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 2022
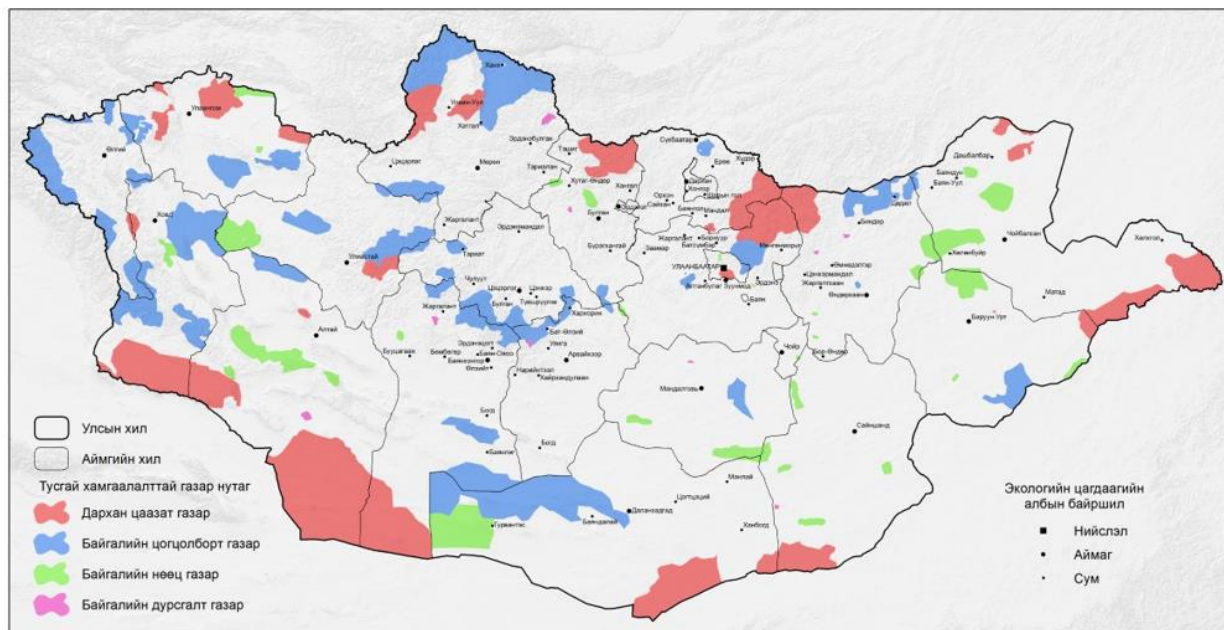
IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT095
Project title	Mongolia's New Ecological Police: Global Standards and Community Engagement
Country/ies	Mongolia
Lead partner	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Project partner(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.
IWTCF grant value	**£** 597,020.00
Start/end dates of project	Start date: 01/07/2021 End date: 31/03/2024
Reporting period (e.g. April 2021-Mar 2022) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01/07/2021 to 31/03/2022 Annual report 1
Project Leader name	Tungalag Ulambayar
Project website/blog/social media	www.zsl.org/mongolia
Report author(s) and date	Tungalag Ulambayar (Mongolia Country Director), Munkhjargal Bayarlkhagva (Law Enforcement Project Officer), 30th April 2022.

1.   Project summary

The project aims to achieve an increase in the interception of Mongolian IWT as the highly-trained Ecological Police Department leads counter-IWT efforts, using professional law-enforcement practices while integrating enforcement with community-led environmental stewardship, improving local wellbeing and public engagement. Co-designed with Mongolian and UK partners, this project will disrupt IWT through 1) building and sustaining the newly established Ecological Police Department (EPD) and partners' law enforcement (LE) efficacy by institutionalising state-of-the-art IWT training; 2) increasing EPD standards for Detector Dog training and strategic

deployment; 3) strengthening EPD's rural engagement in partnership with Arkhangai Local Protected Area (LPA), by empowering community-led governance to mitigate IWT, while supporting improved wellbeing; and 4) bolstering public awareness of EPD's role in combating IWT.

Project map: *The project aims to strengthen Ecological Police presence throughout the country*

2. Project partnerships

Ecological Police Department (EPD) of National Police Administration of Mongolia: The Ecological Police Department under the Police General Administration was established on 6 January 2020 with the mission to combat and prevent environmental crimes and infringements and coordinate inter-agency efforts. EPD has over 170 officers on duty across all 21 provinces of Mongolia, the capital city, and 64 rural districts vulnerable to environmental crimes. The project has been co-designed with EPD based on demands to address newly emerging gaps and challenges to successful IWT prosecution. EPD will expand its work to address poaching nationally, in PAs and LPAs, utilizing elements of a participatory LPA model that supports the community. Local EPD units will learn to coordinate the efforts of local stakeholders for joint decisions. The ZSL Mongolia and EPD signed a three-year Workplan (Annex 4 Photo 1).

University of Law Enforcement (ULE) criminal research/training: The University of Law Enforcement (ULE) prepares law enforcement officers for the national police authority, general authority for border defense, national emergency management agency, Mongolian military, and Mongolia's court decision enforcement agency. The ULE was reorganized from the former Police University in 2012 and now has eight colleges, six training centers, and two research institutes. The ULE curriculum will integrate the project-developed training content, including modules on basic forensics, intelligence, SMART application, and CITES. ULE instructors will collaborate with UK experts delivering training to learn from international best practices and tools available for law enforcement. ULE instructors will update the curriculum and use it to teach future law enforcement officers and develop training materials as necessary. Therefore, the ULE will play an essential role in institutionalizing the IWT training program in Mongolia.

Professional Union of Detector Dogs (PUDD): The PUDD was established in 2013 and promotes capacity building, training, and enabling a dog-friendly environment for the service dog handlers. It conducts annual training for K9 handlers of various government agencies including the State Special Security Department of Mongolia, Security Department of Chinggis Khaan international airport, Security Department of Railways, Department of Corrections, National Intelligence Agency, and Police General Administration. PUDD will be responsible for providing necessary professional consultancy; cooperating in formulating, implementing, and facilitating the development of consolidated standards for service dogs' welfare; training, accommodation, and operations reflecting international best practices and inputs of national professional dog

handlers. They will organise consultation workshops with dog professionals to obtain their input and validation of the draft standards in cooperation with the Professional Union of Detector Dogs.

Union of Conservation Communities (UCC), Bulgan soum, Arkhangai: The project will utilize ZSL's experience with community partnerships and poverty alleviation and will continue to build a model for community partnerships through the Arkhangai LPA. The Union of Conservation Communities (UCC), an umbrella NGO with ten member communities, manages Khoid-Mogoin Gol-Teel Local Protected Area. The project will pilot an EPD-led partnership model with a critical role of for UCC to effectively tackle IWT, including disrupting transboundary trafficking routes from western provinces to the capital city. The UCC is expected to demonstrate the effectiveness of engaging herder communities in law enforcement, particularly in tackling IWT.

City of London Police, Forensic Science Service: The City of London Police Forensic Science Service, under the leadership of Dr. Tracy Alexander FKC, will provide training in the use of forensic techniques when examining wildlife crime scenes and seizures. This mirrors a programme developed by them for investigators, successfully delivered in Zimbabwe.

Veterans for Wildlife, UK (V4W): V4W is an international charity focused on protecting the world's endangered flora and fauna. Using vetted volunteer ex-police, ex-military, and ex-customs personnel, they provide expert trainers in both operational matters and in providing senior management guidance to develop and implement appropriate organisational structures with the aim of building capacity to tackle the Illegal wildlife trade. V4W is a long-term delivery partner of ZSL, most recently in Cameroon.

3.   Project progress

3.1   Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1

Activity 1.1: ZSL's law enforcement advisor and Veterans for Wildlife's advisor from the United Kingdom visited Mongolia for a week in February 2022 to conduct a structural and training needs assessment for the Ecological Police. They met Ecological Police personnel and gathered responses to a competency questionnaire for needs and capacity gap identification. The mission also visited the Police and Internal Troops Training Centre, met the Head of the training centre and relevant personnel (Annex 4, Photo 5), and shared a competency questionnaire for needs and capacity gap identification (Annex 4, Photo 2); and visited Tuv aimag, Mungunmorit soum (where illegal logging frequently occurs), meeting with local Ecological Police officers and becoming acquainted with their work conditions. Both consultants delivered a half-day training for 56 ecological police officers about CITES-related IWT infringement interception and intelligence database management (Annex 4, Photo 3, Photo 4).

Activity 1.2: The project supported the newly-established Ecological Police Department by supplying one DJI Mavic drone and one Mavic 3 fly more combo drone, one SONY camera, one HP Laser MFP 135A printer, 15 sets of BESTGUARDER WG80 night vision binoculars, 25 laptops, 101 smartphones for installing the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), 12 GPS Etrex-20 and Etrex 30, and one freezer container with a capacity of 20 tons for storing confiscated IWT samples. The project printed out 500 copies of the "Guideline for Investigation of Environmental Crimes" (Annex 4, Photo 6, Photo 7).

Activity 1.3: ZSL Mongolia supported and co-organized training for 140 Ecological Police officers from 65 soums and 21 aimags. This was the first Ecological Police training for the newly-recruited personnel. The training included investigation methods of various environmental crimes, including illegal hunting, poaching, illegal collection of wild flora, and illegal logging. The country director delivered a presentation introducing ZSL and the results of the Silent Steppe II report describing the illegal wildlife trade situation in Mongolia. The project officer delivered a presentation on the IWT 3 project and CITES convention. The event lasted for 3 days. The project officer arranged relevant payments for the logistics and organization of the event (such as teacher's contract, venue hire, and stationery costs). The project shared 111 copies of the "Guideline for Investigation of Environmental Crimes" with the Ecological Police Department (Annex 4, Photo 8, Photo 9).

Activity 1.4: A five-day training on intelligence gathering for 15 EPD officers will be organized in year two of the project. This will be developed into an intelligence product and disseminated to an evidential standard in partnership with the University of Law Enforcement instructors by the end of year two.

Activity 1.5: Grant Miller, ZSL's Law enforcement advisor, delivered training for 56 Ecological Police officers on CITES (Annex 4, Photo 3, Photo 4). The training included real-life cases of IWT concealment and detection and served as an introductory session for the CITES training that will be delivered in year two for 100 Ecological Police officers.

Activity 1.6: SMART training

The **Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool** (**SMART**) is designed to improve anti-poaching efforts and overall law enforcement effectiveness in established conservation areas and management zones. The coverage of SMART use will be across all 21 provinces and 65 districts where Ecological Police are present. The project provided 101 smartphones to the Ecological Police Department (EPD) for SMART app use and delivered SMART training to EPD employees from 2-17 March 2022 in Khovd, Ovorkhangai, Darkhan, Dundgobi and Khentii province (Annex 4, Photo 10). The training involved 87 police officers, including eight soum police officers. The project trainer taught participants how to identify local poaching and illegal logging in the field (Annex 4, Photo 11). The project translated the SMART patrolling programme into Mongolian and tested it in the field.

Activity 1.7: The Country Director of ZSL Mongolia made a presentation to the Coordination Council on Crime Prevention (CCCP) under the Ministry of Justice on 27 January 2022 about ZSL's IWT project and potential cooperation opportunities. The CCCP shared annual work plans in which the project integrated its key activities for 2022-2023.

Output 2

Activity 2.1: The Customs Detector Dog Training Centre was upgraded with new 12 kennels for customs detector dogs (Annex 4, Photo 12). The Police Detector Dog Training Centre was provided with seven new kennels (Annex 4, Photo 13). The project funded the renovation of its 80 m^2 laboratory facility (Annex 4, Photo 14). Two vehicles (Nissan Starex) were purchased for transporting police and customs detector dogs, both equipped with purpose-built dog transit boxes for accommodating two large German shepherd dogs in each box (4 dogs in total) separated into compartments (Annex 4, Photo 15). A carousel for detector dog training each was provided to the Customs and Police training centers respectively. The project purchased and transferred 1000 bricks (with holes) for the Police and Customs detector dog training centers. These bricks were laid over the ground for a scent to be applied; the detector dogs will be trained to search for target scent samples across them (Annex 4, Photo 16). The project procured detector dog supplies for 7 police dogs including collars, leads, harnesses, toys, and grooming equipment. Also, 12 packages of equipment including vests, collars, leads, dog treat bags, and muzzles for customs dogs were purchased (Annex 4, Photo 17). The Police training center was supplied with 7 sets of dog handler uniforms (Annex 4, Photo 18).

Activity 2.2: The project team consulted with project partners and identified hot spots for conducting dog patrols, including Ulaanbaatar entry posts and three special protected areas nearby Ulaanbaatar city.

Activity 2.3: The Metropolitan Police Service of the United Kingdom is scheduled to deliver two weeks of detector dog training from 11-25 June for 18 detector dog officers from various canine law enforcement agencies of Mongolia, including police, customs, border defence, national railway defence, national emergency, and state security.

Activity 2.4: The project co-organized a 12-day detector dog patrol between December 14 and December 26 of 2021 in cooperation with the Ecological Police Department and the Detector Dog Training Centre of the National Police Administration. Six police officers and detector dogs (golden retrievers and German shepherds) worked at six city entrance posts 33 times and patrolled for 264 hours. The police officers patrolled from 9.00 to 18.00 pm and between 18.00 - 02.00, alternating two shifts (Annex 4, Photo 19). During the patrol, 2544 vehicles and 3875 passenger transportation buses were checked and 22 violations in total were detected, including 11 incidents of illegal wildlife product transportation, and 8 incidents of illegal transportation of

livestock meat without a certificate of origin. The notable seizures included two carcasses of Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*), 15 Siberian marmot carcass (*Marmota sibirica*), one lot of wild boar meat, fish, and two unauthorized hunting guns and bullets (Annex 4, Photo 20).

The project supported detector dog patrols in three special protected areas near Ulaanbaatar city from 25 March to 5 April. During the patrol, one incident of wolverine hunting and possession of illegal firearms was detected and confiscated, potential risk of spring fire occurrence was intercepted, and awareness and precautionary messages were shared with the community. The specially protected areas included Bogdkhan Strictly Protected Area, about 20 km from Ulaanbaatar city center; Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, located 70 km from the city; and Khustai National Park, located 90 km from the city. Eight detector dog police officers from the Police and Internal Troops Training centre, two officers from the Ecological Police Department, and rangers from the respective SPAs participated in the joint patrol (Annex 4, Photo 21).

Activity 2.5: ZSL facilitated a workshop bringing together detector dog handler officers from 6 government organizations (including customs, police, national railway, national airport, and state security) that use operational dogs, with the purpose of discussing issues around detector dog standards. At the workshop, the project partners had discussions with specialists from the Ministry of Labour and Welfare (TVET Assessment, Information, and Methodology Centre UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre) and 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 a stepping stone for follow-up activities to draft the standard and reach a consensus. Subsequently, the project commissioned the Occupation Standard and Human Development Institute to develop standards for detector dog handlers and detector dog welfare and training. This consultancy service is cooperating with PUDD and other government agencies using canines (Annex 4, Photo 22). The standard will be approved by the Minister of Labour and Welfare in 2022. The PUDD expert is working on the draft standard in consultation with his peer detector dog specialists working across relevant government organizations.

Output 3.

Activity 3.1: Within the framework of the activity, 3 meetings were organized to strengthen cooperation between key partners. A total of 112 rangers and government officials attended the meetings (Annex 4, Photo 23). As a result of the meetings, a 9-member Community Stewardship Support Group (CSSG) was established, with a mission to reduce and prevent environmental crime in Arkhangai. In addition, a memorandum of understanding with partner organizations was signed and operational regulation of the CSSG was discussed and finalized. The annual action plan of the CSSG was discussed, and the Governor of Bulgan soum appointed 34 volunteer rangers from 17 herder community-based organizations (CBOs) and issued volunteer ranger certificates. Members of the CSSG identified and approved three areas for quarterly patrols using the SMART environmental patrol system, as well as 17 areas for monthly community patrols by the 34 volunteer rangers.

The close collaboration with the soum government resulted in the expansion of the local protected area by the soum Citizen Representative Khural (local parliament) by 105,869 hectares. The LPA territory has now reached 242,887 hectares, meaning 75.44% of soum land is under local special protection (Annex 4, Photo 24).

Activity 3.2: The project conducted marmot burrow monitoring in the LPA in October of 2021 to collect baseline information. A survey in 2020 of the same study area found 342 individual marmots across eight different community territories. In terms of the age group of the population, 71 (21%) individuals were adults, 36 (11%) were two-year-olds, 70 (20%) were juveniles, and 165 (48%) were undetermined. During this survey, 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 holes and 62 (24%) were undetected. We considered "hibernation burrows" as those burrow clusters that either had fresh scat (dark in colour, cover a stone) and/or where we observed marmots at the burrow entrance. Dig-outs, old scat, and tracks were more prevalent at the active burrow clusters and, as expected, debris was more often encountered at the inactive burrows or summer burrows. One hibernation burrow can accommodate about 2-4 individuals in winter, therefore, we estimated 513 individuals in those eight community territories from the above-mentioned burrows (Annex 4, Photo 25).

Biologists from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences conducted a Siberian Musk Deer census/ environmental monitoring at Arkhangai LPA. The biologists deployed 21 motion-sensing wildlife surveillance cameras using the linear transect monitoring method, recorded musk deer droppings and footprints/tracks, and interviewed local people about their occurrence. According to the report, a total of 12 individual musk deer in the LPA was estimated (Annex 4, Photo 26).

Activity 3.3: The project delivered SMART training for 28 local volunteer rangers (VR), environmental rangers and local project partners in Bulgan soum of Arkhangai aimag and supplied them with 16 new smartphones (DOOGEE) for SMART patrolling. The VRs 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 established three routes for regular joint SMART patrols in cooperation with the Ecological Police officers, environmental rangers and state environmental inspectors. The first joint SMART patrol of the CSSG was conducted twice by two teams of 9 people, led by two investigators from the Ecological Police and covering four areas across 137,018 hectares of Bulgan soum (Annex 4, Photo 27). The 34 VRs from 17 CBOs conducted environmental patrols covering an area of 242,887 hectares and piloted the use of the SMART system to prevent illegal hunting, logging, unlicensed mining of natural resources, environmental pollution, and forest fires. During the patrol, one case of deer hunting and one case of illegal logging were detected by the police, and the perpetrators were prosecuted.

Activity 3.4: The Mongolian Academy of Science's mammal specialist conducted a 10-day environmental educational training for Arkhangai LPA herders on awareness raising. He delivered training to 83 herders on the existing biodiversity in their LPA territory and explained its ecological importance. The local Ecological Police officer provided information on legal sanctions for poaching and illegal trade (Annex 4, Photo 28).

ZSL signed cooperation agreements with two local TV stations (three kinds of information, four times per month, to reach about 91,000 people) with the aim of increasing public awareness around reducing illegal hunting.

Activity 3.5: Within this framework, 7 new CBOs were established. Now, the UCC has a total of 475 herder members (270 households) from 17 CBOs that joined natural resource management activities in the LPA with monthly internal meetings and savings meetings. For instance, these 475 members attended at least four CBO meetings, trainings, discussions and other kinds of community gathering, at which 59% (282 people) of the total of 478 participants were men and 41% (196) were women (Annex 4, Photo 29). Among the UCC's 475 members, 349, or 73.4%, joined VSLAs, and 126 members contribute to the CBO Fund in accordance with the fund rules. The VSLAs have two funds, a loan/savings fund and a social fund. As of March 2022, CBOs have 75 million MNT in the loan fund, and 58 herders (16.6% of members) received loans of 34.5 million MNT for 6 months. The social funds have 9.8 million MNT, and about 1 million MNT has been spent on direct support to members, while 1.6 million MNT was used for environment protection activities. The UCC all-member meeting was attended by 152 people, of whom 58 (38.1%) were women and 94 (61.9%) were men. Members established a primary herder cooperative named "Shine Bulgan Sor" by a unanimous vote, with the mission to increase the livelihoods of herder households. At the first cooperative meeting, 62 members joined immediately, and additional members are being recruited. The cooperative will be engaged in activities to jointly supply livestock raw materials, plant trees, engage in subsistence farming, and develop eco-tourism.

The CBOs organize annual forest thinning, and this year they cleaned 5 hectare areas. CBOs sold out 369 m^3 of trees (or 123 small trucks) at the local market with a 50% price discount to support poor families. As a result, 32 member households earned about ▮▮▮▮▮▮ MNT. Each participating household increased their income by an average of ▮▮▮▮ MNT. As part of their social responsibility, the CBOs provided 36 trucks or 108m^3 of wood to 36 elderly people as a free supply, which was worth ▮▮▮▮▮ MNT (Annex 4, Photo 30, and Photo 31).

Throughout the year, CBO meetings and VSLA meetings were organized 4 times and involved 413 people (duplicated count), 61% men and 39% women. During the meetings, community members received training on basic knowledge of wildlife, knowledge of environmental sanctions (especially for illegal hunting and trade), livestock herd management and planning and basic knowledge about cooperative governance. As part of efforts to reduce overgrazing in the LPA,

two CBOs (namely, Byatskhanchuluut and Jarantai) were selected to implement herd management plans involving 40 member households. An initial assessment identified that the number of livestock decreased by 4.5% and 10.3% respectively, which is a positive beginning to maintaining the pasture carrying capacity (Annex 4, Photo 32).

The project supported a gathering of all NGO members as well as two sports festivals. A total of 332 herders participated in community mobilization and advocacy activities and called on the public to engage in wildlife conservation activities. They also discussed and approved the work report for 2021 and the annual action plan for 2022 (Annex 4, Photo 33).

On the occasion of National Tree Planting Day, the UCC members, soum government, and other NGOs 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. The Arkhangai Aimag Governor's Office and Agriculture Department organized a trade fair named the 'Arkhangai Partnership Exhibition' on 21- 22 October 2021. Three CBOs participated in the event and sold their dairy and wooden products. Three households benefitted by selling their products and learned best practices and technological solutions.

Activity 3.6: A baseline social survey was designed to identify perceptions among beneficiaries in the project area, and their understanding of IWT. A total of 81 households were surveyed involving those adults having more control over decision-making within the households. Fifty-five (55) of the 81 respondents were heads of households, 26 were spouses. 50 (61.7%) of the respondents were male and 31 (38.3%) were female. The youngest respondent was 20 years old, the oldest 75, and the average age was 44. According to the herders in the LPA, the most poached wildlife included musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*), red deer (*Capreolus pygargus*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). 71.9% of the respondents said poaching should be stopped and restricted. Respondents had little knowledge of the legal sanctions for poaching and illegal wildlife trade. When asked if there will report on a wildlife crime, 60 (74%) of the respondents said they would report to law enforcement personnel. When asked about ways to stop poaching and illegal trade, 44% of respondents replied that law enforcement agencies should be strengthened while 34% answered that they have no idea (Annex 4, Photo 34).

Activity 3.7: In the first quarter of 2022, Arkhangai Police Department's Environmental Crime Unit reports that 16 infringements were detected in Bulgan soum (compared to 9 infringements detected in that area in the first quarter of 2021). The instances of crime reported increased by 43.5% from the previous year. From that, we can see that local citizens and volunteer rangers detected the cases and informed the authorities. All these infringements were related to illegal logging. There was one case in December 2021 of poaching deer.

Output 4

Activity 4.1 and 4.2: The project financed the creation of 24 awareness-raising videos depicting birds, mammals and reptiles with their population status and legal sanctions if poached and traded illegally. These videos will be shared publicly in June as an awareness campaign via various platforms, including the Ecological Police Department's Facebook page with 200,000 followers (Annex 4, Photo 35).

Activity 4.3: The awareness monitoring survey will be conducted prior to the campaign for comparison with the one at the end of the project.

Activity 4.4: According to the Ecological Police Department's statistical data as of March of 2022, 34 cases of illegal hunting were recorded, and there has been a seizure increase of 25.9% compared with the data of the same period of the previous year.

3.2   Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. The newly established Ecological Police Department (EPD) staff are well-equipped and highly trained, and utilising 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.

Baseline 1.1: No EPD led-Integrated National Plan of Action. **Change recorded to date 1.1:** ZSL Mongolia is collaborating with the Coordination Council on Crime Prevention under the Ministry of Justice, which integrated the compiled annual plan of activities by the government organizations and selected international non-government organizations for combating environmental crimes, including IWT.

Baseline 1.2: No specimen storage facility and lack of EPD officers' equipment. **Change recorded to date 1.2:** The project provided the EPD with a 20-ton capacity freezer container, laptops, drones, printer, binoculars, GPS and camera.

Baseline 1.3: No EPD officers and ULE instructors are trained on intelligence, SMART, CITES and forensics. **Change recorded to date 1.3:** 56 officers attended the introductory training on CITES and intelligence delivered by UK specialists. 87 EPD officers received SMART introductory training.

Baseline 1.4: Curriculum of University of Law Enforcement lacks content on intelligence, forensics, SMART, and CITES. **Change recorded to date 1.4:** The major trainings on forensics, intelligence, SMART and CITES are expected to include law enforcement university instructors in year two.

Baseline 1.5: No capacity needs assessment is done for EPD. **Change recorded to date 1.5:** ZSL's law enforcement advisor and Veterans for Wildlife's advisor visited Mongolia and conducted a capacity needs assessment and interviews with EPD officials. The UK consultants shared a competency assessment questionnaire with EPD personnel and carried out interviews with the division heads. They are developing recommendations on how to address the training needs and the competency gap.

Baseline 1.6: No meetings for collaborative investigative, intelligence and analytical case-sharing occurred. **Change recorded to date 1.6:** The project supported the organization of competition on analysis of cases and presentation of results amongst EPD police officers and financed it in February of 2022.

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.

Baseline 2.1: EPD did not have patrols using detector dogs. **Change recorded to date 2.1:** The project successfully piloted the use of detector dogs for patrolling at Ulaanbaatar city entry points and peri-urban Protected Areas, detecting several IWT cases.

Baseline 2.2: No EPD detector dog unit and supplies. **Change recorded to date 2.2:** The Police and Internal Troops Training Centre of the National Police Administration was upgraded with kennels, laboratory rooms, uniforms, dog supplies, and dogs, with the agreement to collaborate with the EPD on environmental crimes.

Baseline 2.3: Mongolian police dog instructors have no training using the Western approach. **Change recorded to date 2.3:** UK's The Metropolitan Police detector dog trainer will come to Mongolia in June 2022 to deliver a two-week training for 18 dog instructors from the six K9 government organizations.

Baseline 2.4: No EPD detector dog units trained by newly trained national instructors using Western approach. **Change recorded to date 2.4:** The TOT participants will become national trainers to conduct detector dog training for other K9 handlers in year two.

Baseline 2.5: No approved detector dog training program in Mongolia. **Change recorded to date 2.5:** Canine law enforcement organizations are collaborating for developing detector dog

training programme and welfare standards with the consultancy firm commissioned by ZSL and are expected to finalize the standards in summer 2022 for approval.

Baseline 2.6: Detector dog instructors have no Western approach dog training. **Change recorded to date 2.6:** In year two, the detector dog units will receive two weeks' training from the UK instructor.

Baseline 2.7: No detector dog patrols specifically targeting IWT conducted**. Change recorded to date 2.7:** Detector dog patrols were conducted for 12 days in December of 2021 at six posts of Ulaanbaatar city and an 8-day patrol was conducted in March and April of 2022 at three national special protected areas.

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.

Baseline 3.1: No EPD-led partnership model with local communities and local stakeholders. **Change recorded to date 3.1:** An EPD-led Community Stewardship Support Group (CSSG) was established, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed, and the annual work plan was discussed.

Baseline 3.2: There were 10 CBOs with 182 members. **Change recorded to date 3.2:** Since the project started, this number has increased to 17 CBOs with a total membership of 475 herders.

Baseline 3.3: According to the social survey, sources of income are limited only to livestock products income, including meat, dairy and cashmere. **Change recorded to date 3.3:** The CBOs organized forest thinning and are studying the possibility of eco-tourism development.

Baseline 3.4: No regular SMART patrol conducted in the LPA**. Change recorded to date 3.4:** Joint SMART patrol was conducted two times by two teams of 9 people, led by two investigators from the Ecological Police in four areas covering 137,018 hectares of LPAs in Bulgan soum.

Baseline 3.5: The social baseline survey was conducted in November of 2021 and the perceptions of the community were identified. **Change recorded to date 3.5:** The social baseline survey analysis will be finalized and the report produced.

Baseline 3.6: One case of illegal hunting and 16 cases of illegal logging in the LPA. **Change recorded to date 3.6:** Baseline data were collected.

Output 4. Mongolian public recognise EPD as the leading IWT-focal agency, with public-generated intelligence on IWT activity being reported directly to the EPD, stimulated through a national awareness campaign leveraging ZSL's successful IWT awareness raising campaigns and partnerships in Mongolia.

Baseline 4.1: No awareness materials developed and approved by the EPD. **Change recorded to date 4.1:** 24 videos have been developed.

Baseline 4.2: The campaign is not launched. **Change recorded to date 4.2:** The 24 videos developed are expected to be shared via a public awareness campaign in June 2022.

Baseline 4.3-4.4: No survey is conducted on public awareness of EPD. **Change recorded to date 4.3-4.4:** A public awareness survey will be conducted. The IWT crime report number will be collected from EPD as a baseline.

3.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

The project introduced the SMART patrolling app to the Ecological Police officers (87) while supplying them with necessary equipment. The UK consultants conducted the competency assessment, and their report is under development, with recommendations on how to develop

the organizational capacity further. Detector dog patrols were successfully conducted twice for 20 days and detected IWT cases, confiscated illegal firearms, intercepted potential risk of spring fire occurrence, and shared awareness and precautionary messages with the local community. The initial steps for creating the EPD-led partnership model with the local community were laid out by signing the MoU between the IWT stakeholders. The project produced public outreach materials and will commence the campaign in June 2022. The local herder community members in Bulgan soum of Arkhangai aimag received biodiversity and ecosystem service training. Also, the project trained the VRs on biodiversity monitoring and SMART patrolling and supplied them with patrolling equipment and field uniforms. Herders' cooperative received forage-making equipment to assist in improving their livelihoods and diversifying income sources.

The joint patrol was conducted in December 2021 using six detector dogs at the entry points of Ulaanbaatar city. It detected 11 incidents of illegal wildlife product transportation and seized two carcasses of Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*), 15 Siberian marmot carcasses (*Marmota sibirica*), one lot of wild boar meat, fish, and two unauthorized hunting guns and bullets. The second detector dog patrol was organized in three national SPAs nearby Ulaanbaatar city between 25th March and 5th April. During the patrol, one incident of wolverine hunting and possession of illegal firearms was detected and confiscated.

18 out of 34 poaching crimes detected by the ecological police were submitted to trial for prosecution as of March 2022. The capacity needs assessment was conducted by the ZSL law enforcement advisor and Veterans for Wildlife advisor. One case of poaching of deer and sixteen illegal logging infringement cases were recorded at the Arkhangai pilot site.

The social baseline survey was conducted amongst Arkhangai LPA's 81 households and covered environmental education, health, livelihood condition, socio-economic parameters, use of natural resources, and perception of LPA conservation. The analysis of the questionnaire responses is underway.

Baseline 01: IWT detections and seizures in Mongolian IWT hotspots of city entry points and national protected areas amounted to a total of 12 cases. There were 34 poaching crimes recorded nationwide as of March 2022. **Change recorded to date 01:** The number of seizures will be collected in year two after additional dog patrol and EPD record collection.

Baseline 02: 18 poaching cases detected by EPD were transferred to the prosecution agency. **Change recorded to date 02:** The number of seizures will be collected in year two after additional dog patrols and collection of the EPD records.

Baseline 03: No EPD institutional capacity assessment. **Change recorded to date 03:** The UK consultants conducted a capacity needs assessment and are currently developing recommendations.

Baseline 04: 16 incidents of unsanctioned harvesting of wildlife/timber in year one. **Change recorded to date 04:** The data will be collected at the end of year two for comparison.

Baseline 05: The social survey of the Arkhangai community was conducted. **Change recorded to date 05:** The data analysis will be finalized in year two.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome assumption 0.1-02: It is assumed that IWT detections and seizures will continue to increase during the lifespan of the project before declining as the effect of the deterrent is felt. The projected increase is based on the existing law enforcement data on the current prosecution levels, and expert advice on effect of training in evidence gathering and on successful prosecutions.
Comments: The EPD reported that as of March 2022, there have been 34 criminal cases of poaching recorded, which is an increase of 25.9% compared with the same period of the previous year. This can be interpreted to show that since the establishment of the EPD, the detection rate has increased.

Outcome assumption 0.3: UNoDC Forest and Wildlife Crime Analytical Toolkit criteria are sufficiently representative of local Mongolian conditions to assess operational improvements.

Comments: The ZSL law enforcement advisor from the UK and the advisor from international NGO Veterans 4 Wildlife visited Mongolia and conducted interviews with EPD senior officers, and are currently developing their recommendation report.

Outcome assumption 0.4: The assumed declines in illegal wildlife and timber harvesting is based on the current capacity of SMART patrolling in the Arkhangai LPA site.
Comments: The assumption still holds true. The project provided environmental education training for the local community and is airing awareness-raising video content via two local TV stations.

Outcome assumption 0.5: The assumed projected increase is based on baseline levels to be determined at the project start and on ZSL's existing community engagement and needs assessment results with communities at the LPA site.
Comments: The assumption still holds true. The project conducted a baseline social survey in November of 2021 and proposed project activities such as dairy products, forage preparation, and forest thinning activities to help local communities' income.

Outcome assumption 0.6: Senior ULE officials continue to remain receptive to working with international agencies to developing and adopting best practices in IWT training and curriculum development.
Comments: This assumption still holds true and EPD officials keep in close communication with the project team and co-organized project activities.

Outcome assumption 0.7: The short-medium term impacts of COVID on all stakeholders, government and communities continue to be assessed and integrated into project planning, delivery, and sustainability.
Comments: The project pays close attention to the development of the COVID situation and plans trainings and international travel arrangements accordingly.

Output assumption 1.1: The EPD continue to play leading role in environmental and IWT enforcement in Mongolia, with officials continuing to remain receptive to working with international agencies to develop and adopt best practices in environmental and IWT law enforcement.
Comments: This assumption still holds true and EPD officials keep in close communication with the project team and co-organized project activities.

Output assumption 1.2: EPD continue to have the resources for facility upgrades and equipment are maintained and utilised beyond the project.
Comments: The project has supplied necessary equipment to EPD and, according to the MoU between the two organizations, the EPD will continue using the resources as per their dedicated purpose.

Output assumption 1.3: The City of London Police Forensics Department training programme is able to identify at least three suitable University of Law Enforcement instructors that have the skills and capacity to deliver training to EPD officers independently.
Comments: This statement remains true because we have arranged for two trainers from the City of London Police Forensics Department to deliver training in Mongolia in June 2022.

Output assumption 1.4: EPD remain engaged in implementing SMART as part of their patrolling data management, with capacity to use it continually and adaptively going forward.
Comments: This statement remains true because the first training for 87 EPD officers was delivered, and 101 SMART phones were supplied to EPD.

Output assumption 1.5: The University of Law Enforcement remain receptive to incorporating international best practice into the national training curriculum for Mongolian law enforcement agencies.
Comments: This statement remains true because as a partner, ULE provided a support letter for the project application, and university lecturers will participate in forensics and other training.

Output assumption 1.6: The EPD will continue to play the leading role in environmental and IWT enforcement in Mongolia.
Comments: This assumption holds true to date.

Output assumption 2.1: EPD remains receptive to collaborating with international agencies and national partners for adopting best practice techniques to combat IWT through DD units.

Comments: This assumption still holds true and EPD official keep close communication with project team and co-organized project activities.

Output assumption 2.2: EPD has continued resources to maintain improved dog training facilities are maintained and utilised beyond the project.
Comments: The detector dog training facility at the Police and Internal Troops Training Centre of the National Police Administration was upgraded with the knowledge and agreement of EPD, since this facility had a historic detector dog training and breeding unit. These two organizations have close cooperation and co-organized two separate detector dog patrols together with the ZSL project team.

Output assumption 2.3: UKBF dog expert able to identify at least 15 suitable Mongolian DD instructors that have the skills and capacity to deliver training to EPD detector dog units independently.
Comments: 18 detector dog instructors from six government organizations with canine units have been identified for participation in TOT training.

Output assumption 2.4: Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology remains engaged and fully supportive along with EPD and other law enforcement agencies in the development of a harmonized high standards of DD usage, for Mongolia to become an example of best practice for other countries in the region.
Comments: The project commissioned the Occupation Standard and Human Development Institute to develop standards on detector dog handlers and detector dog welfare and training, and this will be approved by the Ministry of Labour and Welfare. Development of the standard and training program commenced in February 2022 and is expected to finish in summer 2022.

Output assumptions 2.5 and 2.6: EPD DD units continue to have the support of EPD senior management to utilise their training. EPD DD handlers continue to have the support of EPD senior management to use DD to greatly increase resources for tackling IWT and other environmental crime.
Comments: The detector dog training facility and dog trainers of the Police and Internal Troops Training Centre of the National Police Administration will have the support of the project and cooperate with EPD in tackling IWT.

Output assumption 3.1: CSSG key stakeholders continue to have a positive relationship with ZSL and remain committed to working with EPD and meeting quarterly at CSSG meetings.
Comments: This statement holds true because the project organized two meetings for the CSSG, agreed upon a memorandum of understanding, and discussed the annual work plan.

Output assumption 3.2: The established UCC VSLA and small business development programme continues to yield livelihood improvements for members to negate any IWT associated market demands for wildlife and timber products. EPD and existing community SMART units remain committed to conducting regular patrols alongside daily personal livelihood responsibilities.
Comments: This statement holds true and the initial activity of forest thinning generated additional income for the CBO herders.

Output assumption 3.3: No natural disasters, such as forest fires, or particularly, harsh winters (*dzud*) significantly negatively impact community members or wildlife populations.
Comments: This assumption holds true.

Output assumption 3.4: The assumed projected decline in poaching and illegal logging is based on baseline levels to be determined at the project start, and on ZSL's existing community SMART patrol reports and needs assessments results with local government, environmental protection agencies, police, and communities at project site.
Comments: This assumption holds true.

Output assumption 3.5-3.6: Communities are being fully supported in post-COVID recovery with engagement in conservation and additional security providing enabling conditions for them to do so. Economic conditions (post COVID) continue to enable suitable incentive framework is futureproofed across the trail sites beyond the life span of the project.
Comments: This assumption holds true.

Output assumption 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7: EPD awareness raising efforts are able to successfully build on the pre-existing reporting approach for other environmental crimes being established by the EPD. EPD remain committed to engaging the public locally and nationally

across different media platforms. Different media platforms (i.e. social media, TV, print) remain a cost-effective and accessible means of engaging Mongolia's public. Mongolia's public are engaged in protecting natural heritage to a degree to report local environmental and IWT associated crimes. Awareness materials focus on intrinsic value and penalties and avoid publicising commercial values. Proven awareness-raising methods are drawing on existing EPD staff skills and capacity, and ZSL's experience with IWT awareness-raising in Mongolia. Reports demonstrate understanding of awareness-raising messages.
Comments: These statements hold true.

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

Impact: Poaching, trafficking and transiting of wildlife products in Mongolia is reduced through strengthened environmental law enforcement, integrated with improved community stewardship of vulnerable IWT species and ecosystem protection.

Impact on IWT: The project has made a significant contribution towards strengthening the equipment capacity of the Ecological Police Department by providing them with necessary equipment such as laptops, drones, GPS, night vision binoculars and smartphones for conducting monitoring.

Introducing the Western detector dog training approach in the police canine force will have the sustainable effect of an improved training curriculum. The training is scheduled to occur in June 2022 for two weeks and representatives from the police, customs, border protection, state security and emergency agency will participate. We organized two separate detector dog patrol events in winter and spring for 20 days and made confiscations of IWT products.

Impact on poverty alleviation: The project has made contributions towards delivering long-lasting impact towards alleviating poverty (Output 3.5). The establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations and provision of equipment for activities such as grass-cutting and forage preparation will enable herders of conservation communities to have a better chance of diversifying income sources and better management of pasture. The forest cleaning activities will help generate income and provide opportunities for reforestation.

The activities discussed above under Output 3.1 and 3.3 with relevance to long-term improved law enforcement and greater collaboration between the local community and Ecological Police will reduce poaching and the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, and will positively impact Mongolia's herder communities, indirectly alleviating poverty.

4. Thematic focus

The project aligns with themes of "Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT" and "Strengthening law enforcement".

The project is working towards developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people by supporting the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) amongst community-based organizations in Bulgan soum of Arkhangai aimag's local special protected area. The project has supplied them with forage-producing equipment and carried out forest thinning activities for additional income. The project procured a livestock expert to produce a herd management plan which details sustainable number and type of livestock that each household should have in each household for reducing pasture degradation (Activity 3.5 section describes in detail).

In terms of strengthening law enforcement, the project successfully piloted the use of detector dogs for patrolling at Ulaanbaatar city entry points and peri-urban protected areas with several cases of IWT detection (Activity 2.4 section describes in detail). Also, the project delivered the first SMART training to ecological police officers operating across five regions of Mongolia (Activity 1.6 section describes more).

5.   Impact on species in focus

The project is seeking to address the issue of poaching and IWT by improving the technical and personnel capacity of the ecological police and establishing collaboration between local community and police officers. The project expects the rate of poaching, trafficking, and transiting

of top IWT species in Mongolia, including saker falcon, grey wolf, musk deer, snow leopard, steppe eagle, and Siberian marmot, will be reduced. The EPD, with improved capacity and nation-wide awareness program, will achieve a 30% increase in detections and seizures of specimens of these species and illegal wildlife products at urban markets and other hotspots. The number of submitted IWT cases to trial for prosecution will rise by 30%. Based on current estimates, zero/near-zero poaching of musk deer and saker falcon will be attained in the LPA in Bulgan, Arkhangai, with at least 20% decrease in illegal logging in the forests, the habitat for vulnerable species.

Increased protection through improved law enforcement capacity and strengthened coordination and community stewardship models in critical wildlife habitats will have a longer-term sustainable element by the institutionalised cooperation between EPD and rural community members. The project conducted a 20-day detector dog patrol at city entry and national special protected areas and detected poaching and transportation of IWT products and local community conducted SMART patrol with police officers in Arkhangai aimag where Siberian musk deer occurs.

6.   Project support for poverty reduction

The project beneficiaries are the public of Mongolia and the LPA community in Bulgan soum of Arkhangai aimag which is a project local site. Increased collaboration with ecological police alongside improved capacity of ecological police will improve security and decrease the IWT crime rate in Mongolia. This will conserve the natural resource of Mongolia.

The CBOs' have been organizing reforestation activities each year. In total they cleaned 5-hectare areas this year. Regarding this activity, they sold 369m³ of trees or 123 trucks at market with a 50% discount. Out of this, 32 households earned around ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ MNT. Each household increased their household income by an average of ▮▮▮▮▮ MNT. As part of their social responsibility, the CBOs provided 36 trucks or 108m³ of wood to 36 elderly people without any payment, which was worth around ▮▮▮▮▮▮ MNT.

The project purchased four pieces of equipment for grass cutting and forage preparation to the CBOs which will benefit them to increase their income. The head of the VSLA is currently researching potential cashmere procuring companies in order to increase income for local communities.

7.   Consideration of gender equality issues

In Bulgan soum of Arkhangai aimag, CBOs are well represented by female members; and during VSLA meetings participation and the decision-making process includes female members. CBO meetings and saving fund meetings were organized 4 times. 478 people participated in duplicate, of which 61% were men and 39% were women.

The training will promote gender equality within law enforcement institutions. The first year focused on conducting a capacity needs assessment of the EPDs procuring and supplying the project beneficiaries with the necessary equipment and providing initial training on SMART patrolling. The second year will focus on delivering several trainings to ecological police officers, and law enforcement university instructors on topics such as CITES, SMART, basic forensics and intelligence gathering. The canine law enforcement officers from various government organizations will receive training by a UK detector dog trainer. The project will promote the participation of female officers in the training, however since there are very few female officers working in these organizations it is unlikely to achieve a 50% participation rate by females. The project will include a gender equality topic in these trainings to raise awareness.

8.   Monitoring and evaluation

ZSL Monitoring and Evaluation systems: Project monitoring and evaluation is a critical process to ensure the project is on track to deliver its outcome and contribute to its impact. ZSL employs several internal M&E tools to track and adapt the project as necessary.

During the project, the ZSL team holds weekly meetings with the ZSL Mongolia Country Director, and also the Project Coordinator at ZSL HQ to discuss progress towards achieving weekly milestones. Completion of these milestones are monitored through the project workplan and logical framework, and monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based systems, including activity, indicator and finance tracking. The project provides half-year and annual reports and provides an important M&E benchmarking process.

9.   Lessons learnt

What didn't work well: The original budget for a single kennel was estimated to be EUR 635. The project was designed in January of 2022 and since then factors such as annual inflation rate (currently 14% in Mongolia) and the international trade decline due to COVID-19 have influenced the shortage of building materials and cost of metal. Thus, the cost of building kennels has increased. We learned that cost estimation should consider inflation and sudden risks of material shortage in the future. Also, COVID related quarantine costs were not initially estimated in the budget and there was a risk of overspending on international travel. However, international travel was postponed until quarantine regulations were annulled.

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

ZSL received feedback from The Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group (IWTAG) on our Stage 2 application and identified following three areas to strengthen and incorporate into project implementation.
1. Additional details on potential income-generating activities and how illegal logging will be prevented.
2. Livelihood indicators 3.3 and 3.2 could be better quantified, with more detail on the specific benefit expected.
3. Clarification of the proportion of time the Finance officer and the Admin HR officer will be dedicated to project activities.

Thus, we submitted a change request in September in which we updated the livelihood indicators of 3.3 and 3.2 and provided clarifications on the first and third points.

11.   Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

This section is not applicable.

12.   Sustainability and legacy

Project profile and promotion: The ZSL project participated in the TV program called "Green Label" which aired via the National Broadcasting TV of Mongolia in which detector dog patrol in SPAs were covered and Dr. U. Tungalag, the Country Director gave an interview briefing about the project and the purpose of detector dog use in tackling IWT in Mongolia.

Sustained legacy: This project is designed to reach a stable and sustainable outcome. To ensure the detector dog programme has lasting impact, the existing facilities of the Customs and Police Training Centers were upgraded, and the UK training program will be institutionalised in the police training center so that improved skills can be mainstreamed into the national K9 training programme and operations. The 'training of trainers' will promote longevity and the expansion of training improvements across Mongolia, whilst safeguarding against staff turnover.

13.   IWT Challenge Fund identity

The IWT Challenge Fund identity was acknowledged in below:

Guidelines for ecological police investigators: "Methodology and legal framework for investigating environmental crimes" 2020. Within the framework of cooperation between the newly established Ecological Police Department of Mongolia and ZSL, the IWT project commissioned the development and printing of the guidelines for ecological police investigators and criminal detectives. Due to high demand, 500 copies of the guidelines were re-printed. These guidelines describe procedures to investigate environmental crimes, and details of the process step-by-step. They include descriptions of crimes against wildlife alongside other environmental crimes, including water, soil and air contamination. This guideline will serve as an important reference for police officers who lack environmental crime investigation experience. The advertisement of the Sorgog application (IWT identification app) was printed on the back page of the guidelines (Annex 4: Photo 36).

Plates on kennels. 12 kennels were provided for the Customs General Administration; seven kennels were provided for the Police and Internal Troops Training Center and five kennels were provided for the Professional Union of Detector Dogs. Plates on these kennels have IWT Challenge Fund Logo.

Awareness raising videos. 24 videos of 2-3 minutes in length, describing 24 species of bird, mammal and reptiles were completed, with the IWT Challenge Fund logo depicted at the end of the videos.

Training and meeting banners depict the donor's logos.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

The Covid-19 related national and international quarantine period led to postponement of TOT detector dog training for canine law enforcement officers. The project submitted a no-cost extension change request for the Segre Foundation donor and was granted a six-month extension. Meanwhile quarantine regulation annulled, and international travel arrangements were enabled. The project has responded by keeping close attention on the COVID-19 situation development and regulation updates in Mongolia and abroad, and planned training and international travel accordingly. No long-term delays are expected. Hygiene and safety procedures are followed during meetings and trainings.

15. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.   ☐

If you have answered yes, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

ZSL has a "Global Safeguarding Policy" and "Global Code of Conduct Policy" with associated documents and training to guide and inform staff about safeguarding. These policies outline ZSL and its staff's responsibility to ensure their staff and other representatives, operations, and programmes do no harm children and adults at risk, nor expose them to abuse, exploitation, bullying or harassment. It also covers how ZSL safeguards its own staff and other representatives at all times, including protecting them from harm and inappropriate behaviour such as bullying and harassment including sexual harassment. ZSL has the safeguarding policy in place titled "Policy and Procedure to Safeguard Children and Adults at Risk" and implements this document which provides guidance on how to establish local safeguarding links and how to deal with safeguarding concerns should they arise during overseas activities. Every employee of ZSL has access to this policy and is familiarized with it. ZSL has and implements a risk assessment procedure, conducts risk assessment prior to field trips, and prepares Emergency Response Plans. This is a vital part of safeguarding which is prevention by undertaking a risk assessment for each project or activity undertaken in project sites. ZSL staff are aware that if someone is at risk in the project site, they report it after responding appropriately. ZSL has a Code of Conduct in place and all staff are subject to training by HR and are familiar with the Code of Conduct.
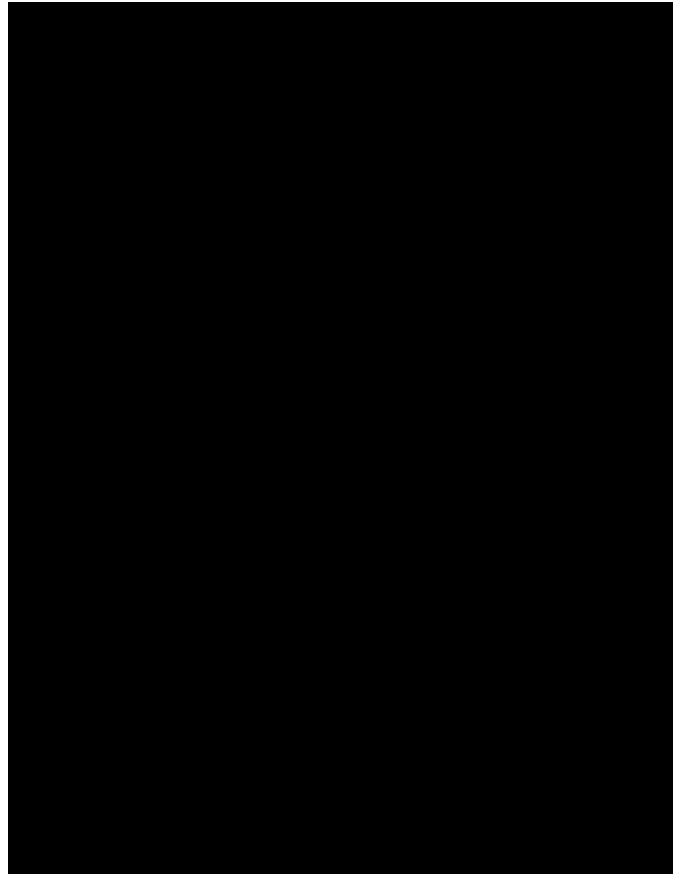
16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (July 2021-March 2022)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2021/22 Grant (£)	2021/22 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	▆	▆	▆	The IWT Project Officer has been in charge of two programs (IWT & Segre) with her salary has been split between them causing some underspending.
Consultancy costs	▆	▆	▆	
Overhead Costs	▆	▆	▆	
Travel and subsistence	▆	▆	▆	
Operating Costs	▆	▆	▆	

Capital items (see below)	███████	███████	██████	
Others (see below)	██████	██████	██████	
TOTAL	██████	██████	█████	

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the IWTCF Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

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 IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk 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.	
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.	