Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Evidence Final Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed project end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com *including your project ref in the subject line.*

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWTEV004
Project title	Developing a unique open-source global wildlife crime tracker
Country(ies)	Nigeria, Malaysia, Vietnam
Lead Partner	Environmental Investigation Agency
Project partner(s)	Justice for Wildlife Malaysia (JWM), United for Wildlife
IWTCF grant value	£99,993
Start/end dates of project	01/07/2022 – 31/10/2023
Project Leader's name	Mel Butler
Project website/blog/social media	https://eia-international.org
Report author(s) and date	Mel Butler, Shaliza Malik, Royce To – 31/01/2024

1. Project summary

It is recognised that the lack of publicly available data on Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and environmental crime makes it difficult for governments and public organisations to develop effective policies to combat these crimes (UNEP, 2018). Publicly available information on seizures of IWT and environmental crime is sporadic, with prosecution data difficult to obtain.

Furthermore, due to reporting biases, the use of seizures alone to analyse the scale and trends in IWT is problematic. Governments, academics, law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) need to be provided with the means to analyse data alongside other information sources, such as trade data and intelligence. Qualitative data on IWT intelligence is not typically available in a form that can be easily accessed or analysed alongside law enforcement outcomes.

EIA has developed a comprehensive database of global wildlife seizures and law enforcement action linked to ivory, pangolin, rhino horn, Asian big cats and timber. EIA's recently launched Global Environmental Crime Tracker (GECT) is a publicly accessible dashboard that holds and visualises the data stored on this database. This project sought to expand the database, as well as increase the functionalities of the GECT to address the aforementioned lack of publicly available data and analytical tools that focus on IWT and environmental crime.

More specifically, the project was designed to address data accessibility gaps by developing the breadth and use of EIA's GECT. The tool provides stakeholders with access to EIA's database, which currently stores over 16,400 incidents, and the use of interactive dashboards and maps to effectively analyse trends in wildlife and forest crime. As part of this project, EIA also aimed to fill gaps in seizure,

prosecution and court data, through outreach to civil society organisations (CSOs) in key IWT countries: Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam. Prior to the project, there has been no online tool where prosecution data for wildlife crimes from the target countries can be accessed and analysed in one place.

Pre-project data shows that since 2010, Vietnam has been implicated in more than 700 seizures totalling at least 123 tonnes of ivory, 111 tonnes of pangolin scales and 2.7 tonnes of rhino horn. Of these seizures, Nigeria has been implicated as the exporting country in 19 tonnes (21%) of ivory and 62 tonnes (73%) of pangolin scales, highlighting its significance in the wildlife trade from Africa to Asia. Malaysia has been linked as a transit or destination country to 309 IWT seizures from Africa and EIA intelligence indicates it plays a significant role in the transport of wildlife. EIA's work on the tiger trade has also identified Vietnam to be a persistent trade hub for tigers and their derivatives.

The volumes traded suggest that strengthening law enforcement efforts in these countries will have a significant effect on IWT networks operating between Africa and Asia. Countries should target those in the chain who are profiting the most from IWT to disrupt and deter traffickers who see the trade as a lucrative business. To do this, the financial sector needs access to relevant data to develop internal strategies to detect illicit financial flows linked to wildlife crime and identify those within the financial systems who are benefiting. The project therefore was also designed to provide the relevant stakeholders in the target countries with access to this relevant data, through the expansion of EIA's existing Media Monitoring Programme (MMP), which was initially developed as part of a previous IWT Challenge Fund grant (reference number IWT 059). Through partnering with United for Wildlife's (UfW), the project promoted and expanded the MMP to disseminate data to the UfW's Financial Taskforce members which will be embedded into customer due diligence systems and improve identification of IWT money laundering risks.

The MMP provides a framework for effective information sharing with the financial sector, facilitating improved due diligence and risk monitoring. EIA partners with TRAFFIC to feed open-source data directly to banks, financial institutions and third-party data providers such as WorldCheck. The programme was highlighted as a good example of CSO and financial sector collaboration by the Financial Action Task Force in its 2020 report on wildlife crime, with over 11,000 entity names submitted since 2016. Previously, due to lack of resources, the programme has been unable to expand as this has required some improved technology.

EIA recognises that to improve knowledge on law enforcement efforts and provide data for analysis of IWT trends, some data collection efforts are replicated by other international and national organisations. As there are numerous tools already publicly available that visually present and analyse data regarding IWT and environmental crimes, including those which may be at a development stage, there is a likelihood that efforts are duplicated. These tools may also overlap in their use and functionality. The project therefore was designed to avoid duplication in these activities. Through this project, EIA aimed to engage with stakeholders and set up a working group to address the recognised need for organisations who collect data to share resources, preventing duplication of effort and providing an established location for data collation.
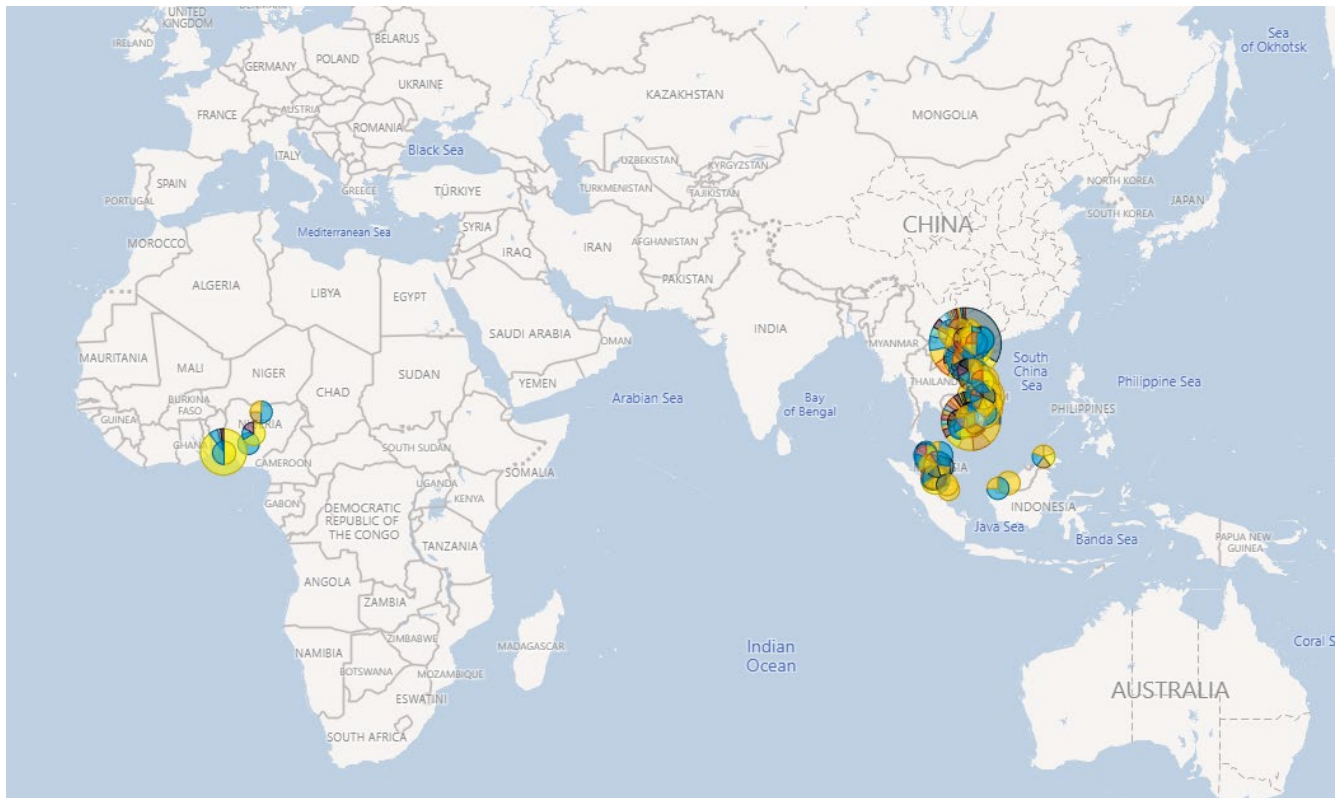
Figure 1: Pre-project snapshot of wildlife crime incidents mapped on EIA's GECT in Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam.

2.   Project Partnerships

In this project, the Environmental Investigation Agency UK (EIA) based in London, UK, was the lead institution and the two main partners were Justice for Wildlife Malaysia (JWM) and United for Wildlife (UfW).

JWM is based in Malaysia and their stated goal is to protect and conserve wildlife in Malaysia through legal means, as well as to promote legal literacy among wildlife conservation fraternities. Initially, EIA identified limited CSOs monitoring wildlife crime data in Malaysia, so JWM were invited to be partners on this project as they are based in one of the three target countries and their Project Minerva aligned with the objectives of the project. As part of this project, JWM employed a full-time Case Tracker for 12 months to collate and update cases of wildlife crime in Malaysia. These cases were used to input data into EIA's GECT and provide transparency on crime and prosecution rates in Malaysia. This data adds value to the global picture of wildlife trafficking as Malaysia is a key source and transit country in the IWT for EIA's key focal species. JWM were involved in the project during the application process and therefore were heavily involved from the beginning. Due to their existing experience in court case monitoring, their guidance shaped the strategy used in Malaysia to collect court case data. Through partnering with JWM, this project has fostered a good working relationship with the Department of Wildlife and Nature Parks Malaysia and the Malaysian judiciary. This relationship resulted in these agencies sharing important information on the various wildlife crime cases that go to court. Without their input and assistance, JWM would not have been able to track cases in court. Throughout this project, there have been several delays in obtaining the requested data from some stakeholders. This was addressed by constantly following up with the relevant agencies through emails, phone calls and in-person meetings. JWM had to continuously adapt to changes according to the capacity and capability of the relevant agencies that they were working with. EIA and JWM will be maintaining the relationship after project completion and have already scheduled meetings with other staff members of EIA outside of this project to identify further collaboration opportunities.

This project also partnered with UfW to promote and expand EIA's MMP. The project collaborated with the UfW's financial taskforce, which was formed after UfW recognised that financial institutions have a crucial role to play in combatting IWT by using existing systems in place to look for money laundering

and payments for illegal goods. EIA used UfW's financial taskforce to identify banks and financial institutions as target recipients of the MMP and improve access to information on entities implicated in wildlife trafficking. Through UfW's Spotlight series, EIA delivered a training webinar on 23rd May 2023 on the use of the GECT and provided members with an insight into how the MMP works and what the data looks like to encourage additional banks and financial institutions to sign up to the programme. As a result of this webinar, 9 new UfW financial taskforce members signed up. The MMP also became a permanent feature on UfW's bulletin that is disseminated to all financial and transport taskforce members which has generated further interest. EIA will be maintaining the pre-existing relationship with UfW after the completion of the project through its membership with UfW as a taskforce member.

EIA also worked with the private sector recipients of the MMP. Although these relationships were pre-existing before the project began, EIA continued to engage with these recipients throughout the MMP's automation and expansion process. Before the project, there were 11 recipients; upon completion of the project, there are now 20 recipients (this has been reported on in Section 3.1 under Output 2). In preparation for this expansion of MMP recipients, the capacity for additional financial institutions to receive data regularly and efficiently was increased through automation of the data flow. The recipients took an active part in providing feedback during the process of automating the programme. As a result of this communication, the initial automation plans were simplified, and some initial challenges that arose with the initial automation plans were resolved. The relationships with these recipients will be maintained through regular and automated data disseminations.

Other informal partners of this project include those that EIA invited to join the working group, which aimed to assemble key stakeholders to discuss improved data collection and sharing between organisations. EIA held two virtual roundtables to encourage dialogue to discuss obstacles with databases of publicly available data. The roundtables have been reported on in Section 3.1 of this report, under Output 3. Members of the working group unilaterally agreed that the roundtables offered a suitable space for maintaining communication and avoiding duplication, therefore the working group will continue to meet (either quarterly or bi-annually) with discussions beyond the initial objectives to be determined.

3.   Project Achievements

3.1   Outputs

Output 1: A publicly available resource on IWT which provides greater transparency of law enforcement efforts and analysis of trends to feed into future strategies to disrupt trafficking of key wildlife species.

EIA has successfully created a publicly available resource on wildlife crime which now provides greater transparency on enforcement efforts, specifically prosecution results. The new prosecution dashboard (Output 1.4) was released on 6th October 2023 and is now accessible on the Global Environmental Crime Tracker tool. The dashboard provides analysis on the type of charges filed against perpetrators, as well as conviction details such as court case outcomes and sentences imposed in the target countries of Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam. To be able to start collecting the data in this way, the project team established a new data table within EIA' s internal incident database, which required technical work to implement into the user application and the organisation's workstreams. Although efforts were concentrated on capturing the data for the target countries, EIA has already started collecting prosecution data from outside this project's target countries through other workstreams, which shows that there is further potential to increase the scope of the prosecution tracker and provide greater transparency on a global level.

As the three target countries store their prosecution data differently, three different data collection strategies had to be implemented. For Malaysia, a dedicated Case Tracker role was funded in JWM through the project to collect and process the data. After a lengthy bureaucratic process to obtain the relevant data from DWNP caused multiple delays with the project, JWM resulted to case tracking in order to obtain the information. Case tracking involves physically attending court sessions in order to keep track of the status of ongoing wildlife crime court cases. Up until October 2023, JWM has made physical visits to court 59 times, while tracking the court sessions of 18 separate cases. JWM has travelled to various states throughout Peninsular Malaysia for this purpose which includes but is not limited to Kelantan, Pahang, Johor, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. Some of the species involved in these cases include tigers, elephants and rhinos. In court, JWM collects important details of the case either

through the court sessions or talking to DWNP representatives. Some of the details that JWM collects include the name of the presiding judge, whether the accused is represented, what the accused is pleading, the bail amount, etc. The details and status of these cases are later collected and documented in the JWM database in the form of a shared Google Sheets workbook. This worked well for JWM's internal data collection and management. Data collected through this method was able to be added to the prosecution tracker. Challenges with the collection of data within Malaysia are detailed in section 7 of the report.

In Nigeria, after establishing that data was not available through civil society partnerships or open resources, permission to access court case data had to be obtained through formally writing to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

ANI also attended ongoing court cases in Nigeria in relation to recent ivory and pangolin scale seizures and have shared data on this court monitoring. From this, 7 court records were shared. EIA also conducted meetings with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and journalists who had collected prosecution data in the country but were unable to obtain data. Difficulty in accessing this data in Nigeria highlights issues at a national level which are reflected on in section 7 of this report.

To mitigate this, EIA identified that some court cases are published through several publicly accessible online portals, so EIA hired a legal consultant to find and record relevant prosecution data for Vietnam; of the recorded wildlife crime incidents on the GECT, 80.5% of incidents in target countries that were updated by October 2023 with detailed prosecution outcomes occurred in Vietnam. The successful data collection in Vietnam, compared to Nigeria and Malaysia where easily accessible data sources are not available, highlights the importance for judiciaries to have centralised databases to store court cases that are accessible to the public and able to provide transparency on the criminal justice response to wildlife crime.

For Malaysia, JWM reported that the lack of a centralised database for storing court cases proved difficult to access prosecution data and that in-person attendance at courts was required to acquire court case data. In both Nigeria and Malaysia, court case paperwork would have been easier to obtain through physically visiting the courts, however this was unrealistic in the project's timeframe and within the budget.

As part of Output 1, the project aimed to increase the number of prosecution outcomes and court case records held within the GECT for the target countries from the baseline of 14% to 50% through additional research conducted. At the completion of the project, 20.7% of target country incidents within the GECT have been recorded with prosecution outcomes. The initial baseline for prosecution outcomes was calculated by recording whether perpetrators involved in the incidents were convicted or not using a Yes/No field in the database. As a result of collecting prosecution data for the additional GECT layer (as discussed in Output 3.3), EIA added additional prosecution specific fields to its internal data entry form which led to detailed prosecution outcomes for 591 wildlife crime incidents, of which 287 were incidents in target countries. A total of 1,368 perpetrator specific charges have been recorded, of which 625 charges were related to incidents in target countries. Although the number of incidents with recorded convictions for target countries increased by 20.7%, with a total of 625 charges added, the number of incidents with no convictions also increased as new data was entered across EIA's campaigns, which is why a greater percentage increase for this output has not been seen as this affected the proportions of incidents with convicted details compared to those without. Some target countries also carried more success, for example prosecution data for recorded incidents in Vietnam increased by 22.4%, with 503

new charges added. This was much higher than the increase seen for Nigeria and Malaysia, which was 15.9% and 15.7% respectively. This highlights the importance for countries to have centralised databases, particularly those that are accessible online such as in Vietnam. Therefore, although the target of 50% of wildlife crime incidents in target countries including a prosecution outcome was not achieved, there has still been an increase of recorded prosecution data. All data collected through the project has contributed to improved transparency of criminal justice outcomes for wildlife crime offences, as it was not accessible prior to the project.

Using the data from the GECT, combined with EIA's intelligence, two trend assessments were also disseminated as part of this project, one on red flags linked to IWT in Vietnam and a second using data from the GECT to produce a country profile on Nigeria illegal wildlife trends. Despite few prosecution outcomes being available, EIA's database on wildlife seizure incidents is comprehensive and the trends analysis was still able to be completed. The Nigeria country profile was disseminated to the Nigerian FIU, the Nigerian Economic Financial Crimes Commission and NESREA.

JWM faced several challenges while publishing a paper analysing the prosecution rates in Malaysia. One of the biggest hurdles was the quality and quantity of data provided by DWNP. Additionally, there were time constraints to consider, given the timeline from receiving the data, analysing the data and including its findings in the write-up. These limitations prevented the report from being published in a peer-reviewed publication. An alternative to communicate the work with the public was initiated through an op-ed for a local environmental journalism portal, but due to JWM's capacity-building commitments towards the end of 2023, the op-ed could only be published mid- to end-January 2024 instead after a round of reviews. A draft of the article has been included in Annex 4.10 and sets out some of the key challenges with wildlife crime prosecutions in Malaysia.

Output 2: Improved knowledge and awareness of wildlife seizures assist the financial sector to improve identification of risks associated with money laundering and embedded into customer due diligence systems.

To achieve this output, the project aimed to improve the knowledge of wildlife seizures within the financial sector to improve risk assessments associated with the illegal wildlife trade. A key activity under this output was to hire a Data Manager to implement the automation of data sharing to financial institutions through EIA's MMP. The database for the programme was migrated from Airtable to Microsoft O365 during the project period to improve efficiency with EIA's internal data collection processes. Using Power Automate, automation flows have been created to submit data both on a daily and a monthly basis to all recipients of the programme, streamlining the process and removing the manual burden for staff within EIA. The fully automated system launched on 1st July 2023 with minimal teething issues, which means the programme is now able to be rolled out on a larger scale to a larger number of recipients.

EIA worked closely with United for Wildlife during the project period to increase the number of banks and financial institutions who were signed up to the programme, particularly through the UfW Financial Taskforce. EIA delivered a spotlight webinar on the 23rd May 2023, which provided training on EIA's GECT and promoted the MMP as a significant tool for the financial sector to use to target financial flows linked to illegal wildlife trade offenders. The webinar was received positively with more than 150 attendees from across the globe. As a result of the webinar EIA received 10 immediate requests from participants to sign up to the MMP. UfW also recommended that MMP and GECT become a permanent feature of the UfW monthly newsletter which reaches across all members of the UfW network. This was included from July 2023, which has led to further enquiries from companies to sign up.

EIA also looked to improve the access to this data by financial institutions specifically within the project's target countries. Through partner JWM, EIA met with the Central Bank of Malaysia to introduce the MMP and gain a better understanding of gaps in knowledge within the FIU. As a result of the meeting, the Central Bank of Malaysia now receives wildlife crime data on a monthly basis through the programme. In Nigeria, EIA facilitated a meeting with the Association of Chief Compliance Officers of Banks in Nigeria (ACCOBIN) to discuss the benefit of sharing the data with all compliance officers across the country. The process to get authorisation for EIA to share this data directly with banks in Nigeria is in progress, with Standard Chartered Nigeria already receiving the data. In Vietnam, EIA has met with both Vietcombank

and the Vietnam FIU to identify collaboration opportunities, including through the MMP. A follow up call is scheduled for February 2024 to progress the signup of these financial institutions to the programme.

[redacted]

Under this output (indicator 2.1), the project aimed to increase the numbers of entity names provided to financial institutions through the MMP from the baseline of 150 to 300 per month by August 2023. Between July 2022 and October 2023, an average of 142 names were submitted per month. The MMP automation was implemented to improve efficiency and ensure staff capacity would no longer be a bottleneck. However, as the automation of the MMP submissions was phased in, it became clear that there were additional bottlenecks, such as the level of data being entered into EIA's database that was still reliant on staff capacity and availability, in addition to relying on external organisations to submit their data, which continues to affect the average of monthly data submissions. Although the target of 300 monthly submissions has not been reached upon the completion of the project, automating the submissions process will allow the system to cope with an increased level of submissions when the additional bottlenecks are removed and more organisations join as MMP submitters. Furthermore, a total of 264 names were submitted in December, which shows that progress towards the target of 300 submissions per month is still achievable beyond the project's timeline. Additionally, the lower average of names submitted did not inhibit EIA from reaching the target of a minimum of 350 new profiles on third party data provider databases, as this was exceeded by the creation of 1,439 new profiles. This result is almost triple the target number, emphasising that the names submitted were of high quality.

Between July 2022 and October 2023, 2,284 entity names have been submitted to the Know Your Customer (KYC) databases of the recipients. [redacted]

EIA also shared financial red flag documents and financial typologies with financial sector partners through UfW. Using the data collected, plus information from intelligence and investigation work (funded through alternative sources), a red flag document on illegal wildlife trends in Vietnam and a financial typology on a wildlife crime network operating from Nigeria-Vietnam were produced by EIA. These were shared with relevant law enforcement agencies, as well as financial sector institutions through UfW's financial taskforce.

Output 3: Increased collaboration between international CSOs on sharing data and identification of joint working opportunities for a publicly available platform of wildlife crime, intelligence and conservation data.

Under Output 3, the project provided a forum for international CSOs to increase collaboration by identifying crossover areas of data collection, whilst also identifying gaps that need to be filled. EIA formed a Wildlife Crime Data Working Group and held two virtual roundtables (output 3.3) that were between 2.5 to 3.5 hours long.

The first roundtable (session 1) took place on 12th July 2023 and focused on data entry; including methods around data collection and recording, as well as data sharing. The attendees for session 1 were UNODC, C4ADS, Monitor, Oxpeckers, TRAFFIC, JWM and AMDCF. The second roundtable (session 2) took place on 16th October 2023 and focused on data analysis; including methods around data analysis and visualisation, as well as data tools that are currently available. The attendees for session 2 were UNODC, ADMCF, TRAFFIC, C4ADS, JWM and GoInsight. Attendees discussed challenges and potential solutions on the collection of IWT data, instigating a number of actions for all organisations to progress. These included the sharing of data collection SOPs and templates, the development of deduplication coding and the identification of future collaborative funding. The agenda and meeting notes for both sessions can be found in Annexes 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7.

A major challenge of setting up the virtual roundtables was the clash of schedules; it was difficult to determine a date when all invitees would be available, so doodle polls were set up to determine the most

suitable date. A shared google drive for all participants, that included the notes from the roundtables, was also set up so that all organisations could access a shared online space of resources. The working group made a unanimous decision to continue holding quarterly meetings beyond the project timeline, which highlights the need for continued coordination between all organisations moving forward.

Under output 3.1, CSOs participating in the working group that regularly collect IWT data were invited to sign an MOU to set up regular scheduled data swaps with EIA. CSOs that contribute data to EIA's database are recognised in using the "Agency Contributor" field and EIA's dissemination tracker. Upon completion of the project, EIA has successfully signed data MOUs and set up scheduled data sharing with two of the working group participants. As a result of these contributions, data entered into the crime tracker on a scheduled basis has increased the number of wildlife crime incidents recorded on the tracker. ██

██

As a result of the Working Group, EIA has drawn up a proposal for two alternative technical solutions to improve the collaboration of organisations collecting IWT data and the accessibility of it to other key stakeholders. One proposed solution to facilitate more efficient data sharing is to create a joint database on a shared platform, which would require members to address the challenges of duplication and standardisation. If standardised fields could be agreed, the platform would allow members to feed their data directly into the shared database, reducing the manual effort of sharing datasets and duplicating resources. This would require organisational agreement to make changes to the current data structures and for one organisation to host the platform, which is likely to be challenging.

As a result of this, a second interim solution has been proposed to create a shared platform for uploading and accessing data exports, which would easily streamline the process without requiring changes to current data structures. In addition, the concept note sets out a recommendation to create a public online 'one stop shop' for wildlife crime data resources. This would be a public platform which brings together the GECT and all other public tools for wildlife crime and provide clarity on the differences and similarities with the data, to avoid confusion by users. This option is relatively low cost and would require little development, but would provide the opportunity for all organisations working on collecting and publishing wildlife crime data to collaborate more efficiently. The concept note is available in Annex 4.9 and will be taken forward in the next Wildlife Crime Data Working Group session to identify potential funding streams.

3.2   Outcome

Outcome: EIA's expanded Global Environmental Crime Tracker serves as a key resource on IWT trends for a range of public and private sector stakeholders, including financial institutions and law enforcement agencies

This project aimed to expand EIA's GECT, to ensure it continues to serve as a key resource on IWT trends for a range of public and private sector stakeholders, including financial institutions and law enforcement agencies. At the beginning of the project in July 2022, there were 14,280 seizure incidents available on the GECT. As of October 2023, there were 16,288 seizure incidents available. In accordance with the logframe, the aim was to increase the number of seizure incidents available on EIA's GECT by at least 10% by August 2023. Upon completion of the project, the number of seizure incidents have increased by 14.1%. For the project's target countries, the number of incidents available on the GECT have increased as follows; 18.2% for Nigeria, 10.7% for Malaysia and 18.3% for Vietnam.

The development and addition of the prosecution tracker in 2023 has expanded the scope of the Crime Tracker and provides access to wildlife crime prosecution data from the target countries in an easy to analyse format, which is inaccessible elsewhere in the public domain. EIA receives multiple requests a week through the website for access to raw data from the GECT which shows the value of the data collected. EIA measures the number of users who have visited the Crime Tracker on EIA's website and since the start of the project period, users have accessed the tool 6,322 times. 5,003 of these are believed to be unique users, suggesting that the GECT is not only reaching a wide number of users but that it is believed to be useful enough to return to more than once.

Training on the use of the GECT was also provided to private sector organisations during the project period. A presentation to the UfW Financial Taskforce took place on the 23rd May 2023 where the project team presented on EIA's work on the crime tracker and included a tutorial on how to use its different dashboards. This presentation was repeated across two sessions, to cater for members of UfW across the different time zones, and received a combined audience of approximately 150 viewers across multiple organisations, including those from the private sector. The National Park Service (NPS) from Nigeria, a target country, also reached out and requested training for their personnel. A meeting was held in January 2024 in which it was determined that suitable training will be offered to investigators and prosecutors from the NPS on how to use the Crime Tracker.

During this project, a survey was conducted on data analysis tools for IWT; which was used to inform the expansion of the GECT and allowed users to provide feedback on the GECT's current functionalities. By October 2023, a total of 23 participants had completed the survey, surpassing the project's target of 15 participants. Although the minimum number of required participants have been exceeded, the survey has been left live and is now a permanent feature of the GECT homepage to allow for a space for users to continue to provide feedback for the continuous improvement of the GECT beyond the project. The survey is also disseminated along with data files to keep a continuous feedback mechanism in place for those users that request data. The results of this survey helped to determine what the highlighted gaps are that could be addressed as part of this project or beyond. The results of this survey were also presented to the members of the Working Group (output 3.3) during session 2. The survey results were discussed within the Working Group and highlighted that geographical areas such as North Africa and South America were gaps in terms of open-source data available on IWT.

3.3   Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Seizure incidents for key countries are available through open sources.
Comment: There were high reporting rates of wildlife seizures through open media sources which were collected by both EIA staff and volunteers and entered into the EIA database throughout the project.

Assumption 2: Financial institutions regard potential exposure to money laundering linked to wildlife crime as an issue of concern
Comment: Discussions with financial institutions through the MMP and UfW Financial Taskforce have evidenced a concern regarding exposure to wildlife crime, with requests for additional support, such as sharing typologies and red flag information. MMP update calls with pre-existing participants, as well as introductory calls with new participants, highlighted the need to continue supplying data throughout the project period and beyond.

Assumption 3: Civil-society entities across Africa and Asia demonstrate willingness to collaborate and partner with international CSOs to share data
Comment: During the project, EIA reached out to several CSOs in Nigeria and Vietnam who have been supportive of the project, however data sharing did not take place which has identified a gap in the collection of prosecution data in these countries. In Malaysia, the project's partner JWM shared data and information with EIA. EIA also worked closely with ANI who carried out court monitoring in Nigeria.

Assumption 4: Prosecution and court records for key countries are available through open sources.
Comment: This assumption has largely turned out to be incorrect for Malaysia and Nigeria which led to difficulty in accessing prosecution outcomes for these countries. Malaysian prosecution and court records are not available as open-source documents. However, there are some court reports that can be obtained through legal journals. From the research conducted by JWM, only 16 cases charged under the Wildlife Conservation Act were found in Malaysian legal journals. This is not an accurate reflection of the number of wildlife crime cases that are prosecuted in court. Vietnam has a publicly accessible court case portal which EIA has been able to make use of, but after some interrogation of the portal it appears that there are limited wildlife cases available. Upon further research by the Vietnamese speaking consultant funded as part of this project, several other portals were found with further relevant court cases that were accessed online. In Nigeria, court cases were not available through open sources,

requests were made by ANI to the relevant judicial agencies to obtain the court case records, however the data shared as a result of this was very minimal and could not be entered into the database.

Assumption 5: Technology consultants can be contracted to provide advice and identify options to add additional data to the GECT
Comment: Technological consultants had previously worked with EIA during the initial development of the GECT. As EIA had hired Royce To as the database manager during this project, technology consultants did not need to be contracted as Royce oversaw and implemented the GECT expansion and the automation of the MMP.

Assumption 6: UFW Financial Taskforce members attend introductory webinar and engage with the programme
Comment: EIA has previously presented to the UfW Financial Taskforce members where we have received an adequate level of engagement. Two introductory webinars as part of this project took place on 23ʳᵈ May 2023 (a morning presentation and an afternoon presentation), where up to 150 UfW Financial Taskforce members were in attendance. They also engaged with the programme, as was evident with the 9 additional sign-ups for the MMP data disseminations.

Assumption 7: Technological improvements to the system can be achieved through consultancy to allow for automation of the data flow
Comment: Technological improvements to the system to allow for automation of the data flow of the MMP has been possible, however this was carried out by EIA's Data Manager, as opposed to through a consultancy.

Assumption 8: Current recipients of IWT entity names can manage to process the increase in data sent to them and can provide feedback
Comment: All recipients have been contacted and none have raised concern in managing and processing the increase of data. ████████████████████████████████████
████████████████████████████████

Assumption 9: Banks' customer due diligence procedures are sufficiently robust to avoid offering services to individuals and companies implicated in IWT cases included in databases
Comment: EIA has been running the MMP since 2020 and so far no concerns regarding the robustness of due diligence procedures have been raised. This robustness was not affected by the automation of the MMP.

Assumption 10: Research and investigations yield sufficient relevant information for typologies to be produced
Comment: EIA has produced numerous typologies based on information extracted from the database as well as investigations. Due to ongoing data entry and investigations, there was sufficient data available for updated typologies to be produced and shared with financial institutions.

Assumption 11: International CSOs and national CSOs are willing and have the capacity to join a working group on seizure and crime data collection
Comment: This assumption was based on initial engagement with CSOs and national CSOs. This willingness was evidenced through the formation of the Wildlife Crime Data Working Group. Members of the working group have also expressed interest in keeping the working group going beyond the completion of the project, with the responsibility to host roundtables to alternate between members.

Assumption 12: Key international CSOs are willing and have capacity to collaborate on joint projects and regularly share data

██
██
██
██
██

Assumption 13: An agreement on a joint tech solution can be reached between members of the working group

Comment: There were two roundtables that members of the Working Group attended. They all got an opportunity to share their thoughts on the joint technical solutions, which included addressing any concerns they had. EIA are hoping that this depth of communication will allow for all members to agree on a joint solution. Thoughts, comments and ideas that were raised have been fed into the technical solution proposal document in Annex 4.9.

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

Project impact: Increased transparency and scope of information on illegal wildlife trade trends enables more informed policy responses by governments and private sector and assists in targeting law enforcement responses.

The project impacts on biodiversity and poverty alleviation are mainly indirect. The project aimed to increase transparency and scope of information on illegal wildlife trade trends to enable more informed policy responses by governments and private sector and assist in targeted law enforcement responses. Improving law enforcement responses will reduce the ability for criminal networks to be able to operate transnationally to traffic illegal wildlife products.

By sharing data on perpetrators involved in the illegal wildlife trade with banks and other financial institutions, the project is increasing the ability for the financial sector to generate suspicious transaction reports linked to IWT. This should therefore increase the number of financial investigations into wildlife traffickers which will disrupt their activities. The overall impact of the project envisaged disruption to the operations of IWT syndicates leading to reduced poaching and enhanced livelihood opportunities in source countries.

Reduced poaching rates have the potential to enhance human development in rural areas by protecting wildlife tourism income in range states included in the project. Increased use of laws to seize assets from wildlife criminals can contribute to state funds. Addressing the lack of information obtained on the perpetrators prosecuted in court, especially in trying to understand the demographics and the modus operandi of perpetrators, will also increase the understanding of the root cause of IWT in high-risk communities.

This project has highlighted that Malaysia does not currently have a centralised database storing wildlife crime incidents. Therefore, this project acts as a catalyst towards obtaining baseline information on IWT in Malaysia. This baseline can then be used to produce statistics that will aid in predicting trends and gauging the effectiveness of laws surrounding wildlife crimes.

The project has also contributed to building an evidence base to inform future interventions for the three target countries through the addition of the prosecution data layer on the GECT. This is the first dashboard that displays aggregated prosecution data from the three target countries and therefore allows for the prosecution analysis of wildlife crime on the heavily used trafficking routes across Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam. This prosecution dashboard will be expanded, depending on EIA staff capacity and funding, to include prosecution data from additional countries.

4.   Contribution to IWT Challenge Fund Programme Objectives

4.1   Thematic focus

1. Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents

The project supported the use of effective legal frameworks through the collection of relevant seizure data and court case data (Output 1). Improving access to data on prosecution outcomes to relevant CSOs, policy makers and law enforcement authorities, provides them with data required to analyse current prosecution trends that can highlight the shortcomings of deterrents in place and provide evidence for ineffective legal frameworks. This data therefore contributes to analysis of the efficiency of legal frameworks and deterrents which are currently in place within target countries, including the number of wildlife crime cases which reach the court system and the percentage which conclude with

a prosecution outcome. This data can be used to implement future projects and look to strengthen prosecutorial resources in Nigeria, Vietnam and Malaysia. This project also provided project partners with the opportunity to engage with judicial authorities and offer support with ongoing cases, such as cases in Malaysia through JWM's Project Minerva.

The MMP data submitted to KYC databases also contributes to effective legal frameworks as it continues to provide data that improves knowledge and awareness of IWT and environmental crime within the financial sector. The MMP assists the financial sector in improving the identification of risks associated with money laundering and ensuring these are embedded into customer due diligence systems (Output 2). The MMP highlights risks of corruption and increases the detection of money laundering, contributing to the prosecution of IWT offenders for financial crimes. Removing criminal proceeds from wildlife crime offenders will act as a deterrent to committing wildlife offences.

More specifically for Malaysia, the figures obtained from JWM's court case tracking work serve to provide an understanding of Malaysia's law enforcement and judicial response to wildlife crime, especially after the recent amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Act (716). The effectiveness of the amendments made can be reviewed. This project can also help identify the gaps in the post-arrest procedures in Malaysia and provide areas of improvement for law enforcement agencies. One main gap identified from this project is the lack of a centralised database in Malaysia that stores court cases, relating to wildlife and environmental crimes, in a standardised manner.

2. Strengthening law enforcement

This project provided increased transparency and scope of information on IWT and environmental crime trends that will enable more informed policy responses by governments and private sector and assist in targeted law enforcement responses.

Outputs produced by the project were shared to improve knowledge of illegal wildlife trends and illicit financial flows; these include the trends assessment on Nigeria wildlife seizures and a red flag document detailing key methodologies utilised by wildlife traffickers linked to Vietnam. By providing trends in current illegal wildlife methodologies, law enforcement agencies can adapt and improve their response to wildlife trafficking in the target countries and internationally.

In Malaysia, information gleaned from this project will be utilized to improve court case intake in terms of duration and overall prosecution paperwork preparation. JWM is in close contact with LEAs to produce a prosecution guideline aimed at instilling best practices in prosecution-based operational work.

4.2   Impact on species in focus

EIA's analysis of intelligence and data from seizure incidents indicate that Nigeria and Vietnam, with Malaysia often acting as a transit, are hot spots when it comes to IWT and environmental crime. The flourishing activity of criminal syndicates along this established trade route is a major threat to the survival of EIA's focal species, including the Elephant, Rhino and Pangolin. Transnational IWT criminal syndicates that operate in Nigeria take advantage of the rampant corruption, weak law enforcement and lack of governance to exploit Nigeria's natural capital. Recommended solutions to tackle these syndicates include the provision of data, trend assessments and red flag documents to relevant authorities to adapt enforcement responses (as detailed in Section 1 of this report).

EIA systematically advocates for CITES parties to report on wildlife crime enforcement outcomes through the annual illegal trade report submissions. By increasing data accessibility and sharing trend assessments and financial typologies, key players in governmental, judicial and law enforcement agencies are better informed and create more effective legal frameworks to wildlife crime through formal mechanisms such as CITES.

The expansion of the GECT and MMP (Output 1 and 2) allows data and trend analysis to be fed to more relevant recipients in the project's target countries, which will result in increased accountability and efficient prosecutions of convicted perpetrators. The increased collaboration in the working group virtual roundtables (Output 3) has increased the volume of data held in the GECT, as well as the number of entity names submitted through the MMP to KYC databases. By submitting perpetrator names to

financial institutions globally, there is a higher likelihood that illicit financial flows generated by wildlife traffickers are identified and curtailed. This increased transparency should reduce the freedom that transnational syndicates have when operating in the target countries, which should significantly decrease the risk to the populations that the focal species are facing.

4.3   Project support to poverty reduction

As the project's main beneficiaries are government agencies and private sector banks, impacts on poverty are indirect. However, by improving access and transparency on wildlife crime prosecutions in countries evidenced as hotspots, through increasing the number of prosecution outcomes and court case records held within the GECT (Output 1.2), there will be increased understanding of the demographics and the modus operandi of perpetrators which will assist with understanding the root cause of IWT in high-risk communities.

The World Bank states that data offers the potential to create value by improving programs and policies, driving economies and empowering citizens[1]. The report 'Data for Better Lives' describes a conceptual framework that links data to development through different pathways. The middle pathway is the use of data by governments and international organisations to support evidence-based policy making and improved service delivery. The top pathway is the use of data by civil society to monitor the effects of government policies and by individuals to enable them to monitor and access public and commercial services (The World Bank, 2021). By developing an open-access tool such as the GECT, this project provides countries with the data to monitor the risk of IWT to their communities, alongside the government's response.

This project advances understanding and evidence of wildlife crime within Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam to strengthen the knowledge base related to biodiversity conservation. In Malaysia, the primary community affected by IWT is the indigenous community (Orang Asli). JWM's court visits point to cases involving Orang Asli, which suggests a level of exploitation is happening, since they are exempted from some provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act. The project helps in establishing a trend of prosecution in the country to ascertain the need for a review of all legislations involving Malaysia's indigenous community.

In Malaysia, this project has indirectly contributed to efforts in poverty reduction. JWM was able to track cases involving the indigenous communities as well as other poverty-stricken communities. This initiative could provide a baseline on how the criminal justice system disproportionately affects poverty-stricken communities. The data collected over the span of this project was not sufficient to perform an analysis and form conclusions. However, the project has allowed JWM to gain insights on the enforcement goals of DWNP in terms of arrest and prosecution rates. JWM intends to continue this case tracking initiative to collect more evidence and form a baseline on how enforcement actions and court processes affect poverty-stricken communities involved in wildlife crime, and provide recommendations on rehabilitative and restorative justice for wildlife criminals.

4.4   Gender equality and social inclusion

| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1]. | 50% |
| Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2]. | ⅔ project partners |

In line with the International Development Act (Gender Equality) 2014, EIA and the project partners remained committed to ensuring gender equality and equity were promoted throughout the project. All

---

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.
[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

outreach activities were aimed at accessing all genders working in civil society organisations with the aim of curbing wildlife and financial crime.

Although it was recognised that there may have been unequal gender representation in these organisations that result in more men benefitting from the activities and tools than women, obstacles to equal participation were monitored and so that they could be addressed when they arouse to ensure as equal representation as possible. Both co-founders and project directors at JWM are women, as is the Case Tracking Coordinator position funded by this project, contributing to a high representation of women within the project partner organisation.

EIA has a range of policies to ensure gender balance amongst teams and prevent discrimination at all levels of the organisation. EIA's research and investigations into IWT indicate that both men and women are involved in the syndicates using money laundering to finance the trade. EIA advocates for intelligence led enforcement to target the major criminals controlling wildlife crime regardless of gender.

At the community level, the reduction of illicit financial flows linked to wildlife crime through the investigation and prosecution of criminal syndicate leaders and facilitators will increase equality including gender equality through improved rule of law and good governance. By ensuring revenue is not lost, more investment can also be made into services and infrastructure that equally benefit the needs of men and women and boys and girls. Since the project did not include working at the community level, we did not collect data related to gender impacts. There were no unexpected benefits to report on and any unintended negative impacts related to gender from the project did not arise.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Throughout the project, EIA's internal project team usually met on a fortnightly basis, but on a weekly basis when required. Progress was tracked through an internal Excel document which detailed the project's SMART indicators; this document was reviewed on a monthly basis. This highlighted where progress was being made and drew attention to where effort needed to be focused. The SMART indicators that were tracked included the number of incident records in the database, disseminations of data, disseminations of names of entities to the MMP and the number of new profiles created by the MMP recipients. These SMART indicators directly contributed to the project's activities for each output, so contribution towards the project outcome could be assessed.

There were no changes to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plans over the reporting period. There were however some amendments to the time frame of the project for the different activities. As more time was taken to design and implement the automation of the MMP, due to allowing time for recipients to adapt to the automations and resolving technical hurdles, the implementation timetable had to be amended to ensure there was adequate capacity to finalise the MMP automation. Once the technical implementation of the MMP was complete, the team's time and capacity shifted focus to the additional data layer implementation. Further changes to the timetable had to be made due to the difficulties in acquiring court case data as well as finding available dates for all members of the working group to attend Session 2; both of these activities have been reported on in Section 3.

In addition, EIA conducted regular catch ups with the project's main partner JWM, where the project team was briefed on their updates and progress made. EIA took responsibility to update the M&E tracker, and updates were added into the internal Excel spreadsheet by the project's Data Analyst at the end of every catch-up meeting. EIA conducted an in-person meeting with JWM in November and evaluated the project outcome. It was agreed that the accessibility of court records was underestimated and future projects including court case collection should include funding for physical court case attendance by dedicated project staff. EIA was also regularly in contact with UfW to discuss opportunities for promotion of the GECT and MMP which led to several outputs previously discussed. A meeting with UfW to evaluate the outcome of the MMP promotion to the financial sector will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

6. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

The project produced one Annual Report in April 2023 and received feedback from this review. The primary issue raised was the risk of not being able to obtain legal data from Nigeria and Vietnam due to the challenges set out through the report. To mitigate this risk, EIA proactively identified a legal consultant in Vietnam to assist with the collation of court case records from online legal portals. This led to an increase in prosecution outcomes from 14% to 22% of all incidents recorded in the Crime Tracker for Vietnam. EIA also formally requested data from NESREA, Nigeria Customs Service and the DPP's office in an attempt to improve the quantity of data recorded for Nigeria. Only data was received from NESREA, which unfortunately was not complete enough to add to the Crime Tracker database. There are lessons learned from this exercise which are detailed in the next section.

Feedback was provided on the inclusion of graphs to indicate the number of prosecution records collected versus those incidents without data or outcomes. It's acknowledged that this could have been included in progress reports to monitor project progress on the data collection. These numbers are now easily accessible within the published prosecution dashboard.

The response to other feedback has been included elsewhere in this project report.

7. Lessons learnt

The project did encounter challenges throughout the project period. The most significant challenge was acquiring court cases for the project's target countries, which directly contributed to increasing the number of prosecution outcomes recorded in the database as detailed under Output 1.

Court case data from Nigeria has been minimal for a number of reasons, but primarily because there have been few reported seizures in Nigeria of wildlife trafficking cases. Moreover, those that have been reported rarely reach the court and often get adjourned without a result. Other reasons include the lack of a centralised database, lack of joint working between key law enforcement agencies and the application of different laws within different states within Nigeria. Resolving these challenges are well outside the scope of this project and will require a multi-faceted approach and commitment from key government and international stakeholders to improve coordination on wildlife trafficking offences to reach successful prosecutorial outcomes. EIA aims to provide support to this issue through other UK and US government funded work in Nigeria and lessons learnt from this project will be fed into the project design.

In Malaysia, there were a number of challenges in accessing the data. JWM requested access to the Department of Wildlife and Nature Parks (DWNP) Peninsular Malaysia database on wildlife crime court cases, which proved to be quite a lengthy process. Verbal agreement was provided in April 2022 but this was to be followed up with formal letters, which was only communicated to JWM later in October 2022. In early November 2022, JWM sent an email to the Director of Enforcement Division in DWNP, entailing a formal letter requesting access to their database, a concept note, and minutes from the courtesy call back in April 2022. After following up with DWNP via phone calls, JWM was told to send the email to the Ex-Situ Conservation Division for further action.

JWM was then invited to present an introduction to Project Minerva and what JWM intends to do with the database. This meeting was attended by DWNP's Director General. It was later communicated to JWM that the request for access to DWNP's database has been approved, with certain conditions that JWM would have to abide to. This approval was formalized in an email dated 15th of February 2023. The database, in the form of an Excel sheet, was sent to JWM on 11th of March 2023.

Upon obtaining access to this database, it was noticed that there were lots of discrepancies in the data handed over to JWM. A comparison between the database and annual reports by DWNP was made, and it presented that the number of cases reported yearly did not measure up, as demonstrated below.

DWNP then clarified that their database is not a comprehensive one as it does not encompass court cases throughout all the states in Peninsular Malaysia. This database also omitted vital information such as the names of perpetrators; the only information provided regarding perpetrators was their nationalities. There were also many inconsistencies within the columns as the data was populated, especially regarding the number and part of species seized. This made it hard to analyse the data.

JWM also initiated obtaining court data from the Malaysian judiciary. On the 24th of March 2023, JWM had a courtesy call with the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia. This meeting was also attended by the Director of Strategic Development and Training Division. JWM introduced the case tracking endeavour in detail during this meeting and also requested access to court files involving wildlife cases in order to triangulate the data obtained from DWNP. The judiciary agreed to provide JWM with partial access to wildlife crime court cases from 2017 to 2023.

A formal letter was sent out to the Judiciary on the 13th of April 2023, and JWM obtained access to the data on 20th July 2023. In the email sent to JWM, it was explained that the judiciary does not have detailed information related to environmental cases as requested, and if there is a need for a more in-depth information, JWM needs to make an application to get access to court files through the Case Management System (CMS), or manually access them via the courts that handle related cases. JWM is now currently in the process of obtaining access to more detailed information via the Judiciary.

Although hiring of a dedicated court case tracker under this project has helped in acquiring and consolidating the data, the actual volume of data provided by the DWNP was a lot smaller than expected and extra time had to be dedicated to clean, refine, and re-consolidate the information. This is due to a lack of systematic record-keeping protocols by the DWNP pertaining to court proceedings. Also, records related to shipments of wildlife seized at borders are held by Malaysia Customs Service which investigates cases separately to the DWNP and keeps their own records. A request was made by JWM to Customs but no response was received. It is recommended that for future projects more time is incorporated into the implementation timetable when requesting data from external institutions.

As a result of the challenges with the data from DWMP, the preliminary analysis that was done with the data is inadequate for a peer-reviewed publication, on top of finding suitable avenue for a free, open-access publication of the work. JWM considered publishing an op-ed to communicate the work to the public, but numerous analytical challenges pertaining the data and other capacity-building commitments towards the end of 2023 meant this was not achieved before the end of the project period. The publication of the op-ed is still outstanding at the time of writing this report but is expected in February 2024.

The challenges faced during this evidence grant have highlighted that any future projects centred around the collection of court case data should take into account that few countries within Africa and Asia have centralised databases that store this information in an accessible and standardised manner. Aside from designing, funding and implementing these databases within countries such as Malaysia and Nigeria, considerations should be given to ensuring that there are enough resources in the project to enact national court case tracking across the country which is a lengthy and resource-heavy activity.

Another significant challenge encountered by the project team was designing and technically implementing the automation of the MMP. The original objectives, activities and budget were created by the project team at EIA, but including a technical specialist to input into the project design would have been beneficial. Working with existing technical infrastructure limited the scope of what implementation and created lengthy workflows which took longer than expected. While the use of Microsoft Power Platform and Microsoft 365 has fulfilled the requirements for the automation, the lack of allocated funding for long term licensing of digital tools and infrastructure inhibits the full potential of the expansion of the MMP, as well as the GECT. For example, the underlying datasets of the GECT have not been migrated to a relational database for scalability, which limits the full potential of any future expansion. The use of Power BI, a data visualisation tool, also requires yearly subscription to maintain its functionality for sharing information publicly, as on the GECT.

While it is a challenge to fulfil long term digital requirements into short term projects, sponsorships from the tech industry, collaboration with academia and funders to provide digital licensing as a package or, other funding models, are avenues which could be explored in future to mitigate this. It is also acknowledged that the inclusion of a permanent internal technical implementation analyst within EIA

would have sped up the time taken by the new Data Manager contracted position to learn the legacy systems and database infrastructure. EIA will seek funding for this role moving forward so that the maintenance of the GECT and MMP can be covered in-house rather than using tech consultants.

8.   Risk Management

The primary risk to the project was the lack of accessible court case data available for the target countries. This was reported in the Annual Report and adaptations to methodology were put in place to mitigate the risk, as outlined in Section 6.

No new risks were identified since the Annual Report was submitted.

9.   Sustainability and legacy

The project delivered sustainable benefits by providing key institutions with data and actionable information on bad actors. This increases the capacity of financial sector investigation and compliance departments to detect suspicious transactions and customers linked to IWT. Additionally, through bridging data gaps, as described in Sections 1, 2 and 3, this project provided key institutions with context and evidence to support financial investigations and reinforce laws to tackle IWT and environmental crime. The technical automation work completed through the project will enable the Media Monitoring Programme to be implemented in additional counties, to additional private sector organisations and to cover additional types of environmental crime. EIA will continue to improve membership to the Programme through a lasting partnership with UfW.

The use of this data and the intelligence analysis documents which have been shared will therefore have lasting impacts, as it effectively raises awareness of related financial flows and the need for financial investigations to halt the activity of criminal syndicates, which combined with governmental support, will lead to systematic application of financial investigations and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) laws to counter wildlife trafficking. Through the open source GECT, governmental agencies (and other relevant key institutions) will be able to monitor and analyse IWT and environmental crime on a global level, so that they can review and implement the relevant and effective policies. Once the data has been collected, the data provides a lasting record which does not need to be duplicated by other organisations.

Through working with CSOs in our target countries of Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam, the improved and expanded GECT will ensure the continued monitoring of wildlife crime in target countries and provide a national public database for use by policy makers. In Malaysia, the case tracking work has been communicated to the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court and Sarawak Forestry Corporation. JWM are also in touch with several other agencies to kickstart the work on AML within wildlife crime, citing a lack of resources for such endeavour in Malaysia. The analysis of the findings and challenges from this project have been set out in an article due to be published in 2024 and will continue to feed into the work JWM is doing, with a formalised collaboration with University of Malaysia's Ecology Society to foster interest in addressing wildlife crime from the legal perspective. JWM have submitted funding proposals to continue the case tracking work in Malaysia.

The Working Group which was created as an activity of the project will continue past the project end date through commitment from the key organisations involved. The discussions had during the roundtable meetings have been captured in detail and can be used to progress the development of fundable solutions to data collection. Information sharing agreements are now in place with these key stakeholders which will provide a framework for data sharing outside of the project period.

This evidence project has the potential to be scaled across countries globally through the intensified collection of court case data to add to the Prosecution Tracker. The challenges faced in the target countries highlights the need for greater transparency of data which needs to be achieved through centralisation and digitisation of records. In Nigeria, EIA is in the process of securing funding to build on lessons learnt from the court case tracking and analysis of prosecutions for wildlife crimes in a new 3-year project.

10. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The publication of the new prosecution tracker on EIA's GECT has been promoted by EIA through social media channels (LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook),through the website and through a dedicated podcast with the project team hosted by EIA as part of the 'What an Earth?' series. The logo for the IWT Challenge Fund has been included on the prosecution tracker dashboard with clear wording that it has been funded by the UK government. This was also included on the social media posts (see screenshots in Annexes 4.1 and 4.13).

In addition, JWM are publishing an article on prosecution outcomes for IWT within Malaysia and have recognised the contribution from The Challenge Fund within the article. This funding makes up a significant part of Project Minerva. Other activities under the project include understanding the motivation for committing wildlife crime (studying demographics) and reviewing wildlife-related legislations to address gaps and tailor interventions.

11. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes - Bill Dishington, Head of HR and Operations, ███████████████ ████████████
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	0%
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. There have been no safeguarding issues raised related to this project.	

12. Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual IWTCF Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	████████	████████	████████	
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)

Royce To - Data Manager	■
Shaliza Malik - Data Analyst	
Lavinia Augustine - Case Tracker JWM	
TOTAL	**27588**

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
N/A	0
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Grant audit	■
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
DSWF/NfSC	■
INL	
EJF/PCF/EKCT	
DEFRA	
TOTAL	**33984**

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
N/A - Unsecured	
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

This project was designed as an evidence-based project to pilot the collection of court case data for wildlife crimes across multiple countries and the provision of this in a publicly available tool. Although data collection was a challenge, this was delivered within the project budget and has provided useful insight into the challenges of this for wildlife crime which can be built on. The final result is an open-source online tool with data that was not previously accessible which has a lasting impact further than the end of the project.

This project also aimed to deliver activities as efficiently as possible. For example, the automation of the MMP was done through the Database Manager that was hired as part of the project's funding, which allowed budget allocated for this to go towards hiring a consultant based in Vietnam who assisted with

research on open-source wildlife crime court cases. The automation of the MMP also allowed EIA to move away from housing the MMP database on Airtable, which required a monthly subscription fee; instead, the new automated MMP database is housed using Microsoft List, which is a free alternative and does not require continued funding. The staff time spent on the automation of the MMP means that this is now scalable to a much larger number of financial sector recipients and continue with minimal maintenance and staff time.

Hiring a Database Manager with technical skills also allowed the development of the additional layer on the GECT to be produced without paying towards a technical consultant. The GECT is a resource that is populated with data from staff across all of EIA's campaigns and from partner organisations, therefore it does not rely on dedicated project funding to keep it updated.

Part of the funding went towards JWM who hired a court case tracker and increased capacity within the organisation. Regular virtual catch-up meetings were held with JWM to track their progress which worked effectively.

All working group activities were carried out online, which carried no cost apart from staff time. As this project was fully virtual, it included no travel time or costs, which allowed the funding to be allocated to staff time to implement the activities.

13.   OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In May 2021, EIA published the [Global Environmental Crime Tracker (GECT)](#), which is an open access tool available online to help analyse and better understand wildlife and environmental crime around the world through the publication of seizure incidents. Through this funded project, EIA was able to develop and release [a new dashboard](#) in October 2023 which analyses the prosecution outcomes of wildlife and environmental crimes. This new dashboard allows for the quick analysis of trends with filters and mapping tools to visualise the data in different ways.

The dashboard currently visualises prosecution data from three countries: Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam. These three countries were chosen due to their importance in well-established illegal wildlife trafficking routes between Africa and Asia for illegal wildlife products such as ivory and pangolin scales. EIA worked closely with partner Justice for Wildlife Malaysia (JWM) in the collection of court case records in Malaysia through intensive court case tracking as part of their Project Minerva.

The prosecution dashboard provides a unique space for wildlife crime offences to be analysed in one place. Emphasis is often placed on wildlife crime seizures and arrests without scrutiny on post-incident investigations and prosecutions, which can be lengthy, complex and result in weak outcomes. By creating this tool, EIA hopes to increase the transparency on crime, prosecution rates and law enforcement efforts within key countries for illegal wildlife offences.

Listen to how the dashboard was developed by listening to EIA's podcast on the subject as part of the 'What an Earth?' series: https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-mshmb-1522a6e

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image (PNG)	IWTEV004 - Screenshot of Prosecution Dashboard	EIA's new prosecution analysis dashboard on the Crime Tracker tool (EIA)	LinkedIn: • Environmental Investigation Agency • Justice for Wildlife Malaysia Twitter: • @EIA_News • @jwmys Instagram: • eiaenvironment • Jwildlifemy Facebook • Environmental Investigation Agency	Yes

3   Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert application logframe.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Increased transparency and scope of information on illegal wildlife trade trends enables more informed policy responses by governments and private sector and assists in targeting law enforcement responses. (Max 30 words)			

Outcome: (Max 30 words) **EIA's expanded Global** **Environmental Crime Tracker** **serves as a key resource on IWT** **trends for a range of public and** **private sector stakeholders,** **including financial institutions** **and law enforcement agencies**	0.1 Number of seizure incidents available on EIA's Global Environmental Crime Tracker (GECT) increases by at least 10% by August 2023 from project activities 0.2 Training will be provided to a minimum of 10 private sector organisations on the use of EIA's GECT 0.3 A minimum of 15 participants complete a survey to identify gaps in open-source wildlife crime data	0.1 Seizure figures from EIA database. 0.2 Feedback forms completed by private sector organisations on training. 0.3 Analysis of survey results, survey forms. 0.4 Through the website, EIA's Global Environmental Crime Tracker provides additional data other than seizure and prosecutions.	Seizure incidents for key countries are available through open sources. Financial institutions regard potential exposure to money laundering linked to wildlife crime as an issue of concern
Output 1 1. A publicly available resource on IWT which provides greater transparency of law enforcement efforts and analysis of trends to feed into future strategies to disrupt trafficking of key wildlife species.	1.1 Number of national CSOs in target countries contributing data to the GECT increases. Baseline: 1 CSO in one country. Target: 1 CSO in each country by August 2023. 1.2 The number of prosecution outcomes and court records held within the GECT for target countries increases from 14% to 50% percent through additional research conducted 1.3. Analysis of IWT trends in Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam will be disseminated to law enforcement agencies working in Africa and Asia, as well as the United for Wildlife transport taskforce. Target: 2 trend assessments disseminated by August 2023. 1.4 A minimum of 1 additional data layer is added to the GECT to improve analysis	1.1 EIA seizure database 'Agency contributor' field 1.2 EIA seizure database 'Led to prosecution' field 1.3 EIA disseminations tracker 1.4 Through the website, EIA's Global Environmental Crime Tracker provides additional data other than seizure and prosecutions. 1.5 Publication of national record of wildlife related court cases for Malaysia that is peer reviewed	Civil-society entities across Africa and Asia demonstrate willingness to collaborate and partner with international NGOs to share data Prosecution and court records for key countries are available through open sources. Technology consultants can be contracted to provide advice and identify options to add additional data to the GECT

Output 2 Improved knowledge and awareness of wildlife seizures assist the financial sector to improve identification of risks associated with money laundering and embedded into customer due diligence systems	EIA's investigation and intelligence work will be shared with financial institutions and FIUs. Target: Minimum of 3 documents shared by August 2023. 2.4 A minimum of 350 new profiles created on third party data provider databases such as WorldCheck for Know Your Customer (KYC) checks by August 2023.	.2 Airtable statistics of entity names and date of submission to databases field. 2.3 The media monitoring recipient database held by EIA. 2.3 EIA dissemination tracker and sanitised versions of the red flag documents 2.4 Feedback forms from recipients on result of entity name through Airtable	Financial institutions regard potential exposure to money laundering linked to wildlife crime as an issue of concern UFW Financial Taskforce members attend introductory webinar and engage with the programme Technological improvements to the system can be achieved through consultancy to allow for automation of the data flow Current recipients of IWT entity names can manage to process and the increase in data sent to them and can provide feedback Banks' customer due diligence procedures are sufficiently robust to avoid offering services to individuals and companies implicated in IWT cases included in databases Research and investigations yield sufficient relevant information for typologies to be produced
Output 3 Increased collaboration between international NGOs on sharing data and identification of joint working opportunities for a publicly available platform of wildlife crime, intelligence and conservation data	3.1 EIA will sign MOUs with at least two NGOs who regularly collect IWT seizure data 3.2 Data is shared monthly between members of the working group and reflected in EIA's database 3.3 At least two virtual roundtable working groups will be held to discuss obstacles with databases of publicly available data 3.4 A proposal for a tech solution to create a collaborative platform is written	3.1 Sanitised versions of MOU documents 3.2 EIA dissemination tracker and seizure database 3.3 Working group notes detailing discussion points and actions (sanitised as necessary) 3.4 Summary of proposal shared	International NGOs and national CSOs are willing and have the capacity to join a working group on seizure and crime data collection Key international NGOs are willing and have capacity to collaborate on joint projects and regularly share data An agreement on a joint tech solution can be reached between members of the working group

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 Outcome: A publicly available resource on IWT which provides greater transparency of law enforcement efforts and analysis of trends to feed into future strategies to disrupt trafficking of key wildlife species.

1.1 New Case Tracker role within Justice for Wildlife Malaysia will research and document cases of wildlife trafficking and prosecution outcomes to improve data records in EIA's Crime Tracker.

1.2 Outreach conducted to CSOs in Nigeria and Vietnam to share data on cases and prosecutions in-country.

1.3 Collaborating with partners and key stakeholders, EIA will produce trend assessments on IWT trade routes, financial flows and methodology of wildlife trafficking in target countries which will be disseminated to national and international law enforcement agencies and members through United for Wildlife.

1.4 Training on the use of the Crime Tracker to key CSOs and government agencies in target countries through outreach.

1.5 Working with tech consultants, identification and integration of additional data source to add to the Crime Tracker for analysis.

2. Outcome: Improved knowledge and awareness of wildlife seizures assist the financial sector to improve identification of risks associated with money laundering and embedded into customer due diligence systems.

2.1 EIA will employ tech consultants to automate Media Monitoring programme databases for efficient data sharing.

2.2 United for Wildlife will facilitate collaboration with Financial Taskforce members and EIA to include training and data sharing through the programme.

2.3 Identification of key banks and financial institutions in target countries to sign up to the programme and receive data.

2.4 Production of financial red flag documents to share with public and private financial sector on IWT.

3. Outcome: Increased collaboration between international NGOs on sharing data and identification of joint working opportunities for a publicly available platform of wildlife crime, intelligence and conservation data

3.1 Engagement with NGOs collecting wildlife crime data to agree regular data sharing.

3.2 Creation of a working group with key stakeholders to discuss issues with data collection for wildlife crime and challenges with sharing information.

3.3 Scoping and comprehensive gap analysis carried out on current or developing platforms for wildlife crime data

3.4 Proposal document produced on future collaborative platform, costed out and partners identified.

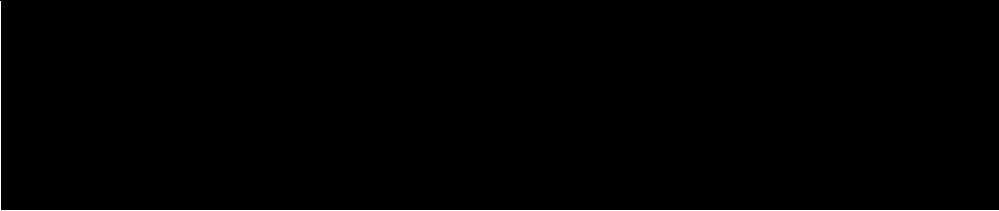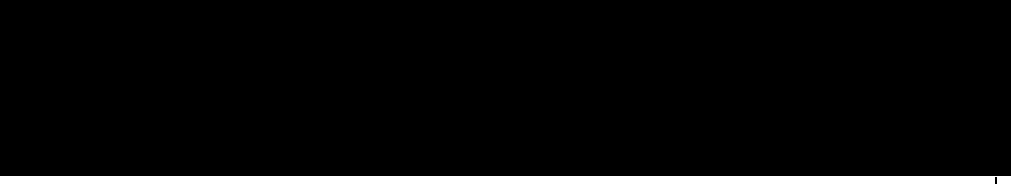# 4 Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2022-October 2023
Increased transparency and scope of information on illegal wildlife trade trends enables more informed policy responses by governments and private sector and assists in targeting law enforcement responses.		Several activities undertaken in this project, such as the expansion of the MMP and the addition of the prosecution later to the GECT, have contributed to increased transparency and scope of information. Currently, the number of incidents in the GECT has increased by 14.17% since the start of the project. During the project period, the MMP generated over 1,400 new profiles in KYC databases. EIA engaged with both national and international CSOs to further expand the GECT and MMP, including promoting both to UfW's Financial Taskforce, to improve data accessibility for governments and private sector, which allows for more informed police responses and assist law enforcement to target wildlife traffickers.
Outcome EIA's expanded Global Environmental Crime Tracker serves as a key resource on IWT trends for a range of public and private sector stakeholders, including financial institutions and law enforcement agencies	0.1 Number of seizure incidents available on EIA's Global Environmental Crime Tracker (GECT) increases by at least 10% by August 2023 from project activities 0.2 Training will be provided to a minimum of 10 private sector organisations on the use of EIA's GECT 0.3 A minimum of 15 participants complete a survey to identify gaps in open-source data available on IWT	0.1 Between July 2022 and October 2023, 2,026 new incidents were added to the GECT, which shows a 14.17% increase in recorded incidents during the project. The assumption of seizure incidents being available through countries was proved to be correct and EIA staff were able to use news articles from national media and other open sources to find relevant seizure incidents. The difficulty around open source data entry was primarily around incidents that included prosecution details. 0.2 Training on the use of the GECT was provided to a minimum of 10 private sector organisations during the project period via a presentation to the UfW Financial Taskforce took place on the 23rd May 2023. The project team presented on EIA's work on the crime tracker and included a tutorial on how to use its different dashboards. This presentation was repeated across two sessions, to cater for members of UfW across the different time zones, and received a combined audience of approximately 150 viewers across multiple organisations, including those from the private sector. The National Park Service (NPS) from Nigeria, a target country, also reached out and requested training for their personnel. A meeting was held in January 2024 in which it was determined that suitable training will be offered to investigators and prosecutors from the NPS on how to use the Crime Tracker. 0.3 A survey was designed and disseminated by January 2023. This survey was sent to all relevant stakeholders and users, as well as published on the homepage of the GECT to allow for maximum engagement. By October 2023, a total of 23 participants have completed the survey. Although the minimum number of required participants have been exceeded,

		the survey has been left live and is now a permanent feature of the GECT homepage to allow for a space for users to continue to provide feedback for the continuous improvement of the GECT beyond the project. The survey is also disseminated along with data files to keep a continuous feedback mechanism in place for those users that request data.
Output 1 A publicly available resource on IWT which provides greater transparency of law enforcement efforts and analysis of treads to feed into future strategies to disrupt trafficking of key wildlife species.	2.1 Number of national CSOs in target countries contributing data to the GECT increases. Baseline: 1 CSO in one country. Target: 1 CSO in each country by August 2023 2.2 The number of prosecution outcomes and court records held within the GECT for target countries increases from 14% to 50% percent through additional research conducted 2.3 Analysis of IWT trends in Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam will be disseminated to law enforcement agencies working in Africa and Asia, as well as the United for Wildlife transport taskforce. Target: 2 trend assessments disseminated by August 2023 2.4 A minimum of 1 additional data layer is added to the GECT to improve analysis	1.1 The CSOs that have contributed data to the GECT are recorded in the 'Agency Contributor' field in the GECT. During the project, one CSO from a target country has contributed towards the seizure incidents in the GECT, which is JWM in Malaysia. Whilst JWM were able to obtain data from DWNP, it became clear that the quality of the data was not adequate enough to add to the GECT. JWM also liaised with the judiciary throughout the project but only limited data was obtainable. JWM also attended court proceedings in person and managed to obtain some court cases, however most of them were not relevant to EIA's focal species; five incidents were generated in the GECT from JWM's data sharing. CSOs in Nigeria and Vietnam were also contacted, including WCS in Nigeria and ENV in Vietnam, however data sharing with these CSOs was not achieved. The difficulty EIA had faced in finding CSOs within the target countries that store IWT and are willing to disseminate to us reflects the difficulties and the lack in capacity of capturing IWT in these target countries, and potentially highlights resourcing issues. 1.2 Upon project completion, 20.7% of target country incidents recorded within the GECT include prosecution outcomes. As a result of collecting prosecution data for the additional GECT layer (as discussed in Output 3.3), 591 wildlife crime incidents were updated with prosecution outcomes, of which 287 were incidents in target countries. A total of 1,368 perpetrator specific charges were recorded, of which 625 charges were related to incidents in target countries. More specifically, the prosecution data for recorded incidents in Vietnam increased by 22.4%, with 503 new charges added. This was much higher than the increase seen for Nigeria and Malaysia, which was 15.9% and 15.7% respectively. This has been reported in further detail in Section 3.1 under Output 1. 1.3 Two trend assessments were shared with law enforcement agencies and UfW financial and transport taskforces during the project period – one focusing on trends in Vietnam and one on trends in Nigeria. 1.4 An additional data layer for the GECT was designed, technically implemented and launched in October 2023. To compliment this launch, EIA released a press release as well as a podcast focusing on the prosecution layer in December 2023 to further publicise this and the GECT (can be found in Annexes 4.8 and 4.14). The prosecution layer currently includes prosecution

		data from Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam. As the data has been obtained from a variety of sources, displaying it with analytical tools on one dashboard will improve analysis as this data has not existed in one place before the launch of the tracker. EIA hopes to introduce prosecution data from other countries onto this layer, but currently is limited by funding and staff capacity.
Activity 1.1 New Case Tracker role within Justice for Wildlife Malaysia will research and document cases of wildlife trafficking and prosecution outcomes to improve data records in EIA's Crime Tracker.		JWM hired a new court case tracker (Lavinia Augustine, Case Tracking Coordinator) at the start of this project in July 2022. The role has been tracking court cases and following up with the DWNP for relevant updates. Court case data has also been received from DWNP; after reviewing this data, it was deemed to contain some inaccuracies which needed to be clarified by the DWNP and cross checked with the court registry. Further data needed to be obtained from the judiciary. This was not possible during the project period, as this process continued on after project completion. Reflections of the challenges JWM faced during their data collection can be found in the op-ed article written by JWM which is set to be published, pending review.
Activity 1.2 Outreach conducted to CSOs in Nigeria and Vietnam to share data on cases and prosecutions in-country.		EIA communicated with ANI and WCS in Nigeria, through which it has become apparent that it is quite difficult for CSOs to obtain prosecution data in Nigeria ██ EIA continued to identify CSOs within Nigeria and Vietnam that may have been able to share data on cases and prosecutions in-country, including through outreach with the working group.
Activity 1.3 Collaborating with partners and key stakeholders, EIA will produce trend assessments on IWT trade routes, financial flows and methodology of wildlife trafficking in target countries which will be disseminated to national and international law enforcement agencies and members through United for Wildlife.		Two trend assessments were shared with law enforcement agencies and UfW financial and transport taskforces during the project period – one focusing on trends in Vietnam and one on trends in Nigeria.
Activity 1.4 Training on the use of the Crime Tracker to key CSOs and government agencies in target countries through outreach.		EIA presented to the members of UfW taskforces on the 23rd May 2023, where the GECT was promoted; this presentation included a demonstration on the use of the GECT and the MMP. In Malaysia, JWM has been provided with GECT training. Nigeria's national FIU was well as National Parks Services have both expressed interest in training on the use of the GECT and is being progressed.
Activity 1.5 Working with tech consultants, identification and integration of additional data source to add to the Crime Tracker for analysis.		EIA updated the internal database to include prosecution data collection, after several rounds of consultation and feedback with its staff. Once the prosecution data entry form was added to the internal database, consultants were hired to search and enter new prosecution data, as well as update existing incidents, from

		the three target countries. As the data was being entered, the project team designed and technically implemented the prosecution layer with analytical tools as a publicly available dashboard on the GECT, which was launched in October 2023.
Output 2 Improved knowledge and awareness of wildlife seizures assist the financial sector to improve identification of risks associated with money laundering and embedded into customer due diligence systems	2.1 The number of entity names provided to financial institutions through the media monitoring programme increases to an average of 300 per month by August 2023. Baseline: Average of 150 per month 2.2 The number of banks and financial institutions signed up to the programme increases through expansion to the United for Wildlife Financial Taskforce. Baseline: 11 companies. Target: 20 companies by August 2023 2.3 Financial red flag documents and financial typologies from EIA's investigation and intelligence work will be shared with financial institutions and FIUs. Target: Minimum of 3 documents shared by August 2023 2.4 A minimum of 350 new profiles created on third party data provider databases such as WorldCheck for Know Your Customer (KYC) checks by August 2023	2.1 Between July 2022 and October 2023, EIA has provided 2,284 entity names to financial institutions through the media monitoring programme, with a monthly average of 142 by October 2023. An average of 177 submissions per month was seen over 9 months where the baseline of 150 was exceeded. We observed lower submissions in some months due to limited EIA staff capacity, such as in December 2022 with 67 submissions, February 2023 with 91 submissions and October 2022 with 141 submissions. We hoped to address this with automating the MMP, so that submissions were not limited by staff capacity. Although the system has been automated and manual submissions into the MMP are no longer required, it became evident that there are other staff capacity issues, such as those that are entering data into EIA's internal database. There has also been limited volunteer capacity which has affected how many submissions EIA makes to the MMP. In some months, we also saw a lower number of submissions made into the MMP by TRAFFIC, which is outside of EIA's control. 2.2 As of October 2023, there have been 10 additional banks/financial institutions that have signed up to the MMP. There was an increase through planned engagement with UfW and key institutions in target countries. ███████████ ███████████████████████████████████████ ███████████████████████████████████████ ███████████████████████████████████████ ███████████████████████████████████████ ███████ Therefore, the target of 20 total recipients as stated by the logframe was reached upon project completion. 2.3 Two red flag documents and one financial typology have been shared with the financial sector through UfW, 2.4 Between July 2022 and March 2023, EIA has submitted 2,084 entity names to financial institutions and due diligence agencies through the MMP. This has resulted in the creation of over 1,400 new profiles and the updating of 296 pre-existing profiles in KYC databases, The minimum target of 350 new profiles has been achieved.
Activity 2.1 EIA will employ tech consultants to automate Media Monitoring programme databases for efficient data sharing.		Using the project funding, EIA hired a Database Manager who oversaw the automation of the MMP, which included rehousing the MMP system from Airtable to Microsoft. The new system was automated using Power Automate that communicates with different Microsoft Lists that are linked to EIA's internal

		database (for internal MMP submissions) and a Microsoft Form (for external submissions).
Activity 2.2 United for Wildlife will facilitate collaboration with Financial Taskforce members and EIA to include training and data sharing through the programme.		EIA presented to the members of UfW on the 23rd May 2023; this presentation promoted the GECT and the MMP (as mentioned under Activivty 1.4) to encourage more financial sector institutions to sign up to receive data. Preparation for the automation of the MMP was almost complete, which allowed EIA to take on new recipients by the time the presentation had been done and ensured that the expansion was and continues to be sustainable. New recipients have been reported under Output 2.2. Each new recipient was invited to an introductory meeting before they started to receive the MMP data so that EIA could gauge their interests and identify other areas of collaboration. Relationships will be maintained through quarterly or bi-annually check in meetings, which will also allow for regular feedback to improve the MMP.
Activity 2.3 Identification of key banks and financial institutions in target countries to sign up to the programme and receive data.		Key banks were identified in Malaysia through JWM's pre-existing network, which includes the Central Bank of Malaysia. JWM attended an AMLA workshop in Indonesia to expedite the discussions with the Central Bank of Malaysia. In October 2023, EIA added four recipients from the FIU in Malaysia. EIA also had a meeting with Standard Charter in Nigeria, who agreed to sign up as recipients to the programme as of October 2023. A meeting was held in September 2023 with Nigeria's ACCOBIN to roll the programme out to all compliance officers in Nigeria and this is still being progressed. In Vietnam an introductory meeting was held with Vietcombank and the Vietnam FIU to introduce EIA's work. A second meeting is being set up with Vietcombank in February 2024 to progress the sharing of data with them through MMP.
Activity 2.4 Production of financial red flag documents to share with public and private financial sector on IWT.		Two red flag documents and one financial typology have been shared with the financial sector through UfW,
Output 3 Increased collaboration between international CSOs on sharing data and identification of joint working opportunities for a publicly available platform of wildlife crime, intelligence and conservation data	3.1 EIA will sign MOUs with at least two CSOs who regularly collect IWT seizure data 3.2 Data is shared monthly between members of the working group and reflected in EIA's database 3.3 At least two virtual roundtable working groups will be held to discuss obstacles with databases of publicly available data	

	3.4 A proposal for a tech solution to create a collaborative platform is written	██
		3.4 A concept note detailing suggestions for a technical solution to create a collaborative platform has been written and can be found in the Annex 4.9. This concept note takes into account the points, issues and ideas that were raised by members of the working group during the two roundtables.
Activity 3.1 Engagement with CSOs collecting wildlife crime data to agree regular data sharing		██
Activity 3.2 Creation of a working group with key stakeholders to discuss issues with data collection for wildlife crime and challenges with sharing information		As explained under Output 3.2 and in Section 3.1 of this report, a draft agenda and introductory document was produced by EIA and shared with working group members for feedback before the roundtables took place. This agenda and introductory document was intended to formulate the key topics and objectives for shaping discussions and stating desired outcomes from the virtual roundtables. The first virtual roundtable took place on 12th July 2023 and focused on data entry. The second virtual roundtable took place on 16th October 2023 and focused on data analysis. These agendas were circulated prior to the two sessions to formulate the key topics and objectives for shaping discussions and stating intended outcomes from the virtual roundtables. The members of the working group decided that these roundtables proved useful and so will be carried on beyond the project, with each member taking turns to host.
Activity 3.3 Scoping and comprehensive gap analysis carried out on current or developing platforms for wildlife crime data		A survey was designed and disseminated to known recipients of data from EIA's database. The survey link was also published on EIA's GECT homepage for users of the GECT. More reporting on this survey can be found under Outcome 0.3. The feedback provided from this survey was incorporated into the planning of the GECT prosecution dashboard and will be taken into consideration for future projects. The analysis of this gap analysis was also presented during the second roundtable of the working group (as seen in the agenda).

	The survey remains live on the GECT homepage and is still disseminated along with data files to keep a continuous feedback mechanism in place.
Activity 3.4 Proposal document produced on future collaborative platform, costed out and partners identified	EIA has drawn up a proposal document that details two alternative technical solutions to improve the collaboration of organisations collecting IWT data and the accessibility of it to other key stakeholders. One proposed solution involves a joint database on a shared platform, which would require members to address the challenges of duplication and standardisation. The second interim solution involves the creation of a shared platform for uploading and accessing data exports, which would easily streamline the process without requiring changes to current data structures. In addition, the concept note sets out a recommendation to create a public online 'one stop shop' for wildlife crime data resources. The concept note is available in Annex 4.9 and has been reported on in Section 3.1 of this report, under Output 3. This proposal document will be taken forward into the next Wildlife Crime Data Working Group session to identify potential funding streams.

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

The Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) use high quality and accessible Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable scaling, replication and increase the impact of the funds and the projects we support.

By asking project teams to align indicators with the IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators, we aim to increase our contribution to the global evidence base for activities that support biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and capability & capacity.

The tables below are provided to assist project teams in reporting against Standard Indicators. Please report against the Standard Indicators that you have selected specifically for your project in Table 1 below. Refer to the Standard Indicator Guidance & Menu available on the IWT Challenge Fund website for guidance on how to select indicators, as well as how to disaggregate reporting within your chosen indicators.

We recognise that our menu cannot cover all the potential monitoring needs for all projects – where necessary you can select indicators from other sources or develop your own. See our BCFs MEL guidance on best practices for selecting and developing indicators.

4.1.1 Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-D03	A new case tracker role within JWM	A new case tracker role within JWM is funded to improve the capability and capacity for a local/national organisation	Number	None	1	0		1	1
IWTCF-D13	Analysis of IWT trends in Nigeria, Malaysia and Vietnam will be disseminated to law enforcement agencies working in Africa and Asia, as well as the United for Wildlife transport taskforce	One article produced by JWM due to be published after review in Malaysia	Number	None	0	1		1	1
IWTCF-D20	Training will be provided to a minimum of 10 private sector organisations on the use of EIA's GECT	Number of webinar attendees that attended a presentation demonstrating how to use EIA's GECT	Number	None	0	~150			>10
IWTCF-D23	Number of records added into the GECT	Number of records added to EIA's publicly available Crime Tracker between July 2022 and October 2023	Number	None	1198	810		2,008	>1478
IWTCF-D26	An additional layer is added to the GECT	An additional layer is added to EIA's global Environmental Crime Tracker to enhance tools/approaches developed for tackling IWT	Number	Layers	0	1		1	1
IWTCF-D27	Number of agreements signed with NGOs and national CSOs to regularly share data with	Number of partnerships established with international NGOs and national CSOs	Number	None	1	3		3	>2

4.1.2   Table 2   Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
What happens after poachers are arrested?	Blog	Nor Arlina Amirah Ahmad Ghani, 2023	Female	Malaysian	Macaranga	https://www.macaranga.org/what-happens-after-poachers-are-arrested/
Defending wildlife in court*	Article	Nor Arlina Amirah Ahmad Ghani, 2024	Female	Malaysian	Macaranga	Macaranga

6 Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, **do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?**	Yes
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need 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.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	