



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

Project reference	IWT101
Project title	Disrupting international wildlife trafficking networks in West and Central Africa
Country(ies)	Nigeria and other West and Central African countries
Lead organisation	Environmental Investigation Agency UK
Partners(s)	Africa Nature Investors Foundation
Project leader	Mary Rice
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	01/09/2021 – 30/09/2021 (HYR1)
Project website/blog/social media	N/A

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).

With the project only commencing on 1 September 2021, we have largely been in the planning stages for most activities to ensure we adhere to the agreed Implementation Timetable.

For Output 1, the EIA Intelligence Team have engaged with nine intermediate to high-level target persons of interest for pangolin scale or elephant ivory trafficking in Nigeria, Gabon and Cameroon, through remote investigations (Output 1.1). EIA intelligence has generated a total of thirty (30) confidential reports and summaries on pangolin and ivory trafficking in Nigeria in (please note that this figure does not include intelligence reports generated on wildlife trafficking in other countries of West and Central Africa) since the beginning of the project. Twenty (20) of the thirty intelligence reports concern two main networks of interest i.e., networks we are actively investigating. Furthermore, seven (7) of these reports contain information on the methodology of wildlife traffickers (e.g. the means of payments used, means of concealment for maritime shipments, etc.). We can also report for Output 1.3 that we have disseminated nine (9) intelligence reports on wildlife traffickers operating in Nigeria and other West and Central African countries to a trusted Nigerian law enforcement representative, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria (EFCC), since the beginning of the project.

For Output 2, we have identified a specialist financial crime expert who has agreed to facilitate and provide guidance on the structure of the multi-day workshop on financial investigations for the financial sector and Nigerian government agencies. This individual has agreed to undertake a scoping mission and gap analysis to assess the current capacity for financial investigations and identify opportunities for providing enhanced capability, funded under a complimentary grant from another donor. This analysis will also be used as an iterative tool throughout the duration of the project and will be updated based on lessons learnt and feedback obtained from the financial investigations workshops planned under both grants.

EIA are currently drafting a formal Terms of Reference and consultant agreement for this

individual.

For Output 3.4, there were two submissions of names of traffickers operating in West and Central Africa to the Know Your Customer databases (e.g. Thomson Reuters World-Check/Dow Jones) accepted in September 2021. However, given these were submitted relatively recently, we have not received confirmation that new profiles have been created as of yet.

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.

Given it has only been approximately one month since the project began, we haven't encountered any notable problems or lessons learnt.

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 covered in our recent Change Request accepted by DEFRA, despite our best efforts to organise an in-country investigation in West and Central Africa between September 2021 and March 2022, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, EIA has rescheduled this for year 2. However, EIA investigators have been successful in conducting remote covert investigations and continue to monitor government travel regulations regularly. We are hopeful that with restrictions beginning to ease, EIA investigators and campaign staff will be able to travel safely to the region in 2022-2023 as planned.

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

Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes

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?

N/A

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.**