

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

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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\$ 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 first year 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 have supported and facilitated them to establish the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Taskforce, which brings 7 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 up to 15 relevant government agencies into the same training workshop, 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 established an NGO Working Group, which has now met three times, providing a framework 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.

In addition, WCS staff have used international meetings to further support partnerships, such as the full-day technical meeting in Singapore about the regional Wildlife Trade (as part of the conference of the Society for Conservation Biology), and engagements with regional organisations, including TRAFFIC and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA).

We have made two visits with Wildlife Reserves Singapore, including one visit with the Director General of the Forest Department, and the Director of NWCD. This was instrumental in supporting the planned collaboration, which aims to develop additional facilities and training for handling confiscated live animals from the illegal trade.

A major partnership building activity was the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan, which was a key event during the first year of the project. A three-day workshop to develop the Action Plan was opened by the Minister of MONREC, and attended throughout by the Director of NWCD, and senior staff from the Forest Department, and the Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

An additional partnership developed through the 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 emergency response to the seizure of big-headed turtles (see section 3.1, Activity 2.4, below for more details), with TSA able to take on the longer-term management of those confiscated turtles which cannot be released into the wild

3. Project progress

Two key outcomes of the project during this year have led from our long-term support to the Myanmar's government, and the energy and impetus of the newly elected government leadership. The first is the establishment of the National Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force. This body was actually created on paper in 2009, but had never actually met. Through this project, we have supported the government to establish the Task Force, which consists of the seven government agencies involved in Wildlife Crime issues: the Forest Department, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Border Affairs, and the Attorney-General's Department. WCS has also attended and facilitated these meetings, the only non-government body in attendance. The Task Force requested support from WCS to help develop an initial Action Plan for the Task Force to implement. This action plan was presented at the Hanoi Conference on Wildlife Crime, as the government's plan for the coming years to respond to wildlife crime.

The second key outcome was through our support to the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP). Myanmar is the most significant country in South-east Asia for elephant conservation, with the largest remaining habitat an estimated 2,000 elephants remaining in the wild, with a further 5,600 elephants registered in captivity. In response to increasing threats, WCS has worked with the Myanmar government to encourage the development of a Conservation Action Plan. To ensure broad support and input to the work, WCS established a consortium to support the delivery of technical input to the MECAP, which includes the Smithsonian Institution, WWF, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), and a local group, Friends of Wildlife. Developing the MECAP has involved bringing global and local expertise together to address four key components: Habitat protection; Human-Elephant conflict; Captive Elephant management; and illegal Trade in Elephants and Elephant parts. This provided a framework for interagency and international discussions, and has given a tangible, high-profile and urgent example of the need for wildlife crime prevention. In January 2017, WCS hosted a 3-day workshop to help finalise the MECAP, which the Minister himself opened, and was attended by several senior technical staff, highlighting the importance of this issue, and the use of this as a way into discussing wildlife crime more generally.

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).

A review has been completed, with all data relevant to Wildlife Trafficking in Myanmar, especially along this route, compiled, and added to suitable databases. This has included books, articles, reports, and survey results, both published and unpublished. This also includes raw data directly from researchers and universities. We have compiled relevant government records, working with NWCD and with the Prosecutor's Department, as well as cross-checking other available information. We have also compiled all relevant laws, and legal analyses on issues related to forest and wildlife crime and law. 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 training course was held in Bangkok for 24 regional staff of WCS from across Asia, including two participants from Myanmar. This 8-day course covered wildlife crime investigation, and predominantly through the use of the i2 Analysis software. Now that staff are trained, the next stage is to get buy-in from the national government for the use of this software. A demonstration of the capability of the software is planned for the next meeting of the Task Force in June, at which stage, if the government approves, the software will be procured for use in the country. While "investigation" can be a sensitive subject, the software is being presented as a research and information tool, which can support the government to better keep its records.

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

Following the gathering of background information, a survey was carried out, focussing on the trade in Elephant ivory and Elephant parts, which was done in preparation for the MECAP workshop, to provide up-to-date information on the current status of the trade in Myanmar.

Security concerns and the sensitivities around investigations have meant that surveys have been somewhat delayed, and have not been able to go close to the border area to date. However, the project team plans to do additional surveys in Lashio, Pyin Oo Lwin, and Mandalay itself, focussing on turtle trade, as well as other high-value wildlife parts, including further follow-up on Elephant trade.

The other planned activity is to have an experienced Chinese investigator work on the China side of the border, to identify the availability of wildlife parts and the potential trade routes from the China side.

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.

The available educational materials on wildlife conservation, laws, wildlife identification, and care for confiscated live animals, has been collated. Some already exists in Myanmar language, and some required translation into Myanmar from English. Translations were checked, and refined, and the layout and design of materials was improved. ID guides and information will be printed early in Year 2 to provide to front-line law enforcement personnel across the country. Information about laws was simplified as far as possible, and has now been checked by an experienced lawyer.

A further simple version is under development, including cartoons, for a public audience. The materials on care of live animals are only basic, and will be further developed during Year 2 of the project.

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, including on general conservation issues, on Wildlife ID (including turtles and birds, and species in trade), on techniques for conservation research and survey, as well as methods for crime investigations relevant for forest rangers.

A 3-day training course was delivered to 36 staff from 13 relevant government agencies, including Forest Department, various branches of the Myanmar Police Force, Customs, border agencies, trade agencies, and ministry of interior. Using the existing frameworks, including the Task Force's mandate, as well as the Checkpoint system, has allowed these multi-agency training courses, and enhanced mixing between trainees. In this case, the training was held in parallel with a journalist training course (see Activity 4.1) so that the 24 journalists had the chance to meet with and mix with front-line law enforcement personnel.

Training was provided to around 80 Rangers during a 4-day training course at the Myanmar Forest School in Pyin Oo Lwin. We are also working with the school to update and expand the 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 one-day training was help for 6 Forest Department staff of the Taninthayi Nature Reserve, to help them prepare for a wildlife trade survey, which they completed following the training.

A half-day event engaged senior government staff, with 28 people from the regional government attending an event in Lashio, which included a series of awareness raising presentations, and opportunities to identify potential champions at the local level.

Training was also been held with over 500 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.

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 checkpoint system has provided a formal and legitimate way to bring agencies together and facilitate informal exchange, as well as more formalised information sharing. 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.

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.

An expert team has been established of WCS and partner organisations (including TSA) to provide rapid response for advice and support or confiscations during law enforcement operations. This team is able to respond to urgent requests from the Forest Department, both using conventional means, and also through the use of technology, such as video-calls, and social networking sites.

Their first major intervention was to respond to the seizure of 853 Big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) in Tachilek. Responding to a tip-off from suspicious neighbours, the police in the border-town, raided a property, and found many hundreds of turtles being stored in small boxes. This rare and little-known turtle is very fragile, and the mortality rate had been high, leading to the smell of decomposition alerting the neighbours.

The government then urgently requested support in handling this Endangered species, which is very rare, fragile, and virtually unknown to law enforcement staff. 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.

The expert team mobilised a significant response, which involved many experts and volunteers coming from around the country, the region, and the world, to respond to this crisis. Expert veterinary care was made available, and safe handling of this highly sensitive species. The death rate in captivity by the illegal traders had been very high, but the team was able to stabilise many of the turtles, and relocate them to the Turtle Rescue Center in Bambwe, near to Pyin Oo Lwin. These turtles will now form the core of a captive breeding population, with the aim to release them into suitable habitat in the wild – which is believed to be in mid-to-high altitude rivers.

WCS also provided advice on the interrogation of the two suspects in this case, who are Chinese nationals. Unfortunately, very little evidence has been forthcoming, as the suspects have remained largely silent, despite both facing significant jail sentences. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the turtles gathered from around the region were being stockpiled in Myanmar, before transfer to Hong Kong for the pet trade, where they can command prices of over \$2500 each, even for small specimens. Please see Annex 4 for some photos of the species, and the rapid response mission to support this law enforcement operation.

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.

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.

In discussions with UNODC, it became clear that their engagement with the BLO is tenuous, and this mechanism may well be dormant. In addition, the limitations on our team working in Muse due to security concerns have meant that we are not currently working through the BLO system. However, we identified the existing Checkpoint system as an alternative, and potentially better, mechanism for inter-agency collaboration on the Myanmar side. At various checkpoint locations (often named after the number of miles from Mandalay, so Checkpoint 103, Checkpoint 174, etc.) a multi-agency team has been given the role of working. At the main checkpoint near Lashio, this includes 15 separate government and non-government agencies, and including a journalist observer; using this mechanism has given us the opportunity to bring these agencies together under an existing framework, and support meetings and workshops.

If the security situation improves, we will investigate whether the BLO, or some other existing system, could be a method for engaging with both sides of the border at the crossing itself.

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

Initial talks have commenced, with WCS staff on both sides of the border facilitating contacts with their government partners. During international meetings, at the CITES COP, and at the Hanoi conference, WCS staff were able to support introductions between representatives of Myanmar and China, and start an informal process of discussions, with the view to supporting a formal request to be received favourably. We have also provided support to a Forest Department staff member and former CITES officer, who is now studying a Master's degree in China. This kind of informal arrangement can help set up the future formal dialogues.

WCS was also the only non-government partner invited to attend a trans-boundary meeting on wildlife crime between Myanmar and India, which was positive and well received by both sides. This provides a precedent for bi-lateral cooperation and dialogue, and the next step is to bring a concrete proposal for a bilateral meeting to our key contacts in the two governments. The high-

level meeting is currently planned for October 2017, with preparatory activities in both countries, including potential visits, in the lead-up to this meeting.

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

The Task Force has provided a mechanism to discuss some of these challenges, and has requested support on reviewing these. Once the legal analysis is complete, this provides a framework for further discussion of the legal and policy challenges with timely and accurate information sharing.

These issues were also part of the 3–day workshop on the MECAP, which allowed issues of information sharing around Elephant trade and law enforcement to be aired, and various agencies to discuss their concerns. The MECAP document has policy recommendations to support improved coordination between relevant agencies. In addition, this framework is being used to guide the process to update the National Tiger Action Plan.

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

A regional legal expert on wildlife trade, in collaboration with a local expert environmental legal advisor, have done a three-part assessment of the legislative framework in Myanmar. Building from previous legal review work, they have identified: i) the existing agencies and their jurisdictions over wildlife crime in Myanmar; ii) the existing frameworks for intervention, prosecution and sentencing, and; iii) the existing mechanisms for information sharing between agencies, as well as internationally.

The next steps are to identify the major gaps in legislation, and highlight to the government the need to reform those areas. The new government in Myanmar has expressed an appetite for legal reform, and this work is therefore timely. The legal team will also be supporting the review by international technical experts that the EU are planning to fund, which will identify gaps in national legislation within the framework of CITES, which provides an opportunity to incorporate their findings into the EU-supported work.

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. We have a simple contact database of over 150 journalists, along with some of their recent stories, and use this to target out outreach. We have also coordinated our lists with partners such as UNODC, who have previously done training for journalists on crime reporting.

Through this, we have fostered a network of 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 for 22 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.

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

We have released a wide range of online content, which has been developed and disseminated through Facebook, Twitter, Viber, online newsletters, and the WCS website.

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 have established.

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

We developed protocols for actively tracking relevant information and articles from local and international media. We have developed a simple database of all media articles relevant for wildlife since 2015, in both Myanmar and English languages, as well as key attributes of the stories.

We have linked this to the WCS regional wildlife trafficking program and neighbouring countries, to track media mentions from recipient countries (China, Vietnam, Cambodia), and feed into the internal WCS news-tracking and newsletter, as well as international media tracking services.

With the support of interns from an international school, we have carried out several systematic surveys of non-traditional media (Facebook and other social-media platforms) to identify emerging stories and any content relevant to illegal wildlife trade (including surveying for illegal online sales of wildlife).

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 gathered background information, done some field-surveys, and engaged with relevant partners. We also collected information on Elephant Trade, which was presented to the MECAP workshop, and provided an important case-study in the existing issues, and guided the further development of the Action Plan.

Following the i2 training in Bangkok last year, our next step is to present this information in a compelling format to the Task Force.

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

The training programs have reached around 150 Law Enforcement Officers, and the framework and scope of the training program has been highlighted through the Task Force. Engagements with law-enforcement agencies, using the Checkpoint framework, has paid dividends already, with many more officers aware of wildlife issues, and confident to respond to wildlife crimes, or to reach out to the WCS expert rapid-response team. Follow-up is supporting engagement, confidence, and networking of officers.

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.

Using the Task Force, and the Checkpoint framework has allowed us to engage with a wide range of relevant law enforcement agencies, and support them to implement improved national and regional information sharing.

For international mechanisms, progress has been slower, with initial contacts, and side meetings during international conferences, such as at the CITES COP, and at the Hanoi Conference on Wildlife Trade.

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

There is already good progress here, with an increase in media articles based on our work, from 16 in 2015, to 24 articles in 2016 (of which 11 were directly linked to WCS work). Contacts with over 150 journalists and over 40 media outlets have been made, We have also drafted an article for a Chinese media outlet, which will be translated into Chinese.

We have developed a tracking system for both media articles, and metrics for social-media online viewing and engagements. We've established baselines for these metrics; in 2015, there were 4 posts on Facebook with 19,083 visualizations and 364 'engagements', and 6 posts on Twitter, with 32,624 visualizations and 554 engagements.

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 7 government agencies meeting periodically, and have an initial Action Plan. This is a vital step to achieve the outcome and improve law enforcement nationally. This has been supported by strong awareness and engagement with over 13 relevant government agencies at national level and in the states/regions. Our next step is to support the Task Force to establish regional units which can be more active on-the-ground.

Baseline of arrests and prosecutions established with Prosecution Department of the Attorney General's Office. This indicator is the most crucial, but will require concerted effort over the next year to support law-enforcement agencies to prioritise wildlife crime over other forms of crime under their mandate. Our next steps are enhanced engagement with these agencies.

Media and civil society are better engaged, with social media presence created, both through WCS, and through other groups (including the journalist network). Baseline information on media has been gathered and integrated into a database.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Monitoring of the following risks and assumptions has been carried out during the project. The below assumptions and risks are still valid, however we have noted 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.

Myanmar government continues a long-term commitment to enforcing and prosecuting wildlife crimes.

After the 2015 elections, Myanmar continues to experience smooth reforms and a transition towards greater transparency and accountability of military personnel and civil servants.

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.

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 has been poor in the project area, with some loss of government control of the area during December 2016, and partial closure of the border, with limited access for

national staff. Foreign visitors have not been permitted since May 2016 – see section 12 for more details.

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.

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.

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

Law enforcement agencies agree to allow officers in active service in wildlife trade hotspots identified to attend the organized workshops.

Law enforcement agencies continue to regard WCS as a valid and reliable partner for conducting surveillance and active intelligence gathering activities on wildlife crimes.

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.

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 during March 2017, has a risk to the local cooperation, and to the priority that personnel put on wildlife crime.

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

Increased media exposure to wildlife trafficking issues encourages improved law enforcement and support to relevant agencies.

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 is already supporting improved law enforcement capacity, and through the project and the establishment of the Task Force and the MECAP, Myanmar has committed to increased contributions to regional wildlife enforcement priorities. This should indeed have the effect of helping protect endangered species, the rule of law, and rural livelihoods. However, continued support will be required during Year 2 of the project to help the government to turn their commitments into actions, and to keep wildlife law enforcement as a key priority.

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 in Year 1 of the project, with over 150 key front-line personnel trained 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.

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. 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 853 Endangered big-headed turtles was a major achievement, and using the surviving animals which cannot be released for various reasons, a total of around 90 turtles, to develop a breeding colony, which can provide hatchlings for release into key wild habitat.

The contribution to Elephant conservation has been through the development of the final draft 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 come from fairly poor backgrounds and many are local to the parks where they work, so the training can directly support improved safety and security for them and their families. More broadly, 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.

The negative impacts of environmental crime on local and regional livelihoods are widely acknowledged (e.g. EIA 2008, UNEP 2012, INTERPOL 2014). By improving the rule of law, and reducing degradation of natural resources, the project should contribute to improving livelihoods of affected communities. Due to the diffuse nature of the crimes, the precise numbers of indirect beneficiaries are hard to predict and measure, but are estimated to number in the tens of thousands.

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 \$, 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.

Training events have also involved follow-up with trainees. Even a regular phone call helps immeasurably to encourage and provide a feeling of coordination and cohesion, and identify the continued impact of training, as well as the potential for further training, mentoring, networking, or other events to capitalise on progress. This approach will be continued and repeated with all trainees (assuming they are happy to be contacted), with regular contact and encouragement to join the social-media network relevant to their group.

For quantifiable indicators (See the Logframe at Appendix 2), this year we have been able to measure baselines, and follow these with further 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 baseline 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, and has been a major lesson. 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.

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

Not applicable.

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The security issues at the border remain challenging, with a flare-up in violent conflict since the first few months of the project. As discussed above, we remain cautious, and have relocated several activities further 'back' along the trade chain, so that activities can proceed without hindrance, but that the impacts should still be relatively achievable.

The positive engagement of the Government has been a very welcome positive feature of the year, with an interest and support from local, regional, and national government agencies that is particularly gratifying.

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 had positive news from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who wish to support additional activities on the China side, as well as the German government's Environment Ministry, who aim to support WCS to facilitate further policy-level and on-the-ground work between Myanmar and both Thailand 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 feel 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 (2017-2026), and possibly 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 minister himself noted during the opening ceremony for the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan that he strongly welcomed the support from the UK government for Elephant conservation.

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.

Furthermore, the gratitude for support from the UK has been identified by Myanmar Government representatives, at least verbally, at international forums, such as the CITES COP, the World Conservation Congress, and especially at the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade.

The project team have also met with UK Embassy representatives in Myanmar, and a field visit by senior staff from the UK Embassy is planned for May 2017.

15. Project expenditure

A budget change request was approved by IWT in early 2017. Table 1, below reflects these changes, and the expenditure against the approved budget.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2016 – March 2017)

Project spend (indicative since last annual report)	2016/17 Grant (revised) (£)	2016/17 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</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>Outcome</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 is established with 7 government agencies meeting periodically, and have an initial Action Plan.</p> <p>Awareness and engagement with Law Enforcement agencies at national level, and in 2 states/regions.</p> <p>Baseline of arrests and prosecutions established with Prosecution Department of the Attorney General's Office.</p> <p>Media engagement established, and social media presence created, both through WCS, and through other groups (including a journalist network). Baseline information on media gathered and is integrated into a database.</p>	<p>Continued support to the Task Force, including establishment of two regional/state level operational units.</p> <p>Additional training, facilitation and investigations to support increased prosecutions, especially of higher-level criminals.</p> <p>Additional support and technical input to media to encourage an active and informed engagement with the issues, and additional in-depth investigation.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p><i>By 2017, an i2 digital intelligence management system is installed, operational and information records are inputted.</i></p>	<p>Intelligence gathered, and internal i2 training completed. <i>Next Steps: national training course, and demonstrations of i2 capabilities to Task Force and agencies.</i></p> <p>Two reports providing Intelligence and evidence on Elephant parts sales</p>	

border.	<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 route to the Muse-Ruili border.</i>	and trafficking shared with key government partners. One report on Big-headed turtle care, and trade, shared with government partners and other stakeholders.
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).		Relevant data collated, summarised and databased, including previous research and surveys, government records from both sides of the border, public information, media articles and , and previous legal analyses. Also unpublished data direct from researchers.
Activity 1.2 Procurement, set-up and training of i2 professional intelligence analysis software.		I2 regional Training attended by project staff, and gathering of background information. [slow progress on the software – awaiting government buy-in through the Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force] <i>Next Step: Demonstration of the capability to the Task Force in June 2017.</i>
Activity 1.3 Surveys of wildlife trafficking on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border to identify criminal networks, modus operandi.		Surveys collated. Survey of Elephant trade completed (feed into Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan – MECAP). <i>Next step: Surveys and research on wildlife trade from the China side, using Chinese investigators.</i>
Output 2. Law enforcement agencies in the project areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the confiscated animals.	<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> <i>By 2018, at least 100 government officers have received training on wildlife crime prevention techniques.</i>	3 multi-day training courses developed, consisting of multiple short modules each, developed for the Myanmar Forest School, for Journalist training, and our own direct Wildlife Crime training courses. 36 Law Enforcement Officers from 13 agencies trained in Wildlife Crime prevention. 80 Forest Rangers trained in Wildlife ID, conservation issues, general wildlife crime etc. Over 500 students and university professors trained
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.		Translation of educational materials on Laws and Regulations completed. Technical version available for law enforcement staff, with simplified version (checked by lawyer) for the public, presented in an accessible way (cartoons etc). [some minor delays in printing – has led to small underspend in Year 1]
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		Training courses for over 150 government law enforcement officers in Wildlife ID, wildlife crime, and . Training for students and academics in wildlife issues. (500+ students)

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.		Following up each trainee from the courses periodically, and providing a Facebook and Viber platform for them to coordinate using social media.
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.		Rapid-response unit set-up, and responds to high-profile wildlife crime of Big-headed turtles. Wildlife Trade ID service also provided, both through social media, and traditional means. Also we established the NGO Working Group for Wildlife Trade.
<p>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.</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>Checkpoints selected as functional unit, and are increasingly acting on wildlife crime (following training)</p> <p>Intelligence sharing mechanisms partially active, though additional training needed, especially for formal mechanisms.</p> <p>Inter-agency coordination mechanism established (Task Force), which will be developed into state/regional units, which should better support local coordination.</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.		UNODC discussions showed that BLOs are not functioning well, and also not accessible due to security concerns, so alternative mechanism (Checkpoint coordination groups) identified. This has allowed meetings of the 13 government agencies who are party to the checkpoint system, using this existing framework.
Activity 3.2 Bilateral round-table meeting between MM/CN (local and central levels) on bilateral cooperation on wildlife trafficking.		Task-force engaged, and initial talks with China side. Introductions made at CITES COP and at Hanoi conference India trans-boundary meeting used as a precedent and an example. MoU texts scrutinised and discussed with NWCD.

		Plans for follow-up meetings with China during late 2017
Activity 3.3	Workshop to promote existing mechanisms and discuss challenges to effective information sharing between agencies and countries.	Task Force meetings have discussed this, as well as the 3-day MECAP workshop. Plans for a national workshop on wildlife trade being coordinated with other NGOs.
Activity 3.4	An analysis of the legislative framework for information management and sharing in Myanmar.	Legislative review complete: i) Jurisdiction analysis; ii) Existing frameworks, laws, penalties etc.; iii) information sharing mandates and responsibilities Next Step: Present this information to the Task Force, and integrate with EU-supported legal review of CITES legislation.
Output 4.	Increased coverage in domestic media of wildlife trafficking issues and wildlife crime prevention successes and failures. <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> <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>	Baseline data established of articles in local media covering wildlife crime: 2015: 16 articles. 2016, 24 articles (at least 11 from WCS sources). Baseline data established for online viewing and engagements, Facebook and Twitter metrics: 2015: 4 Facebook posts, 6 Twitter posts, 19k and 32k visualisations, 364 and 554 engagements, respectively. Tracking system developed which will allow comparison to baseline in future years.
Activity 4.1	Supporting Myanmar journalists to survey wildlife trafficking and promote government responses on the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.	Over 150 Journalists identified and engaged. Journalists interested in wildlife news join a Facebook group, now active with regular posts. Networking and facilitation between journalists, using existing groups and established journalist trainers. Database of journalists and stories established. 2-day training course for 22 journalists, with opportunities to mix with law-enforcement personnel.
Activity 4.2	Elaborate and implement an online campaign to feed regular content about illegal wildlife trade to social media pages.	Online content developed and disseminated through Facebook, Twitter, Viber, online newsletters, and the WCS website. Links with traditional media for enhanced coverage. Coordination with other organisations through the NGO Working Group.
Activity 4.3	Regular tracking of content related to wildlife trafficking in local media sources.	Protocols developed and active for media tracking from local, and international media. Database developed of all media articles since 2015, in both Myanmar and English languages. Links to WCS regional programs, and neighbouring countries, to track media mentions from recipient countries (China, Vietnam, Cambodia), and feed into the internal WCS news-tracking and newsletter, as well as international media

tracking services.

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).

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
<p>Impact:</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>Outcome:</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>Output 1</p> <p>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>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>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies in the project</p>	<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>Output 3</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>Output 4</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

Annex 4
Supplementary material – photos of selected project activities