



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

Project reference	IWT099
Project title	Securing Chitwan-Sindhuli Green Corridor: strengthening community stewardship and law enforcement
Country(ies)	Nepal
Lead organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partners(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), Himalayan Nature (HN), Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT)
Project leader	Monica Wrobel/Bhagawan Raj Dahal
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	December HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	

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

As the start of the project was delayed owing to a delay in the grant decision, with the grant agreement having only been formally signed between LTS and ZSL during September 2021, there hasn't been much progress in implementation between the start of the project and the end of September. ZSL Nepal has nonetheless conducted preparatory meetings with partners, including the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), Himalayan Nature and Mithila Wildlife Trust, regarding this project. Partner discussions have involved project debriefs, agreement on timelines for project activities and groundwork on communities to provide a strong foundation for implementation from Q3.

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

As the agreement was signed during September, activities that were scheduled for Q1 and Q2 have been rescheduled for Q3 and Q4. This has meant that Year 1 activities, which were otherwise spread out over the year, have now been condensed into a six-month window. There is a need to shift some of the activities to the Year 2 so as to produce quality deliverables. This shift will impact both the budget and the timetable of the project activities but will not impact the overall project implementation period and associated budget.

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

As there were minimal activities implemented during this period, no issues due to COVID-19 have been encountered.

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

Discussed with LTS: No (N/A)

Formal change request submitted: No (N/A)

Received confirmation of change acceptance No (N/A)

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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

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

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

There are no issues that ZSL wants to currently raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring or financial procedures.

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

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

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