





# **Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report**

**Important note:** To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:

it is expected that this report will be no more than 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## **Darwin Project Information**

Project reference	23-001
Project title	Strengthening Cameroon's capacity for implementing CITES
Host country/ies	Cameroon
Contract holder institution	Zoological Society of London
Partner institution(s)	TRAFFIC, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), Cameroon, University College London, ExCiteS
Darwin grant value	£ 288,402
Start/end dates of project	Start date: 01/04/16 End date:31/03/19
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2016 – Mar 2017) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Paul De Ornellas
Project website/blog/Twitter	http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/dja- conservation-complex
Report author(s) and date	David Olson, Julian Easton, Chris Ransom. Sophie Grange-Chamfray. 30 April 2017.

# 1. Project rationale

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in Central Africa undermines the rule of law, nurtures corruption and hinders development. It also threatens the region's wildlife; elephant populations have declined by 62% since 2005 and increasing numbers of pangolins are trafficked to Asian markets (e.g. 2,340 kg of pangolin scales originating from Cameroon were seized in Hong Kong in June 2014). IWT also undermines the function, efficacy, and legitimacy of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the signatories to that agreement.

Map of Cameroon showing the location of project activities in year 1 which are mostly concentrated in the SE Cameroon around two protected areas of Dja and Deng Deng. Black dots denote major towns and grey areas are the PAs. The northern point designates the location of the CITES SA at Garoua and the western dot the City of Douala, where the country's major port is and customs trainings have been delivered.



Cameroon is a major IWT hub; a source of illegally poached wildlife and a transit route for trafficked wildlife from Central African Republic (CAR), Congo and Gabon. Trafficking is often led by local elites who exploit poorer community members, co-opted into poaching for their tracking/hunting abilities and for transporting illegal wildlife products. Local people accrue little of the benefits, see their natural resources depleted, face compromised security and feel disempowered in the face of criminal elites.

This situation is compounded by a paucity of data on trafficking, poor application of national wildlife laws, and low concern. Law enforcement agents lack capacity to gather and use intelligence information, collect evidence and build robust cases. Low pay and morale means they are vulnerable to corruption and intimidation. Prosecutors and judges demonstrate limited awareness or ability to apply relevant laws and on the rare occasions cases are pursued they target those lower down the chain, ignoring those overseeing the illicit trade. A lack of a robust monitoring systems limits Cameroon's ability to meet it international commitments under CITES, hinders efforts to address IWT and track progress over time.

Cameroon is a signatory to CITES, London Declaration, and is a member of COMIFAC, a subregional group that has committed to address IWT and reduce poaching through implementation of its action plan for strengthening national wildlife law enforcement (PAPECALF). This project aims to help Cameroon meet these commitments and avoid IWT driving wildlife to extinction, maintaining a culture of criminal impunity and corruption, and leaving local people in a cycle of poverty and natural resource depletion.

# 2. Project partnerships

The project was designed in collaboration with the primary project partners: the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) Conservation Services (CS) of the Dja Biosphere Reserve and Deng Deng National Park, the CITES Scientific Authority for wildlife, TRAFFIC and the University College London's Extreme Citizen Science group (ExCiteS). The project has the full support of MINFOF at central level and was based on the need expressed by MINFOF for continued external support in combating IWT. Over the course of the first year of the project we have continued to develop our relationships with the Courts of First Instance in the project zone and developed further relationships with enforcement agencies such as customs, police and gendarmes to ensure effective implementation and maximum impact of the project. Key to the success of our work is the engagement and involvement of community groups around the protected areas. To this end ZSL's social team have spent considerable time consulting and building relationships with the communities, utilising Free Prior Informed Consent (PFIC) processes. MINFOF is the partner on the site-based protection efforts and we have seen a positive change in their adaptive decision-making informed by SMART patrol data.

Partnerships in the course of this reporting period evolved as described below:

# **Government Agencies**

ZSL has signed MoUs with the Government of Cameroon (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, MINFOF) both at central level and with the Conservation Service of the Dja Biosphere Reserve and has letters of agreements signed with Deng Deng National Park. ZSL supports the Conservation Services of both sites to implement activities on the ground, providing resources, training and technical expertise. We recognise that working with MINFOF alone is not sufficient to address IWT issues and support the implementation of CITES and have therefore established relationships with other government agencies: enforcement agents (customs, police, gendarmerie) and Ministry of Justice (prosecutors and court house staff) to ensure the implementation of laws relating to wildlife crime.

We have strengthened our relationships with the CITES Management Authority for Plants and Wildlife (DFAP) and the Scientific Authority for Wildlife Fauna (Ecole de Faune de Garoua; EFG), both who were involved in the initial project planning but who required further relationship building. We have now signed an MOU regarding our advisory role. Alongside working with the DFAP, we have had positive exchanges in respect of CITES protocols with the regional MINFOF delegates for the southern and eastern regions, where we are focussing our initial efforts. Furthermore, the NIAP (National Ivory Action Plan) and ETIS (Elephant Trade

Information System) focal points with the central ministry and the head of the legal department in Yaoundé are also close collaborators on these efforts, as evidenced by their willingness to share their experiences and thoughts in our CITES review document, and their willing participation in our workshops.

### **Communities**

ZSL has worked around the Dja Biosphere Reserve for a number of years and been engaged with a small number of communities. Under this project consultations have been held with 36 communities around the Dja and Deng Deng National Park to foster relationships and identify a subset of communities with which to collaborate directly. Sixteen communities are now directly involved in project activities and have responded positively to the efforts of the project to empower them in monitoring and reporting. These communities will be active in monitoring their natural resources in collaboration with ZSL and contribute intelligence on illegal wildlife trade incidents through Community Surveillance Networks.

#### **Academic Institutions**

The UCL Extreme Citizen Science group (UCL-ExciteS) works with ZSL's social team to implement activities to engage and empower local forest communities in monitoring and reporting on resource use, wildlife crime and law enforcement action. Their involvement in the project was delayed for several months due to serious illness of the individual identified to work in Cameroon with the ZSL team. As a result a new Research Assistant had to be identified and was only able to commence in August, delaying project activities so that this aspect of the project is behind schedule.

#### **NGOs**

We have been working with TRAFFIC to collaborate on CITES reporting protocols, and monitoring of IWT. The experience of TRAFFIC in law enforcement monitoring in the Central African sub-region and existing partnerships by both TRAFFIC and ZSL with MINFOF led to further strengthening of these partnerships throughout the first year of the project, particularly on aspects of collaboration with MINFOF Delegations courts, and law enforcement agents (police, gendarmes, customs), the review of the existing CITES reporting system in Cameroon, bushmeat market and consumer surveys, and training of law enforcement officers. The key challenge faced in the partnership with TRAFFIC was that considerable time was required to finalise the sub-agreement due to the need for a clear understanding of shared responsibilities for project outputs. This led to a late start of some activities requiring TRAFFIC inputs. Thus, Activity 1.2, scheduled for Q3 and Q4 of year 1 will be achieved in year 2. A system of data collection, collation and reports production (Activity 1.4) will be established in year 2.

# 3. Project progress

# 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

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.

After initial delays in the start-up of the project due to the need to formalise partnerships between ZSL, TRAFFIC and the CITES SA, the project activities have proceeded as planned. Through consultations with a number of actors including MINFOF agents - heads of field ranger units around the Dja, Wildlife Directors and Regional Delegates - and CITES and ETIS focal points alongside WWF and TRAFFIC, we have completed Activity 1.1 and prepared review documents (Annex 4 – Doc1a & 1b) of the existing systems and protocols which are currently the most advanced i.e. the Elephant Trade and Information System (ETIS). We also made contact with the CITES SG, based in Geneva, and received very useful information from them.

We will use the Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) region as a pilot site to set up an effective reporting mechanism that can be rolled out more widely with the mechanism being put in place in collaboration with TRAFFIC and CITES secretariat, building upon best practices elsewhere,

such as the United Nations University's Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System (WEMS). We plan to align current reporting practices on the ground with standard ETIS requirements and the MINFOF Ministerial circulars and add grey parrot, pangolin species and great apes to the reporting protocols using the ETIS skeleton, but in line with the WEMS framework.

TRAFFIC is now developing the database and reporting system (Activity 1.2) and it is expected that the CITES SA will be in a position to be filling out the database in the first quarter of year 2. As soon as the database and reporting system are available training on their use will be delivered to the key stakeholder groups (Activity 1.3) and their use rolled out for data collection and reporting (Activity 1.4).

In order to monitor the trade of pangolins and other endangered species (including elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, grey parrots, other primate species and red river hog), 5 bushmeat markets have been identified and monitoring commenced (Activity 1.5; Annex4- Doc3a for methodology). A data sheet was produced and data collected over a period of 6-8 weeks (8 weeks in the markets in Lomie and Abong-Mbang and 6 weeks in Yaoundé, Djoum and Sangmelima markets). A full analysis of the findings is still in preparation by TRAFFIC. Following the bushmeat market surveys, consumer surveys of customers buying bushmeat from the same markets were carried out (Activity 1.5). This occurred independently of the market survey. The methodology (Annex 4 – Doc3b) was developed with TRAFFIC and scientists in ZSLs Institute of Zoology (IOZ). The surveys and analysis are ongoing and a final report will be prepared. The process for preparing and agreeing the data collection methodologies, combined with delays in formalising agreements with TRAFFIC mean that these activities were only conducted in the last quarter of year 1 and, therefore, the data analysis and annual report preparation (Activity 1.6) have not yet been completed.

To complement the aforementioned monitoring efforts, communities around the Dja Biosphere Reserve and Deng Deng National Park have been consulted on their willingness to participate in monitoring of resources and illegal activities (Activity 1.7). A total of 32 communities were consulted with and 16 selected for participation in monitoring, 11 around the Dja and 5 around the DDNP. An average of five meetings per community were held to gather baseline information and gauge attitudes to forest resource use, local wildlife, and poaching as well as to gain an understanding of local relationships. The free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) process is ongoing in 11 of the 16 villages whilst 5 have already completed their FPIC process.

The preliminary visits to communities served to gauge the concerns and interests villagers have towards forest resources, wildlife, conservation regulations, and poachers (Annex 4 – Doc2). The eleven village engaged were selected based on how strategic their locations are with regards to trafficking routes, as well as community characteristics. The FPIC process is being conducted within each village, and, if successful, leads to the testing of Sapelli for communitybased resource monitoring. Five communities (two indigenous Baka and three Bantu) completed a Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process, indicating a good understanding of the project and consent to participate. A community protocol was established in five communities (Activity 1.8) with an improved understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports. There is satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in the natural resource decision-making processes. There was successful data transmission in five communities as evidenced by reports received both on receiver phones and GeoKey online server. Community-specific Sapelli projects were created for two communities, with icon ideas collated for all the five communities. Important collaborators were identified and MINFOF agents, Eco-guards and Police Officials were briefed and involved in ongoing discussions.

This process has taken a particularly long time to complete, given the number and dispersion of the villages and heavy rains make access to the villages difficult. The reporting schedule has, therefore, been delayed, but there is now successful data collection and transmission (Activity 1.9) in 4 of the 5 communities as evidenced by trial reports received both on receiver phones that will be held by ZSL and GeoKey online server (refer to the Excites update report: Annex 4 – Doc4).

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

At the beginning of this project, the SMART process in the DBR was very new and covered only a limited area in the northern and southern sectors. In DDNP, there was no SMART system in place at all and an initial field visit to review the site-based protection efforts, systems and the available resources was undertaken (Activity 2.1). In both protected areas, a site-based evaluation was carried out and respective SMART implementation plans were developed (Annex 4 – Doc5). The SMART implementation is going ahead well in the DBR, with monthly patrols, seizures and reports, whilst in DDNP the process is currently delayed due to a lack of equipment to be provided by the Park's main funder, EDC (Electricite du Cameroun), a utility company compelled to support the park as part of a development deal, who is slow in providing the required equipment that was identified during the needs assessment.

The data model for the DBR continues to be improved and, recently, due to the national upgrading to Class A of the three pangolin species and grey parrots, the model was reviewed and updated accordingly in both parks to include all these species (note pangolin were included in SMART data in early 2016). The DDNP anti-poaching action plan that will use the SMART plan is yet to be validated by the Park's main funder, EDC, although we expect this to be finalised shortly.

Following the needs assessment and subsequent meetings with DBR Conservation Service (CS), we have begun to implement the plan (Activity 2.2). We have purchased and provided necessary equipment during this period, part of which was funded through this grant. The equipment provided to DBR includes: 24 backpacks, 8 tents, 16 headlamps, 16 sleeping mats, 96 sets of batteries for GPS and three tarpaulins for camping. We provided 72 MINFOF full field uniforms. Within the DBR, training has been focused on more senior management as the field rangers are now confident in the use of the tool. SMART querying, planning and reporting capabilities of the software have been taught to management across the four patrol sectors. A total of 24 training days have been carried out over the past 12 months, alongside remote assistance from the ZSL technician, when required. These training days were carried out approximately every 8 weeks and 33 rangers have attended.

In DDNP, while waiting for funding and validation of the patrol plan, we have configured the SMART system to be used in DDNP and provided two Cedar mobile devices for testing and troubleshooting. Furthermore, the head of the DDNP anti-poaching unit has also been trained and has produced a tentative monthly report template. The first mission is presently underway in collaboration with ecoguards from the Dja Biosphere Reserve who will train them. In order to ensure the ongoing implementation, we are providing ongoing technical support to both protected areas through regular site visits (Activity 2.3). This ensures correct operating standards are followed and efficiencies of patrol teams monitored. Target points, areas of park to be covered, and number of patrol days are set prior to entering the forest making teams more efficient. Two evaluation meetings (November 2016 and January 2017) have been carried out in order to discuss patrol performance and different approaches and identify any changes to make as necessary. The same approach will be initiated in DDNP with quarterly visits to the site. Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP and establishment of a monitoring system using the ExCiteS tool has commenced (Activities 2.4-2.6) and is referred to under Output 1.

# Output 3. Enforcement agents, prosecutors, courthouse staff and customs agents are competent in proper application of wildlife laws and reporting relating to pangolins and other trafficked species.

Bespoke training inputs, relevant to particular law enforcement roles, environments and agencies have been developed and implemented by ZSL in-house law enforcement experts (Activity 3.1). These inputs have been created in consultation with internal and external agencies, and take into account the levels of resources and experience available to the participants.

Specialist support and long-term mentoring is made available (i.e. wildlife crime experts, specialist intelligence support, customs and smuggling experts) as well as this facility being provided during the bespoke training.

Training and support documents have been presented at three different workshops where over 30 wildlife law enforcement agents participated (Activity 3.2) on the content of wildlife laws and explanation of illegal and legal trade to MINFOF agents, Gendarmerie, Customs and Police officers working in and around the DBR as well as for officers of the Judiciary on relevant subjects related to the role of Judicial Police Officers who have the authority to report and process offenders for the prosecution (Annex 4 – Doc6a,b). The workshops were aimed at highlighting the importance of respecting procedure for all wildlife cases for prosecution in order to ensure positive prosecutions are secured. Judiciary officers were targeted in order to ensure knowledge of correct sentences as well as impact on the local community and the citizenry as a whole, when sentencing is viewed as too lenient or ineffective. A further 10 day course was delivered to 18 MINFOF eco-guards on anti-poaching and patrolling techniques and evidence gathering (Annex4 – Doc6c).

In addition, two training sessions were held in Yaoundé and Douala for the newly created specialist anti-smuggling units based at the respective international airports. This training included in-depth updates and expert input into protected species status internationally and in Cameroon, and the relevant offences applicable to any perpetrators. Participants were reminded (and provided with the relevant legislation) of the criminal processes and law in relation to protected species crime locally.

Part of the creation of bespoke courses involves an assessment of general skills, knowledge and experiences (Activity 3.3). The specialist training courses are practically-based and exercises are built into the courses to continually test participants' knowledge and learning. Participants are asked to complete feedback in respect of the course delivered and this enables changes/improvements to be factored into any subsequent inputs.

Informal and formal protocols are put into place during and after each training element, which enables participants to continue to communicate, and to share information, experiences and knowledge. These forums provide a basis on which to evaluate future training requirements, and also an opportunity to complement the training with operational support (Activity 3.4).

Meanwhile, ZSL's law enforcement team, comprised of a Judicial Advisor, Law Enforcement Coordinator and Law Enforcement Advisor provide ongoing support for agencies and partners to ensure training is put into practice and cases are followed up and monitored (Activity 3.5). This team has been working closely with the Judicial Unit of MINFOF alongside the MINFOF Regional Chief of Service for Wildlife and Protected Areas for the South Region and his counterpart for the East Region. Further support has been given to the two Regional Delegates for the East and the South as well as the MINFOF agent responsible for the follow-up of cases in courts. Alongside this, the ZSL LE team has made good connections with Magistrates within the courts in which key cases are being monitored.

### 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

# 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

Progress towards this output has picked up in recent months and we are making rapid progress. CITES database and reporting protocols (indicator 1.1) are being developed by TRAFFIC and are based on similar existing systems, such as ETIS. Training on their use will be conducted amongst key stakeholders (indicator 1.2) and data collection will commence (indicator 1.3) once the database is complete. Five bushmeat markets have been surveyed to commence ongoing monitoring for pangolin and other endangered species trade, including elephants, gorillas, chimps, grey parrot, monkeys, pangolin scales and ivory (Lomie, Abong-Mbang, Yaounde, Djoum and Sangmelima) (indicator 1.4). Initial data on pangolins are being collected through these market surveys and coordinated with TRAFFIC (indicator 1.4). Consumer surveys have commenced (indicator 1.6). Initial reports will be available in early year 2. Data from these markets will be fed into the central database (indicator 1.5) and used to prepare a report on trade and trafficking (indicator 1.7). Community monitoring utilising ExCiteS

has begun and four communities have a community protocol for data collection and reporting and they also have a greater understanding on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports (indicator 1.8).

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

The increased frequency and coverage of ecoguard patrols in DBR, as well as improved capacity of ecoquards through regular training, is helping to lead to more arrests and seizures of bushmeat, ivory, and pangolin scales (indicator 2.1). There is roughly an increase of 30% of seizure incidents (e.g. firearms [from 8 to 18] and ammunitions [from 95 to 155] seized), and poachers arrested (30 in 2016-2017 compared to 8 a year previously) over the last year for the DBR (based on SMART patrol data and MINFOF monthly reports, though more data needs to be collected over time to identify real trends). Encounter rates of live wildlife (gorilla, chimpanzee, elephant, pangolin) during patrols are also up roughly three-fold. This may be due, in part, to increased patrol effort (e.g. there has been a 147% increase in annual distance patrolled - 2,230 km to 5,500 km - as well as in the coverage within the park, from a 30% coverage to 67% coverage [% patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5 km<sup>2</sup> grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once]), local variations in wildlife densities caused, in part, through purposeful movements across landscapes to avoid hunting (that is, wildlife moving to zones perceived as 'safer', a commonly observed behavior in some heavily hunted species), or reduction or shifting of poaching activity within patrolled area. In any case, an increase in direct encounter rates by patrols is a positive trend in the first year (indicator 2.2) (Annex 4 - Doc7 for annual DBR SMART report). SMART mission reports are now generated by the head ranger of each patrol sector (Annex 4 - Doc8a,b,c,d for examples). There is a debriefing procedure during which data are visualised and used to help to plan for patrol deployments. The SMART approach to protected area management is now being widely employed throughout the DBR. We are poised to introduce it and implement it at Deng Deng NP this coming year. ExCiteS's Sapelli has been tested in 5 villages, and a community protocol for reporting wildlife crime incidents is established in 4 of these communities (indicator 2.3).

# Output 3. Enforcement agents, prosecutors, courthouse staff and customs agents are competent in proper application of wildlife laws and reporting relating to pangolins and other trafficked species.

A weatherproof pocket field guide has been produced for frontline operational law enforcement officers that summarizes current wildlife law and guidance on basic policing skills (indicator 3.1; Annex 4 – Doc9). Over 30 law enforcement agents, prosecutors, and customs agents have been trained in five locations, Mbang Bong, Sangmelima, Djoum, Yaoundé and Douala (indicator 3.2). Wildlife law enforcement, informant handling, patrol techniques, and basic law enforcement techniques were major topics covered (indicator 3.1, 3.2). More civil society organizations and media houses are picking up IWT stories (indicator 3.3). This is due, in part, to publicized events, such as the first African Pangolin Scale burn which was reported on CRTV, the main TV and Radio channel in the country. The recent ministerial circular after the upgrading of all pangolin species to appendix 1 in CITES and Class A protected species in Cameroon has also been publicized by MINFOF and ZSL. This circular was aired as a TV advert on CRTV channel 2, financed by ZSL for 1 week in order to spread the new uplisting. The seizure of 168 elephant tusks in Bertoua in March 2017 was extensively covered by Radio and television houses in and out of Cameroon.

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

# Outcome: Strengthened capacity in Cameroon to monitor and reduce illegal hunting and trafficking of pangolins and other wildlife

The indicators selected have *strong* predictive value if accurate and comprehensive data can be obtained or predictive subsamples can be adequately tracked. However, we have encountered considerable challenges in locating, gathering, and synthesizing robust and comprehensive baseline and current data for all of Cameroon for all of the four indicators. Although we are collaborating with the CITES Authority in Cameroon, TRAFFIC, MINFOF, the USFWS MENTOR POP team, INTERPOL, and Customs and the Judiciary to assess the baseline and trends in trafficking, seizures, arrests, and prosecutions, there is simply no centralized, updated, or properly managed database or record trail that we have found to

establish reliable baselines for seizures of trafficked wildlife, trafficked species volumes, arrests, or prosecutions across Cameroon. In many cases, the data does not exist, exist only for a small area or department, or have not been updated in a timely way. We have gleaned information from records of and discussions with TRAFFIC, LAGA, MINFOF, and Cellule Aeroportuaire Anti Trafics (CAAT) and tallied 38 arrests, 20 seizures, and 23 prosecutions for the period March 2016 to March 2017. However, there is uncertainty as to how complete or how much geographic coverage there is from this accumulation of records from these sources. Despite our challenges, we can confidently say that (1) there was and currently is a high likelihood of significant volumes of pangolin scale, ivory, and bushmeat being trafficked within and out of Cameroon (Indicator 1) and that we believe our activities can contribute to diminish this trafficking, at least within some of our project sites; (2) seizures of trafficked wildlife have been unreasonably low to date given the suspected volume of IWT in Cameroon and that those seizures that have occurred only represent a very small percentage of what is leaving the country (Indicator 4); and (3) arrests and prosecutions were and remain far below what one would expect if the law was being properly applied (Indicator 3). While arrests are slowly increasing within the sites of project investment (Dja landscape), subsequent prosecutions of what we view as strong cases for those districts remain inordinately few (Indicator 3). Hopefully, our training and follow-up with law enforcement, MINFOF, Customs, and the Judiciary will increase prosecutions over time. Management within DBR and Deng Deng NP is being substantively improved based on suggestive metrics of frequency and area regularly patrolled by ecoquards, numbers of arrests, and increases in local seizures (Indicator 2). Deng Deng NP management improvement is still in its initial phase though it is now well positioned to improve dramatically over year 2. We are striving to gather adequate data to track these indicators with confidence over the next year and our evolving strong partnerships with different stakeholders should contribute well to this effort.

# 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

# Assumption 1: Turnover of government staff does not exceed ability to provide refresher training and deplete skillset within relevant trained teams.

This remains a threat to the project. ZSL Cameroon is working to have SMART adopted institutionally by MINFOF across all protected areas that, if successful, would minimize this risk as staff transferred from other protected areas will have previous experience with SMART. We continue to work with a coalition of NGOs that are lobbying the government to revise recruitment and retaining policies for ecoguards. At the site level we are ensuring all staff are trained in the SMART approach so that any movement of a small number of staff out of the protected areas will not have a significant impact.

# Assumption 2: The government of Cameroon continues to support international efforts to view illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime and maintains its commitment to support efforts to address it.

Officially, the government does continue to support these efforts and lends permission to and welcomes assistance from NGOs and their sponsors to diminish IWT.

# Assumption 3: Strengthening law enforcement capacity leads to a reduction in incidence of wildlife crime

Positive trends in the protection of the DBR core areas have been noted through SMART patrol data. Patrol effort has increased this year in many sectors and anecdotal information from communities and informants suggests that poaching rings tend to shift away from heavily patrolled areas. Senior management staff are now carrying out data downloads, patrol debriefings, data cleaning and mission report production independently and using the information contained within the database to new plan missions. In Deng Deng NP, the process is ongoing and with potentially significant amounts of funding available from the dam offset fund, we anticipate that the same steps as in the DBR will be followed quickly. DBR ecoguards and managers will be working with Deng Deng managers directly to train them in effective practices and tools.

# Assumption 3: Reducing wildlife crime reduces pressure on wild populations of pangolins and other trafficked species

This assumption remains valid. An overall diminishment of wildlife crime will reduce pressure but we have observed no evidence of abatement of IWT activity across the region as yet. However, locally, when ecoguard patrols are intensified in particular zones within protected areas we have suggestive evidence that pressure on local populations of threatened wildlife decreases.

# Assumption 4: Effective application of monitoring systems enables characterisation of trade in pangolin and other trafficked species

This assumption remains valid, but development of effective and comprehensive monitoring systems is challenging and time consuming. Finding responsible entities to monitor and manage data is also challenging but our recent reviews have highlighted some potential partners and we have begun to independently gather relevant data from the field.

# 3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Impact: Illegal and unsustainable hunting and trafficking of pangolins and other threatened wildlife in Cameroon is reduced, resulting in sustainably managed populations of the three pangolin species and enabling Cameroon to meet its CITES and CBD commitments.

Our assumptions are that by improving the quality and quantity of wildlife management and wildlife law enforcement inside and outside of the reserves, empowering communities to help manage their natural resources, and providing alternatives to local people, we will help make the Cameroon's protected areas and surrounding forestry management units refugia for threatened and exploited wildlife species. Although some wildlife monitoring has occurred within the region, in the past it has been relatively unstandardized and of questionable quality. ZSL has recently started to standardize wildlife monitoring throughout the DBR landscape and we hope to be able to measure wildlife population trends with more confidence in the near future. Direct attribution of activities of this project on the trajectory of focal species populations is difficult, at best, and would require an expanded research program with multiple controls and years of study to be able to assess attribution with statistical rigor. That being said, we are confident in our assumptions that the actions focused on in this project are proven to improve the status of wildlife in target regions.

The implementation of the SMART approach has patrol data stored in a secure platform and analysis of that data assists managers to deploy patrols of ecoguards in an adaptive way in response to changes in wildlife and threat trends. Similarly, hard-working staff receive feedback and encouragement through the use of SMART tool. Overall, in the DBR we are noticing an improvement on patrol deployment (patrol effort, patrol deployment ensuring more coverage), on the qualities of data collected, and an increase in the number of guns, cartridges confiscated or human arrested. The park is vast and the percentage of coverage has now gone over 60% and, if the current rate is maintained, we expect full park coverage soon. In DDNP, implementation of the patrol strategy is in an incipient phase pending support from MINFOF and private sector funders.

# 4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

This project contributes particularly to achieving Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) 1 (Poverty Alleviation), 5 (Gender Equality), and 15 (Life on Land). IWT as it is practiced in the region is an extractive and exploitive industry that hurts local people by reducing their natural resources they rely on for food and livelihoods, introducing unsavoury elements into local societies, such as alcohol and drugs, and can directly impact their security as criminal elements injure or kill local people who interfere in the trade. Local women inordinately suffer from the negative impacts of IWT activity. Reducing IWT will reduce pressure on wild populations of vulnerable species.

# 5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project directly support Cameroon's obligations under CITES and its commitment to achieving CBD targets. We work closely with Cameroon's CITES focal points. We are helping to make protected areas viable reservoirs and refugia for biodiversity and to protect endangered and vulnerable species. Much of our law enforcement work is aimed at strengthening the knowledge, processes, and effectiveness of law enforcement in securing evidence for cases, the judiciary for being familiar with wildlife laws and acting accordingly, and well-coordinated prosecution from arrests to appropriate sentencing. Cameroon is a signatory to the London Declaration and the Kasane Statement and this project supports the following commitments:

London Conference Declaration: X, XI, XII, XIII, XV, XVII, XIX, XX

Kasane Statement: 9, 12, 13

### The following CBD Aichi Targets are directly or indirectly contributed to by this effort:

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society



### Target 1

By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably. THROUGHOUT ALL OF OUR WORK WITH MANAGERS AND LOCAL PEOPLE WE EMPHASIZE THE VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY AND LINK THOSE VALUES TO THEIR LIVES DIRECTLY.



#### Target 2

By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems. WE STRIVE TO INTEGRATE THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE USE, REGULATORY TOOLS SUCH AS CITES, AND RED LINES OF EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABLE SPECIES IN ALL OF OUR INTERACTION WITH STRATEGY DEVELOPERS

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity



#### Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MINFOF AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON THE BORDERS OF RESERVES HELPS TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF SIGNIFICANT PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN CAMEROON.



#### Target 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. A MAJOR FOCUS OF OUR WORK IS TO HELP PROVIDE CONDITIONS WITHIN WHICH VULNERABLE TAXA SUCH AS PANGOLINS, FOREST ELEPHANT, AND GREAT APES CAN SURVIVE INTO THE FUTURE.

#### Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services



#### Target 14

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable. FORESTS WITH THEIR FULL COMPLEMENT OF LARGER VERTEBRATE SPECIES ARE MORE RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE, THUS PROVIDING SUSTAINED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AT ADEQUATE LEVELS

# Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building



### Target 17

By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WE HOPE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF CITES AS A TOOL FOR MANAGING BIODIVERSITY AS THE NBSAP IS IMPLEMENTED.



#### Target 18

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels. MANY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LIVE WITHIN THE REGION WHERE WE ARE IMPLEMENTING THIS PROJECT. WE HELP THEM THROUGH EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND REMOVE CRIMINAL AND NEGATIVE ELEMENTS

#### FROM THEIR SOCIETY.



Target 19

By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied. IMPROVING MONITORING TOOLS FOR SPECIES LOSS AND ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING WILL CONTRIBUTE WELL TO THIS TARGET.

## 6. Project support to poverty alleviation

Healthier forest ecosystems resulting from a diminishment in IWT will improve the well-being, food security, and livelihoods of local people. Reducing the negative and criminal elements brought in by illegal wildlife agents to local communities will also help local people stabilize and improve their economic and social situations.

## 7. Project support to gender equality issues

All local people and both genders benefit when natural resources are managed wisely and sustainably (broad aim of this effort), providing resilience to their food source, livelihoods, and security. Equal opportunities to engage in project activities are provided to all regardless of their sex. Within communities we are cognisant of the different roles that different age groups and sexes play in the community and endeavour to ensure that we have a spectrum of people involved in the ExCiteS.

## 8. Monitoring and evaluation

For keeping track of progress and estimating impacts, we monitor indicators as outlined in the logframe. These are tracked using a variety of data and information sources, some generated directly by the project and some from external sources. The logframe identifies each source of information and the frequency they will need to be monitored. Information used includes that generated by the project (e.g. monthly and annual reports, attitudinal surveys, reports of training actions, minutes of meetings with government partners and decision-makers, partner NGO reports) and external sources (e.g. national reports to CITES, monitoring reports from NGOs, media reports). For this effort, based on the logframe indicators, we are monitoring the following strong metrics and adaptively managing the project on the basis of progress and trends in each:

### Direct action against poaching of wildlife

- Percent area of reserve covered by patrols on a regular basis
- Frequency, coverage, and quality of SMART-based patrol reports being generated across the reserve
- Number of seizures of arms, ammunition, snares, bushmeat, ivory, pangolin scale
- Number of arrests of poachers

### Reducing support and engagement with IWT among local communities

- Number of communities and people engaged in resource management projects
- Attitudinal shifts from baseline of local people regarding wildlife and IWT

# Strengthening capacity to monitor CITES-related activity and IWT and impacts of interventions

- Progress towards developing an effective tracking tool for IWT-related targets
- Broad reach and participation of actors and decision-makers in IWT/CITES awarenessraising efforts
- Gaining knowledge of the strengths, opportunities and challenges of CITES monitoring and response throughout the country

#### 9. Lessons learnt

#### **Some Lessons Learned**

 The use of open source tools, such as SMART, require continuous training (because there is high turnover government personnel), supported by effective equipment procurement and follow-up systems promotes accountability and transparency. This makes the staff at each level feel part of the process. It is critical to follow up on funding and materiel delivery to ensure the right gear gets into the hands of the right people at the right time.

- The general slowness or lack of response of some wildlife authorities to intelligence tips from the communities causes a loss of motivation from participating community members. Therefore, the messaging of field teams to communities needs to be carefully considered and accurate, highlighting the importance of their contributions to higherlevel interventions to reducing IWT later on.
- We have a confidential 'map' of trusted and less trusted individuals and organizations
  with whom we should continue to engage with or not, if we have a choice. It is critical to
  monitor such relationships and manage them well so as not to shut doors but also so as
  to have maximum impacts from interventions and investments.
- Careful consideration of where actions and investments can have the greatest impact is
  essential on a regular basis. Risks for our staff and partners associated with different
  interventions are also critical to evaluate as some of the IWT actors are dangerous and
  influential.
- Increased attention in a sector of the reserve or within an FMU has the effect of shifting poaching activity out of that area at least for a time.
- Local communities, in general, have great interest in seeing IWT activity diminished or eradicated as they perceive its detrimental effects on their livelihoods, well-being, and security.

# 10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable) N/A

# 11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere NONE

# 12. Sustainability and legacy

Our community projects, such as ExCiteS, are meant to empower the participating communities to better manage their resources independently and resist engagement in IWT. Within the protected area, the SMART reports are generated by DBR staff themselves who are gradually taking ownership of the approach to ensure sustainability and continuity in the process. Our SMART work in the DBR is now being heavily promoted in the other parts of the TRIDOM (logging concessions, Mengame Wildlife Sanctuary and Kom National Park and Deng Deng National Park) and we hope to soon get the Cameroon Forest Ministry to assign a focal point whose main role will be to oversee long-term use of the system.

# 13. Darwin identity

Throughout all of communication of the effort and outcomes of this work, we mention or highlight that it is supported by the Darwin Initiative and the UK Government. ZSL consistently highlights the Darwin Initiative various fora in country, such as the conservation community meetings, meeting with EU and UNESCO partners, and in a range of workshops and meetings with different government and diplomatic entities. Field guides issues to in-country frontline DBR law enforcement show the Darwin Initiative logo.

### 14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017)

Project spend (indicative) since las annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)			-3.5%	,
Carly Waterman (ZSL Lead, Pangolins)				
Vicky Fomete (Finance and Adminstration Manager)				
Kpwang Abessolo F (Lead of TRAFFIC's contributions)				
Paulinus Ngeh (Technical Advisor on TRAFFIC's contributions)				
Willow Outwarthe (Data Analyst)				
Jerome Lewis (Technical supervision, ExCites)				
Simon Hoytes (Research Assistant, ExCites)				
Consultancy costs	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Overhead Costs			0.4%	
Travel and subsistence			10.0%	
Operating Costs			-5.3%	
Capital items (see below)			7.2%	
Digital cameras, GPS, digital recorders, Tablets				
Laptop for Law Enforcement Specialist				
Handheld PDA devices for ExCites				
Others (see below)			3.1%	
Communication				
Vehicle insurance				
Partner Communications				
Partner Fuel and Vehicle Costs				
Other<£1,000				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Impact: Illegal and unsustainable hunting threatened wildlife in Cameroon is reduce populations of the three pangolin species CITES and CBD commitments.	ed, resulting in sustainably managed	After a year, impacts of law enforcement efforts on targeted species populations remains challenging to assess with confidence. Patrol data and anecdotal reports suggests that poachers shift their activities away from areas that are regularly patrolled and that wildlife is more easily observed within these zones. Many of the important actors who manage CITES and conduct enforcement are now fully apprised of changes in CITES listings and efforts to streamline and broaden CITES monitoring efforts	
Outcome  Strengthened capacity in Cameroon to monitor and reduce illegal hunting and trafficking of pangolins and other wildlife.	0.1 The nature of trade in pangolins and other trafficked species in Cameroon is documented by the end of year 3	Supporting implantation of CITES reporting protocols – ongoing activity with MINFOF and law enforcement agencies through communications and workshops/meetings	Continue support and eventual implementation  Database training with the CITES SA, based at Garoua Wildlife School (EFG). Support the ETIS focal point to travel into the field and strengthen the reporting to CITES using ETIS, and WEMS for other species.
	0.2 Effective management and protection in at least two key protected areas known to contain populations of pangolins and other trafficked species by the end of year 3	Over this reporting period, the SMART approach have been successfully implemented in the DBR with regular informed river or/and foot patrols being carried out in DBR four sectors. There is now documented and regular feedback between different layers of the park management for an effective patrol deployment in the DBR. Eighty	For next grant period we will continue to support DBR CS in carrying informed patrols following the SMART approach. We will formalise the functionality of the rapid response units squad and organise more training for

		DBR staff have been trained in the SMART approach (concept, operationalization, data collection, etc.) and equipped with adequate field gears. The senior staff (head of units, head of sectors and the conservator) have received more comprehensive training on querying, planning and reporting with SMART.  In DDNP, the SMART system has been configured and one major patrol has been carried out following the SMART standard process. Only the head of anti-poaching unit has been trained in the SMART data collection and reporting.	an effective river patrol. We will finalise the equipment of operation room in all 4 DBR sectors.  For DDNP in addition to carrying more training to put the ecoguards up to speed, an exchange visit with DBR staff will be organised to showcase the potential of SMART in the overall protection of the park.  For both parks, a performance-based incentive system is being developed and validated to ensure ecoguards are motivated to carry out effective patrols.
	0.3 Numbers of arrests and successful prosecutions relating to wildlife crime in Cameroon increase relative to baseline levels (determine at start of project) by 25% end year 2 and 50% by end of year 3.	In progress	Continue gathering arrest records for baseline and current
	0.4 Numbers of seizures of products from pangolins and other trafficked species increases relative to baseline levels by 30% by end of year 3.	Over this reporting period, 206 pieces of bushmeat were seized with 6 pieces of pangolin meat and a small bag of pangolins scales	For the next reporting period, the deployment of the rapid response squad combined to more intense SMART-based patrols (foot, river, etc.) should hopefully contribute to more seizures of wildlife products, including pangolin scale
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	1.1 CITES database and reporting protocols established to record pangolin trade data by month 4	Review document of CITES database ha interesting inputs included from all levels agents to central administration (Annex 4	of MINFOF, from field

Cameroon with focus on pangolins .	1.2 At least 30 enforcement agents trained in reporting and demonstrate ability to follow protocols by end of month 9  1.3 International ports and airports courts, police authorities and MINFOF regional delegations, recording data on pangolin trade/trafficking by start of month 10  1.4 At least 6 major bushmeat markets being monitored for pangolin trade and database being populated by month 10  1.5 Data being collected and collated into central database on pangolin trade/crime by month 10  1.6 Data collected on pangolin use from consumers at bushmeat markets	Five key bushmeat markets including Lomie, Abong-Mbang, Yaounde, Djoum and Sangmelima markets have been surveyed and monitoring commenced (January-March) for pangolin and other endangered species trade, including elephants, gorillas, chimps, grey parrot, monkeys, pangolin scales (survey data being analysed)  The database is still under development in coordination with TRAFFIC and MINFOF.  Consumer surveys were carried out at bushmeant markets over 8 weeks in Lomie, Abong-Mbang markets and 5-6 weeks from Yaoundé, Djoum and Sangmelima markets (January-March) (data is being analysed)  A community protocol was established in 4 communities and a greater understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports. There is great satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in decision-making processes. At least 5 meetings were held in each village.
	beginning end of month 4  1.7 Pangolin trafficking and use for Cameroon characterised beginning month 12 and revised annually	
	1.8 ExCiteS data collection protocols and database established for community resource monitoring to include pangolins and other traded species.	
Activity 1.1: Review of existing systems delegations, conservation services, courrecording and reporting information on content trafficked wildlife	and information within MINFOF thouses and customs for monitoring,	ZSL carried out an evaluation of the CITES reporting protocols and specifically the ETIS reporting form by staff serving in the DBR and in the South Region as a whole.
Activity 1.2: Development of data collection and reporting systems and associated toolkits/materials, data sharing protocols between government agencies and central storage database with CITES Scientific Authority		Inputs in the CITES reporting review document from the CITES SG, suggest the use of WEMS will be incorporated into this phase. Sharing this document to the CITES MA and SA will be part of yr 2 activities in order to ensure reporting protocols are in line with CITES recommendations.
Activity 1.3: Training delivered to key stakeholder groups		Training is planned for as soon as the data collection system is finalised.
Activity 1.4: Data being collected, collat	ed and reports being produced	The database is still being finalized. Regular reports are made by MINFOF staff through their respective hierarchies.

Activity 1.5: Key bushmeat market and consumer surveys initiated		Five key bushmeat markets have been surveyed and monitored established for pangolin and other endangered species trade, including elephants, gorilla, chimpanzee, grey parrot, monkey spp, pangolin scales in Lomie, Abong-Mbang, Yaounde, Djoum and Sangmelima markets.
Activity 1.6: Annual report on pangolin to	ade and use produced	In progress. To be completed by Q2 of Yr 2.
Activity 1.7: Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP on establishing monitoring system using the ExCiteS system		ExCiteS consultation with communities was made in 16 villages, 11 around DBR including Bii, Ze, Zobefam, Yen, Akonetye, Bosso, Mbouma, Oding, Djomedjoh, Bapile, Diassa and 5 around DDNP including Goyoum, Ouami, Hona, Haman and Deng Deng. The free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) is ongoing in 11 villages. 5 have already completed their FPIC.
Activity 1.8: ExCiteS protocols, database and training developed and delivered to local communities around DBR and DDNP		A community protocol was established in 4 communities and an improved understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports was the result. There is great satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in decision-making processes. At least 5 meetings were held in each village.
Activity 1.9: Communities collecting information on pangolins and other wildlife through ExCiteS		5 communities (2 indigenous and 3 Bantu) completed an FPIC form, indicating a good understanding of the project and consent to participate. There is successful data transmission in 4 communities as evidenced by reports received both on receiver phones and GeoKey online server.
Output 2. Adaptive management for site based protection using the SMART approach being implemented in at least two key sites	2.1 Incidence of poaching and seized pangolin and other wildlife products in and around DBR and DDNP decline from initial baselines by 30% by year 3  2.2 Population indices for pangolins and other wildlife show no decline from baselines over project period  2.3 ExCiteS data collection protocols and database established for community engagement in reporting illegal activities and monitoring law enforcement actions  2.4 Indicator to demonstrate SMART is effectively implemented – production of reports and evidence of use in adaptive	Over this reporting periods 206 pieces of meat was seized with 6 pieces of pangolin meat and a small bag of pangolins scales included  Over this reporting period, data indicates rangers to have made 8 direct encounter with gorilla, 30 with chimp, 23 with elephants 9 with pangolins  Sapelli has been tested in 5 villages, A community protocol was established in 4 communities and a greater understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports. There is great satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in decision-making processes.  To date, SMART mission reports are all generated by the head of each sector after a debriefing procedure during which data are visualised. The SMART mission report helps in preparing the plan

	management	for next patrol deployment	
Activity 2.1: Review of existing site based protection at DBR, DDNP and surrounding buffer zones. Identification of equipment and other resourcing needs, training needs and refinement of existing data model and collection. Mapping out of implementation plans.		At the start of this grant, the SMART process in the DBR had just begun and was limited to the northern and southern sector. In DDNP, an initial field visit had been carried out to review the site-based protection efforts, systems and the available resources. In both parks, site-based evaluation has been carried out and a SMART implementation plan developed. The SMART implementation is ongoing in the DBR, while in DDNP the process is delayed due to lack of equipment linked to EDC (see Section 3.1 Output 2). The data model continues to be improved and recently updated due to the recent reclassification by CITES and Cameroon of certain endangered species, such as pangolin and grey parrots, the model was reviewed and updated accordingly in both parks. The DDNP anti-poaching action plan from where the SMART plan will be designed is yet to be validated by EDC.	
Activity 2.2: Equipment sourced, SMART training delivered to PA senior management and implementation plan roll out commenced		Following the need assessment and subsequent meetings with DBR conservation partners, we have provided for the DBR 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 under this grant a total of an additional 60 MINFOF uniforms, 60 rubber boots, 60 berets and 60 belts to DBR to hit the target of 3 complete gears per ecoguard per year.  For DBR, after the initial SMART setup and technical support provided over the past 02 years, training has now being oriented to senior management in effectively using the SMART querying, planning and reporting capabilities. So far, a total of 24 training days were carried out over this reporting period. These training days were split as follows: 6 days (13th to 18th June) of data collection training for 28 rangers; 12 days (26th March-7th April) of patrolling and surveillance training by Retarius (a tactical skills trainer) for 15 people; 6 days (29th -30th November 2016; 16th-17th December 2016, 16th and 19th January 2017) for SMART planning and reporting training. The on-the-job training for patrol teams is ongoing and led by ZSL SMART expert.  There is an increase in the number of firearms (08 to 18) and ammunition (95 to 155) seized, poachers arrested (30 against 8 a year before). We are increasing our patrol effort (147% increase in annual distance patrolled 2,230 km to 5,500 km,). We have gone from 30% coverage (% patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5 km² grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once) to 67% coverage over the course of this grant. To date, 80 ecoguards are equipped, trained and capable of carrying SMART based anti-	

	poaching patrol with limited supervision. SMART patrols have been extended to the other 03 sectors with head of sectors confidently reflecting on patrol data, cleaning them and producing reports. In addition, ZSL has created a rapid response squad and is actually supporting boat patrolling along the DBR River to improve the coverage and the mobility and responsiveness of the rangers.  In DDNP, while waiting for the plan to be validated and the procurement process to start, ZSL has configured the SMART tool to be used in DDNP and provided 02 CT4 mobile devices for testing and troubleshooting. The head of the DDNP anti-poaching unit has been trained and is now managing the SMART tools and is producing reports.
Activity 2.3: Ongoing support by ZSL SMART technical advisor to DBR and DDNP for SMART implementation to include support for monthly site visit and reports, 6 monthly evaluation workshop and adaptation	Following the initial setup and data collection training organised prior to this grant, advanced training on reporting and planning as well as data collection refresher training has been ongoing in DBR more regularly and in Deng Deng every quarter. ZSL is providing patrol mobilisation funds and ensures patrol are carried out based on initial agreed plan (targets, areas to cover, number of days, etc.). So far, despite the challenge of bringing together DBR senior staff at a single site, 02 evaluations meeting (November 2016 and January2017) have already been organised to discuss patrol performance and approaches and adapt if necessary. The same approach will be initiated in DDNP with quarterly visits to the site. These visits in both parks are/will be organised, not only for troubleshooting, support and update, but also to confirm rangers are motivated and are going in the field. The ZSL SMART expert is carrying a weekly supervision call to DBR and DDNP to ensure things are moving forward according to SMART standard.  The sequence of SMART implementation has reached a good level from formerly poorly executed patrols with inconsistency in data collection to the current well-targeted patrols producing meaningful data that informs adaptive management. To date, all heads of sectors generate patrol reports for the Conservator after each debriefing and data cleaning session with minimal assistance from our technical staff.
Activity 2.4: Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP on establishing monitoring system using the ExCiteS tool	ExCiteS consultation with communities was made in 16 villages, 11 around DBR, including Bii, Ze, Zobefam, Yen, Akonetye, Bosso, Mbouma, Oding, Djomedjoh, Bapile, Diassa and 5 around DDNP, including Goyoum, Ouami, Hona, Haman and Deng Deng. The free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) process is ongoing in 11 villages, 5 have already completed their FPIC. 32 community

		meetings were held for these consultations.
Activity 2.5: ExCiteS protocols, database and training developed and delivered with communities		A community protocol was established in 4 communities and a greater understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports. There is great satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in decision-making processes. At least 5 meetings were held in each village and team spent the night in some of the villages to build confidence.
Activity 2.6: Communities collecting information on, resources use, law enforcement and pangolins and other wildlife through ExCiteS		Community-specific Sapelli projects created for two communities, with icon ideas collated for all the five communities.  Sapelli have been tested in 5 villages, and data will be received both on receiver phones (at ZSL) and GeoKey, where analysis, monitoring and reporting will be made.
Output 3. Enforcement agents, prosecutors, courthouse staff and	3.1 Training materials, protocols and toolkits developed by month 6	Relevant training has been done, we look forward to some improvement in court proceedings and judgments.
customs agents are competent in proper application of wildlife laws and reporting relating to pangolins and other trafficked species	3.2 At least 30 enforcement agents, prosecutors courthouse staff and customs agents are trained in the proper application of wildlife laws and CITES reporting tailored to their specific role months 6-12	Protocols and Law Enforcement Guidance have been created and issued to ZSL staff to enhance their capabilities in supporting law enforcement. Three bespoke training courses have been developed, ranging from 2 days to one week in duration. A weatherproof pocket field guide has been produced for frontline operational law enforcement officers
	3.3 Civil society oversight and media	Trainings delivered:
	coverage of all criminal cases by month 12	September 2016: 18 MINFOF ecoguards trained on anti-poaching and patrolling techniques. January 2017: Basic Law Enforcement Training at Lomie: 25 MINFOF agents March 2017: Anti-Smuggling Unit at Yaoundé Airport: 14 CAAT agents from police, gendarmerie and customs. March 2017 Anti-Smuggling Unit at Douala Airport: 15 CAAT agents from police, gendarmerie and customs.
		There has been some increase in civil society interest and media interest in issues related to wildlife crime. This is due to large publicity stunts, like the first African Pangolin Scale burn which was reported on CRTV the main TV and Radio channel in the country. Also the recent ministerial circular after the upgrading of all pangolin species to appendix 1. This circular was aired as a TV advert on CRTV channel 2, financed by ZSL for 1 week in order to spread the new up-listing. The seizure of 168 elephant tusks in Bertoua in mid-March 2017, was extensively covered by Radio and television

	houses in and out of Cameroon.	
Activity 3.1: Training materials developed in consultation with relevant agencies.  Materials tailored to knowledge and roles of each agency and participants.	The training of the special anti-poaching units was carried out with the French Gendarmerie. A French Gendarmerie Officer was one of the trainers at the Yaoundé and Douala workshops.	
	Bespoke training courses developed with MINFOF (Basic Law Enforcement techniques, informant handling techniques and patrol skills, specifically tailored to operational activities in the Dja in combating the IWT), Enforcement of Wildlife Law training developed specifically for border officials (frontline police, gendarmerie and customs of the CAAT anti-smuggling teams) with those agencies and the French government.	
	TRAFFIC/ ZSL carried out a bespoke training in March 2017 to improve the implementation of wildlife laws for customs agents in Douala, with 30 participants from Customs, police, gendarme and MINFOF.	
Activity 3.2: Training courses delivered to enforcement agents, customs, prosecutors and court house staff (3 per year).	Training and support documents have been presented at three workshops on the content of the Law and the Decree of Application to Gendarmerie, Customs and Police officers working in and around the DBR in September 2016 at Djoum. Same has been done for officers of the Judiciary on relevant subjects related to the role of Judicial Police Officer with general Jurisdiction and Judicial (Gendarmerie and Police) and Judicial Police officers with special Jurisdiction (Customs and the sworn-in forestry and wildlife officers serving in MINFOF. The workshop aimed at highlighting the importance of respecting procedure for all wildlife cases for prosecution. Meanwhile, the attention of the Judiciary officers was drawn to gains made by applying the provisions of the law in writing out sentences that are appropriate for the violation.	
	Two training and information workshops were held in Yaounde 27 and 28 March 2017 and Douala 30 and 31 March 2017 for the newly created special Anti-poaching Units based in the Yaounde Nsimalen International Airport and the Douala International Airport.	
	In the three workshops, participants were informed that the pangolin has been raised to Class A (totally protected species) using the circular of the Minister for Forestry and Wildlife; as such trafficking in pangolin scales is now an offence.	
<b>Activity 3.3:</b> Training assessments conducted before and after training to assess participant knowledge and understanding and obtain feedback. Information to be	Participants' knowledge and understanding of the wildlife law and its relevance were tested at the end of each training and their feedback	

used to adapt future sessions and determine further training requirements.	would be used to tailor future training sessions.
	The ZSL trainer is an experienced law enforcement officer, and has conducted pre-training needs assessments. Participation, understanding, learning and development are an integral part of the bespoke training courses, and each training course had a post-course evaluation element. Further training requirements are determined as a result of onsite assessments, and post-course evaluation dependent upon the specific operational requirements of the participants. In most cases, evaluation reports from students are available.
Activity 3.4: Follow up training courses delivered based on evaluation and feedback	A WhatsApp contact address has been created in which all participants share information, ask questions and make observations, it has turned out to be very useful information and learning tool.
	Follow-up is maintained through social media and other informal communication channels to ensure consistent input and communication regarding the content of the training and any operational issues which may be raised. This is particularly the case during live investigations or enquiries where participants are able to request assistance or guidance informally, most recently with members of the Yaoundé and Douala anti-smuggling teams who requested assistance conducting enquiries on INTERPOL and CITES open source elements during a live deployment
Activity 3.5: ZSL Law enforcement co-ordinator provides ongoing support for case follow up and communicating progress of court cases and incidents of wildlife crime	MINFOF Regional Chief of Service for Wildlife and Protected Areas for the South Region and his counter-part for the East Region, and the two Regional Delegates for the East and the South as well as MINFOF staff responsible for the follow-up of cases in courts.
	The judicial advisor also makes courtesy calls to Magistrates in courts where wildlife crime cases are followed by ZSL.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	and trafficking of pangolins and other threa and enabling Cameroon to meet its CITES		lting in sustainably managed
Outcome: Strengthened capacity in Cameroon to monitor and reduce illegal hunting and trafficking of pangolins and other wildlife.  (Max 30 words)	0.1 The nature of trade in pangolins and other trafficked species in Cameroon is documented by the end of year 3  0.2 Effective management and protection in at least two key protected areas known to contain populations of pangolins and other trafficked species by the end of year 3  0.3 Numbers of arrests and successful prosecutions relating to wildlife crime in Cameroon increase relative to baseline levels (determine at start of project) by 25% end year 2 and 50% by end of year 3.  0.4 Numbers of seizures of products from pangolins and other trafficked species increases relative to baseline levels by 30% by end of year 3.	0.1 CITES and national reports on national pangolin trafficking and use 0.2 SMART reports and other protected area management reports; annual State of Conservation report from DBR 0.3 Number of prosecutions and sentences from court proceedings and police reports on criminal cases 0.4 CITES database on traded species (established by this project)	Turnover of government staff does not exceed ability to provide refresher training and deplete skillset within relevan trained teams. ZSL Camerooi is working to have SMART adopted institutionally by MINFOF across all protected areas which, if successful, would minimize this risk as staff transferred from other protected areas will have previous experience with SMART.  The government of Camerooi continues to support international efforts to view illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime and maintains its commitment to support efforts to address it  Strengthening law enforcement capacity leads to a reduction in incidence of wildlife crime  Reducing wildlife crime reduces pressure on wild populations of pangolins and other trafficked species

Outputs:  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	1.1 CITES database and reporting protocols established to record pangolin trade data by month 4  1.2 At least 30 enforcement agents trained in reporting and demonstrate ability to follow protocols by end of month 9  1.3 International ports and airports courts, police authorities and MINFOF regional delegations, recording data on pangolin trade/trafficking by start of month 10  1.4 At least 6 major bushmeat markets being monitored for pangolin trade and database being populated by month 10  1.5 Data being collected and collated into central database on pangolin trade/crime by month 10  1.6 Data collected on pangolin use from consumers at bushmeat markets beginning end of month 4  1.7 Pangolin trafficking and use for Cameroon characterised beginning month 12 and revised annually  1.8 ExCiteS data collection protocols and database established for community resource monitoring to include pangolins and other traded species.	<ul> <li>1.1 Protocol documents</li> <li>1.2 Training materials and attendance records, and knowledge change assessments.</li> <li>1.3 Database records and reports</li> <li>1.4 Consumer survey data</li> <li>1.5 Reports on national pangolin trafficking and use.</li> </ul>	Turnover of government staff does not deplete skillset within relevant trained teams  Effective application of monitoring systems enables characterisation of trade in pangolin and other trafficked species
2. Adaptive management for site based protection using the SMART approach being implemented in at least two key sites	2.1 Incidence of poaching and seized pangolin and other wildlife products in and around DBR and DDNP decline from initial baselines by 30% by year 3  2.2 Population indices for pangolins and other wildlife show no decline from baselines over project period  2.3 ExCiteS data collection protocols and database established for community engagement in reporting illegal activities	2.1 SMART patrol reports 2.2 SMART review workshop reports 2.3 SMART reports track poaching incidence and pangolin product seizures 2.4 SMART reports show encounter rates for pangolins 2.5 ExCiteS database reports	Turnover of government staff does not deplete skillset within relevant trained teams

	and monitoring law enforcement actions Indicator to demonstrate SMART is effectively implemented – production of reports and evidence of use in adaptive management.		
3. Enforcement agents, prosecutors, courthouse staff and customs agents are competent in proper application of wildlife laws and reporting relating to pangolins and other trafficked species.	3.1 Training materials, protocols and toolkits developed by month 6 3.2 At least 30 enforcement agents, prosecutors courthouse staff and customs agents are trained in the proper application of wildlife laws and CITES reporting tailored to their specific role months 6-12 3.3 Civil society oversight and media coverage of all criminal cases by month 12	3.1 Training materials, protocol and toolkit documents 3.2 Training attendance records and evaluation/knowledge change reports 3.3 Media/Civil society reports (local radio, print and online national media) on cases of wildlife crime and CITES central storage database	Turnover of government staff does not deplete skillset within relevant trained teams

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

- 1.1 Review of existing systems and information within MINFOF delegations, conservation services, courthouses and customs for monitoring, recording and reporting information on cases of illegal trade in pangolins and other trafficked wildlife
- 1.2 Development of data collection and reporting systems and associated toolkits/materials, data sharing protocols between government agencies and central storage database with CITES Scientific Authority
- 1.3 Training delivered to key stakeholder groups
- 1.4 Data being collected, collated and reports being produced
- 1.5 Key bushmeat market and consumer surveys initiated
- 1.6 Annual report on pangolin trade and use produced
- 1.7 Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP on establishing monitoring system using the ExCiteS system
- 1.8 ExCiteS protocols, database and training developed and delivered to local communities around DBR and DDNP
- 1.9 Communities collecting information on pangolins and other wildlife through ExCiteS
- 2.1 Review of existing site based protection at DBR, DDNP and surrounding buffer zones. Identification of equipment and other resourcing needs, training needs and refinement of existing datamodel and collection. Mapping out of implementation plans
- 2.2. Equipment sourced, SMART training delivered to PA senior management and implementation plan roll out commenced
- 2.3 Ongoing support by ZSL SMART technical advisor to DBR and DDNP for SMART implementation to include support for monthly site visit and reports, 6 monthly evaluation workshop and adaptation
- 2.4 Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP on establishing monitoring system using the ExCiteS tool

- 2.5 ExCiteS protocols, database and training developed and delivered with communities
- 2.6 Communities collecting information on, resources use, law enforcement and pangolins and other wildlife through ExCiteS
- 3.1 Training materials developed in consultation with relevant agencies. Materials tailored to knowledge and roles of each agency and participants.
- 3.2 Training courses delivered to enforcement agents, customs, prosecutors and court house staff (3 per year).
- 3.3 Training assessments conducted before and after training to assess participant knowledge and understanding and obtain feedback. Information to be used to adapt future sessions and determine further training requirements.
- 3.4 Follow up training courses delivered based on evaluation and feedback
- 3.5 ZSL Law enforcement co-ordinator provides ongoing support for case follow up and communicating progress of court cases and incidents of wildlife crime.

# Timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

	Activity	No of		Ye	ar 1			Year 2			Year 3			
		months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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													
1.1	Review of existing systems within MINFOF delegations, conservation services, courthouses and customs for monitoring, recording and reporting information on cases of illegal trade in pangolins and other trafficked wildlife	3	Х	Х										
1.2	Development of reporting systems and associated toolkits/materials, data sharing protocols between government agencies and central storage database with CITES Scientific Authority	6			X	Х								
1.3	Training delivered to key stakeholder groups	2					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
1.4	Data being collected, collated and reports being produced	30			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
1.5	Key bushmeat market and consumer surveys initiated	2			Х	Х								
1.6	Annual report on pangolin trade and use produced	2				Х				Х				Х
1.7	Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP on establishing monitoring system using the ExCiteS system	2	Х	Х	Х									
1.8	ExCiteS protocols, database and training developed and delivered to local communities around DBR and DDNP	3			Х	Х	Х							
1.9	Communities collecting information on pangolins and other wildlife through ExCiteS	30			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

Output 2	Adaptive management for site based protection using the SMART approach being implemented in at least two key sites													
2.1	Review of existing site based protection at DBR, DDNP and surrounding buffer zones. Identification of equipment and other resourcing needs, training needs and refinement of existing datamodel and collection. Mapping out of implementation plans	0.5	Х	Х										
2.2	Equipment sourced, SMART training delivered to PA senior management and implementation plan roll out commenced	3		Х	х	Х								
2.3	Ongoing support by ZSL SMART technical advisor to DBR and DDNP for SMART implementation to include support for monthly site visit and reports, 6 monthly evaluation workshop and adaptation	33		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.4	Participatory consultation with communities in DBR and DDNP on establishing monitoring system using the ExCiteS tool	2	Х	Х	Х									
2.5	ExCiteS protocols, database and training developed and delivered with communities	3			Х	Х	Х							
2.6	Communities collecting information on, resources use, law enforcement and pangolins and other wildlife through ExCiteS	30			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Output 3	Enforcement agents, prosecutors, courthouse staff and customs agents are competent in proper application of wildlife laws and reporting relating to pangolins and other trafficked species													
3.1	Training materials developed in consultation with relevant agencies. Materials tailored to knowledge and roles of each agency and participants.	3		Х	Х	Х								
3.2	Training courses delivered to enforcement agents, customs, prosecutors and court house staff (3 per year).	6			x	Х	Х	X	X		X	Х	Х	
3.3	Training assessments conducted before and after training to assess participant knowledge and understanding and obtain feedback. Information to be used to adapt future sessions and determine further training requirements.	1			X	X	X	X	X		X	Х	Х	
3.4	Follow up training courses delivered based on evaluation and feedback	3				Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	
3.5	ZSL Law enforcement co-ordinator provides ongoing support for case follow up and communicating progress of court cases and incidents of wildlife crime.	36	X	X	X	X	X	X	Х	X	X	Х	Х	X

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# **Annex 3: Standard Measures**

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
TRAINING								
6A	Anti-poaching, patrolling techniques and evidence gathering: MINFOF	15 male; 3 female	Cameroonian	18 2 wks			18 2 wks	30 4 wks
6B	ecoguards. 10 days							
6A	Legislation, evidence gathering and investigative	23 male; 6 female	Cameroonian	29 0.4 wks			29 0.4 wks	40 3 weeks
6B	techniques: Yaoundé and Douala airport's Anti-smuggling units. 2 days.							
6A	Basic law enforcement skills:	25 male.	Cameroonian	25 0.4 wks			25 0.4 wks	70 1 week
6B	MINFOF agents. 2 days.							
6A	Wildlife crime and CITES: Law	23 male; 5 female	Cameroonian	28 0.4 wks			28 0.4 wks	28 1 wk
6B	Enforcement agents. 2 days.							
6A	SMART training (including data collection for 28	TBC	Cameroonian	52			52	~100 ~15
6B	people and planning and reporting for 24 people): eco-guards & senior park management. 12 days in total.			weeks			weeks	weeks
6A	ExCiteS/Sapelli training for	50 male; 30 female	Cameroonian	80			80	100
6B	communities.							
7	Field guide on wildlife law and guidance on basic policing skills.			1			1	5
RESEARCH								
11A	Excites project technical paper by UCL						0	1
11B								
12B	CITES database						0	1

DISSEMINATION MEASURES						
14A	Presentation to MINFOF and Cameroon CITES authority on project findings and recommendations.				0	1
PHYSICAL MEASURES						
20	Equipment and materials for ecoguards; PDA devices for ExCiteS.		£3500 (of DI funds); £50,000 including other sources)		£3500(of DI funds); £50,000 including other sources)	£4000 (of DI funds); £100,000 including other sources.
FINANCIAL MEASURES						
23	Rufford Fdn (£20,000; 1 yr); EU-CAWHFI (€300,000; 3 yrs); IWT Challenge Fund (£346,000; 2 yrs).		£616000 (includes all secured funds, not just those spent).		£616000	£1mil+

# Table 2 Publications NONE

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from  (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)	

# Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Doc 1a. Review of CITES reporting protocols.

Doc 1b. Review of CITES information collection.

Doc 2. Social mission report, DDNP & DBR.

Doc 3a. Bushmeat survey methods.

Doc 3b. Consumer survey questionnaire.

Doc 4. UCL ExCiteS Progress report.

Doc 5. DDNP SMART Evaluation report.

Doc 6. Dja Law Enforcement Workshop report.

Doc6b. Retarius Anti-poaching & patrolling training report.

Doc 7. DBR SMART report.

Doc 8a. DBR Northern sector SMART mission report.

Doc 8b. DBR Southern sector SMART mission report.

Doc 8c. DBR Eastern sector SMART mission report.

Doc 8d. DBR Western sector SMART mission report.

Doc 9. Photo of pocket field guide for law enforcement agents.

## **Checklist for submission**

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@Itsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@Itsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	х
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-">Darwin-</a> <a href="mailto:Projects@Itsi.co.uk">Projects@Itsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	х
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	х
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	Х
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Х
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	