



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

Project reference	IWT095
Project title	Mongolia's New Ecological Police: Global Standards and Community Engagement
Country(ies)	Mongolia
Lead organisation	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Partners(s)	Ecological Police Department of National Police Administration of Mongolia, University of Law Enforcement of Mongolia, local NGO – Professional Union of Detector Dogs (PUDD), UK Border Force (UKBF) Customs agency, City of London Police, Forensics Science Services (CoLP) and Veterans for Wildlife capacity building charity.
Project leader	Monica Wrobel
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	30 April 2021 – 30 September 2021 (HYR1)
Project website/blog/social media	www.zsl.org/mongolia

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

Output 1. The newly established Ecological Police Department (EPD) staff are well-equipped and highly trained, and utilizing global best practices in forensic intelligence gathering, SMART and intelligence sharing to enable long-term effective inter-agency efforts to reduce and prosecute IWT crime in Mongolia.

Activity 1.2: Survey on necessary equipment for Ecological Police Department was conducted including the baseline information of existing personal equipment of police officers. ZSL project will provide necessary equipment based on these needs. Research on equipment and personal supplies for police officers are underway.

Activity 1.6: ZSL Mongolia team is collaborating with ZSL HQ SMART expert for training methodology and discussed about SMART implementation plan, including training of trainers to deliver SMART training to ecological police officers.

Output 2. Reduction of poaching at key identified peri-urban source sites and of IWT products at urban hotspots (markets, transport hubs) is achieved through highly trained, up-scaled EPD detector dog units (DDU), working in partnership with the Professional Union of Detector Dogs (PUDD) to promote DDU standards that increase efficiency in tackling environmental and IWT-related crimes.

Activity 2.1: Police dog training center's laboratory renovation has commenced and due to finish in first half of November. The project purchased one vehicle (Nissan Starex Van) for the purpose of transporting detector dogs of police, carousel equipment for detector dogs training for introducing new scent and doing practices to police training center. Also the project

purchased and transferred 1000 bricks (with holes) for police detector dog training center, procured detector dog supplies for 7 police dogs including collar, leash, breast collar, toy balls and combs.

Activity 2.3: The project communicated with UKBF detector dog trainer and is currently making logistical arrangement for his November arrival and delivery of two weeks training for Mongolian instructors.

Activity 2.4: PUDD and project officer met with the State Specialized Inspection Agency specialist and agreed on proposed detector dog patrols in IWT hotspots and discussed patrol work plan to be conducted in cooperation with Ecological police. The patrols will be aligned with existing plan of Specialized Inspection Agency and the Ministry of Nature and Environment.

Activity 2.5: ZSL facilitated a workshop bringing together detector dog handler officers of 6 government organizations (customs, police, national railway, national airport, state security etc.) that use operational dogs to discuss the detector dog standards issues. At the workshop the project partners had meeting with specialists from the Ministry of Labor and Welfare (TVET Assessment, Information and Methodology Center UNESCO-UNEVOC Center) discussed the proposed detector dog training curriculum and welfare standard. The ministry will ensure that the documents meet the required standard. This initial meeting served as steppingstone for follow up activities to draft the standard and reach common understanding.

Output 3. A scalable model of effective integrated law enforcement demonstrated through an Ecological Police Department and Community partnership supporting community natural resource governance institutions in pilot Arkhangai communities.

Activity 3.2: Marmot burrow monitoring was conducted in the Local Protected Area (LPA) in October to serve as the baseline survey.

A previous survey in 2020 showed that marmot number of the same study area reached 342 individual from eight different community group. In terms of the age group of the population, 71 (21%) individuals were adult, 36 (11%) were -two-year-old, 70 (20%) -juveniles, and 165 (48%) were undetermined. In 2021 October, we completed 12 transects where burrow cluster data were collected. We detected 259 burrow clusters; of these, 171 (66%) were hibernation, 26 (10%) were summer hole and 62 (24%) were undetected. We considered “hibernation burrow” as those only burrow clusters that either had fresh scat (dark in color, cover a stone) and/or we observed marmots at the burrow entrance. Digg outs old scat, and tracks were more prevalent at the active burrow clusters and, as expected, debris was more often encountered at the inactive burrow or summer burrow. One hibernation burrow can accommodate about 2-4 individuals in winter, therefore we estimated 513 individuals from eight different community group from above mentioned burrows.

Activity 3.3: The Volunteer rangers (VR) of the Union of Conservation Communities (UCC) identified high-risk areas that might be subject to poaching, and logging in the Khoid Mogoin gol-Teel LPA, and identified three routes for regular joint SMART patrols in cooperation with UCC VRs and ecological police officers and state environmental inspectors.

Activity 3.5: The project recruited Executive Director for the UCC, was inducted and he reviewed UCC 2021–2022 workplan for the community-based organizations (CBO), including LPA conservation, facilitation of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and supporting small businesses such as forest cleaning, dairy production, and eco-tourism.

As part of the Mongolian Tree Planting Day, the UCC members, soum government and other non-government organizations jointly planted trees in the Central park of Bulgan soum on October 16, 2021. UCC's 15 members participated and planted 2,000 elm, yellow acacia and willow seedlings in 5 hectares.

Arkhangai Aimag Governor's Office and Agriculture Department organized the trade fair named 'Arkhangai Partnership Exhibition' on October 21- 22, 2021. Three CBOs participated in the

event with dairy products and wooden products. Three households benefitted from the activity selling their products and learned from best practices and technological solutions.

Activity 3.6: Design of questionnaire for social survey is underway to identify perceptions among beneficiaries in the project area. The survey will determine the baseline understanding of local communities on IWT.

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

No notable problems to report.

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

The COVID-19 related international travel restrictions and related UK quarantine costs and Vaccine certificate costs were not originally included in the budget, thus detector dog training has been postponed to January 2022.

2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No issues to raise.

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

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

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