

## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT – 023
Project title	Securing the Gateway – reducing wildlife trafficking from Myanmar to China
Country/ies	Myanmar and China
Contract holder Institution	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Partner institution(s)	Forest Department Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division Wildlife Reserves Singapore
IWT grant value	337,656
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019
Reporting period (e.g. April 2016-Mar 2017) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 Annual Report 2
Project leader name	Dr. Alex Diment
Project website	<a href="https://myanmar.wcs.org">https://myanmar.wcs.org</a>
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### 1. Project rationale

Bridging South and Southeast Asia with China, and with a rapidly developing trade links, transport and communications infrastructure, Myanmar has emerged as a primary gateway for illegal wildlife heading to China, from both within the country and internationally. Last year's democratic changes have led to unprecedented pressure on law enforcement agencies responsible for overseeing and regulating the rapidly expanding cross-border trade. China is Myanmar's largest trading partner, with bi-lateral trade reaching US\$11 billion in 2015 (more than doubling since 2013), with over half of that trade flowing through the Muse/Ruili border crossing. This is the only border crossing under effective central government control – the entire rest of the Myanmar-China border is under the management of Ethnic Armed Organisations.

Surveys along the border with China have found large quantities of wildlife on sale, including big cats, pangolins, freshwater turtles and tortoises, as well as elephant ivory and elephant parts. The Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of the Myanmar Forest Department is the primary agency responsible, and they have requested support from WCS to assist them to build capacity and improve inter-agency and international cooperation for law enforcement to tackle wildlife trafficking.

Wildlife trafficking depletes Myanmar's natural resources, creating loss of ecosystem stability and impacting many marginal, small-holder, and often forest-dependent, communities across the country who are dependent upon natural resources, including wildlife, as a source of nutrition and a source of earnings from natural-resource based livelihood strategies. Local communities benefit very little from wildlife trafficking, because profits are captured by illegal traders and local communities bear all the costs. Wildlife trafficking also encourages corruption and undermines the rule-of-law, even more significant in a state emerging from decades of war and isolation.

The project focuses on the main trade route to China, from the country's second largest city, Mandalay, through Pyin Oo Lwin (also a location of the Myanmar Forest School where rangers are trained), Lashio (the regional capital, and site of the project office), and on to the border crossing at Muse / Ruili. See the Map below for more details of the project's main sites:



## 2. Project partnerships

Existing partnerships have strengthened, and new partnerships developed during the evolution of the project, and especially with the key government partner, the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) of the Forest Department (FD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC).

Using the energy of NWCD, we supported and facilitated the establishment of the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Taskforce, which now brings 9 government departments together. See below in section 3 for more details of the agencies, and the partnerships which have evolved due to the use of this mechanism. Another partnership-building approach has been to use the existing checkpoint system, where several government departments and offices are mandated to work together and collaborate. Using this method, we have managed to bring together more than 15 relevant government agencies into the same training workshops, and

start to build positive coalitions, something which would be next to impossible without an existing framework like this.

Numerous meetings and information sharing sessions have been held with in-country stakeholders and partners also including the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as other organisations and NGOs involved in wildlife trade. Given the increased focus on the issue of Wildlife Trade, we have continued the meetings of the NGO Working Group, which we established in 2016, to provide a forum for us to share progress on the project, and coordinate our activities with other organisations which are active in Myanmar, including UNODC, WWF, FFI, Oikos, World Animal Protection, and the Smithsonian Institution.

A major partnership building activity was the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan, which was a key event during the project. A two-day event to launch the Action Plan was completed this year, with a high-profile event attended by the Director General of the Forest Department, and coordinated by the Director of NWCD, and senior staff from the Forest Department, as well as the Managing Director of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise, which owns several thousand elephants, and has over 17,000 staff.

An partnership deepened this year was with the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), a long-term WCS collaborator in Myanmar. Using their expertise in turtle conservation, as well as their success in engaging the public and training students and the government, this has been an important partnership, which has enhanced the project and improved the impacts. This was especially the case in the second emergency response to the new seizure of big-headed turtles (see below for more details, as well as in the IWT/Darwin newsletter). TSA will now take on the longer-term management of those confiscated turtles and the establishment of a breeding program.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out planned project Activities**

**Output 1. Relevant law enforcement agencies in both Myanmar and China have a detailed understanding of the trafficking networks operating along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.**

*Activity 1.1 Review of wildlife trade and trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border (Incl. previous surveys, government records, public records, institutional/legal analysis).*

The complete review of wildlife trade information between Myanmar and China has been finalised, with all relevant data compiled, and added to suitable databases. This has included over 83 articles and reports, as well as both published and unpublished documents in English, Chinese and Burmese. Over 150 media reports, representing 82 independent incidents, were also collated, along with raw data directly from researchers and universities. The research has identified 93 species of birds, reptiles and mammals being traded, of which 39 are globally threatened species.

We have compiled relevant government records, both at national and regional level, and cross-checked these data against other available information. This includes Elephant mortality data, which shows 59 Elephants died in 2017, data which now conforms to CITES-MIKE standards. We also compiled Arrest data for Elephant cases. We collated other confiscation data, by state and region, as well as data from each Protected Area on their seizures and illegal trade. We focussed in more detail on Mandalay region, following up on 21 government investigations in 2016, leading to 13 arrests, and 7 prosecutions.

We have also compiled all relevant laws, and legal analyses on issues related to forest and wildlife crime and law, and delivered detailed analysis of the legal framework for wildlife conservation in Myanmar. Digital documentation has been shared with key partners, and made available to the NGO Working Group on Wildlife Trade (which we established).

*Activity 1.2 Procurement, set-up and training of i2 professional intelligence analysis software.*

A demonstration of the capability of the software was made to law enforcement personnel. Following the demonstration, and a discussion with key Law Enforcement agencies in Mandalay, a decision was made that more simple database tools would be more suitable for the Myanmar context at this stage. Government data is still almost entirely paper-based, and so any database is a major step.

WCS continues to use i2 internally through our regional legal team, and for trade information in China. More simple databases are considered sufficient for use with Myanmar data for the time-being. "Investigation" can be a sensitive subject in Myanmar, and these approaches need to be presented as research and information tools, which can support the government to better keep records.

*Activity 1.3 Surveys of wildlife trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border to identify criminal networks, modus operandi.*

This year, in partnership with the University of Yangon, and WWF Myanmar team, two surveys were carried out, focussing on the trade in Elephant ivory and Elephant parts in four areas of Myanmar. This two-year research was presented at the MECAP workshop, providing up-to-date information on the current status of the trade in Myanmar, and a focus on the urgency of the efforts of Myanmar's elephant conservation community.

Security concerns and sensitivities around investigations meant that surveys near to border zones have not been possible. Additional surveys were therefore delivered in Mandalay itself, as well as the Bhamo region, focussing on turtle trade, as well as other high-value wildlife parts.

Investigations were also done on the Chinese side of the border. The team was able to make a visit to Yunnan province, and the Myanmar/China border area, to collect a range of data, perform market surveys, identify informants, and build new partnership. One of these was with an experienced Chinese investigator, who has since worked with us on investigating smuggling networks on the China side of the border, which identified a network of traffickers, especially in the illegal trade of threatened songbirds, through a network of pet shops. This approach led to the arrest of a bird trader on the Myanmar side, near to Muse, and the eventual repatriation of 114 Hill Myna's.

Working with the WCS Marine team, we have done field-research at 6 sites across Myanmar to collect landing and trade data on Sharks and Rays, which are illegally traded across Myanmar.

**Output 2. Law enforcement agencies in the project areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the confiscated animals.**

*Activity 2.1 Translation and distribution of existing educational material related to: a) conservation values; b) laws and regulations protecting wildlife; c) identification of traded wildlife and wildlife parts; d) basic life support and referral of seized live animals.*

Educational materials on wildlife conservation, laws, wildlife identification, and care for confiscated live animals, which were collated in Year 1, have been tested, refined, and printed. One thousand wildlife identification guides were printed and disseminated to key front-line personnel. Pamphlets on wildlife trade law were designed, with an engaging format, and the laws simplified as far as possible, and checked by an experienced environmental lawyer. Only 500 of these were printed, as the law is currently being revised. When the new law is approved (likely to be in May 2018) the pamphlet will be revised with the new information, and disseminated more widely.

Other training materials were also reproduced and used in training courses, including CITES training materials, a Biodiversity Training handbook, a WCS Field studies handbook, and the list of Myanmar's Protected Species.

The Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP), which includes a chapter on reducing illegal trade, was translated in full into Myanmar language, and printed and distributed to Forest Department and other law-enforcement stakeholders. The document provides a guiding framework for elephant conservation for 10 years, 2018-2027.

Posters were also produced to support law enforcement officials to raise awareness, and encourage reporting of wildlife crime. These were produced in Burmese, and also Shan

languages. Over 15000 posters and 10,000 pamphlets were printed, and distributed in 6 areas of States/Regions These were supported by large, billboard-sized versions.

The posters were modified for use in the International Airports in Yangon, Naypyidaw and Mandalay. These posters display on the information screens, and in Mandalay, they have also been translated into Chinese language.

*Activity 2.2 Delivery of trainings to front-line officers deployed to duty stations located in/near the critical areas and identified hotspots. Such trainings will include more than one law enforcement agency in order to facilitate cross-agency cooperation.*

A series of training modules has been developed, using the materials developed above, to cover general conservation issues, Wildlife identification (including turtles and birds, and species in trade), techniques for conservation research and survey, as well as methods for crime investigations relevant for forest rangers. This course was delivered over 5 days to 75 trainees at the Myanmar Forest School. We continue to work with the school to update and expand their curriculum, to bring in additional training relevant to wildlife crime investigations, as well as patrol methods, and the importance of forest rangers in preventing wildlife trafficking before it begins.

A series of bespoke training courses were delivered during this year. This year, we delivered at least 9 training events, ranging from 2-4 days, to at least 150 other front-line Law Enforcement staff, including personnel from 14 relevant government agencies, including Forest Department, various branches of the Myanmar Police Force, Customs, border agencies, trade agencies, and Ministry of Interior. These multi-agency training courses have facilitated exchange between the various agencies, and support informal information sharing.

As a follow-up to two of the courses, a public awareness campaign was carried out by trainees, going to markets, pagodas, bus stations, train stations, river-ports and other public areas, to disseminate posters, and meet with local officials and remind them about wildlife trade issues, as well as provide a route for reporting crime.

A second one-day training course was also been held for over 200 students and university teachers from the Zoology department of Monywa University, supporting wildlife identification, and identifying local champions to engage with our team in future, and become peer educators for the broader public.

A workshop on the new Wildlife Law, and CITES issues, was facilitated by WCS (though funded by the EU) and allowed exchange of information on wildlife trade issues, especially as they relate to the criminal justice system, and evidence, sentencing, and the shortcomings of the existing law, with recommendations for reform of the law, which were immediately translated into new drafts by the Forest Department.

The MECAP launch meeting, over 2 days, was also used as an opportunity to deliver information to key stakeholders on wildlife trade, and the legal reforms around wildlife trade issues. Three presentations were given to the 58 participants from 8 different government agencies, as well as external stakeholders.

Events at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, and the Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay, helped raise awareness and train public and officials in the law around wildlife trade, and the risk around sale of religious and ritual objects, which can contain illegal wildlife parts.

On-the-job training was given to 25 Forest Department personnel at the Turtle Rescue Centre in Bambwe, northern Shan State, in caring for turtles confiscated from the trade, and handling and release protocols, as well as veterinary controls.

*Activity 2.3 Building and maintaining a network of contacts among law enforcement officers of different agencies operating in the project areas. Follow-ups are meant to facilitate exchange of information, knowledge retention, and explore avenues for further technical cooperation.*

Training courses have allowed a network of trainees to be identified, and using the existing road-checkpoint system has provided a formal and legitimate way to bring agencies together and facilitate informal exchange, as well as more formalised information sharing. A Viber group was established, as well as two closed Facebook pages, to support information exchange, and



the trainees to keep in touch with each other. Follow-up with each trainee has continued, mostly by telephone, to keep in touch and foster the network of contacts between agencies and individual officers. We also did a more formal 6-month follow-up of trainees, to evaluate the impacts of the training, and identify remaining gaps, and the demand for additional training courses on particular topics.

*Activity 2.4 Setting up of an expert team of WCS and partner organizations staff to provide rapid response for scientific and technical advice and species identification requests from government agencies during law enforcement operations.*

The expert team established by WCS and partner organisations (including TSA) has provided rapid response for advice and support or confiscations during law enforcement operations. This team responded to at least 8 urgent requests from the Forest Department this year using conventional means, as well as numerous requests through the networking sites (mainly Viber). This included the release of a gibbon, a Slow Loris, of over 150 Myah's confiscated together, two confiscations of large quantities of venomous snakes, and three Chinese pangolins.

The largest intervention this year was to respond to the seizure of another 500 Big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*). Last year, a major seizure of these turtles in Tachilek occurred, with over 1000 turtles initially seized. This species is highly valued in the illegal trade, as it's bizarre appearance (apparently similar to a dragon) means that Chinese traditional medicine and food will pay a substantial price, especially for larger animals. Partly due to this threat, it was previously estimated that only a few hundred animals remain in Myanmar, and this, as well as some variations in colour and shape of the turtles, suggested that these turtles had been collected from several countries around the region, before being kept in Tachilek in Myanmar.

This rare and little-known turtle is very fragile, and difficult to handle by inexperienced personnel. The previous confiscation was handled poorly by the Forest Department and with no training, almost 90% of 1000 turtles died in the weeks after the event. We therefore used it as a training exercise, showing the importance of our intervention.

These efforts paid off in late 2017 when a second seizure of over 500 Big-headed Turtles occurred. This time, there was close coordination between government authorities and the rapid response team, and appropriate care was immediately administered, with the turtles quickly transferred to the Turtle Rescue Centre.

The results were an astounding turn-around, and not a single confiscated turtle was lost.

The turtles will either be repatriated to the wild as part of an experimental program to evaluate release strategies, and the remainder are now the core of a captive breeding population, with the aim to release them into suitable habitat in the wild

In February 2018, we received a generous private donation to construct a state-of-the-art facility at the Turtle Rescue Centre, to house the world's first Big-headed turtle breeding colony in the species' native range.

### **Output 3. Law enforcement officers working on the border of Muse-Ruili have the appropriate mechanisms and ability to share actionable intelligence on wildlife trafficking and other transnational crime.**

The Checkpoint team is actively cooperating on wildlife crime cases, with inter-agency collaboration and coordination improved in those project areas we have accessed so far. However, staff changes in recent months have meant that the Yebyu checkpoint is focusing on timber and jade issues, and not so much on wildlife. We continue to support extending this to other checkpoints, and have successfully delivered training with partners in southern Shan State at two additional checkpoints.

We have also focused on the utility of CITES as a mechanism for trans-boundary engagement. Our project team met with the Yunnan CITES office in July to plan a round-table between Myanmar and China on bilateral cooperation on wildlife trafficking.

We have made good progress with legal reform: working with the European Union's MyJustice governance project, we helped develop a TOR for a legal reform component, which brought two lawyers specializing in CITES to work on the draft Wildlife Law. We facilitated the National

Interagency Technical Workshop on CITES and Wildlife Law Enforcement organized by this project, helping with dialogue, cooperation and awareness raising on issues of wildlife trafficking and CITES implementation.

Through this we were also able to help the lawyers engage directly with NWCD, engage a specialist translator, and provide direct input on revised the 'Wildlife Law' (technically the Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Law), which, as of March 2018, is expected to be approved imminently by parliament, and put into law.

The key Burmese lawyer involved with this work, Daw Khin Thandar, a former Foreign Office lawyer and diplomat with the Burmese delegation to the United Nations in New York, has now joined the WCS team to support additional work with legal reform, a great addition to the team, and giving us major credibility with legal reform.

*Activity 3.1 In partnership with UNODC, provide support to the Border Liaison Office to host meetings among representatives of key law enforcement agencies operating in Muse/Ruili city focused on wildlife trafficking.*

The coordination meeting for the Border Liaison Office (BLO) with China was held only once in this year. We visited the BLO in Muse in September, and met with the relevant officers, as we continue to try to engage with this mechanism. Our assessment was not positive, with little appetite for reform from the lead Police. Following discussions with UNODC, we have decided not to support this mechanism further. Our alternative approach, with the Checkpoint system, continues to be effective.

The Yebu checkpoint is still working better than before the project, though leadership changes in July have focussed their efforts towards high-value jade and timber smuggling, and there have been less wildlife cases. We hope to do followup training with the new team in Year 3. We also trained the 16 mile checkpoint team, as well as followup training for the 105 mile checkpoint team, which helped spread the message from the checkpoint system for interagency and international cooperation.

*Activity 3.2 Bilateral round-table meeting between MM/CN (local and central levels) on bilateral cooperation on wildlife trafficking.*

WCS staff made a visit to China to meet with the senior Yunnan CITES officer, and regional government, as well as local NGOs. This mechanism, which is powerful in China, is a very promising method of engagement between the two sides. A return visit in February from WCS China staff helped to supported the next stage to broker a significant trans-boundary meeting through the CITES office in China. We are also capitalizing on the links created by a Forest Department staff member and former CITES officer, who is now studying a Master's degree in China. This informal arrangement is helping to broker future dialogues.

In January, GEI (a Chinese NGO with good government relationships) met with Forest Department to identify ways to collaborate on CWT. We were involved and provided context and information to NWCD to shape this engagement with China. We have worked with GEI in other contexts, and hope to use this link to further deepen the transboundary engagements.

*Activity 3.3 Workshop to promote existing mechanisms and discuss challenges to effective information sharing between agencies and countries.*

Several workshops and meetings have been delivered which have provided a forum for discussing information sharing and enforcement related to wildlife crime.

A large workshop to launch the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP), with over 50 representatives from government, and 40 from other national and international stakeholders, provided a framework for discussions of key objectives for information sharing around wildlife trade, especially on illegal trade of Elephants.

A legal review workshop was held in Naypyidaw with the Task Force, as well as a second day with civil society stakeholders. This was held in partnership with the EU, and facilitated by WCS, to identify legal issues around CITES, related to the new Wildlife Law. WCS also translated key documents for the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime, where wildlife crime was discussed, and information sharing, as well as anti-corruption measures, were discussed.

A national workshop on Wildlife Trade is now being prepared by UK Embassy, in partnership with WCS and WWF, for September 2018 (to be coordinated with London Conference).

*Activity 3.4 An analysis of the legislative framework for information management and sharing in Myanmar.*

We have complete two detailed Legislative reviews, building on our work in Year 1.

One analysis identifies the international legal obligations of the Myanmar government, and the extent to which national legislation on Biodiversity meets those obligations. This substantial analysis was delivered in partnership with two international law firms (one US-based and one UK-based) as well as local lawyers.

A second analysis is related to Elephant trade, and the national framework for Elephant management, including experience from neighbouring countries. This was also supported by a Professor of Law in Myanmar, who presented the draft at the MECAP launch meeting, to gather feedback from government and other stakeholders.

We provided significant technical input into the CITES legal review for the Forest Department, in partnership with the EU, and with strong collaboration from technical staff in the Forest Department.

We also provided significant technical input into the important new Wildlife Law, which is expected to be passed in May 2018. The government have also requested our assistance with drafting and developing the Rules and Regulations, with will provide detail about the Law.

#### **Output 4. Increased coverage in domestic media of wildlife trafficking issues and wildlife crime prevention successes and failures**

*Activity 4.1 Supporting Myanmar journalists to survey wildlife trafficking and promote government responses on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.*

We continue to support networking and facilitation between journalists, using existing groups and established journalist trainers. Through our network, we initially identified active journalists, with over 30 journalists interested in wildlife news joining a dedicated Facebook group, which is now active with regular posts.

Following on from identifying interested champions through the network, we delivered a 2-day training course in Mandalay for 20 selected journalists, which was held in parallel with a training for law-enforcement staff, and therefore gave an opportunity to mix informally with law-enforcement personnel. We also used this to target stories to likely journalists, who delivered, for example, three follow-up stories on the Turtle Rescue Centre, as well as stories on Elephant poaching relevant to the MECAP.

We also supported international media stories, including coverage of dolphins by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and coverage of the Turtle Rescue centre by the Discovery Channel.

Through the 'Voices for Momos' campaign, we engaged directly with over 55 media outlets, and held three major media events.

*Activity 4.2 Elaborate and implement an online campaign to feed regular content about illegal wildlife trade to social media pages.*

We supported the Forest Department in an information campaign against illegal wildlife trafficking, which targeted airports, bus stations, train stations, and river ports, as well as measures against the bush-meat trade in restaurants and popular local tourist attractions. Information on Elephant issues, relevant to the MECAP, was shared online, as well as through the Myanmar Biodiversity webpage (which we run).

We also continued to deliver regular content to our Facebook page, averaging three stories per week during the year.

We have linked this new media with traditional media outlets (through Activity 4.1) for enhanced coverage in the print and radio media – still highly influential in Myanmar. We have also coordinated our outreach and campaigning with other organisations, using the NGO Working group that we established.



Through the Voices for Momos campaign, we worked with our partners to facilitate, and link with 83 online articles, and 89 Facebook stories, resulting in over 5 million impressions related to this campaign.

*Activity 4.3 Regular tracking of content related to wildlife trafficking in local media sources.*

We continued to actively track relevant information and articles from local and international media, and also linked with the WCS regional wildlife trafficking program and neighbouring countries, to track media mentions in China, Vietnam and Cambodia. This information feeds into the internal WCS weekly news-tracking service, and a monthly newsletter, as well as for our international media tracking services, and intelligence databases (see Activity 1.2). We also routinely track our Facebook and Twitter metrics – see Output 4 for the result of these.

A specialised media tracking service, delivered for the Voices for Momos campaign, identified 212 media articles relevant to this campaign to date. The campaign will end with a large public concert – Voices for Wildlife – on 7 April 2018.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

**Output 1.** Relevant law enforcement agencies in both Myanmar and China have a detailed understanding of the trafficking networks operating along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.

We have completed extensive research and intelligence gathering, both desk-based research of media, government data, and previous studies, as well as field-surveys to collect specific data. We engaged with local partners to collect and collate all information relevant to Wildlife trade on the Myanmar-China border. Our report provides a compendium of trade information between the two countries. We have delivered these key research findings to local stakeholders, including the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force.

In partnership with the University of Yangon, we have completed a two-year study on the trade in Elephant parts at four key locations across Myanmar. The findings were presented at the MECAP launch meeting, providing context and an urgent focus to the discussions about the key actions to conserve Myanmar's wild Elephants.

**Output 2.** Law enforcement agencies in the project areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the confiscated animals.

Our training programs have directly reached over 120 Law Enforcement Officers this year, with over 9 person 8 days of training and mentoring delivered.

Engagements with rangers through the Myanmar Forest School continue, with 75 rangers trained in a specialist course. We delivered training to a wide range of other law-enforcement agencies through the Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force, and through the checkpoint system, meaning that we have now reached 14 separate agencies in our training programs.

Officers are now aware of wildlife issues, and confident to respond to wildlife crimes, and to reach out to the WCS expert rapid-response team. Follow-up is supporting engagement, confidence, and networking of officers. We have harnessed several platforms including Viber groups and closed Facebook pages to facilitate information exchange. This had a strong impact, bringing numerous requests for technical advice on species ID and wildlife trade issues from active front-line enforcement staff.

As with last year, the training in Mandalay was held in parallel with the journalist's training course (see Activity 4.1) so that the journalists had the chance to meet with and mix with front-line law enforcement personnel.

Other awareness activities, including at Myanmar's International Airports, at Monywa University, at the Shwedagon Pagoda and for youth groups at the American Center, as well as to technical partners through the MECAP, have reached over 700 additional relevant people, at least 70 who are directly involved in wildlife enforcement, and over 600 who are key interested stakeholders.

We also printed and disseminated 1500 printed documents, mostly in Burmese, but also in Shan and Chinese, including Identification guides, Biodiversity guides, legal information, and awareness materials.

**Output 3.** Law enforcement officers working on the border of Muse-Ruili have the appropriate mechanisms and ability to share actionable intelligence on wildlife trafficking and other transnational crime.

Inter-agency coordination mechanism (the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force), supports local coordination, including training needs identification. The Task Force met formally in September, and decided to add the Justice Department, and Fisheries department, now formally included, which increases the membership to 9 government agencies.

The CITES legal review (delivered in partnership with the EU) provided an opportunity for higher-level policy input from the Task Force into legislation, with a key review of national legislation, in light of international obligations under the CITES treaty..

There was relatively progress on other field-based intelligence sharing mechanisms, with historic and cultural restrictions and additional training needed, especially for the more formal international mechanisms. We have engaged with international mechanisms and bodies, such Interpol and UNODC, and while they exist, and staff are aware of them, they are seldom used..

The NGO Working group continues to meet, and coordinate NGO input into various organisation's support to counter wildlife trade initiatives in Myanmar.

**Output 4.** Increased coverage in domestic media of wildlife trafficking issues and wildlife crime prevention successes and failures

The most visible achievement this year was the awareness campaign on Elephant Poaching – “Voices for Momos”. We worked with an alliance of 8 large conservation organisations on this campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the Asian elephant poaching crisis, and support the governments response through the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP). The campaign has resulted in over 210 media articles, mostly in Burmese language, on elephant conservation issues, especially illegal trade.

A 2 day training course for 20 journalists from 18 different local/regional media on reporting on the Illegal Wildlife Trade was organized in Mandalay, in parallel with the law enforcement training. Networking and information sharing between journalists and WCS' communications team is firmly established, and led to over 24 relevant media articles by these journalists.

On Facebook, where we post mainly in Burmese language for a local audience, we reached an audience of 2,088,473 people, 3,379,758 impressions have generated 247,493 engagements. On Twitter, where we post in English, we recorded 108,086 impressions and 2,213 engagements. These numbers are very far ahead of our projections and targets, showing the success of our engagement activities, the quality of the content, and the rapid adoption of social media in Myanmar in recent years.

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

**Outcome:** *Increased access to actionable intelligence, enhanced capacity and improved inter-agency and international cooperation leads to effective law enforcement actions against criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife along the primary Myanmar trade route to China, arrest and conviction of key individuals, and engagement of media and civil society in reporting wildlife crimes*

**Indicators:**

*A new inter-agency wildlife trafficking coordination network is created at national and State/Region level, and is functioning by 2018.*

*By 2018, a 50% increase in the rate of successful arrests leading to prosecutions of major wildlife traffickers along the designated trade route (2015 baseline will be established).*

*By 2017, an active and informed domestic media is promoting effective law enforcement on wildlife traffickers and wildlife crime prevention (against baseline to be measured from 2015).*

The National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force is now established with 9 government agencies meeting regularly, and following an Action Plan we helped facilitate, which they also presented at the Hanoi Conference on Wildlife Trade in 2017. This is a vital step to achieve the outcome and improve law enforcement nationally. This has been supported by strong awareness and engagement with at least 15 relevant government agencies at national level and in the states/regions. A remaining step is to support the Task Force to establish at least one regional unit which can be more active on-the-ground.

The number of arrests in the relevant region has increased during the project period, from 33 and 34 in 2015 and 2016, to 48 in 2017. We have supported law-enforcement agencies to prioritise wildlife crime over other forms of crime under their mandate. While the number of arrests have increase, we have been unable to access the relevant data on prosecutions of these people, and though our anecdotal information is that the rate of prosecution remains the same or greater, and therefore increased arrests should lead to increased prosecutions, we don't have the detailed data to report this accurately.

Media and civil society are far better engaged now, with a vibrant and active social media presence, both through WCS, and through other groups (including the journalist network, and the Voices for Momos coalition). The increase in indicators on media engagements, especially online, has been remarkable this year, with over 3 million engagements with our Wildlife messages, and 210 media articles tracked in Myanmar alone.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Monitoring of the following risks and assumptions has been carried out during the project. <Pst assumptions and risks remain valid, and are being monitored. however we note below if there have been any specific changes in assumptions or risks, and how this is being managed.

*Relevant agencies participating in the wildlife trafficking coordination network take collective action and avoid disagreements over authority.*

There remain issues between Myanmar police Force and Myanmar Forest Department, with jurisdictional issues. There is no open conflict, but information sharing is difficult.

*Myanmar government continues to retain stable control over the project areas, and risks of implementing the project activities remain manageable. / Political instability and threat level remain acceptable in the project areas to allow for a safe implementation of all project activities.*

The security situation remains poor in the project area, with loss of government control of the area on several occasions, and a partial closure of the border. There has been no access for international visitors to the region since May 2016.

*Law enforcement agencies agree to share information with WCS about cases of wildlife trade.*

Some information, especially related to ongoing cases of wildlife crime, has been restricted, and staff changes in key parts of the project area have meant changes in access to information. This has meant that information on prosecutions has not been made available.

*Political disagreements between China and Myanmar do not negatively influence local law enforcement cooperation in Muse/Ruili city.*

The impact of the security situation in the project area, with large numbers of refugees seeking shelter in China, has a risk to levels of local cooperation, and to the priority that personnel put on wildlife crime.

The closure of the Ivory market in China has had a positive impact on the willingness to engage.

*News sources and social media sites remain freely accessible in Myanmar. .*

Media freedom has suffered in Myanmar in the last year, though general access to information is not restricted, and our project remains largely unaffected, though some of the journalists we work with have expressed their concerns writing about government law enforcement actions.

#### **4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation**

**Impact:** Enhanced law enforcement capacity and cooperation with China strengthens the effectiveness of Myanmar's contribution to the regional wildlife enforcement network, securing endangered species and rural livelihoods in Myanmar and beyond.

The project has supported improved law enforcement capacity, with the establishment of the Task Force and the launch of the MECAP, Myanmar has committed to increased contributions to regional wildlife enforcement priorities. This will have a positive effect towards protection of endangered species, rule of law, and rural livelihoods, as well as regional approaches to reducing environmental crime.

#### **5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declaration and Kasane Statement**

This project is supporting the second overarching objective of the IWT Challenge Fund: *Strengthening law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system.*

As outlined above, the support to the law enforcement system has been a strong deliverable, with over 270 key front-line personnel trained over the course of the project, and now active and being supported.

This project is therefore also facilitating the implementation of the decisions in Section C of the London Declaration concerning the strengthening of law enforcement in source and transit countries. The project will also strengthen enforcement systems through facilitating and supporting information-sharing mechanisms between China and Myanmar (Kasane Statement 12) and through strengthening cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies of Myanmar and China, in line with the London Declaration XVI and the Kasane Statement 7.

The project also gave technical support to Myanmar government for their attendance with the Hanoi Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, where they delivered their commitments to reduce wildlife trade. We are also providing support in the lead-up to the London Conference in 2018, in close consultation with the UK Embassy in Rangoon.

#### **6. Impact on species in focus**

Poaching of wildlife for trafficking to China is the greatest threat to turtles, pangolins, snakes, Asian elephants and tigers in Myanmar. Our work has identified at least 93 species of animals being traded into China, of which 39 are globally threatened species.

This project aims to benefit all these species through significantly improving effective law enforcement capacity and undertaking targeted actions along the most important trade route from Myanmar to China.

Specific impacts have been felt for two of these target taxa during this year. In particular, the support to the government on the confiscation of over 500 Endangered big-headed turtles during this period (following the confiscation of over 1000 last year) was a major achievement, and using the surviving animals which cannot be released for various reasons to develop a breeding colony, which can provide hatchlings for release into key wild habitat.

The contribution to Elephant conservation has been through the launch of the MECAP, providing a coordinated policy response by the government, and an official mechanism for Elephant conservation, with clear goals and activities to tackle the illegal trade in Elephants and their parts in Myanmar.

#### **7. Project support to poverty alleviation**

The most direct beneficiaries have been law enforcement officers, as well as other recipients of training, such as students and journalists. Many of the forest rangers we have supported come from poor backgrounds and many are local to the parks where they work, so the training has directly support improved safety and security for them and their families, as well as the potential for career advancement and promotion. Generally, local people should benefit from this project

through improvements in local governance, by having more responsive, informed and capable local law enforcement agencies, and the removal of criminal networks from their communities. Poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife affects not only biodiversity, but entire ecosystem resilience and stability, effectively depriving Myanmar local communities of their livelihoods. Removal of criminal networks driving illegal wildlife trade will have concomitant benefits, including a reduction in other criminal activities (illegal logging, land-grabbing), which are often driven by the same criminal networks and have significant impacts on local people.

By improving the rule of law, and reducing degradation of natural resources, the project contributes to improving livelihoods of affected communities

Finally, the proposed project complements parallel and on-going WCS field-based initiatives across Myanmar to directly support the capacity of protected area staff and local communities living in and around source protected areas, to manage their resources responsibly. In doing so the project will leverage the resources of a much larger \$6 million, five-year WCS and Forest Department implemented United Nations Development Program - Global Environment Facility funded project on Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management in Myanmar, which has a substantial component of community outreach, land and resource rights and livelihoods support.

## **8. Consideration of gender equality issues**

Gender equality is a core value for the Wildlife Conservation Society. In this regard the project team has used their best efforts to offer equal opportunities to persons of different gender while implementing the activities. The core project team is gender balanced, with two female and two male staff, as well as two female interns, and two female legal specialists. We have found that gender balance on the project staff this can support the ability of the team to engage with people of both genders. However, there are very few women in front-line law enforcement agencies, especially near to conflict zones, so achieving gender balance in these law-enforcement training events has been challenging. However, engagement with journalists, students, and the public has allowed a good balance of people of different gender to be engaged.

## **9. Monitoring and evaluation**

The project has followed an adaptive management approach, using monitoring and evaluation tools and methods to identify the impacts of activities, and where suitable, the ability to modify activities to respond to new information and enhance efficacy and effectiveness. Quantifiable indicators can be seen in the Logframe (see Appendix 2). These aim to identify ways to measure the higher-level Outcomes and Objectives, while individual activities also have evaluation approaches tailored to the type of activities.

For example, training events have had in-course evaluations, with this incorporated into the structure of the course, identifying learning objectives, the expectations of trainees, and then at the end of the course, asking whether these have been achieved, and any further feedback on future improvements. This learning has been used to shape the next round of training, as well as the development of a major course for advanced training for Forest Rangers, scheduled for June 2018

For quantifiable indicators (See the Logframe at Appendix 2), we have tested the metrics against the baselines established in Year 1, and also used additional measures to help identify the impacts of project activities. This is particularly the case with activities related to Objective 4, with tracking of the numbers and nature of local media stories, and metrics on the reach of, and engagements with social-media posts. The metrics for Objective 4 have been very significantly greater than expected, partly due to the huge growth of social media in Myanmar, and also due to the engaging content provided by the team on a regular basis.

The measures of the key indicators are presented in the table of progress against the Logframe (Appendix 1).



## 10. Lessons learnt

The security situation in the project area has remained challenging, and this is a key concern for the project. In March 2017, a border raid in the Laukkai area, led to one of the largest bank-robberies ever recorded worldwide.

The Northern Alliance, consisting of the the main Kachin Independence Army, along with the Arakan Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), Shan State Progress Party and others, , have been active in the project region, and meant that activities near to the border or fighting zones have not been possible.

In October 2017, there were specific threats from the TNLA for Lashio and region, which were followed in February 2018 by bomb blasts in Lashio, which limited staff movement for several weeks. The 105 mile Checkpoint, where we had delivered training, was also subjected to two separate bomb blasts. The Yebyu checkpoint was also targeted, possibly due to the success in cracking down on Jade smuggling.

We have learned the need to remain adaptive to the security situation. We have needed to relocate several planned project activities to areas without security concerns. While this approach has managed to avoid the main negative outcomes of the security issues, there has inevitably been some difficulties for trainees, as well as the benefits of delivering training at the point of use. There remain challenges for access to the border areas, especially to the crossing point at Muse; access to foreign experts and staff has been heavily restricted. We have learned to work around this, doing pre-training with foreign nationals in more accessible areas, and then those Myanmar nationals going in to deliver training and doing research. We have carefully monitored the situation locally, using government guidance, and also following the UK Foreign Office guidance.

This and other reasons have delayed project activities, and a 1-year extension was granted by DEFRA for the project to continue until 2019 to complete all project deliverables.

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

The review of our Year 1 report requested additional details on project management mechanisms:

Oversight and backstopping comes from our Regional Counter Wildlife Trade Coordinator, Dr. Scott Robertson, who is based in Vietnam. Senior project management, finance and leadership is given by our Senior Management, represented by our Country Director, U Than Myint, and our Finance Director and team, who are based in Yangon. Senior Management meetings are held monthly to track progress on projects, and troubleshoot as needed. Technical Advice and direct project management is provided by the Project Lead, Dr. Alex Diment. The project's key field office, in Lashio, is led by the Wildlife Trade Coordinator. An existing office in Mandalay (the usual home of our Dolphin team) is also occasionally used by the field teams.

The framework of cooperation with the government is managed through an MOU between WCS and the Forest Department. Coordination meetings are held with the government's Task-force every 6-months. Several other partnerships are managed through the NGO working group, which meets at least every 4 months. In addition, ad-hoc meetings are held regularly with existing or potential partners.

## 12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

We hosted a field visit by Senior Staff from the UK Embassy in May 2017, which was able to learn about many of Myanmar's wildlife trade issues first-hand. We have continued to provide advice to UK Embassy personnel on Wildlife issues whenever needed.

We attended a regional event (organised by APEC) in Vietnam on corruption, money laundering and wildlife crime, which was attended by numerous government and regional bodies, including INTERPOL, UNODC and key enforcement bodies. This was very useful in raising the profile of our work, and developing regional links, as well as building our knowledge of the links between wildlife crime and other serious translational organised crimes.

We held a high-profile symposium at the International Congress for Conservation Biology, the major global meeting of conservation scientists, with over 1600 attendees, in Cartagena, Colombia. As well as enhancing collaboration and learning between Asia and with Latin America, we led a side event, which included criminologists, lawyers, social scientists and other researchers to develop a global working group on innovative and inter-disciplinary approaches to wildlife crime issues.

We have engaged closely with the planning of the MyPol project, a large EU-funded project to support the reform of the Myanmar Police Force. This includes advising them on government engagement, and training for enforcement personnel. This has significant potential to be a way to embed our training into the Myanmar Police Force's basic and ongoing training system.

We continue to be active on the NGO Working Group on Wildlife Trade, hosting one meeting and attending a second during this period. We have also used support from the IWT Challenge Fund to leverage additional funding from several sources:

We commenced our project funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is providing co-funding to the IWT project, primarily for the work on the China side of the border. We also received new funding from the German government, which is providing co-funding to this project, especially the policy and legal input, as well as to our regional Counter Wildlife Trade work.

### **13. Sustainability and legacy**

This project aims to provide Myanmar Government officers with the skills and tools to better carry out their jobs. As such, the project aims to demonstrate impact and institutionalise these activities so that the Myanmar Government will continue to implement them at little extra cost. By building institutional engagement with the Myanmar government to internalise procedures and mechanisms for wildlife trafficking enforcement and creating opportunities for cross-border collaboration with China, the project aims to achieve lasting change without requiring long-term external support.

However, WCS recognises that there is a continued need to raise funds in the short to medium-term to continue some key activities and has already had positive engagements with other donors, to support the extension of the project. We have continued to receive funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who are supporting additional activities on the China side, as well as the German government's Environment Ministry, who are now supporting WCS to facilitate further policy-level and on-the-ground work between Myanmar and China. Furthermore, the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), is considering funding further work; based on the results to date of this IWT Challenge Fund project, they have noted that WCS the capacity and trust of key stakeholders to work on the Myanmar/Thai border — also a challenging area with various ethnic armed groups — to deliver Counter Wildlife Trafficking initiatives.

The research and databases being developed as part of the project will continue to exist, to inform fieldwork, targeting, and further research. In addition to supporting the government, this information will also continue to be held by the WCS library, which has Myanmar's largest collection of Biodiversity-related information, and has a 24-year history of providing information to students, researchers, and interested parties to improve conservation work.

In terms of ongoing legacy through the impacts on policy, contributions to longer-term initiatives, such as the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) will continue to be influential for at least the life of such plans, in this case a 10-year period (2018-2027), and beyond.

### **14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity**

The support of the UK Government has been publicised throughout the project activities. All training courses, workshops and other events have been branded, with verbal and visual acknowledgements of the support of the IWT Challenge Fund of the UK government.

The source of the funds from the UK government has been especially noted by Myanmar government representatives, as this is currently the only environment-related funding from the UK, and so is their first involvement with UK-government funding for many people in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The Director General himself noted during the launching of the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan that he strongly welcomed the support of donors such as the UK government for Elephant conservation, and acknowledged the presence of the UK Embassy representative at the meeting.

The internal WCS newsletter on Wildlife Trade and Trafficking, has noted the project’s progress and impacts; while this is internal to WCS, it is often circulated more widely with partners, stakeholders and other organisations, and used to develop outward-facing news articles. In addition, a blog post was submitted to the UK Embassy in Myanmar for them to post on their website, to promote the IWT Challenge Fund, and the role of the UK Government.

**15. Project expenditure**

A budget change request, and one-year extension, was approved by IWT in early 2018.

Table 1, below reflects these changes, and the expenditure against the approved budget.

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2017 – March 2018)**

Project spend (indicative since last annual report)	2017/18 Grant (revised) (£)	2017/18 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)		
Staff costs						
Consultancy costs						
Overhead Costs						
Travel and subsistence						
Operating Costs						
Capital items						
Monitoring & Evaluation						
Others						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section:

Condensed version of the article submitted to the IWT Newsletter in March 2018:

**Title:**

[Hundreds of Big-Headed Turtles confiscated in Myanmar become the founders for a conservation breeding program.](#)



*An endangered Big-headed turtle emerging from its shell. Two large seizures in Myanmar have provided the nucleus for a conservation breeding program, as well as lessons for law enforcement personnel on handling confiscated wildlife*

With lengthy, porous and conflict-ridden borders, traversed by major trade routes, Myanmar has long been a conduit for illegal wildlife. Myanmar's 27 species of turtles — eight of which are endemic or near-endemic — have proved profitable for traffickers, and almost every population of turtles has been driven to near-extinction by a rampant and uncontrolled harvest.

Over the last few years the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), together with the Myanmar Forest Department, have established a *Turtle Rescue Centre* in north-eastern Myanmar, situated on the main Mandalay-Lashio highway, a major trafficking route into southern China. The mission of the Centre is to care for confiscated turtles with the goal of rehabilitating and returning them to the wild.

The Turtle Rescue Centre faced its first major challenge in November 2016, when officials confiscated over 1000 Big-headed Turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) being warehoused at a clandestine facility in eastern Myanmar. After suffering months of ill-treatment and neglect, many of the turtles were near-death. Unfortunately, police and customs officials knew little about the extremely specialized needs of this unusual species, and in the days following to the seizure, many turtles succumbed; ultimately only about 100 turtles survived. These representatives of a highly endangered and little-known species of turtles, have become the nucleus of a captive-breeding and assurance colony.

Important lessons were evident in the wake of this confiscation, and with support from the IWT Challenge fund, a team of Myanmar and international specialists was assembled to provide suitable care for the survivors, and conduct training workshops to familiarize border law enforcement personnel with trade regulations, species identification, and protocols for post-confiscation care of live animals, especially turtles.

These efforts paid off in late 2017 when a second seizure of over 500 Big-headed Turtles occurred. This time, there was close coordination between government authorities and the rapid response team, and appropriate care was immediately administered, with the turtles quickly transferred to the Turtle Rescue Centre. The results were an astounding turn-around, and not a single confiscated turtle was lost.

The turtles will either be repatriated to the wild as part of an experimental program to evaluate release strategies, or they will be incorporated into the assurance colony. In February 2018, we received a generous private donation to construct a state-of-the-art facility at the Turtle Rescue Centre, to house the world's first Big-headed turtle breeding colony in the species' native range.



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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Enhanced law enforcement capacity and cooperation with China strengthens the effectiveness of Myanmar's contribution to the regional wildlife enforcement network, securing endangered species and rural livelihoods in Myanmar and beyond.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Increased access to actionable intelligence, enhanced capacity and improved inter-agency and international cooperation leads to effective law enforcement actions against criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife along the primary Myanmar trade route to China, arrest and conviction of key individuals, and engagement of media and civil society in reporting wildlife crimes</p>	<p><i>A new inter-agency wildlife trafficking coordination network is created at national and State/Region level, and is functioning by 2018.</i></p> <p><i>By 2018, a 50% increase in the rate of successful arrests leading to prosecutions of major wildlife traffickers along the designated trade route (2015 baseline will be established).</i></p> <p><i>By 2017, an active and informed domestic media is promoting effective law enforcement on wildlife traffickers and wildlife crime prevention (against baseline to be measured from 2015).</i></p>	<p>The National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force continues to operate, now with 9 government agencies meeting regularly, and following an Action Plan presented at the Hanoi conference.</p> <p>Increase in arrests: 2015: 33; 2016: 34; 2017: 48. Data on prosecutions not made available.</p> <p>Media engagement highly positive and with very large numbers of outputs, and social media very active, with over 3 million visualisations of the key messages. Voices for Momos campaign highly visible.</p>	<p>Establishment of regional/state level operational unit of the Task Force.</p> <p>Additional training, facilitation and investigations to support increased prosecutions, especially of higher-level criminals.</p> <p>Support and technical input to media to encourage government followup based on informed media information.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Relevant law enforcement agencies in both Myanmar and China have a detailed understanding of the trafficking networks operating along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.</p>	<p><i>By 2017, an i2 digital intelligence management system is installed, operational and information records are inputted.</i></p> <p><i>By end of project, at least 5 intelligence products are produced through project-related activities and shared by partners on major wildlife trafficking networks along the Mandalay trade</i></p>	<p>Internal i2 training completed, and presented to government. Decision made to keep the system regional, and use simpler database tools for Myanmar context.</p> <p>Intelligence and data gathered and compiled. Reports completed on data and intelligence, including 1 compendium on Myanmar/China trade, 2 legal reviews, and 2 field-research reports on Elephant trade. Reports and intelligence also delivered to the Government on illegal trade in the Yangon Airport, as well as trade of luxury products in the capital, Naypyidaw.</p> <p><i>Next Steps: Legal reports are still in final review, and will be shared with government through the National Task force in Year 3. Elephant research will be</i></p>	



	<i>route to the Muse-Ruili border.</i>	<i>made publically available in a peer-reviewed journal.</i>
Activity 1.1 Review of wildlife trade and trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border (Incl. previous surveys, government records, public records, institutional/legal analysis).		<p>All relevant data collated, summarised and databased, including previous research and surveys, government records from both sides of the border, public information, media articles and legal analyses. Includes over 80 reports and articles, and over 150 media articles.</p> <p>Other data compiled: Elephant mortality and trade data, arrest data, Seizure data by state and region, Protected Area seizure data.</p> <p><i>Case-studies on Mandalay Region in 2016: 21 cases opened, with 13 arrests and 7 prosecutions.</i></p>
Activity 1.2 Procurement, set-up and training of i2 professional intelligence analysis software.		<p>Demonstration for Law Enforcement agencies, and a decision to use simple database tools. Continue to use i2 on China side.</p> <p>A database of media articles in Myanmar, China and Vietnam is also used to inform our work .</p>
Activity 1.3 Surveys of wildlife trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border to identify criminal networks, modus operandi.		<p>Surveys delivered in the key areas on Elephant trade, Turtle trade, Songbirds, and in two geographically focussed areas, trade in Kachin state, as well Bhamo area. Online trade investigations also completed. Survey of trade in wildlife parts in the Yangon Airport. Working with our Marine team, collect Shark and Ray trade data.</p>
<b>Output 2.</b> Law enforcement agencies in the project areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the confiscated animals.	<p><i>By the end of 2017, at least 3 new Myanmar specific training modules and law enforcement guidelines have been produced as a consequence of the project activities.</i></p> <p><i>By 2018, at least 100 government officers have received training on wildlife crime prevention techniques.</i></p>	<p>Five multi-day training courses developed, consisting of multiple short modules each, developed for the Myanmar Forest School, for Journalist training, and direct Wildlife Crime training courses, both delivered by WCS, and in collaboration with partners.</p> <p>Over 120 Law Enforcement Officers from 14 different enforcement agencies trained in Wildlife Crime prevention.</p> <p>75 Forest Rangers trained in Wildlife ID, conservation issues, general wildlife crime etc.</p> <p>Over 200 students and university professors trained in wildlife trade issues.</p>
Activity 2.1 Translation and distribution of existing educational material related to: a) conservation values; b) laws and regulations protecting wildlife; c) identification of traded wildlife and wildlife parts; d) basic life support and referral of seized live animals.		<p>Translation and dissemination of materials on Laws and Regulations, wildlife ID, and wildlife trade in Burmese, and awareness materials in both Burmese and Shan. Airport information poster on wildlife trade also translated into Chinese.</p> <p>Wildlife ID guide, Forest Law Pamphlet. Protected animals list, CITES booklet, and Biodiversity Training handbook all printed for Forest Department staff to refer to.</p> <p>Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) translated in full into Burmese and printed and distributed</p>

<p>Activity 2.2 Delivery of trainings to front-line officers deployed to duty stations located in/near the critical areas and identified hotspots. Such trainings will include more than one law enforcement agency in order to facilitate cross-agency cooperation, and consist in authoritative expert lectures covering the thematic areas mentioned in Activity 2.1.</p>	<p>120 personnel from 14 different agencies attended Training courses in Wildlife ID, wildlife crime, law, investigations, evidence collection, and crime prevention.</p> <p>Training for students and academics in wildlife issues. (200+ students)</p>
<p>Activity 2.3 Building and maintaining a network of contacts among law enforcement officers of different agencies operating in the project areas. Follow-ups are meant to facilitate exchange of information, knowledge retention, and explore avenues for further technical cooperation.</p>	<p>Following-up with trainee from the courses periodically, including a 6-month follow-up and review of selected personnel, also providing a Facebook and Viber platform for them to coordinate using social media.</p>
<p>Activity 2.4 Setting up of an expert team of WCS and partner organizations staff to provide rapid response for scientific and technical advice and species identification requests from government agencies during law enforcement operations.</p>	<p>Rapid-response unit uses last-year's high-profile Big-headed turtle seizure to train Forest Department staff, leading to an enormous turn-around in success: In a second seizure this year of over 400 turtles, no animals died.</p> <p>Confiscation advice and release-information to Law Enforcement provided for: two primate releases, a large bird release (Hill Mynas), two snake releases, and a release of three Pangolins.</p> <p>Wildlife ID service also provided, both through social media, and traditional means. Continued to convene NGO Working Group on Wildlife Trade, which met three times this year.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.</b> Law enforcement officers working on the border of Muse-Ruili have the appropriate mechanisms and ability to share actionable intelligence on wildlife trafficking and other transnational crime.</p>	<p><i>By 2018, the UNODC-supported Border Liaison Office in Muse/Ruili city incorporates wildlife trafficking as a focal crime area.</i></p> <p><i>By 2017, 33% of law enforcement officers along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border are aware of formal (CENComm, Ecomessages, ASEAN WEN) and informal (NGOs) mechanisms for information/intelligence on sharing.</i></p> <p><i>By 2018, 75% of law enforcement officers at the Muse-Ruili border are aware of inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and their role in sharing information on wildlife and other transnational crimes.</i></p> <p>Inter-agency coordination mechanism (the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force), supports local coordination, including training needs identification. Justice Department, and Fisheries department, now formally included to increase membership to 9 agencies.</p> <p>CITES legal review provided an opportunity for higher-level policy input from the Task Force into legislation.</p> <p>Limited progress on intelligence sharing mechanisms, (historic and cultural restrictions). Additional training needed for the more formal mechanisms (e.g. Interpol), which are known, but largely unused.</p> <p>NGO Working group continues to meet, and coordinate NGO input into various organisation's support to counter wildlife trade initiatives in Myanmar.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 In partnership with UNODC, provide support to the Border Liaison Office to host meetings among representatives of key law enforcement agencies operating in Muse/Ruili city focused on wildlife trafficking.</p>	<p>Assessment of BLO in Muse not positive: virtually inactive, and little interest in for reform. We continued to use other mechanisms for information sharing at the border, such as the checkpoints.</p>

		Yebu checkpoint working well, with similar training the 16 mile checkpoint team, as well as followup training for the 105 mile checkpoint team.
Activity 3.2	Bilateral round-table meeting between MM/CN (local and central levels) on bilateral cooperation on wildlife trafficking.	<p>Visits to China to meet with the senior Yunnan CITES staff, regional government, and local NGOs. Return visit from WCS China to engage through CITES MA mechanism.</p> <p>GEI (Chinese NGO linked with government) met with Forest Department to start collaboration on CWT, with our involvement.</p>
Activity 3.3	Workshop to promote existing mechanisms and discuss challenges to effective information sharing between agencies and countries.	<p>Large workshop to launch the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP), provided framework for discussions around wildlife trade, especially illegal trade of elephants.</p> <p>Legal review workshop on CITES and the development of the new Wildlife Law.</p> <p>Training courses (see Objective 2) note mechanisms for information sharing.</p> <p>National workshop now being prepared by UK Embassy, with out support, for September (to be coordinated with London Conference)</p> <p>WCS also translated key documents for the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.</p>
Activity 3.4	An analysis of the legislative framework for information management and sharing in Myanmar.	<p>Two detailed Legislative reviews: 1) international legal obligations of the Myanmar government, 2) National Framework for Elephant Management,</p> <p>Technical input into the CITES review for the Forest Department, in partnership with the EU.</p> <p>Significant technical input into the new Wildlife Law, to be passed in May 2018.</p>
<b>Output 4.</b>	<p>Increased coverage in domestic media of wildlife trafficking issues and wildlife crime prevention successes and failures.</p> <p><i>By 2018, the coverage of wildlife crimes in Myanmar language traditional and online media increases by 100% compared to the baseline at project start.</i></p> <p><i>By 2018, the number of online engagements (measured by Facebook and Twitter metrics) in articles covering wildlife trafficking posted on relevant social media pages increases by 50% compared to a baseline measured at project start.</i></p>	<p>Baseline from 2015: 16 articles on Wildlife Trade. 2017: 27 articles directly on wildlife crime, and an additional 212 on elephants (related to Voices for Momos)</p> <p>A further 8 stories in Chinese language (and 3 stories in Vietnam, where suspected Burmese poachers or traffickers were arrested).</p> <p>Baseline from 2015: 32k and 19k visualisations, on Facebook and Twitter. (918 engagements)</p> <p>2017: 3m and 108k visualisaions (249k engagements)</p>
Activity 4.1	Supporting Myanmar journalists to survey wildlife trafficking and promote government responses on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.	<p>2-day training course for 20 journalists from 18 different news agencies with opportunities to mix with law-enforcement personnel.</p> <p>Networking between journalists, using existing groups and newly established</p>

	<p>Facebook page. Communication and information exchange between journalists and Law Enforcement agencies on trade, seizures and arrests was also enhanced.</p> <p>Supported coverage of the Turtle-rescue-centre, including three in-depth local feature stories, and a special feature filmed for Discovery Channel.</p> <p>Supported coverage of the MECAP by 12 local journalists.</p> <p>Engaged with over 55 media outlets during the Voices for Momos campaign.</p>
<p>Activity 4.2 Elaborate and implement an online campaign to feed regular content about illegal wildlife trade to social media pages.</p>	<p>Information campaign against illegal wildlife trafficking targeting airports, bus stations, train stations, and ports, as well as measures against the bush-meat trade in restaurants and popular local tourist attractions.</p> <p>MECAP information sharing online, as well as through the Myanmar Biodiversity webpage (which we run).</p> <p>Coordination with other organisations through the NGO Working Group, as well as the Voices for Momos coalition.</p> <p>Voices for Momos: 83 online articles, and 89 Facebook stories facilitated, resulting in over 5 million impressions related to this campaign.</p> <p>Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign in Naypyitaw was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. We invited journalists to cover the event and over 10 articles were covered by these journalists and as well as government Television and newspaper.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3 Regular tracking of content related to wildlife trafficking in local media sources.</p>	<p>Active tracking of local and international media. Database of all media articles on wildlife trade both Myanmar and English languages.</p> <p>Links to WCS regional programs, and neighbouring countries, to track media mentions from recipient countries (China, Vietnam, Cambodia), and feed into the internal WCS weekly news-tracking and monthly newsletter, as well as international media tracking services.</p> <p>Special media tracking during the Voices for Momos campaign, identifying 212 media articles so far.</p> <p>Systematic surveys carried out of non-traditional media (Facebook, social-media) to identify emerging stories and any content relevant to illegal wildlife trade (including illegal online sales).</p>

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b>			
Enhanced law enforcement capacity and cooperation with China strengthens the effectiveness of Myanmar's contribution to the regional wildlife enforcement network, securing endangered species and rural livelihoods in Myanmar and beyond.			
<b>Outcome:</b>			
Increased access to actionable intelligence, enhanced capacity and improved inter-agency and international cooperation leads to effective law enforcement actions against criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife along the primary Myanmar trade route to China, arrest and conviction of key individuals, and engagement of media and civil society in reporting wildlife crimes	<p><i>A new inter-agency wildlife trafficking coordination network is created at national and State/Region level, and is functioning by 2018.</i></p> <p><i>By 2018, a 50% increase in the rate of successful arrests leading to prosecutions of major wildlife traffickers along the designated trade route (2015 baseline will be established).</i></p> <p><i>By 2017, an active and informed domestic media is promoting effective law enforcement on wildlife traffickers and wildlife crime prevention (against baseline to be measured from 2015).</i></p>		
<b>Output 1</b>			
Relevant law enforcement agencies in both Myanmar and China have a detailed understanding of the trafficking networks operating along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.	<p><i>1.1. By 2017, an i2 digital intelligence management system is installed, operational and information records are inputted.</i></p> <p><i>1.2. By end of project, at least 5 intelligence products are produced through project-related activities and shared by partners on major wildlife trafficking networks along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.</i></p>	<p>Minutes from regular meetings of the inter-agency network working group and follow up actions.</p> <p>Myanmar reports to CITES Secretariat on its actions to enforce the decisions of the CoP.</p> <p>Police records and periodic reports of law enforcement agencies to international institutions or presented at international conferences and meetings.</p>	<p>Relevant agencies participating in the wildlife trafficking coordination network take collective action and avoid disagreements over authority.</p> <p>Myanmar government continues a long-term commitment to enforcing and prosecuting wildlife crimes.</p> <p>After the 2015 elections, Myanmar continues to experience smooth reforms and a transition towards greater transparency and accountability of military personnel and civil servants.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies at the local and national levels continue to regard WCS as a credible, loyal and trusted partner and work with us closely on this project.</p>
<b>Output 2</b>			
Law enforcement agencies in the project	<p><i>2.1. By the end of 2017, at least 3 new Myanmar specific training modules and</i></p>		



<p>areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the confiscated animals.</p>	<p><i>law enforcement guidelines have been produced as a consequence of the project activities.</i></p> <p><i>2.2. By 2018, at least 100 government officers have received training on wildlife crime prevention techniques.</i></p>	<p>Collected summary reports and statistics on local media coverage of wildlife crime and wildlife trafficking issues.</p> <p>Police arrest and prosecution records.</p> <p>Media outlets reports.</p>	<p>Myanmar government continues to retain stable control over the project areas, and risks of implementing the project activities remain manageable.</p> <p>Improved law enforcement and coordination around wildlife trafficking leads to improvements in enforcement against trafficking of drugs, people, and armaments, smuggling of goods, and other serious environmental and transnational crimes.</p>
<p><b>Output 3</b></p> <p>Law enforcement officers working on the border of Muse-Ruili have the appropriate mechanisms and ability to share actionable intelligence on wildlife trafficking and other transnational crime.</p>	<p><i>3.1. By 2018, the UNODC-supported Border Liaison Office in Muse/Ruili city incorporates wildlife trafficking as a focal crime area.</i></p> <p><i>3.2. By 2017, 33% of law enforcement officers along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border are aware of formal (CENComm, Ecomessages, ASEAN WEN) and informal (NGOs) mechanisms for information/intelligence on sharing.</i></p> <p><i>3.3. By 2018, 75% of law enforcement officers at the Muse-Ruili border are aware of inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and their role in sharing information on wildlife and other transnational crimes.</i></p>	<p>Metrics from Google Trends, Google Analytics, Twitter metrics, Facebook insights.</p>	<p>Improved rule of law leads to improvements for local people in terms of security and stability which support their livelihoods and ultimately help in reducing poverty.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies agree to share information with WCS about cases of wildlife trade.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies agree to allow officers in active service in wildlife trade hotspots identified to attend the organized workshops.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies continue to regard WCS as a valid and reliable partner for conducting surveillance and active intelligence gathering activities on wildlife crimes.</p> <p>The closer relationship with WCS is seen by higher level law enforcement officers as a concrete opportunity to increase the capacity of their teams, rather than only an additional financing opportunity.</p>
<p><b>Output 4</b></p> <p>Increased coverage in domestic media of wildlife trafficking issues and wildlife crime prevention successes and failures.</p>	<p><i>4.1. By 2018, the coverage of wildlife crimes in Myanmar language traditional and online media increases by 100% compared to the baseline at project start.</i></p> <p><i>4.2. By 2018, the number of online engagements (measured by Facebook and Twitter metrics) in articles covering wildlife trafficking posted on relevant social media pages increases by 50% compared to a baseline measured at project start.</i></p>		<p>Political disagreements between China and Myanmar do not negatively influence local law enforcement cooperation in Muse/Ruili city.</p> <p>News sources and social media sites remain freely accessible in Myanmar.</p> <p>Increased media exposure to wildlife trafficking issues encourages improved law enforcement and support to relevant agencies.</p> <p>Political instability and threat level remain acceptable in the project areas to allow for a safe implementation of all project activities.</p>

**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)

Activity 1.1 Review of wildlife trade and trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border (Incl. previous surveys, government records, public records, institutional/legal analysis).

Activity 1.2 Procurement, set-up and training of i2 professional intelligence analysis software.

Activity 1.3 Surveys of wildlife trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border to identify criminal networks, modus operandi.

Activity 2.1 Translation and distribution of existing educational material related to: a) conservation values; b) laws and regulations protecting wildlife; c) identification of traded wildlife and wildlife parts; d) basic life support and referral of seized live animals.

Activity 2.2 Delivery of trainings to front-line officers deployed to duty stations located in/near the critical areas and identified hotspots. Such trainings will include more than one law enforcement agency in order to facilitate cross-agency cooperation, and consist in authoritative expert lectures covering the thematic areas mentioned in Activity 2.1.

Activity 2.3 Building and maintaining a network of contacts among law enforcement officers of different agencies operating in the project areas. Follow-ups are meant to facilitate exchange of information, knowledge retention, and explore avenues for further technical cooperation.

Activity 2.4 Setting up of an expert team of WCS and partner organizations staff to provide rapid response for scientific and technical advice and species identification requests from government agencies during law enforcement operations.

Activity 3.1 In partnership with UNODC, provide support to the Border Liaison Office to host meetings among representatives of key law enforcement agencies operating in Muse/Ruili city focused on wildlife trafficking.

Activity 3.2 Bilateral round-table meeting between MM/CN (local and central levels) on bilateral cooperation on wildlife trafficking.

Activity 3.3 Workshop to promote existing mechanisms and discuss challenges to effective information sharing between agencies and countries.

Activity 3.4 An analysis of the legislative framework for information management and sharing in Myanmar.

Activity 3.5 Through local contacts and proxy at WCS China program identify responsive focal points at law enforcement agencies operating in both countries at provincial and local level having jurisdiction in the area of Muse/Ruili city.

Activity 4.1 Supporting Myanmar journalists to survey wildlife trafficking and promote government responses on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.

Activity 4.2 Elaborate and implement an online campaign to feed regular content about illegal wildlife trade to social media pages.

Activity 4.3 Regular tracking of content related to wildlife trafficking in local media sources.

**Annex 3 Standard Measures**

Not applicable