

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>).

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

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IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWTR6S2/1018, IWT084
Project title	Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor
Country	Nigeria
Lead Partner	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Project partners	Africa Nature Investors Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Bauchi State Nigeria National Park Service
IWTCF grant value	£430,000
Start/end dates of project	1 October 2020 to 30 September 2023
Reporting period	1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 Annual Report Three
Project Leader name	Andrew Dunn
Project website/blog/social media	nigeria.wcs.org Twitter: @WCS_Nigeria and @ANI_Foundation
Report authors and date	Elisha Bello, Tunde Morakinyo and Andrew Dunn 19 May 2023

1. Project summary

A transboundary Green Corridor (see Map 1 below) to connect eight protected areas between Nigeria and Cameroon has long been proposed to protect important populations of elephants, lions, chimpanzees, 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 neighbouring 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 (YGR). Trade in chimpanzees for bushmeat, for juju markets, and for the pet trade threatens the chimpanzee population in Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP), the largest 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 information prevents the development of strategies to tackle the problem. The specific aim of the project is to strengthen the Green Corridor by addressing IWT in and around YGR and GGNP as well as along the Nigeria-Cameroon border. Regional insecurity and general lawlessness surrounding both protected areas have allowed IWT to flourish and have frustrated government efforts to promote tourism at both YGR and GGNP. The insecurity associated with poorly managed protected areas adversely affects the surrounding communities, including kidnapping, armed robbery, and cattle rustling. Continued insecurity in the region is also a major hindrance to government efforts to alleviate poverty through ecotourism.



Map 1: Nigeria-Cameroon Transboundary Green Corridor

The project focuses on Nigeria where protection is weakest but is also well positioned to gather information about criminal networks trading wildlife across the international Cameroon-Nigeria border. A needs-assessment completed in local communities is acting as an entry point for gathering IWT intelligence and was used to develop a sustainable livelihoods programme around YGR and GGNP. Working with law enforcement agencies and local communities we are fostering improved inter-agency cooperation and building the capacity of relevant agencies (Customs, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency and the Police) to reduce IWT and improve regional security.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

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 company selected for the ranger training in GGNP and ANI advised WCS on the social surveys and tools to be used in YGR. As far as possible we are using the same methods and similar approaches at both sites.

WCS and ANI have strong partnership agreements with the National Park Service and Bauchi State Government respectively, and as legal custodians of GGNP and YGR, they represent our most important partners. ANI has a 30-year partnership agreement with the National Park Service for the co-management of GGNP and WCS has a 10-year memorandum of understanding with Bauchi State Government for the co-management of YGR. These partnerships are essential to our work. Working with traditional authorities is also an important and very necessary feature of our work in the region. WCS and ANI have developed strong partnerships with traditional authorities in the local area – including the three District Heads around Yankari and the Paramount Ruler (Lamdo) of the Gashaka Chiefdom. Local communities are key partners in our work to help tackle IWT and save elephants, lions, chimpanzees, and pangolins in Nigeria. We are working with local communities around YGR and GGNP to develop sustainable livelihoods and reduce pressure on the protected area.

WCS has developed strong partnerships with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Nigeria Customs Service, and we have recently extended this relationship to the transboundary Green Corridor in Adamawa State on the border with Cameroon. WCS and ANI work closely with Local Government Administrations (Alkaleri LGA in YGR and Gashaka/Toungo LGAs 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. WCS and ANI maintain strong relationships with the British High Commission in Abuja and regularly share information via social media. We also maintain a strong relationship with the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC) in Lagos and regularly participate in the ‘Friends of Nigeria Wildlife’ group established by the BDHC. ANI has recently established an important partnership with Roshan Renewables supporting 15 women’s agro-processing enterprises. WCS and ANI are also working with a well-regarded international ranger training company to train rangers in YGR and GGNP and to 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 intelligence gathering from the community’s Nigerian and Cameroonian agencies.

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

Using a team of three national consultants, WCS assessed IWT in Adamawa, Bauchi, and Cross River States. The assessment highlights the extent of wildlife trafficking in the transboundary region such as Mubi, Toungo, and Jimeta, as well as YGR. The assessment discusses the increasing role of organized crime in wildlife trafficking as well as the high demand for exotic animals to supply the pet trade in Nigeria.

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

WCS has continued to build the capacity of community leaders on information sharing on IWT in the communities surrounding YGR, and within Bauchi and Adamawa States. WCS has twenty-five community leaders with training on identifying and reporting IWT activities, and this has resulted in increased information sharing from these communities in the Transboundary Green Corridor and around YGR.

In GGNP, ANI has continued to develop our community informant network, leading to increased ranger arrests due to good intelligence, and has conducted training for all our rangers on

developing community intelligence networks as part of the Basic Field Ranger training. ANI plans to deliver further training to our senior rangers in the coming year and to establish a team devoted to managing our informant network.

Activity 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon.

ANI regularly exchanges information with Faro National Park in Cameroon through quarterly Zoom calls. Cattle herders regularly cross the international boundary between the two parks setting fire to woodlands (to improve grazing for their cows). It has been agreed that a coordinated approach to managing pastoralist issues will be important. Similarly, criminal networks hunting in the park and trading in illegal wildlife products operate across the international boundary separating the two parks. We have agreed to work more closely in the coming year to coordinate ranger patrols and exchange information on pastoralist groups/poaching IWT networks. We are planning two exchange visits between the parks to facilitate this process. One aim of these exchanges will be to explore the possibility of establishing a wildlife corridor between the two parks jointly managed with communities.

Activity 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies.

WCS and ANI have good working relationships with several Nigerian government agencies for sharing of information. These agencies include the Nigeria Customs Service, NESREA, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). WCS has effectively shared and received information with these agencies.

ANI has commenced the chairing of quarterly security meetings in both Gashaka and Toungo LGAs, including GGNP, ANI, Army, Police, Local Government Authority, State Security Services, traditional leaders, the various arms of government involved in security, and community leaders. We have found that the groups involved in bushmeat poaching and rosewood logging are the same individuals involved in banditry, kidnapping, etc. These meetings have greatly facilitated the exchange of information between all the agencies.

Activity 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report.

Report produced in Y2. A copy of the confidential report is available on request to the WCS Counter Trafficking Coordinator for Africa.

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

The community baseline surveys/needs assessments completed in YGR and GGNP in Y2 are helping to guide efforts to improve livelihoods in the communities surrounding the protected areas. In YGR, the recommended livelihood interventions include veterinary support for pastoralists; provision of chickens and goats for women; planting of tree species for firewood and NTFPs; agricultural extension support to include new, improved crop varieties; improved access to safe water; fuel-efficient wood stoves; and beekeeping. In GGNP, critical recommendations from the socio-economic survey included support for more intensive, sustainable agriculture, the establishment of woodlots and fuel-efficient cookstoves, and support for pastoralist livelihoods. The activities below were funded by a different donor but were developed from the livelihood strategy and socio-economic surveys funded by this grant:

- Training of 120 women surrounding GGNP on shea nut collection, processing, storage, and value addition. Our long-term goal is for these women to produce high volumes of quality shea butter to sell across Nigeria and ultimately to export their products internationally.
- Support to women surrounding GGNP to establish 15 Savings and Loan Groups (SLGs) that will evolve into cooperatives that can attract capital to establish agro-processing enterprises focused on adding value to agricultural produce. Some groups will mill rice, maize, sorghum, and millet, while others will process peanuts and produce vegetable oil.
- Distribution of 3,270 energy-efficient woodstoves to women around YGR and GGNP, reducing the firewood required to cook a meal by 60%. This reduces demand for firewood, reduces deforestation, and reduces the cost of energy for stove owners. Furthermore, these stoves emit much less smoke than regular stoves, so there is also an immediate health benefit.

- To reduce levels of human-elephant conflict around YGR, we trained 10 farmers in the establishment of beehive fences and trained 37 farmers to establish smelly elephant-repellent fences.

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

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

This year WCS conducted training sessions for 82 NESREA and Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) staff in Adamawa and Cross River States to strengthen their capacity to combat IWT activities. The training focused on equipping staff from the agencies with the necessary skills and knowledge to investigate and prosecute offenders involved in IWT activities. The training covered various topics, including identifying and tracking IWT activities, evidence gathering, and prosecution procedures. Key findings from the workshop were that there is insufficient knowledge about IWT, skills, and training for NCS and NESREA officers who police the border area; the Adamawa-Cameroon and Cross River-Cameroon border areas are not seen as a worthy posting, so many officers try to avoid being posted there; there is only limited NCS support provided to staff during the court process; there is insufficient understanding of their roles by some of the officers and a need for improved intelligence gathering training and resources for logistics. The training report is attached and listed as part of Annex 4.

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

This activity has not yet been launched. However, based on findings from the Yola workshop (activity 2.1 above) and working with the newly created Wildlife Crime Office of the Nigeria Customs Service, we have identified specific vital individuals to help facilitate IWT operations in the transboundary area and expect to be able to provide the necessary logistical support in Y4.

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 February 2023, WCS organized training in intelligence-gathering for 61 rangers in YGR. Rangers now have a better understanding of the importance of networks and intelligence gathering to boost law enforcement efforts. The training report is attached and listed as part of Annex 4.

In GGNP, we recruited another 36 new rangers in December 2022 (funded by another donor), bringing the Gashaka ANI Project (GAP) ranger force to 86. All these new rangers received training on human rights, crime scene management, and community informant network intelligence gathering.

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

Activity completed in Y1.

Activity 3.3 Support law enforcement patrols by rangers in YGR and GGNP.

In YGR, 139 ranger patrols were supported, covering 15,875 km over a total of 9,012 patrol man-days. A total of 39 arrests were made, including 26 hunters, 7 livestock grazers, 5 firewood collectors, and 1 for harvesting honey in the reserve. In GGNP, rangers have been systematically patrolling 30% of the park (mostly the more accessible SW of the park). Between April 2022 and March 2023, 171 offenders were arrested, including 13 loggers, 18 bushmeat poachers, 9 artisanal miners, and 131 cattle herders. A total of 332 snares, 12 hunting rifles, 54 cutlasses, 2 chainsaws, 8 logging trucks, 90m³ of timber were seized, and 125 poachers' camps were destroyed.

WCS conducted an analysis of the number of prosecutions made in YGR over the last six months including the status of all jail sentences imposed by the court. It was discovered that all poachers sentenced to jail terms had either been released on bail or were given suspended sentences. The team also learned about the conditions of the prisons, including the level of overcrowding, the availability of basic amenities, and the level of security.

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

In YGR, we held numerous informal meetings with the police and army to maintain security in and around the game reserve. In GGNP, ANI has established quarterly stakeholder security meetings between GGNP, ANI, Army, Police, Local Government Authority, State Security Services, and traditional leaders. These are held in both Gashaka and Toungo LGAs and have greatly facilitated the exchange of intelligence and joint operations between all the agencies. In one instance last November, community intelligence on bandits moving from Nigeria to Cameroon and back helped to prevent these criminals from entering the park and using it as a hideout from which to carry out illegal activities that would compromise the integrity of the park and security in the region. This inter-agency collaboration has been very effective and will strengthen the protection of the park and a reduction in IWT activities in the region.

3.2 Progress toward project Outputs

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

Additional surveys were completed this year, see Activity 1.1, further improving our understanding of IWT within the Green Corridor. In Y4 we plan to conduct focused surveys of two of the transboundary routes identified.

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.

WCS conducted four training workshops for 78 men and women from the Nigeria Customs Service and NESREA on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking and Trade. The two-day capacity-building workshops were held in Yola and Calabar (workshop report attached as part of Annex 4).

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.

Support for ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP has improved levels of security and stability for local communities and wildlife. Security partnerships (see activity 3.4 above) at both sites have helped improve collaboration and the sharing of information between park rangers, the army, and the police. This inter-agency collaboration is helping to strengthen the protection of both sites and reduce IWT activities in the region, as well as improving levels of stability and security for local communities.

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 lead to more excellent rates of successful convictions.

Although crucial partnerships have been established, relatively little progress has been made toward the project's intended outcome. No arrests have been made in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor (outside of the two protected areas). However, there is growing interest and

increasing political will to tackle IWT, and partnerships with NCS and NESREA are becoming stronger. With the necessary intelligence and training, we are confident that arrests will be made in Y4 and 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 in Nigeria. The Nigeria Customs Service recently established a Special Wildlife Office in Lagos, with support from the NGO Focused Conservation. There are also quarterly inter-agency meetings (Nigeria Stakeholders Meeting on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade) organized by the Ministry of Environment and funded by UNODC.

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

Comment: This assumption remains valid and critical to the project's success.

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

Comment: This assumption remains valid and critical to the project's success.

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 Customs made in January 2021. In GGNP, it has been discovered that many of the arrests made by the park rangers are settled out of court to generate revenue for the cash-strapped National Park Service. The National Park Service has recently agreed to allow ANI to appoint an independent lawyer to support the prosecution of IWT offenders in the courts. In YGR we have discovered that poachers rarely serve the prison sentences that are imposed by the courts.

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

Comment: This assumption remains valid; communities are generally keen to support conservation and work with rangers to improve local security levels, which are generally worsening.

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

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

Assumption 7: Law enforcement and judiciary partners continue to collaborate with WCS and ANI at YGR and GGNP and make records available.

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

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

Comment: This assumption remains valid and critical to the project's success.

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

Comment: This assumption remains valid and critical to the project's success.

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

Comment: This assumption remains valid and critical to the project's success; in both YGR and GGNP, more work is needed to ensure that arrests are prosecuted through the courts and that offenses are not merely 'compounded' and settled out of court.

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

Comment: In April 2022, the Federal Ministry of Environment published a National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria, with support from UNODC.

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

Comment: Rangers already trained in GGNP and YGR, additional ranger training in GGNP took place during the year.

Assumption 13: Local communities surrounding YGR and GGNP are interested in joining conservation-security partnerships.

Comment: Community representatives are vital to the Alkaleri Security Council (YGR). The same applies to the quarterly Security meetings chaired by GGNP and ANI in Gashaka and Tongo LGAs.

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 project's success, although the partnerships have been more effective at tackling IWT and insecurity locally than within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green corridor.

3.5 Impact: Achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction

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

Strengthened law enforcement at YGR and GGNP (see activity 3.3 above) has weakened IWT in the region and improved security for local communities and wildlife. Although the project has yet to significantly impact the IWT within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor, recent training for officers of the Nigeria Customs Service and NESREA is expected to yield results in Y4.

4. Thematic focus

The project focuses on two key themes:

Strengthening law enforcement: Providing support for ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP; training law enforcement agencies to raise awareness of IWT and developing security partnerships has helped improve levels of security for local communities and wildlife.

Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT: To reduce levels of human-elephant conflict, we trained 10 Yankari farmers in beekeeping and the development of beehive fences' and trained 37 farmers to establish smelly elephant repellent fences. In GGNP we trained 120 women on shea nut collection, processing, storage, and value addition. To reduce the demand for firewood and household energy expenses, we distributed 670 fuel-efficient stoves in YGR and 2,600 fuel-efficient stoves in GGNP.

5. Impact on species in focus

As a result of improved law enforcement within the region, critical populations of savannah elephants and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees are now more secure. We have recently completed a survey on the status of lions in YGR and a report is in preparation. There are no relevant indicators in the log frame.

6. Project support for poverty reduction

The IWT negatively affects local economies and increases levels of insecurity. By disrupting the IWT the project hopes to reduce levels of poverty in the communities living around YGR and GGNP. Sustainable livelihood programs are now being implemented in communities surrounding YGR and GGNP (funded by another donor), and are helping to address poverty. There are no specific poverty indicators in the log frame.

7. Gender equality and social inclusion

While the project does not directly affect gender inequality, it takes gender equality into account. During the social baseline/community needs surveys in YGR and GGNP in Y2, we held specific meetings with women's groups and used the results of the surveys to design specific interventions to target women in the design of the sustainable livelihoods program. In GGNP, the 15 agro-processing enterprise groups that have been established (funded by another donor) are driven by women and will increase the incomes of these women and their influence/voice in their communities. In YGR we are working with women to vaccinate poultry and are planning to introduce an economic agro-processing enterprise.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	N/A.
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	None of the project partners are led by women or have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

We are monitoring the progress of the project based on the following key indicators (taken from the log frame):

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

Responsibility for M&E work is shared equally between WCS and ANI. In addition to the above indicators, WCS monitors elephant and lion poaching levels in YGR. The information generated from M&E work is shared amongst partners/stakeholders by email, regular calls, and online meetings.

9. Lessons learnt.

- Security partnerships developed around YGR and GGNP have helped improve security for local communities and wildlife.
- Support for ranger patrols provides security for local communities as well as wildlife.
- Prison sentences handed down to poachers in YGR are rarely served.

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

Not applicable.

11. Risk Management

In the past year, we have identified the following potential new risks:

1. Political instability or government policy changes that may impact conservation efforts and disrupt effective law enforcement.
2. The increased involvement of organized criminal networks in illegal wildlife trafficking poses a significant challenge to the project's objectives.
3. Shifts in local community dynamics, including changes in attitudes towards wildlife conservation and potential community engagement in the IWT.
4. Environmental factors including habitat degradation, climate change impacts, or disease outbreaks, that may affect wildlife populations and conservation efforts.

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

As a result, the project design has been adapted accordingly in response to the identified new risks and the evolving nature of existing risks. The following actions have been taken:

- A comprehensive review and update of project objectives, strategies, and activities to align with the identified risks and enhance the project's effectiveness.
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration with local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to enhance risk mitigation efforts and promote a coordinated approach.
- Allocation of appropriate resources and expertise to address specific risks and ensure adequate support is provided where needed.
- Revision of project timelines and milestones to accommodate any delays or adjustments resulting from risk management adaptations.
- Clear and effective communication with project stakeholders to inform them about the updated risk profile and any changes in the project design, fostering transparency and collaboration.

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere.

No additional comments.

13. Sustainability and legacy

YGR and GGNP are 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 critical site in Nigeria for the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee and is a vital pangolin stronghold. There is growing interest in wildlife conservation in Nigeria and increased interest in the project via social media, a key tool for engaging young people and politicians nationwide.

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 via Twitter @WCS_Nigeria and @ANI_Foundation.

The proposed exit strategy for the project remains valid. WCS and ANI have well-established and growing programs in Nigeria, with a long-term commitment to conservation in the country. We are gradually 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 catalyze greater commitment from individuals and agencies to combat wildlife trafficking, helping sustain the long-term project's long-term results.

14. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The UK Government's contribution to this project through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund is recognized and acknowledged in quarterly and annual reports shared with partners and stakeholders in the region and publicly on the WCS and ANI websites. This project forms part of a more extensive ongoing conservation program to protect lions, elephants, chimpanzees, and pangolins in YGR and GGNP, 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 more extensive program. WCS and ANI have an active social media presence and regularly acknowledge support from the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund on Twitter and Facebook. We have also sought to recognize UK Government's contribution to our work in press releases and press statements.

15. Safeguarding

<p>Biodiversity Challenge Funds are committed to supporting projects to develop and strengthen their safeguarding capabilities and capacity to prevent, listen, respond, and learn. Defra will not automatically penalize projects where safeguarding concerns are identified but will help projects respond and learn from the experience.</p>	
Has the Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No.
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No.
Does your project have a Safeguarding Focal Point?	Yes.
Has the Focal Point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No, formal training is planned for the Safeguarding Focal Person in July 2023.
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	A brief training session on safeguarding was carried out for 25 WCS staff based in Cross River, and additional training is planned. Safeguarding training for CRNP rangers has been started.
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	None.
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so specify.	A tailored grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is being set up in the Mbe Mountains to ensure community members have a mechanism. We are developing a Code of Conduct for all rangers whom we work with.

16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2022-March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 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	144,682.00	144,682.00		

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

Not applicable.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
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.		As a result of strengthened ranger patrols, security has improved for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.	
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.	By the end of Y3, there are at least three successful prosecutions per year (the current baseline is 0 successful prosecutions).	Zero arrests of transboundary ivory/pangolin traffickers were made this year. In YGR, 39 arrests were made. In GGNP, 171 arrests were made.	Provide logistical support and mentoring to the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to encourage arrests in the transboundary area.
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 the end of Y1, social baseline/community needs assessments were 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 the 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 completed, and sustainable livelihood strategy is being implemented in YGR and GGNP.</p> <p>1.2 Directly engaged with 6 government agencies (NESREA, Customs, NSCDC, National Park Service, Army, and Police) to share IWT information.</p> <p>1.3 Three IWT assessments concluded in, WCS assessed the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in Adamawa, Bauchi, and Cross River States by national consultants.</p> <p>1.4 Three meetings held with Customs, NSCDC, and Police to gather and share IWT intelligence.</p> <p>1.5 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report produced in Y2. This year we gathered additional IWT information from 3 key states: Bauchi, Cross River, and Adamawa.</p> <p>1.6 Three investigations are currently ongoing but as yet no actionable intelligence products produced and shared with Nigerian agencies.</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>1.5 By the 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>		
Activity 1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gathering of IWT intelligence.		Three IWT assessments concluded in Adamawa, Bauchi, and Cross River States by national consultants.	Continued gathering of IWT intelligence from communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.
Activity 1.2 Training and mentoring of informant network around YGR and GGNP.		Three training courses completed in YGR and Transboundary Green Corridor.	Additional training and mentoring in YGR and GGNP.
Activity 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon.		Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon is ongoing with regular Zoom meetings between GGNP and Faro NP in Cameroon.	Regular online meetings between Faro NP and GGNP.
Activity 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies.		Regular meetings with Customs and NESREA to gather IWT intelligence in the transboundary area.	Logistical support for operations in transboundary area.
Activity 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report.		Three IWT assessments concluded in Adamawa, Bauchi, and Cross River States by national consultants.	Continued gathering of IWT intelligence from the transboundary region.
Activity 1.6 Produce an alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.		With support from other donors, a sustainable livelihood program being implemented in YGR and GGNP.	With continued support from other donors, further strengthen and expand sustainable livelihood support program in YGR and GGNP.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<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 action, 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 Four training courses completed for NCS and NESREA in Y3. A total of 10 wildlife champions were identified. Support plans for the wildlife champions is planned for Y4.</p> <p>2.2 A total of 32 female participants attended the training workshops in Calabar and Yola, out of a total of 79 participants (41%).</p> <p>2.3 A total of 39 arrests made in YGR and 171 arrests made in GGNP, but as yet no arrests made in the Transboundary Green Corridor.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1 Facilitate inter-agency training courses for Customs, Police, Army and NESREA.</p>		<p>In Y3, 2 training courses organised for NCS in Yola and Calabar; 2 training courses organised for NESREA in Yola and Calabar.</p>	<p>Additional training courses planned for Y4 include training for judges and magistrates together with law enforcement agencies.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2 Provide logistical support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the Nigeria Customs Service.</p>		<p>Not yet done. In Y3, good partnerships established with the NCS and NESREA in the Green Corridor.</p>	<p>Based on partnerships established in Y3, provide support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the NCS and NESREA.</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, 61 rangers received refresher training in intelligence gathering. In GGNP, 36 rangers were trained in human rights, crime scene management, and community informant network intelligence gathering.</p> <p>3.2 The existing security partnership in Alkaleri LGA (Bauchi State) is functioning well. In Y3, two security partnerships established in Gashaka LGA (Taraba State) and Toungou LGA (Adamawa State).</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.1 Organise ranger training in YGR and GGNP.		Ranger training of 61 rangers in YGR and 36 rangers in GGNP completed.	Additional ranger training for GGNP and YGR.
Activity 3.2 Purchase of essential field equipment for rangers in YGR and GGNP.		No additional field equipment purchased for rangers in Y3.	Continued maintenance and proper care of field equipment.
Activity 3.3 Provide support for law enforcement patrols by rangers in YGR and GGNP.		In YGR 135 patrols were facilitated by WCS in Y3 and 39 arrests were made. Patrols covered 15,875 km over a total of 9,012 patrol man-days and 39 arrests were made. In GGNP, 171 arrests were made in Y3.	Continue to provide support for ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP.
Activity 3.4 Formation of Conservation Security partnerships in YGR and GGNP.		Two additional security partnerships established in Y3 (Gashaka LGA and Tongo LGA), chaired by ANI and NPS.	Consolidate existing security partnerships in YGR and GGNP. Expand existing informal contacts between LE agencies.

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

Project summary	SMART 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>1.5 By end of Y1 Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report written based on intelligence gathered from</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 YGR and GGNP and make records available.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customs, police, and prosecutors willing to collaborate with WCS and ANI and maintain an interest in capacity building activities. - - Government agencies and individuals are committed to addressing the gender imbalance. - Nigerian agencies incentivised to follow arrests through the courts resulting in effective deterrence of further offenses.
<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 established with local communities (baseline = 0) in YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>3.1 Reports on ranger training produced for YGR and GGNP indicating number of rangers trained and equipped.</p> <p>3.2 Minutes from Conservation Security Partnership meetings; attendance lists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government authorities are willing to come together to develop a coordinated response to IWT. - YGR and GGNP willing to have their rangers trained and equipped. - Local communities surrounding YGR and GGNP are interested in joining conservation-security partnership

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
			- These same partnerships are more effective at tackling IWT in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green corridor.
<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>			

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCFA02		Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Gender					
IWTCFB01		Number of people trained in law enforcement skills							
IWTCFB06	NA	Number of criminal networks/trade routes mapped/identified	Number	None	0	0	Six criminal networks identified, and three routes mapped		
IWTCFB07		Number of illegal wildlife products/shipments detected.							
IWTCFB09		Duration or frequency of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project.							

Table 2 Publications

Not applicable.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com 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.	
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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	