



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Final Report

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

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed project end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWTR6S2/1018
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 Foundation (ANI) 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
Project Leader’s name	Andrew Dunn
Project website/blog/social media	Twitter: @WCS_Nigeria and @ANI_Foundation
Report author(s) and date	Elisha Bello, Jacob Attah, Tunde Morakinyo, and Andrew Dunn; 4 January 2024

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 (see Map 1 below). 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 development of strategies to tackle the problem. The specific aim of the project was to strengthen the transboundary green corridor by addressing illegal wildlife trade in and around YGR and GGNP as well as along the Nigeria-Cameroon border within Adamawa State. Regional insecurity and general lawlessness surrounding both protected areas allowed illegal wildlife trade to flourish and frustrated government efforts

to promote tourism at both YGR and GGNP. Insecurity associated with poorly managed protected areas adversely affects the surrounding communities, including kidnapping, armed robbery, and cattle rustling. Continued insecurity in the region has also been a major hindrance to government efforts to alleviate poverty through ecotourism.



Map 1: Nigeria-Cameroon Transboundary Green Corridor

The project focused on Nigeria where protection is weakest but was also able to gather intelligence on criminal networks trading wildlife across the international border. A needs assessment in communities surrounding GGNP and YGR was a useful entry point for gathering IWT intelligence and helped inform an alternative livelihoods program around YGR and GGNP. Working with law enforcement agencies and local communities, we were able to gather IWT intelligence, reduce IWT and improve regional security by fostering improved inter-agency cooperation and capacity building of relevant agencies (Nigeria Customs Service [NCS], National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency [NESREA], and the Police). Using intelligence provided from a human source network established by WCS, a total of 15 wildlife traffickers were arrested by NCS and NESREA in the transboundary region between Nigeria and Cameroon. Ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP have helped improve security for surrounding communities and wildlife.

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 GGNP and ANI advised WCS on the social surveys and tools to be used in Yankari for a social needs assessment. 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 have strong partnership agreements with the National Parks 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. WCS and ANI also have 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. Working with traditional authorities was an important first step in the social surveys that have now been completed around YGR 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 worked with local communities to develop a local intelligence sharing network and a social needs assessment around YGR and GGNP.

WCS has 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 the Local Government Administrations (Alkaleri Local Government Area [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. We discontinued our relationship with Maisha Consulting Limited and instead retained the services of Inquisitio Ltd and the WCS regional Counter Trafficking office for Africa. In Yankari we worked with a Lagos-based security firm to advise on the development of an intelligence network and management of human sources. WCS and ANI maintain strong relationships with the British High Commission in Abuja and the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC) in Lagos. Information on project progress has been shared with relevant staff by email and through regular participation in the ‘Friends of Nigeria Wildlife’ group that was established by the BDHC. WCS and ANI have utilised several technical specialists to help with certain project activities including Translantic Development Limited, the Centre for Micro-Enterprise Development and staff from the University of Jos who completed community baseline surveys/needs assessments and developed an alternative livelihood strategy for GGNP and Yankari. ANI developed two additional partnerships: one with Roshan Renewables supporting 15 women’s agro-processing enterprises and one with a legal firm for the prosecution of legal cases dealing with IWT crimes committed in GGNP. Both ANI and WCS worked with a well-regarded international ranger training company, Focused Conservation, to train rangers in GGNP and YGR and to develop a patrol strategy for rangers in GGNP.

ANI and WCS collaborated to write this final report. Both organisations will continue to work with each other and with the partnerships we have developed throughout this project. WCS and ANI have a close working relationship and regularly share information on conservation issues of concern around the country. We plan to maintain the partnerships developed throughout the project with NESREA and NCS, and will seek additional funding to continue the management and tasking of the human source network established in Adamawa State.

3. Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

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

Activity 1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gather IWT intelligence.

Community baseline surveys were completed in YGR and GGNP (28 communities). Separate meetings were held with women and men. Findings from the YGR survey indicate that IWT is not prevalent in the local area, although several hunters are based in the communities surrounding the reserve. Levels of basic infrastructure, including safe water, roads, and health centres, are low in many of the communities surrounding YGR. Other issues raised were the need for more veterinary support for their livestock and the need for more government support for improved crop production (new varieties, fertiliser, and access to credit). The survey conducted around GGNP by ANI revealed similar conclusions. Most communities surrounding GGNP are engaged in agriculture or pastoralism, and hunting as a full-time profession is much reduced due to a depletion of wildlife. Basic infrastructure is lacking in many of the communities surrounding GGNP. Results from the community baseline surveys were used to help design a program of support for sustainable livelihoods surrounding YGR and GGNP (funded by a different donor). Community baseline survey reports for both sites are attached and listed in Annex 4.

WCS also completed additional surveys, conducted by external consultants, to gather IWT intelligence in the transboundary green corridor. The first involved three separate assessments of IWT in Adamawa, Bauchi, and Cross River States, as part of the transboundary green corridor. The reports highlighted the ongoing bushmeat trade in Cross River including trade in endangered species such as elephants as well as the growing involvement of Chinese nationals in the trade. It is evident that much of the bushmeat sold in Cross River State originates from neighbouring Cameroon and that there are several well-established smuggling routes between the two countries. The survey of Bauchi State also revealed the presence of a thriving bushmeat trade with bushmeat from YGR being transported to neighbouring Plateau and Benue States. The survey also reported the presence of a trade in lion cubs from Yankari to supply the pet trade in Nigeria. The survey of Adamawa State confirmed that there is an extensive trade in wildlife products from Cameroon into Nigeria including pangolin scales and elephant ivory, as well as live animals particularly birds. Bushmeat from the Toungo sector of GGNP is smuggled to Ganye or to Taraba State. A follow-up survey of IWT in four LGAs of Adamawa State was completed by Divine Legacy Security Consult Limited, to gather intelligence on the routes and characteristics of IWT within the transboundary area between Nigeria and Cameroon. The survey revealed a lack of IWT awareness as well as the need for enhanced surveillance by local authorities. All reports are attached and listed in Annex 4.

Based on the survey findings, the WCS Counter Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) Advisor conducted an awareness training program for youth and community leaders in the four LGAs. Subsequently, we identified 29 human sources, and the CWT Advisor provided training for these 29 human sources in their local language (which is Hausa/Fulani). *Please note that any activities relating to the training or management of human sources are highly sensitive and specialised. In line with WCS protocols relating to this activity, documentation and records of source management and training is unable to be shared and further details should be sought through the Regional CWT Advisor. Any references to training of human sources refers to informal instruction provided to sources or potential human sources to ensure that they understand that the role is voluntary, not a means of employment, and that they must abide by particular rules and protocols governing ethics, entrapment and agent provocateur amongst others. Any references to training others in the management or use of human sources refers to more formalised training, the broad contents of which are available upon request.* This approach resulted in credible intelligence information being shared effectively with NCS and NESREA and 15 wildlife traffickers were arrested during four operations in Borno and Adamawa States (see section 3.2 below and Table 1). All cases are pending in court.

Activity 1.2 Training and mentoring of human source networks around YGR and GGNP.

With training and mentoring, WCS and ANI established additional human source networks around YGR and GGNP. An additional 16 Human Sources were identified in Yankari, and received training in information gathering, as well as IWT awareness. This initiative yielded positive results, significantly fortifying the efforts of rangers in YGR and GGNP and a number of arrests were made based on the information provided. The impact was particularly evident in countering poaching activities and addressing the presence of other criminals infiltrating the reserve.

In YGR we worked with a Lagos-based company to provide training and mentoring for four WCS staff to help manage the existing human source network. In GGNP, a community information network was established, leading to increased ranger arrests due to reliable information sharing. Training was conducted for all rangers on developing community intelligence networks as part of the Basic Field Ranger training. Targeted training was also delivered on managing community intelligence networks to senior patrol leaders in GGNP and YGR.

Activity 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon.

Following the surveys conducted (Activity 1.1), and the establishment of a network of human sources within border communities (Activity 1.2) we were able to collect IWT intelligence within the transboundary green corridor. The human sources have a deep understanding of the corridor and connections in Cameroon, allowing them to share valuable intelligence with WCS Nigeria. As a result of this network, our partners, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and NESREA) were able to arrest 15 wildlife traffickers in the transboundary area. All persons arrested have had credible charges brought against them in court by the NCS and NESREA and their prosecution is ongoing.

ANI has established strong links with the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and the African Wildlife Foundation to gather IWT intelligence from Cameroon that has been 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.

ANI regularly exchanges information with Faro National Park (FNP) in Cameroon through quarterly Zoom calls between the two parks to learn about each other's activities, realising that we face common problems, particularly concerning pastoralism. Similarly, criminal networks hunting in the park and trading in illegal wildlife products operate across the international boundary separating the two parks. ANI is beginning to discuss mechanisms for working more closely with FNP to coordinate ranger patrols and exchange information on pastoralist groups/poaching IWT networks. ANI is planning exchange visits between the parks to facilitate this process and is continuing discussions on establishing a wildlife corridor between the two parks jointly managed with communities.

Activity 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies.

We have established strong working relationships with the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) including the recently established Special Wildlife Office in Lagos, and NESREA. WCS organised four training workshops for 60 staff of the Nigeria Customs Service and NESREA in Adamawa and Cross River focused on enhancing information sharing and strengthening collaboration between the two agencies. Since the training, there has been a notable improvement in intelligence sharing and response capabilities demonstrated by the Nigeria Customs Service and NESREA, particularly in their proactive efforts along the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor. This resulted in the arrests of 15 wildlife traffickers, please see Table 1 below under section 3.2.

We organised a two-day workshop in Yola to train 25 magistrates from Bauchi and Adamawa States. The workshop focused on raising awareness of IWT as well as the importance of the transboundary green corridor and discussed available laws that could be used to prosecute wildlife offenders. Prosecution rates have improved since the workshop and there is now much better synergy and understanding between prosecutors and magistrates. In GGNP, prosecution rates improved dramatically from 4 per year in the first two years of the project to 74 prosecutions in Y3.

ANI conducts quarterly security meetings in both Gashaka and Toungo LGAs, which include GGNP, ANI, Army, Police, Local Government Authority, State Security Services, and traditional leaders. We found that groups involved in bushmeat poaching and rosewood logging are often the same individuals involved in banditry, kidnapping, and cattle theft. The security meetings have greatly facilitated collaboration between all the agencies concerned and the sharing of information.

Activity 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report.

Based on activity 1.4 above, a transboundary intelligence report was produced by Inquisitio Ltd. Given the confidential nature of the report, it has only been shared with trusted NGO partners and not with the Nigeria Customs Service nor NESREA. A copy of the confidential report is available on request from the WCS CWT Coordinator for Africa.

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

Community baseline surveys/needs assessments completed at both sites, through a series of consultations, are helping to guide efforts to improve sustainable livelihoods in the communities surrounding YGR and GGNP. For example, the scarcity of clean drinking water in communities surrounding Yankari revealed through the survey guided the development of a new USAID-funded project, 'Watershed Protection for Safe and Sustainable Water Supply' managed by WCS in Bauchi State. In YGR, the recommended livelihood interventions included veterinary support for pastoralists, planting of tree species for firewood and NTFPs, agricultural extension support to include new, improved crop varieties, improved access to safe water, and beekeeping. In GGNP, key recommendations from the socio-economic survey were for support for more intensive, sustainable agriculture, the establishment of woodlots, and support for pastoralist livelihoods. Though beyond the scope of this grant, WCS and ANI have now commenced the implementation of various sustainable livelihood projects in YGR and GGNP resulting from the recommendations from the community baseline surveys/needs assessments. At both sites, women were provided with fuel-efficient woodstoves to reduce the burden of firewood collection. In GGNP, ANI is working with women's groups to develop the production of sustainable shea butter. WCS

and ANI are engaging with traditional pastoralists surrounding YGR and GGNP through a program of support for livestock vaccination to reduce the risk of disease transmission to wild ungulates.

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.

WCS and ANI have established strong working relationships with the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Police, Army, and NESREA in the transboundary area. WCS organised six training workshops for NESREA, NCS, Police and local magistrates to enhance prosecution capabilities and encourage information sharing and collaboration. A total of 122 participants underwent comprehensive training in IWT awareness including the identification of products derived from endangered species (workshop report attached as Annex 4).

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

Following the training workshops for NESREA and NCS (activity 2.1), WCS provided logistical support to NCS and NESREA staff on two separate occasions to cover local transport costs. The result was that all 15 traffickers arrested were successfully charged to court, although their prosecution is still ongoing. This support included a transport allowance for officers on duty during the arrest process made of traffickers. Additionally, logistical assistance was provided for court hearings to ensure the officers had the necessary support for their operations.

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 YGR, refresher ranger training was provided for 58 rangers. Two batches of rangers were each trained for 21 days. The ranger training focused on renewing practical skills, including drill, physical fitness, self-defence, information gathering and the management of source networks, first aid, human rights, community safeguards, and code of conduct. The training report is attached and listed in Annex 4. In GGNP, 86 rangers were trained on human rights, crime scene management, and community network intelligence gathering. All training was provided by Conservation Outcomes.

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

Purchase of essential field equipment for 80 rangers in YGR and 52 rangers in GGNP (total number equipped = 132) including sleeping mats, water bottles, ranger shirts, ranger trousers, tents, first-aid kits, boots, binoculars, torches, satellite radios, and GPS units. The field equipment is essential for effective patrolling of YGR and GGNP by rangers.

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

Ranger patrols in Yankari made 144 arrests during the reporting period. A total of 427 ranger patrols were facilitated in Yankari, covering 47,960 km over 24,177 patrol man-days. The 144 arrests made included 83 hunters, 36 firewood collectors, 11 livestock grazers and 14 collecting NTFPs. Out of the 144 arrests made a total of 105 convictions were achieved (73% conviction rate), and 39 were released on bail.

In GGNP, ANI-supported ranger patrols encountered far more logging and poaching than expected and many arrests and seizures were made as a result. During the grant period, 649 offenders were arrested, including 47 illegal loggers, 55 bushmeat poachers, 101 artisanal miners, 385 cattle herders). A total of 386 snares, 12 hunting rifles, 178 cutlasses, 8 chainsaws, 10 logging trucks, 100m³ of timber, 484 kg of bushmeat, and 260 poacher camps were destroyed. Out of the 649 arrests made, a total of 91 convictions were achieved (14% conviction rate).

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

WCS supported two meetings of the LGA Conservation Security partnership meeting attached. This gathering was specifically organised to tackle the urgent challenges posed by IWT and insecurity in the

vicinity of the YGR, situated within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor. The primary objective was to establish a platform for dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, fostering efforts to preserve biodiversity and guarantee the safety and security of the region. The conservation security partnerships helped improve synergy and collaboration, sharing of information for improved protection of wildlife and communities.

In YGR, a total of 33 joint patrols were arranged between the army and Yankari rangers to strengthen levels of security in the communities surrounding the reserve. In GGNP, ANI established quarterly stakeholder security meetings between law enforcement agencies and traditional leaders. These meetings were held in both Gashaka LGA (Taraba State) and Toungo LGA (Adamawa State) and greatly facilitated the exchange of intelligence. In the two years before ANI started working in GGNP, there were 11 ranger fatalities, several community kidnappings and two serious incidents of cattle rustling and two serious community robberies. Since the commencement of this project none of these have occurred in the project area over the last three years (2020-2023). Inter-agency collaboration has strengthened protection of the park with a reduction in IWT activities in the region.

3.2 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.

In collaboration with enforcement agencies and based on the intelligence provided from our human source network, 15 arrests in the transboundary area between Nigeria and Cameroon were made (see Table 1 above). We underestimated the time required to develop trust and close working relationships with NCS and with NESREA, but we believe that there is now enhanced commitment and capacity among key individuals within NCS and NESREA. The identification and training of human sources also took some time to achieve but is now working well (and is being maintained by WCS beyond the end of the project, with funds sourced from different donors). All 15 arrests were achieved in the last year of the project and prosecution of the cases is still ongoing. Although the number of successful convictions achieved by the project is zero, WCS intends to continue to follow-up all cases and will continue to provide mentoring and support to ensure that at least some of the cases are prosecuted successfully.

Arrests and prosecutions were also made at the site-level in addition to the arrests of wildlife traffickers made in the border area. In YGR, rangers made a total of 144 arrests during the lifespan of the project resulting in 105 convictions. In GGNP, only four convictions were made in the first two years of the grant despite rangers making over 200 arrests each year. In Y3, the National Park Service agreed to allow ANI to appoint an independent lawyer to support the prosecution of IWT offenders in court. Thus, in Y3, the project secured 74 convictions in GGNP.

Table 1: Arrests Made in the Transboundary Green Corridor

	Date	Location	Evidence/exhibits	Agency	Prosecution Status
1	July 2023	Girei (Adamawa)	2,013 kg of pangolin scales	NCS	Pending in Court
2				NCS	Pending in Court
3				NCS	Pending in Court
4	July 2023	Maiduguri (Borno)	3 crowned cranes, 1 gazelle & 'lion' bones	NCS	Pending in Court
5				NCS	Pending in Court
6				NCS	Pending in Court
7	Aug 2023	Mubi (Adamawa)	123 kg of ivory	NESREA	Pending in Court
8				NESREA	Pending in Court
9				NESREA	Pending in Court
10				NESREA	Pending in Court
11				NESREA	Pending in Court
12	Sept 2023	Ganye (Adamawa)	120 kg of pangolin scales	NCS	Pending in Court
13				NCS	Pending in Court
14				NCS	Pending in Court
15				NCS	Pending in Court

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

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

Comment: Throughout the project, there has been an increasing commitment to tackling IWT in Nigeria. The Nigeria Customs Service took a significant step by establishing a dedicated Special Wildlife Office in Lagos, with support from the non-governmental organisation 'Focused Conservation'. Additionally, with funding from UNODC, the Ministry of Environment initiated quarterly inter-agency meetings known as the Nigeria Stakeholders Meeting on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade.

WCS Nigeria played a pivotal role in advocating for establishing a Wildlife Crime Unit at the Nigeria Police Headquarters. The Nigeria Police Deputy Inspector General accepted this proposal in charge of Operations, and the onboarding process is currently underway, set to culminate in nationwide actions to combat wildlife crime.

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

Comment: this assumption remained valid and was critical to the success of the project. Intelligence provided to NCS and NESREA in Y3 of the project resulted in the arrest of 15 wildlife traffickers, although prosecution is still ongoing.

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

Comment: this assumption remained valid and was 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, prosecution of the 15 wildlife traffickers arrested in Y3 by NCS and NESREA is still ongoing. At the site level, prosecution has been more effective, and with support from an independent lawyer appointed by ANI, a total of 74 convictions were achieved in Y3 of the project.

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

Comment: this assumption remained valid; communities remain to support the work of conservation-security partnerships. The dual role played by rangers to help improve security of communities surrounding YGR and GGNP, as well as protecting wildlife, is highly valued by local people.

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

Comment: community baseline surveys completed at YGR and GGNP (activity 1.1) with active participation from 28 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. As described above, the rate of convictions in GGNP increased dramatically after ANI employed an independent lawyer to support prosecution in court. Training workshops held for local magistrates has helped strengthen collaboration and support from the judiciary.

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

Comment: this assumption remained valid and critical to the success of the project. The level of collaboration from Customs, NESREA, and the Police has been good. Workshops were well attended, conservation 'champions' identified, communication channels established, and information freely exchanged and acted upon.

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

Comment: this assumption remained valid. Attendance by women at project workshops organised for government agencies was only 15%, lower than expected.

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

Comment: this assumption remains valid and critical to the success of the project. Prosecution of the 15 wildlife traffickers arrested in Y3 by NCS and NESREA is still ongoing. At the site level, prosecution has been more effective (see assumption 4 above).

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 willing to have their rangers trained and equipped.*

Comment: YGR rangers employed by Bauchi State Government and GGNP rangers employed by the National Park Service were effectively trained and equipped.

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

Comment: community representatives are an important component of the security partnership meetings held in Alkaleri LGA (YGR) as well as Gashaka LGA and Toungo LGA (GGNP).

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

Comment: conservation-security partnerships organised at the LGA level have been relatively effective at improving levels of security around YGR and GGNP. LGA level partnerships have been less effective at tackling IWT across the Nigeria-Cameroon Green corridor which requires a state-wide approach.

3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction

The expected impact of the project was: "*stronger law enforcement disrupts and degrades illegal wildlife trade within the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor and provides improved security for wildlife and local communities*".

Capacity building workshops organised for NCS and NESREA have helped strengthen law enforcement in the region (workshop reports are attached). Training of 45 human sources helped provide information that resulted in the arrest of 15 wildlife traffickers which helped to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade across the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor. Ranger training and support for ranger patrols has strengthened law enforcement at both YGR and GGNP (see activity 3.3 above) which helped improve levels of security for both wildlife and local communities (critical populations of savanna elephants, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, and West African lions).

4. Contribution to IWT Challenge Fund Programme Objectives

4.1 Thematic focus

Strengthening law enforcement: providing support for ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP; training of law enforcement agencies to raise awareness of IWT and development of conservation-security partnerships to improve levels of security for local communities and wildlife.

Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT: community baseline surveys/needs assessments completed in YGR and GGNP helped to guide efforts to improve livelihoods in surrounding communities. With funding from other donors, these sustainable livelihood strategies are currently being implemented by WCS at YGR and ANI at GGNP.

4.2 Impact on species in focus

Law enforcement improved at the site level through support for ranger patrols, ranger training and equipment at YGR and GGNP (see Annex 4.4). As a result, critical populations of savanna elephants, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, and lions are now more secure (SMART data). There are no relevant indicators in the logframe.

4.3 Project support to poverty reduction

The project worked to reduce poverty by disrupting the illegal wildlife trade which negatively affects local economies and increases levels of insecurity. The project beneficiaries were the communities in and around YGR and GGNP. The social baseline survey/needs assessments carried out in YGR and GGNP were used to design improved livelihood programmes for the surrounding communities. Sustainable livelihood programmes were subsequently implemented in communities around YGR and GGNP (complementary funding). At a time when security across Nigeria has worsened, the conservation security partnerships around YGR and GGNP helped to address security threats to local people (armed robbery, kidnapping, and cattle rustling) as well as improving security for wildlife. There are no specific poverty indicators in the logframe. WCS has since been awarded USAID funding for Yankari and is working to rehabilitate boreholes in communities surrounding the reserve, as well as other activities to help reduce poverty such as livestock vaccination. Protection of YGR and GGNP also helps safeguard important watersheds and mitigates the impact of climate change. Development of ecotourism at both sites is planned in collaboration with surrounding communities.

4.4 Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	0
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 .	0

Women actively participated in this project, with eight individuals serving as human sources during Y2 and Y3. Their involvement proved pivotal, particularly in the sharing of intelligence information with NCS and NESREA. A total of 18 women (15% of the total) attended training courses organised for NCS and NESREA to raise awareness of IWT in the transboundary region (Annex 4.5).

¹ We did not establish a Project Board.

² Africa Nature Investors (ANI) is the main project partner.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

In line with best practice, the project ensured that monitoring and evaluation was incorporated at all levels of activity implementation. This was done through the development of an active plan for monitoring and evaluating the action through collaborative efforts. To ensure participation, the responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation of the project was shared by M&E personnel, program staff, stakeholders, and even community members. This system of ensuring participation in monitoring of the project was facilitated through regular communication through multiple channels such as meetings, stakeholder engagements, training and other forms of coordination to share insight, experiences and findings. Furthermore, in addition to data obtained through tools designed to measure the indicators by both WCS and ANI, data was also obtained through coordination with law enforcement, community stakeholders and rangers. Sharing data collection responsibility through standard processes further facilitated participation and a channel to receive feedback from partners and project stakeholders.

By carefully measuring and monitoring key indicators of achievement as outlined in annex 2, we can demonstrate that project outputs and activities have contributed 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 have monitored implementation to ensure its efficacy and have measured the progress of the project based on the project indicators as outlined in the logframe (Annex 2) and have also included BCF standard indicators (Annex 3) to ensure that our results align with the BCF MEL strategy. The indicators measured include:

- Number of arrests made. *Recorded in the project database.*
- Number of successful prosecutions. *Recorded in the project database.*
- Number of communities surveyed during 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 partnership meetings.*
- Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. (IWTCFA02)
- Number of people trained in law enforcement skills (IWTCFB01)
- Number of illegal wildlife products/shipments detected (IWTCFB07)
- Duration or frequency of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project (IWTCFB09)

In addition to the indicators listed above, WCS monitors levels of elephant and lion poaching in YGR. Information generated from M&E work is shared amongst partners/stakeholders by email and through regular calls and online meetings. This was to ensure that stakeholders were carried along, feedback was received and used to improve project implementation both within the project and also endeavours of the different partners/stakeholders. Although there has been no external or internal evaluation done, there were internal systems put in place to evaluate project progress. At the end of each year, a project review was held to assess progress across each result and identify areas for improvement and due action. This has enabled a continuous refining of the project implementation strategies and has facilitated improvement in obtaining desired results. Furthermore, an internal evaluation of the project is planned by the WCS monitoring and evaluation unit to review the project processes and results with a view to documenting best practices and lessons learned. The findings will be used to further improve implementation systems and partnerships.

By carefully monitoring key indicators of achievement, we can demonstrate that project outputs and activities have contributed 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 have monitored progress of the project based on the following key indicators (taken from the logframe):

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

6. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

All issues raised in annual report reviews have been addressed. Additional comments on some of the outstanding issues are listed below. Reviews of the annual reports were discussed with the main project partner, ANI.

Activity 1.1: only 12 communities were surveyed in YGR (the indicator was 16 communities). We chose a sample of 4 communities from each of the three districts which was considered a representative sample size (issue raised in Year One Annual Report).

Activity 1.5: we discontinued the partnership with Maisha Consulting Ltd based on an evaluation of their initial desk-based study. We replaced Maisha with Inquisitio Ltd who were able to complete a site assessment and produced a transboundary intelligence report (issue raised in Year Two Annual Report).

Activity 3.3: yes, the arrests made in Y1 and Y2 were all site-based arrests. However, in Y3 we were able to make 15 arrests specifically linked to IWT (issue raised in Year One Annual Report). A total of 793 site-based arrests were made during the project.

7. Lessons learnt

- Adamawa State was discovered to be a key trade route for ivory and pangolin scales from Cameroon/central Africa into Nigeria, from where it is exported to Asia.
- IWT was discovered to be less of an issue at the site-level and is more prevalent in the border area between Nigeria and Cameroon (Adamawa and Borno States). The main IWT activity at the site level is commercial poaching to supply the bushmeat trade, as well as logging and illegal livestock grazing.
- Although arrests were relatively easy to achieve, prosecution by NESREA and NCS is proving to be a long process.
- Conservation-security partnerships are important to maintain levels of security around protected areas, which are vulnerable to being taken over by insurgents, although they are perhaps less important for tackling IWT.
- Support for ranger patrols worked well at both sites to strengthen levels of security for local communities and wildlife, with a total of 793 arrests made in YGR and GGNP.
- Collaboration with NCS and NESREA took some time to establish but eventually proved to be effective, particularly at the state-level, with 15 IWT arrests made in the final year of the project.
- The network of human sources established proved highly valuable in supplying the intelligence that led to the arrest of 15 traffickers by NESREA and NCS.
- Prosecution of traffickers by NESREA and NCS is a lengthy process and will require follow up.
- Coordination of the project between different sites could have been improved with the recruitment of a full-time project manager.
- Sustainable livelihood projects (funded by a different donor) helped improve community relationships in addressing actions to combat IWT/poaching at the site level.

8. Risk Management

Levels of security worsened periodically around YGR and GGNP during the lifespan of the project, particularly during the election period, and there has been a rise in kidnapping in local communities. We developed a Risk Management Plan to ensure the safety and security of all personnel and partners engaged in project activities. This commitment extends especially to our Human Sources, Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) Partners, and Rangers. Continuous updates on potential risks and advisories are consistently communicated to all relevant parties as part of our standard Risk Management protocol. By constantly monitoring the security situation we were able to ensure that the insecurity did not impact the project significantly, although access to certain high-risk communities was temporarily restricted during periods of high insecurity.

9. Sustainability and legacy

In the third year of this project, WCS Nigeria initiated a community engagement effort with stakeholders from the border communities of the Green Corridor, emphasising sustainability. We actively involved our Human Sources in ongoing intelligence information sharing beyond the project's conclusion. Furthermore, we established proactive engagement with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) to ensure a responsive approach to all intelligence, even after the project concludes.

YGR and GGNP 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. There is growing interest in wildlife conservation in Nigeria and there is increased interest in the project via social media, a key tool for engaging young people and politicians across the country. 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 and ANI both have well established and growing programs in Nigeria, with a long-term commitment to conservation in the country. Despite the end of funding from the IWT Challenge Fund, many of the activities will be maintained by WCS and ANI using funds from different sources. We are gradually building the capacity of our 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 and ANI recognise the need for continued funding to support counter wildlife trafficking activities in Nigeria, including complementary initiatives funded by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and others.

10. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The UK Government's contribution to this project through the IWT Challenge Fund/Biodiversity Challenge Funds is fully recognised and acknowledged in quarterly and annual reports shared with partners and stakeholders in the region. This project forms part of a larger ongoing conservation program aimed at protecting lions, elephants, chimpanzees, and pangolins in YGR and GGNP, and funding from the Biodiversity Challenge Funds is complemented by funding from other sources. Many of the activities funded by the Biodiversity Challenge Funds, 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 regularly acknowledge support from the Biodiversity Challenge Funds on Twitter and Facebook. Given its popularity among politicians, Twitter is perhaps the most effective medium in Nigeria to publicise the identity of the project and we have made several posts on Twitter about the project. We have always sought to recognise the UK Government's contribution to our work in press releases and press statements. At all training workshops funded by the project we produced a variety of branding materials such as T-shirts and roll-up banners to acknowledge the UK Government's contribution, and the Biodiversity Challenge Fund logo was displayed prominently.

11. Safeguarding

WCS takes safeguarding issues very seriously indeed and is developing a pilot grievance redress and communication mechanism with local communities surrounding YGR.

Has your 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?	Emilia Okon Social Safeguards Manager 
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	WCS Safeguarding Regional Training in Kigali, Rwanda from 17th – 21st July 2023.
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 53 WCS staff trained on Social Safeguards (30F/23M) as well as 80 rangers trained on human rights & safeguarding.

	Planned: All rangers in Cross River State and Bauchi will continue to receive periodic Safeguarding training. Planned: Safeguarding will be integrated into all planned training for stakeholders.
<p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p> <p>We have held a number of training courses on safeguarding and human rights for WCS staff and rangers. WCS field staff are now aware of new ways that grievances between WCS staff/rangers and community members can be resolved amicably, and such avenues for new learning and interactions between WCS staff/rangers will be continuously explored. We are currently developing a pilot grievance redress mechanism in communities surrounding YGR.</p>	

12. Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total actual IWTCF Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				A national consultant was engaged to conduct the IWT intelligence survey. This led to a lower spending than budgeted as the original budget was for international consultants.
Overhead Costs				N/A
Travel and subsistence				Travel costs involved were more than budgeted as more interstate travels were undertaken to ensure proper and adequate involvement and implementation of several trainings, engagement with consultants and relevant stakeholders towards achieving the project's targets. The travel costs were also at a much higher unit cost due to the high rate of inflation experienced by Nigeria during the period.
Operating Costs	26,023.00	27,972.60	7%	

Capital items (see below)				N/A
Others (see below)				N/A
Audit				N/A
TOTAL	72,301.00	72,111.37		

Staff employed. (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Andrew Dunn, Project Lead	
Nuradeen Ahmed, Project Manager	
Ogechi Nwachukwu, Finance & Admin Manager	
Tunde Morakinyo, Co-Project Lead	
Quinton Rochat, Project Manager	
Judith Abolo-Tedi, Project Accountant	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description.	Capital items – cost (£)
Not applicable - no capital items budgeted and acquired.	
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Not applicable - no 'Other' budget category	
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
Azura Power West Africa	
Leventis Foundation	
North Carolina Zoo	
US Fish and Wildlife Service	
Wildlife Conservation Society	
TOTAL	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
Azura Power West Africa	
Leventis Foundation	
US Fish and Wildlife Service	

TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

We believe that the project provided good value for money. Working with government agencies in Nigeria can be difficult but with perseverance we were able to develop trust and establish key relationships with NCS and NESREA. With information provided from our human source network in the transboundary area, we were able to support NCS and NESREA to arrest a number of traffickers in Y3. The project has established a foundation for future work and many project activities will be sustained by WCS and ANI using other funding sources.

13. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.**

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

With information provided from a network of human sources developed by the project, 15 wildlife traffickers operating in the Nigeria-Cameroon border area were arrested by the Nigeria Customs Service and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency in Y3. These prosecutions are still ongoing.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	IWTR6S21018 Final Report_Photo 1_Arrested Traffickers	Nigeria by WCS Nigeria	Twitter: @WCS_Nigeria and @ANI_Foundatio n	Yes
Image	IWTR6S21018 Final Report_Photo 2_Arrested Traffickers	Nigeria by WCS Nigeria	Twitter: @WCS_Nigeria and @ANI_Foundatio n	Yes

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

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 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;</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>	<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	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>intelligence data received and analysed.</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 Minutes of meetings</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</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>	<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 are incentivised to follow arrests through the courts resulting in effective deterrence of further offences.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>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>2.3 Increased number of arrests made because of international or inter-agency cooperation, as evidenced from project reports.</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 established with local communities (baseline = 0) in YGR and GGNP.</p>	<p>3.1 Reports on ranger training produced for YGR and GGNP indicating the 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 - These same partnerships are more effective at tackling IWT in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green corridor.

Activities

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

1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gathering of IWT intelligence.

1.2 Training and mentoring of human source networks 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.

2. Improved border control between Nigeria and Cameroon through enhanced transboundary cooperation, training, and capacity building of law enforcement agencies.

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.

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.

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.

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<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>As a result of the project, law enforcement agencies such as the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Nigerian Police Force and the Judiciary have a better understanding of IWT and strategies for action and have been supported to obtain intelligence and operational necessities to facilitate IWT action. The project has also facilitated coordination between agencies to curb the illegal wildlife trade in the region. The training and logistic support for rangers has also brought about increased patrols with recorded successes as evidenced by the number of arrests made within the project period.</p> <p>The different actions of the project have thus led to the disruption of the illegal wildlife trade through ensuring regular patrols and support for rangers with necessary equipment and logistics to act appropriately and proactively against the illegal trade along the reserve and protected areas.</p> <p>Through support for joint action by both communities and security agencies against IWT, the project facilitated coordination and information sharing across relevant agencies and law enforcement for action across the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor.</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 three successful prosecutions per year (the current baseline is 0 successful prosecutions).</p>	<p>A total of 15 arrests were made in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor throughout the lifespan of the project. All these arrested suspects have been charged to court and are awaiting prosecution. The effort to ensure that action is taken on perpetrators of IWT has been facilitated by activities of this project.</p> <p>This has been done through ensuring improved understanding of IWT through the training of government agencies, gathering and sharing of intelligence for corresponding action, production and sharing of reports, strengthening inter-agency coordination on IWT response, and supporting ranger patrols in YGR and GGNP. Also, the government agencies and law enforcement have maintained interest and supported IWT efforts, which is an assumption that has held true to further facilitate the realisation of the project outcome. Furthermore, communities have also shown interest in efforts, which has also favourably supported project progress.</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 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>1.1 The social baseline and community needs assessments were completed in YGR (12 communities) and GGNP (16 communities). Evidence is provided in activity 1.1 of this report and the assessments are attached to this report as Annex 4. Recommendations for supporting sustainable livelihoods are contained in the reports.</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>1.5 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>	<p>1.2 The project successfully engaged 6 government agencies (NESREA, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, National Park Service, Army, and Police). The Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Intelligence Report was judged to be sensitive information and was not shared with them. Intelligence information (gathered from human sources) was shared with relevant government agencies and the project continues to engage with all 6 government agencies listed for improved action to combat IWT.</p> <p>1.3 There have been at least 21 key informant interviews conducted with human sources to gather intelligence in the transboundary region. Some of this intelligence was shared with NCS and NESREA and 15 wildlife traffickers were arrested. Evidence is provided in activity 1.3 of this report and the three IWT assessments conducted in Adamawa, Bauchi and Cross River States are attached to this report as Annex 4.</p> <p>1.4 A total of seven meetings (three in Y2 and four in Y3) were held with Nigerian Government agencies including a meeting with the head of the Nigerian Police Force in Abuja headquarters for the creation of a nationwide Wildlife Crime Unit. Several meetings were also held with law enforcement agencies in Alkaleri LGA in Bauchi State where YGR is situated. The participating agencies include the Nigeria Custom Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Nigeria Police Force and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Bauchi State). These meetings have maintained coordination with the government agencies and ensure that necessary information and intelligence is shared to facilitate comprehensive and joint action to combat IWT.</p> <p>1.5 The Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report was developed and written based on intelligence gathered from communities. Evidence is provided in activity 1.5 of this report. The sensitive document is not attached to this report.</p> <p>1.6 A total of six intelligence products have been developed and shared with the Nigeria Customs Service and the Police. These reports provide insight to IWT operations, which has helped tailor the activities of relevant government agencies towards strengthened IWT counteraction. These intelligence products, alongside further support provided through this action have led to the arrest of 15 wildlife traffickers.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1 Conduct community baseline surveys and gathering of IWT intelligence.</p>	<p>The community baseline survey to gather IWT intelligence was done with findings providing key information to facilitate necessary actions. There were three assessments conducted across Adamawa, Bauchi, and Cross River States</p>	

		by national consultants. This assessment provided information on the state of the communities at the start of the intervention as regards IWT knowledge, information gathering and key stakeholders. Evidence is provided in activity 1.1 of this report and the three IWT assessments conducted in Adamawa, Bauchi and Cross River States are attached to this report as Annex 4.
Activity 1.2 Training and mentoring of human source networks around YGR and GGNP.		A network of human sources was established across the green corridor region including both YGR and GGNP. Sources were trained and received mentoring throughout the duration of the project. A total of eight training courses were conducted for the human sources while mentoring was continuously done through regular coordination meetings and engagements carried out by WCS Nigeria CWT Advisor. The training highlighted intelligence information gathering and emphasis on the routes plighted by the traffickers along the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor. Evidence is provided in activity 1.2 of this report and the training workshop reports are attached to this report as Annex 4
Activity 1.3 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Cameroon.		There has been sustained communication, coordination and intelligence gathered from Cameroon through regular Zoom meetings between ANI based in GGNP and Faro NP in Cameroon. This intelligence gathering has contributed to effective coordination to strengthen IWT efforts between the two countries.
Activity 1.4 Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies.		Gathering of IWT intelligence from Nigerian agencies (mainly NCS and NESREA) has been a continuous process and was done through continuous coordination and communication with the agencies. A total of 7 meetings (3 in Y2 and 4 in Y3) were held with Nigerian Government agencies to gather IWT information and discuss possible action.
Activity 1.5 Produce a Transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report.		A transboundary Wildlife Trafficking Report has been produced and it highlights information on IWT across the Nigeria-Cameroon border, which has supported in providing information to relevant government organisations to properly plan and carry out necessary actions to reduce trafficking.
Activity 1.6 Produce an alternative livelihood strategy for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP.		No specific strategy document was produced. However, both social baseline/needs assessment documents contained a number of recommendations for supporting sustainable livelihoods for communities surrounding YGR and GGNP. With funds from other donors, ANI and WCS are supporting sustainable livelihoods in GGNP and YGR tailored to complement IWT and conservation efforts. These activities include support for livestock vaccination, provision of improved fuelwood stoves, and support for shea butter production.
Output 2. Improved levels of border control between Nigeria and Cameroon by promoting training and capacity building of local	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	2.1 A total of six training courses were carried out for law enforcement agencies through the life of the project. The participating agencies are the Nigeria Custom Service (NCS), National Environmental, for Standardization Regulation and

<p>enforcement agencies which results in more arrests by law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p>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>Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Nigerian Police Force and magistrates in Yola, Serti and Bauchi. A total of 122 participants attended the 6 training courses.</p> <p>During the training, 6 champions were identified from NCS (3), NESREA (2) and the judiciary (1) and received training. The champions acted as unofficial focal points with the knowledge, drive and ability to lead IWT action in their respective agencies. They have served to coordinate joint IWT actions and also support colleagues to understand IWT in their respective agencies and also serve as focal points for information sharing and obtaining. The training report is attached to this report as Annex 4</p> <p>2.2 A total of 18 female participants attended the 6 training courses organised for government agencies. This represents approximately 15% of trainees.</p> <p>2.3 A total of 15 wildlife traffickers were arrested in the transboundary region. At the site level, there have been 144 arrests in YGR and 649 arrests in GGNP, which is a total of 793 arrests overall.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1 Facilitate inter-agency training courses for Customs, Police, Army and NESREA.</p>		<p>A total of 6 training courses were facilitated for the NCS, NESREA, and Police to improve understanding of IWT, improve inter-agency coordination, promote intelligence gathering and joint action. The training facilitated an improved understanding of 122 participants and ultimately resulted in the arrest of 15 wildlife traffickers in the transboundary region.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2 Provide logistical support for IWT operations within the Green Corridor by the Nigeria Customs Service.</p>		<p>The project provided logistical support for three IWT operations by the NCS and NESREA within the transboundary Green Corridor. These operations resulted in the arrest of 15 traffickers after sharing of intelligence products.</p>
<p>Output 3.</p> <p>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>3.1 Basic ranger training was provided by Conservation Outcomes. A total of 58 rangers were trained in YGR and 86 trained in GGNP (total number trained was 144). Rangers were trained on human rights, crime scene management, and community network intelligence gathering. Additional training on intelligence and surveillance to combat IWT was conducted by the WCS Nigeria CWT Advisor. A total of 132 rangers were fully equipped with sleeping mats, water bottles, ranger shirts, ranger trousers, tents, first-aid kits, boots, binoculars, torches, satellite</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>radios, and GPS units). Evidence is provided in activity 3.1. of this report and the training workshop reports are attached to this report as Annex 4.</p> <p>3.2 Through the project, three conservation-security partnerships were established at the LGA level (1 in YGR and 2 in GGNP).</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 Organise ranger training in YGR and GGNP.</p>		<p>Ranger training completed for 58 rangers in YGR and 86 in GGNP (total number of rangers trained is 144). The training facilitated improved understanding for rangers to support IWT efforts in their respective locations. This is through modules on human rights, crime scene management, and community network intelligence gathering.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Purchase of essential field equipment for rangers in YGR and GGNP.</p>		<p>A total of 132 rangers were fully equipped with sleeping mats, water bottles, ranger shirts, ranger trousers, tents, first-aid kits, boots, binoculars, torches, satellite radios, and GPS units).</p>
<p>Activity 3.3 Provide support for law enforcement patrols by rangers in YGR and GGNP.</p>		<p>Throughout the duration of the project, 427 patrols were facilitated in YGR, with 144 arrests being made. The patrols covered 47,960 km over a total of 24,177 patrol man-days. In GGNP, ranger patrols facilitated by ANI made 649 arrests including 47 loggers, 55 bushmeat poachers, 101 artisanal miners, 385 cattle herders.</p>
<p>Activity 3.4 Formation of Conservation Security partnerships in YGR and GGNP.</p>		<p>Overall, there have been 3 conservation security partnerships formed during the project. These partnerships have been established together with community authorities to ensure grassroots action. There has been follow-up and expansion of existing informal contacts to consolidate existing partnerships further.</p>

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	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	0	32 (31 male and 1 female)	90 (72 male and 17 female)	122 (104 male and 18 female)	
IWTCFB01	Number of people trained in law enforcement skills	Number	None	0	86	58	144	
IWTCFB06	Number of criminal networks/trade routes mapped/identified	Number	None					
IWTCFB07	Number of illegal wildlife products/shipments detected.	Number	None	0	0	15	15	
IWTCFB09	Duration or frequency of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project.	Number	None				427	

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
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.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	Yes
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.	Yes
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
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?	Yes
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.	