



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	WTR5S2\100025
Project title:	Reducing macaw trafficking in indigenous territories of the Honduran Moskitia
Country(ies):	Honduras
Lead organisation:	WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)
Collaborator(s):	One Earth Conservation
Project leader:	Edgard Herrera
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	11-10-2018 WCSOEY1
Project website/blog/social media:	

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

1.3 Overflights

1.4 Nest patrols and monitoring: Nest patrols were conducted over 456,000 Has of territory in La Moskitia.

Partner organizations One Earth and INCEBIO carried out the selection and hiring of community patrollers and coordinators to cover the nesting season, and the hatching and fledging of newborn *Ara macao* (Scarlet macaw), ranging from January 2019 to September 2019. Daily patrols were conducted 7 days a week in the villages of Suhi, Mocoron, Pranza, Wahabispan, Rus Rus, and Mabita. Mabita began patrolling in early February 2019 while the other communities began in mid-February 2019 for a total of 800 patrols per community or 8000 patrol-human days. This represents 10 full time positions between February and June, though the full time positions were reduced as nests fledged or were poached in Suhi. There were also 3 field coordinators and 1 Pt. Lempira coordinator, as well as a climbing team that conducted patrols a variable number of times a week. The field coordinators in both Mabita and Rus Rus went out nearly daily for an additional 140 and 130 patrol-human days respectively during this time. The field coordinator for the entire project occasionally conducted separate patrols apart from other groups averaging 3 days a week for 63 more patrols and patrol-human days. The Pt. Lempira coordinator joined several patrols, not initiating any on his own, but adding approximately 45 more patrol-human days. The climbing teams also patrolled nests approximately 50 days for 100 patrol-human days. We added 3 positions in May and June to monitor and patrol the forest and to protect the vulnerable areas along the Alatis Road as well as in Rus Rus, totalling 165 human-patrol days

Patrollers camped in protected area in Rus Rus and Mabita for most of the breeding season. Camped patrollers in Mabita were able to stop a nest from being poached and invited the poachers to share a meal with them. Poachers reported that they would not poach again, but unfortunately, nests **continued to** be poached along the Alatis road throughout the season

Output 2

2.1 PMSD workshops: we are in the process of reviewing ToRs for the consultant in charge of facilitating workshops in the communities. We expect to carry out these workshops in early January 2020.

2.2 Patrollers and coordinators hired and working: Patrollers and coordinators have been hired and worked through nesting season. Next nesting season will start in February 2020.

2.4 Improve rescue and liberation center: As a first step, the construction of a Cage with bigger dimensions to host macaws in recovery is underway.

3.1 Joint task force in Puerto Lempira: WCS staff had a meeting in Tegucigalpa with the Task Force Coordinator to deliver information on *A. macao* poaching and egg traffic by two Chinese citizens who entered the zone of the project from Nicaragua, crossing the Coco River. One Earth and INCEBIO partners produced a report on the incident. In Puerto Lempira, as a result of an anonymous tip, INCEBIO staff met with task force members to carry out a search operation to capture trespassers. Unfortunately, they were able to escape. Task force members also went twice to Kraukira town (coastal village) to recover chicks that were reported to be on their way to Jamaica, but were unable to encounter the chicks.

3.2 Provide logistical support for confiscations: INCEBIO staff joined the task force and supported two operatives in searching and capturing *A. macao* poachers, providing a vehicle and fuel.

3.3 Provide logistical support for legal processes and prosecution: No legal processes have been set so far.

3.4 Finzmos meetings: on 17 Oct, WCS staff met with FINZMOS president Santiago Manzanares and agreed to develop a joint work program containing project activities, such as patrols with indigenous leaders and meetings with the Joint Task Force.

4.1 Awareness campaign: One Earth and INCEBIO developed an awareness campaign consisting of radio messages that offers a reward for information that can help lead to the capture of *A. macao* and other parrots poachers. As a result, there has been an increase on complaints and information flowing to the authorities about *A. macao* poachers.

As part of the Campaign, a group of 50 high school students, nine community members, and two university students (a biologist and a veterinary) volunteered to assist with our project. Lead by Dr. LoraKim Joyner from One Earth, the volunteers carried out home visits in Puerto Lempira town to talk with owners of *A. macao* and other psittacines in captivity. The volunteers taught them how to take care of their pets, carry out medical check-ups on the birds, and assist owners in proper handling and care of their macaws. The visits included discussions to raise awareness on the illegality of acquiring new specimens of *A. macao* and *A. ambigua* as pets, and the importance of conserving the natural populations of the parrots that exist in La Moskitia Forests.

4.2 Survey on awareness and outreach: A survey is being designed by OE to be carried out among the communities involved in the project. The survey will measure the extent to which the messages on *A. macao* conservation have reached the local population, as well as provide information on the most effective communication channels used during the campaign. The survey will start at the beginning of the next nesting season in February 2020.

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.

NA

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.

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

NA

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.**