





Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

Important note: To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30 April

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	IWT 02
Project Title	Cutting Out The Middleman: Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in Viet Nam
Host Country/ies	Vietnam (and Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations, and private businesses in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Angola).
Contract Holder Institution	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner institutions	Vietnam CITES Management Authority; National Environmental Police (Southern Office)
Darwin Grant Value	£279,708
Funder (DFID/Defra)	Defra
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2014 – 31 March 2017
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2015 – Mar 2016) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2014 - March 2015
Project Leader name	Scott Roberton
Project website/blog/Twitter	n/a
Report author(s) and date	Scott Roberton, April 2015

1. Project Rationale

Driven by growing demand from Asia's urban wealth centres, wildlife trafficking is the most immediate threat to the survival of high-value biodiversity globally. Organized Vietnamese crime syndicates have extended their wildlife trade networks around the world; Vietnam was singled out at CITES CoP16 as a primary driver in the African rhino crisis and a key transit country for illegal ivory leaving Africa en route to China.

Vietnamese criminals coordinating this illicit trade are met with weak enforcement from national agencies that receive relatively little investment and support from state or overseas sources. These agencies lack the skills or political support to mount an effective response. Conservation issues – particularly involving wildlife not native to Vietnam – do not receive the attention, expertise and funds required. The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority (MA) is heavily dependent on external support and has requested assistance from WCS.

Increasing political support and improving law enforcement in consumer and transit countries, are critical components of demand-reduction strategies. Government action is an important driver for behavioural change and can lead to rapid, dramatic social change in contrast to

social-marketing campaigns that change behavior through increased consumer awareness and eventually may lead to a sustained reduction in demand.

A series of activities are being rolled out at the central level, with local field actions piloted in the major urban demand centre of the Ho Chi Minh (HCM) metropolitan region, and with Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading companies in four African countries where WCS is on-the-ground.

2. Project Partnerships

The Vietnam CITES MA is the Government of Vietnam's focal point on wildlife trade and is the main government partner in this project. They have been the official host of events/meetings, and provided guidance and support to implementation of all project activities. In order to ensure delivery of project activities and coordinate with other MA work, WCS and the CITES MA signed a three-year cooperation agreement that outlines the working relationship and a draft work plan for activities. Over the course of the year there have been challenges regarding personnel availability with both the Director and Deputy-Director attending education programs, which took them out of the office for extended periods of time. This delayed a number of project activities, but was unavoidable, and affected the overall running of the MA, not just this project.

The National Environmental Police (EP) is the lead enforcement agency within the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) to investigate and process prosecutions of wildlife crimes. Their Southern representative office is a key partner in this project for pilot implementation of activities, including professional investigative techniques training, and intelligence management systems. In this period they have been an active partner on a series of investigations and training programs. In addition, they introduced WCS to the HCM Police University (the training facility for all police cadets and refresher training in Southern Vietnam) to enable our training programs to become institutionalised into existing curricula and modules. We are now finalising an MoU for sustained cooperation with the Police University.

Additional partnerships have been formed with the Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Customs Antismuggling unit following a request from their Director for cooperation from WCS and the CITES MA in the area of information exchange and capacity building. At the time of writing this report, WCS, CITES MA and HCMC Customs are reviewing a joint-collaborative agreement that outlines planned work for the period of 2015-2017.

Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1. Vietnamese journalists and local civil society groups are informed and supportive of international wildlife trade issues.

Throughout the first year of this project, WCS has carried out daily media tracking of domestic online media and continued to collate and share news reports on Vietnam's illegal wildlife trade, especially on the prosecutions of wildlife trade related crime, among our network of journalists, NGOs, and international agencies on a daily basis. Our communications team has also been sharing selected news reports and articles in Vietnamese language that highlight enforcement progress via WCS social network platforms, particularly Facebook.

We have also hosted two informal meetings in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in January and February 2015, attracting more than 90 young people from a number of local NGOs, voluntary groups and universities including Action for Wildlife Organization, Go Green, 350 Vietnam, and Agents for Change. At the meetings, participants were engaged in lively and informal discussions about wildlife trafficking, the policy and enforcement gaps present in Vietnam, the seriousness of the rhino horn crisis and the driver of demand in Asia, including Viet Nam.

WCS and the CITES MA provided technical advice to a Charity Gala in March 2015 hosted by Dutch businessman Otto de Jager and his wife Thu Minh, a well known singer, who between them have extensive connections to Vietnam's corporate elite.

Information was shared via a short

speech, information education and communication (IEC) materials and discussions need throughout the evening to build support from these key influential individuals towards wildlife conservation.

Output 2. Local civil society and law enforcement agencies identify and begin to address the priority barriers to the prosecution and punishment of transnational wildlife trafficking cases and the key actions required to address these issues

To identify and rank barriers to effective enforcement, WCS partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to carry out an analysis of enforcement efforts under the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime's (ICCWC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit. The toolkit provides a framework for analyzing the preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crimes.

An inter-agency workshop was hosted in October 2014 and attended by all relevant Vietnam enforcement agencies, including the Supreme People's Court, Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP), Interpol National Central Bureau (Ministry of Public Security), Anti-smuggling and Investigation Department (Vietnam Customs), the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment), National Forest Protection Department and Department of Nature Conservation (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), and the Narcotics Crime Prevention Department of the Border Army (Ministry of National Defence). Participants were introduced to the objectives of the analysis and discussed priority geographies for data collection, priority sections of the Toolkit to follow, and the implementation process.

The workshop resulted in the establishment of a core group consisting of WCS, UNODC, and CITES MA, and a national working group including the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Customs Anti-smuggling Unit, National Forest Protection Department, SPP and the Supreme People's Court. The National Working Group's ToR was to conduct five studies following the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytical Toolkit.

Additionally, with co-financing from the UNODC Global Program to Combat Wildlife & Forest Crimes, two international consultants specialising in Enforcement (Mr. Simon Ramsden) and Prosecution (Mr. Manjit Iqbal) were recruited to carry out a field mission in Viet Nam and collate the five studies conducted by the above-mentioned National Working Group. The field mission kicked off in January 2015 with a consultation meeting in Ha Noi for central agencies, which provided an opportunity for the five draft national studies to be presented by the lead authors and discussed more broadly. Following this meeting, the Core Group carried out a field mission to interview local law enforcement agencies in key wildlife trafficking areas across Vietnam including Ha Tinh (incl. Cau Treo border gate), Quang Binh (Dong Hoi town, Cha Lo Border gate), Ho Chi Minh City (including Tan San Nhat airport and Cat Lai sea port), and Dak Lak (Buon Me Thuot City and Yok Don National Park).

At the time of submitting this report, based upon the National Working Group studies, interview results and a literature review, the two international consultants have completed a first draft of the Toolkit report and a set of priority recommendations. These are currently undergoing review by WCS, UNODC and CITES MA and will be presented to all relevant law enforcement agencies for inputs before being finalised in July. The CITES MA has already incorporated some of the preliminary results into the draft National Program on Controlling the Trade and Consumption of Endangered Species that the CITES MA is currently preparing for submission for Prime Minister's approval.

Output 3. Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading and tourism companies in and relating to key African ivory and rhino horn source/transit

states are informed of the risks, punishments and scaled up law enforcement efforts and political commitment to tackling this in both Africa and Asia

WCS and the CITES MA are currently developing a plan and agenda for the first VN-WEN meeting of 2015, (this took place in April 2015). At this meeting, we will facilitate a discussion among WEN members to identify the main challenges to enforcement cooperation with African countries and will solicit ideas to overcome these challenges, which can then be discussed with counterparts from Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya and South Africa.

Additionally, WCS cooperated with the Department of West Asia and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to compile an initial set of briefing materials on cooperation between Viet Nam and Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola. These materials covered diplomatic relations, trade and enforcement, and will provide guidance to the upcoming VN-WEN mission to Africa in mid May. This mission aims at developing a road map for more effective law enforcement cooperation against transnational wildlife trafficking. From May 12-21, 2015, a team of six representatives from CITES MA, SPP, External Relations Agency of MPS (Interpol NCB), West Asia and Africa Department (MOFA), Customs Anti-smuggling Department, Forest Protection Department and WCS) will visit Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa to discuss enforcement priorities, national legislative and institutional systems, existing enforcement cooperation mechanisms, and priority areas of improvement. Furthermore, the delegation will meet with key Vietnamese community leaders and corporations (e.g. Viettel in Tanzania, Vietnam Airlines in Kenya) to improve understanding of the Vietnamese communities in these countries and identify key access points for crime prevention outreach activities.

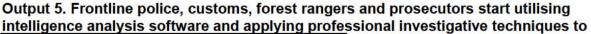
Output 4. Formal and informal inter-agency forums are functioning and the relevant law enforcement agencies are regularly sharing information through briefings and cooperating on planning and developing strategies to tackle rhino horn, elephant ivory and big cat trafficking crimes

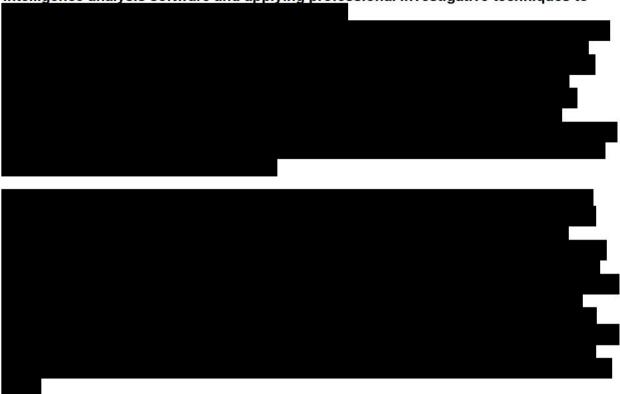
Since the start of the project, WCS and the CITES MA have worked with the SPP to draft a joint-ministerial circular providing clear guidance on criminal prosecution of those who smuggle, transport, and/or illegally store rhino horn and ivory. As currently drafted, this circular would be signed by the ministers of Public Security, Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry and Trade, the Supreme Courts and the SPP. We have hosted a series of joint-agency consultation meetings and informal gatherings to build support across Ministries and commissioned an independent legal review of the draft joint-ministerial circular by the Dean of Hanoi Law School. In this reporting period, agreement has been secured in principle by all but one ministry (Justice) on the draft joint-ministerial circular and as it stands punishments for offences involving elephant ivory and rhino horn would more than double (from 7 to a maximum 15 years custodial sentences); and a shift would be made from calculating the level of the crimes based upon the economic value of the goods seized (which presents an obstacle to prosecutions where local agencies have no official, reliable or consistent value of wildlife), to the weight (as is the case with other illicit goods such as narcotics).

We also facilitated a joint field mission for the CITES MA and National Customs Anti-smuggling Unit to the Viet Nam - China Border in January 2015 to review the implementation progress of individual agencies on Prime Minister's Directive 03/CT-TTg dated 20/2/2014 on strengthening instructions and implementation of solutions to control and protect precious, rare and endangered wildlife species. Also, the field mission demonstrated central-level support and encouragement for greater efforts at local levels and facilitated a better understanding of challenges to effective border control.

During the first year of this project, we have also helped the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development develop a proposal on for the centralization and inventory of all CITES's Appendix I seized products (notably, elephant ivory, rhino horn, and tiger skins) that are currently spread across provinces and agencies. A National consultant was hired to work with us on drafting the proposal. We also hosted a meeting with Stop Ivory to exchange experiences and learn from their inventory tools and protocols. A pilot inventory is now scheduled to take place in the coming reporting period.

Meanwhile, we supported the CITES MA in taking samples from all recently seized rhino horns. These samples will be transferred to the RhODIS laboratory in South Africa in May for analysis to try and match the seized horns to poaching incidents in South Africa.





In March 2015, we held a training program in collaboration with the HCM Police University on professional investigative techniques (including specimen identification, national and international wildlife protection laws and regulations) and anti-wildlife trafficking approaches for 39 police, customs and market control officers from the Ho Chi Minh City metropolitan area (e.g. operational planning for crackdowns). We designed an interactive training program with hands-on practice sessions aimed at stimulating the interest of the officers in this subject, introducing them to the tools/resources available for further learning. We also used a series of participatory exercises to guide them in the development of actual enforcement operation plans they can take back to their agencies. We continue to provide coaching and post-training support to participants.



3.2 Progress towards project outputs

Output 1. Vietnamese journalists and local civil society groups are informed and supportive of international wildlife trade issues.

WCS revised the online media tracking methodology for coverage of wildlife trafficking issues and also revised our screening methodology to focus on domestic media coverage, omitting international media coverage that has in turn adjusted our stated 2013 baseline from 47% to 20% (91/440 stories) providing positive coverage. Our monitoring suggests there is still progress to be made in the coming years to reach our target. During the period of January 1st – December 31st 2014, there were 373 articles on wildlife and wildlife trade in the local online media, in which, there were 282 providing no-view (76%), 4 providing a negative viewpoint (1%), 52 providing a balanced view (14%) and 75 a supportive/positive viewpoint (20%). We are looking at ways to capture viewpoints and conversations on social media and hope to present in the following reporting to Darwin to improve this indicator. In this period, WCS has also engaged a number of volunteer groups and local NGOs and initiated a dialogue that we intend to develop into a more productive working discussion and reporting protocol on online crimes in the coming year.

Output 2. Local civil society and law enforcement agencies identify and begin to address the priority barriers to the prosecution and punishment of transnational wildlife trafficking cases and the key actions required to address these issues

Significant progress has been made towards this output. WCS and the CITES MA developed a broader process of consultation across the law enforcement agencies that included meetings, agency-led assessments and private briefings towards the development of a Prime Minister endorsed National Program on controlling the trade and consumption of Endangered Species. These consultations have begun to highlight priority barriers (e.g. lack of systems to monitor levels of crime or the impact of the enforcement response, ineffective system to create legal implementation decrees, and corruption), and key actions required to address the obstacles to effective enforcement across government (e.g. Joint-agency annual reporting on crime and enforcement, minimum levels of proficiency in wildlife protection established at Prosecutor, customs and police academies, establishment of green prosecutors/benches, development of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) with key African range/transit countries). A policy paper and draft national program are currently being finalised and are pending joint-agency endorsement, after which they will be circulated to policy-makers in Government, Communist Party, and the foreign diplomatic sector.

Output 3. Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading and tourism companies in and relating to key African ivory and rhino horn source/transit states are informed of the risks, punishments and scaled up law enforcement efforts and political commitment to tackling this in both Africa and Asia

WCS and the CITES MA have initiated a close cooperation with the West Asia and African Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to the Vietnamese Embassies and consulate in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. We have begun compiling data on Vietnamese communities in these countries, how they are structured, and how they communicate. This information will be clarified and supplemented following the abovementioned mission in May 2015 to enable us to develop a more accurate strategy to communicate crime prevention messages to these communities. The visit will also seek to strengthen bi-lateral cooperation between Viet Nam law enforcement agencies and the relevant agencies in these Africa countries.

Output 4. Formal and informal inter-agency forums are functioning and the relevant law enforcement agencies are regularly sharing information through briefings and cooperating on planning and developing strategies to tackle rhino horn, elephant ivory and big cat trafficking crimes

There has been a joint-agency field mission and a series of reports issued this year. Also, we have facilitated a number of meetings under the framework of VN-WEN in 2014 linked to the

ICCWC Toolkit analysis and the draft prosecution circular. The Annual Vietnam WEN meeting took place in April 2015. These regularly meetings are important to maintain the functionality of the network. Meetings have been met with varied levels of participation (although all agencies were present) and at this stage the meetings have failed to secure the participation of senior figures from all participating agencies. The VN-WEN has lacked effective coordination from the CITES MA in the last year due to the unavailability of key staff through their participation in training. We are hoping that upcoming personnel changes in the MA, in addition to the secondment of a WCS staff to the MA, will help to improve the effectiveness of the WEN in 2015.

Output 5. Frontline police, customs, forest rangers and prosecutors start utilising intelligence analysis software and applying professional investigative techniques to gather and manage information on wildlife crimes



3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Our first outcome indicator focuses on increasing the percentage of arrests leading to conviction from 2% to 50% by the end of the three-year project. The draft circular on the guidance for settling crimes related to rhino horn and elephant ivory is a key piece of legislation to enhance the conviction rates. We continue to work with the Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP) on this and also on providing inputs to the Penal Code that is currently under revision. Secondly, we are working with the CITES MA and SPP to draft a joint-agency agreement establishing annual reporting responsibilities to enable better collation of criminal data relating to wildlife crimes.



Our final indicator is related to how the CITES Standing Committee and Rhino working group judge Viet Nam's progress on implementation and compliance with the CITES CoP16 Decisions. The next Standing Committee will be held in January 2016 in Geneva. WCS will report further on this in the next reporting period. Furthermore, Viet Nam has offered to host a follow-up conference to the 2014 London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade. It is a significant indication of the greater priority this issue receives in the country.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption	Analysis
Continued national commitment to CITES convention by Vietnam	Still holds true: Viet Nam continues to play an active role in CITES and commits resources to the CITES MA
WCS has established itself as a credible, loyal and trusted partner in a range of Vietnamese provinces and at a central level in the field of wildlife trafficking crimes and conservation and we cooperate with a range of agencies at both levels. To implement this project, this collaboration with individuals within local and central law enforcement agencies must continue.	Still holds true: WCS continues to collaborate extremely well agencies at central and local levels. Starting this year we have expanded our partnerships at local levels and also at central levels with the Police Academy, Customs School and People's Courts.
Increased media attention and involvement of central agencies (including Anti-corruption committees) will prompt the Vietnamese government to start addressing corruption of law enforcement officials in wildlife trafficking cases.	At this time, we cannot be sure whether this assumption will hold true, but we believe it will as a result of other examples of media driving positive Government action. For instance, a campaign to prevent the Ha Noi authorities from cutting down 6300 trees in the city was successful through a highly successful social media campaign twinned with hard-hitting stories in the media speaking to the fiscal waste and possible corruption related to the plan.
The Vietnamese media is controlled by a central government department that monitors and guides content and on certain topics has prevented coverage on certain topics/issues, where they consider them to be detrimental to social stability and the rule of law. We have access to the weekly minutes of the editors where this guidance is provided, and strong relationships with journalists to be aware if any of the stories/issues we are concerned with get blocked/prevented; but for the media to pressure criminal cases and cover key issues will require these issues to remain acceptable for communication by this department.	Still holds true: The Central Committee of Propaganda and Education continues to have significant influence over media stories and continues to be supportive of conservation stories. We have further engaged them in the past year with a series of awareness-raising activities for Party members in the HCM city area.
Consensus can be reached on key actions required by the relevant stakeholders	We believe this still holds true. The ICCWC Toolkit has seen unprecedented participation of all relevant agencies with no major difference in opinion. In fact, at the time of preparing this report, the most recent meeting of VN WEN was held and co-chaired by two leaders from National Environmental Police and CITES MA. This is the first time that has ever occurred.
Vietnamese companies, associations and communities in or visiting key African range states are accessible and key ministries (Foreign Affairs, Industry & trade) continue to collaborate with the CITES MA	Still holds true: The MoFA and relevant Vietnamese embassies have been incredibly supportive to the planned activities in Mozambique, Kenya and Tanzania
VN-WEN remains the key national-level forum for interministerial planning and coordination on addressing international wildlife trade and all wildlife crime issues	This is still correct
WCS continues its strong collaboration with the National Environmental Police Southern Office	This is still correct as evidenced by the actions carried out together in the past year

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

This project has started to build capacity for (e.g. through training programs and on-the-job support) and secure commitment (e.g. new legislation has been drafted, National Program being drafted) within a number of key agencies of the Vietnamese government and criminal justice system that will eventually lead to more effective enforcement of laws to combat wildlife trafficking networks. Some early work with the Environmental Police and the Prosecutors are promising and we need to build upon this approach. This in turn will reduce threats to the survival of species in the wild across the region and in Africa.

4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)

The project has facilitated implementation of Decisions of the CITES Conference of the Parties 16th meeting. We are enabling greater interagency information sharing among the police, customs and the CITES Management Authority (MA) that will allow the MA to compile data and report to the Secretariat on seizures, disposition of specimens, arrests, and convictions of cases involving Asian big cat species (Decision 16.68, Res. Conf. 12.5 Rev. CoP16), Asian pangolin species (16.41), freshwater turtles and tortoises (16.113, 16.114, 16.115), and rhino specimens (16.84, 16.86). A draft cooperation agreement between these agencies is being prepared that will give central-level authority for the regular sharing, collation and analysis of this data. The project has started to build capacity and gained central government support for the use of specialized investigation techniques and AML/asset forfeiture to strengthen enforcement and the conviction of organized wildlife criminals involved in rhino horn (Decision 16.84) and other high-value species crimes through training programs, workshops and inputs to the National program to Combat Wildlife trafficking, Prosecution circulars and the draft of the Penal code. The project will initiate activities with Vietnamese communities overseas in the coming period to prevent future crimes by raising awareness in African range states to the risks of wildlife trafficking and ways to report crimes (Decisions 16.85, 16.86).

5. Project support to poverty alleviation

In helping to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products and dismantle criminal networks, both of which drive poaching, we will be helping to mitigate the profound negative impacts associated with the illegal wildlife trade. The transnational criminal networks involved in this trade worsen socio-economic inequalities, provoke social conflict, undermine local governance throughout the trade chain, and pose threats to the livelihoods of people living in product source countries where tourism is a major industry. The communities directly reliant on tourism in these countries are often already susceptible to the effects of poverty and are disproportionately impacted by the tourism economy that often suffers as a result of poaching and other criminal activities.

6. Project support to Gender equity issues

While directly improving gender equality is not a major focus of this project, we believe that our work may have indirect effects on women in several ways. In addressing many of the problems mentioned in the previous section, we will be helping to improve governance and rule of law in both Vietnam and product source countries. While not directly impacting women, this is often a first step in building more stable, equitable societies. Additionally, helping to reduce destabilizing threats to the tourism industry in African countries will undoubtedly help to improve the livelihoods of women. In Kenya and other countries that we have been working with, the tourism sector employs a higher number of women and young people than many other industries, and any threats to this industry will therefore disproportionately affect them.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Covered in previous sections

8. Lessons learnt

Whilst the project is a collaboration between three partners (WCS, CITES MA and the Environmental Police), there is a heavy dependence upon CITES MA for their participation in the implementation due to their position within the Vietnamese Government as the focal point for wildlife trafficking. Therefore, CITES MA staff leave for further education in 2014 significantly affected the implementation of some project activities in the second half of 2014. Building greater flexibility into work plans and maintaining diverse government partnerships should this persist could solve this to some extent.

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

N/A

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

11. Sustainability and legacy

By working closely with relevant government agencies, piloting new approaches, and facilitating joint-analyses we aim to build capacity at the central political level to enact the required changes to legislation, resource allocations and actions of local level agencies that will have impact beyond the project period. The new National Program on Controlling the Trade and Consumption of Endangered Species that we are supporting develop will draw much of these changes together. Maintaining capacity, interest and commitment within government agencies requires a progressive, sustained approach and engagement by civil society. WCS has made a long-term commitment to this issue and through this project will increase engagement and commitment from other local civil society groups and media partners.

The partnership with HCMC Police University and Customs School will hopefully lead to institutionalised training curricula and modules that will have significant impact to pre-service training and refresher training past the project's duration

The project is not recognised as a distinct entity, but more as increased efforts by the CITES MA to address this challenge. A project can have negative connotations to many people in government in Viet Nam of something that is short-lived and an opportunity for funds. Promoting activities and efforts in that way would undermine the overall outcome of the project that is building national commitment and therefore as much as possible we frame activities as those of the CITES MA or other partner agencies and not seen as WCS-led or of an internationally-funded project. There is certainly increasing interest in this work, we have established new partnerships over the course of this year in a number of national and international agencies.

12. Darwin Identity

See above response to Q11. The Darwin Initiative, the DEFRA IWT Challenge Fund and the UK Government have been acknowledged as donors to project activities and are acknowledged verbally in all meetings by ourselves and the CITES MA but we have avoided using logos that brands this specifically as an IWT Challenge Fund project because doing so could undermine our larger goals of building Vietnamese Government support and ownership of the change progress.

13. Project Expenditure

Table 1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2014/15 Grant (£)	2014/15 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs	0	0		
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs			9	
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

14.	OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your reporting period (300-400 words maximum). publicity purposes	our project during the This section may be used for

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2014-2015

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2014 - March 2015	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact The illegal trafficking in high-value wildlife spand abroad, does not threaten the survival of	pecies by Vietnamese communities, at home of these species in the wild.	This project has started to build capacity (e.g. through training programs and on-the-job support, drafting new legislation) and commitment within a number of key agencies of the Vietnamese government and criminal justice system that will eventually lead to more effective enforcement of laws to combat wildlife trafficking networks, some early work with the Environmental Police and the Prosecutors are promising and we need to build upon this. This in turn will reduce threats to the survival of species in the wild across the region and in Africa	
Outcome Vietnam's government, criminal justice system, and civil society, has increased capacity and commitment to effectively enforce laws to disrupt and dismantle wildlife trafficking networks.	(i) The percentage of arrests leading to conviction in court for offences relating to trade in rhino horn and elephant ivory increases from the 2009-2012 baseline of c.2% (44 arrests leading to one jail sentence) to 50% over the 3-year project period. (ii) By 2017, an intelligence-led approach has led to the identification and first ever arrest in Vietnam, of Vietnamese individuals coordinating a major transnational wildlife crime network. (iii) By 2017, Vietnam is judged by the CITES Standing Committee and Rhino working group, to have made significant progress on implementation and compliance with the CITES CoP16 Decisions	A draft circular guiding the prosecution of crimes involving rhino horn and elephant ivory has been submitted to the National Assembly for approval that doubles custodial sentences for African rhino and elephant related crimes and clarifies sentencing WCS, CITES MA and SPP are drafting a joint-agency agreement establishing annual reporting responsibilities to enable better collation of criminal data relating to wildlife crimes. Our partners in HCMC procuracy requested, for the first time ever in Viet Nam, the maximum prison sentence of seven years for a rhino horn smuggler	Prosecution guidance circular issued (or incorporated into revised Penal Code) Provision of support to Penal code revisions on crimes affecting wildlife First annual report on wildlife crime and enforcement response produced Enforcement activated on a major rhino horn/ivory smuggling network Support to Viet Nam CITES MA preparation and attendance at CITES 66th Standing Committee (January 2016)

Output 1. Vietnamese journalists and local civil society groups are informed and supportive of international wildlife trade issues.	1a. By 2017, on-going WCS media tracking records at least a 25% increase from 2013 levels (currently at 20%) in positive and supportive media coverage to the issues of rhino horn, elephant ivory, Asian big cat and freshwater turtle and tortoise trafficking and wildlife crime law enforcement in Vietnam 1b. By 2017, local civil society groups have established a protocol for reporting wildlife crimes to relevant agencies in the pilot site of HCM City Metropolitan Area and are regularly and systematically reporting wildlife crimes to the relevant agencies and individuals	During the period of January 1st – December 31st 2014, there were 373 articles on wildlife and wildlife trade in the local online media, in which, there were 282 providing no-view (76%), 4 providing a negative viewpoint (1%), 52 providing a balanced view (14%) and 75 a supportive/positive viewpoint (20%). We are looking at ways to capture viewpoints and conversations on social media and hope to present in the following reporting to Darwin to improve this indicator. In this period, WCS has also engaged a number of volunteer groups and local NGOs and initiated a dialogue that we intend to develop into a more productive working discussion on online crimes in the coming year.	
Activity 1.1. Carry out daily online media track journalists to articles that are promoting interr		Carried out daily media tracking of domestic online media and continued to collate and share news reports on Vietnam's illegal wildlife trade, especially on the prosecutions of wildlife trade related crime, among our network of journalists, NGOs, and international agencies on a daily basis. Will continue in next period.	
Activity 1.2. Disseminate key reports, articles wildlife trade and wildlife crime enforcement to 150 local journalists of the major news service.	the WCS Vietnam media network of over	Shared selected news reports and articles that highlight enforcement progress via WCS social network platforms, particularly Facebook. We continue to assist local journalists in our network with stories and evidence-based clarification, including this series on rhino horn trade in Viet Nam. Will continue in next period.	
Activity 1.3. Collaborate with local civil society Organisation) in HCM to develop and implem wildlife crimes (online and offline) to the relev	ent a pilot system for volunteers to report	Hosted two informal meetings, attracting more than 90 young people from a number of local NGOs, voluntary groups and universities to discuss wildlife trafficking, the policy and enforcement gaps present in Vietnam, the seriousness of the rhino horn crisis and the driver of demand in Asia, including Viet Nam. In next period will focus discussions of these groups to develop the protocol for reporting wildlife crimes.	
Output 2. Local civil society and law enforcement agencies identify and begin to address the priority barriers to the prosecution and punishment of transnational wildlife trafficking cases and the key actions required to address 2a. By the end of Year 2014 consensus is reached from Vietnam WEN, National Assembly Committees, and key local civil society stakeholders on priority barriers, and key actions required to address these issues.		WCS and the CITES MA developed a broader process of consultation across the law enforcement agencies that included meetings, agency-led assessments and private briefings towards the development of a Prime Minister endorsed Program on Controlling the Trade and Consumption of Endangered Specie. These consultations have begun to highlight priority barriers, and key actions required to address the obstacles to effective enforcement across government.	
these issues 2b. Policy paper endorsed and disseminated by CITES MA to policy-makers in Government, Communist Party, and the foreign diplomatic sector.		A policy paper and draft national program are currently being finalised and are pending joint-agency endorsement, after which they will be circulated to policy-makers in Government, Communist Party, and the foreign diplomatic sector.	
Activity 2.1. Participatory exercise held at VN-WEN meeting to identify and rank barriers to effective enforcement.		Partnered with UNODC to carry out an analysis of enforcement efforts under the framework of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit. Hosted inter-agency workshop for Vietnam enforcement agencies to build support for the assessment and prioritise geographies and assessment focus.	

Activity 2.2. Study commissioned to collate existing data and prepare a briefing paper Activity 2.3. Briefing paper distributed for endorsement from VN-WEN members Activity 2.4. Briefing paper disseminated to key Government departments and other		Formed a National Working Group with representatives from Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Customs Anti-smuggling Unit, National Forest Protection Department, SPP and the Supreme People's Court who were each assigned to conduct a study following the Toolkit analytical framework. Leveraged co-financing from UNODC to recruit two international enforcement consultants to carry out a field mission in Viet Nam to interview local law enforcement agencies in key wildlife trafficking areas across Vietnam including Ha Tinh (incl. Cau Treo border gate) Quang Binh (Dong Hoi town, Cha Lo Border gate), Ho Chi Minh City (including Tan San Nhat airport and Cat Lai sea port), and Dak Lak (Buon Me Thuot City and Yok Don National Park). The national and international consultants have completed a first draft of the Toolkit report and set of priority recommendations. These are currently undergoing review by WCS, UNODC and CITES MA and will be presented to Viet Nam Wildlife Enforcement Network (VN-WEN) members for inputs before being finalised. The CITES MA has already incorporated some of the results into the draft National Program on Controlling the Trade and Consumption of Endangered Species. Will be carried out in the next period
Dutput 3. Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading and tourism companies in and relating to key African ivory and rhino horn source/transit states are informed of the risks, punishments and scaled up law enforcement efforts and political commitment to tackling this in both Africa and Asia 3. By the end of 2017, >50% of the Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading and tourism companies in four key African ivory and rhino horn source/transit states (Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola, and Kenya) have collaborated on project activities		WCS and the CITES MA have initiated a close cooperation with the West Asia and African Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to the Vietnamese Embassies that cover Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. We have begun compiling data on Vietnamese communities in these countries, how they are structured, and how they communicate. This information will be clarified and supplemented following a mission visit in May 2015 to enable us to develop a more accurate strategy to communicate crime prevention messages to these communities. The visit will also seek to strengthen bi-lateral enforcement cooperation with these Africa countries.
Activity 3.1. Official correspondence drafted and sent out from Hanoi to Vietnamese diplomatic missions, associations, and companies in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Angola.		Official correspondence sent to Diplomatic missions, further research being carried out on associations, and companies in range states before further communications
Activity 3.2. Outreach evens held in cooperation with Vietnamese diplomatic missions, targeting associations, and companies in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, and Angola.		Compiled a set of briefing materials on cooperation between Viet Nam and Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique to provide guidance to the upcoming VN-WEN mission to Africa planned from May 12-21. Representatives from CITES MA, SPP, External Relations Agency – MPS (Interpol NCB), West Asia and Africa Department (MOFA), Hai Phong Customs Department, and WCS) will visit Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa to discuss enforcement priorities, national legislative and institutional systems, existing enforcement cooperation mechanisms, and priority areas of improvement. Furthermore, the delegation will meet with key Vietnamese community leaders and corporations (e.g. Viettel in Tanzania, Kenya Airways) to improve understanding of the Vietnamese communities in these countries and identify key access points for crime prevention outreach activities.
Output 4. Formal and informal interagency forums are functioning and the	4a. VN-WEN holds annual inter-agency coordination meetings and are attended by	There has been a joint-agency field mission and a series of reports issued this year and a number of meetings under the framework of VN-WEN in 2014 that we believe are positive

relevant law enforcement agencies are regularly sharing information through briefings and cooperating on planning and developing strategies to tackle rhino horn, elephant ivory and big cat trafficking crimes	all member agencies, by relevant staff members (i.e. not junior staff as present) 4b. By 2017 VN-WEN members have implemented at least three joint-field missions, authored at least three joint-reports on key wildlife crime issues, and held multi-agency briefings to communicate those.	signs for the future functionality of the network. Meetings have been met with varied levels of participation (although all agencies were present) and at this stage the meetings have failed to secure the participation of senior figures from all participating agencies. The VN-WEN has lacked effective coordination from the CITES MA in the last year due to the unavailability of key staff through their participation in training. We are hoping that upcoming personnel changes in the MA, in addition to the secondment of a WCS staffer to the MA, will help to improve effectiveness in 2015.	
Activity 4.1. Annual VN-WEN meeting of natio topic/geographic area	onal law enforcement agencies on key	Annual VN WEN meeting scheduled to take place in April 2015	
Activity 4.2. Regular informal meetings of indi on priority wildlife crime issues.	viduals from key law enforcement agencies	Hosted a series of joint-agency consultation meetings and informal gatherings to build support across Ministries and commissioned an independent legal review of the Draft Prosecution guidance circular.	
		Assisted development of Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development's proposal for the centralization and inventory of all CITES App I seized products (notably, elephant ivory, rhino horn, and tiger skins).	
Activity 4.3. Joint-agency field missions to 'ho to VN-WEN members	tspot' areas to gather information for briefings	Facilitated a joint field mission for the CITES MA and National Customs Anti-smuggling Unit to the Viet Nam - China Border to review progress on Prime Minister's Directive No. 3 to encourage greater efforts at local levels and better understand challenges to effective border control.	
Output 5. Frontline police, customs, forest rangers and prosecutors start utilising intelligence analysis software and applying professional investigative techniques to	5a. By 2017, based upon a two-year pilot deployment, there is central-level support, recommendations and a roadmap to the roll out of a professional intelligence analysis		
gather and manage information on wildlife crimes	system to enable greater intelligence-led policing of wildlife crimes in Vietnam		
	5b. By 2016, the key units within the relevant agencies in the pilot site of the HCM City Metropolitan Area will have met basic proficiency in professional wildlife crime law enforcement techniques, be informed on national and international laws, and have tools to identify species and wildlife products		

Activity 5.1. Procurement, localisation, set-up and training of the professional intelligence analysis software within WCS and National Environmental Police Southern Office	
Activity 5.2. Annual training (classroom and on the job) of professional investigative techniques and new tools (e.g. GPS trackers) to gather intelligence to frontline law enforcement officers in HCM City Metropolitan Area	Held a training program in collaboration with the HCM Police University on professional investigative techniques (including specimen identification, national and international wildlife protection laws and regulations) and anti-wildlife trafficking approaches for local police, customs and market control officers (e.g. operational planning for crackdowns). We designed an interactive training program aimed at stimulating the interest of the officers in this subject, introducing them to the tools/resources available for further learning. We also used a series of participatory exercises to guide them in the development of actual enforcement operation plans they can take back to their agencies.
Activity 5.3. Joint-agency wildlife trade investigations in the HCM region, information gathered then inputted into the software	
Activity 5.4. Entry of data and archive information on HCMC wildlife crimes, production of intelligence charts, reports	Held a consultation on crime and enforcement statistics for HCM law enforcement agencies to build consensus on the needs for data sharing and joint reporting of wildlife crime cases. Data entry and sharing protocols to begin in 2015
Activity 5.5. Implementation review and report to VN-WEN Annual meeting in year 3	n/a
Activity 5.6. Annual procuracy and judiciary training programs in wildlife crime suppression	First HCMC Procuracy training was delayed due to scheduling conflicts and will be held in May 2015

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions	
Goal:				
Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in esources.				
Impact: The illegal trafficking in high-valu	e wildlife species by Vietnamese communi	ties, at home and abroad, does not threater	n the survival of these species in the wild.	
Vietnam's government, criminal justice system, and civil society, has increased capacity and commitment to effectively enforce laws to disrupt and dismantle wildlife trafficking networks.	1. The percentage of arrests leading to conviction in court for offences relating to trade in rhino horn and elephant ivory increases from the 2009-2012 baseline of c.2% (44 arrests leading to one jail sentence) to 50% over the three-year project period. 2. By 2017, an intelligence-led approach has led to the identification and first ever arrest in Vietnam, of Vietnamese individuals coordinating a major transnational wildlife crime network. 3. By 2017, Vietnam is judged by the CITES Standing Committee and Rhino working group, to have made significant progress on implementation and compliance with the CITES CoP16 Decisions 4. By 2017, the CITES MA will have been granted additional resources (greater than inflation), in terms of both staff (2013:10 officers) and its state budget allocation (2013: \$ for core operating costs and staff) to address wildlife trafficking	1. Law enforcement agency (Police and Prosecutors) reports to CITES MA (made on request) on number of arrests, prosecutions and sentencing of wildlife cases 2. Online media tracking 3. Annual reports of law enforcement agencies (Customs Anti-smuggling Unit, Environmental Police, Procuracy) presented and shared at Annual Vietnam WEN meetings 4. CITES Standing Committee and rhino horn working group proceedings/minutes and decisions	1. Continued national commitment to CITES convention by Vietnam 2. WCS has established itself as a credible, loyal and trusted partner in a range of Vietnamese provinces and at a central level in the field of wildlife trafficking crimes and conservation and we cooperate with a range of agencies at both levels. To implement this project, this collaboration with individuals within local and central law enforcement agencies must continue 3. Increased media attention and involvement of central agencies (including Anti-corruption committees) will prompt the Vietnamese government to start addressing corruption of law enforcement officials in wildlife trafficking cases	
Outputs: 1. Vietnamese journalists and local civil society groups are informed and	1a. By 2017, on-going WCS media tracking records at least a 25% increase from 2013 levels (currently at 47%) in positive and supportive media coverage	1a. Online media reports	The Vietnamese media is controlled by a central government department that monitors and guides content and on certain topics has prevented coverage	

_ 17

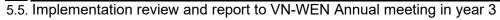
supportive of international wildlife trade issues.	to the issues of rhino horn, elephant ivory, Asian big cat and freshwater turtle and tortoise trafficking and wildlife crime law enforcement in Vietnam 1b. By 2017, local civil society groups have established a protocol for reporting wildlife crimes to relevant agencies in the pilot site of HCM City Metropolitan Area and are regularly and systematically reporting wildlife crimes to the relevant agencies and individuals	1b. Local civil society groups issue a joint-protocol for wildlife crime reporting, and publicise online	on certain topics/issues, where they consider them to be detrimental to social stability and the rule of law. We have access to the weekly minutes of the editors where this guidance is provided, and strong relationships with journalists to be aware if any of the stories/issues we are concerned with get blocked/prevented; but for the media to pressure criminal cases and cover key issues will require these issues to remain acceptable for communication by this department
2. Local civil society and law enforcement agencies identify and begin to address the priority barriers to the prosecution and punishment of transnational wildlife trafficking cases and the key actions required to address these issues.	2a. By the end of Year 2014 consensus is reached from Vietnam WEN, National Assembly Committees, and key local civil society stakeholders on priority barriers, and key actions required to address these issues. 2b. Policy paper endorsed and disseminated by CITES MA to policy-	2a. and 2b. Policy briefing paper, dissemination plan	Consensus can be reached on key actions required by the relevant stakeholders
	makers in Government, Communist Party, and the foreign diplomatic sector.		
3. Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading and tourism companies in and relating to key African ivory and rhino horn source/transit states are informed of the risks, punishments and scaled up law enforcement efforts and political commitment to tackling this in both Africa and Asia	3. By the end of 2017, >50% of the Vietnamese diplomatic missions, migrant worker associations and trading and tourism companies in four key African ivory and rhino horn source/transit states (Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola, and Kenya) have collaborated on project activities	3. Proceedings from CITES MA/Embassy meetings showing number of Vietnamese associations and companies attending briefings and other events organised as part of the outreach campaign in Mozambique, Angola, Kenya and Tanzania	Vietnamese companies, associations and communities in or visiting key African range states are accessible and key ministries (Foreign Affairs, Industry & trade) continue to collaborate with the CITES MA
4. Formal and informal inter-agency forums are functioning and the relevant law enforcement agencies are regularly sharing information through briefings and cooperating on planning and developing strategies to tackle rhino horn, elephant ivory and big cat trafficking crimes	 4a. VN-WEN holds annual inter-agency coordination meetings and are attended by all member agencies, by relevant staff members (i.e. not junior staff as present) 4b. By 2017 VN-WEN members have implemented at least three joint-field missions, authored at least three joint-reports on key wildlife crime issues, and 	4a. and 4b. VN-WEN meeting minutes and proceedings	VN-WEN remains the key national-level forum for inter-ministerial planning and coordination on addressing international wildlife trade and all wildlife crime issues

	held multi-agency briefings to communicate those.		
5. Frontline police, customs, forest rangers and prosecutors start utilising intelligence analysis software and applying professional investigative techniques to gather and manage information on wildlife crimes		5a. Intelligence analysis pilot deployment report	WCS continues its strong collaboration with the National Environmental Police Southern Office
		5b. Enforcement officer knowledge assessments	

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

- 1.1. Carry out daily online media tracking and respond in comments and direct to journalists to articles that are promoting international wildlife trade or consumption
- 1.2. Disseminate key reports, articles, events and happenings relating to illegal wildlife trade and wildlife crime enforcement to the WCS Vietnam media network of over 150 local journalists of the major news services/newspapers/online news providers
- 1.3. Collaborate with local civil society organisations (e.g. Action for Wildlife Organisation) in HCM to develop and implement a pilot system for volunteers to report wildlife crimes (online and offline) to the relevant agencies.
- 2.1. Participatory exercise held at VN-WEN meeting to identify and rank barriers to effective enforcement
- 2.2. Study commissioned to collate existing data and prepare a briefing paper
- 2.3. Briefing paper distributed for endorsement from VN WEN members
- 2.4. Briefing paper disseminated to key Government departments and other parties
- 3.1. Official correspondence drafted and sent out from Hanoi to Vietnamese diplomatic missions, associations, and companies in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Angola
- 3.2. Outreach events held in cooperation with Vietnamese diplomatic missions targeting associations, and companies in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Angola
- 4.1. Annual VN-WEN meeting of national law enforcement agencies on key topic/geographic area
- 4.2. Regular informal meetings of individuals from key law enforcement agencies on priority wildlife crime issues

- 4.3. Joint-agency field missions to 'hotspot' areas to gather information for briefings to VN-WEN members
- 5.1. Procurement, localisation, set-up and training of the professional intelligence analysis software within WCS and National Environmental Police Southern Office
- 5.2. Annual training (classroom and on the job) of professional investigative techniques and new tools (e.g. GPS trackers) to gather intelligence to frontline law enforcement officers in HCM City Metropolitan Area



5.6. Annual procuracy and judiciary training programs in wildlife crime suppression

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
14A	Informal meetings of young people from a number of local NGOs, voluntary groups and universities		Vietnamese	2			2	6
14A	Inter-agency workshops and Field missions for Vietnam enforcement agencies		Vietnamese	5			5	12
6A	Training program on professional investigative techniques	37 Male, 2 Female	Vietnamese	39 officers			39	100
6A	On-the-job training for Enforcement agencies	Male	Vietnamese	10 officers			10	20
6A	Bi-lateral meeting of local law-enforcement agencies		Vietnamese and Cambodian	1			1	4
12A	Wildlife Crime Intelligence database							1
20	Investigative equipment (Camera's, trackers, night vision scopes), Ivory sampling equipment (Drill and digital scales), laptop							

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.website link or publisher)