request regarding the adaptive plans and budget.

**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](mailto: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.**