



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	IWT 080
Project title	Expanding Local Intelligence Networks to Combat Jaguar IWT in Bolivia
Country(ies)	Bolivia
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Partners(s)	SERNAP, CIPTA, CRTM, POFOMA
Project leader	<i>Robert Wallace</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 st October 2021 (HYR1)
Project website/blog/social media	www.wcsbolivia.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to the end September).

Following the completion of the IWT 068 project on April 30th 2021, the current IWT 080 project began on May 1st 2021. Firstly, our local and online communication efforts have continued during this period. A publication on the painting of murals to raise awareness of jaguar preservation in Rurrenabaque, Ixiamas, San Buenaventura and Tumupasa was published in the IWT Challenge Fund Newsletter. The article has highlighted the awareness-raising through various media (radio, television, social networks and posters), which transcended into action with the painting of murals, thus multiplying the impact and managing to articulate local communities, public institutions, indigenous authorities, local media and civil society in general.

Link: <https://bolivia.wcs.org/es-es/Iniciativas/Tr%C3%A1fico-de-vida-silvestre/Recursos-informativos.aspx>

The book "Felines of Bolivia" was developed with the aim of helping children to learn more about the wild cats that exist in Bolivia, especially the jaguar, but also about the threats they face. Giving children tools to spread the message at an early age is essential to break the belief that animals are commodities. Teaching them about this important issue is vital for wildlife. Two thousand copies were distributed in schools in the CIPTA, CRTM, Madidi and Pilón Lajas indigenous territories, as well as in Rurrenabaque and Ixiamas.

Link: <https://bolivia.wcs.org/es-es/Iniciativas/Tr%C3%A1fico-de-vida-silvestre/Material-audiovisual.aspx>

Currently, we are working on a campaign for the International Jaguar Day on November 29th, with the objective of reaching the general population with messages through social networks: Facebook, Tik Tok and Instagram. Influencers will spread awareness and sensitization messages about the problem of jaguar trafficking in the country, to achieve a better understanding and involvement of the Bolivian society in the fight against illegal trafficking and

its implication in human health.

In addition, a communication plan was developed based on the concept of transmedia narrative or storytelling; to adapt to different audiovisual formats and platforms, inviting audiences or users to interact. At the local community level, radio continues to be the medium of communication par excellence in Bolivia, and it is important to take advantage of its presence and participatory nature. However, we will also work in a multimedia way to build a transmedia strategy with stories capable of working independently on social networks and that, at the same time, have the attractiveness to capture the interest of the target audiences. Persuasive and emotional communication techniques will be used for jaguar and wildlife conservation in Bolivia. Implementation and dissemination will be rolled out in the first calendar quarter of 2022.

A workshop to further develop the local CWT network in the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape was postponed until November 2021, initially due to a 3rd wave of COVID-19, and subsequently because park guards and protected area staff have been responding to forest fires in the region.

Thirdly, within the framework of the development of our Llanos de Moxos Landscape Conservation Program and the IWT 080 objective to expand our IWT efforts into the Beni Department, WCS met with the Regional Government of the Beni to discuss the potential for joint communication efforts regarding the IWT challenges in the region. The resulting formal agreement is expected to be signed in a ceremony in Trinidad on the 3rd November. Once this agreement is signed we will work with the Regional Government to expand our local communication efforts to the Beni.

In the last 5-months, WCS also began developing long-term relationships with a number of local actors in the Beni, including the largest and most remote municipality in the Beni (Exaltación), the Cayubaba Indigenous Council, the Trinidad and Loreto municipalities, and three municipal protected areas: Gran Moxos, Ibare-Mamore, and Grandes Lagos Tectónicos de Exaltación. These actors are additional to the Reyes, Rurrenabaque and Santa Rosa del Yacuma municipalities, and the Pampas del Yacuma and Rhukanrhuka municipal protected areas in the southwestern Beni with whom CWT engagement began during IWT 068. Collectively, along with the Beni Regional Government, this represents an impressive geographical coverage with which to roll-out communication efforts and expand the local IWT networks and their control and vigilance efforts in the next six months.

Finally, in September 2021, following an online training process and vaccinations of WCS staff, the project recommenced the IWT data systematization process with the Bolivian police (POFOMA), which will continue until at least the end of the calendar year. The POFOMA information is the key missing data from the national database that WCS has developed in partnership with the Bolivian government which so far incorporates IWT records from more than 45 institutions across the country.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

It is important to mention that in October 2021, the staff with whom we have been coordinating CWT activities in the Ministry of the Environment were replaced. We are requesting meetings with the new staff in early November in order to continue our CWT efforts in a coordinated manner.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of

project activities.	
A 3 rd wave of COVID-19 between late April and late July 2021, restricted field and in-person activities. In addition, the vaccination program reached WCS staff during the same period with second doses applied between June and September depending on age. WCS staff are now fully vaccinated and many are now receiving booster 3 rd doses. This is facilitating in-person events and fieldwork in the coming period.	
2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £
3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year. If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.	

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any **planned** modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**