

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Main & Extra: Annual Report

1. IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	IWTR10S11149
Project title	Strengthening Law Enforcement Responses to Counter IWT in Cameroon
Country/ies	Cameroon
Lead Organisation	Global Conservation
Project partner(s)	APIFED (Appui à l'autopromotion et l'insertion des femmes, des jeunes et des désœuvrés)
IWTCF grant value	£ 582,671
Start/end dates of project	October, 2024 (Adjusted) - April 30, 2027
Reporting period (e.g. April 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	October, 2024 (Adjusted) - April 30, 2025
Project Leader name	Oliver Fankem
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Oliver Fankem and M&E Consultant, April 2025

2. Project summary

This project aims to strengthen law enforcement capacity to reduce illegal wildlife trade in the Dja and Ngoyla reserves in southeast Cameroon.

Poaching of elephant, pangolin, primate, and other endangered wildlife populations has drastically increased in the last two decades. Cameroon has lost over 80,000 African forest elephants, and today, less than 2,000 remain, mostly in Dja Faunal Reserve and Ngoyla National Park in the southeast. In a 2018 report by the Zoological Society of London and Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), the total 219 forest elephants in the Dja Faunal Reserve represented an estimated 85% decline in population size in the park since 1995, primarily attributed to poaching for the illegal wildlife trade. Experts have estimated the extinction of the African forest elephant in Cameroon and greater region within the next 10 years.

Pangolin poaching and trafficking have also drastically increased, driven largely by increasing demand from East Asia, particularly China and Vietnam. GC and its partner, APIFED, are two of the NGOs successfully operating in the southeast region of Cameroon (Djoum, Mintom, Ngoyla, and Lomie), where poaching levels are high.

GC has been working to protect wildlife in the Dja, Ngoyla, and Nki reserves in this region by scaling and strengthening law enforcement capacity to counter illegal wildlife trade through its proven model five-year strategy: the Global Park Defense. Global Park Defense combines park-wide surveillance and communications, community protection, SMART patrolling, investigative and prosecution support, and community development in a proven methodology to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

Exacerbated by weak law enforcement coordination and lacking local sustainable livelihoods, illegal wildlife trade continues to flourish, threatening the survival of key endangered and threatened species. This project is taking a multi-disciplined two-pronged approach to 1) strengthen law enforcement capacity and 2) develop sustainable livelihood alternatives, including Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and ecotourism markets, ultimately reducing illegal wildlife trade in the Djoum-Mintom-Ngoyla-Lomie region of Cameroon.

3. Project stakeholders/ partners

Our lead partner organisation, APIFED (Appui à l'autopromotion et l'insertion des femmes, des jeunes et des désœuvrés) has brought valuable experience in training and organising women and indigenous communities in the sustainable collection and processing of high-value NTFP commodities through cooperatives. APIFED has contributed to activities pertaining to ecotourism and NTFP market development located in the greater Djoum-Mintom region, as the organisation has local staff working on the ground already with the villages in this area.

GC is also in partnership with the University of Washington's Center for Environmental Forensic Science (CEFS), building on four years of collaboration with CEFS' Dr. Sam Wasser. At the start of the project, Dr. Wasser developed and shared a protocol for stocking, identifying, and securing ivory samples with the project team. CEFS will continue to support GC in an advisory capacity, given its history of collaboration with GC and expertise in the field.

GC is also working closely with government stakeholders. The project was developed in close collaboration with key partners, including the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), the Conservation Services of the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves, and the local NGO APFED. Fully supported by MINFOF, the project responds to the Ministry's expressed need for innovative approaches to combating the illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

During the first year of implementation, specifically over the last six months, we have strengthened our relationship with the Courts of First Instance within the project area and have expanded our collaboration with law enforcement agencies, including Nsimalen Airport authorities, field customs officers, and the police and gendarmerie in Djoum, Mintom, and Ngoyla. These partnerships are crucial to ensuring the project's effective execution and maximizing its impact.

Additionally, we have identified a new partner to support the establishment of an ethics and code of conduct framework for law enforcement officers. This mechanism is key to ensuring that MINFOF's monitoring and deployment activities are conducted with integrity, transparency, and respect for human rights, and that any allegations of misconduct are reported and addressed independently through a third party entity. This initiative is part of a broader program supported by multiple donors, including the European Union, which will allow collaboration with MINFOF and local communities across the protected area, while upholding community rights. To support these efforts, GC's community engagement team has dedicated considerable time to building trust with local communities, applying Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes to help guide and inform their work.

GC is also focused on strengthening the capacity of local authorities via the local tourism council and empowering communities who are actively involved in the monitoring and

sustainable management of natural resources. This is achieved through the development of non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains and the creation of village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). By adopting these strategies, we foster trust with local communities and secure support in stemming IWT, notably through the establishment and operation of a community surveillance network (CSN) in these trusted communities.

4. Project progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activity 1.1 Conduct four 5-day training sessions for 60 Dja and Ngoyla rangers (15 participants per session) in patrol tactics, evidence and information gathering and sharing in Lomie and Djoum.

Progress has been made on this activity, with two 5-day training sessions held for 9 participants in the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves in Lomie, in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). The first session, held from February 18-22, covered topics such as the regional and global illegal wildlife trade, intelligence evaluation, handling and dissemination, patrols skills, and well-being in the field. The second session, held from February 23-28 covered conflict de-escalation, principles for searching individuals and vehicles, crime scene management and first aid, and notebook theory and exercises. In our Change Request, this has been moved to Quarter 2 of Year 2. See attached Annex 1 for the training reports and attendance sheets from both sessions.

Activity 1.2 Deliver four 2-day training sessions to 40 CAAT customs officers at Yaoundé and Douala airports and seaports on IWT and product identification and concealment methods (10 participants per session) to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

Progress has been made on this activity, including preparations for one of the four 2-day training sessions, which was hosted for 20 law enforcement officers (LEOs) on April 28- 29. Prior to the training sessions, visits were made to the airport of Nsimalen on 17 December 2024, 29 January 2025 and 13 February 2025 to present the IWT grants and planned activities to airport police, customs officers, airport security, MINFOF rangers, and the gendarmerie. These visits allowed all stakeholders to collectively agree on a suitable training date, which was ultimately set for 28-29 April 2025. Planning is underway for a second training for 20 additional LEOs in Douala. In our Change Request, this has been moved to Quarter 2 of Year 2.

Activity 1.3 Provide mentorship and equipment to MINFOF for anti-poaching patrols in Dja and Ngoyla Reserves utilising the SMART protection approach.

The mentorship is underway and is characterised by GC continuing to enhance the capacity of the Dja and Ngoyla Conservation Services. This has included organizing a refresher training and a more technical management training on the implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), held from 27-30 November 2024, with a particular emphasis on data querying, analysis and reporting for both new and existing staff. We have worked to standardize the SMART data model and configurable model across the landscapes and have invited three rangers from ANPN (working in Minkebe) for experience sharing. The collaboration with ANPN (Agence des parcs nationaux du Gabon) is a way to open the dialogue with the Minkebe team following the signing of a collaboration agreement between GC and ANPN on 12 February 2025. The Collaboration Agreement is included in attached Annex 2.

In addition, we have configured the EarthRanger instance for the TRIDOM landscape (which includes the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves) in late March 2025, and we are currently in the testing phase. Furthermore, we provided the MINFOF conservation services (also in the Dja and

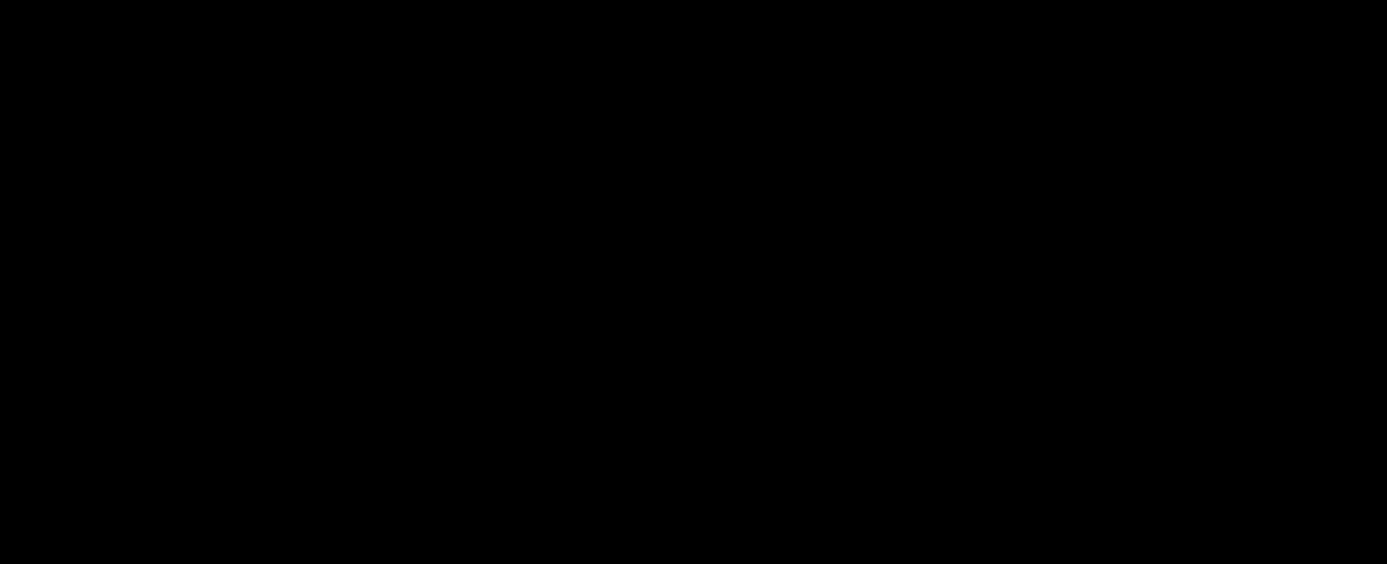
Ngoyla reserves) with additional field equipment, including backpacks, tents, headlamps, sleeping mat, tarpaulins. For individual equipment, we have provided 20 MINFOF uniforms and 20 pairs of rubber boots. There have been 24 10-day patrols in the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves and their wider periphery. These patrols covered over 20% of the GC area of action including the interzone (the area between protected areas within TRIDOM extending to the Gabon border). The total percentage of patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5km² grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once. See attached Annex 3 for patrol reports and photos.

GC supported road patrols have led to 8 interdictions and seizures of bushmeat along the Djomedjoh-Lomie axis between October 2024 and March 2025, although no cases were submitted to the courts.



Activity 1.5 Train 20 Community Surveillance Network (CSN) members from 4 pre-identified communities on evidence collection and information sharing using Sapelli software.





Activity 1.6 Identify elephant poaching hotspots through DNA forensic analysis of large ivory seizures to better inform law enforcement patrol efforts.

Initial progress has been made on this Activity, however, gaining access to existing seized ivory stockpiles is delaying progress. There has been government resistance to share samples due to its increased focus on ensuring more security following previous scrutiny over inadequate stockpile controls.

In the early stages of the project, a protocol developed by Dr. Sam Wasser's University of Washington's lab for stocking, identifying, and securing ivory samples was shared with this project team. GC is now working with the government to obtain a CITES permit and is looking into supporting the revision of the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) to allow the seized ivory stockpile to be accessed for DNA analysis.

As the most feasible approach, the team is shifting focus toward accessing new seizures rather than older highly-secured stockpiles. The Cameroonian government seems more amenable to allowing samples from new ivory seizures, which can then be taken to a forensic lab in Gabon for DNA analysis. The team is already in discussion with this lab, and has signed an MOU with Gabon's ANPN. If the project team is unable to access the older samples over the next period, a Change Request may be submitted to use Gabon's lab for sampling instead. We will keep DEFRA apprised of any future challenges.

This activity will require some time but we anticipate it will be achieved. In our Change Request, this has been moved to Quarter 4 of Year 2 and Quarter 1 of Year 3.

Activity 2.1 Conduct an ecotourism feasibility study, including an NTFP market analysis, for Dja and Ngoyla reserves in collaboration with a Cameroon registered tour operator and the Djoum, Mintom, and Ngoyla tourism councils.

The feasibility study is underway and will be completed by the July timeframe outlined in the original workplan.

Activity 2.2 Host four 3-day workshops for a total of 100 NTFP producers, buyers, and exporters to discuss NTFP processing, storage, access, and transport (25 participants per session).

Progress has been made on this Activity. The team has hosted one 3-day workshop in Djoum for a total of 23 participants (15 women and 8 men) from 24-26 March 2025. See Annex 7 for the workshop report and attendance list.

In Lomie, the team has instead adopted a “village cluster” approach to emerge within the communities and deepen understanding of community dynamics and needs. The five clusters were centered around Djebe (11 people), Djomedjoh (17 people), Payo (12 people), Nonedjoh (13 people) Mintom (28 people). This approach allowed the team the opportunity to listen to different community actors, and will inform the development of the next workshop in Lomie. See Annex 8 for the focus group report and attendance sheets.

Since we have concluded half of Activity 2.2 this has informed the team in order to successfully execute Activities 2.3 and 2.4.

Activity 2.3 Deliver six 4-day training sessions for a total of 60 NTFP market members from 6 common initiative groups on NTFP best practices on NTFP collection, drying, packaging, storage, transformation (10 participants per session)

While these training sessions have not begun yet, the workshops held under Activity 2.2 have been useful in preparing the trainings, and provide the team with a better understanding of the market challenges.

Activity 2.4 Develop a comprehensive guidebook on NTFP market information and best practices for NTFP collection, harvesting, processing, and packaging.

Progress has been made on this Activity. We have been in discussions with Ecotrading, a local NGO that develops similar guidebooks. We have discussed the weakness of the Ecotrading-APIFED guidebook, and are exploring ways to improve it, such as incorporating additional NTFP best practices and enhancing the book’s presentation and design.

Activity 2.5 Host two 2-day workshops with APIFED, the local tourism councils, and community representatives to map potential sustainable tourism attractions and available infrastructure.

Progress has been made on this Activity. The project team has conducted one 2-day workshop held on 27-28 March 2025 in Djoum. See Annex 9 for the workshop report, attendee list, and draft ecotourism map.

The planning for the second training is underway and set to be held in Lomie during July 2025.

In our Financial Change Request form, funding for this Activity has been moved to Year 2 in the budget.

Activity 2.6 Conduct one workshop in each of 8 targeted communities’ tourism clubs on available community ecotourism packages and gain community buy-in through a signed formal agreement.

This Activity is set to be completed on time in Year 2. Planning and discussions are underway with our APIFED project partner.

Activity 2.7 Conduct training for 50 community members from all 8 communities’ tourism clubs on ecotourism skills, including boat piloting, forest campsite management, English language, wilderness guides, birding, and cooking.

This activity is set to be completed on time in Year 3.

4.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Strengthened law enforcement capacity to identify, interdict, and arrest wildlife criminals in Cameroon. This Output is being measured by the number of individuals trained and mentored (Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 1.5), the number of patrols carried out (Indicator 1.3), the number of cameras deployed (Indicator 1.4) and ivory samples collected and analyzed (Indicator 1.6).

At project inception, enforcement agencies in Cameroon lacked sufficient training in rights-based policing approaches, had limited operational equipment, and coordination between enforcement bodies was weak. This is why the first project Output aims to strengthen law enforcement capacity. The project has made considerable progress in this respect, largely through targeted training, mentorship, and provision of equipment.

Trainings conducted to date include two 5-day training sessions under Activity 1.1, which introduced rangers to patrol tactics focused on human rights, de-escalation and community-based policing approaches. Under Activity 1.2, one of the four planned 2-day sessions have been hosted for customs officials, covering IWT product identification and concealment techniques. Under Activity 1.3, mentorship for MINFOF-led anti-poaching patrols is underway, along with the provision of essential operational equipment.

The project has made progress in identifying IWT routes through the deployment of camera traps along the Cameroon-Gabon border under Activity 1.4. While we originally planned to use real-time technology, the team has taken an alternative approach, with 8 standard cameras set up along the Cameroon side of the border to study current trends and trafficking methods. The team will deploy SMART ranger patrols to monitor the areas around the cameras. Using confirmed matched funding, the team plans to deploy an additional 6 cameras on the Gabon side to complement this activity's goals. This initiative is directly enhancing law enforcement's ability to identify, interdict, and ultimately arrest IWT criminals.

Significant progress has also been made in strengthening relationships with both government authorities and NGO partners. Due to the challenging environment, few NGOs have the capacity or established working relationships with local law enforcement agencies to effectively operate in Cameroon. GC is one of the only NGOs operating alongside local authorities and MINFOF in southeast Cameroon. Prior to and throughout the project's implementation, ongoing conversations and meetings with Cameroonian government authorities have fostered ownership of anti-poaching initiatives, enhancing the sustainability of outcomes post-project. Additionally, GC has been making a strong effort to collaborate with NGO partners, including with ZSL and planned engagement with WWF and AWF, in order to take a unified approach to align training materials, ensuring a coordinated, long-term response to combating IWT.

Output 2: Local communities impacted by enhanced law enforcement capacity are protected and empowered through the development of sustainable livelihood alternatives. This Output is being measured by the distribution of an ecotourism feasibility study (Indicator 2.1), the number of NTFP participants trained (Indicators 2.2 and 2.3), the distribution of an NTFP guidebook (Indicator 2.4), and the number of ecotourism trainings and workshops (Indicators 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7).

While other initiatives to reduce IWT in Cameroon have focused solely on enhancing law enforcement capacity, they have not addressed one of the key underlying drivers of community involvement: a lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities. To mitigate the impact of enhanced law enforcement capacity on poachers' livelihoods, and to reduce drivers of IWT, the project is

providing two sustainable livelihood alternatives: a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) market and an ecotourism market.

NTFP markets are an effective way to empower communities with a sustainable livelihood. Prior to project implementation, support for establishing and developing these markets was minimal and under-resourced. Communities in the project area have faced challenges in the commercialization of NTFPs, including market access, establishing fair prices, weak bargaining power, transportation difficulties, and weak cooperatives and governance structures.

To build these markets, gaining trust and buy-in from communities is essential. Targeted engagement with communities well underway. The project team has hosted 2 out of the 3 planned 3-day workshops included in Activity 2.2, covering NTFP processing, storage, access, and transport with producers, buyers, and exporters. The team has also been working with Ecotrader, a local NGO, to develop the NTFP guidebook, which will serve as a continued resource after project completion.

Unlike the NTFP market, no formal ecotourism market exists in Cameroon, although community members have expressed interest in participating in such a market if resources and training becomes available. To establish an effective ecotourism market, the project team is working with local tourism councils to develop an ecotourism feasibility study, included in Activity 2.1, which is expected to be completed in the next quarter of the project. The team has hosted one of two 2-day workshops in Activity 2.5 to map potential sustainable tourism attractions and available infrastructure. In the next phase of the project, the team will host workshops to gain community buy-in through signed agreements, and to train community members from all 8 communities on a wide range of ecotourism skills.

These initiatives not only aim to establish alternative livelihoods but are also expected to contribute to long-term poverty reduction. We are currently preparing questionnaires to identify household income baselines and have set targets for at least a 15% average increase in income per household in project communities by the end of year 2, and 35% by the end of the project.

Overall, the project is on track to achieve its stated Outputs by the completion date. The capacity-building efforts for law enforcement, combined with robust community engagement and livelihood support, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable impact. Monitoring tools are in place to capture changes through both quantitative and qualitative indicators, with evidence included in the Annex of the report.

4.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The Outcome of this project is to establish skilled law enforcement in the Dja and Ngoyla reserves, combined with the development of alternative sustainable livelihoods to IWT, resulting in decreased poaching and enhanced socio-economic community development. The indicators selected to measure progress toward this outcome remain adequate and aligned with the intended goals. However, because the project only began in November, it is early to provide a full picture of progress against the year 1 targets.

The project team is making active progress on the 3 Outcome indicators that have targets set for year 1.

Indicator 0.2 sets a target for 1 serious wildlife crime to be submitted for prosecution by the end of year 1, and at least 4 by the end of the project. At this stage of the project, no cases have been submitted, but we anticipate that this will be completed in the coming months.

Indicator 0.6 sets a target of at least 20 wildlife seizures made by Dja and Ngoyla rangers and CAAT members by the end of year 1 and at least 60 by the end of year 2. Between October

2024 and April 2025, approximately 8 seizures have been made. We anticipate achieving a total of 20 seizures by October 2025 (the first year of the project).

Finally, Indicator 0.8 sets a target for a 15% reduction in poaching incidents of endangered species reported by law enforcement in Dja and Ngoyla reserves by the end of year 1 and 30% by the end of the project. As it has only been 6 months, it is early to assess the change in poaching incidents. This will be evaluated in the next reporting period.

4.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome and Output level assumptions largely hold true, with the following updates.

In our application form, we included an assumption that trail guard cameras work with satellite signals to relay real-time information with minimum maintenance. This assumption did not hold true, as accessing real-time technology was not feasible. Remote canopy landscapes have made accessing satellite technology difficult, and needed GSM technology is not readily available yet. GC has taken effective measures to manage this unforeseen challenge. The team has deployed 8 normal cameras along the Cameroon side of the border, researched the trends and modus operandi of trafficking routes, and will deploy SMART ranger patrols to monitor the areas around the cameras. Using confirmed matched funding, the team plans to deploy an additional 6 cameras on the Gabon side to complement this activity's goals.

An additional assumption to consider is that gaining access to the stockpiles has been more challenging than anticipated. There has been government resistance to share samples due to its increased focus on ensuring security following recent scrutiny over inadequate controls. This has delayed implementation of project activities, particularly Activity 1.6. GC is taking many measures to work around this challenge. GC is in discussion with a forensic lab in Gabon that is already sampling new ivory seizures, and has signed an MOU with Gabon's ANAC. If the project team is unable to access the samples over the next period, a Change Request may be submitted to use Gabon's lab for sampling new seizures instead. As alternative options, GC is working with the government to obtain a CITES permit, and is looking into the ability to revise the NIAP to allow the stockpiles to be accessed for DNA analysis.

There have been no changes to the remaining assumptions at this stage of the project.

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

The project is contributing to higher-level impacts on both IWT and human development by addressing root causes and enabling systemic change through strengthened law enforcement, community engagement, institutional partnerships, and alternative livelihood opportunities. These combined efforts create a sustainable foundation for long-term impact in the region.

As outlined in our original application form, the project contributes to tackling the IWT, specifically the protection of highly vulnerable and trafficked species in Cameroon, including the African forest elephant, pangolins, gorillas, chimpanzees, and parrots. We have deployed eight camera traps with dedicated ranger patrols along the Cameroon-Gabon border. This system is allowing us to monitor the modus operandi of wildlife traffickers and map IWT trafficking routes, informing more strategic enforcement measures.

In April, we conducted trainings with rangers from Dja and Ngoyla, covering tactical and investigation methods. In parallel, GC has equipped MINFOF with essential equipment for anti-poaching patrols utilizing the SMART protection approach. With GC's ongoing support, MINFOF will continue with SMART patrolling in the two reserves, ensuring that law enforcement remains capable and equipped to combat the IWT beyond the lifetime of the project.

Additionally, GC's IWT Investigator is complimenting the ranger patrols and evidence collection using camera traps. He is also working in Djoum and Mintom areas to track traffickers that will likely lead to arrests, supported in part by a European grant that is overlapping with this project. **In March 2025, the investigator established contact with wildlife traffickers in southern Cameroon and near the Congo border, confirming the presence of ivory, pangolin scales, and parrot feather trafficking networks. See Annex 10 for this field report.**

To strengthen the overall response to IWT, we have adopted a unified approach to training in partnership with other NGOs operating in the same region. This collaboration, including work with ZSL and planned engagement with WWF and AWF, has helped us identify training needs and strategies in a more holistic way. This will allow us to have a common vision for the type of knowledge we are bringing to people in the community, tailoring training content to the needs of local communities and enforcement actors.

The project will directly address poverty reduction through the promotion of sustainable livelihood alternatives. The project is on track to train 210+ community members to effectively participate in ecotourism and NTFP markets, providing them and their families with increased income, enabling access to healthcare and the ability for children to attend school. Further details on the project's progress on sustainable livelihood alternative activities are included in Question 6.

To develop these markets effectively, the project team has been engaging with local communities, allowing the team to identify conservation challenges and helping communities understand the tangible value of conservation. By engaging in dialogues with local communities, the project is already enabling communities to see the added value of conservation, and local residents are beginning to recognize how conservation contributes to their daily livelihoods. We have also engaged with local tourism councils to promote the long-term value of conservation and its potential as an alternative to poaching. These conversations are helping shift community perspectives and foster greater collaboration with conservation NGOs in the long term.

5. Thematic focus

This project aligns with the two core themes of the IWTCF: strengthening law enforcement and developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT. Both themes remain central to the project's activities and implementation

To strengthen law enforcement, the project is actively building the capacity of relevant agencies to detect and respond to wildlife crime more effectively. Rangers, customs officers, and members of the CAAT unit are receiving targeted training to improve surveillance, interdiction, and intelligence-sharing efforts. Additionally, the deployment of trail cameras and SMART patrols along the Cameroon-Gabon border has enhanced our ability to monitor trafficking routes and identify hotspots.

A notable achievement in this area has been the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Gabon. This marks a significant step forward in fostering political buy-in, supporting cross-border collaboration, and ensuring the project can be implemented effectively across both countries.

To develop sustainable livelihoods, we have laid important groundwork for long-term impact through the NTFP markets and community-led ecotourism initiatives. GC has been engaging with local tourism councils to promote conservation as a viable economic opportunity and to shift community perspectives on the value of conservation. By providing training, equipment, and logistical support, the project is helping ensure that these new livelihood options become self-sustaining over time. As these initiatives mature, we expect to see reduced community reliance on IWT and greater participation in conservation-based economic activities.

6. Impact on species in focus

This project has enhanced the protection of highly vulnerable and trafficked species in Cameroon, including the African forest elephant, pangolins, gorillas, chimpanzees, and parrots. Trainings conducted to date have covered topics such as techniques to identify these species. In the long term, the populations of these species are expected to grow and show improved conservation status.

In our project logframe, Indicators 0.6, 1.4 and 1.6 directly relate to the protection of these species. Under Indicator 0.6, a target was set for at least 20 wildlife seizures to be made by Dja and Ngoyla rangers and CAAT members by the end of year 1, and at least 60 by the end of year 2. Between October 2024 and April 2025, approximately 8 seizures have been made. We anticipate achieving a total of 20 seizures by October 2025 (the first year of the project).

Under Indicator 1.4, a target was set for 6 real-time cameras to be deployed on the trails along the Cameroon-Gabon border by the end of year 1. This has been achieved, with 8 cameras deployed along the Cameroon side of the border. This will allow law enforcement officers to identify, map, and monitor key trafficking hotspots and routes. With confirmed matched funding, the team plans to deploy an additional 6 cameras along the Gabon side.

Under Indicator 1.6, a target was set for at least 30 ivory samples to undergo DNA forensic analysis by the end of year 1, and 60 by the end of year 2. Due to difficulties in accessing government stockpiles of seized ivory, this target has not yet been met. However, progress is ongoing. The team is using a protocol developed by the University of Washington, working to secure a CITES permit and looking into supporting the revision of the NIAP. In the next phase of the project, the team will focus on accessing new seizures rather than the heavily secured older stockpiles. These measures are crucial in enabling DNA analysis, which will reveal vital information on the African forest elephants and ultimately help protect the fewer than 2,000 remaining elephants before it is too late.

7. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project is contributing to multidimensional poverty reduction through two main avenues: strengthening law enforcement capacity, and supporting alternative livelihoods.

The project supports multidimensional poverty reduction by improving job outcomes for LEOs, increasing the likelihood of promotion and career development. Training, followed by ongoing mentorship, will ensure skills obtained during training become institutionalised within the ranger and customs units, and that other law enforcement officials will have access to this institutional knowledge.

The project team has made progress on the LEO trainings in Activities 1.1 and 1.2. The team hosted two 5-day training sessions on patrol tactics, evidence and information gathering and sharing, as well as one 2-day training session on IWT and product identification and concealment methods to strengthen law enforcement engagement, responses and broader wildlife investigations. These sessions have placed a strong emphasis on human rights, first aid, and tactical fieldwork, introducing participants to principles of community-based policing and de-escalation techniques. This approach is fundamentally changing the way trained rangers interact with communities and operate in the field.

The project will also support poverty reduction through the development of alternative livelihood markets, including a sustainable non-timber forest production (NTFP) market, ecotourism feasibility study, community workshops, and ecotourism skills development. The NTFP market, supported by newly empowered community members, will generate additional family income,

enabling access to healthcare and the ability for children to attend school – both key indicators of multidimensional poverty reduction.

Progress has been made toward the development of the NTFP market in Activities 2.1 and 2.2. The ecotourism feasibility study, which includes an NTFP market analysis, for Dja and Ngoyla reserves, is underway, and the team has hosted 2 3-day workshops for NTFP producers, buyers, and exporters to discuss NTFP processing, storage, access, and transport. The team has also begun to develop a comprehensive guidebook on NTFP market information and best practices.

Indicators 0.3 and 0.5 set targets for increases in household income in the project area by the end of Year 2 and the end of the project. To make progress toward these indicators, the project team has been going into communities, engaging with households and building trust, and will soon disseminate a questionnaire to identify baselines for the indicators.

8. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The GESI context has been considered throughout the design and implementation of this project. Our approach is rooted in the understanding that biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation often disproportionately affect women and marginalised groups, and that conservation efforts must actively promote inclusion to avoid reinforcing existing inequalities.

Taking a gender sensitive approach, GC is working to encourage female participation in training sessions and is actively promoting the hiring of women as rangers and community scouts, which are roles traditionally held by men. We recognize that women's unpaid care responsibilities often limit their ability to participate in development and training activities. To address this, we are ensuring that training sessions and community events are scheduled with flexibility and accessibility in mind. We also design activities that align with women's existing responsibilities and spaces, such as community-based NTFP collection, to maximise their ability to engage meaningfully. In the next phase of the project, GC and APIFED will be committed to ensuring that at least 50% of participants in the NTFP workshops and training events are female.

Additionally, the project team is engaging with local communities to understand existing inequalities and to raise awareness of the value of gender-inclusive conservation. When developing the materials for the workshop and training sessions, the project team is conducting interviews with female community members involved in the NTFP market for their input on challenges females face in accessing, contributing to, and navigating the market. Training will then be tailored as needed to address these concerns.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes currently in place are suitable to track the project's progress and impact. No significant changes have been made to the M&E plan over the period, aside from the minor adjustments to activity completion dates and indicator targets, as outlined in the Change Request form. These modifications were included to ensure the monitoring framework more accurately reflects the project implementation timeline and provides a clearer picture of progress.

The primary monitoring and evaluation tools for this project include community surveys, household questionnaires, court case files, training reports, pre- and post-training evaluations, seizure reports, arrest records, and interviews with community members. These tools offer a mix of qualitative and quantitative data, allowing the team to measure achievements and assess how specific activities are contributing to the broader project outcome.

As the project lead, GC is responsible for all of the M&E, hiring a consultant to ensure that reporting remains organised, timely, and compliant with DEFRA's requirements. To maintain consistency and accountability, the project team conducts monthly meetings to track performance and compare progress against indicators. These meetings also provide an opportunity to reflect on progress and consider possible adjustments to project structure or activities.

10. Lessons learnt

Although the project is in its early stages, several initial lessons have already emerged that are helping to shape our ongoing implementation approach.

First, there was an inevitable delay in getting started, as the award was received in late September and implementation activities only began in late-October and November. This was a challenging time to start the project as it is the start of the national holiday season where most things are not open, and because of the first presidential elections that were held in Gabon since the 2023 military coup. A Constitutional Referendum was held in November 2024, establishing a seven-year presidential term, and the presidential election took place on April 12, 2025. Once the award was received, recruitment took some time, approximately two months, in order to ensure a fair, transparent, and competitive process. This, coupled with the fact that the original workplan was developed according to the project's calendar year rather than DEFRA's fiscal year, resulted in the need to condense a year's worth of planned activities into less than six months to align with DEFRA's reporting cycle.

One of our early successes has been our ability to adapt to unforeseen technical challenges with the use of real-time cameras along the Cameroon-Gabon border. The use of real-time technology proved unfeasible due to the remote canopy terrain and inaccessibility of satellite technology. In response, we adapted our approach and are using standard cameras in combination with SMART ranger patrols to replicate the intended surveillance and monitoring functions. This approach has allowed us to continue monitoring priority areas effectively despite

technical limitations. We have deployed 8 cameras on the Cameroon side, and with confirmed matched funding, we intend to deploy 6 more on the Gabon side.

Gaining access to secure ivory stockpiles has also proven more difficult than anticipated, as we have previously secured them from other government and NGO donors in recent years. With the government currently enforcing strict controls on existing stockpiles, we've learned that accessing newly seized ivory may be more feasible than accessing the old ones. This may be beneficial, offering more up-to-date information on current trafficking routes and networks.

Working with local NGO partners such as APIFED has highlighted the importance of alignment in working styles and expectations. While these partners are active and committed, they often focus more on immediate administrative processes rather than strategic, results-based outcomes. This has required us to invest additional time in aligning priorities and clarifying deliverables.

Finally, engaging with park wardens has also come with logistical challenges, as their participation often incurs coordination costs and requires advance planning to ensure attendance. In future phases, we plan to build small coordination budgets into project plans to better facilitate their involvement.

We are using these early insights to refine our implementation and evaluation strategies. We have submitted a Change Request to extend specific project activities due to the delayed start date, and to revise specific indicators due to the condensed year 1 reporting period.

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

Not applicable.

12. Risk Management

No new risks have emerged since the start of the project. However, the team has made minor but important adaptations in response to implementation challenges.

First, we have adapted our approach to the use of real-time cameras. An unexpected challenge arose with the deployment of real-time cameras due to the remote canopy terrain and the lack of GSM network coverage in key areas. As a result, transmitting real-time data has proven difficult. In response, the team adapted by using standard (non-real-time) cameras to monitor trafficking activity. These cameras have successfully provided intelligence on traffickers' modus operandi, allowing us to strategically deploy SMART patrols in high-risk areas. This workaround has enhanced patrol efficiency and helped compensate for the technological limitations.

We have also adapted our approach to accessing ivory stockpiles. Another unanticipated challenge has been the high level of government security surrounding older ivory stockpiles, which has limited our ability to collect samples for DNA analysis. The project has taken measures to address this risk, including sharing a draft protocol, working toward obtaining a CITES permit, and considering supporting NIAP revision. As the most feasible approach, the team is shifting focus toward accessing new seizures rather than older highly-secured stockpiles. These new seizures can then be taken to the forensic lab in Gabon for DNA analysis.

Finally, GC will continue to monitor the risk of social and political unrest in the coming year, as Cameroon will hold a presidential election on October 5, 2025. As we originally included in the Risk Register, political instability and social unrest has the potential to reduce the volume of tourists visiting the area, and as such, could impact the viability of the ecotourism initiatives included in this project. However, GC has decades of experience operating in Cameroon, including during previous election cycles, and is well-versed in adapting activities to evolving

security conditions. Our work is primarily community-based and conservation-focused, conducted in relatively remote areas, and we anticipate that project activities will largely continue without major disruption. GC field offices will remain vigilant, closely monitoring and reporting any unrest if it occurs, and will adjust field operations as needed to ensure the safety of staff and partners.

13. Scalability and durability

The project will likely have a scalable and sustained legacy through law enforcement training, stakeholder relationship building, community engagement, and sustainable livelihood alternatives.

Training and Institutional Capacity

The training of rangers and customs officers is central to building long-term investigative and law enforcement capacity and developing pathways to support cross-departmental exchange of information. By mentoring and equipping ranger patrols, GC ensures rangers are able to effectively apply the skills and knowledge gained through the training, ultimately increasing long-term institutional capacity.

Stakeholder Relationships and Institutional Alignment

To ensure long-lasting impact, GC has strengthened partnerships with key government stakeholders. In Cameroon, this includes formal project agreements with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), specifically through the Conservation Service operating in the Dja and Ngoyla reserves. In Gabon, GC has signed an MoU with the National Agency for National Parks (ANPN), establishing a framework for collaboration that supports broader regional conservation efforts.

GC is building on its long-standing relationship with MINFOF, including specific project agreements with the Conservation Service of MINFOF in Dja and Ngoyla reserves. GC is building upon its existing relationship with Cameroon's elite, port-based, multi-agency anti-smuggling units, the CAAT unit, which is composed of law enforcement agents from police, gendarmerie, customs, and MINFOF. After rangers are trained, MINFOF, supported by GC, will continue to increase the use of SMART patrolling within the two reserves, complemented by the provision of equipment, communications systems, and software by GC. Our partnerships with both governments are supporting the institutional frameworks needed for the project's sustained, high-level impact on IWT.

Community Engagement

A key enabling factor in the project's long-term success has been meaningful engagement with local communities. Through continuous dialogue, communities have not only helped identify key conservation challenges but have also come to better understand the tangible benefits of conservation. There is growing recognition among local residents of the role conservation plays in supporting sustainable livelihoods.

We have also engaged with local tourism councils to promote the long-term value of conservation and its potential as an alternative to poaching. These conversations are already contributing to a shift in local attitudes and fostering stronger collaboration between communities and conservation NGOs.

Sustainable Livelihoods and Market Development

GC is supporting the development of both the NTFP market and ecotourism initiative, including equipping, training, and coordinating logistics. Once the markets are established with GC support, they shall remain self-sustainable based on supply and demand. The NTFP market

can be scaled by connecting more producers, suppliers, buyers, and exporters and increasing training. Likewise, the ecotourism initiative can be scaled to include more communities and attractions. Additionally, the comprehensive guidebook on NTFP best practices and market information, as well as the ecotourism feasibility study, will ensure key information is available to all project stakeholders, particularly community members, after the project term has ended to ensure continued market success.

The project can be further scaled to engage with Gabon in the TRIDOM area as GC has been working with the National Agency for National Parks (ANPN) to strengthen law enforcement responses to illegal wildlife trade.

14. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The project has actively recognised the support of the IWT Challenge Fund (IWTCF) by incorporating the IWTCF logo on banners used during field activities and official project events. These visual materials have helped to showcase the Fund's contribution to the initiative.

The UK Government's role, specifically through DEFRA and the IWTCF, has been communicated to implementing partners and relevant government agencies. These stakeholders are aware of DEFRA's role as the donor, and the IWTCF has been identified as the funding mechanism behind the project. The IWTCF-funded initiative is recognised as a distinct project, although it complements and reinforces broader organizational goals.

Due to the sensitive nature of our work in combating illegal wildlife trade, particularly where law enforcement operations are involved, we have not used social media to publicize project activities. This is to ensure the safety and effectiveness of ongoing operations.

15. Safeguarding

16.

17. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2024-March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	207,558	127,165		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Fidelity Charitable DAF Johnson Family Foundation
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

18. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

19. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

20. Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Countering the illegal wildlife trade in Cameroon through increased law enforcement capacity and the creation of sustainable NTFP and community based ecotourism markets for inclusive growth.</p>	<p>The project has made strong initial progress toward protecting highly vulnerable species in Cameroon, with eight camera traps deployed, eight wildlife product seizures made, and ranger trainings delivered on species identification and anti-poaching tactics. Parallel efforts are advancing multidimensional poverty reduction through law enforcement capacity-building and the development of sustainable livelihood markets, including two NTFP workshops and the development of an ecotourism feasibility study.</p>	
<p>Outcome Skilled law enforcement in the Dja and Ngoyla reserves, combined with the development of alternative sustainable livelihoods to IWT, resulting in decreased poaching and enhanced socio-economic community development</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1 By the end of the project, at least 100 community members report at least a 30% decrease in unsustainable practices (e.g., poaching, illegal logging, and NTFP processing lost/waste). [IWTCF- A15] core indicator</p>	<p>The team has made progress on this indicator through community engagement, NTFP workshops and focus group discussions. Progress toward this indicator will be assessed at the end of the project.</p>	<p>The team will continue to develop the NTFP market, which will reduce community members' reliance on unsustainable practices.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2 At least 1 serious wildlife crime case submitted for prosecution by the end of year 1 and at least 4 serious wildlife crime cases submitted for prosecution by the end of the project [IWTCF- B12] – core indicator</p>	<p>At this stage of the project, no cases have been submitted.</p>	<p>We anticipate that this will be completed in the coming months.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.3 At least an 15% average increase in income per household in project communities by the end of year 2; 35% by the end of the project. Baseline will be determined through a questionnaire to households at the start of the project. [IWTCF-A14]</p>	<p>The team is engaging with the community to gain understanding and build trust before disseminating the baseline questionnaire.</p>	<p>The baseline questionnaire will be disseminated to households in the next phase of the project.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4 At least 80% of the training participants report they are applying the skills and knowledge gained from training 6 months after their training session. This includes the participants for the various training sessions under activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.3, and 2.7. [IWTCF-A02] - core indicator.</p>	<p>Progress toward this indicator has been made as GC has now trained several individuals with valuable skills and knowledge. The indicator will be assessed 6 months after the training sessions are conducted.</p>	<p>Once the trainings are completed, the project team will conduct post-training evaluations to assess impact on participants.</p>

Outcome indicator 0.5 At least 100 households demonstrate at least a 30% increase in household income as a result of participation in NTFP and ecotourism markets. Baseline to be identified through income questionnaires/survey to households at the start of the project. [IWTCF-A13]	Progress will be made on this indicator once the NTFP and ecotourism markets are developed and operational.	The baseline questionnaire will be disseminated to households over the reporting period.
Outcome indicator 0.6 A total of at least 20 wildlife seizures are made by Dja and Ngoyla rangers and CAAT members by the end of year 1; at least 60 by the end of year 2. [IWTCF-B07]	Between October 2024 and April 2025, approximately 8 seizures have been made. We anticipate achieving a total of 20 seizures by October 2025 (the first year of the project).	The team will continue to support and equip rangers and CAAT members to make seizures.
Outcome indicator 0.7 At least 2 key organisers of elephant poaching campaigns in Djoum and Mintom are arrested and prosecuted by the end of the project. [IWTCF-B10] – core indicator	Significant progress has been made on this indicator with 8 individuals arrested.	The team will continue to facilitate arrests during the remainder of the project.
Outcome indicator 0.8 There is at least a 15% reduction in poaching incidents of endangered species reported by law enforcement in Dja and Ngoyla reserves by the end of year 1; there is a 30% reduction by the end of the project.	As it has only been 6 months, it is early to assess the change in poaching incidents.	This will be evaluated over the next reporting period to identify whether there is a measurable Year 1 impact aligned with the first year of project activities.
Output 1 Strengthened law enforcement capacity to identify, interdict, and arrest wildlife criminals in Cameroon.		
Output indicator 1.1 By the end of the project, 60 rangers from Dja and Ngoyla reserves participate in the 5-day training sessions in patrol tactics and evidence and information gathering and sharing in Lomie and Djoum. [IWTCF-B01]	Two 5-day training sessions have been held for 9 in the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves in Lomie, on February 18-22 and February 22-28.	The remaining training sessions will be held during the next year of the project and are planned to be completed by Quarter 2 of Year 2.
Output indicator 1.2 By the end of the project, at least 40 CAAT customs officers at Yaoundé and Douala airports and seaports are trained on IWT product identification and concealment methods. [IWTCF-B01]	One of the four 2-day training sessions was hosted for 20 law enforcement officers (LEOs) on April 28- 29. Prior to the training sessions, visits were made to the airport of Nsimalen on 17 December 2024, 29 January 2025 and 13 February 2025 to present the IWT grants and planned activities to airport police, customs officers, airport security, MINFOF rangers, and the gendarmerie.	Planning is underway for a second training for 20 additional LEOs in Douala. The trainings are expected to be completed by Quarter 2 of Year 2.
Output indicator 1.3 By the end of year 1 of the project, at least 36 patrols of 10 days of SMART-based anti-poaching patrols are carried out by GC-mentored MINFOF rangers in Dja and Ngoyla reserves. In the years 2 and 3, there will be 90 patrols each year	There have been 24 10-day patrols in the Dja and Ngoyla Reserves and their wider periphery, covering 20% of the GC area of action. GC supported patrols have led to eight	Activities to achieve this indicator will continue over the next reporting period, and we anticipate that over 36 patrols

for a total of 216 patrols by the end of the project (in 2.5 years). [IWTCF-B09]	interdictions and seizures of bushmeat along the Djomedjoh-Lomie axis between October 2024 and March 2025	will be carried out within the first full year of the project.
Output indicator 1.4 By the end of year 1, 6 real-time cameras are deployed on the trails along the Cameroon-Gabon border.	<p>Eight camera traps have been deployed on the Cameroon side of the border, along elephant poachers' trails identified during field surveillance between October 2024 and March 2025. We plan to deploy SMART ranger patrols to monitor the areas along the identified routes, where the cameras are placed.</p> <p>GC signed a Collaboration Agreement with Gabonese ANPN on February 12, signalling their support for the cameras to be deployed on the Gabon side of the border.</p>	<p>The deployment of SMART ranger patrols will help monitor the trends and modus operandi of key trafficking routes.</p> <p>Using confirmed matched funding, the team plans to deploy an additional 6 cameras on the Gabon side of the border.</p>
Output indicator 1.5 At least 20 Community Surveillance Network members are undergoing four 1-day training sessions on evidence collection and sharing using Sapelli software by the end of year 1 of the project in Lomie and Djoum. [IWTCF-B01]	Community engagement is underway, and 8 additional communities were identified during preliminary visits between 16-23 January 2025.	The team will continue to engage with communities to develop CSN teams and plan training sessions. We will also be exploring the most effective options for evidence collection and software to use.
Output indicator 1.6 By the end of year 1, at least 30 ivory samples undergo DNA forensic analysis; 60 ivory samples analysed by the end of year 2.	Initial progress has been made on this indicator, however, the team has faced challenges in gaining access to existing seized ivory stockpiles due to the high level government security. Progress to date includes receiving a draft protocol, working to obtain a CITES permit, and communicating with a forensic lab in Gabon, where new seizures may be able to be sampled.	The team may obtain the CITES permit in order to sample the older stockpiles. The team may also gain access to new seizures and bring them to the forensic lab in Gabon for DNA analysis.
Output 2. Local communities impacted by enhanced law enforcement capacity are protected and empowered through the development of sustainable livelihood alternatives.		
Output indicator 2.1. By the end of year 1 of the project, one ecotourism feasibility study with NTFP market analysis is developed and distributed to key stakeholders (Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Forest and Fauna, Djoum, Ngoya and Lomie Councils, communities leaders, NGOs, UNESCO, world bank, EU, Dja stakeholder platform members, etc.) . [IWTCF-D13]	The project team is working with local tourism councils to develop an ecotourism feasibility study in order to establish effective NTFP and ecotourism markets.	The feasibility study will be completed by the July timeframe outlined in the original workplan.

Output indicator 2.2. By the end of year 1, 2 3-day in person workshops are hosted for at least 100 NTFP producers, buyers, and exporters to discuss NTFP processing, storage, access, and transport; host 4 workshops by the end of year 2. [IWTCF-A01] - core indicator	Progress has been made on this indicator. In Djoum, the team hosted one 3-day workshop for a total of 23 participants from 24-26 March 2025. In Lomie, the team conducted 5 village focus groups to inform the next workshop.	The team will host the remaining 3 workshops by the end of Year 2.
Output indicator 2.3 By the end of the project, at least 60/100 NTFP community members receive hands-on 4-day training on NTFP best practices, including collection, drying, packaging, storage, and transformation. [IWTCF-A01] - core indicator	While these training sessions have not begun yet, the workshops held under Activity 2.2 have been useful in preparing the trainings, and provide the team with a better understanding of the market challenges.	The training sessions will be hosted in the later stage of the project, once the NTFP market is more developed.
Output indicator 2.4 By the end of year 2, one comprehensive guidebook on NTFP market information and best practices to be developed and distributed to over 200 local community members participating in the NTFP market. [IWTCF-B05] – core indicator	Progress has been made on this indicator. We have been in discussions with Ecotrading, a local NGO that develops similar guidebooks. We have discussed the weakness of the Ecotrading-APIFED guidebook and possible improvements.	Once improvements are made to the book's presentation and design and content is finalized, the guidebook will be distributed across NTFP communities.
Output indicator 2.5 By the end of year 1, GC to co-host with APIFED 2 two-day workshops with at least 40 people, including local tourism councils, and community representatives to map potential sustainable ecotourism and cultural attractions.	Progress has been made on this indicator. The project team has conducted one of two, 2-day workshops held on 27-28 March 2025 in Djoum.	Planning for the second training is underway and is set to be held in Lomie in July 2025.
Output indicator 2.6 By the end of year 1, a 1-day workshop with at least 80 participants is held in each of the 8 targeted tourism clubs on available community ecotourism packages.	Planning and discussions are underway with our APIFED project partner.	The workshop is set to be completed in Year 2.
Output indicator 2.7 By the end of the project, 40 community members (from Act 2.5) from all 8 tourism clubs are trained on the ecotourism identified skillsets, including boat piloting (5 days training followed by 2 refresher trainings in Y1, 2 refresher trainings in Y2 for 5 community members), forest campsite management + wilderness guiding (3-day in classroom and 3-day forest site sessions for 10 community members), Basic English language (40 hours total for 10 community members), birding, and cooking. [IWTCF-A01] - core indicator	The team has hosted one of two 2-day workshops in Activity 2.5 to map potential sustainable tourism attractions and available infrastructure.	The feasibility study is expected to be fully developed in the next phase of the project. The team will then host workshops to gain community buy-in through signed agreements, and to train community members from all 8 communities on a wide range of ecotourism skills.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	