

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	IWT084
Project title	Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor
Country	Nigeria
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Partner institutions	Africa Nature Investors Foundation (ANI) Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Bauchi State Nigeria National Park Service
Darwin grant value	£430,000
Start/end dates of project	1 October 2020 to 30 September 2023
Reporting period	1 October 2020 – 31 March 2021 Annual Report One
Project Leader name	Andrew Dunn
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Report author(s) and date	Andrew Dunn and Tunde Morakinyo; 11 June 2021

1. Project summary

A transboundary Green Corridor to connect eight protected areas between Nigeria and Cameroon has long been proposed to protect important populations of elephant, lion, chimpanzee and pangolins. The border region between the two countries is a hotspot for illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and there is a well-established transboundary smuggling route for ivory and pangolin scales from central Africa into Nigeria, where it is then exported to Asia. Nigeria is also considered by CITES as Africa’s centre for the illegal pangolin trade, much of which originates from neighboring Cameroon. With as many as 1 million pangolins killed annually the trade is clearly unsustainable. Illegal trade in lion cubs for the pet trade as well as body parts for traditional medicine, threatens the small and vulnerable lion population in Yankari Game Reserve. Trade in chimpanzees for bushmeat, for juju markets and for the pet trade threatens the chimpanzee population in Gashaka Gumti NP, the last stronghold for the species in Nigeria. Although CITES suspended all commercial trade of rosewood from Nigeria in 2018, logging of the species continues and is now spreading to protected areas.

Regional insecurity and weak inter-agency cooperation allows IWT to flourish. At the same time Nigerian authorities have little existing capacity and knowledge of IWT, and a lack of intelligence prevents development of strategies to tackle the problem. The specific aim of the project is to strengthen the green corridor by addressing illegal wildlife trade in and around Yankari Game Reserve (YGR) and Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP) as well as along the Nigeria-Cameroon border. Regional insecurity and general lawlessness surrounding both sites have allowed the illegal wildlife trade to flourish and has frustrated government efforts to promote tourism at both YGR and GGNP. Surrounding communities are most affected by the insecurity associated with poorly managed protected areas and by kidnapping, armed robbery, and cattle rustling. Continued insecurity in the region is also a major hindrance to government efforts to alleviate poverty through ecotourism.

The project will focus on Nigeria where protection is weakest but will also gather intelligence in Cameroon on criminal networks trading wildlife across the international border. A needs-assessment in local communities will be an entry point for gathering IWT intelligence and will inform an alternative livelihoods programme around two key sites in Nigeria: Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park. Working with law enforcement agencies and local communities we will gather IWT intelligence; reduce IWT and improve regional security by fostering improved inter-agency cooperation and capacity building of relevant agencies (Customs, NESREA and Police).

2. Project partnerships

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Africa Nature Investors Foundation (ANI) jointly developed the project design and have maintained a close collaborative relationship throughout the project, sharing technical knowledge and exchanging ideas on a regular basis. For example, WCS advised ANI on the ranger training at Gashaka Gumti National Park and ANI advised WCS on the social surveys and tools to be used in Yankari. As far as possible we are using the same methods and similar approaches at both sites, such as the development of intelligence networks.

WCS and ANI both have strong partnership agreements with the National Parks Service and Bauchi State Government, as legal custodians of Gashaka Gumti National Park and Yankari Game Reserve they represent are our most important partners. ANI has a 30-year partnership agreement with the National Park Service for the co-management of Gashaka Gumti National Park and WCS has a 10-year memorandum of understanding with Bauchi State Government for the co-management of Yankari Game Reserve. These partnerships are essential to our work.

WCS and ANI have strong partnerships with the traditional authorities in the local area – including the three District Heads around Yankari and the Paramount Ruler (Lamdo) of the Gashaka Chieftdom. Working with traditional authorities was an important first step in the social surveys that have been completed around Yankari and GGNP as part of this project.

Local communities are key partners in our work to help tackle illegal wildlife trade and save elephants, lions, chimpanzees and pangolins in Nigeria. We are working with local communities to develop an informant network around Yankari and GGNP and through the development of an alternative livelihood strategy.

WCS has developed strong partnerships with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Nigeria Customs Service in Abuja, and we will use these relationships to extend our reach to the transboundary Green Corridor in Adamawa State, particularly to the border area with Cameroon.

WCS and ANI work closely with the Local Government Administrations (Alkaleri LGA in YGR and Gashaka LGA in GGNP) – particularly through the development of local security partnerships, an important part of the project to strengthen security for local communities and for wildlife.

We are working with Maisha Consulting Limited (hereafter Maisha) who are helping to develop a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report. With its sub-regional experts, Maisha is developing a topography of key actors and criminal networks in the sub-region and is searching existing databases to conduct social network analyses of actors.

In Yankari we are working with 'Control Risks' a Lagos-based security firm to advise on the development of an intelligence network and management of informants.

WCS and ANI maintain strong relationships with the British High Commission in Abuja and the British Deputy High Commission in Lagos. Information on project progress has been shared with relevant staff by email although direct face-to-face meetings have not been possible this past year due to Covid 19 restrictions.

WCS and ANI have utilised several technical specialists to help with certain project activities including Translantic Development Limited (TDL), the Centre for Micro-Enterprise Development (CMD) and staff from the University of Jos who completed community baseline surveys/needs assessments and development of an alternative livelihood strategy for GGNP and Yankari. We are also working with Conservation Outcomes (a well-regarded international ranger training company) to train rangers in GGNP and YGR and to help develop a patrol strategy for rangers in GGNP.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. Improved understanding of IWT within the Green Corridor through community surveys and gathering of intelligence from communities, Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies.

Activity 1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gathering of IWT intelligence.

Social baseline surveys/community needs assessments have been completed in YGR and GGNP. A team of three consultants from the University of Jos surveyed a sample of twelve communities around YGR (four communities in each of the three districts). Preliminary findings from the YGR survey indicate that IWT is not prevalent in the local area although there are a number of hunters based in these communities. There is clearly a lack of basic infrastructure including water, roads, and health centres. Education is not taken sufficiently seriously even though the government has built schools in many of the communities surveyed. General problems include the lack of veterinary support for their livestock and lack of timely government support for crop production. In GGNP, a combined team from the Centre for Microenterprise Development (CMD) and Translantic Development Limited (TDL), a leading Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) service provider, surveyed a sample of 16 communities within the park and support zone. Surveys at both sites focused on ethnicity, livelihoods, institutions, IWT issues (especially in relation to security), and development needs. Survey reports are in preparation and will be used to help design an alternative livelihood strategy for the communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.

Activity 1.2 Training and mentoring of informant network around YGR and GGNP.

Activity not yet done. In YGR we have started discussion with Lagos-based company 'Control Risks' to provide training and mentoring for the existing informant network in Year 2. Intelligence provided by the informant network helped rangers arrest a gang of seven poachers hunting inside YGR with a 4x4 Hilux vehicle. The rangers seized an AK47 and other firearms from the gang. The informant network has continued to help provide us with vital information about potential poaching and other illegal activities and helps us have more targeted ranger patrols. In GGNP, although an intelligence network has not yet been established ANI recently recruited a Community Liaison Manager who will be responsible for developing this network in 2021.

Activity 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon.

We have established strong links between WCS and the African Wildlife Foundation to gather IWT intelligence from Cameroon that can be used to strengthen the transboundary wildlife trafficking report (see 1.5 below) and to provide actionable intelligence on individuals and groups engaged in trafficking wildlife in the transboundary region that we can share with Customs and Police etc to make arrests.

Activity 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies.

We have established strong working relationships with the Nigeria Customs Service and with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and hope to share IWT intelligence with them in Year 2 as it becomes available.

Activity 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report.

An intelligence report from Maisha on Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking is in preparation.

Activity 1.6 Produce an alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.

Not yet done, to be based on the social baseline surveys/community needs assessments (see activity 1.1 above) which are currently being finalised. The alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP will be completed in Year 2.

Output 2. Improved levels of border control between Nigeria and Cameroon by fostering enhanced transboundary cooperation, training and capacity building of local enforcement agencies results in more arrests by law enforcement agencies.

Activity 2.1 Facilitate inter-agency training courses for Customs, Police, Army and NESREA.

Not yet done. We have established strong working relationships with Customs, Police, Army and NESREA in the transboundary area. As Covid-19 restrictions have gradually been relaxed we are planning to facilitate inter-agency training courses in Year 2.

Activity 2.2 Provide logistical support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the Nigeria Customs Service.

Not yet done. We have established strong working relationships with the Nigeria Customs Service and plan to provide logistical support for IWT operations by Customs within the Green Corridor in Year 2.

Output 3. Improved levels of security and stability for the region by fostering inter-agency collaboration and establishing security partnerships between 2 protected areas and local communities.

Activity 3.1 Organise ranger training in YGR and GGNP.

In GGNP, 140 rangers were screened, and 38 rangers were selected and trained by Conservation Outcomes. Another group of 14 rangers have just completed training; all the rangers are from local communities. In YGR, ranger training has been scheduled for Year Two.

Activity 3.2 Purchase of essential field equipment for rangers in YGR and GGNP.

In YGR, a quantity of field equipment for Yankari rangers was purchased in South Africa and shipped to Nigeria including T-shirts (100), bush hats (200), berets (120), belts (80), combat trousers (200), ranger shirts (200), bush socks (200), water bottles (80) and sleeping mats (80). In GGNP, field equipment was also purchased for rangers including ranger shirts (100), trousers (100), hats (50), belts (50), boots (50), running shoes (50), water bottles (50), tents (25), sleeping mats (50), first-aid kits (50), binoculars (15), gumboots (50), pairs socks (150), torches (15), satellite radios (24) and GPS units (15).

Activity 3.3 Provide support for law enforcement patrols by rangers in YGR and GGNP.

In YGR, all ranger patrols use SMART for monitoring law enforcement effort. During the reporting period 86 patrols were facilitated by WCS, covering a distance of 8,900 km over a total of 4,280 patrol man-days. A total of 23 arrests were made including 17 hunters and six firewood collectors, and 16 were successfully prosecuted (the case of seven hunters arrested in March is still in court). In GGNP, systematic ranger patrols facilitated by ANI started in March 2021. The patrols in the SW of the park encountered far more logging and poaching than expected and over 35 offenders were arrested in April alone and handed over to the park authorities for prosecution. Of those arrested, 27 were cattle herders grazing their cattle in the park; five arrests were of

loggers (cutting rosewood and African walnut); and three of the arrests were poachers caught with antelope carcasses.

Activity 3.4 Formation of Conservation Security partnerships in YGR and GGNP.

In YGR, WCS is working closely with the Alkaleri LGA Security Council which comprises of the LGA Chairman, traditional rulers, army, police, immigration, DSS, federal road safety commission, Nigeria civil defence corps and WCS. Regular meetings are held to share information and discuss the growing insecurity problems in the LGA especially the high rate of kidnapping in the rural communities. Ensuring that YGR is kept free of bandits and kidnapers is an important function of the Yankari rangers. In GGNP, we have held several meetings with the park Local Advisory Committee (LAC) which comprises of the traditional leaders and heads of associations (logging, hunting, and farming), LGA Chairman, army, police and other security agencies. Similarly, to Yankari GR, the rangers in GGNP play an important role in reducing the amount of illegal activity in and around the park including banditry and kidnappings.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Improved understanding of IWT within the Green Corridor through community surveys and gathering of intelligence from communities, and Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies.

During Year One, community needs assessments were completed in 12 communities in YGR and 16 communities in GGNP. The indicator was 16 communities in YGR and 16 communities in GGNP and the baseline was 0 communities surveyed. As part of the surveys, key informant interviews were held in 12 YGR communities and 16 YGR communities. Survey reports are now in preparation for both YGR and GGNP. The Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report is still in preparation and so is not yet available for use by government agencies.

Output 2. Improved levels of border control between Nigeria and Cameroon by promoting training and capacity building of local enforcement agencies which results in more arrests by law enforcement agencies.

Given the restrictions associated with the pandemic, no training courses were organised for Police and Customs in Year One. Now that restrictions are gradually being lifted, we are planning to hold the training courses in Year 2, closely following coronavirus guidelines.

Output 3. Improved levels of security and stability for the region by fostering inter-agency collaboration and establishing security partnerships between 2 protected areas and local communities.

We have equipped 80 rangers in YGR and 52 rangers in GGNP (the target was 50 rangers at each site). We joined an existing conservation security partnership that had been established by Alkaleri LGA surrounding YGR (the Alkaleri LGA Security Partnership). In GGNP we work with the park Local Advisory Committee (LAC).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: Enhanced capacity and commitment to combat illegal trade in elephant ivory, pangolin scales, chimpanzees and lion body parts by key enforcement agencies leads to greater rates of successful convictions.

Relatively little progress was made during Year One towards the project's intended outcome, largely due to restrictions on travelling around the country. As a result, the planned training for Customs, NESREA and Police has not yet happened, and the key partnerships have not yet been developed. However, there is growing interest and increasing political will to tackle IWT, and, with the necessary intelligence and training we are confident that arrests will be made in Year Two and that the arrests will result in successful prosecutions.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Relevant government authorities maintain current interest in addressing IWT.

Comment: there is growing interest in addressing IWT, particularly from the Nigeria Customs Service.

Assumption 2: Government and law enforcement partners act on intelligence provided.

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 3: Corruption does not interfere unduly with the programme.

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 4: There is sufficient political will to ensure that all arrests are effectively prosecuted.

Comment: this is a critical assumption, we are still waiting to hear news about the prosecution of the large seizure of pangolin scales, ivory and lion bones that was made by Customs in January 2021.

Assumption 5: Communities are incentivised to form conservation-security partnerships.

Comment: this assumption remains valid.

Assumption 6: Communities willing to be surveyed and to actively participate in data collection.

Comment: surveys at both YGR and GGNP completed with active participation from local communities.

Assumption 7: Law enforcement and judiciary partners continue to collaborate with WCS and ANI at Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park and make records available.

Comment: there is good collaboration between WCS/ANI and law enforcement and judiciary partners at YGR and GGNP.

Assumption 8: Customs, police and prosecutors willing to collaborate with WCS and ANI and maintain an interest in capacity building activities.

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 9: Government agencies and individuals are committed to addressing the gender imbalance.

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 10: Nigerian agencies incentivised to follow arrests through the courts resulting in effective deterrence of further offenses.

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

Assumption 11: Government authorities are willing to come together to develop a coordinated response to IWT.

Comment: IWT strategy for Nigeria currently being coordinated by UNODC.

Assumption 12: YGR and GGNP willing to have their rangers trained and equipped.

Comment: rangers already trained in GGNP, refresher training in YGR planned for September/October 2021.

Assumption 13: Local communities surrounding Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park are interested in joining conservation-security partnerships.

Comment: community representatives (three District Heads) are already an important part of the Alkaleri Security Council (YGR).

Assumption 14: These same partnerships are more effective at tackling IWT in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green corridor

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Impact: *Stronger law enforcement disrupts and degrades illegal wildlife trade within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor and provides improved security for wildlife and local communities.*

There is no doubt that law enforcement at both YGR and GGNP has improved (see activity 3.3 above), weakening illegal wildlife trade and strengthening security for wildlife and local communities. As a result of the project, critical populations of savanna elephants, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees and West African lions are now more secure. However, the project has yet to make an impact on the illegal wildlife trade within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor, plans to expand the scope of the project in Year 2 are in progress.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

During the 2020-2021 Financial Year the project has contributed towards SDG 15 'Life on Land' by reducing illegal wildlife trade in YGR and GGNP, thereby preventing the extinction of endangered species including elephants, lions, pangolins, and great apes.

The project has contributed to SDG 16 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions' through support for the development of security partnerships with local communities to improve security and stability for wildlife and local people. These partnerships include the Alkaleri Security Council in YGR and the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) in GGNP.

By conducting a participatory social baseline/community needs assessment in YGR and GGNP, the project has also contributed to SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality) and 8 (decent work and economic growth).

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project is supporting the government of Nigeria to meet its obligations towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (Goals A, B, C, D and E). The project is also contributing to Aichi Targets 1, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 18. The project maintains close contact with focal points in the Federal Ministry of Environment for CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) and CMS (Convention on Migratory Species). WCS also attends the Nigeria CITES Stakeholders Meeting in Abuja that is facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Environment each quarter.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project is working to reduce poverty by disrupting the illegal wildlife trade which negatively affects local economies and increases levels of insecurity. The project beneficiaries are the communities in and around YGR and GGNP. The recently completed social baseline survey/needs assessment will be used to help design an alternative livelihoods programme to mitigate the impact of curtailing IWT linked livelihoods in the communities. Conservation security partnerships such as the Alkaleri Security Council are helping to protect and secure wildlife as well as addressing security threats to local people (armed robbery, kidnapping and cattle rustling). There are no specific poverty indicators in the logframe.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

The project does not directly affect gender inequality. However, during the social baseline/community needs surveys in YGR and GGNP, we held specific meetings with women's groups in the surveyed villages and will use the results of the surveys to design specific

interventions that will target and empower women in the design of the alternative livelihoods programme.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

By carefully monitoring key indicators of achievement, we can demonstrate that project outputs and activities contribute to the project outcome: *enhanced capacity and commitment to combat illegal trade in elephant ivory, pangolin scales, chimpanzees and lion body parts by key enforcement agencies leads to greater rates of successful convictions*. We are monitoring progress of the project based on the following key indicators (taken from the logframe):

- Number of arrests made. *Recorded in project database.*
- Number of successful prosecutions. *Recorded in project database.*
- Number of communities surveyed during social baseline/community needs assessments. *Recorded in survey report.*
- Number of staff from law enforcement agencies trained. *Recorded in training workshop report.*
- Number of rangers trained and equipped. *Recorded in training workshop report.*
- Number of conservation-security partnerships established. *Minutes of each partnership meeting.*

In addition, WCS continually monitors levels of elephant and lion poaching in YGR. Responsibility for M&E work is shared between WCS and ANI. Information is shared amongst partners/stakeholders by email and through regular calls and online meetings.

9. Lessons learnt

- After the project started we learnt that Alkaleri LGA had an existing security council so we decided it was better to join an existing forum with strong political backing rather than create our own conservation security partnerships.
- The use of SMART for monitoring law enforcement efforts by park rangers has helped improve levels of protection.
- The importance of traditional authority in northern Nigeria should not be underestimated, and it is important to involve them in all stages of project implementation.
- Logistics planning was a major component of managing the social surveys successfully in GGNP. The team spent a great deal of time planning transport, security and feeding for the survey team.
- We made sure we spent sufficient time to develop a field survey tool and devoted two full days to training the survey team in the use of the tool and road testing it before we visited the villages.
- All the villages were notified in advance of the survey team visit by the traditional rulers. This meant that we were well received in all the communities we visited and made sure that households were happy to answer our questions.

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

Not applicable.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Covid-19 restrictions affected our ability to implement certain conservation activities as originally planned, and some changes to the project design were submitted and approved. WCS developed a set of guidelines and protocols that included an extensive set of recommendations and measures directed to all staff and our partners that allowed us to continue project

implementation (cautiously and at a slower pace) without increasing the risk of Covid-19 to project staff and the communities that we work with.

12. Sustainability and legacy

Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park are both important sites for biodiversity conservation in Nigeria, with growing profiles within the country. YGR contains one of only two remaining populations of the critically endangered West African lion in Nigeria and the largest elephant population in the country. GGNP is the most important site in Nigeria for the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee and is an important pangolin stronghold. Already managed through a ten-year co-management agreement between Bauchi State Government (BASG) and WCS, there is growing interest from BASG in the development of a PPP (Public Private Partnership) as a long-term conservation model for Yankari. With GGNP, ANI is developing a programme for longer term private sector finance to fund the annual recurrent costs of the project through eco-tourism, carbon credits and the harvesting, processing, and sale of key NTFPs such as shea butter. The social surveys will lay a key role in informing feasibility studies for these. There is growing interest in wildlife conservation in Nigeria and in the past year there has been a dramatic increase in our projects via social media, especially on Twitter. This is a key tool for engaging young people and politicians across the country.

As part of the project's open access plan, quarterly and annual reports from YGR are posted on the WCS website <https://nigeria.wcs.org/> and reports from GGNP are posted on the ANI website. Project activities implemented under this project are also shared on Facebook @YankariWCS and @AfricaNatureInvestors and via Twitter @WCS_Nigeria and @ANI_Foundation

The proposed exit strategy for the project remains valid. WCS has a long-established program in Nigeria, and is committed to retaining a presence in the country. We are already building the capacity of government partners, through technical training and knowledge management systems. The enhanced capacity of government agencies, increased political will and wider support for wildlife conservation will catalyse greater commitment from individuals and agencies to combat wildlife trafficking, helping to sustain the project's results in the long-term. WCS recognises the continued need to raise funding to support counter wildlife trafficking activities in Nigeria, including complimentary initiatives funded by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Another key to project sustainability will be the community needs surveys, from which an alternative livelihoods programme will be designed – with a focus on supporting microenterprise groups that can enhance local livelihoods long after the project has ended.

13. Darwin identity

The UK Government's contribution to this project through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund is recognised and acknowledged in quarterly and annual reports shared with partners and stakeholders in the region and publicly on the WCS website. This project forms part of a larger ongoing conservation programme aimed at protecting lions, elephants, chimpanzees and pangolins in Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park, and funding from the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund is complemented by funding from other sources. Many of the activities funded by the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, such as the social baseline surveys, are distinct activities however other activities, such as support for ranger patrols are clearly part of a larger programme. Both WCS and ANI have an active social media presence and have made efforts to acknowledge support from the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (Darwin Initiative) on Twitter and Facebook. We have also sought to recognise UK Government's contribution to our work in press releases and press statements.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The Covid-19 global pandemic affected our ability to implement certain conservation activities during the first year of the grant and due to the risks involved we postponed the project start date until 1 October 2021. Although we were able to start certain activities at the site-level, other activities such as large training workshops were postponed until Year Two.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, WCS developed an extensive set of recommendations and measures to ensure the health and safety of project staff and beneficiaries, with the objective of contributing effectively to the global effort to slow down and stop the spread of Covid-19. These guidelines and measures were adapted and adopted as country specific Covid-19 Response Action Plans in March and revised in July (see attached). The plans take into account guidance of the WHO and the NCDC, best practices identified around the world, and measures and directives taken by the Nigeria government to fight the pandemic and aim to protect the health and safety of WCS staff, their families and our partners. Designed to reduce health risks and allow us to continue our mission, the country plan considers a series of Covid-19 potential scenarios which are updated and adapted according to the evolution of the situation in each country. Development of the country action plans recognizes that the current situation is likely to cause confirmed and potential difficulties in the implementation of our programs. The guidelines developed and measures taken to ensure the safety of project staff while also safeguarding our protected areas and wildlife were shared with our donors and partners.

To reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 within the communities where we work, we suspended all non-essential activities including education and livelihood support for several months beginning from April. Fortunately, we were able to maintain full support for essential law enforcement patrols. Following careful evaluation of the local Covid-19 situation, we cautiously restarted our outreach program and livelihood support to local communities in July. A detailed protocol was developed for implementing project activities in communities (see protocol attached). As part of efforts to create awareness of Covid-19 and generate support for biodiversity conservation during the pandemic, the WCS Nigeria Program organised a webinar entitled "*Biodiversity and Covid-19: Can We Prevent Future Outbreaks?*" in collaboration with the European Union to commemorate World Environment Day 2020. Over 400 people from 51 different countries registered online for the webinar and approximately 200 people participated during the event itself. See report attached.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic there is heightened public interest in the risk factors that lead to such events. The commercial wildlife trade and associated commercial wildlife markets for human consumption have been widely recognized as a major risk factor. Through habitat destruction and deforestation, we are creating more edges for viruses from wildlife to spill over to humans. A recent report by WCS looks at the broader issues of ecosystem integrity and ecosystem degradation. The degradation of ecosystems is often linked to the commercial wildlife trade but also results in various other processes that affect zoonotic disease transmission. Declines in the integrity of ecosystems have been linked to increased risk of emerging infectious disease outbreaks that originate in wildlife. The project outcome, which aims to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade, is clearly linked to reducing the risk of future pandemics. Although the trade in live animals is not specifically targeted by the project, by preserving the integrity of existing protected areas we will reduce the chance of future spill over events. WCS is promoting the One Health approach, which recognizes the essential link between humans, wildlife, domesticated animals and plants, and all nature; and ensures the conservation and protection of biodiversity which, interwoven with intact and functional ecosystems, provides the critical foundation infrastructure of life, health and well-being on our planet.

Over the past year we have obviously reduced the frequency of both domestic and international travel and have used virtual meetings much more frequently, and we plan to continue with this approach once the pandemic passes.

15. Safeguarding

WCS has a Code of Conduct for staff and is developing a safeguarding policy to ensure that the rights of all project stakeholders including communities and individual beneficiaries are adequately protected.

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				

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact: Stronger law enforcement disrupts and degrades illegal wildlife trade within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor and provides improved security for wildlife and local communities.</p>		<p>(Report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity e.g. steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)</p>	
<p>Outcome: Enhanced capacity and commitment to combat illegal trade in elephant ivory, pangolin scales, chimpanzees and lion body parts by key enforcement agencies leads to greater rates of successful convictions.</p>	<p>By the end of Y3 there are at least 3 successful prosecutions per year (the current baseline is 0 successful prosecutions).</p>	<p>Zero arrests of ivory/pangolin traffickers made as a result of the project. In YGR 23 arrests were made leading to 16 successful prosecutions. In GGNP 35 arrests were successfully carried out.</p>	<p>Provision of intelligence on IWT. Greater engagement with law enforcement agencies in the transboundary area (Customs, Police, NESREA) to act on intelligence provided. Arrests made and prosecution leads to successful convictions.</p>
<p>Output 1. Improved understanding of IWT within the Green Corridor through community surveys and gathering of intelligence from communities, and Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies.</p>	<p>1.1. By end of Y1 social baseline/community needs assessments carried out at YGR (16 communities) and GGNP (16 communities) by CMD including alternative livelihoods strategy (current baseline is 0 communities).</p> <p>1.2. Number of government agencies directly engaged using Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report</p> <p>1.3. By end of Y1 at least sixteen (16) Key Informant Interviews in villages surveyed to gather community intelligence; intelligence data received and analysed from Maisha in Cameroon.</p>	<p>1.1 Social baseline/community needs assessments completed in YGR (12 communities) and GGNP (16 communities). A survey report is in preparation for both sites. Alternative livelihood strategy to be produced in Y2 (based on the needs assessments).</p> <p>1.2 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report still in preparation by Maisha.</p> <p>1.3 Key informant interviews completed in 12 YGR communities and 16 GGNP communities. Intelligence data expected from Maisha in Y2.</p>	

	<p>1.4. At least two (2) meetings held with Nigerian agencies to gather IWT intelligence (current baseline is 0).</p> <p>1.5 By end of Y1 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report written based on intelligence gathered from communities, and Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies including an IWT strategy for further action.</p> <p>1.6 By the end of Y3 at least 5 actionable intelligence products (i.e. dossiers, maps, and link diagrams) on individuals and groups trafficking elephant ivory, pangolin scales and lion parts are produced and shared with Customs and Police.</p>	<p>1.4 Preliminary meetings held with Customs and NESREA in Abuja to gather IWT intelligence.</p> <p>1.5 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report still in preparation.</p> <p>1.6 Intelligence data expected from Maisha in Y2.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gathering of IWT intelligence.</p>	<p>Social baseline/community needs assessments completed in YGR (12 communities) and GGNP (16 communities).</p>	<p>Complete survey report for both sites.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.2 Training and mentoring of informant network around YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>Company identified for training and mentoring of informant network at YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>Complete training and start mentoring of informant network around YGR and GGNP</p>	
<p>Activity 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon.</p>	<p>Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon has been started by Maisha and is ongoing.</p>	<p>Maisha to provide actionable intelligence.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies.</p>	<p>Preliminary meetings held with Customs and NESREA in Abuja to gather IWT intelligence.</p>	<p>Establish partnerships with Customs and NESREA in the transboundary area.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report.</p>	<p>Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report is in preparation.</p>	<p>Finalise Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.6 Produce an alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>Data for the alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP has been collected.</p>	<p>Finalise alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP (based on social baseline/community needs assessments).</p>	

<p>Output 2. Improved levels of border control between Nigeria and Cameroon by promoting training and capacity building of local enforcement agencies which results in more arrests by law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p>2.1 By Y3, 6 training courses identify at least 6 ‘champions’ (i.e. trustworthy officers who take actions, actively participate and are cooperative) within law enforcement agencies and the judiciary in Yola, Serti and Bauchi.</p> <p>(Baseline = 0 champions identified and very little information sharing between agencies and each agency has its own different procedures).</p> <p>2.2 At least 33% of trainees are female, and by Y3 female government officers that have participated in the project are actively contributing to or leading wildlife trafficking cases.</p> <p>2.3 By Y3 there are at least 10 arrests per year (the current baseline is 2-3 arrests per year).</p>	<p>2.1 Training courses did not take place in Y1 due to Covid-19 but are planned for Y2.</p> <p>2.2 as above.</p> <p>2.3 Arrests made in YGR and GGNP, but not yet in the Transboundary Green Corridor.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1 Facilitate inter-agency training courses for Customs, Police, Army and NESREA.</p>	<p>Not yet done (due to travel restrictions associated with Covid-19).</p>		<p>Training courses for Customs, Police, Army and NESREA planned for Y2.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2 Provide logistical support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the Nigeria Customs Service.</p>	<p>Strong partnership established with Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in Abuja.</p>		<p>Logistical support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the NCS to be provided in Y2.</p>
<p>Output 3. Improved levels of security and stability for the region by fostering inter-agency collaboration and establishing security partnerships between 2 protected areas and local communities.</p>	<p>3.1. By the end of Y3, at least 50 rangers trained and equipped in YGR and GGNP.</p> <p>3.2 By the end of Y3 at least six conservation-security partnerships established with local communities (baseline = 0) in YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>3.1 In YGR, 0 rangers trained, and 80 rangers equipped. In GGNP, 52 rangers trained and equipped.</p> <p>3.2 One existing security partnership identified in Alkaleri LGA (YGR). In GGNP, the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) is the security partnership identified.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1 Organise ranger training in YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>Ranger training completed in GGNP for 52 rangers. Plans for ranger training in</p>		<p>Organise refresher training for 60 rangers in YGR with Conservation Outcomes.</p>

	YGR finalised with conservation Outcomes.	
Activity 3.2 Purchase of essential field equipment for rangers in YGR and GGNP.	We have purchased essential field equipment for 80 rangers in YGR and 57 rangers in GGNP	Ensure equipment is well maintained and properly cared for.
Activity 3.3 Provide support for law enforcement patrols by rangers in YGR and GGNP.	In YGR 86 patrols were facilitated by WCS and 23 arrests were made. In GGNP, 30 ranger patrols were facilitated by ANI and 35 arrests were made.	Continue to provide support for ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP.
Activity 3.4 Formation of Conservation Security partnerships in YGR and GGNP.	One existing security partnership identified in Alkaleri LGA (YGR). In GGNP, the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) is the security partnership identified.	Consolidate existing security partnerships in YGR and GGNP. Evaluate the need for additional conservation security partnerships in YGR and GGNP.

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Stronger law enforcement disrupts and degrades illegal wildlife trade within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor and provides improved security for wildlife and local communities.			
Outcome: Enhanced capacity and commitment to combat illegal trade in elephant ivory, pangolin scales, chimpanzees and lion body parts by key enforcement agencies leads to greater rates of successful convictions.	0.1 By the end of Y3 there are at least 3 successful prosecutions per year (the current baseline is 0 successful prosecutions).	0.1 Records of seizures and arrests made by law enforcement agencies. 0.2 Court records of prosecutions, convictions and penalties applied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant government authorities maintain current interest in addressing IWT. - Government and law enforcement partners act on intelligence provided. - Corruption does not interfere unduly with the programme. - There is sufficient political will to ensure that all arrests are effectively prosecuted. - Communities are incentivised to form conservation-security partnerships.
Output 1. Improved understanding of IWT within the Green Corridor through community surveys and gathering of intelligence from communities, and Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies.	<p>1.1. By end of Y1 social baseline/community needs assessments carried out at YGR (16 communities) and GGNP (16 communities) by CMD including alternative livelihoods strategy (current baseline is 0 communities).</p> <p>1.2. Number of government agencies directly engaged using Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report</p> <p>1.3. By end of Y1 at least sixteen (16) Key Informant Interviews in villages surveyed to gather community intelligence; intelligence data received and analysed from Maisha in Cameroon.</p> <p>1.4. At least two (2) meetings held with Nigerian agencies to gather IWT intelligence (current baseline is 0).</p>	<p>1.1 Social baseline/community needs assessments reports produced for both GGNP and YGR.</p> <p>1.2 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report produced and disseminated to government agencies.</p> <p>1.3 Intelligence products produced and disseminated to government agencies.</p> <p>1.4 Minutes of meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities willing to be surveyed and to actively participate in data collection. - Law enforcement and judiciary partners continue to collaborate with WCS and ANI at Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park and make records available.

	<p>1.5 By end of Y1 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report written based on intelligence gathered from communities, and Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies including an IWT strategy for further action.</p> <p>1.6 By the end of Y3 at least 5 actionable intelligence products (i.e. dossiers, maps, and link diagrams) on individuals and groups trafficking elephant ivory, pangolin scales and lion parts are produced and shared with Customs and Police.</p>	<p>1.5 Report available</p> <p>1.6 Reports available</p>	
<p>Output 2. Improved levels of border control between Nigeria and Cameroon by promoting, training and capacity building of local enforcement agencies which results in more arrests by law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p>2.1 By Y3, 6 training courses identify at least 6 ‘champions’ (i.e. trustworthy officers who take actions, actively participate and are cooperative) within law enforcement agencies and the judiciary in Yola, Serti and Bauchi. (Baseline = 0 champions identified and very little information sharing between agencies and each agency has its own different procedures).</p> <p>2.2 At least 33% of trainees are female, and by Y3 female government officers that have participated in the project are actively contributing to or leading wildlife trafficking cases.</p> <p>2.3 By Y3 there are at least 10 arrests per year (the current baseline is 2-3 arrests per year).</p>	<p>2.1 Pre- and post-training assessments, attendance lists, training materials, stratified by gender.</p> <p>2.2 The % of women government officers participating in the project. (measured through training reports and workshop records).</p> <p>2.3 Increased number of arrests made because of international or inter-agency cooperation, as evidenced from project reports.</p>	<p>- Customs, police, and prosecutors willing to collaborate with WCS and ANI and maintain an interest in capacity building activities.</p> <p>-</p> <p>- Government agencies and individuals are committed to addressing the gender imbalance.</p> <p>- Nigerian agencies incentivised to follow arrests through the courts resulting in effective deterrence of further offenses.</p>
<p>Output 3. Improved levels of security and stability for the region by fostering inter-agency collaboration and establishing security partnerships</p>	<p>3.1. By the end of Y3, at least 50 rangers trained and equipped in YGR and GGNP.</p> <p>3.2 By the end of Y3 at least six conservation-security partnerships</p>	<p>3.1 Reports on ranger training produced for YGR and GGNP indicating number of rangers trained and equipped.</p>	<p>- Government authorities are willing to come together to develop a coordinated response to IWT.</p> <p>- YGR and GGNP willing to have their rangers trained and equipped.</p>

<p>between 2 protected areas and local communities.</p>	<p>established with local communities (baseline = 0) in YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>3.2 Minutes from Conservation Security Partnership meetings; attendance lists.</p>	<p>- Local communities surrounding Yankari Game Reserve and Gashaka Gumti National Park are interested in joining conservation-security partnership - These same partnerships are more effective at tackling IWT in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green corridor.</p>
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<p>Activities</p> <p>1. Improved understanding of IWT within the Green Corridor through community surveys and gathering of intelligence from communities, Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies.</p> <p>1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gathering of IWT intelligence. 1.2 Training and mentoring of informant network around YGR and GGNP. 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon. 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies. 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report. 1.6 Produce an alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.</p> <p>2. Improved border control between Nigeria and Cameroon through enhanced transboundary cooperation, training and capacity building of law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>2.1 Facilitate inter-agency training courses for Customs, Police, Army and NESREA. 2.2 Provide logistical support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the Nigeria Customs Service.</p> <p>3. Improved levels of security and stability for the region by fostering inter-agency collaboration and establishing security partnerships between two protected areas and local communities.</p> <p>3.1 Organise ranger training in YGR and GGNP. 3.2 Purchase of essential field equipment for rangers in YGR and GGNP. 3.3 Provide support for law enforcement patrols by rangers in YGR and GGNP. 3.4 Formation of Conservation Security partnerships in YGR and GGNP.</p>
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Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	Ranger training in YGR and GGNP			52 rangers trained in GGNP				
6B	No of weeks training			16 Weeks in GGNP				

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 Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
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.	No
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.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	