



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Final Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance: (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes.

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
Total IWT grant value	337,656
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019
Project leader’s name	Dr. Alex Diment
Project website/blog/social media	https://myanmar.wcs.org
Report author(s) and date	U Than Zaw U Aung Kyaw Daw Mya Thida Aung Dr. Alex Diment Dr. Kalyar Platt 28 June 2019

1. Project Summary

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 in 2015, they requested additional 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 focused 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.

The project also grew an increased focus on the illegal trade in turtles and tortoises – for two main reasons; the diversity and serious endangerment of Myanmar's chelonian fauna, and the alarmingly high numbers of turtles and tortoises that we recorded in the trade during the early stages of the project. With 26 species, Myanmar hosts one of the most diverse turtle faunas in Asia. However, of these 26 species, 18 have been assessed as endangered or critically endangered, including 7 of the 8 endemic species, making Myanmar a likely "extinction hotspot". The key threat to turtles is illegal harvesting to meet demands of wildlife markets in southern China, and so the link with this project was evident. Turtles are typically traded live, and so we worked closely with the national Turtle Rescue Centre, near the town of Pyin Oo Lwin, especially to train front-line personnel on handling of live animals.

See the Map below for more details of the project's main sites:



2. Project Partnerships

Our strong existing partnerships were further strengthened, and new partnerships developed during the evolution of the project, 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 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. In Year 3 of the project, two sub-national Task Forces have been established in Shan State and Mandalay Region, coordinating government action at a more local level.

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 in February 2018, with several follow-up meetings, and 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.

A partnership deepened though the project 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 Achievements

Please see also Annex 2 - summary of progress against the project logframe

3.1 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. This year, we updated and finalised the report, and published it in a final format.

This review of wildlife trade information between Myanmar and China is included as Annex 4. All relevant data was 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 compiled relevant government records, both at national and regional level, and cross-checked these data against other available information. Some example summary information from Shan State is included in the Annex 15.

We 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). These technical reviews are presented in Annexes 5, 6 and 7.

We commissioned a Chinese journalist and investigator to visit Myanmar and do additional research in the border towns, collect evidence and to publicize some of this work in Chinese media. See <http://www.sixthtone.com/news/1002978/on-myanmar-border%2C-illegal-animal-trade-thrives> for an English language output from this visit.

We also completed several bespoke investigations especially in local regions– into the Elephant trade, into the Songbird trade, and the Turtle Trade – as well as a local investigation in Dali, a large Chinese city near the Myanmar border, which hosts a traditional medicine market, and identified several leads on trafficking networks.

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 245 Law Enforcement Officers, with at least 15 separate training and mentoring courses delivered. We also engaged with over 280 Private security staff, who work as contractors at Myanmar's International Airports.

Some of these engagements have been increasingly deep— for instance we have delivered training to a wide range of 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 this training program, with some personnel reached through 4 separate courses.

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.

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. At least 200 students have also been engaged through our university outreach – we have specifically supported Masters-level research for two students on illegal wildlife trade issues (through the University of Yangon, and University of Mandalay).

Our work has supported government action, for example in a June 2018 crackdown, we provided technical support to government during the seizure of more than 2,900 illegal wildlife parts from 18 species, and the arrest of 7 large wildlife traders.

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 twice each year, and have also formally included the Justice Department, and Fisheries department, increasing the membership to 9 government agencies.

The Mandalay Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force was formed at the end of 2018 and has developed Terms of Reference for the member agencies, and is holding an Induction Workshop. The Shan State Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force has also been formed this year, with 17 government agencies involved.

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.

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

While domestic coordination has made good progress, transnational cooperation with China has made relatively poor headway. This is a focus of our future work, using additional funds raised through leverage from this project.

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

The most visible achievement was the awareness campaign on Elephant Poaching – “Voices for Momos” – now broadened to be “Voices for Wildlife”. 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 government’s response through the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP). The campaign resulted in over 210 media articles, mostly in Burmese language, on elephant conservation issues, especially illegal trade.

Several training courses for at least 40 journalists from 18 different local/regional media on reporting on the Illegal Wildlife Trade were organized, mostly in parallel with the law enforcement training (to encourage informal networks to develop between law enforcement personnel and government staff). Networking and information sharing between journalists and WCS’ communications team is firmly established, and led to over 65 relevant media articles by these journalists.

On Facebook, where we post mainly in Burmese language for a local audience, we reached an audience of 3,329,635 people, with 5,435,663 impressions generating 319,745 engagements. On Twitter, where we post in English, we recorded a total of 232,165 impressions and 4,322 engagements. These numbers are vastly greater than 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.

3.2 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 project has made a huge contribution to the outcome, with all key components completed, and a major delivery well in excess of our expectations for all the three indicators.

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.

The Mandalay Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force was formed at the end of 2018 and has developed Terms of Reference for the member agencies, and is holding an Induction Workshop. The Shan State Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force has also been formed this year, with 17 government agencies involved.

The number of arrests in the relevant regions (Shan State and Mandalay Region) have dramatically increased (at least 5-fold) during the project period, from a baseline of 3 prosecutions in 2015, and 5 in 2016, increasing to 27 in 2017 and 24 in 2018.

We have supported law-enforcement agencies to prioritise wildlife crime over other forms of crime under their mandate.

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, with over 5 million engagements with our wildlife messages (from a 2015 baseline of 32 thousand), and over 450 relevant media articles tracked in Myanmar alone (from a 2015 baseline of 16).

3.3 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 substantial impacts from this project are listed in more detail in the logframe (Annex 2).

A summary of major achievements of the project:

Law enforcement capacity and performance have greatly increased, with over 5-fold increase in the rate of arrests and prosecutions in the project areas.

Several endangered species, such as the heavily-traded Big-headed turtle, are in a hugely improved state, due to the impacts of the project.

The project has also raised the profile of the negative consequences of the illegal wildlife trade, with over 5 million engagements with the project's media outreach activities.

4. Monitoring of assumptions

Monitoring of the following risks and assumptions has been carried out during the project. Most assumptions and risks remain valid, and are being monitored. The security situation in some areas has deteriorated, and the general climate for NGOs to operate in Myanmar has become worse. 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 several closures of the border crossing, for periods of up to two weeks. 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 easily available. Though our partnerships, we were able to obtain local level information this year.

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, though may have increased the demand for Ivory from Myanmar.

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

Media freedom has suffered in Myanmar in the last years, 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.

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 at least 525 key front-line personnel trained over the course of the project, and now actively working to identify and prevent wildlife crime.

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 provided technical support to the government, especially through the Task Force, in the lead-up to the London Conference in October 2018, in close consultation with the UK Embassy in Rangoon. Three senior government officials attended the Conference, and as active participants, reiterated the Myanmar government's support to the Action Plan that they had presented at the Hanoi conference (also facilitated by WCS).

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 1,000 last year) was a major achievement, and using the surviving animals which cannot be released for various reasons – we are now developing a breeding colony, which will provide hatchlings for release into key wild habitat. With our partners, we have now raised funds to construct a captive breeding centre for this Endangered species, to support its rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration into the wild. This is a key species-focussed outcome of the project to date.

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. 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 thus 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. In the project development period, this area was relatively safe, so specific contingencies were not listed. However, contingencies were developed after Year 1, and the project plans were shifted.

This and other reasons delayed project activities, and a 1-year extension was granted by DEFRA for the project to continue until 2019 to complete all project deliverables. This extension was very important, and allowed a range of activities, such as legal reforms, support to the government's engagement with the London Conference, and the establishment of two regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Forces.

9.1 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). Additional evidence, 'means of verification', and project outputs, are provided in the Annexes listed at Appendix 4.

9.2 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

The review of our Year 2 report requested additional details on;

The implication of not being able to engage productively with the Border Liaison Office is not discussed in the report. Will focusing on the checkpoint system adequately compensate for not being able to engage with this entity? It would be helpful to understand how this will impact achievement of the outcome. The same point applies to challenges experienced on intelligence sharing.

The Reviewer notes an important point. Our hopes to work with the Border Liaison Offices were dashed when they were discovered to be ineffective. The BLOs, in theory, provided an ideal platform to engage with complex transboundary security issues. However, our first assessment showed them to be inactive, and indeed that the UNODC themselves (who fund the BLOs) had not been able to access the area to assess them for over 3 years.

We used the Checkpoint system for local coordination, and grew the Wildlife Law Enforcement Taskforce system throughout the project life. Compared with the reality of the inactive BLOs, these are active and engaged on the ground with numerous law enforcement agencies.

Challenges remain, and we have not made the progress that we had hoped for on transboundary negotiations during this project. We will continue (with additional funding raised), along with our partners, to address that challenge.

Given the large number of stakeholders and partners involved in this project, the project is requested to thoroughly reflect on activities, challenges and achievements, to ensure they are reflected in the lessons learnt in the final report.

We have reflected on this in the lessons learned section.

Clarify if the system being established (development and management) will enable the task force to function beyond the project.

The Taskforces have been created by legal Government processes (Decrees), and are therefore official entities, which are legally required to operate until the decrees are modified. While we facilitated the process, and provided technical support, they are not WCS-related, or project-related, bodies, so they are structured to continue well beyond the project. For example, they were active in the lead-up to the London Conference (Oct 2018) independently of the project. They will continue to need technical support, but we are hopeful about their long-term contribution to counter wildlife trade.

11. Sustainability and legacy

The achievements of the project, in terms of official government coordination bodies, will continue beyond the project period, and these bodies will remain the major inter-agency counter Wildlife Trade mechanisms. The training of over 700 people will lead to long-term support to capacity improvements, and awareness about Illegal Wildlife Trade and the law.

The major success in awareness campaigns means that Wildlife Trade has entered the public consciousness for the first time, which has in turn put pressure onto government agencies to improve the enforcement of laws; this can be seen in the closure of the high-profile wildlife markets in Yangon.

Additional financial resources were gathered during the project implementation, and now to support ongoing activities beyond the project lifetime. These include a recent grant from International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (a US Government agency), and a large private-foundation grant to support the construction of a captive-breeding facility for the Big-headed turtles, described in section 13, below.

12. 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. Photos of wildlife have also been provided to the UK Embassy to support the impact of their social media presence.

13. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the (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.

14. Finance and administration

14.1 Project expenditure

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

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Alex Diment (Project Leader)	
Aung Kyaw, U (Wildlife Trafficking Coordinator (Myanmar))	
Mya Thida Aung (Wildlife Trafficking Officer (Myanmar))	
Sai Aung Kyaw Win (Counter Wildlife Trafficking Coordinator)	
Thu Maung (CWT Assistant)	
Interns	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description <i>Please detail what items were purchased with fund money, and where these will remain once the project finishes</i>	Capital items – cost (£)
n/a	
TOTAL	0

Other items – description <i>Please provide a detailed breakdown for any single item over £1000</i>	Other items – cost (£)
Consumables	
Other necessary equipment	
Stationery/Booklets	
TOTAL (Must match Others total in Section 6)	

14.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service)	
GIZ	
UK Embassy (grant to Stop Ivory and WCS for Ivory and Elephant work)	
UK Embassy (grant to WCS and TSA for Turtle-related work)	
TOTAL	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service)	
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL)	
GIZ	
Gould Foundation (for Big-headed turtle breeding center)	
TOTAL	

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

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>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.</p>			
<p>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</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 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</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</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</p>

	<i>trafficking networks along the Mandalay trade route to the Muse-Ruili border.</i>	law enforcement agencies to international institutions or presented at international conferences and meetings.	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.
Output 2 Law enforcement agencies in the project areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the confiscated animals.	<p>2.1. <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>2.2. <i>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>
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>3.1. <i>By 2018, the UNODC-supported Border Liaison Office in Muse/Ruili city incorporates wildlife trafficking as a focal crime area.</i></p> <p>3.2. <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>3.3. <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>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>
Output 4 Increased coverage in domestic media of wildlife trafficking issues and wildlife crime prevention successes and failures.	<p>4.1. <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>4.2. <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</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>

project start.

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2019
<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>The substantial impacts from this project are detailed below.</p> <p>A summary of major impacts:</p> <p>Law enforcement capacity and performance have greatly increased, with over 5-fold increase in the rate of arrests and prosecutions in the project areas.</p> <p>Several endangered species, such as the heavily-traded Big-headed turtle, are in a hugely improved state, due to the impacts of the project.</p> <p>The project has also raised the profile of the negative consequences of the illegal wildlife trade, with over 3 million engagements with the project's media outreach activities.</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 active, with 9 government agencies meeting regularly and following the Action Plans developed and presented at the Hanoi and London conferences.</p> <p>The Mandalay Region Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force was formed at the end of 2018 and has developed Terms of Reference for the member agencies, and is holding an Induction Workshop. The Shan State Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force has also been formed this year, with 17 government agencies involved.</p> <p>Data collection throughout the project period shows a dramatic increase of arrests and prosecutions. Combined data (from Shan state and Mandalay region) shows a baseline of 3 arrests leading to prosecutions in 2015, increasing by at least 500% to 27 prosecutions in 2017, and 24 prosecutions in 2018. (See Annex15 for details)</p> <p>Media engagement highly positive and with very large numbers of outputs, and social media active, with over 3 million visualisations of the key messages. Voices for Momos (now Voices for Wildlife) campaign engaged with highly visible.</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 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</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, as well as summary information (e.g. map at Annex 14). Reports and intelligence also delivered to the</p>

	<i>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>	Government on illegal trade in the Yangon Airport, as well as trade of luxury products in the capital, Naypyidaw. (see also Annexes 4-7 11, 15 for a selection of those products in English language). Two legal reports (including on CITES issues) were also finalized and shared with government agencies during National Task Force Annual meeting, based on the new laws.
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. This analysis included over 80 reports and articles, and over 150 media articles. This was summarised into a synthesis report used for government and internal purposes. The report was updated in early 2019, and published as a final project output.</p> <p>Wildlife crime prosecutions data from Mandalay District and Northern Shan State summarised, as well as Elephant mortality and traded data, Seizures data by State and Region and seizures in Protected areas.</p> <p>Other relevant data compiled: Elephant mortality and trade data, arrest data, Seizure data by state and region, Protected Area seizure data. All elephant data, including our partnership with researchers at Yangon University was incorporated into the MECAP report and ongoing process.</p>
Activity 1.2	Procurement, set-up and training of i2 professional intelligence analysis software.	Basic introduction and description for Law Enforcement agencies were done, it was decided that i2 is still too advanced for the Myanmar context, and to start with more simple database tools. Data were therefore collected and compiled into basic spreadsheets and updated through collaboration with WCS team and the Forest Department in relevant State/Region. These are in a format which can later be incorporated into more sophisticated analysis tools (e.g. i2 or SMART)
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 as Bhamo area. Online trade investigations also completed. Survey of trade in wildlife parts in the Yangon Airport. Working with our Marine team, collected Shark and Ray trade data. (e.g. see Annex10 for an English language presentation of Elephant trade information)</p> <p>Data on number of wildlife crime cases, mostly traded species and mostly seized areas along Mandalay to Ruili trade route was collected to get better understanding of criminal network. (see Annex15)</p>
Output 2.	Law enforcement agencies in the project areas have sufficient capacity to identify and prosecute wildlife crimes, and handle the	<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</i>
		Throughout the project, trainings were designed based on the profile of the targeted participants/departments including Myanmar Forestry School, journalist and Wildlife Crime Training for law enforcement agencies working along the border. Specific training modules and guidelines handbooks were developed to

<p>confiscated animals.</p>	<p><i>project activities.</i></p> <p><i>By 2018, at least 100 government officers have received training on wildlife crime prevention techniques.</i></p>	<p>use in trainings. Modules in Myanmar Language include: What is Wildlife Trade? Overview of Illegal wildlife trade. What is CITES, and Handling Confiscated life animals.</p> <p>Over 245 government officers from 17 government departments had received training on Wildlife Crime Prevention.</p> <p>Over 200 students and university professors trained in wildlife trade issues.</p> <p>Over 280 private security staff at 3 International Airports trained in illegal wildlife trade.</p>
<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>		<p>Extensive training materials on the new Wildlife Laws, Protected Animals list, Handbook on Identification of mostly traded species, CITES verification handbook, used throughout the training courses.</p> <p>Awareness materials including airport information poster on wildlife trade were also translated into Chinese (Annex12)</p> <p>Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) translated in full into Burmese and printed and distributed (Annex9)</p> <p>Protocols on handling confiscated life animals were developed and disseminated, and six related posters on handling confiscated mostly traded live animals were also produced and disseminated. (See Annex17).</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>Over 245 personnel from different law enforcement agencies including Forest Department, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Divison, Myanmar Police Task Force, Forest Police, Aviation Police, Quarantine Officers, Customs Department, Trade Department, Department of Fishery, Attorney General Office and Justice Department.</p> <p>Over 280 private security personnel at Myanmar's International Airports trained (see Annex16).</p> <p>Facilitators included WCS team, as well as skilled and experienced people from related subject from government agencies to make the training more productive. Trainings were made in hotspot areas in two State and Region along the trade routes.</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 6-monthly follow ups and reviews with the selected personnel in person or over email exchange or telephone. This follow-up is important to maintain engagement, especially as staff are rotated regularly. Locally appropriate tools (Facebook and Viber) are used as primary platform to share information and coordinate.</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 great success from the high-profile Big-headed turtle seizures with an enormous turn-around in success. Co-funding has now been received to construct a rehabilitation and breeding center for this species.</p> <p>Confiscation advice and release-information to Law Enforcement provided for:</p>

		<p>two primate releases, a large bird release (Hill Mynas), two snake releases, and a release of three Pangolins.</p> <p>During government operation on wildlife crime in June 2018, a seizure of more than 2900 illegal wildlife parts over 18 different species which lead to arrest 7 key traders. WCS technical team provided substantial support in this case, with species identification and classifying CITES status etc. In addition, the confiscated live turtles which were seized in checkpoints, were brought and taken care at the Turtle Rescue Centre.</p> <p>Wildlife ID service also provided, both through social media, and traditional means. Continued to convene NGO Working Group on Wildlife Trade, which is now happening quarterly.</p>
<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>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>UNODC discussions showed that BLOs were 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.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Bilateral round-table meeting between MM/CN (local and central levels) on bilateral cooperation on wildlife trafficking.</p>		<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>
<p>Activity 3.3 Workshop to promote existing mechanisms and discuss challenges to effective information sharing between agencies and countries.</p>		<p>Large workshop to launch the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP), provided framework for discussions around wildlife trade, especially</p>

	<p>illegal trade of elephants.</p> <p>National level workshop on launching “Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) were held in Naypyitaw jointly with NWCD.</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>WCS also facilitated government inputs and translated key documents for the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.</p>
<p>Activity 3.4 An analysis of the legislative framework for information management and sharing in Myanmar.</p>	<p>Two detailed Legislative reviews:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) international legal obligations of the Myanmar government, 2) National Framework for Elephant Management, <p>Technical input into the CITES review for the Forest Department, in partnership with the EU.</p> <p>Significant technical input in process of reviewing wildlife law, which was passed in May 2018, and the Wildlife Rules and Regulations, reviewed in a series of regional and national workshops (with over 700 public comments) in the second half of 2018.</p>
<p>Output 4. 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 issues. 2017: 27 articles directly on wildlife crime, 178 articles on wildlife issues, and an additional 212 on Elephants (related to Voices for Momos). 2018: 26 articles directly on wildlife crime, with an additional 240 articles on wildlife issues, and 38 on the EU Larger than Tiger’s conservation strategy (which includes Wildlife Crime).</p> <p>[We tracked a further 12 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) 2017: 3m and 108k visualisations (249k engagements) 2018: 2.1m, 124k (75k engagements)</p>
<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>	<p>Two training courses for 40 journalists from 18 different new agencies were conducted which had given them opportunity to mix with law enforcement personnel.</p> <p>Networking between journalists, using existing groups and newly established Facebook page. Communication and information exchange between journalists and Law Enforcement agencies on trade, seizures and arrests was also</p>

	<p>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 and Elephant issues by 12 local and 1 international journalists. 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, now known as the Voices for Wildlife group.</p> <p>Voices for Momos: 83 online articles, and 89 Facebook stories facilitated, resulting in over 3 million impressions related to this campaign.</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>Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign in Naypyitaw was held on 31st 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>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 3 IWT Contacts

Ref No	IWT-023
Project Title	Securing the Gateway – reducing wildlife trafficking from Myanmar to China
Project Leader Details	
Name	Dr. Alex Diment
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Partner (NGO)	
Name	Dr. Kalyar Platt
Organisation	Turtle Survival Alliance
Role within IWT Project	Partner for all turtle-related work, and specialist
Address	
Email	

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	Y
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	(attachments provided separately)
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	N
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	