



## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Final Report

### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT097
Project title	Building long term capacity to combat IWT in Sri Lanka
Country(ies)	Sri Lanka
Lead Partner	Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited (EFL)
Project Partner (s)	Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) Born Free Foundation (BFF)
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Project Leader's name	Mr. Anandalal [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	Refer to Annex 22 for social media links
Report author(s) and date	Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited and Born Free Foundation, 29 <sup>th</sup> , March 2024

## 1. Project summary

Sri Lanka is a biodiversity-rich country with the highest level of endemism among South-Southeast Asian countries, which makes it a heaven for wildlife traffickers, who exploit the unique biodiversity of the island for illicit international markets. The national law enforcement response requires strengthening its investigative and prosecutorial capacity to address Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) nationally and facilitate better coordination within and beyond South Asia.

### 1.1 Biodiversity and Livelihood Impacts of IWT

Sri Lanka is a significant source of illegally caught and exported wildlife and a transit country for smuggled wildlife. Reptiles are highly vulnerable and endemic in Sri Lanka. For example, 14 of the 17 agamid lizards in Sri Lanka are endemic and in high demand in the pet trade in Europe and North America. Sri Lanka is the largest source of manta and devil ray gill plates used in traditional Chinese medicine. Star Tortoises and black-spotted turtles have been seized multiple times while in transit.

Illegal trade of flora is a concerning issue, particularly the smuggling of agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) used in fragrances. This taxon is the most smuggled from the country. The Sri Lankan authorities have seized multiple hauls of agarwood since 2012, with 126.95 kg seized in August 2020 and 39.98 kg seized in July 2020, according to Sri Lanka Customs.

Deforestation in Sri Lanka has accelerated due to agricultural expansion and infrastructure development. This has led to conflicts between humans and wildlife and economic disparities in nearby communities. Humans' proximity to wildlife habitats also poses a threat of extracting wild fauna and flora for local consumption or trade, impacting the sustainable livelihoods of communities that rely on ecosystems.

To promote a sustainable ecosystem and use and deter illegal activities related to IWT, the Project aims to directly benefit communities that rely on natural resource-based livelihoods. Although it is difficult to determine the number of households that have helped, those living in wildlife-rich areas and most dependent on optimal ecological conditions will benefit the most.

## **1.2 IWT Baseline Data**

Collecting baseline prosecution and enforcement data is crucial in understanding the current state of illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT). It helps to determine the level of deterrence, the drivers behind it, and the redress mechanisms. The Baseline and Gap Analysis process was used to develop tailor-made training modules and related activities. Annexes to this report contain detailed information on the project's findings.

To understand the number of IWT incidents and the current state of IWT in Sri Lanka, this project collected baseline data on trafficking in flora and fauna through seizure and prosecution records. The legal framework and its implementation to counter IWT in Sri Lanka were analysed, and the "Situational Analysis Report" was produced. The goal was to provide stakeholders with information that could help identify the status of deterrence, the socioeconomic drivers of IWT, and the mitigation and redress methods. This data was also used to curate training content for enforcement.

This project aimed to tackle the problem of uncoordinated efforts between prosecution and enforcement agencies in Sri Lanka that were working towards combating illegal wildlife trade (IWT). The main objective was to create a network of relevant stakeholders and to hold these agencies accountable to prevent Sri Lanka from being used as a transit point for IWT. The project aimed to break the networks involved in IWT. However, it was recognised that inter-institutional coordination and cooperation were necessary for the long-term success of counter-trafficking initiatives in Sri Lanka.

## **1.3 Fostering an Enforcement Response**

Sri Lanka has implemented a strong legal framework to safeguard its wildlife, including several laws such as the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, Forest Conservation Ordinance, Customs Ordinance, and The Fisheries Act and Regulations. However, despite having these laws in place, effectively addressing the issue of illegal wildlife trade requires strengthening and coordinating technical, personnel, and institutional capacities.

It is essential to recognise that the available resources for prosecuting illegal wildlife trade (IWT) domestically and internationally must be increased. Before assessing the extent of the local prosecutorial response to IWT, proactive measures must be taken to address this concern. Doing so will ensure successful outcomes in the long run.

Empowering institutions with enhanced capabilities to implement their mandates benefits communities and wildlife officers. Robust responses to illegal wildlife trade motivate officers and deter such activities, strengthening environmental and social safeguards.

The project "Building Long-Term Capacity to Combat IWT in Sri Lanka" took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital, where the government departments and partner institutions involved in the project activities are headquartered. Workshops and sensitisation activities were conducted in wildlife-rich areas near national parks and protected regions based on stakeholders' priorities.

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLaWEN) was established in 2011 by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and eleven government enforcement and support agencies to activate a previously inactive network. The project aimed to revive SLaWEN and establish it as the leading networking body to address the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in Sri Lanka. The project also aimed to increase surveillance and awareness of the scale of IWT in Sri Lanka among enforcement agencies, regulatory authorities, and the conservation community. In addition, an award scheme was developed under the project to recognise excellence and motivate officers to perform their best.

The Project was created to improve law enforcement by providing training for SLaWEN, prosecutors, and the judiciary. The aim was to address a need for more technical know-how, awareness, and cooperation among relevant parties.

## **2. Project Partnerships**

### **2.1 Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC)**

The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) is the primary government authority responsible for enforcing illegal wildlife trade (IWT) legislation in Sri Lanka. Additionally, it serves as the CITES Management Authority and coordinates the Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLaWEN). As the national coordinator of SLaWEN, the DWC is responsible for holding regular intelligence briefings and meetings among SLaWEN officers to identify and detect trafficked wildlife, apprehend traffickers, and investigate and prosecute those engaged in IWT in Sri Lanka.

EFL has initiated discussions with the DWC to revive the WEN and equip it with the technical capacity and coordination required to function as the apex body to address wildlife crime.

Several meetings were held with DWC to coordinate project activities. DWC took the lead in organising the initial stakeholder meetings and chaired the subsequent sessions. During discussions with the focal points and heads of the SLaWEN institutions, DWC played a crucial role in providing feedback and recommendations to enhance SLaWEN's functionality.

### **2.2 Born Free Foundation UK**

Ms. Manori Gunawardena, the Sri Lankan Country Representative of the Born Free Foundation, provided technical support to EFL in the development and implementation of their project and insights on issues related to illegal wildlife trade within the local context. Mr Gabriel Fava, a Senior Policy Advisor at Born Free, played a vital role in creating the project concept.

Ms Manori Gunawardena played a crucial role in the project's conceptualisation and directed the team throughout the project. She also made invaluable contributions to the SLaWEN program development meetings and helped establish the Excellence Awards Mechanism criteria. Ms Gunawardena also contributed to drafting and fine-tuning the final report.

### **2.3 Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLaWEN)**

During the first Program Development meeting, it was identified that trafficking via marine routes was a significant issue. Therefore, it was decided that three more stakeholders should be added to SLaWEN. The selection was based on their contribution to combating marine wildlife trafficking within the country, their mandate to act against it, and their ability to regulate marine IWT as an island nation. It was necessary to include these stakeholders to cover all possible areas of enforcement and prosecution via the SLaWEN. SLaWEN has added three new stakeholders: the Department of Fisheries Aquatic Resources, the Sri Lanka Navy, and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard. This brings the total number of SLaWEN agencies to fifteen. Their roles in combating illegal wildlife trafficking are listed in Annex 05. Meetings were held with all SLaWEN agencies to identify their mandates, IWT data, and training requirements.

The report synthesises the feedback from SLaWEN stakeholders regarding coordinating and expediting investigations and prosecutions in the training program.

Institutions assign a rank or designation as the focal point instead of an individual. This means that whoever takes up that position will automatically become the focal point of SLaWEN in the future and will have access to previous records. Additionally, EFL has shared past meeting records with any new focal points appointed during the project.

SLaWEN officers were invited via DWC to attend a 10-day training course, during which they received enhanced knowledge and skills on wildlife conservation, trafficking of fauna and flora, and legal recourse to address IWT. See Annex 06 - 10-day SLaWEN Workshop Report for more information.

Partners faced challenges obtaining meeting dates from the DWC due to tight schedules. However, the SLaWEN focal points maintained ongoing communication through a WhatsApp group. Sri Lanka Customs could not authorise a formal meeting due to confidentiality issues in data sharing but did participate in the program development and training for SLaWEN officers.

The project team's experts participated in significant events. Technical experts from diverse fields shared their experiences and facilitated brainstorming sessions during the sensitisation program for the judiciary and a ten-day training for SLaWEN. Esteemed members of the Attorney General's Department attended the latter.

The SLaWEN focal point group stays connected through a WhatsApp group, which has enabled them to assist each other with investigations and share information. This network became self-sustaining by the end of the project, which was the project's most significant achievement.

The project created a "Working Paper" during three program development meetings attended by 15 SLaWEN agencies. The paper outlines the inter-institutional capacity for intelligence sharing. All members of SLaWEN agree to formalise the organisation's operation by signing the Working Paper (refer to Annex 07 —Final Draft of the Working Paper). This ensures sustained collaboration among agencies to combat Illegal Wildlife Trade, even after the project ends.

The Director of Operations suggested an annual ceremony for the Excellence Awards Framework to ensure sustainability and continual improvement.

### **3. Project Achievements**

#### **3.1 Outputs**

##### **3.1.1 Output 1 - A situational analysis report on the prosecution of IWT in Sri Lanka was produced.**

###### **Stakeholder Institution Engagement**

Focal points were established at all 15 SLaWEN agencies. These meetings discussed prosecutorial and investigative capacities, mandates, and the limitations and inadequacies in each of these institutes' prosecution and investigative capabilities. The availability of data regarding the illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife in institutions is verified. Using Project Expert input and team recommendations, a template was developed to compile IWT data from stakeholder institutes (Annex 08), and it was sent as a request to all SLaWEN institutes. As IWT casefiles are not maintained as single subject files, this was the first-time aggregated wildlife crime-related records were queried from a countering IWT programmatic perspective.

###### ***IWT Case Records and Data***

Records of eleven districts for 2018 and 2019 were collated by Sri Jayawardenepura University using the court records for IWT cases concluded by DWC. Open-source data from Sri Lanka Customs – Public Tender Notices 2016 to 2021 and press releases of seizures from authorities on such cases were also tabulated by EFL.

Some of the institutions shared the requested data with EFL. Furthermore, the EFL team visited the DWC Horton Plains Range Office to interview and discuss two significant IWT cases recorded in Sri Lanka in recent years. Project experts were given written permission from DWC to visit the stakeholder institutions, interview the officers, and collect the necessary data for the Situational Analysis Report.

The Situational Analysis was developed using these discussions, case records, a database generated by students at Sri Jayawardenepura University, and open-source online data such as custom tender notices and research publications. (Refer to Annex 09 For the Situational Analysis Report.)

Part 1 of this report includes the most trafficked terrestrial and marine fauna species and trafficking trends observed during the years of concern using the data gathered.

Part 2 of the Situational Analysis 'Current Status of Prosecution of Illegal Wildlife Trade Cases in Sri Lanka' outlines gaps in the enforcement of laws against wildlife trafficking. Reviving SLaWEN, upgrading facilities, employing skilled personnel, and facilitating better coordination could help combat wildlife trafficking.

##### **3.1.2 Output 2 - Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers and network building established.**

###### ***SLaWEN Programme Development Meetings***

On Feb. 24th, a project inception workshop was held at DWC with 9 SLaWEN member institutions. These include the Sri Lanka Police, Customs, Forest Department, Central Environmental Authority, Coast Conservation Department, Dept. of Archaeology, Zoological Gardens, and National Museum. Refer to Annex 10 for details. Focal points were established at 15 SLaWEN institutions (refer to Annex 11).

Program Development meetings were held for focal points/heads to discuss SLaWEN's implementation, develop SOPs to enforce IWT, and network formally/informally.

At the initial Programme Development meetings, representatives from twelve institutions formed the SLaWEN network and discussed findings from the Situational Analysis of Illegal Wildlife Trade in Sri Lanka. They identified gaps and needs through a focused group discussion and shared mandates and capabilities to develop the working paper. (refer to Annex 07 - Final Draft of the working paper).

Three stakeholders were added to SLaWEN based on the situational analysis report, which emphasised the significance of combating marine wildlife trafficking. DFAR, the Sri Lanka Navy, and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard were the added stakeholders. A draft working paper outlines the collaborative agreement among SLaWEN institutions, which was presented to the heads of fifteen member institutions.

### ***Working Paper for SLaWEN Institutions***

At the Second Program Development meeting, 13 SLaWEN institutes finalised a comprehensive working paper. The paper aims to unite all participating institutes and strengthen their capacities to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Sri Lanka. This achievement aligns with the project's primary goal of fostering collaboration among the institutes.

### ***Program Development Meeting with Heads and Focal Points of SLaWEN Institutions***

A meeting was held, chaired by the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources and attended by the Secretary to the Ministry and Departmental Heads of the SLaWEN institutions. During the meeting, the Honourable Minister stressed the importance of teamwork, especially among the network of fifteen organisations working together to combat illegal wildlife trading. One of the significant outcomes of the meeting was the presentation of a working paper, which was collaboratively developed through extensive consultations among the focal points of SLaWEN. The document aims to connect all fifteen institutions and contribute significantly to the operationalisation of SLaWEN. The heads of the institutions are expected to authorise this paper. The DWC is taking the lead in collecting authorised signatories for the SLaWEN working paper.

### ***Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers***

The Curriculum Development Specialist assessed the training needs of SLaWEN institutions in Sri Lanka for investigating, enforcing, prosecuting, or providing scientific evidence for prosecuting IWT cases. The specialist then developed a 10-day training curriculum based on each institution's assessment results and mandates. More information on the curriculum can be found in (Annex 12). The curriculum had three parts: IWT legal and scientific background, law enforcement, and onsite training. Evaluations were given for each 8-hour session. (Annex 06 has a summary of the comments made by participants).

SLaWEN training is recommended to be conducted in three sessions with breaks. Two sessions were held in Colombo and Wilpattu National Park for on-site training and network building. External technical experts delivered the program.

In the second session, on-site training, sensitisation, and network-building occurred. Fourteen SLaWEN officers completed the training and were certified as IWT officers upon achieving 80% attendance.

During IWT session 03 development, collaboration with the Attorney General's Department was necessary for law enforcement focus. Competent officers were appointed upon formal requests. At a workshop, Mr Madawa Tennakoon from the Attorney General's Department conducted a valuable session on tackling cybercrimes. Mr. Ranjan Marasinghe, DWC Director of Operations, attended the seminar and participated in an award ceremony.

The workshop report (Annex 06) includes the agenda, session briefs, attendance records, feedback, certificates, and photos. All communication with stakeholders was through DWC. A WhatsApp group was created for the participants, trainers, and project team to stay updated, share experiences, news, and information, and seek assistance. The group has been active in building networks among SLaWEN institutes and officers. See Annex 06 for some group photos.

### **3.1.3 Output 3 - Judicial enhanced awareness of IWT in Sri Lanka**

A three-day awareness and sensitisation residential program was conducted by the judiciary in Giritale, North Central Province. Twenty-five magistrates nationwide participated in the program, led by experts in relevant fields. The training covered various topics, including the status and evolution of wildlife conservation and management in Sri Lanka and the impact of wildlife trafficking on conservation and law enforcement. The experts also discussed the challenges and risks faced by law enforcement officers. The program included a field excursion to the Kaudulla National Park and a visit to the Department of Wildlife Conservation Training Centre.

Feedback on the session was gathered, and a summary of the input can be found in Annex 14 - Report on the Judiciary Awareness Program

However, progress against indicator 3.2 can only be reported after a comprehensive analysis (Annex 14)

### **3.1.4 Output 4 - The relationship-building forum was launched with the enforcement, prosecutors, and judicial representatives.**

The Relationship Building Forum is a platform designed to facilitate dialogue between stakeholder communities in the fight against wildlife trade and trafficking. Recently, this forum was held in Colombo to promote networking and strengthen the relationships between the judiciary, law enforcement authorities, and the Attorney-General's Department. The dialogue focused on providing practical solutions to bridge the gap between communities and enhance their cooperation in combatting these crimes. Representatives from six law enforcement agencies in Sri Lanka, collectively known as SLaWEN, participated in the event. The participating agencies included the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Forest Department, Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and Sri Lanka Police. During the event, the representatives shared information about illegal wildlife trafficking, crime investigation, prosecution, and the challenges they face in their work.

Hon. Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, a retired Supreme Court Judge and Deputy Solicitor General from the Attorney General's Department, kindly participated in the forum and provided valuable insights. The forum focused on the emerging trends of illegal wildlife trafficking in Sri Lanka, encouraging an open discussion on the challenges faced by law enforcement. Possible solutions were explored collaboratively, setting the stage for a more unified and practical approach in the future. Refer to Annex 15 and 16 for the minutes of this meeting and the attendance records.

### **3.1.5 Output 5 - A mechanism for Excellence Awards for officers from SLaWEN.**

The "Excellence Awards for the Best Law Enforcement Officers of SLaWEN—2023" is an award program that aims to motivate and encourage law enforcement officers to perform better. The program acknowledges and will continue to recognise the outstanding achievements of officers from SLaWEN in combating illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. This recognition is meant to encourage and motivate officers to be the best in their field. The first award ceremony focused on officers from four SLaWEN institutions.

Meetings were held to establish guidelines and criteria for selecting awardees. Annex 17 contains the minutes of the first meeting, while minutes of the second meeting can be found in Annex 18. Nominations were called from four major law enforcement agencies of SLaWEN. Three officers from each agency were to be awarded, and one was to be given for outstanding performance. Supporting documents can be found in Annex 19.

On December 21st, the BMICH conference centre held a successful award ceremony. The ceremony was honoured by Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation, and the Minister of Irrigation. Other notable attendees included the Ministerial Secretary, Mrs. Chandra Herath, heads and focal points of SLaWEN institutions, the selection committee led by Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya and other dignitaries. The event recognised the exceptional work of law enforcement officers in Sri Lanka. Five officers from the Department of

Forests, four from the Department of Wildlife Conservation, two from Sri Lanka Customs, and three from the Sri Lanka Police were acknowledged as the "Best Law Enforcement Officers of SLaWEN 2023."

## **Problems encountered and how they were resolved**

### ***COVID -19 Pandemic Related Restrictions***

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, certain project activities experienced delays. Nevertheless, alternative approaches were adopted, and the Inception Workshop was completed in Q2 with strict adherence to guidelines. All meetings, trainings, and workshops followed WHO and Sri Lankan guidelines. Sessions were conducted online whenever possible to avoid physical contact.

### ***Data Collection***

A workshop was planned to gather insights on IWT from Sri Jayewardenepura students/academics (Activity 1.1), but this was only possible during the first two-quarters of the project. Later, it was discovered that DWC had already completed the IWT cases database, and all the information was already included. The consultation workshop was deemed unnecessary.

It has been observed that most government institutions in Sri Lanka do not maintain separate records of cases related to illegal wildlife trade (IWT). This makes it difficult to obtain IWT-specific case data, as these institutes are not always willing to share all information with Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL). As a result, institute officials need to sort through cases related to IWT, which causes delays.

### ***Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka and Logistic Issues***

Sri Lanka is facing an economic crisis that resulted in civil unrest from March to July 2022. Scarce resources and daily power outages have affected daily operations. Due to a fuel shortage, public sector employees have Fridays off, and a hybrid working system is in place for other days. Communication with officials and obtaining IWT data has been challenging, delaying project activities.

Despite challenges, EFL used remote work to complete most activities on time. DWC allowed project experts to visit stakeholders and collect data for the Situational Analysis Report.

The workshops scheduled for the project had to be rescheduled to 2023 due to the constraints experienced. Despite these challenges, the project has significantly progressed in completing the planned activities.

It has been announced that there will be elections in 2023. As a result, the institutional heads we were working with may be moved to different posts. This requires us to restart the process of getting them on board for meetings. Due to this uncertainty, many of the heads of the SLaWEN institutions were hesitant to work with us until they knew whether they would still be in their positions after March 2023. Therefore, we had to postpone the SLaWEN head's meetings until we knew who would be appointed as the new heads of the relevant SLaWEN institutions.

## **3.2 Outcome**

Regular meetings were held with the Department of Wildlife, which played a critical role in convening the SLaWEN. Consultations were conducted to develop a working paper on inter-institutional engagement. Although the heads of institutions could not meet quarterly, a meeting was held with high-level officials towards the end of the project to formalise the functioning of the SLaWEN. The working paper outlining the inter-institutional capacity for intelligence sharing was agreed upon during this meeting. The key takeaway was that formal intelligence sharing can only occur once inter-institutional working arrangements are formalised. During the project period, one inception meeting and two program development meetings were held with the designated focal points of the project.

It is difficult to accurately measure the increase in illegal wildlife trade (IWT) cases as institutions must maintain and provide systematic records. This can only be determined once a defined IWT record-keeping system is established at the institutional level.

Many significant discoveries were made during an informal networking session between focal points. Additionally, operational shortcomings regarding enforcement and chain of custody were discussed and raised at program development meetings and a relationship-building forum. Enforcers, prosecutors, the Attorney General's Department, and the judiciary attended the forum. During these meetings, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were suggested to be established to expedite the prosecution process. Some of the recommended SOPs include drafting guidelines for the Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard and creating a protocol for the Sri Lanka Police to follow when confiscating live animals. The Department of Animal Production & Health will also play a vital role in this process by providing holding facilities and ensuring the optimal health of the confiscated animals. For more information, please refer to Annex 15 for the minutes of the Relationship Building Forum.

In general, the project can be considered a success. This is demonstrated by the fact that discussions about illegal wildlife trade in Sri Lanka have been resumed after a long interval. Additionally, a group of capable and knowledgeable officers has been established at SLaWEN, and the organisation continues to operate even after the project's completion.

### **3.3 Monitoring of assumptions**

#### **Outcome level assumptions**

*0.1 Relevant agencies are willing to improve communication streams with each other. –*

Based on the outcomes of the program development meetings, this assumption remained valid.

*0.2 Online meetings are viable should COVID-19 restrictions render face-to-face meetings impossible & Subject to the delays posed by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.*

COVID-19 restrictions posed challenges in the first half of the year. Some initial meetings followed health guidelines, while online meetings were held with stakeholders, including the Sri Lanka Coast Guard in the south, to minimise travel.

Most meetings were held in person during the project's first two years' second half despite COVID-19 restrictions. From March to July 2022, the economic crisis and civil unrest caused delays in contacting government institutions. The fuel crisis limited public transport, causing public officers to work on a roster, which affected the collection of IWT data. However, project experts could visit stakeholder institutions, interview officers, and collect the data required for the Situational Analysis Report.

*0.3 The reports are decentralised, and there is easy access to case reports due to COVID–19 restrictions. -*

The reports were located at regional offices and were available in hard copies rather than being centralised. The assumption is valid; however, we obtained specific clearance from several departments to visit and collect such data.

#### **Output level Assumptions**

##### **Output 01 Assumptions**

*1.1 Prosecution records of possession/trading wildlife will be available & 1.2 Ease of accessing records – state and systemised archives (electronic documents may not be available) -* Not all institutions kept updated records of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) cases as it was not a priority obligation. We had to encourage them to compile IWT-related cases from their records, which took time and multiple follow-up visits.



The original assumption did not hold. Our project staff's methods for addressing this issue are discussed in section 3.1.

*1.3 The University Student study will share their findings. - This assumption was held as EFL obtained this collated data via DWC.*

*1.4 Delays in access due to Covid-19 restrictions. - This was true to a certain extent and did not impede the project as explained under the outcome level assumptions.*

## **Output 02 Assumptions**

*2.1 SLaWEN institutes will cooperate and assign necessary human resources for IWT Training—This was true to a greater extent as 13 out of 15 institutions attended the training. As they are based in Colombo and there is a staffing shortage, the Department of Botanical Gardens informed the organisers that they would be unable to attend the training.*

*2.2 Delays posed by COVID-19 restrictions and the participant's ability to access online meetings—This did not impede the training, as it was held during February and March of 2023, when the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.*

## **Output 03 Assumptions**

*3.1 SLaWEN institutes will recommend sensitising the judiciary to IWT during their training as a next step. -During the SLaWEN meetings, judges, especially magistrates, were suggested to be trained and invited to relationship-building forums to educate them on the issue of IWT in Sri Lanka and its disastrous effects on biodiversity. This suggestion was made by the retired judge and the deputy solicitor generals who attended the forum on behalf of the Attorney General's department.*

*3.2 The judiciary is obliged to attend the training workshop. This was held as 27 magistrates representing 25 districts were nominated by the Sri Lanka Judges Institute to participate in this workshop which was more than the original count expected.*

## **Output 04 Assumptions**

*4.2 The three parties must set up a mechanism for future meetings. At the forum, it was suggested that workshops be arranged for the Department of Wildlife Conservation to improve their prosecution and case preparation skills with the help of the Attorney General's Department. Also, to form an investigative team comprising the five key prosecuting agencies to share their findings with the remaining agencies.*

## **Output 05 Assumptions**

*5.1 Award scheme will inspire and motivate enforcement officers to be the best in the field. - The Minister of Wildlife personally attended the award ceremony and expressed appreciation for the efforts to encourage officers involved in combatting illegal wildlife trade (IWT). This recognition was also appreciated by the institutions that received awards at the event. During a subsequent meeting held by SLaWEN, which was hosted by EFL, the award scheme was highly praised for motivating officers.*

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

The project aims to revive SLaWEN as the networking body for an improved law enforcement response to wildlife trafficking from and through Sri Lanka. Its goal is to facilitate the development of the dormant national WEN. The revival of this network will have long-term positive impacts on addressing IWT in the country and creating increased surveillance and enhanced awareness of the scale of IWT in Sri Lanka among all stakeholders. The project's intended impact is to revive SLaWEN and promote better law enforcement responses to wildlife trafficking in the country.

The situational analysis report aims to establish a baseline regarding the number of incidents related to illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and the current status of prosecuting such incidents. The project recognises that the process could be improved due to several factors, such as more technical capacity, awareness, and synergy among relevant parties. Therefore, the project will train the SLaWEN and judiciary officials to address these issues.

Once the relevant parties have developed the necessary capacity and networking capabilities, the project will work towards reviving the SLaWEN, which will operate as the apex networking body to address IWT in Sri Lanka. An award scheme will also be developed to acknowledge excellence and encourage and motivate officers to be the best in the field.

### **Impact on human development and well-being**

This initiative aimed to enhance Sri Lanka's response to the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) by creating a robust network of enforcement, prosecuting, and supporting agencies. SLaWEN (Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network) was established and empowered as part of this initiative. It is operational after a decade of inactivity, and a working paper has been prepared to ensure long-term inter-agency collaboration.

To develop SLaWEN training and guide the subsequent discussions, an analysis of the current legal framework applicable to IWT was conducted. This analysis served as a baseline for the initiative and has significantly improved Sri Lanka's environmental governance. The improved enforcement response to IWT provides direct conservation benefits and strengthens Sri Lanka's commitment to biodiversity conservation.

## **4. Contribution to IWT Challenge Fund Programme Objectives**

### **4.1 Thematic focus**

The project supports two of the IWT Challenge fund objectives.

#### **1. Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents**

A collaborative working paper was created to combat illegal wildlife trafficking among the SLaWEN agencies in Sri Lanka. This paper formalises inter-institutional engagement in data sharing and cooperation in enforcement and prosecution and ensures an adequate legal framework and deterrents. While drafting the Situational Analysis Report, a comprehensive study was carried out to identify the operational legal and policy gaps in enforcement and recommendations for improvement. The findings were summarised during the program development meeting for the SLaWEN focal points, contributing to the project's thematic focus areas.

#### **2. Strengthening law enforcement**

Strengthening law enforcement acting against IWT was addressed during the 10-day intensive training on wildlife conservation, trafficking of fauna and flora and the legal recourse available to address IWT. As was assumed, the SLaWEN institutes cooperated and assigned the necessary human resources for this training, ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents. The training and sensitisation program increased awareness and capability among government officers across law enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary disciplines. The feedback from the participants demonstrated this. Kindly refer to the feedback forms in Annex 06. This project strengthened Sri Lanka's law enforcement efforts against illegal wildlife trade. The potential harm to biodiversity was emphasised at all project events.

It was a significant achievement to bring together all three sectors - enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary - for a relationship-building forum. During this forum, they discussed practical gaps and recommendations related to law enforcement, which will help enhance efforts against illegal wildlife trade.

This knowledge and the network developed by the project facilitated SLaWEN agency interactions, both formally and informally, to collaborate in CWT, which promotes accomplishing these objectives. Snapshots from the WhatsApp group formed for this project's networking process can be found in Annex 13.

## 4.2 Impact on species in focus

A situational analysis report was developed by collating available data on illegal wildlife trade and trafficking in Sri Lanka. The report revealed the marine and terrestrial species being trafficked, trends in trade and trafficking, and gaps in our legal system for protecting such species. The findings were presented at the SLaWEN meeting with the focal points, followed by a sensitisation session for the judiciary and a roundtable discussion. These thorough studies help personnel from relevant divisions take appropriate measures for protection and improved interdiction.

As explained in Section 2, trafficking via marine routes was identified as a significant issue. Based on recommendations made at Program Development meetings, it was decided to expand SLaWEN by adding three new stakeholders. This decision was made by considering their contribution to combatting marine wildlife trafficking within the country and their mandate to act against it. Consequently, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Technology (DFAR), the Sri Lanka Navy, and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard were officially added to SLaWEN.

Due to the mobilisation of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLaWEN) and better collaboration between the judiciary, enforcement agencies, and prosecutors, gaps in the existing legal frameworks have been identified and addressed through dialogue. These shortcomings will be discussed in the long term, and national laws and regulations will be strengthened to address them. Furthermore, the increased awareness of the status of illegal wildlife trade in Sri Lanka will motivate the country to advocate for stronger protection of vulnerable species at international conventions such as CBD, CITES and CMS.

## 4.3 Project support to poverty reduction

This does not apply to this project.

## 4.4 Gender equality and social inclusion

Due to the restrictions in sharing information, such as the gender of the accused, it was challenging to differentiate information by gender, especially data related to producers, traders and consumers linked with IWT.

An attempt was made to evaluate the level of participation and engagement of individuals of different genders involved in the fight against IWT, such as conservation biologists, criminologists, legal professionals, prosecutors, and other stakeholders. This was done by analysing the gender-disaggregated data obtained from attendance records of various workshops.

From the project partner Born Free Foundation, Ms Manori Gunawardena is on the leadership team. Female representation from the Attorney General's Department

The SLaWEN agencies established four female and one male focal point. In addition, two female and one male deputy solicitor general participated in the training and forums conducted under the project. Overall, the project achieved an excellent gender balance.

According to this data, the project was supported by 91 women and 149 men cumulatively. The breakdown of the male and female participation is as follows.

Name	Male	Female
Inception meeting	06	07
1 <sup>st</sup> Program Development Meeting with Focal Points	18	09
10-Day Intensive Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers	25	12
Judicial Enhanced Awareness Program	13	14

2 <sup>nd</sup> Program Development Meeting with Focal Points	12	10
Relationship Building Forum	17	09
Award Ceremony	46	19
Program Development Meeting with Heads and Focal Points of SLaWEN Institutes	12	11

## 5. Monitoring and evaluation

Based on the review for the Annual Report 01, indicators were optimised to SMARTen them than they were previously. The original Log frame before the amendments is attached as Annex 20.

The project's M&E Plan remained unchanged during the reporting period. It has two main components: measuring project performance to ensure that activities are efficient and effective and evaluating the project's impact in reviving SLaWEN to better coordinate responses to IWT with increased prosecution and accountability in Sri Lanka.

Feedback forms and evaluations at the end of the training programs were used to measure the effectiveness of the training. As well as assess project performance and impact.

The EFL closely monitored the project by holding monthly meetings to assess progress and weekly meetings if there were any urgent issues to discuss with the core project team. The team lead headed the project team, with Manori Gunawardana representing the Born Free Foundation. Additionally, a WhatsApp group was created for SLaWEN agencies to communicate. The group allowed representatives to share ideas and information about the illegal wildlife trade.

Project finance is monitored by the office administration team led by the EFL CEO to ensure responsible management and adherence to the budget. Project performance and impact are monitored using identified indicators in the log frame and methodology.

The log frame and methodology effectively monitored the progress of project outputs and indicators. The wildlife trafficking and conservation course was the second output, and its set targets were met by 90% of the target audience, with all 13 institutions out of the 15 SLaWEN institutions participating. The officers' assessment performance provided insights into the programme's impact, which is an essential indicator in understanding the value of the training. The sensitisation of the judiciary to IWT was measured by the 100% participation and receptiveness of the magistrates who attended the workshops, which was an essential assessor of project performance.

The roundtable dialogue that brought together representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary was a significant milestone and an indication of the project's overall impact. The project aimed to combat IWT, and all the law-enforcing and prosecuting agencies mandated for the same were involved. Additionally, members from the Attorney General's Department and a retired judge represented the judiciary. An award scheme was also established to evaluate the performance of project beneficiaries and the impact of project activities. The motivation level of officers was assessed to ensure that the project outcome had a continued effect in the long run.

### Internal or external evaluation of the work and plans

A summary of the evaluation and feedback received during the 10-day workshop for SLaWEN officers is now available. The excellent performance of the officers in the assessments indicates that the program had a positive impact on them. Please refer to Annex 06 for more details. Additionally, the evaluation and feedback forms submitted by the participants were crucial in understanding the effectiveness of the training, what went well, and what could be improved.

A feedback form was provided for magistrates who participated in the sensitisation program, with essential suggestions and observations about the 3-day program summarised in Annex 14.

The workings of the SLaWEN will be continued and evaluated even after the project's closure.

## **6. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews**

The queries raised and the suggestions made at the annual report reviews were addressed during the preceding half-year reports and yearly reports or were discussed with the donors as was suggested in the review itself, and there are no outstanding issues.

## **7. Lessons learnt**

### **Training and Sensitization Format**

A 10-day workshop was held in three sessions, one of which was a field excursion. It strengthened the network and synergy among SLAWEN members, particularly during the field session, when they could interact freely. This approach is recommended for similar projects to foster team spirit and urgently combat IWT.

This technique successfully sensitised the judiciary participating in field excursions, making sensitisation more effective than lectures alone.

### **Building informal networks**

The Relationship Building Forum was a significant success in the project. It brought together members from law enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary to a single table where they could present the gaps and constraints they faced while combating IWT. Each member represented their sector and could discuss the nature of issues and challenges faced by the other sectors, which had never happened before. The strengthened relationship between these key SLAWEN stakeholders was advantageous during the later stages of the project, where programming development meetings were held, and joint efforts were made during investigations.

It is highly recommended that budgets be allocated to hire external trainers who can deliver content for which we do not have in-house expertise. This approach is crucial for effective learning outcomes. For instance, during a 10-day SLAWEN training session, one of the Deputy Solicitor Generals from the Attorney General's Department delivered a session on Tackling cybercrimes using other evidence, collecting electronic evidence and evidence. His presentation was very informative and insightful for the participants.

### **Annual Report Queries on Poverty**

The IWT Challenge Fund asserts a broad assumption that wildlife crime and trafficking are related to poverty and poverty reduction. It also assumes the critical stakeholder groups are of impoverished rural demography subsisting in natural resource-rich areas. While this may hold for some global geographies, it only applies in the context of the critical objectives of this project in Sri Lanka. This project was conceptualised to improve the law enforcement response in curbing organised trafficking at the national level.

## **8. Risk Management**

No risks were arisen during the past 12 months.

## **9. Sustainability and legacy**

SLAWEN's Program Development Meetings revived communication among member institutions after 20 years, fuelling efforts against the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). Representatives discussed Counter-Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) in Sri Lanka, stressing the importance of a unified approach. Officer training will promote knowledge sharing and proactive measures against IWT.

The project aims to empower the South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLAWEN) and transform it into the National Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN). The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) will manage the WEN, and the project will provide essential skills and network building to ensure smooth and efficient operations. The DWC will remain a vital partner in project implementation and sustainability beyond formal external funding.

The operational costs for ongoing meetings, training, and award administration will be integrated into the DWC's operational budget.

The sustainable benefits envisioned post-project remain pertinent and achievable.

EFL will closely monitor and support SLaWEN's activities through the Sri Lanka Combatting Wildlife Trade (CWT) Awareness, Capacity, and Empowerment (ACE) Program. This program is being carried out as the second phase from September 2023 to September 2025. It is funded by the US Department of State - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). This program aims to strengthen the functions of SLaWEN and its member institutions while also helping SLaWEN expand its reach in South Asian regional networks that align with the South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network's (SAWEN) activities. With EFL's intervention, this initiative will facilitate SLaWEN for another two years, bringing it closer to self-sustenance.

### **Evidence for increased interest and capacity resulted from the project.**

The SLaWEN agencies demonstrated increased collaboration and enthusiasm in countering illegal wildlife trade (IWT) during the latter part of the project. This resulted in intensified enforcement efforts. The project also established a network that strengthened the agencies' collective investigations. Positive feedback during training sessions indicated an increased interest and capacity in addressing IWT.

A situational analysis summary was presented to the focal points of SLaWEN and the program for the Judiciary. However, it was not made available to the public, as it contains data about how the trade and trafficking coincide with the areas where these species are abundant. This data could be used for tracking purposes, which could have detrimental effects.

During the program development meeting and the training for SLaWEN officers, the focal points discussed sharing Illegal Wildlife Trade data among institutions. They agreed to draft a working paper to formalise the exchange of information among institutions and highlight each SLaWEN member's contribution to the network's progress. At the second meeting, the working paper was reviewed and amended. During the final meeting, the Minister of Wildlife Conservation pledged full support and urged all member institutions to endorse the paper, which was agreed upon by the represented heads.

## **10. IWT Challenge Fund Identity**

The logo of the IWT Challenge Fund was used in all events organised under the project, including presentations, publications, notebooks, files, etc. During these events, the IWT fund and its contribution to the project were duly acknowledged. The challenge fund was thanked for enabling the project to progress. Government officials who attended on behalf of SLaWEN promoted the IWT challenge fund as a potential source of future funding opportunities for illegal wildlife trade programs.

All presentations, publications, notebooks, and files acknowledged the contribution of the UK government. The phrase "funded by the UK government via the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund" is featured in all electronic printed presentations and correspondence to stakeholder agencies.

The issue of illegal wildlife trade has yet to become a common topic of discussion in broader societal networks. While the IWT challenge fund is gaining popularity and familiarity, it has yet to reach a household level of recognition. However, the fund is well-known among the government and those involved with SLaWEN.

The IWT Challenge Fund was tagged in all social media posts about the project's events on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Links to the social media posts can be accessed in Annex 21.

## **11. Safeguarding**

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes/ <del>No</del>
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	<del>Yes</del> /No

Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes/No [If yes, please provide their name and email] Roshanara [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes/No [If yes, please provide date and details of training]
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 0% [and number] Planned:50 % [2]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
No, there have not been any lessons learned or challenges in safeguarding in the last 12 months.	

## 12. Finance and administration

### 12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual IWTCF Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Allocated budget for the period 2023/24 (9months) was proportionately less than what was agreed for the period 2022/23 (12 months) which resulted in a variance of £ [REDACTED]
Consultancy costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Overhead Costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Travel and subsistence	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Operating Costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Capital items (see below)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Others (see below)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	The costs related to Award ceremony exceeded by [REDACTED] as result of the high inflation that is prevalent in Sri Lanka during this period.
<b>TOTAL</b>	49,742.94	45,151.43		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
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Project Leader - Anandalal Nanayakkara		
Project Coordinator - Pubudini Silva		
Project Science Officer - Dinithi Panagoda		
Project Legal Officer - Lasantha Withanage		
Monitoring & Evaluation - Ms. Anusuiya Ainkaran		
Project Finance and Administration – Roshanara De Croos		
Project Assistant - 1- Legal - Kumudika Perera		
Project Assistant - 1- Science - Simra Riyaz		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,425.83</b>

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Printing of curricula Printing of legal manuals Awards presentation - 2023	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,110.24</b>

## 12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Not applicable for this project.

## 12.3 Value for Money

The project was good value for money.

The project has successfully met its original objectives within the allocated budgets for the three periods covered, despite the challenges posed by the increase in inflation and financial crisis during the project span in Sri Lanka. Although the original project budgets for 2020 did not anticipate a financial crisis or an increase in costs, the project could deliver the workshops, meetings, and award ceremonies within its budget constraints.

## 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 (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

It has recently been brought to our attention that Sri Lanka has become a significant centre for illegal wildlife trafficking. To effectively combat this unethical trade, it is crucial for law enforcement agencies to collaborate and be given the necessary authority. Unfortunately, non-wildlife enforcement institutions in Sri Lanka do not prioritize counter-trafficking efforts, prosecution, and convictions. As a result, the Environmental Foundation Ltd has taken it upon itself to counter wildlife trafficking as an extension of its "Justice for Nature" mission.

There was a lack of comprehensive information on the trafficking of wildlife on land and in the sea. As a result, a report was created that includes an analysis of the situation, recommendations, information on regulatory gaps, and the status of prosecution efforts. This report has been used to identify training needs, priority areas, and institutional requirements for improving wildlife enforcement networks within the country.

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLaWEN) was established in 2011 to enforce wildlife and forest laws. The network comprises 12 state sector institutions. To address the need for marine-based enforcement, three more



institutions—the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources—have recently been added to SLaWEN. The network’s objective is to combat wildlife trafficking in Sri Lanka through formal and informal networking, thereby ensuring sustained action.

A working paper has been developed to guide the implementation of SLaWEN after extensive consultations. It outlines collaboration modes, data-sharing templates, and enforcement protocols. The Minister of Wildlife Conservation and Forest Resources has endorsed the paper, emphasizing the importance of having institution heads sign it.

The integration of the judiciary, state prosecutors, and frontline enforcement was deemed necessary to empower and guide the work of SLaWEN. A chaired guided discussion was held with representatives from the Solicitor General's Department and frontline enforcement members to facilitate the exchange of strategies for combating wildlife trafficking.

The first field-based sensitization workshop on the impacts of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity was attended by sitting members of the judiciary, marking the first-time magistrates in Sri Lanka participated in such an event.

To acknowledge and inspire exceptional performance in the fight against illegal wildlife trade, the "Excellence Awards for the Best Law Enforcement Officers of SLaWEN - 2023" was established. The inaugural ceremony celebrated achievements and reinforced the commitment to combat wildlife trafficking.

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption, country and credit</b>	<b>Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
Images	IWT097 image 01	10-day intensive training program titled “Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLaWEN) officers and Network Building” was held as three sessions in Colombo and Wilpattu, Sri Lanka.  Country: Sri Lanka Image credit - Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited	Environmental Foundation Ltd. (Facebook)	Yes
Images	IWT097 image 02	Relationship Building Forum: a dialogue focused on resolving and providing practical solutions to bridge the gap amongst stakeholder communities when combatting wildlife trade and trafficking was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka with the intention of promoting networking and strengthening the relationship among the judiciary, law enforcement authorities, and the Attorney-General’s Department.  Country: Sri Lanka Image credit - Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited	Environmental Foundation Ltd. (Facebook)	Yes
Images	IWT097 image 03	“Excellence Awards for the Best Law Enforcement Officers of Sri Lankan Wildlife Enforcement Network – SLaWEN- 2023” which was the first ever award scheme established in Sri Lanka to recognize the outstanding achievements of officers in combating illegal wildlife trade and trafficking, encouraging and motivating officers to be the best in the field was held in December 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.  Country: Sri Lanka Image credit - Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited	Environmental Foundation Ltd. (Facebook)	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
<p><b>Impact:</b> The revival of SLaWEN as the networking body for an improved law enforcement response to wildlife trafficking from and through Sri Lanka.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Improved law enforcement and prosecution of IWT incidents through enhanced technical capacity within and between SLaWEN member institutions.</p>	<p>0.1 Currently dormant SLaWEN – will hold Quarterly strategy development meetings with high-level officials at SLaWEN member institutions.</p> <p>0.2 Currently dormant SLaWEN – will hold Quarterly intelligence exchange meetings with designated IWT officers at SLaWEN member institutions.</p> <p>0.3 At least 40% increase in case record of IWT incidence, with a focus on significant (large numbers, endangered species, etc) and transnational cases by end of Year 3.</p> <p>0.4 Increased cooperation and synergy among SLaWEN institutions, allowing for sharing of information - resulting in a reduction in timeframe for prosecution of IWT cases by end of Year 3.</p>	<p>0.1 Appointment of IWT focal points at SLaWEN member institutions.</p> <p>0.2 Development of a formal networking protocol among members</p> <p>0.3 Compilation and analysis of relevant reports of wildlife trade. Etc.</p> <p>0.4 Number of cases investigated on IWT by SLaWEN member institutions (as per baseline of current cases).</p> <p>0.5 Number of cases on IWT presented in courts of first incidence by joint operations of SLaWEN member institutions.</p>	<p>0.1 Relevant agencies are willing to improve communication streams with each other.</p> <p>0.2 Online meetings are viable should Covid-19 restrictions render face-to-face meetings impossible.</p> <p>0.3 The reports and decentralized and ease of access to case reports due to Covid – 19 restrictions.</p> <p>0.4 Subject to the delays posed by ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.</p>

<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>Situational analysis report on prosecution of IWT in Sri Lanka produced.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of records collected to setup baseline of existing wildlife trafficking in the country (up till 2021) by 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of project. Records will be aggregated based on where they were recorded and variables including gender, district, and taxon trafficked will be catalogued.</p> <p>1.2 Number of discussions with key institutions to identify trends of trafficking, predictions on the baseline, etc) by 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of project.</p>	<p>1.1 Survey/ case records of existing situation until 2021- baseline of existing IWT prosecutions in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>1.2 Discussion / interview records of SLaWEN members on existing situation (with regard to highest trafficked species, volume of trafficking, frequency, etc)</p>	<p>1.1 Prosecution records of possession / trading wildlife will be available.</p> <p>1.2 Ease of accessing records – state and systemized archives (electronic records may not be available).</p> <p>1.3 The University Student study will share their findings.</p> <p>1.4 Delays in access due to Covid-19 restrictions.</p>
<p><b>Output 2</b></p> <p>Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers and network building established.</p>	<p>2.1 Representation from the 11 SLaWEN institutions in the course by the end of year 2.</p> <p>2.2 Developed training tools, including a Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation curriculum by quarter 6.</p> <p>2.3 48 hours of training and 8 hours of assessments for the course participants by quarter 7.</p> <p>2.4 Certified IWT officers – represented in the 11 SLaWEN Institutions by year 3.</p>	<p>2.1 Attendance records</p> <p>2.2 Certificate issuance records</p> <p>2.3 Participant evaluation sheets.</p> <p>2.4 Validation of the certification by representative institution.</p>	<p>2.1 SLaWEN institutes will cooperate and assign necessary human resources for IWT Training.</p> <p>2.2 Delays posed by Covid-19 restrictions and the ability of the participants to access online meetings</p>

<p><b>Output 3</b></p> <p>Judicial enhanced awareness of IWT in Sri Lanka</p>	<p>3.1 Judicial officers with enhanced awareness of IWT across 25 districts by end of year 3.</p> <p>3.2 40% increase in number of IWT cases relating to project focus species presented in court.</p>	<p>3.1a Attendance records</p> <p>3.1b Workshop evaluation forms</p> <p>3.1c Drafted training resources.</p> <p>3.2 Document prepared detailing outcome of IWT related cases.</p>	<p>3.1 SLaWEN institutes will recommend the sensitizing of the judiciary to IWT during their training as a next step.</p> <p>3.2 The judiciary will oblige to attending the training workshop.</p>
<p><b>Output 4</b></p> <p>Relationship building forum launched with Enforcement, Prosecutor and Judiciary representatives.</p>	<p><b>4.1 30 representatives from the three different sectors participate at the dialogue in year 3.</b></p>	<p>4.1 Attendance records, photographs, meeting minutes and decisions taken at the meeting</p>	<p>4.1 The three parties oblige to setup a mechanism for future meetings.</p>
<p><b>Output 5</b></p> <p>A mechanism for excellence awards for officers from SLaWEN instigated.</p>	<p><b>5.1 Guidelines are being developed by a committee for the selection of an enforcement personnel as the awardee by August 2023.</b></p> <p><b>5.2 One enforcement personnel awarded per year.</b></p>	<p>5.1 Excellence award guideline developed with relevant criteria.</p> <p>5.2a Number of applicants/nominees from enforcement agencies for the award</p> <p>5.2b Number of enforcement institutions represented among</p>	<p>5.1 Award scheme will inspire and motivate enforcement officers to be best in the field.</p>

**Activities**

- 1.1 Consult with University of Sri Jayewardenepura students to gauge their findings, collate and analyze court records from DWC and other SLaWEN institutes – to establish the status of IWT related court cases.
- 1.2 Report will be drafted detailing the findings of the analysis – identifying gaps stalling the legal process. These findings will be presented at the SLaWEN and Judicial Training workshops.
- 2.1 Ethics questionnaire will be circulated amongst SLaWEN institutes – and feedback / comments addressed.
- 2.2 Inception and two program development meetings with heads of SLaWEN member institutions.
- 2.3 Development of the Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers and network building and assessments by a curriculum development expert.
- 2.4 Conducting a 10-day intensive training on wildlife conservation, trafficking of fauna and flora and the legal recourse available to address IWT and assessments for the assigned SLaWEN officers.
- 2.5 Three program development meetings with the identified SLaWEN institute focal points during year 2 and 3.
- 3.1 Identifying 25 judicial officers representing the 25 districts in Sri Lanka for the programme.
- 3.2 Conducting a 3-day field-based workshop in a wildlife rich area for 25 judicial officers. The workshop will expose the judicial officers to the importance of sustainable natural resource management and also galvanize officers creating an appreciation for wildlife protection.
- 4.1 Round Table Forum with the presence of Enforcement, Prosecutor and Judiciary representatives.
- 4.2 The comments of the dialogue are compiled and shared with participants and the SLaWEN.
- 5.1 Excellence awards framework to be developed in consultation with the DWC.
- 5.2 Implementation of framework / scheme in 2023.

## 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><b>Impact</b></p> <p>The revival of SLaWEN as the networking body for an improved law enforcement response to wildlife trafficking from and through Sri Lanka.</p>		<p>All SLaWEN agencies are now networking better to combat IWT.</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Improved law enforcement and prosecution of IWT incidents through enhanced technical capacity within and between SLaWEN member institutions.</p>	<p>0.1 Currently dormant SLaWEN – will hold Quarterly strategy development meetings with high-level officials at SLaWEN member institutions.</p> <p>0.2 Currently dormant SLaWEN – will hold Quarterly intelligence exchange meetings with designated IWT officers at SLaWEN member institutions.</p> <p>0.3 At least 40% increase in case record of IWT incidence, with a focus on significant (large numbers, endangered species, etc) and transnational cases by end of Year 3.</p> <p>0.4 Increased cooperation and synergy among SLaWEN institutions, allowing for sharing of information - resulting in a reduction in time frame for prosecution of IWT cases by end of Year 3.</p>	<p>Three Programme Development meetings were held with the designated SLaWEN officers and strategies for the network's progress and the next steps were identified.</p> <p>Constraints and possibility of sharing IWT data within institutions were discussed during the program development meeting and the 10-day training for SLaWEN officers.</p> <p>Program development meeting and the 10-day training for SLaWEN officers paved the way for them to form relationships with one another, and their network was strengthened further by the field training and the groups formed.</p> <p>A working paper that entails the way forward of the SLaWEN and the contribution of each SLaWEN institution towards the continuous progress and sustainability of the SLAWEN was developed and presented to the institutions for signature at the SLaWEN heads meeting.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Situational analysis report on prosecution of IWT in Sri Lanka produced.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of records collected to set up a baseline of existing wildlife trafficking in the country (up till 2021) by the 3rd quarter of the project. Records will be aggregated based on where they were recorded and variables including gender, district, and taxon trafficked will be catalogued.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Focal points were established, and discussions were held with all the 15 SLaWEN agencies to identify the prosecutorial and or investigative capacities of them gaps and IWT data.</li> <li>● The Situational Analysis was developed using these discussions, case records, a database created for the DWC, and online data sources such as custom tender notices and research publications.</li> <li>● Part 01 of the Situational Analysis includes the most trafficked terrestrial and marine faunal species, as well as trafficking trends observed during the years of concern using the data gathered. Part 02 outlines principal</li> </ul>

	1.2 Number of discussions with key institutions to identify trends of trafficking, predictions on the baseline, etc) by 3rd quarter of project.	laws, role of the enforcement agencies, operational gaps and the legal and policy gaps identified in the enforcement, and an analysis on the prosecution records available and sentencing records.
Activity 1.1 Consult with University of Sri Jayawardenepura students to gauge their findings, collate and analyse court records from DWC and other SLAWEN institutes – to establish the status of IWT related court cases.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After consulting with the students of Sri Jayawardenapura who were engaged in developing the database for IWT cased during the years 2018 and 2019, it was noted that all the information they had collated were there in the database shared with us by the DWC (reported in the AR1). Therefore, this database was used as a baseline.</li> <li>• All institutions were visited/ held meetings by the team and the discussions/interviews were held with the participation of the legal officers and the focal points of the respective institutes. The prosecutorial and or investigative capacities and the mandates under the purview of each of these institutes regarding the IWT cases were discussed and the limitations/gaps were identified.</li> <li>• Data was gathered regarding the major trafficking cases recorded so far in the country via the Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Forest Department which were used in the drafting of the Situational Analysis Report.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.2 Report will be drafted detailing the findings of the analysis – identifying gaps stalling the legal process. These findings will be presented at the SLAWEN and Judicial Training workshops.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the IWT data gathered and other relevant sources the situational analysis was developed with 2 sections. Part 1 - The situational analysis on the IWT of Terrestrial and Marine faunal species, Part 2 - Current Status of Prosecution of Illegal Wildlife Trade Cases in Sri Lanka and - Recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2.</b> Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for	2.1 Representation from the 11 SLAWEN institutions in the course by the end of year 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the gaps identified by the curriculum development expert in the training procedures concerning IWT in the SLAWEN member</li> </ul>

<p>SLaWEN Officers and network building established.</p>	<p>2.2 Developed training tools, including a Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation curriculum by quarter 6.  2.3 48 hours of training and 8 hours of assessments for the course participants by quarter 7.  2.4 Certified IWT officers – represented in the 11 SLaWEN Institutions by year 3.</p>	<p>institutions, the curriculum for the Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course was developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN officers was carried out successfully in 3 sessions, including field sensitization with the participation of 13 institutions.</li> <li>● Evaluations were carried out at the end of each session with evaluations for each day followed by a feedback form to analyze the quality of the programme.</li> <li>● 14 SLaWEN officers representing 13 institutions were certified upon the successful completion of the course.</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 2.1 Ethics questionnaire will be circulated amongst SLaWEN institutes – and feedback / comments addressed.</p>	<p>The ethics questionnaire was developed. The institutions, however, were hesitant to fill it out. Also, after talking with the important agencies, it was made clear to us as a CSO that it was inappropriate for us to hand out an ethics questionnaire for the state sector.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.2 Inception and two program development meetings with heads of SLaWEN member institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inception meeting was held with the heads/focal points/ representatives from the 9 SLaWEN agencies where the project, aims of SLaWEN and future was discussed.</li> <li>● First Program Development Meeting was held with the participation of 11 initial SLaWEN institutions where important suggestions like developing a Working paper for the formalized networking, information sharing and the investigations.</li> <li>● During the second program development meeting, the working paper was finalized with the comments and suggestions of the SLaWEN institutions which had grown into 15 in number</li> <li>● Final Program Development meeting was held with the heads and focal points of 14 SLaWEN institutions, where all of them agreed to sign the Working Paper to ensure the sustainable and formalized functioning of SLaWEN</li> </ul>	
<p>Activity 2.3 Development of the Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers and network building and assessments by a curriculum development expert.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course curriculum was developed based on the gaps identified by the curriculum development expert in the training systems concerning IWT in the SLaWEN member institutions. Refer to Annex 12</li> </ul>	



Activity 2.4 Conducting a 10-day intensive training on wildlife conservation, trafficking of fauna and flora and the legal recourse available to address IWT and assessments for the assigned SLaWEN officers.		With the participation of 13 institutions, the Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN officers was successfully completed in three sessions, including field sensitization.
<b>Output 3.</b> Judicial enhanced awareness of IWT in Sri Lanka	3.1 Judicial officers with enhanced awareness of IWT across 25 districts by end of year 3. 3.2 40% increase in number of IWT cases relating to project focus species presented in court.	The Awareness and Sensitization program for the Judiciary was held successfully for 3 days in Giritale in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Judges Training Institute, with the participation of 25 Magistrates representing the 25 districts.
3.1 Identifying 25 judicial officers representing the 25 districts in Sri Lanka for the programme.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposal will be submitted to the committee chaired by the Chief Justice of JTI for approval, including the venue, workshop program, biographies of the resource persons, and other pertinent details</li> <li>• Initial communications were made with the Sri Lanka Judges Training Institute and the necessary requests were made. Twenty-five magistrates representing the 25 districts were nominated to participate at the Sensitization Program.</li> </ul>
3.2 Conducting a 3-day field-based workshop in a wildlife rich area for 25 judicial officers. The workshop will expose the judicial officers to the importance of sustainable natural resource management and also galvanize officers creating an appreciation for wildlife protection.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The curriculum was developed with the participation of the project experts and external expertise required were identified.</li> <li>• The training was delivered by the project experts and other academics and experts in the relevant fields for 3 days on a multitude of topics ranging from the Status and evolution of wildlife conservation and management in Sri Lanka to the Impact of wildlife trafficking on conservation and law enforcement - the challenges and risks faced by law enforcement officers. The program was significantly enriched by the field excursion. Refer to the workshop report in Annex 15</li> </ul>
<b>Output 4</b> Relationship building forum launched with Enforcement, Prosecutor and Judiciary representatives.	4.1 30 representatives from the three different sectors participate at the dialogue in year 3.	With the participation of 6 institutions, namely, Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka Police, the Department of Wildlife Conservations, the Department of Forest Conservation, Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard, a retired member of the Judiciary and the Attorney General's Department, the Relationship Building Forum was convened and conducted successfully.
4.1 Round Table Forum with the presence of Enforcement, Prosecutor and Judiciary representatives.		The forum was brought together to bridge the gap between the Judiciary, the Prosecution and the law enforcement of the Government and created a platform for the officers engaging in law enforcement facilitating an open

		discussion on challenges faced by law enforcement and highlighted emerging trends in illegal wildlife trafficking in Sri Lanka,
4.2 The comments of the dialogue are compiled and shared with participants and the SLaWEN.		The minutes of the forum and an activity map with follow up actions were distributed among the law enforcement agencies participated and the experts.
<b>Output 5</b> A mechanism for excellence awards for officers from SLaWEN instigated.	<p>5.1 Guidelines are being developed by a committee for the selection of an enforcement personnel as the awardee by August 2023.</p> <p>5.2 One enforcement personnel awarded per year.</p>	<p>The guidelines were prepared by the project experts which were then finalized by the DWC.</p> <p>The Excellence Awards ceremony was held to motivate and encourage better performance of officers engaged in law enforcement.</p> <p>Five officers from the Department of Forests, four officers from the Department of Wildlife Conservation, two officers from Sri Lanka Customs, and three officers from the Sri Lanka Police were honoured as the “Best Law Enforcement Officers of SLaWEN 2023”</p>
5.1 Excellence awards framework to be developed in consultation with the DWC.		A series of meetings were convened with the experts to develop the guidelines for the selection process, applications and the members of the selection committee initially which were finalized after consulting the DWC. Refer to Annex 17 & 18.
5.2 Implementation of framework / scheme in 2023.		<p>Finalized applications along with the guidelines were sent to the 4 agencies concerned along with the invitations calling nominations were forwarded via Departments via DWC.</p> <p>A separate set of guidelines were circulated with the selection committee consisting of 3 members.</p> <p>All the nominations received by DWC were forwarded to the selection committee were evaluated and the final awardees were selected.</p> <p>The awardees were recognized acknowledging their service for countering IWT in Sri Lanka at the Awards Ceremony.</p>

## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	√
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, <b>do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?</b>	√
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	√
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> 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.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?	√
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.	