

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2023

Project reference	IWTEV003
Project title	Exploring drivers of wild meat consumption and interventions in Vietnam
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Viet Nam
Lead partner	Wildlife Conservation Society, Viet Nam Program
Partner(s)	Wildlife Conservation Society, Viet Nam Program
Project leader	Hoang Bich Thuy Country Director
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://vietnam.wcs.org/ https://www.facebook.com/wcs.vietnam/

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

In the past 6 months, we have completed all activities as planned in the project proposal. The following reports and project products were generated:

- A draft “Literature Review: situation analysis report on wild meat trade and consumption in northern Viet Nam” (Activity 1.2.)
- Draft “Key findings: Literature Review_situational analysis report on wild meat trade and consumption in northern Viet Nam” (Activity 1.2.)
- A KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) survey report: The drivers and barriers to wild meat selling and consumption and its market dynamics in Bac Ninh, Ha Nam and Ha Noi (Activity 2.3)
- Draft “Crime scripts: sale and consumption of wild meat in selected restaurants in Ha Noi, Ha Nam and Bac Ninh, Viet Nam” (Activity 3.1)
- Draft outline of a policy brief on health risks associated with wildlife trade and consumption, and mitigation measures (Activity 4.1)

We have reviewed our M&E systems and found that our indicators are still relevant and logical, and aligned with the expected outputs of the project. We have also mapped our indicators to the standard indicator set that BCF released in April 2023, as shown in the year 1 report (July 2022 – March 2023). We believe that our assumptions are still valid and reflect the current situation of wildlife trade and consumption in Viet Nam.

Output 1: A report on the current situation and trends of wildlife trafficking in Vietnam and patterns of trade for human consumption purpose

Activity 1.1. Review and analyse open-source information and conduct field observation surveys in the North of Vietnam

In this reporting period, we continued to extract information from the collected literatures, results of the scanning and examining the use of online social media platforms in Vietnam for advertising and trading wildlife, including wildmeat. Particularly, we explored questions such as:

- How does the legal trade of wild meat for human consumption operate along the supply chain in the North of Vietnam including provinces of Bac Ninh, Ha Nam and Ha Noi where we conducted the KAP survey?
- What species are currently being purchased for human consumption and what is the scale of the trade?
- What are the current preferences of people consuming wild meat?
- When do people typically prefer to eat wild meat?
- What is the current Vietnamese attitude toward wildlife trade and consumption post-Covid-19?

The collected information has been integrated into the report.

Activity 1.2. Compile results of open-source information gathering and field observation surveys to draft an analysis report on the current situation and trends of wildlife trade and wild meat consumption in Vietnam, especially the illegal trade of wildlife for human consumption purpose

In this period, we continued to triangulate the key findings obtained in the situational analysis with information from the resources mentioned in Activity 1.1. We also identified additional gaps for further consultation with relevant law enforcement and management agencies in meetings scheduled for late October – early November 2023 (Activity 3.2). Additionally, we completed the analysis on crime preventative models and integrated it into the situational analysis. This analysis report will be finalized by November 2023. A copy of the draft report is attached.

Based on our draft situational analysis, we developed a brief “Key findings: Literature Review_situational analysis report on wild meat trade and consumption in northern Viet Nam” and translated it to Vietnamese to share with participants attending the upcoming consultation meeting (Activity 3.2). The brief will provide them with a background of wildmeat trade and consumption in Vietnam that help to verify our crime scripts and preventative policing strategy. A copy of the draft brief is attached.

Output 2: A KAP survey report on scope of current markets and wild meat consumption trends and practices, motivation to serve and to consume wild meat and willingness to pay for wild meat

Activity 2.1. Develop KAP survey protocol and questionnaires, secure the institutional review board (IRB) approval

Completed - Reported in the Annual Report 1 (July 2022 – March 2023).

Activity 2.2. Deploy KAP survey in Hanoi and/or two neighbouring provinces (Ha Nam, Bac Ninh)

Completed – data collection was done in Ha Noi, Ha Nam and Bac Ninh and reported in the Annual Report 1 (July 2022 – March 2023)

Activity 2.3. Compile results of the field survey and draft the KAP survey report on scope of current markets and wild meat consumption trends and practices; motivation to serve and to consume wild meat and willingness to pay for wild meat

In April and May 2023, the data collected were coded and analysed to answer the main research question on what drives and/or hinders consumers and restaurateurs from eating and/or serving wildlife meat, and to identify their position to inform a potential behavioural

change process using KAP theory, and the conceptual model proposed by Muleme et al. (2017)¹ to harmonize data points, the KAP model and Maslow's hierarchy of needs across stakeholders and within the given context of each province.

On May 16-17, 2023, to ensure the reliability of the data from the KAP survey, WCS coordinated with Ha Nam Sub-department of Cultivation, Plant Protection and Forest Protection to organize two consultation workshops with 108 participants who are forest rangers, wildlife farmers, restaurateurs and business holders involved in production and processing of wildlife and other forest products from all districts in Ha Nam. After the meetings, the KAP report was finalized and is available in English and Vietnamese.

The final KAP report is included with this half year report.

Output 3: Preventative policing strategy including potential entry points for long-term behaviour change interventions.

Activity 3.1. Draft crime script(s) for the wildlife trade and consumption

With support from WCS regional and global teams, using the crime scripting technique WCS Vietnam developed "Crime scripts: sale and consumption of wild meat in selected restaurants in Ha Noi, Ha Nam and Bac Ninh, Viet Nam". We also compared and contrasted with the draft "Literature Review: Situation Analysis Report on Wild Meat Trade and Consumption in Northern Viet Nam" (Activity 1.2) and the KAP report on the drivers and barriers to wild meat selling and consumption and its market dynamics in Bac Ninh, Ha Nam and Ha Noi (Activity 2.3). These draft crime scripts are currently reviewed by experts in law and criminology. We are also planning to present these draft crime scripts at a consultation meeting (Activity 3.2) with related stakeholders to design a preventative policing plan in late October – early November 2023.

The draft crime scripts on the sale and consumption of wild meat in selected restaurants in Ha Noi, Ha Nam and Bac Ninh, Viet Nam are enclosed with this half year report.

Activity 3.2. Organise consultation meetings with wildlife management and law enforcement officers, restaurants, consumers, and local CSOs to verify the developed crime script and preventative policing strategy.

We initially intended to co-host these consultation meetings with the Institute of Regional Sustainable Development (ISRD) and Ha Nam Sub-Department of Cultivation, Plant Protection and Forest Protection in May – June 2023. However, the process of obtaining approval from Ha Nam People's Committee has proven to be complex and time-consuming especially when the office licence of WCS was being renewed (renewal approved in early August 2023). Thus, WCS has been in discussion with the Head of the training centre of the Institute of Management for Agricultural and Rural Development (IMARD) to co-host these meetings, scheduled for late October – early November 2023. More details will be reported in upcoming reports.

Activity 3.3. Develop and agree on a recommended list of behaviour change interventions.

As reported in the Annual Report 1, it was anticipated that this activity would be tentatively implemented in August 2023. As mentioned in the Activity 3.2, to collaborate with Ha Nam Sub-Department of Cultivation, Plant Protection and Forest Protection, WCS is required to submit relevant documents to obtain approval from Ha Nam People's Committee. However, as with Activity 3.2 there has been a delay in the activity.

WCS has rescheduled the activity for November 2023 with relevant stakeholders and provincial authorities who will be responsible for implementing the interventions towards target audiences – wild meat restaurateurs and consumers. We aim to facilitate different sessions of the consultation meeting (Activity 3.2) to verify and get additional information to further detail the crime scripts and at the same time, to design behavior change interventions with inputs and engagement of the forest protection officers who are overseeing wildlife sources and those sold at restaurants. More details will be reported in future reports.

¹ This model states that an individual's knowledge could be influenced by socio-demographic factors that affect their attitude, which then becomes an incentive or a disincentive to practice (behaviour)

Output 4: Guidance on impacts of wildlife trade and consumption on public health risks and mitigation measures

Activity 4.1. Develop set of guidelines and policy briefs on health risks associated with wildlife trade and consumption, and mitigation measures

Building upon Output 1, 2 and 3, we have developed a draft outline of a policy brief on the analysis of the current legal framework related to zoonotic disease control and prevention including gaps and discrepancies. It will also propose solutions for better zoonotic disease management, control and prevention, based on the issues identified and lessons learned from other countries, such as China and some East African countries. In addition, we have been reviewing existing materials and drafted guidelines for mitigating adverse health risks at each node of the wildlife supply chain. We aim to have the final set of guidelines and policy brief in late October – early November 2023 and will then share them with the three provinces involved in the KAP survey as well as stakeholders attending the below briefing event (Activity 4.2).

Draft outline of the policy brief is attached.

Activity 4.2. Organise consultation meetings/briefings to share documents with relevant stakeholders to raise their awareness of the risks and consult the measures to prevent health risks associated with wildlife trade and consumption

We have initiated discussions and planning with the Institute for Environmental Health and Sustainable Development (IEHSD) to organize a technical meeting with stakeholders, including animal health, human health officers and forest rangers, and/or One Health researchers/experts. The meeting is scheduled for late November or early December 2023.

Activity 4.3. Organise virtual regional forum sharing lessons learned on preventing health risks associated with wildlife trade and consumption in Vietnam, Indonesia, and China

Not started. This activity is tentatively scheduled for December 2023, after getting outputs from Activities 4.1 and 4.2 and will be reported in future project reports.

2. 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.

Our WCS office licence expired in January 2023, so we submitted papers early in October 2022 to renew, as is standard procedure in Viet Nam. However, it took us more than ten months to receive the renewal instead of a normal three-month period. This caused long delays in the initial plan to work with Ha Nam and in the process of approvals from their People’s Committee for our on-site activities. These activities included co-hosting a consultation meeting to verify the developed crime scripts and preventative policing strategy which we originally planned for August 2023 (Activity 3.2).

To organize a consultation workshop with Ha Nam Sub-Department of Cultivation, Plant Protection and Forest Protection, we must wait for their internal approval process, which requires the WCS office license. So, as a backup plan, we have been reaching out to relevant training and research agencies to co-chair the consultation meeting with them to make up the time. We believe that we can deliver Output 3 as planned.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS: **No**

Formal Change Request submitted: **No**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **No**

Change request reference if known:

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)

Actual spend: £ [REDACTED]

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?

No

4c. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

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

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

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

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**