



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT076
Project title	Cross-Border Coordination to Reduce IWT in the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor
Country/ies	Guatemala & Mexico
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner institution(s)	Asociación Balam, Environmental Justice Forum of Peten (EJF), Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO), Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén (ACOFOP), Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas (CECON), Ministerio Publico (MP), Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas (CONAP), Pronatura Península Yucatán (PPY), Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Biodiversidad y Cambio Climático (SEMABICC)
IWT grant value	£399,703
Start/end dates of project	01 May 2020 – 30 November 2022
Reporting period (e.g. April 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Annual Report 1 May 2020-March 2021
Project Leader name	Roan Balas McNab
Project website/blog/social media	https://guatemala.wcs.org/en-us/Initiatives/Proyecto-DEFRA-IWT-en-US.aspx
Report author(s) and date	WCS: Roan Balas McNab; Gabriela Ponce; Vinicio Morales; Kurt Duchez; America Rodriguez; Sofia Baca. EJF: Mirna Romero; FUNDAECO: Francisco Asturias, Ingrid Arias; PPY: Anuar Hernandez; April 30 th 2021

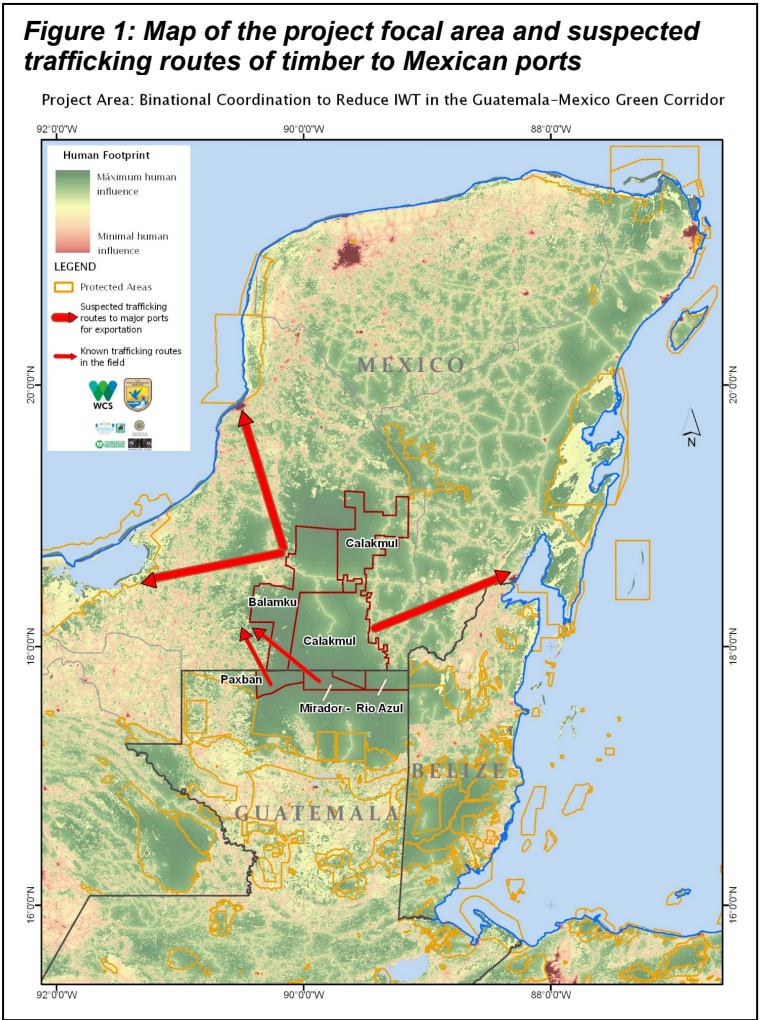
1. Project summary

In 2018, park rangers detected poaching of “*granadillo*” (*Platymiscium* spp., also known as “*hormigo*”) a valuable, rare hardwood species in the Paxban management unit of Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve (**Figure 1**, below). Informal inquiries revealed the poached timber was

being trafficked through Mexico, bound for Asian markets. In 2019, partners in Guatemala’s Mirador-Rio Azul National Park (MRANP) and the adjacent Mexican reserves of Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (CBR) and Balamku State Reserve, detected that these areas - the most intact section of the tri-national Selva Maya “Green Corridor”- were facing the same onslaught. During 2019, poaching intensified as well-organized syndicates opened roads, poached timber and killed/poached numerous wildlife species. In adjacent sections of Mexico’s Selva Maya, researchers discovered a jaguar corpse, missing paws, teeth, and reproductive organs. In Balamku, slaughtered Baird’s tapir and king vultures were discovered as PA agencies struggled to respond. But valuable hardwoods remained the most sought-after resources in the protected areas of both countries, particularly granadillo – an emerging substitute for rosewood, also known locally as “hormigo” in Guatemala, or “hormigón” in Mexico – as well as other valuable timber species including mahogany, ziricote, sapodilla, and Spanish cedar.

In April, 2020, with the support of the DEFRA IWT Challenge Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and partner organizations mounted a response, concerned by the increasing pressure imparted by organized timber trafficking syndicates. Without an adequate response to this growing threat at the Guatemala-Mexico frontier, partners believed that IWT of timber, and the associated opening of illegal roads, would eventually decimate populations of spotted cats (jaguar/NT; ocelot/LC, and margay/NT), Yucatan spider monkey/CR, Yucatan black howler monkey/EN, Baird’s tapir/EN, as well as northern mealy amazon/NT, red-lored amazon/NT, and white-crowned parrot/LC, among other commonly trafficked species. Continued IWT would also undermine sustainable forest management and tourism models, including Guatemala’s innovative community-based forest management regime, most specifically the Paxban FSC-certified forest concession located on the Mexican border. Communities affected by IWT include dozens of Mexican ejidos and Guatemalan communities of the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) that serve as IWT transit routes and/or sources of labour for trafficking syndicates. We estimate that thousands of households are either directly impacted or potentially vulnerable to IWT, particularly in Mexico, the operational centre of trafficking syndicates (supposedly) linked to Asian markets.

Despite an extremely challenging first year of implementation, the DEFRA-IWT076 project has established a solid foundation for sustained cooperation between Guatemalan and Mexican partners to counter trans-frontier IWT at the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor. IWT076 interventions are focused on increasing local resilience against timber and wildlife trafficking within communities and among authorities in Guatemala and Mexico by strengthening field-based patrolling, increasing awareness about IWT among national authorities, improving the application of legal frameworks, propelling alternative livelihoods among vulnerable rural households, and establishing a foundation for long-term, anti-IWT cooperation among Guatemalan and Mexican authorities and national organizations.



2. Project partnerships

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Guatemala Program personnel led project implementation and monitoring, convening 14 team meetings during the first 11 months of implementation (initiated 01 May, 2020). WCS has a 25-year history of working with Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and other local actors in Guatemala. Throughout project implementation in Guatemala, WCS engaged in dialogue regarding the needs of partnering governmental and national organizations, adapting time frames and approaches as required to ensure safe implementation of field activities – particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Mexico, as the result of continuing complications related to travel, we have coordinated with *Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan* (PPY) as the main project liaison with Mexico's federal institution, *Comision Nacional de Areas Protegidas Naturales* (CONANP), and the *Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Biodiversidad y Cambio Climático* (SEMABICC) of the State of Campeche.

National government and NGO partners including FUNDAECO, *Asociación Balam*, the Environmental Justice Forum of Peten (EJF), and PPY were engaged in the development of the original project logframe, and have assisted WCS in adapting the project as required. A notable example consists of partner input obtained prior to requesting the modest logframe modification that was subsequently approved by DEFRA/LTS; this modification permitted a one-month delay in project start-up and a two-month extension of the termination date. Project partners have also been key in determining how to manage project budgets, particularly as related to the impactful use of Travel and Subsistence funds originally slated for international travel. In this case, T&S funds were used to strengthen field activities by CONAP, CONANP, FUNDAECO, and PPY in lieu of travel for the annual IWT076 partner meetings, planned to be held in Mexico. WCS personnel have also coordinated with Guatemala's *Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén* (ACOFOP) in regard to project components focused on rural community tenure and rural livelihoods in Guatemala, while PPY has led consultations with local ejidos and community leaders in Mexican communities adjacent to the target areas of Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (CBR), and the Balamku State Reserve.

Achievements to date include the addition of a new project partner, the *Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas* (CECON) of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala (Annex 4.1). CECON's inclusion reinforces the project's engagement with the Dos Lagunas Biotope – a key management unit within the project focal area – while also providing an increased opportunity for outreach within Guatemala's academic guild and within CONAP's Executive Council¹. DEFRA-IWT076 partners have also been able to establish links with other actors engaged on IWT issues within the Maya Forest, including the World Wildlife Fund (Annex 4.2), and the German Government's Technical Assistance (GIZ). Challenges to date include the need to develop stronger and more regular coordination with CONANP managers in CBR, including the need to provide more immediate support to CONANP staff vis-à-vis requests for assistance field events and activities. Project staff, led by PPY in Mexico, have now initiated quarterly coordination sessions with CONANP and employed a "WhatsApp" chat focused on Selva Maya partners to ensure the timely transmission of project information and requests for technical/material support.

3. Project progress

The DEFRA IWT076 project proposed a total of 39 activities, of which 31 (79%) were slated for implementation during Year 1. To date, we have completed 15 (48%) and advanced 16 (52%) of these 31 activities during the eleven-month, Year 1 period. The 8 remaining activities are planned for Years 2 & 3 of the project.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1 included 6 activities to improve protection against IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor of Mexico and Guatemala. WCS led Activity 1.1 in partnership with the GIZ Selva

¹ CONAP's Executive Council (known locally as the "*Honorable Consejo*") is the national Secretariat responsible for supervising the management of Guatemala's National Protected Areas System. The council is conformed of 7 representatives, one of which is CECON, as a permanent member.

Maya Program, consisting of training in the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for Guatemalan and Mexican counterparts. SMART software improves the collection and spatial analysis of threat, biodiversity, and patrolling effort data associated with, or generated by, field patrols. We implemented two SMART workshops, training 42 individuals (Annex O1.1); the first workshop was held virtually to support partner NGOs in Mexico; the second consisted of a two-day, in-person workshop held in Guatemala with field personnel including authorities from CONAP, Guatemala's Natural Resource Police (DIPRONA), and CECON, as well as NGO partners. We trained 12 women, including 8 in Mexico, and 4 in Guatemala. We also provided 5 remote trainings sessions to CONANP and SEMABICC partners in Mexico, with a focus on improving their technical dominion of the SMART software. We plan to provide a third, in-person SMART training workshop in Mexico during the next semester, should COVID-19 conditions permit.

We completed Activity 1.2, consisting of a draft IWT protection/patrolling protocol for the Guatemalan areas of Paxban, Mirador-Rio Azul National Park, and the Dos Lagunas Biotope (Annex O1.2). This document was developed by WCS in partnership with CONAP, new IWT076 partner CECON, FUNDAECO, EJF, and Gibor Ltd., the forest managers of the Paxban forest concession. We shared this draft with PPY to provide a guide for developing protection protocols in Mexico; the protocol for Guatemala will be improved as we learn and collect more data, with a final version produced by the final project quarter. Activity 1.3 consisted of field patrolling along the Guatemalan portion of the Selva Maya Green Corridor. DEFRA-IWT partners including CONAP, FUNDAECO, CECON, and WCS implemented 226 patrols, yielding 1,450 person-days of patrolling in the target area (Annex O1.3). We greatly surpassed our planned output of 300 person-days of patrolling in Guatemala despite numerous impediments, including the global pandemic, forest fires, and hurricanes.

Activity 1.4 led by PPY included the development of 2 concise IWT protection protocols, one each for Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (CBR), and the Balamku State Reserve (Balamku), managed by CONANP and SEMABICC, respectively. PPY produced a draft IWT protection protocol for Balamku/SEMABICC (Annex O1.4), and plans to continue refining this initial draft during the next semester. PPY postponed the development of a draft protocol for Calakmul/CONANP, due to CONANP's plans to develop an overarching, nation-wide SMART protocol for Mexico's entire protected areas system. PPY and partners will work with CONANP to advance the draft protocol for Calakmul as soon as institutionally viable. CONANP and SEMABICC undertook 18 field patrols, registering 873 person-days patrolling in Mexico (Annex O1.5a), with a majority of field patrols concentrated in the northern sector of Balamku, and the southern sector of Calakmul, adjacent to Guatemala. Activity 1.6 consisted of 1 annual joint patrol between Guatemalan and Mexican authorities and NGO partners along the vulnerable Guatemala-Mexico frontier. During this first reporting period, FUNDAECO, CONAP, CONANP, SEMABICC, CECON, WCS, and Gibor Ltd. implemented 3 joint patrols, covering 1,232 kilometres (Annex O1.6).

Output 2 included 8 activities to increase awareness among national authorities regarding IWT, with all but one activity planned for this reporting period. Within Activity 2.1, in Guatemala, WCS and the EJF surveyed 22 national authorities and NGO leaders, revealing a low level of awareness regarding both the global threat of illegal trade in flora and fauna, and the trafficking of timber along the Selva Maya Green Corridor (Annex O2.1). In Mexico, PPY was unable to survey authorities due to COVID-19 restrictions in Mexico, leaving this activity as a priority for the first quarter of Year 2. PPY has however prepared the survey instrument, and identified the Mexican authorities to be interviewed (Annex O2.1.1). Activity 2.2., the final IWT awareness survey, is planned for the 9th quarter of the project.

WCS advanced Activity 2.3, consisting of a confidential report on the trafficking of timber and wildlife in target areas of Guatemala and Mexico (Annex O2.3). COVID-19 surges and frequent closures of border crossings into Mexico forced us to produce the initial draft by compiling information available in Guatemala, and through virtual interviews of confidential sources in Mexico. In addition, WCS and partners have joined forces with Insight Crime (IC) to publicize the information in a more public report, planned for release during late 2021. As part of this effort, WCS and IC have tentative plans to undertake a joint visit to Mexico during the next semester if conditions allow.

Project partners Balam, FUNDAECO, and PPY propelled 33 events of press coverage of IWT along the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor (Annex O2.4), including a report by Guatemala's most widely read newspaper, the Prens Libre, highlighting UK Ambassador Nick Whittingham's [announcement](#) of the IWT076 project. [Another report](#) shortly after project initiation in May, 2020, highlighted the capture of seven Mexican nationals for timber poaching within the project area. Within Activity 2.5, project partners promoted 50 social media pulses through Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter, generating 5,828 "likes" within the project period (Annex O2.5). For Activity 2.6, 4 NGO partners updated their websites with pages dedicated to the IWT076 project, including quantitative information detailing project impact to date (Annex O2.6).

Within Activity 2.7, Guatemalan partners held 3 outreach events to raise awareness among authorities and the broader public about the impacts associated with the illegal trans-frontier timber and wildlife trade (Annex O2.7). Events in Guatemala included a virtual project coordination meeting held on October 22, 2020, with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINEX) of Guatemala, a representative of the UK Embassy in Guatemala, and CONAP, where we shared project details and surveyed authorities regarding knowledge about IWT. We held a second in-person outreach event on February 2nd in Flores, Peten, with UK Ambassador Whittingham and Guatemalan Government personnel. Partners from Balam arranged a press conference to obtain coverage by local television and radio outlets. Finally, in Guatemala, on March 26th, WCS, EFJ, and FUNDAECO held a virtual conference on IWT in the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor, with the attendance of 24 individuals, including MINEX and a representative from the Office of Attorney General (*Procuraduría General de la Nación*, or PGN). In Mexico, PPY also supported 1 outreach event on September 29th 2020, within the framework of the Calakmul Roundtable. The meeting included 22 participants from 8 governmental and non-governmental institutions, including CONANP, Mexico's Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), SEMABICC, the Mexican army, PPY, and WWF (Annex O2.7.1).

WCS, Balam, and the EJV engaged CONAP to advance Activity 2.8, obtaining formal support from Guatemala's MINEX to establish bi-national dialogue with Mexico regarding IWT in the project area. Advances resulted from 2 meetings held between CONAP and MINEX (Annex O2.8), to identify the potential mechanism for discussions planned for year 2 of the project. Inputs from EJV (see Activity 3.2) identified an existing Bilateral Commission on Environmental Issues, within a broader bi-lateral agreement signed by Guatemala and Mexico in 2016, as the best mechanism for pursuing the high-level, bi-national collaboration.

Output 3 contained 5 activities to increase the use of legal frameworks, with 4 planned for Year 1. Activity 3.1 consisted of the EJV's technical support to obtain impactful prosecutions of traffickers captured within Guatemala. Following up on the early May, 2020 capture of 7 Mexican individuals, EJV engaged contacts in the Judicial branch (*Organismo Judicial* or OJ) and the office of the environmental prosecutor (*Ministerio Público* or MP) to ensure their awareness of the tremendous effort required to locate and capture the individuals. Due to considerations related to the COVID pandemic the case received an expedited resolution without going to formal trial. The individuals spent 14 days in jail awaiting the verdict from the Judge for Environmental Crimes in Peten; the judge subsequently ordered the payment of fines totalling Q and immediate expulsion from Guatemala (Annex O3.1).

The EJV completed Activity 3.2, producing a report on opportunities for bi-national collaboration among the Guatemalan and Mexican governments to halt IWT at frontier areas (Annex O3.2). Summary presentations of the report helped to guide discussions between CONAP and MINEX by identifying the Bilateral Commission highlighted in 2.8, above.

To advance Activity 3.3 after a considerable COVID-related delay, WCS and PPY joined forces to identify a consultant in Mexico to initiate research on timber exportation volumes from Mexico, and potential opportunities to close the normative gaps in Mexico that permit the laundering and subsequent "legal" exportation of illegal timber poached out of Mexican and Guatemalan protected areas. An initial advance report is included as Annex O3.3, and we expect a first draft of the full report by November 2021.

Project partners have advanced Activity 3.4, obtaining the participation of new governmental allies in both Guatemala (i.e. MINEX, PGN), and Mexico (*Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional*, i.e. the Mexican Army), as evidenced via Annex O3.4. Activity 3.5 is planned for Years 2 & 3.

Output 4 included 14 activities to improve livelihoods of rural communities exposed to IWT. Nine activities were planned for Year 1, with the majority focused in Guatemala. PPY advanced Activity 4.1, producing a socioeconomic study of 9 communities adjacent to Balamku State Reserve, in areas impacted by IWT (Annex O4.1). This draft will serve as the basis for a second phase of investigation to develop recommendations for gender-relevant livelihoods investments with communities where sustainable management programs have yet to reach the broader population. Activity 4.2 is planned for Year 2, consisting of outreach with the Mexican government and potential donors to increase investments in sustainable livelihoods using the gender-focused livelihoods assessment described above. Similarly, Activity 4.6 calls for reporting leveraged livelihoods investments in Mexico, and we plan to report on this during Years 2 & 3.

Within Activity 4.3, WCS developed a gender-focused livelihoods assessment (Annex O4.3) for the rural communities living along the “Road to Carmelita”, the main access route to the IWT076 focal areas of Paxban and Mirador-Rio Azul National Park in Guatemala. WCS contacted livelihoods experts in Peten to obtain advice regarding sustainable livelihood options, and developed a final draft of the report in conjunction with CONAP officials to ensure the legal viability of potential livelihoods options to be promoted within the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR), and most specifically, the MBR Multiple Use Zone. WCS then used the assessment to guide our DEFRA livelihoods investments described in Activity 4.7. As an extension of our livelihoods planning in Guatemala, we hired a consultant under Activity 4.4., and completed a management plan for honey production along the Road to Carmelita (Annex O4.4), coordinating with the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Ranching, and Food (MAGA), and the Municipality of San Andres.

Advances under Activity 4.5 yielded solid co-investment in Guatemalan rural livelihoods alternatives during Year 1. WCS attracted additional co-investment of £, with 21% already delivered since project initiation (Annex O4.5). Leveraged support was provided by the Overbrook Foundation, the Laguntza Foundation, project partner the Association of Forest Communities of Peten (ACOFOP), the US Department of Interior, and Gibor. WCS can also confirm a 4-year, £ investment in rural livelihoods within the project area by the European Union’s Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) grant system, slated to begin in mid-2021.

Livelihoods investments in rural households (Annex O4.7) implemented by WCS, with the respective number of households supported include: a) apiculture/beekeeping (48), b) poultry ranching (7), c) reforestation (43), and d) xate palm frond harvesting (15). DEFRA and leveraged sources facilitated the initiation of a forest restoration partnership among CONAP and community members from San Miguel la Palotada (see Activity 4.9; Page 7), generating daily wages for community members working to eliminate exotic pasture grasses in reclaimed pastures, prevent fire, and plant trees to accelerate forest recovery. A sub-grant provided to ACOFOP, advanced the construction of a non-timber forest product warehouse (i.e. “*bodega*”) to process “xate” palm fronds collected sustainably for sale to the United States floral market (Annex O4.8.1). This investment was coordinated with the Association for Integrated Forest Management of Cruce a la Colorada (AFICC) and CONAP, and the bodega is nearly ready for use in AFICC’s forest management activities. WCS and ACOFOP estimate that this infrastructure investment will benefit at least 50 families, while also helping AFICC maintain the quality of their xate product during processing and storage for export.

WCS completed Activity 4.8, developing a baseline for poverty/wellbeing among Guatemalan households receiving the support of DEFRA and leveraged livelihoods investments. Annex O4.8 details the results of a Basic Necessities Survey undertaken with 104 of the 107 households receiving investments to date, revealing a 0.488 rate of access to goods and services considered essential for human wellbeing in the rural areas of Peten. WCS has also begun Activity 4.10, compiling data on income for the Guatemalan households receiving investments to track the amount of *additional* income generated by IWT076 investments including leveraged sources (Annex O4.10).

WCS and partners can report a significant breakthrough within Activity 4.9, consisting of the official reversal of CONAP’s eviction order against the community of San Miguel la Palotada. On December 10, 2020, CONAP’s Executive Council voted to lift an outstanding and misguided order to evict the community (Annex O4.10), instructing CONAP personnel in Peten to develop

a draft Memorandum of Understanding between CONAP and the community, represented by the San Miguel Community Development Council (COCODE). This long awaited order eliminated CONAP's unfortunate 2009 instruction to evict the community in response to the usurpation and razing of vast sections of San Miguel's forests by powerful cattle ranchers. From 2014-2019, San Miguel residents and CONAP joined efforts to evict and prosecute the illegal ranchers, but the rescission of the eviction order languished. Now, San Miguel residents can collaborate with CONAP to delineate the specifics of the MOU that will provide them with increased land security and the rights to make improvements to their homes, undertake subsistence agriculture in properly zoned areas, and participate in natural resource management initiatives such as forest restoration, beekeeping, and minor livestock ranching including chickens and pigs.

Activity 4.10 is reported above. Activity 4.11 is planned for the last quarter of project activity.

Activity 4.12 consists of tracking the number of individuals arrested for IWT living within households receiving IWT076 livelihoods investments. To date, we have no arrests of beneficiaries to report.

PPY will lead Activity 4.13, planned for Years 2 & 3 of the project. PPY will track the amount of investment spurred by the PPY's gender-focused livelihoods assessment targeting communities adjacent to Calakmul and Balamku, Mexico.

Activity 4.14 was added through an amendment approved by DEFRA during the final confirmation process of the IWT076 logical framework. The activity consisted of a one-time pulse of support for three forest communities, providing basic food items during the height of the COVID-19 shutdown. FUNDAECO delivered basic grains and other daily staples to the communities of Uaxactun and Carmelita in Guatemala, and the Mexican community of Arroyo Negro. We supported 150 families through this activity, and evidence of delivery is available in Annex O4.13.

Output 5 included 6 activities, with 5 planned for Year 1. WCS and partners completed activity 5.1, consisting of the development of the binational network to counter IWT threats along the Selva Maya Green Corridor. Project partners developed a list of contacts and employed two chat networks in WhatsApp to exchange information; the first is limited to partners in Guatemala (Annex O5.1.1.1), and a second includes key contacts from Guatemala, Mexico and Belize (Annex O5.1.1.2). With the latter, IWT076 partners decided to adapt this pre-existing network for trans-frontier coordination – believing it to be the most viable way to sustain coordination after the project's termination. This WhatsApp network, unknown to WCS when developing the proposal, had been propelled by the Selva Maya Executive Coordinating Group (GEC) to promote broader coordination among protected areas personnel across the Selva Maya. The GEC is supported by GIZ, and is composed of the national environmental authorities of Guatemala, Mexico and Belize. Continued use of this forum is expected to help the IWT076 initiative gain recognition under the aegis of the GEC, as detailed in Activity 5.3.

Under Activity 5.2, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, project partners have held 14 virtual meetings, forgoing the annual in-person meetings planned for Chetumal, Mexico (Annex O5.2). One interesting result of the pandemic has been greater use of virtual media for project coordination, including opportunities to meet on specific topics, review advances, and make work plan adaptations obligated by the restrictions in personal movements and transfrontier travel.

Activity 5.3, consisting of coordination with the Selva Maya GEC, was accomplished through 4 meetings with GEC participants (Annex O5.3), including a formal presentation on IWT076 activities by WCS provided on June 26, 2020. Among these 4 meetings, WCS and partners participated in 3 Selva Maya planning meetings supported by the GIZ Selva Maya Program on behalf of the GEC, ensuring that transfrontier IWT is taken into consideration by GEC leaders. During the next year, WCS and partners will work with the GEC to ensure the long-term recognition of the IWT-focused partnership between Guatemalan and Mexican stakeholders, considering the potential for including key Belizean actors as well.

FUNDAECO, CONAP, CONANP, and SEMABICC partners led Activity 5.4, holding 2 exchanges between rangers from Mexico and Guatemala. Exchanges occurred on February 25, 2021, and a second on March 18, 2021, with 12 and 16 rangers, respectively (Annex O5.4).

These exchanges helped build camaraderie among the binational team, while allowing field rangers to exchange experiences and develop plans for field interventions in the case of future IWT detections.

WCS led the drafting of an initial version of the bi-national MOU to codify long-term plans for collaboration among IWT076 partners under Activity 5.5 (Annex O5.5). The draft MOU has been shared with project partners who will provide feedback during the first quarter of Year 2, simultaneously considering the possibility of expanding the agreement to include additional actors in Mexico, and potentially Belize. Activity 5.6 is planned for the last quarter of the project.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Under Output 1, partners completed all 5 activities planned to improve protection during Year 1. We trained 42 individuals in SMART within the 2 workshops held, nearly matching our goal of training 45; we trained 12 women in the use of SMART, surpassing our goal of training 4 (Annexes O1.1 and O1.2). National partners and field rangers, including 2 female police in Guatemala, now have a comprehension of the SMART software, and SMART is being used on both sides of the border to track patrolling effort and the number of threats detected (Annex O1.3a). The first-ever protection protocol developed for the Guatemalan protected areas of Mirador-Rio Azul National Park, the Dos Lagunas Biotope, and the Paxban management unit helped partners identify IWT “hot spots”, consider field strategies and responses, and expand successful approaches to the area of Paxban in the western sector of our focal landscape. The use of SMART software helped us register 1,450 person-days of patrolling, a 93% increase in the number of person-days of patrols in Guatemala when compared to the revised baseline of 750 person-days (Annex 4.3), contributing to the emblematic capture of 7 Mexican nationals (Annex O1.3b). The opening of new, timber access routes in Guatemala decreased by 77%, compared to the revised baseline of 11 km/annually, to 2.5 km during the past year (Annex 1.3c).

In Mexico, partners laid a foundation for greater impact despite delays due to the extended effect of COVID-19 and associated Federal and State restrictions. PPY developed Balamku’s first draft protocol to guide field patrols (Annex O1.4), and engaged CONANP in discussions to develop a protocol for Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. Mexican partners delivered 873 person-days of field patrols, including 859 in Balamku and 14 in Calakmul, far surpassing the updated baseline of 500 person-days (Annex 4.3, and Annex O1.5a). Partners in Mexico did not obtain new captures of traffickers, but CONANP did register 1 disruption in Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (Annex 4.4), confiscating 46 sawn logs of *grandillo*, totalling 11.75 cubic meters. Partners implemented 3 joint patrols (Annex O1.6) in the central and eastern frontier area (Calakmul-Mirador Rio Azul) surpassing our goal of one annual joint patrol and the new baseline of one annually. We expect all components of Output 1 to be completed by the end of the project, with the possible exception of not meeting our original target for the number of individuals captured, should the increased rate of field presence remain an effective deterrent.

To increase awareness about IWT, we planned 7 activities for Year 1 under Output 2, fully completing 1 and advancing 6. We established a baseline regarding the awareness about IWT among national authorities in Guatemala (Annex O2.1), surveying knowledge among 22 authorities and environmental leaders. The average score of correct responses in Guatemala was 50.34%, with the range of scores being 8-19 out of 27 possible points. In Mexico, PPY has developed the survey instrument and identified the individuals to be surveyed (Annex O2.1.1), positioning us to establish the IWT awareness baseline during the upcoming quarter.

“Awareness” about IWT is being gauged through a questionnaire focused on the local impacts of IWT in Guatemala, species impacted, national and international legislation, and broader impacts including IWT’s global contribution to illicit economies. We initiated a confidential report on IWT within the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor, and will have the final version done by Month 18 (Annex O2.3). As detailed in Annex O2.4, IWT within our focal area received 33 events of coverage (annual goal 5) by 24 press outlets (annual goal 2), and during the first year project partners led by FUNDAECO registered 5,828 positive reactions to our IWT-related posts (Annex O2.5), far surpassing our project-long goal of 1000 positive reactions. Four (4) of the 5 NGO partners updated their websites (Annex O2.6) to help raise awareness among conservation practitioners and donors about the threat of IWT. Led by WCS and the EJF, partners held 3 outreach events in Guatemala, reaching 33 governmental authorities. In Mexico, PPY supported 1 outreach event, reaching 30 authorities. Together, we have already

delivered 4 of the 8 outreach events planned (Annex O2.7), but given the low level of knowledge about IWT in both countries, we will need to expand outreach during the final 4 events, and use social media to target authorities more effectively. Finally, while we have yet to undertake a truly “high-level” event among authorities from Guatemala and Mexico to address IWT, we have taken considerable steps forward through the collaboration by WCS, Balam, the EIJ, and CONAP, to engage Guatemala’s MINEX and obtain support to schedule a binational meeting in the near future. We expect all components of Output 2 to be completed by the project’s end, including the ambitious goal of 2 high-level meetings among Guatemalan and Mexican authorities that address IWT between the two countries.

To increase the efficacy of legal frameworks, Output 3 included 4 activities during Year 1, with 3 advanced and 1 completed. In Guatemala, we obtained significant sanctions against 7 Mexican nationals for IWT surpassing our annual goal of 4 prosecutions. Our updated baseline (Annex 4.3) revealed that only 1 Mexican national had previously been captured for timber trafficking, in 2018. Sanctions consisted of 14 days in jail, expulsion from the country, and £. 6,117 in fines (Annex O3.1). The Judge of Peten’s Environmental Court ordered fines accredited to CONAP to strengthen their field patrolling abilities. We failed to obtain new captures or prosecutions in Mexico, and recognize this as a key area for improvement during the next year. The EIJ produced a report on opportunities for bi-national collaboration, and presented results to CONAP and MINEX, helping to identify a pre-existing bi-lateral agreement as the best avenue for addressing the transfrontier challenges of IWT originating in Mexico (Annex O3.2). After delays, we initiated the consultancy on timber management procedures and volumes exported from Mexico (Annex O3.3), a key product that will help guide IWT076 recommendations to close the loopholes in Mexico’s timber management and tracking regimes that provide an opportunity to launder timber and for “legal” sale on the international market. Concerning greater engagement from national authorities, we surpassed the goal of adding at least one new governmental entity to our counter IWT initiative, including MINEX and the PGN in Guatemala (Annex O3.4), and the Mexican Army in Mexico (Annex O3.4.1). Lastly, IWT076 recommendations regarding procedures to reduce the laundering of timber in Mexico pend the termination of the aforementioned consultancy in Mexico. Obtaining formal approval from the Mexican government of new norms to reduce timber laundering is the most ambitious goal of this project. Partners are confident that we will be able to identify key loopholes and provide recommendations for their elimination or reduction.

Output 4 focused on improving alternative livelihoods for rural forest residents; it consisted of 9 activities during Year 1, with 8 completed and 1 advanced. Within Output 4, the only indicators with previous baselines included the two activities focused on improved land tenure for the rural forest community of San Miguel. As reported in Section 3.1/Page 6, the outstanding 2009 eviction order against the community was lifted by CONAP (Annex O4.10), and CONAP is now engaged in negotiations with community leaders to define the terms of an MOU providing long-term land security to San Miguel’s inhabitants. We advanced the livelihood assessment in Mexico (Annex O4.1) and completed the livelihoods assessment in Guatemala (Annex O4.3), using the Guatemala assessment to guide investments in 104 households (Annex O4.7), including 28 women (27%) participating in, or leading income generating projects. These data include 8 women producing honey, 7 women producing chickens, 11 women working in forest restoration, and 4 women participating in xate management in Cruce a la Colorada. Typical COVID-related delays postponed livelihoods investments to the beginning of 2021; our first estimation of the incremental income to individuals will be reported in Oct, 2021, and a re-evaluation of wellbeing using the Basic Necessities Survey (BNS) method will be undertaken during months 26-27 (Q9). We completed a management plan for honey production along the Carmelita Road (Annex O4.4), helping honey producers to operate legally within the Maya Biosphere Reserve. To date, we have leveraged £ of additional funding for rural livelihoods in Guatemala (Annex O4.5), surpassing our original project goal of £: in Mexico partners have yet to leverage increased funding in sustainable livelihoods. Thus far, no members of households receiving livelihood investments in Guatemala have been arrested for IWT-related offenses (Annex O4.12). In total, through a one-time pulse of COVID-related support during the total shutdown, we provided food supplies to 150 families living in Uaxactun and Carmelita, Guatemala, and Arroyo Negro, Mexico (Annex O4.13). We expect to attain the vast majority of our projected indicators within Output 4 during the project, with the leveraging of £ of additional investment in sustainable livelihoods in Mexico projected to be the most challenging.

Output 5 included 5 activities designed to increase binational collaboration to halt IWT during for Year 1; of these activities, we completed 1 and advanced 4. Partners established a new anti-IWT network in Guatemala (Annex O5.1.1.1) focused on the project area, and adapted the pre-existing Selva Maya network for bi-national communication on threats (Annex O5.1.1.2). An information exchange prior to project initiation led to the capture of 7 Mexican nationals; however, on April 23rd, during the preparation of this report, Mexican colleagues from CONANP exchanged information within the network notifying of a fugitive (accused of murder) living within Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, and potentially entering into Guatemala (Annex O5.1.2). The individual is armed, and we expect that impacts are accruing to the area's wildlife as the individual hunts for subsistence. Follow up patrols and recent camera trap studies by WCS and WWF in the area may help us interdict this threat in the coming weeks. With a total of 14 meetings held among project partners (Annex O5.2), we have far surpassed our goal of 1 annual meeting. Bilateral, IWT-specific partner meetings did not occur prior to the IWT076 project. As reported, Output 5.3 was met, with 4 meetings held with Selva Maya GEC participants (Annex O5.3), including an introductory presentation on IWT076 activities by WCS provided on June 26th, 2020. WCS and partners have also participated in 2 GEC planning meetings, ensuring that transfrontier IWT is taken into consideration by GEC leaders, as well as our continued coordination with GIZ. Partners held 2 ranger exchanges, surpassing our annual goal of 1 exchange, as well as the historical baseline of 1 exchange. WCS developed a draft MOU to consolidate the transfrontier partnership and will sign the MOU in the next semester. No formal partnership to combat transfrontier IWT exists in this area, with the only baseline consisting of a Guatemala-Belize partnership developed with the assistance of IWT096 (2014-2017). In summary, we expect to meet or surpass all goals within Output 5 by the project end date of November, 2022.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Concerning Outcome indicator 1 quantifying field-based protection efforts, increased patrolling yielded a -89.6% decrease in the number of IWT events detected in Guatemala (Annex O1.3a). During the last 11 months, we registered 11 IWT "events", consisting of 6 trees and 5 animals poached; this contrasts with the updated project baseline of 247 IWT events during a 28-month period prior to the project, yielding a new average baseline of 106 IWT events annually in Guatemala (Annex 4.3). In Mexico, initial figures indicated 206 IWT events registered during Year 1, representing a 48.5% reduction compared to the original 2018 baseline. Project partners revisited the baseline for IWT "events" (defined during the proposal as a single tree poached or a single animal killed/extracted illegally, to ensure a standardized measure across all management units and amongst all partners). This new baseline covered the years of 2018, 2019, and 2020 prior to project initiation. We established the baseline by mining data from official reports and consulting partners about their recollections to permit more precise evaluation of project impact, and to inform our confidential study of IWT currently under development. We expect to complete this specific outcome in Guatemala, and make significant progress towards the goal of a 50% decrease in annual IWT events in Mexico by the project's end.

We cannot yet evaluate Outcome indicator 2, with the stated goal of increasing awareness about IWT in the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor among at least 50% of the national authorities. That said, we established the IWT awareness baseline in Guatemala, revealing low comprehension of the topic, and suggesting the need for more effective, targeted outreach. In Mexico, a draft baseline survey has been developed by PPY for use during the first quarter of Year 2. One of the challenges with this indicator is the considerable and consistent amount of turnover of governmental personnel, particularly in Guatemala. To address this challenge, WCS and partners have held more outreach events than originally planned, and had numerous (repeat) discussions with new authorities in CONANP and the *Ministerio Público* (MP), both of whom were replaced during the last quarter. We remain on track to achieve this outcome by the end of the project.

We are on track to complete Outcome indicator 3, consisting of at least 2 coordinated actions to halt IWT through the improvement or use of national legislation, or through the implementation of new bi-national agreements between Guatemala and Mexico to reduce transfrontier IWT. Our baseline for this indicator was zero. To date, we have obtained 1 emblematic sentence against the 7 Mexican timber traffickers captured in Guatemala (Annex O1.3b), and have

advanced towards completing this outcome. During Year 2, project partners will focus on obtaining formal commitments from Guatemalan and Mexican authorities to work together at the Ministerial level, and ensure CONAP and CONANP field personnel obtain the political and financial support required to sustain the field activities supported by IWT076.

For Outcome indicator 4, we have obtained £ of additional investment in sustainable livelihoods in Guatemala through the support of 6 new sources. Both results surpass our Guatemala-specific project goals of obtaining at least £ of additional funding, through at least 1 new donor. In Mexico, PPY will initiate outreach during the next semester to attract at least another £. and at least 1 new donor alliance, with the goal of supporting at least 500 households. PPY will undertake outreach with donors and decision makers guided by their socioeconomic analysis of livelihoods opportunities for the communities around Calakmul and Balamku. Leveraging formal funding in Mexico may be a challenge during the short time frame of the project, but the new funding obtained thus far in Guatemala provides a solid start towards meeting or even surpassing this outcome during the project lifespan.

Finally, for Outcome indicator 5, we fully expect to consolidate the binational anti-IWT network for the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor by Month 18 of project activities (November 2021). WCS developed and shared a draft agreement with partners, and the next step will consist of defining potential new partners, and signing the agreement as soon as final language is agreed upon.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1) Governmental investment is not significantly reduced in either country; This holds true particularly in Guatemala.

A2) Greater awareness about IWT will motivate some government actors to address IWT; Holds true.

A3) Binational and international agreements offer potential for greater collaboration on the Guatemala-Mexico border; Holds true.

A4) Guatemalan and Mexican Governments are committed to socioeconomic development and poverty reduction in project area; Holds true.

A5) Government partners will be interested in collaborating with Civil Society; Holds true.

A6) Partners, including government, will be able to interdict IWT operations in the field adequately managing threats from criminal syndicates; Holds true, although the lack of high profile captures in Mexico indicates some reluctance among Mexican authorities to capture well-organized timber traffickers. Project partners will need to seek support in higher levels within the Mexican government, continue raising awareness about the threat, and support high profile press coverage to spark action.

A7) Women will be available and interested in participating in SMART training and in playing a role in rural law enforcement; Holds true, we were able to train 12 women in the use of SMART, however it is important to note that very few women participate in front line patrols.

A8) Press coverage and attention will increase the willingness of governments to respond, particularly if corruption is highlighted as a key enabling condition for IWT; Holds true, yet as noted above we will aim for more high profile press coverage, particularly in Mexico.

A9) Greater ability to detect and apprehend traffickers, and obtain sanctions will provide an increased deterrent to IWT; Holds true, particularly after the capture of 7 Mexican nationals

A10) Governments of Mexico and Guatemala will collaborate to reduce corruption and trans-border IWT; Holds true, based on initial, positive advances with Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINEX).

A11) The Guatemalan, and Mexican governments, bilateral, and international donors are truly interested in increasing socioeconomic investment in the MBR and in southern Mexico; True

A12) CONAP's next leadership will continue supporting alternative livelihoods for rural MBR communities, supporting honey production, sustainable NTFP harvests and small animal husbandry; Already proven to be true based on IWT076 advances, and tangible support for the DEFRA-propelled investments in alternative livelihoods.

A13) CONAP's leadership and the Executive Council will recognize the importance of engaging San Miguel inhabitants as strategic partners in the MBR; Proven true through the rescission of the 2009 eviction order against San Miguel's residents.

A14) Civil Society Organizations will remain committed, and be able to obtain resources to sustain the binational network beyond the project period; Holds true.

A15) The tri-national GEC will remain operational throughout the entire project period; Holds true, the GEC continues operating and will benefit from sustained GIZ support through 2022.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

The IWT076 impact statement indicated we would achieve *“reduced trafficking of fauna and flora in the Selva Maya Green Corridor of Guatemala and Mexico through improved law enforcement, long-term binational collaboration and a foundation for community engagement”*.

We are on track to deliver the impact as originally defined. IWT076 has already helped to reduce the incidence of illegal timber trafficking in Guatemala, with an 89.6% reduction in IWT events (Annex 4.3), including timber extraction, registered within Mirador-Rio Azul National Park, the Dos Lagunas Biotope, and the Paxban forest management unit. In Mexico, traction has been slower, but we have established a foundation to increase impact during Year 2 through investment in SEMABICC and CONANP capabilities.

Collaboration among Guatemalan and Mexican authorities responsible for day-to-day operation has been strengthened through 2 park guard exchanges (Annex O5.4) and 3 joint patrols (Annex O1.6), as well as the establishment of the bi-national IWT network among project partners (Annex O5.1.1.2).

Particularly in Guatemala, livelihoods investments supported by DEFRA-IWT and leveraged sources have provided tangible support to 107 households and 463 individuals, including 223 women (Annex O4.7). The livelihoods analysis developed by WCS with the support of local experts (Annex O4.3) will also serve as a guide for future poverty reduction programs, helping to ensure future investments are effective and impactful. In Mexico, PPY’s initial socioeconomic surveys (Annex O4.1) will be expanded and shared with donors, helping to guide national, bilateral, and private investments in rural development. Partners aim to leverage benefits for 500 households in Mexico, and continue using the information generated and lessons learned to increase poverty alleviation programs in the future.

4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

IWT076 support is focused on three IWT Challenge Fund themes (sustainable livelihoods, law enforcement, and effective legal frameworks). The fund strengthened sustainable livelihoods in 107 Guatemalan households (Annex O4.7), leveraging an additional £ (Annex O4.5). Increased patrolling and field presence within the Guatemalan section of the Green Corridor has led to a decrease in the amount of timber poaching (Annex O1.3a), and an emblematic capture in May, 2020 (Annex O1.3b) of timber poachers yielded harsh financial penalties (Annex O3.1) providing a strong disincentive for continued poaching in the area.

The project is advancing multiple national commitments detailed in the 2018 London Declaration on IWT. Examples include compiling and sharing information (commitment 12) on IWT among national authorities through outreach targeted on authorities (Annex O2.7), and development of a confidential report on timber trafficking in the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor (Annex O2.3); reducing the barriers to collaboration (9) by engaging new state institutions to combat IWT (Annex O3.4), and by promoting bi-national cooperation (16) among Guatemalan and Mexican authorities (Annex O2.8); supporting field operations in Guatemala and Mexico, thereby sharing the financial burden (8) of increased field presence required to combat IWT; propelling improved livelihoods (13), particularly in Guatemala as reported above, thereby increasing the social resilience (17) of rural communities against IWT and organized crime syndicates. The project strives to seek and obtain (15) support for increased investment from national Ministries in Mexico, with a specific focus on improved protection and greater investment in rural households in areas subject to IWT.

Notable achievements during Year 1 include a reduction in the poaching of timber within the project focal area, considerable success in leveraging additional livelihoods investments in Guatemala, and UK Embassy support in Guatemala, to obtain a strong commitment from

Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Relations (Annex O2.8) to engage Mexican authorities on IWT during Year 2 of the project.

5. Impact on species in focus

Timber trafficking has been drastically reduced in the Guatemalan focal area, with only 2 incidents of poaching detected over the last 11 months. One incident resulted in the capture of 7 Mexican nationals (Annex O1.3b), including the confiscation of wood products from an estimated 6 *hormigo* or *granadillo* trees. Guatemalan rangers have also registered 5 events of animals poached in the target area. Together, the 11 event registered during Year 1 remain far below the updated 2018-2020 baseline of 106 annual "events" of poached trees/animals. No events of jaguar poaching/trafficking have been detected in the focal area, nor have we detected events of trafficking of parrots or monkeys. It is however, reasonable to assume that continued subsistence hunting continues, albeit at a reduced rate across the target area in Guatemala, an assumption substantiated by the January, 2021 disruption of Mexican nationals captured with a rifle at the site of Arroyo Negro, Guatemala (Annex O1.3b), immediately adjacent to the Mexican border.

In Mexico, during the 11-month period project partners detected 206 IWT "events", again far below the 2018 baseline of 400 "events" registered in Mexico. Increased field presence and patrolling, an emblematic capture of Mexican traffickers, a disruption of Mexican timber traffickers, and increased bi-national patrolling and coordination has helped to stabilize threats in the area, and conserve the populations of valuable timber species (*granadillo*, ziricote, mahogany, sapodilla, and Spanish cedar), spotted cats (jaguar, ocelot, margay), primates (howler monkey, spider monkey), Baird's tapir, and psittacines (mealy amazon, red-lored parrot, white-crowned parrot) alike.

Finally, as of December 2020, WCS Guatemala and WWF Mexico joined forces through a parallel initiative to implement a bi-national jaguar camera trap survey in the IWT076 focal area. Fifty (50) camera trap stations with 2 cameras each were installed across the entire area of Mirador-Rio Azul National Park in Guatemala, and another 50 stations within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve of Mexico. Results for both the Guatemalan and Mexican areas have yet to be tabulated. However, we are happy to report that a 94% of the cameras in Guatemala were not vandalized nor stolen, indicating a relatively low level of illegal human activity in the area. A robust number of jaguars were photo-captured in Guatemala, with no known events of jaguar poaching reported. Only one hunter was captured by cameras. In short, IWT patrols in the area seem to be yielding the desired effect of deterrence, indicating that one of the main tasks of the IWT076 partnership will be the identification of ways to sustain the increased field presence after project termination.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

IWT076 partners are working to strengthen the livelihoods of 600 rural households, with 500 of targeted households residing in Mexico. The IWT timber market impacting Guatemala originates within Mexico, with repercussions for at least 3,000 households among both countries. Organized timber syndicates poach timber from both Guatemalan and Mexican protected areas, laundering the timber in Mexico, prior to exporting milled timber to suspected Asian markets. Guatemalan communities, however, have also been implicated in supporting this IWT, leading Guatemalan project partners to implement alternative livelihood programs with rural communities located near the IWT076 focal area.

In Mexico, during Year 1 PPY undertook a rural community survey (Annex O4.1) to identify communities exposed to IWT, as the first step towards identifying viable alternative livelihoods investments that can increase the socioeconomic resilience of communities within the IWT trafficking corridors adjacent to Calakmul and Balamku. PPY will share the results of this assessment with national authorities during Year 2, and engage government and donors to leverage at least £ of investment by the project's end date.

In Guatemala, WCS and CONAP developed a detailed livelihoods assessment (Annex O4.3) focused on 5 rural communities located along the Road to Carmelita, nearing the Mexican border. Based on this assessment, we undertook consultations with rural households and community-based organizations, and jointly selected livelihoods interventions to benefit 107 households in Guatemala. As part of this component, we worked with the Association of Forest

Communities of Peten (ACOFOP), to build a non-timber forest product processing warehouse (“*bodega*”), which is nearing completion (Annex 4.5). DEFRA investments also supported projects led by women including apiculture, poultry ranching, as well as male beekeepers, and forest restoration investments providing daily wages to participating households. As of March, 2021, DEFRA-IWT support leveraged an additional £ of livelihoods investments from additional sources (Annex O4.5). Parallel to these investments, WCS undertook socioeconomic surveys using the BNS methodology (Annex O4.8), collecting additional baseline data on household income to evaluate changes in well-being at the project mid-point and just prior to project termination.

A major achievement of the IWT076 initiative consisted of a long-awaited resolution by CONAP’s Executive Council reverting the eviction order against the rural MBR community of San Miguel la Palotada (Annex O4.10). This advance opened the door to legal livelihoods investments in San Miguel’s households by WCS, CONAP, and other DEFRA-IWT partners, while also taking a major step towards resolving the land tenure situation and right to access natural resources by the community’s 27 households. The next step in the consolidation of San Miguel’s tenure, planned for Year 2, is the signature of a binding cooperation agreement between CONAP and the San Miguel Community Development Council, recognizing the community’s right to inhabit the forested area and manage renewable natural resources, including their rights to undertake subsistence agriculture and forest restoration activities.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

WCS’s commitment to gender equality begins with the engagement of America Rodriguez as our leading field technician focused on community outreach and engagement within the Guatemalan livelihoods component. To date, 28 women in Guatemala have become direct beneficiaries of IWT076 and leveraged livelihoods investments, yielding a rate of 27% of female capture of alternative livelihoods investments (Annex O4.7). Gender considerations are also being taken into account by PPY within their survey of Mexican households exposed to IWT. A notable gender-related achievement consisted of the training of 12 women in the SMART software (Annex O1.1), with 2 of the female trainees being members of Guatemala’s Natural Resource Police (DIPRONA). During Year 2, we plan to document how women are often impacted by IWT, and generate recommendations regarding how to best engage women as key actors capable of contributing to the reduction of IWT for inclusion in the White Paper planned for Year 3.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Project partners employ the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to systematize data obtained during field patrols, with detailed coverage of the # of patrols undertaken, # of individuals participating in patrols, # of threats encountered, and spatial tracks of the specific routes covered (Annex O1.3a, Annex O1.5a). Additional data frequently collected include the exact locations of trees poached and animals hunted out, as well as tracks of access routes (*wines*) opened by timber trafficking syndicates. Areas for improvement in the use of SMART include: a) more consistent generation of formal SMART “reports” among Mexican partners (software compatibility issues have hampered report generation); and b) more precise collection of site-specific data, such as the tracks of newly detected access routes. In some cases, specific data for these latter indicators were not available, thereby impeding the generation of baselines. A partial remedy to this challenge was to develop new, more precise, estimated baselines by interviewing multiple field staff familiar with these details in both Guatemala and Mexico.

The Basic Necessities Survey methodology employed in Guatemala is excellent for establishing a quantifiable baseline for wellbeing/poverty (Annex O4.8) and evaluating changes over time. BNS methods quantify household access to tangible, verifiable, goods and services, but typically these physical measures of wellbeing change gradually over time. To address the immediate economic impact of IWT076 investments in Guatemalan households, we are augmenting the surveys with estimates of monthly income at the household level. WCS will subsequently monitor income streams generated by livelihood investments in participating households on a quarterly basis, and report initial income streams in the Year 2 annual report.

A final BNS/income stream report will be generated by the end of Year 3, and results referenced within the planned White Paper.

In Guatemala, we evaluated awareness of IWT among national authorities using an online survey, and the support of a local consultant (Annex O2.1). The same survey will be employed near project completion to determine if any improvement in awareness has occurred amongst authorities in Guatemala. One challenge to these evaluations, particularly in Guatemala, is the degree of turnover among national authorities. As an example, during the initial, 11-month project period, CONAP has suffered 2 changes within its leadership ranks, provoking additional changes within CONAP's personnel assigned to the Maya Biosphere Reserve.

The keystone indicator for project impact consists of the number of poaching events detected within the project area. Increased field presence and awareness of IWT, improved law enforcement, and investments in livelihoods are all designed to reduce the amount of IWT in the project area, and thus true project impact is best reflected by the rate of IWT detected. We have updated the baseline values for some indicators as we have collected more precise data, but otherwise there have been no relevant changes to the M&E plan. M&E tracking is led by WCS, however project partners participate regularly (Annex O5.2) in reviews of the reporting framework, including evaluations regarding advances towards the indicators established within the project logframe.

9. Lessons learnt

The past year has provided considerable challenges in adaptation, mainly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional challenges were provoked shortly after project initiation by [massive forest fires](#) in the Maya Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala that diverted the attention of field staff, and by the [back-to-back Hurricanes](#) of Eta and Iota in October and November, 2020, that hampered access to remote field sites. Adaptations included patrolling with smaller teams, and using four-wheel drive motorcycles instead of large pickups to reach remote sites. Miserable field conditions wreaked havoc on field vehicles, so in response project partners channelled T&S funds into vehicle maintenance to ensure field operations could continue.

One adaptation provoked by the universal COVID-19 disruption proved to be of great utility – consisting of our undertaking project meetings using Zoom software. Instead of holding one large, two-day meeting each year, we have already held 14 formal project meetings, and undertaken at least another 20, more targeted meetings, to advance project objectives. This type of coordination is likely to persist post-COVID, and we certainly recommend this type of engagement for projects working across vast landscapes that traverse international frontiers.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable in this first Annual Report.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

We would like to recognize that the decrease in IWT registered along the Guatemala-Mexico frontier may also, at least in part, have been due to the [remarkably bad field conditions](#) propelled by the dual hurricanes that flooded vast areas of the binational Selva Maya Green Corridor. Field conditions limited the use of large, heavy four-wheel drive pickups, yet they also hindered transit by even larger pickups and trucks used to extract illegal timber. Also, due to COVID-19, the International Commission of Frontiers and Waters (CILA) has not cleared vegetation along the international limit between Mexico and Guatemala, rendering specific sections impassable to vehicles, and potentially contributing to the respite in poaching pressure. The 2021 dry season arrived during late March, and we will soon see if the rate of poaching increases.

One key unplanned advance obtained by project partners was the instalment of a Guatemalan Army outpost by at Ixcan Rio, a remote jungle site within Mirador-Rio Azul National Park, located 10 kilometres from the Mexican border (Annex 4.6). This major development was promoted by the Governor of Peten, CONAP, and FUNDAECO to reduce threats and protect the park from incursions by Mexican poachers. The outpost maintains 30 soldiers on a

permanent basis, providing a huge boost to the ability to patrol the eastern sector of the IWT076 focal area.

12. Sustainability and legacy

IWT076 partners have coordinated efforts with national institutions, principally with CONAP and the Public Ministry (MP) in Guatemala, and with CONANP in Mexico. Additional coordination has occurred (Annex O5.3) with the tri-national Selva Maya Executive Coordination Group (GEC), led by the environmental authorities of Guatemala, Mexico, and Belize. Coordination with the GEC has been facilitated by the German Government's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and their Selva Maya Biological Monitoring and Climate Change Program, a supporter of our SMART training efforts in Mexico. IWT076 interventions have been shared with the GEC, and we are now working to incorporate our binational IWT network – focused on Guatemala and Mexico, within the broader tri-national initiative. One step taken in this regard is our employment of an existing tri-national information exchange format, using WhatsApp, to coordinate transfrontier activities.

Evidence for increased interest in the project includes the participation of Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINEX) within Output 2 (Annex O2.8), promoting high-level engagement among governmental entities. Initial contact with MINEX was brokered by the UK Embassy in Guatemala, which convened the initial project meeting between project partners, CONAP, and MINEX. The project remains on track to gain formal support for the broader concept of bi-national collaboration to prevent IWT within the leading governmental institutions of Guatemala and Mexico.

Regarding open access, civil society partners have posted IWT076 information on their institutional websites, including recent data on outputs to date (Annex O2.6). Partners have also posted 50 social media pulses on IWT and project activities.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

UK government support has been recognized through branding of all project products, with the DEFRA logo and UKAID depicted side by side. DEFRA-UKAID branding is used in formal project events, such as in early February, 2021, when UK Ambassador to Guatemala, Mr. Nick Whittingham, participated in a field visit including a project meeting with the Executive Secretary of CONAP², and a press conference with regional media (Annex 4.7), providing ample television news coverage of the UK's support to Guatemala. Ambassador Whittingham subsequently visited the rural village of San Miguel la Palotada, and participated in a ceremony of a "Conservation Agreement" with village leaders and CONAP, detailing DEFRA and leveraged investments that the community will receive to strengthen sustainable livelihoods. The field visit also included the Vice Minister for Agriculture, Ranching, and Food (MAGA), and the regional representative from Guatemala's Ministry of Health and Public Assistance (MSPAS). The visit was also used to launch DEFRA's IWT-COVID awareness campaign in the village, that will be reported separately. The generous support of the UK Government has been explained to rural community beneficiaries of the alternative livelihoods investments, including an explanation that the genesis of the investments is to reduce the illegal trade in flora and fauna. Depending on the type of intervention, community beneficiaries sign short, concise "agreements" upon reception of the material inputs and supplies (Annex 4.8).

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

IWT076 project partners adapted to COVID-19 by making adjustments to our work plans, developing a reliance on virtual coordination whenever possible. We used Zoom software to coordinate activities among project partners, and to implement outreach events with national authorities. One notable area where the project delivered as planned consisted of the IWT field patrols that continued without interruption due to the adoption of security measures, the comparatively small number of personnel involved, and the remoteness of field sites – far from most human settlements. Given the complexities of international travel, occasional and unexpected closures of the Guatemala-Mexico-Belize border crossings, we suspended plans for annual in-person team meetings to be held in Mexico (originally planned to travel over land

² Ing. Abraham Estrada, is no longer in office; CONAP's new Executive Secretary is Ing. Carlos Martinez.
IWT Annual Report Template 2021

via Belize), using funds instead to strengthen field patrols in both countries. At present, our original project activity schedule remains intact, with only a few delays. One example consists of the pending SMART workshop focused on CONANP and SEMABICC staff in Mexico, since we consider that in-person training will be more effective. Again, in this regard, we have adapted by providing 5 technical support sessions on SMART to Mexican partners using Zoom, and will continue with this mode of support until safe travel conditions permit in-person training. We will also evaluate the need to hold comparatively costly, in-person two-day project partner meetings in Mexico, considering instead the option of investing T&S funds slated for those activities during Years 2 & 3 into maintaining field impacts.

In terms of providing support to the broader Guatemalan community, we have taken two key steps. First, we received formal approval from DEFRA/LTS to modify our original work plan and logframe at the outset of the project to add Activity 4.14, delivering in-kind humanitarian support to three rural communities, one in Mexico and two in Guatemala (Annex O4.13). Second, we received an award from DEFRA’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund, allowing us to launch the initiative in Guatemala with UK Ambassador Nick Whittingham. This fund increased investments in protection and in sustainable rural livelihoods, and provided personal protection equipment, medicines, and access to COVID-19 testing to partnering communities and project partners alike. The results under this specific grant will be reported separately, in May.

15. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

We can report that no human rights violations have occurred, neither with DEFRA-IWT funding, nor with any leveraged funds associated with the IWT076 project.

There have been no changes to WCS’ extensive social safeguarding or Code of Conduct policies. To ensure compliance with WCS’s social safeguarding procedures and DEFRA regulations, project partners engaged in field protection activities discussed the importance of ensuring humane treatment of individual apprehended during IWT patrols. WCS is developing materials to hold a specific, social safeguards workshop with IWT076 partners during Year 2, including Guatemalan government partners to ensure downstream awareness of our commitments to sound social safeguarding guidelines, even when engaging with actors potentially supported by organized crime syndicates. The WCS Guatemala Program has developed a draft procedure for reporting, investigating and resolving potential human rights violations (Annex 4.9). This document will be used to train IWT076 partners on institutional frameworks during Year 2.

Finally, as part of the WCS social safeguards policy, WCS applied for and obtained a project-specific IRB authorization covering our Basic Necessities Survey field work, including the collection of personal information from vulnerable rural populations. We provide evidence of this authorization as Annex 4.10.

16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2020-March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)

Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

*** The actual IWT costs include sub-grants provided to 4 national NGOs in Guatemala, and 1 national NGO in Mexico.**

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

*I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here) **Agreed by WCS.***

Project partners obtained the following outstanding achievements during the first year of the DEFRA-IWT076 project focused on *Cross-Border Coordination to Reduce IWT in the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor*.

- 1) Reduction in trafficking of valuable timber species:** Project partners in Guatemala registered an 89.6% reduction of timber trafficking and poaching of species during the first year of project implementation, with only 6 trees poached in Guatemala for transport into Mexico. This advance was obtained through an increase in field patrolling, including 3 bi-national patrols undertaken jointly by Guatemala and Mexican rangers. Improved protection was also obtained in Mirador-Rio Azul National Park in Guatemala, through the installation of a new army outpost just 10 kilometres from the Mexican border, providing a strong deterrent to Mexican poachers within the eastern sector of the IWT076 focal landscape.
- 2) Improved land tenure for the community of San Miguel la Palotada, Guatemala:** On December 10th 2020, CONAP's Executive Council officially reversed a 2009 eviction order against the community of San Miguel la Palotada. This landmark decision by CONAP included an instruction to develop a MOU between the CONAP and San Miguel's Community Development Council, detailing the community's rights to inhabit the area, access land for subsistence agriculture and undertake natural resource management projects, including long-term forest restoration activities. This new relationship between the State and San Miguel increases rural household security, strengthens livelihoods for an extremely vulnerable community, and reduces the vulnerability of community members to wildlife and timber trafficking.
- 3) Increased investment in sustainable livelihoods in rural Guatemalan communities:** The Association of Forest Communities of Peten (ACOFOP), and WCS have joined forces to strengthen livelihood investments in 107 households located within 5 communities in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Pilot projects under implementation include honey production, sustainable agriculture, forest restoration, and poultry production. To date, WCS and partners have leveraged an additional £ of investment in sustainable livelihoods.
- 4) Formal support from Guatemalan Government agencies for high level bi-national engagement on IWT issues with Mexico:** The UK Embassy in Guatemala, CONAP, and national NGO partner Asociación Balam obtained support from the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Relations to engage Mexican counterparts, and address trans-frontier wildlife and timber trafficking through the Environmental Working Group of the Guatemala-Mexico Bilateral Commission. Project partners are working with MINEX and CONAP to prepare inputs for a virtual meeting of the commission, expected for the second semester of 2021.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Reduced trafficking of fauna and flora in the Selva Maya Green Corridor of Guatemala and Mexico through improved law enforcement, long-term binational collaboration and a foundation for community engagement</p>		<p>Project partners have registered a reduction in IWT in the Guatemala-Mexico border focal area, driven by increased patrolling and field presence. Bi-national collaboration among field personnel has been strengthened, and a foundation established during the last year to engage high-level governmental representatives during the next months. Over 100 Guatemalan households are receiving support to improve local livelihoods, and additional resources have been leveraged to expand the impact of DEFRA-IWT livelihoods investment.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>A network of Guatemalan and Mexican partners increases governmental action against wildlife trafficking, develops a foundation for community engagement, and propels long-term binational collaboration to conserve Selva Maya biodiversity.</p>	<p>O.1: Reduced wildlife poaching (flora and fauna) in Guatemala and Mexico: Poaching and/or illegal events impacting flora and fauna decrease in MRANP and Paxban by 50% annually (2018 baseline = est. 200 events), and decrease in Calakmul and Balamku by 50% by month 31 (2018 baseline = est. 400 events)</p> <p>O.2: Greater awareness of IWT among national authorities: At least 50% of relevant high-level governmental authorities surveyed in Gua/Mex demonstrate increased awareness of IWT by the project's end (baseline=to be established by month 3)</p>	<p>O.1: In Guatemala, 11 "events" of illegal wildlife poaching were registered during the 11-month period, representing an 89.6% reduction compared to our revised baseline for the area (i.e. 106 events/year). In Mexico, partners registered 206 IWT events in total, representing a 48.5% reduction compared to the original 2018 baseline.</p> <p>O2: We developed the IWT awareness baseline for Guatemala during Year 1. The IWT awareness baseline for Mexico is under development. In Guatemala, we held 3 "outreach" events, one in conjunction with Mr. Nick Whittingham, the UK Ambassador to Guatemala; in Mexico project partners held 1 outreach event.</p>	<p>O1: Sustain field presence along the Guatemala/Mexico focal area, and increase the number of patrols in the central and northern sections of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and the Balamku State Reserve in Mexico.</p> <p>O2: Hold at least three outreach events, including 2 in Mexico and 1 in Guatemala.</p> <p>O3: Obtain at least one governmental meeting between "high-level"</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>O.3: Improved use of legal mechanisms as deterrents: At least two coordinated actions taken to halt wildlife trafficking, through the use/reform of existing national regulations/legislation and/or bi-national/international agreements by the project's end (baseline=0)</p> <p>O4: Increased investment in Guatemalan and Mexican communities affected by IWT: At least one additional donor/country invests at least £ in target communities in Gua/Mex by Month 30, (baseline = N/A)</p> <p>O5: Strengthened basis for long-term binational collaboration: A multisector, civil society-led, binational network to combat IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor consolidated by month 18 (baseline=N/A)</p>	<p>O3: Formal bi-national agreements remain a 2nd/3rd year goal of the project. Informal coordination by government agencies from Guatemala and Mexico, has led to increased field presence and patrolling, and a corresponding decrease in the detection of IWT in the focal area. An exemplary sentence against traffickers captured in May 2020, reinforced the message that trafficking will not be tolerated in the bi-national target area.</p> <p>O4: Guatemalan partners have already leveraged £. of additional investment in local livelihoods for target communities.</p> <p>O5: The binational network of partners has initiated field coordination, and a draft MOU has been prepared for review with the goal of consolidating long-term support of Civil Society partners.</p>	<p>representatives from Guatemala and Mexico; Obtain legal convictions that serve as an effective deterrent for any/all traffickers captured; Obtain one formal commitment to improve governmental collaboration to reduce IWT in the project focal area.</p> <p>O4: Leverage at least £ of additional resources for local livelihoods investments for target communities in Guatemala and Mexico.</p> <p>O5: Sign an MOU among Civil Society partners from Guatemala and Mexico to sustain Counter IWT coordination over the long-term; Continue field exchanges among project partners including Guatemalan and Mexican government personnel; Improve and increase the amount of information shared within the new existing network, leading to increased arrests/captures.</p>
<p>Output 1. Improved protection against trafficking of flora and fauna in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve and in Mexico (Calakmul Biosphere Reserve; Balamku)</p>	<p>1.1: One SMART training workshop undertaken in each country by the end of Year 1 (baseline: 1 Mexico, 3 Guatemala) with >2 women trained in each workshop, including at least 45 individuals from CONAP, and NGOs in Guatemala, and CONANP, SEMABICC, and NGOs in Mexico.</p> <p>1.2: One new IWT protection protocol developed for the Mirador-Rio Azul National Park/Paxban and implemented by the end of Year 1, and adapted by month 30 (i.e. SMART, historical threats mapping, prioritization of hotspots, and strategies and tactics</p>	<p>1.1: Two SMART training workshops were undertaken as planned, one in each country, with the training in Mexico held remotely. The SMART training for NGO partners in Mexico was recommended by CONANP personnel, but it was not focused on the CONANP and SEMABICC staff per se. CONANP personnel did however receive 5 sessions of remote technical assistance. A total of 42 governmental and NGO partners received training, including 12 women. Annex O1.1 consists of reports of the training provided.</p> <p>1.2: The first version of the protection protocol for the Guatemalan protected areas of Mirador-Rio Azul National Park and the Paxban management unit was developed, reviewed by project partners, and is now under review by CONAP. Annex O1.2 is a copy of the draft protocol developed.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>for success in combatting IWT) (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>1.3a: At least 300 person/days/year of patrols focused on interdiction of poachers in Guatemalan target areas (baseline = 150);</p> <p>1.3b: An average of at least five captures/disruptions of poachers annually in Guatemala (2018 baseline = 1 disruption and 2 captures)</p> <p>1.3c: A 50% annual reduction in the number of new access routes illegally opened by traffickers to extract products in Guatemala (2018 baseline: 5 km, updated baseline = 11km)</p> <p>1.4: Two new IWT protection protocols (CBR and Balamku) updated and implemented by the end of Q1 of Year 2, and adapted by month 30 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>1.5a: At least 300 person/days/year of patrols focused on interdiction of poachers in CBR and Balamku target areas (baseline = 150)</p> <p>1.5b: An average of at least six captures/disruptions of poachers annually in Mexico (historical baseline = 2 disruptions and 1 capture)</p> <p>1.6 Two joint patrols between Guatemala and Mexico (baseline: N/A)</p>	<p>1.3a: A total of 1,450 person/days of patrols were undertaken within the Guatemalan focal areas by CONAP, CECON, FUNDACO, WCS, and other governmental partners. Annex O1.3a provides copies of the SMART patrolling reports registered.</p> <p>1.3b: Project support led to one (1) major capture of Mexican timber traffickers within Guatemala, providing seven (7) arrests, as well as one (1) disruption of 3 Mexican poachers within Guatemala. Annex O1.3b provides evidence of the capture and disruption.</p> <p>1.3c: We registered 2.5 km of new timber trafficking access routes in Guatemala, a 77% reduction compared to the updated baseline of 11 km/year. Annex O1.3c consists of a summary of new access routes detected by project partners.</p> <p>1.4: A first version of the protection protocol for the Balamku Protected area was developed and is attached as Annex O1.4. Project coordination with CONANP revealed that CONANP is developing a national SMART protection protocol, resulting in a delay to the development of the protocol for the Calakmul BR.</p> <p>1.5a: A total of 873 person/days of patrols were undertaken within the Mexican focal areas by project partners. Annex O1.5a provides copies of the SMART patrolling reports registered.</p> <p>1.5b: No new captures of timber or wildlife traffickers were registered in Mexico; Mexican partners did however register 1 disruption confiscating 46 grandillo sawn logs. Annex 4.4 provides details of the disruption.</p> <p>1.6: Project partners from Guatemala and Mexico undertook three (3) joint patrols along the Guatemala-Mexico border. Annex O1.6 provides evidence of the joint patrols undertaken.</p>	
Activity 1.1 Implement SMART training workshops (1 Mex, 1 Gua)		Completed: one SMART workshop was held in each country as planned.	We plan to hold an in-person training for CONANP and SEMABICC personnel in Mexico during Year 2
Activity 1.2 Develop and update an IWT protection protocol for Guatemala (MRANP & Paxban)		Completed: the initial protection protocol was drafted during year 1.	A final, revised protocol will be prepared during Year 3 and we will obtain formal CONAP approval.
Activity 1.3 Carry out field IWT monitoring & interdiction patrols in Guatemala		Completed: we surpassed our goal for field patrols in Guatemala despite the COVID pandemic	We will sustain the increased level of field presence/patrolling as the best deterrent to IWT in the focal area.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.4 Develop and update two IWT protection protocols for Mexico (Calakmul & Balamku)		Advanced: One initial protocol was developed (Balamku), and one remains on standby pending a resolution from CONANP.	Reach agreement with CONANP, and develop a draft protocol for the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve.
Activity 1.5 Carry out field IWT monitoring & interdiction patrols in Mexico		Completed: we surpassed our goal for field patrols in Mexico despite the COVID pandemic	We will sustain the increased level of field presence/patrolling along the Guatemala-Mexico border, and assist Mexican partners to expand patrols to other vulnerable areas.
Activity 1.6 Implement one joint patrol annually between Guatemalan and Mexican authorities		Completed: we supported 3 joint patrols by Gua-Mex personnel during the 11-month period	We will strive to implement two (2) additional patrols during the next period.
Output 2. Greater awareness among Guatemalan/Mexican authorities regarding flora/fauna trafficking in the Selva Maya Green Corridor	<p>2.1 & 2.2: One baseline survey of awareness about IWT among national authorities in each country by month 9; one final survey of IWT awareness in each country by month 28 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>2.3: One confidential report detailing the state of IWT in the target area developed by month 18, including information on both fauna species and timber (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>2.4: At least 2 press outlets cover IWT in the project area annually (baseline: 2 Guatemala; 2 Mexico), and at least 5 news items annually in total.</p> <p>2.5: At least 10 social media events /year detailing IWT in the project area yield >1000 likes and/or supportive responses during the project period (pulse baseline: 4 Guatemala; 0 Mexico; likes =N/A)</p> <p>2.6: Project CSO partner websites updated annually to include information about DEFRA project support and advances (Baseline: N/A; w/ 2 updates after project initiates)</p>	<p>2.1: A baseline awareness survey was developed in Guatemala, and is available as Annex O2.1. A baseline awareness survey remains under development in Mexico.</p> <p>2.2: The final awareness baseline for each country will be developed during the 9th Quarter of the project.</p> <p>2.3: A preliminary draft version of the confidential report is available as Annex O2.3. This product remains on track for termination by Month 18, despite considerable challenges related to travel to Mexico during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>2.4: We registered a total of 33 articles by 24 national and/or international press outlets. Annex O2.4 provides copies of the articles published after May 1st, 2020.</p> <p>2.5: Project partners pushed out a total of 50 social media posts covering the IWT challenges along the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor, receiving a total of 5,828 “likes”. Annex O2.5 provides documentation of the social media posts and tabulation of the positive responses.</p> <p>2.6: Four (4) of 5 project CSO partners updated their websites to provide project information and detail advances. Annex O2.6 provides the active links and copies of the projects-specific web pages.</p> <p>2.7: Three (3) outreach/awareness raising events were held in Guatemala, and 1 in Mexico. Annex O2.7 and Annex O2.7.1 provide evidence of the events with</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>2.7: At least 8 outreach/awareness raising events with national authorities undertaken during the project (4 Guatemala, 4 Mexico) (baseline: 1 Guatemala)</p> <p>2.8: At least two high-level governmental meetings addressing IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor by the project's end (baseline: 0)</p>	<p>details on the participants and the audience participating in Guatemala and Mexico, respectively.</p> <p>2.8: Project partners made advances towards obtaining "high-level" government meetings, which remain a key goal of the project. Thanks to CONAP's leadership, we held 2 meetings with the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Relations, and have now identified a path to a formal bi-national meeting between high-level authorities from Guatemala and Mexico to address IWT in the focal area. Annex O2.8</p>	
Activity 2.1 Carry out one awareness baseline survey in each country		Advanced: the awareness baseline was developed for Guatemala.	Terminate the awareness baseline in Mexico
Activity 2.2 Carry out one final awareness survey in each country		This activity is planned for Q9	N/A
Activity 2.3 Develop a confidential report on state of IWT in Guatemalan and Mexican target areas		Advanced: an initial draft report has been produced.	Visit Mexico to consult with partners and obtain more information on IWT dynamics in Mexico.
Activity 2.4 Promote press coverage on IWT along the Selva Maya Green Corridor		Advanced: 33 articles have been published since May 01, 2020.	Work with contacts to increase press coverage, particularly in Mexico.
Activity 2.5 Increase social media outreach about IWT along the Selva Maya Green Corridor		Advanced: 50 social media pulses occurred since May 01, 2020.	Continue social media outreach and work with Gov. partners to post information on IWT in the project area.
Activity 2.6 Update Project CSO partner websites to inform broader public about DEFRA support and project advances		Completed	Update websites by the end of Q6, after the April-June field season of 2021.
Activity 2.7 Execute IWT awareness raising events in Guatemala and Mexico (4 Gua & 4 Mex)		Advanced: 4 events were held by project partners.	Hold at least 3 events, including at least 2 in Mexico
Activity 2.8 Hold at least two high-level governmental meeting addressing IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor		Advanced: contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Guatemala established the foundation for formal bi-national dialogue between Guatemala and Mexico.	Participate in, or support, the first binational meeting to address IWT along the Selva Maya Green Corridor by Q8.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Output 3. Increased use of legal frameworks to combat trafficking of flora and fauna in the Selva Maya Green Corridor of Guatemala and Mexico</p>	<p>3.1: At least four prosecutions/year total in Guatemala/Mexico (combined) apply sentences/penalties as effective deterrents in accordance with existing legislation (original baseline: 0 in the last 5 years; new baseline =1)</p> <p>3.2: One report produced by month 9 detailing opportunities for increased binational collaboration based on existing international agreements, and shared with government partners by month 15 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>3.3: One report produced by month 11 on timber export volumes/permits, and opportunities for improving laws and regulations to reduce IWT in Mexico, and shared with government partners by month 14 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>3.4: At least one additional governmental institution per country engages in the binational effort to halt IWT (baseline: 0)</p> <p>3.5: One procedure identified and/or approved to reduce the laundering of poached timber in Mexico</p>	<p>3.1: In Guatemala we registered sentences of 7 timber traffickers during the last 11 months, all from a single large capture of Mexican poachers within the Selva Maya Green Corridor (Annex O1.3b). Penalties consisted of a payment of £.6,117, 14 days spent in jail, and expulsion from Guatemala (Annex O3.1). <i>Note: the updated baseline indicates that 1 individual was captured in 2018.</i></p> <p>3.2: The EJF produced a report on opportunities for bi-national collaboration based on existing international agreements (Annex O3.2); the report will be formally shared with government partners during the next quarter. Key conclusions of the report have already been shared in meetings with CONAP and Guatemala’s Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINEX).</p> <p>3.3: A initial draft of the report on timber export volumes in Mexico is attached as Annex O3.3. The consultancy for this specific output was delayed due to the COVID crisis in Mexico, and we now expect to have a complete version of the report by Q7, and update the report with a final version by Q9.</p> <p>3.4: In Guatemala, project partners in CONAP and the MP (Environmental Prosecutor of the Public Ministry) have engaged MINEX and representatives from Guatemala’s Attorney General’s Office (<i>Procuraduría General de la Nación</i>; PGN) to expand Federal support for the defence of Guatemala’s biodiversity, including their participation in project meetings and outreach events (Annex O3.4). In Mexico, PPY identified the Mexican army as a new governmental ally (O3.4.1).</p> <p>3.5: The team has yet to identify specific recommendations to improve controls over illegal timber laundering and export in Mexico; we expect to initiate outreach with Mexican government officials and advance with this key component by Q8 of the project.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1 Provide technical support for IWT prosecutions in Guatemala</p>		<p>Advanced: The EJF coordinated with Guatemala’s MP to obtain strong sanctions and expulsion of 7 Mexicans captured while trafficking timber</p>	<p>EJF personnel will continue working with MP personnel and sustain outreach to the judge responsible for sentencing of environmental cases in Peten.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Produce report on opportunities for increased bi-national collaboration</p>		<p>Completed</p>	<p>We will update the report if new mechanisms for cooperation are identified</p>
<p>Activity 3.3 Produce report on timber export volumes/permits in Mexico</p>		<p>Advanced: post a COVID-related delay, the consultant has been identified and an initial draft of the report developed.</p>	<p>Obtain a draft of a nearly complete version of the report by Q7, and work with the consultant to develop a final version of the report by Q9.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.4 Produce and share reports on opportunities for collaboration and export volumes/permits with Gov. partners in Mexico & Guatemala		Advanced: Report on opportunities for collaboration produced, and conclusions shared with Guatemala Government partners.	Share “opportunities report” formally with Gov. partners in Guatemala and Mexico; Develop “export volumes report”, and share with Mexican Gov. partners.
Activity 3.5 Advance a procedure to reduce loopholes for laundering poached timber in Mexico (i.e legislation and/or other arrangements via existing legal frameworks)		Planned for Years 2-3	Based on inputs from “export volumes report” initiate outreach to Mexican Government partners
Output 4. Alternative livelihoods propelled to reduce vulnerability of Guatemalan and Mexican communities to IWT	4.1: Gender-focused alternative livelihoods viability assessment for Mexican communities completed by end of Year 1 (baseline: N/A) 4.2: At least two public presentations of Mexican livelihood assessment by month 18 (baseline: N/A) 4.3: Gender-focused alternative livelihoods viability assessment for Guatemalan communities completed by end of Q2 (baseline: N/A) 4.4: Management plan for household honey production developed for Ruta Carmelita (Gua) communities by Month 6, including support for > 5 female-led apiaries (baseline: N/A) 4.5: At least 1 new partnership in each country developed with donors/gov. to leverage at least £50K total by Month 30 (baseline: N/A) 4.6: By Month 31, at least 500 vulnerable households receive benefits of leveraged livelihoods investments in Mexico, including >35% supporting female-led income generating projects (baseline: N/A) 4.7: At least 100 vulnerable households receive benefits of leveraged livelihoods investments in Guatemala, including >35% supporting female-led income generating projects (baseline: N/A)	4.1: PPY advanced the gender-focused livelihoods assessment for target Mexican communities, attached as Annex O4.1. 4.2: Public presentations of the Mexican livelihood assessment are planned for the next semester (April-September, 2021). 4.3: The gender-focused alternative livelihoods assessment for Guatemalan communities was completed by WCS during Q3, and is attached as Annex O4.3. 4.4: The honey management plan for the Ruta Carmelita communities was completed, including support for 8 female-led apiaries, and is attached as Annex O4.4. 4.5: WCS developed 6 new partnerships to strengthen investments in sustainable livelihoods for Guatemalan households, leveraging a total of £ of additional support. See Annex O4.5 for evidence of support provided. 4.6: This indicator is to be met by the project end date; to date, no new households have received leveraged livelihoods investments in Mexico. During the next fiscal year PPY and partners will begin seeking support from leveraged donor sources. 4.7: In Guatemala, a total of 107 households have received direct investments in sustainable livelihoods investments using DEFRA-IWT and leveraged sources. Of these, 28 have been provided to female-led projects (i.e. 27%). See Annex O4.7 for the details of investments provided including support for project led by women.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>4.8: At least 85% of households receiving livelihoods investments in Guatemala recognize linkages of investments to anti- IWT efforts (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.9: At least 75% of target households in Guatemala demonstrate improvement in BNS poverty index and/or sustained income from livelihoods investments by Month 24 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.10: CONAP's official order to evict San Miguel inhabitants from their MBR lands is officially reverted (baseline: 2009 order to evict)</p> <p>4.11: CONAP and San Miguel COCODE sign MOU recognizing San Miguel's right to inhabit the area (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.12: At least 97% of Guatemalan households receiving livelihoods investments are not indicted or convicted of timber/wildlife trafficking by the project endpoint (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.13: Two (2) communities vulnerable to IWT in Guatemala and 1 community in Mexico receive project support to mitigate COVID-19 impacts (baseline: N/A)</p>	<p>4.8: Household Basic Necessities Surveys conducted in Guatemala revealed that 85% of households recognized that the investments provided to strengthen their livelihoods came from a project designed to reduced IWT. Annex O4.8 provides detailed results of the survey.</p> <p>4.9: Final BNS surveys are planned for months 23-24 of the project, but we propose to delay them by 3 months (to months 26-27) to compensate for the delays in start-up due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>4.10: On December 10, 2020, CONAP officially reverted the order to evict the community of San Miguel from the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Annex O4.10 provides the official resolution, and photos of the formal meeting to inform the community of this transcendental decision, and evidence of meetings held to propel this result.</p> <p>4.11: CONAP is currently negotiating the terms of a formal MOU between the community and CONAP, as instructed by CONAP's Executive Council. See Annex O4.10 above.</p> <p>4.12: Official registries by CONAP/MP revealed 4 individuals captured and/or prosecuted for IWT within the Guatemalan focal area, including the Carmelita Road. Of these, none were project beneficiaries, nor members of nuclear households receiving project benefits. Annex O4.12 provides the list of individuals charged with trafficking-related offenses, and compares with the list of project beneficiaries. This is a difficult indicator to generate, and complex in that one must draw the line at immediate households receiving project benefits, not extended family.</p> <p>4.13: One-hundred and fifty (150) households from two (2) communities in Guatemala (Carmelita, Uaxactun) and one (1) community in Mexico (Arroyo Negro) received material support from FUNDAECO during the height of the pandemic, in May-June 2020. Annex O4.13 provides evidence of the support provided; this investment is not associated with emergency DEFRA-COVID support also provided to Guatemala.</p>	
Activity 4.1 Develop a gender-focused alternative livelihoods assessment for Mexican communities		Advanced: PPY drafted the gender-focused livelihoods assessment focused on Mexico.	Terminate the assessment and undertake outreach to leverage increased investments by PPY in Mexico.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.2 Hold two public presentations of livelihoods assessment for Mexican communities (to gov. and/or donors)		Planned for the first semester of FY2022 (April-Sept, 2021)	N/A
Activity 4.3 Develop a gender-focused alternative livelihoods assessment for Guatemalan communities		Completed	N/A
Activity 4.4 Develop a management plan for household honey production for Ruta Carmelita communities (Guatemala)		Completed	Follow up with Management Plan implementation
Activity 4.5 Develop partnerships with donors and government to leverage DEFRA investments in Guatemalan livelihoods		Advanced: WCS and partners have leveraged £ of support. See Annex O4.5 for additional details.	Continued outreach by WCS, CONAP, and project partners to increase investments in Guatemalan communities.
Activity 4.6 Outreach to leverage Mexican investments in target communities using livelihoods assessment		Planned for the first semester of FY2022 (April-Sept, 2021)	N/A
Activity 4.7 Implement and technically support the livelihoods investments in Guatemalan households		Completed: 107 households have received support in Guatemala; see Annex O4.7.	WCS personnel will continue providing technical support to project beneficiaries throughout November, 2022.
Activity 4.8 Carry out household BNS surveys to establish baselines for Guatemalan beneficiaries of livelihoods investments		Completed: see Annex O4.8.	N/A
Activity 4.9 Hold multisector meetings (Community, Gov., Civil Society) to advance San Miguel land tenure agreement (Guatemala)		Completed: 4 meetings were held with CONAP, Civil Society, and community partners to propel a resolution of San Miguel's tenure status (to reverse the eviction order). Annex O4.10 contains details on meetings.	WCS and CONAP Peten will continue working with San Miguel community leaders during the negotiation of a Government-Community MOU, slated for completion during 2021.
Activity 4.10 Carry out household income surveys to evaluate income streams for Guatemalan beneficiaries of livelihoods investments		Planned for Year 2 of the project.	A survey of income streams is planned for the Fall (Sept-Nov) of 2022.
Activity 4.11 Carry out household BNS surveys to evaluate overall changes for Guatemalan beneficiaries of livelihoods investments		Planned for Year 3 of the project.	We propose to push this final BNS evaluation back to months 26-27 of the project (expected total of 31 months)
Activity 4.12 Monitor and report the number of households with livelihoods benefits indicted and/or convicted of timber/wildlife trafficking		Completed: Monitoring of the # of IWT-related indictments or convictions of project beneficiaries was undertaken in Guatemala, identifying some challenges.	We will continue monitoring indictments and/or convictions, and work to refine the process by working with the MP (prosecutors) to obtain data as soon as public charges are brought.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.13 Monitor and report global livelihoods investments spurred by the project in Mexican target communities		Planned for Years 2 & 3 of the project.	During the next 2Q PPY will share the livelihoods assessment publicly in Mexico, and follow up with specific donors to seek investment.
Activity 4.14 Provide COVID-19 related inputs to 2 Guatemalan and 1 Mexican communities vulnerable to IWT (Note: this project activity was added prior to project initiation, and approved by DEFRA/LTS)		Completed: FUNDAECO made investments following an authorization provided by DEFRA/LTS modifying our original logframe.	We continue to track COVID-19 impacts to MBR communities, and have provided additional support through an IWT-COVID emergency grant, that will be reported separately at the end of May, 2021.
<p>Output 5. Increased collaboration between Guatemalan and Mexican partners (civil society and government) to reduce trafficking of flora/fauna along the Guatemala-Mexico border</p>	<p>5.1.1: Information exchange network established by month 2 and adapted as required (baseline: only informal contacts at present)</p> <p>5.1.2: Information exchange allows partners to locate and/or interdict at least 1 poaching event annually (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>5.2: First project meeting held virtually by the end of Q1; Three in-person annual meetings undertaken in Q3, Q6, and Q9 among project partners and relevant actors to exchange information and propel binational collaboration (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>5.3: At least two contacts with the Selva Maya GEC members to coordinate efforts and/or propose formal incorporation of the Gua-Mex binational network within the GEC</p> <p>5.4: Three annual field exchanges between Guatemala and Mexico protection personnel undertaken by months 3, 15, 23 (historical baseline: 1)</p>	<p>5.1.1: Project partners established a contact network and exchanged contacts among project participants (Annex O5.1.1.1). We also adapted a pre-existing tri-national WhatsApp chat to coordinate ranger exchanges and coordinate bi-national patrols (Annex O5.1.1.2). The existence of this pre-existing network for coordination was not known to WCS when the project was proposed. Given that Belizean partners are also engaged in this broad network, sensitive information is exchanged directly through personal communications (i.e. exact locations for bi-national patrols, locations of evidence of IWT activity).</p> <p>5.1.2: Information exchange PRIOR to project initiation led to the capture of timber poachers in early May, 2020. Recently exchanged information about a hunter/fugitive accused of murder potentially entering into Guatemala from Mexico is included in Annex O5.1.2.</p> <p>5.2: A total of 14 project meetings have been held virtually to coordinate project activities. Annex O5.2 contains summary of project meetings held and evidence of the meetings.</p> <p>5.3: Project partners held 4 information exchanges with members of the Selva Maya GEC (Annex O5.3). A formal resolution regarding the incorporation of the Guatemala-Mexico bi-national IWT network remains pending. This indicator may prove difficult since the GEC is focused on promoting tri-national coordination, and may thus insist on Belizean participation in any formal IWT coordination network.</p> <p>5.4: Project partners supported 2 park guard exchanges among personnel from CONAP, CECON, and FUNDECO (Guatemala), and CONANP and Balamku</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements May 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	5.5: One MOU signed by civil society partners to sustain the binational anti-trafficking network over the long-term (baseline: 1 in Guatemala-Belize) 5.6: One White Paper developed by month 26 on best practices for cross-border collaboration to combat IWT based on this project and the DEFRA 097 Belize-Guatemala project.	(Mexico). Annex O5.4 provides details on the exchanges, which do not require formal border crossings. 5.5: A draft MOU was drafted by WCS and shared with project partners for inputs (Annex O5.5). 5.6: The White Paper will be developed during Year 3 of IWT076.	
Activity 5.1 Develop a bi-national network to combat transfrontier IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor		Completed: cross-border communication is underway facilitating project planning.	Formalize procedures during the high-threat months of April-June 2021 to ensure secure information exchange.
Activity 5.2 Hold annual meetings of Selva Maya Green Corridor bi-national IWT network		Advanced: 14 meetings were held virtually.	Hold virtual project meetings until COVID-19 conditions permit safe in-person meetings.
Activity 5.3 Coordinate the Gua-Mex IWT network with Selva Maya GEC		Advanced: 4 meetings were held by project staff in coordination with the GEC.	Determine the most viable path for long-term recognition by the GEC of the Gua-Mex IWT network.
Activity 5.4 Hold annual field exchanges among Gua/Mex protection personnel		Advanced: 2 park guard exchanges were held.	Hold at least 1 park guard exchange
Activity 5.5 Promote the signature of a MOU codifying long-term collaboration to combat IWT among partners		Advanced: a draft MOU was developed, and shared with partners	Determine viability of expanding the number of signatory institutions, and sign the MOU by Month 18.
Activity 5.6 Produce a white paper on best practices for cross-border collaboration to combat IWT		Planned for Year 3 of the project.	Develop an outline of the content of the White Paper

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

N.B. if your application’s logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Reduced trafficking of fauna and flora in the Selva Maya Green Corridor of Guatemala and Mexico through improved law enforcement, long-term binational collaboration and a foundation for community engagement (<i>Max 30 words/29</i>)</p>			
<p>Outcome: A network of Guatemalan and Mexican partners increases governmental action against wildlife trafficking, develops a foundation for community engagement, and propels long-term binational collaboration to conserve Selva Maya biodiversity. (<i>Max 30 words/30</i>)</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> - “an event” = poaching of one tree or animal</p>	<p>O.1: Reduced wildlife poaching (flora and fauna) in Guatemala and Mexico: Poaching and/or illegal events impacting flora and fauna decrease in MRANP and Paxban by 50% annually (2018 baseline = est. 200 events), and decrease in Calakmul and Balamku by 50% by month 30 (2018 baseline = est. 400 events)</p> <p>O.2: Greater awareness of IWT among national authorities: At least 50% of relevant high-level governmental authorities surveyed in Gua/Mex demonstrate increased awareness of IWT by the project’s end (baseline=to be established by month 3)</p> <p>O.3: Improved use of legal mechanisms as deterrents: At least two coordinated actions taken to halt wildlife trafficking, through the use/reform of existing national regulations/legislation and/or bi-national/international agreements by the project’s end (baseline=0)</p> <p>O4: Increased investment in Guatemalan and Mexican communities affected by IWT: At least one additional donor/country invests at least £100,000 in target communities in Gua/Mex by Month 30, (baseline = N/A)</p> <p>O5: Strengthened basis for long-term binational collaboration: A</p>	<p>O.1: # of poaching and/or other events impacting flora and fauna recorded on SMART patrols</p> <p>O.2: Baseline and final reports detailing % change in awareness of existence and dynamics of IWT in project areas among key national and local authorities</p> <p>O.3: Documents and/or minutes of meetings detailing governmental commitments to utilize and/or improve existing legal mechanisms and regulations</p> <p>O.4: Official donor communications detailing gender-specific investments in target communities</p> <p>O.5: Multi-institutional MOU signed by month 18 of project</p>	<p>1) Governmental investment is not significantly reduced in either country;</p> <p>2) Greater awareness about IWT will motivate some gov. actors to address IWT;</p> <p>3) Binational and international agreements offer potential for greater collaboration on the Gua-Mex border;</p> <p>4) Guat. & Mex. Governments are committed to socioeconomic development and poverty reduction in project area;</p> <p>5) Gov. partners will be interested in collaborating with Civil Society</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	multisector, civil society-led, binational network to combat IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor consolidated by month 18 (baseline=N/A)		
<p>Output 1. Improved protection against trafficking of flora and fauna in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve and in Mexico (Calakmul Biosphere Reserve; Balamku)</p> <p>GUA: CONAP / FUNDAECO / WCS / GIBOR</p> <p>MEX: PPY / CONANP / SEMABICC</p>	<p>1.1: One SMART training workshop undertaken in each country by the end of Year 1 (baseline: 1 Mexico, 3 Guatemala) with >2 women trained in each workshop, including at least 45 individuals from CONAP, and NGOs in Guatemala, and CONANP, SEMABICC, and NGOs in Mexico.</p> <p>1.2: One new IWT protection protocol developed for the Mirador-Rio Azul National Park/Paxban and implemented by the end of Year 1, and adapted by month 30 (i.e. SMART, historical threats mapping, prioritization of hotspots, and strategies and tactics for success in combatting IWT) (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>1.3a: At least 300 person/days/year of patrols focused on interdiction of poachers in Guatemalan target areas (baseline = 150);</p> <p>1.3b: An average of at least five captures/disruptions of poachers annually in Guatemala (2018 baseline = 1 disruption and 2 captures)</p> <p>1.3c: A 50% annual reduction in the number of new access routes illegally opened by traffickers to extract products in Guatemala (2018 baseline: 5 km)</p> <p>1.4: Two new IWT protection protocols (CBR and Balamku) updated and implemented by the end of Q1 of Year 2, and adapted by month 30 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>1.5a: At least 300 person/days/year of patrols focused on interdiction of poachers in CBR and Balamku target areas (baseline = 150)</p>	<p>1.1: Workshop reports, photos, and attendance sheets</p> <p>1.2: Initial and adapted protocol</p> <p>1.3a: SMART patrolling reports</p> <p>1.3b: SMART patrolling reports and official cases from MP/Guatemala</p> <p>1.3c: SMART patrolling reports</p> <p>1.4: Initial and adapted protocols</p> <p>1.5a: SMART patrolling reports</p> <p>1.5b: SMART patrolling reports and official cases from MP/Mexico</p> <p>1.6 SMART patrolling reports</p>	<p>Partners, including government, will be able to interdict IWT operations in the field adequately managing threats from criminal syndicates;</p> <p>Women will be available and interested in participating in SMART training and in playing a role in rural law enforcement</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	1.5b: An average of at least six captures/disruptions of poachers annually in Mexico (historical baseline = 2 disruptions and 1 capture) 1.6 Two joint patrols between Guatemala and Mexico (baseline: N/A)		
<p>Output 2. Greater awareness among Guatemalan/Mexican authorities regarding flora/fauna trafficking in the Selva Maya Green Corridor</p> <p>BALAM / PPY / WCS / FUNDAECO / FJA-PETEN</p>	2.1 & 2.2: One baseline survey of awareness about IWT among national authorities in each country by month 9; one final survey of IWT awareness in each country by month 28 (baseline: N/A) 2.3: One confidential report detailing the state of IWT in the target area developed by month 18, including information on both fauna species and timber (baseline: N/A) 2.4: At least 2 press outlets cover IWT in the project area annually (baseline: 2 Guatemala; 2 Mexico), and at least 5 news items annually in total. 2.5: At least 10 social media events /year detailing IWT in the project area yield >1000 likes and/or supportive responses during the project period (pulse baseline: 4 Guatemala; 0 Mexico; likes =N/A) 2.6: Project CSO partner websites updated annually to include information about DEFRA project support and advances (Baseline: N/A; w/ 2 updates after project initiates) 2.7: At least 8 outreach/awareness raising events with national authorities undertaken during the project (4 Guatemala, 4 Mexico) (baseline: 1 Guatemala) 2.8: At least two high-level governmental meetings addressing IWT	2.1 & 2.2: Survey reports (initial and final) 2.3: Confidential IWT report 2.4: Copies of press coverage 2.5: Copies of social media pulses; reports of responses from partners' media 2.6: Photos and attendance sheets of outreach events 2.7: Links and/or screen captures of partner websites 2.8: Photos, agenda, and attendance sheets of high-level IWT event	Press coverage and attention will increase the willingness of governments to respond, particularly if corruption is highlighted as a key enabling condition for IWT

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	in the Selva Maya Green Corridor by the project's end (baseline: 0)		
<p>Output 3. Increased use of legal frameworks to combat trafficking of flora and fauna in the Selva Maya Green Corridor of Guatemala and Mexico</p> <p>FJA-Peten / MP GUATEMALA / BALAM / PPY / WCS</p>	<p>3.1: At least four prosecutions/year total in Guatemala/Mexico (combined) apply sentences/penalties as effective deterrents in accordance with existing legislation (baseline: 0 in the last 5 years)</p> <p>3.2: One report produced by month 9 detailing opportunities for increased binational collaboration based on existing international agreements, and shared with government partners by month 15 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>3.3: One report produced by month 11 on timber export volumes/permits, and opportunities for improving laws and regulations to reduce IWT in Mexico, and shared with government partners by month 14 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>3.4: At least one additional governmental institution per country engages in the binational effort to halt IWT (baseline: 0)</p> <p>3.5: One procedure identified and/or approved to reduce the laundering of poached timber in Mexico</p>	<p>3.1: Copies of the final sentences</p> <p>3.2: Report, and photos, attendance sheets of meeting with government partners</p> <p>3.3: Report, and photos, attendance sheets of meeting with government partners</p> <p>3.4: "Actas", official government announcements, and attendance sheets of government meetings</p> <p>3.5: Official "Actas" or policy statement</p>	<p>Greater ability to detect and apprehend traffickers, and obtain sanctions will provide an increased deterrent to IWT</p> <p>Governments of Mexico and Guatemala will collaborate to reduce corruption and trans-border IWT</p>
<p>Output 4. Alternative livelihoods propelled to reduce vulnerability of Guatemalan and Mexican communities to IWT</p> <p>MEX: PPY / CONANP / SEMABICC</p> <p>GUA: WCS / ACOFOP / MUNI San ANDRES / CONAP</p>	<p>4.1: Gender-focused alternative livelihoods viability assessment for Mexican communities completed by end of Year 1 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.2: At least two public presentations of Mexican livelihood assessment by month 18 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.3: Gender-focused alternative livelihoods viability assessment for Guatemalan communities completed by end of Q2 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.4: Management plan for household honey production developed for Ruta Carmelita (Gua) communities by Month</p>	<p>4.1: Assessment report</p> <p>4.2: Report, and photos, attendance sheets of meeting with donors and/or government partners</p> <p>4.3: Assessment report</p> <p>4.4: Final management plan</p> <p>4.5: Letter of support and/or public documents or "Actas"</p> <p>4.6: Donor generated information detailing investments, and/or official email/letter detailing investments</p> <p>4.7: Photos, signed reception documents by household leaders</p>	<p>The Guatemalan, and Mexican governments, bilateral, and international donors are truly interested in increasing socioeconomic investment in the MBR and in southern Mexico.</p> <p>CONAP's next leadership will continue supporting alternative livelihoods for rural MBR communities, supporting honey production, sustainable NTFP harvests and small animal husbandry</p> <p>CONAP's leadership and the Executive Council will recognize the importance of</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>6, including support for > 5 female-led apiaries (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.5: At least 1 new partnership in each country developed with donors/gov. to leverage at least £K total by Month 30 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.6: At least 500 vulnerable households receive benefits of leveraged livelihoods investments in Mexico, including >35% supporting female-led income generating projects (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.7: At least 100 vulnerable households receive benefits of leveraged livelihoods investments in Guatemala, including >35% supporting female-led income generating projects (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.8: At least 85% of households receiving livelihoods investments in Guatemala recognize linkages of investments to anti- IWT efforts (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.9: At least 75% of target households in Guatemala demonstrate improvement in BNS poverty index and/or sustained income from livelihoods investments by Month 24 (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.10: CONAP's official order to evict San Miguel inhabitants from their MBR lands is officially reverted (baseline: 2009 order to evict)</p> <p>4.11: CONAP and San Miguel COCODE sign MOU recognizing San Miguel's right to inhabit the area (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.12: At least 97% of Guatemalan households receiving livelihoods investments are not indicted or convicted of timber/wildlife trafficking by the project endpoint (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>4.13: Two (2) communities vulnerable to IWT in Guatemala and 1 community in</p>	<p>4.8 & 4.9: Final report evaluating BNS and income on households in Guatemala</p> <p>4.10: Official Minutes of meeting by CONAP's Executive Council</p> <p>4.11: Formal MOU signed</p> <p>4.12: Records from MP, CONAP, and Judicial Branch detailing the total # of individuals in the MBR/Guatemala target area indicted or arrested for IWT-related crimes.</p> <p>4.13: Photos and "Actas" detailing support provided</p>	<p>engaging San Miguel inhabitants as strategic partners in the MBR</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	Mexico receive project support to mitigate COVID-19 impacts (baseline: N/A) NEW Activity		
<p>Output 5. Increased collaboration between Guatemalan and Mexican partners (civil society and government) to reduce trafficking of flora/fauna along the Guatemala-Mexico border</p> <p>WCS / FUNDAECO / PPY / BALAM / EJF (ALL PARTNERS)</p>	<p>5.1.1: Information exchange network established by month 2 and adapted as required (baseline: only informal contacts at present)</p> <p>5.1.2: Information exchange allows partners to locate and/or interdict at least 1 poaching event annually (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>5.2: First project meeting held virtually by the end of Q1; Three in-person annual meetings undertaken in Q3, Q6, and Q9 among project partners and relevant actors to exchange information and propel binational collaboration (baseline: N/A)</p> <p>5.3: At least two contacts with the Selva Maya GEC members to coordinate efforts and/or propose formal incorporation of the Gua-Mex binational network within the GEC</p> <p>5.4: Three annual field exchanges between Guatemala and Mexico protection personnel undertaken by months 3, 15, 23 (historical baseline: 1)</p> <p>5.5: One MOU signed by civil society partners to sustain the binational anti-trafficking network over the long-term (baseline: 1 in Guatemala-Belize)</p> <p>5.6: One White Paper developed by month 26 on best practices for cross-border collaboration to combat IWT based on this project and the DEFRA 097 Belize-Guatemala project.</p>	<p>5.1.1: Copy of network contact list</p> <p>5.1.2: Copies of exchanges, and/or chronological description of information exchange leading to field impacts</p> <p>5.2: Attendance sheets, agenda, and photos of each project meeting</p> <p>5.3: Email exchanges and/or formal letters</p> <p>5.4: Attendance sheets, agenda, and photos of each field meeting</p> <p>5.5: Formal signed MOU</p> <p>5.6: White paper</p>	<p>Civil Society Organizations will remain committed, and be able to obtain resources to sustain the binational network beyond the project period</p> <p>The tri-national GEC will remain operational throughout the entire project period</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Implement SMART training workshops (1 Mex, 1 Gua) 1.2 Develop and update an IWT protection protocol for Guatemala (MRANP & Paxban) 1.3 Carry out field IWT monitoring & interdiction patrols in Guatemala 1.4 Develop and update two IWT protection protocols for Mexico (Calakmul & Balamku) 1.5 Carry out field IWT monitoring & interdiction patrols in Mexico 1.6 Implement one joint patrol annually between Guatemalan and Mexican authorities 2.1 Carry out one awareness baseline survey in each country 2.2 Carry out one final awareness survey in each country 2.3 Develop a confidential report on state of IWT in Guatemalan and Mexican target areas 2.4 Promote press coverage on IWT along the Selva Maya Green Corridor 2.5 Increase social media outreach about IWT along the Selva Maya Green Corridor 2.6 Update Project CSO partner websites to inform broader public about DEFRA support and project advances 2.7 Execute IWT awareness raising events in Guatemala and Mexico (4 Gua & 4 Mex) 2.8 Hold at least two high-level governmental meeting addressing IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor 3.1 Provide technical support for IWT prosecutions in Guatemala 3.2 Produce report on opportunities for increased bi-national collaboration 3.3 Produce report on timber export volumes/permits in Mexico 3.4 Produce reports on opportunities for collaboration and export volumes/permits shared with gov. partners in Mexico & Guatemala 3.5 Advance a procedure to reduce loopholes for laundering poached timber in Mexico (i.e. legislation and/or other arrangements via existing legal frameworks) 4.1 Develop a gender-focused alternative livelihoods assessment for Mexican communities 4.2 Hold two public presentations of livelihoods assessment for Mexican communities (to gov. and/or donors) 4.3 Develop a gender-focused alternative livelihoods assessment for Guatemalan communities 4.4 Develop a management plan for household honey production for Ruta Carmelita communities (Guatemala) 4.5 Develop partnerships with donors and government to leverage DEFRA investments in Guatemalan livelihoods 4.6 Outreach to leverage Mexican investments in target communities using livelihoods assessment 4.7 Implement and technically support the livelihoods investments in Guatemalan households 4.8 Carry out household BNS surveys to establish baselines for Guatemalan beneficiaries of livelihoods investments 4.9 Hold multisector meetings (Community, Gov., Civil Society) to advance San Miguel land tenure agreement (Guatemala) 4.10 Carry out household income surveys to evaluate income streams for Guatemalan beneficiaries of livelihoods investments 4.11 Carry out household BNS surveys to evaluate overall changes for Guatemalan beneficiaries of livelihoods investments 4.12 Monitor and report the number of households with livelihoods benefits indicted and/or convicted of timber/wildlife trafficking 4.13 Monitor and report global livelihoods investments spurred by the project in Mexican target communities 4.14 Provide COVID-19 related inputs to 2 Guatemalan and 1 Mexican communities vulnerable to IWT 5.1 Develop a bi-national network to combat transfrontier IWT in the Selva Maya Green Corridor 5.2 Hold annual meetings of Selva Maya Green Corridor bi-national IWT network 5.3 Coordinate the Gua-Mex IWT network with Selva Maya GEC 			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
5.4 Hold annual field exchanges among Gua/Mex protection personnel 5.5 Promote the signature of a MOU codifying long-term collaboration to combat IWT among partners 5.6 Produce a white paper on best practices for cross-border collaboration to combat IWT			

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures (*Potential Measures for DEFRA-IWT076*)

Code No.	Description	Gender (if relevant)	Nationality (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
1A	Individuals trained in beekeeping, poultry ranching, and reforestation	27	Guatemala	101			101	N/A
1B	Households trained in beekeeping, poultry ranching and reforestation	26	Guatemala	69			69	N/A
1C	Total # individuals benefitting from livelihoods programs detailed above	223	Guatemala	463			463	N/A
4B	AFICC non-timber forest product (xate) enterprise bodega construction	N/A	Guatemala	1			1	1
5A	Number of households that have experienced an increase in household income as a result of livelihoods investments	N/A	Guatemala	N/A				75
5B	Average percentage increase per household against baseline	N/A	Guatemala	N/A				N/A
6A	Number of people trained and supported with fire prevention	0	Guatemala	31			31	N/A
9	Number field manuals produced to guide to IWT SMART patrols	N/A	Gua & Mex	2			2	3
10B	Number of prosecutors/judges trained	0	Guatemala	0			0	N/A
10E	Number of individuals attending refresher training on SMART patrolling	8	Guatemala & Mexico	42			8/42	4/45
11A	Number of criminal networks/trade routes mapped/identified	N/A	Mexico	0			0	1
11B	Number of illegal wildlife shipments detected	N/A	Guatemala	1			1	N/A
12	Person-days of patrols by law enforcement	0	Guatemala	1,450			1,450	750 person-days

	rangers supported through the project							
12	Person-days of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project	0	Mexico	873			873	750 person-days
13A	Number of arrests (linked to wildlife crime) facilitated by the project	0	Guatemala	10 ind.			10 ind.	27
13B	Value of illegal wildlife products seized through law enforcement action facilitated by the project	N/A	Guatemala	£. 11,378			£. 11,378	N/A
13B	Value of illegal wildlife products seized through law enforcement action facilitated by the project	N/A	Mexico	£. 87,231			£. 87,231	N/A
13C	Number of wildlife crime cases submitted for prosecution	N/A	Guatemala	1			1	N/A
13D	Number of individuals charged for wildlife crime	0	Guatemala	7			7	N/A
13F	Number of actioned cases handed to/received from another agency	N/A		0			0	N/A
15A	Number of intelligence reports fed into management decisions on species protection	N/A		0			0	N/A
15C	Number of amendments to national laws and regulations in project countries	N/A		0			0	≥1
16C	SMART patrolling databases established that are used for law enforcement, monitoring	N/A	Guatemala	1			1	N/A
18A	Number of individuals surveyed on relevant IWT awareness pre-intervention (baseline)	6	Guatemala	22			22	N/A
18A	Number of individuals surveyed on relevant IWT awareness pre-intervention (baseline)	0	Mexico	0			0	N/A
18B	Number of individuals surveyed on relevant	-	Guatemala	-			-	N/A

	IWT awareness post-intervention							
18B	Number of individuals surveyed on relevant IWT awareness post-intervention	-	Mexico	-			-	N/A
18F	Number of project partners with direct influence on target audience with websites dedicated to IWT	N/A	Guatemala & Mexico	4			4	5
21C	Number of other publications produced	N/A	Guatemala	0			0	N/A
21C	Number of other publications produced	N/A	Mexico	0			0	N/A
22A	Amount of match funding secured (£) for delivery of project during the period of the IWT Challenge Fund grant	N/A	Guatemala					
22A	Amount of match funding secured (£) for delivery of project during the period of the IWT Challenge Fund grant	N/A	Mexico					
22B	Funding leveraged (£) for work after the IWT Challenge Fund grant ends	N/A	Guatemala					
22B	Funding leveraged (£) for work after the IWT Challenge Fund grant ends	N/A	Mexico					
26B	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which findings from IWT project work will be presented/disseminated	N/A	N/A	0			0	1
26C	Number of individual media articles featuring the project	N/A	Guatemala	1			1	N/A

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals,	Detail	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers	Available from
-------	-------------------------	--------	-----------------------	----------------------------	------------	----------------

	manual, CDs)	(authors, year)			(name, city)	(e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
None to report during the First Annual Report						

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	