



## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	<b>IWTR5S2\100025</b>
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Reducing macaw trafficking in indigenous territories of the Honduran Moskitia</b>
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Honduras
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Partners(s)</b>	One Earth Conservation
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Edgard Herrera</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>From 1/04/2020 to 31/9/2020</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="http://www.wcs.org">www.wcs.org</a>

**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 2 Improved livelihoods alternatives:**

2.1 PMSD workshops: from 30 Apr to 17 May. A series of workshops based on the PMSD methodology were carried out by consultant Cony Coleman on 8 miskito indigenous communities of the FINZMOS territory, in the Honduras Moskitia. The communities were: Corinto, Mabita, Rus Rus, Pranza, Suhi, Sirsitara, Mocoron and Wahavisban. Prior to workshops, the consultant had carried out a reconnaissance visit with individual interviews with key informants in order to come up with basic information to organize the workshops and gather information on the market systems for each community.

Market analysis was carried out following key aspects of PMSD methodology such as the creation of a “road map” (market mapping) through interviews and participatory workshops , which helps identify bottlenecks for market function and market actors.

A prioritization exercise was also performed to select the most important market systems within the community in terms of income generation for community, amount of families involved and seasonality.

The consultant produced a report containing a ranking of income generating activities (markets) per community, a deeper analysis for the # 1 market ranking for each community, a map of the market system, and an exposition of main problems (bottleneck) providing recommendations . This final report served as a base and guide to WCS team to choose sustainable livelihood activities per community to be supported under this project.

2.2 Patrollers and coordinators hired and working: One Earth Conservation, under sub-agreement with WCS on this project, has hired and it is working with patrollers and coordinators for the “Apu Pauni “(Scarleth macaw in Miskito language) initiative. They have continued carrying out patrol and protection activities as planned during this reporting period.

2.3 Conservation Agreements: Amid pandemic emergency, WCS team developed and implemented a Biosafety protocol for fieldwork and obtained government permits to resume project activities, halted during 5 months due to strict containment measures implemented in Honduras.

During June and August, WCS team developed a series of workshops on 8 indigenous communities of FINZMOS indigenous territories, where the consultant carried out the PMSD methodology-based diagnostic on livelihoods prior. The objective was to discuss in detail possibilities of supporting sustainable livelihoods in exchange for specific conservation commitments from each community through a negotiated conservation agreement signed between WCS and indigenous leaders from each community.

Three conservation agreements were signed with the communities of Rus Rus, Mabita and Wahavisban. In the Mabita community, we requested the community to implement a local ban on the capture, sale and domestication of a list of endangered species. Additionally, the community agreed to a temporary ban on hunting Iguana during their reproductive season (3 months), and to prevent the destruction of certain patches of forests that have been identified as very important for wildlife life cycles in previous studies. In exchange for this, WCS will support wages for groups of 25 community members to prepare their forests for the fire season starting in summer (Feb each year). The preparation works includes fire-cut trails and “comaleo,” the removal of fire-fuelling debris around key nesting trees for Macaws and parrots, identified already by “Apu-Pawni” patrollers.

The Rus Rus community of Rus Rus negotiated and signed a similar agreement.

With these two communities we also included a special clause containing a prize in kind (groceries or seeds) if the community manages to avoid the fire destruction of all identified macaw nests during the next year’s fire season.

With the community of Wahabisban , we agreed upon the provision of technical advice and improved seeds varieties of rice and beans. These serve as the community’s main staple crop, provided in exchange for commitments to reduce wildlife hunting and capture for trade and the implementation of a temporary ban on a list of wildlife species, as well as commitments to avoiding deforestation in key areas.

With a fourth community, Corinto, WCS negotiated similar terms as with Wahabisvan. We already agreed on signing the agreement during the coming field trip at the end of October.

2.4: Improve rescue and liberation center: a 12 X 8-meter cage is near completion, but has been delayed due to the quarantine, difficulty in getting materials, and people needing to work in other areas, such as fire brigades, timber extraction, and farming. Nonetheless, the cage is soon to be ready for use.

Output 3: Improved cross-Sector coordination:

Activities 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 were delayed due to the Covid emergency in Honduras.

3.4: We have recently supported a FINZMOS assembly to elect new leaders. We expect to have a meeting soon with new elected president of this indigenous organization.

**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.**

COVID has posed a significant threat for project operations and has delayed our activities for over 5 months. The Honduran government issued very restrictive measures of containment during which all WCS staff was grounded at home, without the possibility to travel to La Moskitia to carry out activities under this project. Nevertheless, our partner One Earth managed to keep patrollers working since the beginning of the sanitary emergency, as they live within the local communities near the nesting forests they protect. Our consultant, Cony Eliette Coleman, also lives in La Moskitia and was able to carry out PMSD methodology consultancy. However, the WCS team based in Tegucigalpa faced serious delays with the realization of conservation agreements workshops and SMART trainings.

Coordination with authorities under activities 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 also faced serious delays since authorities were focused on attending sanitary emergency trainings, and mobility restrictions caused additional delays.

**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 No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No 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?**

No.

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.**