



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (Due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	23-001
Project Title	Strengthening Cameroon's capacity for implementing CITES
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Cameroon
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partner(s)	TRAFFIC, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), Cameroon, University College London, ExCiteS
Project Leader	Paul De Ornellas
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	October 31, 2016 - HYR1
Project website/Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/dja-conservation-complex
Funder (DFID/Defra)	

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

Output 1. Monitoring systems in place and information used to track and characterise the nature of trade and use of species affected by trafficking in Cameroon with focus on pangolins:

With the support of the Head of Law Enforcement Unit of Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) Conservation Service, ZSL has carried out a situation analysis of the systems and protocols between MINFOF (Divisional Delegation, Conservation Service) and MINJUSTICE (Court and Prosecutor's office) for data collection, monitoring and reporting of information on wildlife crime cases related to meat and pangolin scales and other species in five jurisdictions in Cameroon: the South Regional Court of Appeal at Ebolowa; the East Regional Court of Appeal at Bertoua; Courts of Sangmelima, Abong Mbang, Djoum, Batouri, and Bengbis (Activity 1.1, 3.5 is related). Twenty wildlife crime cases are currently in various courts (Djoum [12], Sangmelima [3], Abong Mbang [6], Ebolowa (Appeals Court) [3]). ZSL has compiled records of pending and finalized prosecutions for wildlife crime on these circuits and a list of damages owed to the State of Cameroon (MINFOF). We are now working with TRAFFIC and the CITES Scientific Authority in Cameroon to establish a database and reporting system that can be used nationally to record this information (Activity 1.2). At a community level, consultations have been carried out following Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) processes to identify communities around the Dja Biosphere Reserve and Deng Deng National Park with whom to collaborate on the establishment of community-based monitoring systems utilising UCL's ExCiteS (Activity 1.7). Eleven communities around the DBR (Bii, Ze, Zobefam, Yen, Akonetythe, Bosso, Mbouma, Oding, Djomedjoh, Bapile, Diassa) and 5 around Deng Deng NP (Goyoum, Ouami, Hona, Haman, Deng Deng) have been consulted with and we will select the 5 communities around DBR and DDNP to engage in the ExCiteS project. Work has commenced on the development of the database, interface, and protocols (Activity 1.8).

Output 2. Adaptive management for site based protection using the SMART approach being implemented in at least two key sites:

A review of site-based protection efforts, systems, and resources at the Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) has been carried out and implementation plans are being developed (Activity 2.1). A similar review for Deng Deng NP is upcoming. The reviews identify the need for additional equipment and training for eco-guardians to enable more effective patrolling. As a result, we have provided for the DBR an additional 24 back packs, eight tents, 16 headlamps, 16 sleeping mats, 96 pairs of batteries for GPS and three tarpaulins. For individual equipment, we have provided 30 MINFOF uniforms, 30 rubber boots, 30 berets, 30 belts and eight pairs of heavy duty boots. Training on advanced fieldcraft has also been delivered during a 2 week course to 12 DBR eco-guardians, involving element such as patrol approaches and formations, conflict management, human rights, and field medical care in order to improve their patrolling skill and intelligence collection. We have also worked to improve the utilisation of SMART in the DBR through upgrades to the system and provision of refresher training (Activity 2.2). We continue

to provide ongoing technical support to the Conservation Service on the use of SMART for patrol planning, reporting and adaptive management and have seen an increase in patrol effort and patrol effectiveness (Activity 2.3). The initial focus of these activities has been on the DBR as it organizing engagement at DDNP has taken longer than expected. We have conducted a reconnaissance of communities around DDNP recently and will be increasingly active there in the coming months. Consultations with communities regarding ExCiteS have taken place around both the DBR and DDNP with 11 communities around the DBR and 5 around DDNP being identified for collaboration (Activity 2.4; see also Activity 1.7). We will identify a suitable subset of communities to engage more fully from these consultations shortly.

Output 3. Build capacity of enforcement agents, prosecutors, courthouse staff and customs agents to effectively apply wildlife laws and reporting relating to pangolins and other trafficked species.

Training materials (Activity 3.1) have been presented at workshops (Activity 3.2) by ZSL staff and partners on relevant topics including: management and storage of the national seized ivory stockpiles; the role of forces of law and order (police, gendarmes) and of MINFOF agents (having the status of Judicial Police Officers with special jurisdiction) in following the judicial procedures in relation to wildlife crime cases and the role of the department of justice in combating wildlife crime (developed with officials of the Ministry of Justice, specifically, prosecutors and presidents of the courts of Abong-Mbang and Sangmelima); and the process of collecting and transmitting information by community support guards (developed with APIFED, a local NGO). Two capacity-building, coordination, and awareness workshops were held (Activity 3.2), one in Abong Mbang and a second one in Sangmelima, for MINFOF, the judiciary, police and gendarmerie on the control of illegal exploitation of wildlife and illegal trade. Community representatives participated, as well. The workshops were intended to facilitate understanding of laws, responsibilities, authority, and the overall situation, as well as to foster a spirit of cooperation among different actors. The conservation and wildlife trafficking situation surrounding pangolins was highlighted. Key participants included the Prefect of the Upper Nyong Division, public prosecutors and Presidents to the courts, the head of the central MINFOF Legal Unit, Divisional Chiefs of Section for Wildlife, agents of the Conservation Service, including the Dja Conservator, heads of sectors, anti-poaching unit, law enforcement service, Ecoguards, representatives of forest companies, representatives of local NGOs and indigenous people’s associations and representatives of local communities. The three main objectives of the workshops were to (1) discuss with MINFOF agents and law enforcement authorities regarding regulations on wildlife; (2) raise awareness of the judiciary on the acts of exploitation of wildlife in violation of national laws and international conventions, agreements and guidelines and their impact on the national economy and the image of the country abroad; (3) capitalize the contributions of different actors for the effective implementation of regulations and combat illegal exploitation of wildlife. The review of the wildlife crime situation and following of cases in the Dja region that has been undertaken under Output 1 has direct relevance for law enforcement activities under Output 3, as well.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The community engagement team and law enforcement team is now fully in place, but delays in assembling these teams have hampered progress on several activities. However, we are now fully staffed and are rapidly and substantively engaging communities and other relevant stakeholders to implement other activities. We are finalizing agreed upon activities with TRAFFIC and CITES Authority this month.

2b. 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:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

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.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

no

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 send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@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: 22-035**

Darwin Half Year Report