



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report



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

Submission Deadline: 30th April

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project Reference	Project Ref No: IWT033
Project Title	Project Title: Leveraging Action to Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Networks in Lao PDR
Country/ies	Country: Lao PDR
Contract Holder Institution	Lead Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner institutions	Collaborator(s): Department of Forest Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
IWT Grant Value	\$435,477
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2016 – 31 March 2018
Reporting period (e.g. April 2015-Mar 2016) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	1 April 2016- March 31 2017 Annual Report 1
Project leader name	Project Leader: Christopher Holmes
Project website	Project website: https://programs.wcs.org/laos
Report author(s) and date	Mike Brocklehurst April 30 2017

1. Project Rationale

Weak governance and a perception of wildlife trafficking as a low-level violation have led to corruption at the highest levels within Lao PDR, preventing traffickers of high-value wildlife from being brought to justice. This has a strongly negative impact on governance and security, through encouraging corruption, proliferation of other crimes and reducing overall rule of law.

Immunity from enforcement has led to some of Asia's most prolific wildlife trafficking companies building global supply networks, two of which in 2014 reported massive trade volumes of protected wildlife on official documents, including 22,000kg elephant ivory, 87,000kg pangolin, 7,000kg tiger and lion bones, 131,000kg freshwater tortoise and turtle.

However, there are encouraging signs that the Government is starting to respond. In August 2015, the Prime Minister issued an Instruction to all key Ministries on strengthening CITES compliance, specifically including directions to investigate and ensure major wildlife trafficking companies are compliant with national laws and CITES.

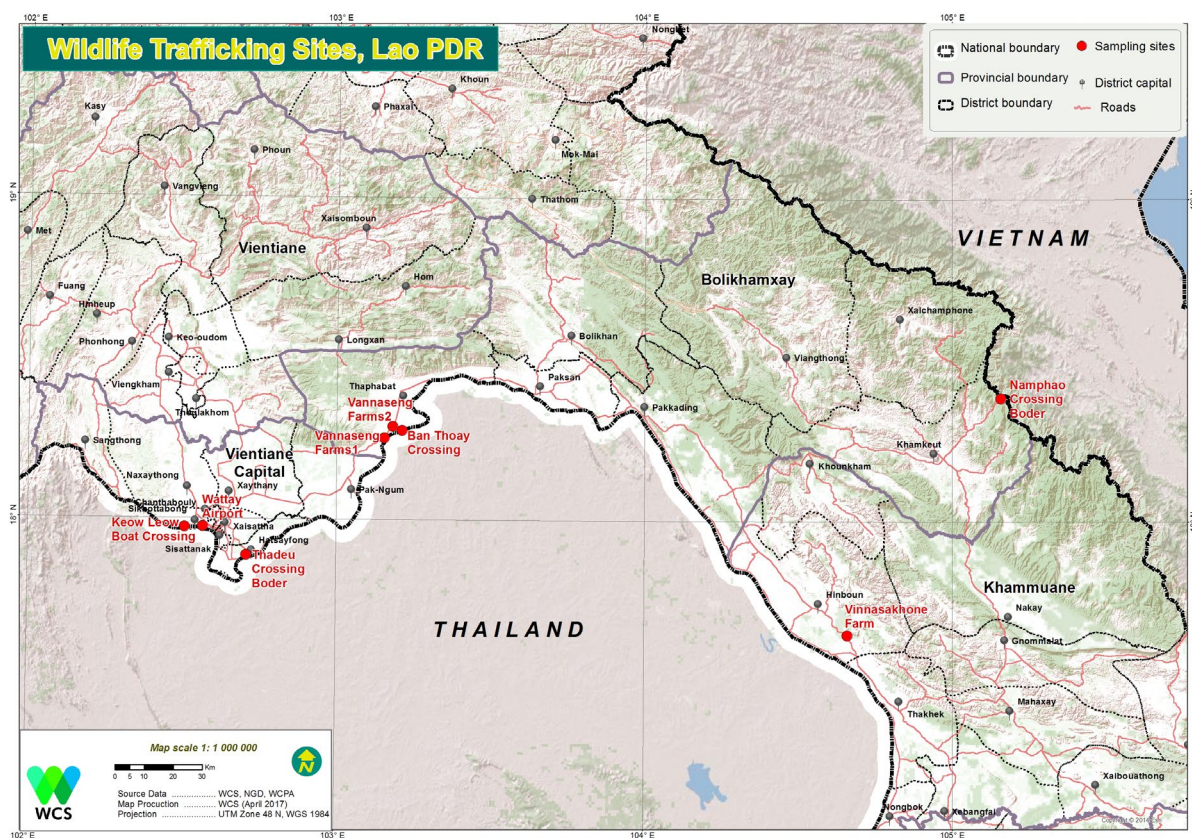
In June 2016 The Minister of Agriculture and Forests issued Order 0054/MAF where action is to be taken to "Strictly prevent hunting, transport, merchandise in local market, import-export and transit of aquatic and wild animals and their parts through Laos to the third

countries. Commercial farming of aquatic and wild animals in the list I of CITES which is the list for merchandise prohibition is prohibited”

In December 2016 the Prime Minister issued Notice No: 1990/PMO.ED to “...understand and raise awareness in participation against and to prevent all forms of illegal wildlife trading”

There is an unprecedented opportunity to engage key agencies in Lao to build upon this nascent government action, build its momentum and activate effective enforcement that deters major wildlife trafficking businesses from operating in Lao.

The location of the project is concentrated in, but not limited to, key identified trafficking sites and networks operating from Vientiane into Vietnam through the Nam Phao International Border Crossing (figure 1).



2. Project Partnerships

Our main project implementation partner is the Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI), which was created in 2008 to inspect and investigate suspected violations of the Forestry Law, the Wildlife and Aquatic Law, the National Penal Code and other subsidiary laws. DOFI's mandate was defined in Ministry of Agriculture Agreement No.340/MAF, 5 March 2008.

The formation of DOFI is a major commitment by the Government of Laos to tackle the threats from illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, forestry related corruption, and illegal land encroachment. Provincial Offices of Forest Inspection (POFI) are established in all 17 provinces with 277 staff nationwide.

To meet its mandate, DOFI must work cooperatively with other departments that have a responsibility for forest and wildlife management, environmental conservation and governance processes, for example, Economic Police, Customs, Army, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Ministry of Justice. DOFI has developed a Strategy Action Plan to 2020, and has shown improvement in results. Recently the DOFI action catalysed the issuance of Government Office Declaration No. 1364 which instructs multiple agencies to take action to ensure compliance with CITES, monitor and report on companies engaged in illegal wildlife trafficking, and inspect and ensure compliance of farms that rear and transit wildlife.

On the 1st July 2016 WCS signed a 5 year MOU with DOFI in a cooperative action to stop the illegal wildlife trade in Lao PDR. All program activities are jointly planned and coordinated by holding monthly implementation meetings. Three monthly and annual reports are generated and evaluated.

A secondary partner is the Department of Forest Resource Management (DFRM) which are responsible for policy and the CITES Management Authority.

Recent institutional changes have resulted in DFRM changing ministries from the Ministry of Natural Resource Management to the Ministry of Forestry. Whilst this has been seen as positive move long term it has resulted in confusion and lack of stalling on activity implementation. Lack of communication between the two ministers has compounded the problem.

3. Project Progress

4. Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1: Compelling actionable intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos

A great deal of progress has been made with this output. Seven field investigations amounting to 54 person-days have been conducted on IWT networks operating in Lao PDR. The primary focus concentrated on tiger farms, major wholesale traders, ivory markets and Chinese business exporting to China.

Desktop and open source reviews of 24 recent international seizures relating to Lao PDR were conducted resulting in a greater understanding of the international context that can be disseminated during training and operational planning.

Seven companies and 24 individuals have been identified including 3 new tiger farms, a trading company in Lak Sao, Bolikhamxay and a major wildlife trafficker operating in Paksan, Bolikhamxay.

All information has been inputted into the WCS intelligence management system and 12 intelligence packages produced and disseminated to the Department of Forest Inspections, Interpol and international embassies. It was necessary to withhold some information to allow further investigation and to protect key informants.

Thirty-one dossiers have been produced on all major individuals and companies that are known to be operating in Lao PDR.

Surveys were conducted to catalogue and map out Chinese citizens trading in ivory and protected wildlife products in Luang Prabang and Vientiane. The information has been presented to Lao WEN law enforcement official in preparation for a law enforcement campaign.

In March 2017 the project staff joined a regional training program in Bangkok for WCS intelligence officers in the ANACAPA analytical investigation techniques. The course provided an excellent opportunity to share information, meet to discuss and plan joint

initiatives such as bi-lateral events and collaborative investigations between Lao PDR, China, Vietnam and Thailand.

A service delivery contract and terms of reference has been signed with an international Investigation Agency who will conduct further investigations in May and January in year 2 of this grant.

Output 2: Influential countries (Viet Nam, China, Thailand, US, UK, Germany, France) aid agencies (ADB, World Bank) and international media, are informed and active in advocating to GoL on measures needed to enhance national response to IWT

Technical assistance and information has been given to journalists from three major international newspapers and regional television channels in an effort to bring international attention to the situation and response of the Lao PDR government to date.

WCS is an active member of Working Group 15.7, the diplomatic communities forum for coordinating IWT efforts on Lao PDR. WCS regularly briefs the meeting and holds separate meetings with Embassy staff to ensure they are updated with current intelligence on IWT and informed to the government's response.

In September 2016, WCS joined the Lao delegation attending CITES COP 17 and SC 67 in Johannesburg, SA to provide technical assistance and guidance. At the meeting, and in line with WCS's suggestions, the delegation accepted all the secretariats recommendation's and made a commitment to phase out tiger farms. WCS is now working to ensure Lao stick to these commitments through a combination of technical assistance and continued media pressure.

An international Media and Communications consultant has been commissioned to design an awareness campaign targeting Chinese and Vietnamese tourists visiting Lao PDR. The campaign will focus on the effects, penalties and pending enforcement action against individuals and companies trading in wildlife products.

Output 3: An informed, supportive and active constituency is developed from The National Assembly, Government Inspectorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Finance

WCS's support to the WG 15.7 is the primary mechanism for achieving this output. We have provided information and intelligence to the UK and US embassies and the EU mission to aid preparation of letters and meetings with Ministers and the Prime Ministers office on IWT. To some extent we have held back on investments here because of the active WG15.7, the Prime Minister's order and the commitments at CITES. In the coming year we are planning to co-host a side event at the National Assembly on IWT issues.

4.1 Progress towards project Outputs

- The WCS IBM i2 regional intelligence management analysis database has been installed and operational. An intelligence analyst has been employed to analyse intelligence and produce intelligence products for dissemination to law enforcement agencies.
- Thirty-one dossiers produced and 12 intelligence products produced and disseminated.
- 88 records and source documents inputted into the WCS Global database relating to Lao PDR.
- Six International media articles published on the 3 major trafficking networks operating in Lao PDR.
- Thirty-one media articles relating to wildlife seizure's destined for Lao PDR have been reported in the international media.
- The Lao PDR delegation to 2016 CITES SC/CoP participated actively and positively in the meetings responding to all key issues related to Lao PDR. There has been less action

since their return in terms of meeting those commitments. WCS are working with members of WG 15.7 and our government partners to provide the necessary support and pressure.

- The diplomatic community has met with and/or sent letters to three key ministers in Lao advocating action on IWT including the minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resources and Environment and the PM's office.

The prime minister's office and the Ministry of Forestry has issued the following orders and instruction demonstrating the continued commitment to act upon the illegal wildlife trade:

- Prime Minister's Order No. 15 May 2016 On intensifying strictness in the management and inspection of wood exploitation, timber removal and wood related businesses
- MAF Order 0054/MAF (June 2016) On the expansion and implementation of the Order of the Prime Minister No. 15) where action is to be taken to "Strictly prevent hunting, transport, merchandise in local market, import-export and transit of aquatic and wild animals and their parts through Laos to the third countries. Commercial farming of aquatic and wild animals in the list I of CITES which is the list for merchandise prohibition is prohibited"
- Prime Ministers Notice No: 1990/PMO.ED (Dec 2016) to "...understand and raise awareness in participation against and to prevent all forms of illegal wildlife trading"

4.2 Progress towards the project Outcome

Whilst political will has never been stronger to recognise the impact of IWT in Lao PDR, with the prime minister's office and the Ministry of Forestry issuing orders and instructions demonstrating the continued commitment to act upon the illegal wildlife trade; enforcement actions are yet to take place. We expected this to be difficult and are encouraged at the progress towards the outputs at this stage and are confident that this strategic approach remains valid.

4.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1:

WCS has established itself as a credible, loyal and trusted partner in Laos in the field of wildlife conservation and IWT. To implement this project, this collaboration with individuals within local and central law enforcement agencies must continue

WCS Lao PDR IWT program is growing along with cooperation and commitment from government partners. WCS is a member of the Law Enforcement Technical Advisers Group and WG 15.7, which is made up of Government, diplomatic communities, donors and INGO's.

Assumption 2:

Continued national commitment to CITES convention and ASEAN by Laos

The GOL attended the CITES COP 17 and SC 67. All CITES secretariat recommendations were accepted and the delegation also made a commitment to phase out tiger farms in the region. Progress is also continuing with the NIAP. This is the strongest commitment Lao PDR has demonstrated to date.

Assumption 3:

Capacity-building efforts of UNODC, World Bank and USG continue

Regional donor funding for IWT has never been stronger. UNODC is continuing capacity building programs in Lao PDR and the region. World Bank is continuing to fund LENS 2 capacity building programs and there is increased funding through INL, USAID and USFWS.

5. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

Commercially driven poaching for the international trade to Asian consumer markets is the greatest threat to wild populations of elephants, rhinos, pangolins, and freshwater turtles and tortoises across their range in Africa and Asia. The project will benefit all these species across their range by activating the political will necessary to catalyse a broad coalition of government agencies in domestic and international efforts to dismantle major trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within Laos, removing many of the key illegal actors in the trade, and deterring potential future actors from becoming involved in the illegal trade. This will reduce the volume of trade passing through Laos and contribute to the recovery of wild populations. The long-term impact of these efforts on elephants, rhinos, pangolins, and freshwater turtles and tortoises will be a reduction in the numbers taken from the wild, leading to a quicker recovery of these species populations in key protected areas.

Reduced opportunities for corruption and the degradation of criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife through Laos

6. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives

Strengthening law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system;

As a direct result of this project law enforcement agencies are being provided with intelligence and strategies to assist them with law enforcement operations and planning.

The use of international media to highlight Lao PDR role in the illegal wildlife trafficking is contributing to political goodwill and commitment to better enforce the trade.

Training and capacity building strategies, conducted with co-financing, are providing agencies with the capacity and competency to conduct investigations leading to successful prosecution.

Desktop computers have been provided to key provinces that are known wildlife trading hotspots. The computers have been given to designated officials to enable improved coordination and communication between provincial officials and WCS.

Support has been provided for key government officials to attend provincial meetings on IWT to bolster cooperation and commitment between the provinces.

Financial and technical support has been provided to the CITES Management Authority and Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment to attend COP 17 and Standing Committee 67 so that they were able to respond to CITES recommendations and make commitments to combat illegal wildlife trade in the country and across its borders.

WCS staff has accompanied central and provincial staff from the Department of Forest Inspections to inspect 19 provincial markets in Bolikhamxay and Khammoune, close to the Vietnamese border. Lessons in species identification were provided, information on trade was collected and locals educated in relevant laws.

7. Impact on species in focus

- African Elephant
- Pangolin (Asian/African)
- Rhino
- Hard shelled turtles.

The degradation of criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife through Laos will benefit all of the species in focus. Lao PDR is currently a major transit country for wildlife trafficked from Africa and regionally.

Official government documents revealed that, in 2014, two of the major companies were given quotas to traffic into Lao PDR and out into Vietnam the following amounts of focus wildlife.

430,000kg pangolin, 290,000kg ivory, 4,000kg rhino horn and 210,000kg turtles.

The current political climate, international pressure and gains in law enforcement have resulted in the quotas being revoked and wildlife trading companies coming under increased scrutiny.

It is expected that this will result in less demand and hunting pressure in source locations.

8. Project support to poverty alleviation

A further beneficiary of this work will be resource-dependent communities in Lao PDR and other low-income, source countries in Africa and Asia. Elephants and rhinos in particular are economically important to African source countries. They provide a direct source of GDP through tourism and support subsistence livelihoods through maintaining a healthy resource base. The massive declines in African Elephants has the potential to impact on wildlife tourism, which is a principal revenue-earner for many of these countries and as such a key contributor to the African continent's socio-economic development. For example, in 2015, tourism in Tanzania accounted for 17% of GDP, with a total contribution of \$2.5 bn, supporting more than 2 million jobs. Effective action against African ivory trafficking in Asia, that includes dismantling major wildlife trafficking syndicates such as those operating in Laos, will contribute towards overall efforts to maintain populations of African Elephants and the tourism industry that is dependent on them.

Poaching and illegal trafficking of ivory, rhinoceros horn, tigers, and other biodiversity affects not only wildlife but entire ecosystems, effectively depriving 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 driven by the same criminal networks and have significant impacts on local people. Locally, a reduction in commercial wildlife off-take driven by these companies will also increase the amount of bush meat available for local communities still dependant on bush meat for subsistence. In this regard, it is reasonable to estimate that more than 3,000 households will benefit from reduced wildlife trafficking and improved law enforcement, however, due to the dispersed nature of wildlife trafficking syndicates, and the communities and wildlife they affect, it is difficult to anticipate and determine the exact number of indirect beneficiaries. Nonetheless,.

9. Consideration of Gender equity issues

Our primary project partner, DOFI, is an equal opportunity employer and is actively encouraging the participation of women in technical work related to the department's mandate. In 2016 a woman in Law Enforcement Initiative was introduced centrally where 6 women were provided the opportunity to gain experience in forest inspection and enforcement. This initiative has been recommended to be expanded to a provincial level.

Previous programs undertaken by DOFI and WCS have demonstrated the important role women have in conducting community liaison, inspections of illegal wildlife trade hotspots,

offender management, as well as administration roles and we will continue to promote these roles throughout this work.

Women have been well represented at all trainings and workshops provided by WCS.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating of the project was performed by measuring:

- The information known on criminal networks at the start of the project to what is understood at the end of year 1.
- The number of dossiers produced on individuals and companies.
- The number of media reports on Laos's involvement in illegal wildlife trade compared to previous years.
- The improvement in political will to end the trade. During year 1 commitment were made to phase out tiger and bear farms in Lao PDR, close the domestic ivory market: the prime minister, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment have all issued orders/instructions to end illegal wildlife trade in Lao PDR.

11. Lessons learnt

During evaluation of year 1 projects a number of lessons were identified.

- The formulation of contracts and terms of reference for contractors was more complex than anticipated and should have commenced well in advance of the planned activities. This will not be a factor in year 2 and future projects as templates have been designed.
- Many of the activities were slow to commence due to a delay in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with government partners. A five-year MOU has been signed so will not be an issue for the foreseeable future.
- The use of investigative journalists is an effective method of collecting information that can be used to understand criminal networks and modus operandi. Media outlets to bring international attention to the trade in Lao PDR and pressure the government to take action can also use information gained.

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

This is the first annual review for this project NA

13. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Nothing to report.

14. Sustainability and legacy

This project has produced stronger working relationships between government agencies responsible for combatting major trans-national wildlife trafficking networks, such as Lao WEN agencies.

Inter-government collaboration with neighbouring countries will be enhanced by attending bi lateral events during the next period. Given the lack of previous success by the government to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, this project will provide a model which will give Lao government agencies, particularly DOFI, confidence and the political support needed to further degrade illegal wildlife trafficking networks into the future. The successful implementation of this project will build political commitments and catalyse additional state-budget resources to the government agencies responsible for combating illegal wildlife trafficking.

15. IWF Challenge Fund Identity

All official events and activities funded by this award are recognised on official banners posted for the duration of the event. The donor will be acknowledged in media releases.

16. Project Expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring and Evaluation Costs				
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: <i>Reduced opportunities for corruption and the degradation of criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife through Laos.</i></p>		<p>Tiger farm owners, who are involved in much of the illegal wildlife trade have been placed under a much higher level of scrutiny by the GOL.</p>	<p>Tiger farms to be audited and animals identified, coat stripe recorded and registered to prevent entering into the trade. A masterplan will be developed for phase out of animals from the farms.</p>
<p>Outcome: Wildlife trafficking is recognized as a political and developmental threat by the Government of Laos, and a broad coalition of government agencies are participating in domestic and international efforts to dismantle trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within Laos</p>	<p>By 2018 effective enforcement action has led to the prosecution and conviction of at least 2 key individuals within identified major IWT networks operating in Laos that to date have been immune from any law enforcement action indicators)</p>	<p>The PMO 15 (<i>On intensifying strictness in the management and inspection of wood exploitation, timber removal and wood related businesses</i>).</p> <p>MAF Order 0054/MAF (2016) (<i>The expansion and implementation of the Order of the Prime Minister No. 15</i>) where action is to be taken to “Strictly prevent hunting, transport, merchandise in local market, import-export and transit of aquatic and wild animals and their parts through Laos to the third countries. Commercial farming of aquatic and wild animals in the list I of CITES which is the list for merchandise prohibition is prohibited”</p> <p>Notice No: 1990/PMO.ED (2016) to “...understand and raise awareness in participation against and to</p>	<p>The prime minister of Lao PDR will issue a PMO on the prevention of illegal wildlife trade.</p>

		prevent all forms of illegal wildlife trading”	
Output 1. Compelling actionable intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos	<p>By June 2017, 10 intelligence dossiers and products produced and disseminated to GoL and related agencies annually on the three major trafficking syndicates (2016 baseline = 0)</p> <p>By March 2018, 75 Records/Source documents inputted into the WCS Global Wildlife Intelligence Database relating to Laos (2015 Baseline: 30)</p>	<p>The WCS IBM i2 regional intelligence management analysis database has been installed and operational. An intelligence analyst has been employed to analyse intelligence and produce intelligence products for dissemination to law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>31 dossiers produced and 12 intelligence products produced and disseminated.</p> <p>88 records and source documents inputted into the WCS Global database relating to Lao PDR</p>	<p>10 dossiers produced and 15 intelligence products produced and disseminated.</p> <p>2 Investigations undertaken by an International Investigation Company. Actionable intelligence products will produced with information collected.</p>
Output 2. Influential countries (Viet Nam, China, Thailand, US, UK, Germany, France) aid agencies (ADB, World Bank) and international media, are informed and active in advocating to GoL on measures needed to enhance national response to IWT	<p>By December 2017, 20 media articles in international and domestic media on the identified major IWT networks operating in Laos in 2016, 2017 (Baseline in 2014=10, all for Xaysavang, none for the other major trafficking companies)</p> <p>Laos actively and constructively participates in CITES SC and CoP in 2016 and 2017 responding in a meaningful way to existing decisions and commitments (Baseline = Lao suspended from CITES due to lack of compliance on reporting,</p>	<p>29 International media articles relating to Lao PDR IWTincluding 6 published on the 3 major trafficking networks operating in Lao PDR.</p> <p>Technical assistance and information has been given to journalists from three major international newspapers and regional television channels in an effort to bring international attention to the situation and response of the Lao PDR government to date.</p> <p>A delegation from Lao PDR attended the COP 17 and SC 67 where they accepted all the secretariat’s recommendations and made a</p>	<p>A bi lateral meeting is planned between China and Lao PDR. Agenda law enforcement cooperation, Chinese business meeting and Chinese police support to investigations.</p> <p>Support will be provided to Investigative journalists from China and Vietnam to collect information and report in the media on the situation in Lao PDR to encourage action by the GOL</p> <p>A delegation from lao PDR will attend COP 18 and SC 69 to report on progress made towards CITES</p>

	<p>and inactive in meetings)</p> <p>Five actions annually by diplomatic missions, donor agencies and neighbouring countries that advocate to GoL on required enhancements in national response to IWT</p>	<p>commitment to phase out tiger farms.</p>	<p>recommendations.</p> <p>Results of investigations undertaken by an international investigation company will be published in the international media.</p>
<p>Output 3. An informed, supportive and active constituency is developed from The National Assembly, Government Inspectorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>By March 2018, five statements, legal documents, or actions by National Assembly, MoFA, and GI on IWT responses (Baseline: 0)</p>	<p>In the coming year we are planning to co-host a side event at the National Assembly on IWT issues.</p>	<p>The prime minister of Lao PDR will issue a PMO on the prevention of illegal wildlife trade.</p>

Annex 2: Logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Reduced opportunities for corruption and the degradation of criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife through Laos.			
Outcome: Wildlife trafficking is recognized as a political and developmental threat by the Government of Laos, and a broad coalition of government agencies are participating in domestic and international efforts to dismantle trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within Laos			
Output 1 Compelling actionable intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos	1.1 By June 2017, 10 intelligence dossiers and products produced and disseminated to GoL and related agencies on the three major trafficking syndicates annually in 2016, 2017 (baseline = 0) 1.2 By March 2018, 75 Records/Source documents inputted into the WCS Global Wildlife Intelligence Database relating to Laos (2015 Baseline: 30)	1.1 Intelligence products produced 1.2 WCS Intelligence Database	WCS and partners continue to not be restricted in gathering data independently and from government sources on individuals and companies trafficking wildlife in Laos.
Output 2 Influential countries (Viet Nam, China, Thailand, US, UK,	2.1 By December 2017, 20 media articles in international and	2.1 WCS media scanning reports, CITES SC committee and WG	For the duration of this project, IWT remains high on the political agenda

<p>Germany, France) aid agencies (ADB, World Bank) and international media, are informed and active in advocating to GoL on measures needed to enhance national response to IWT</p>	<p>domestic media on the identified major IWT networks operating in Laos in 2016, 2017 (Baseline in 2014=10, all for Xaysavang, none for the other major trafficking companies)</p> <p>2.2 Laos actively and constructively participates in CITES SC and CoP in 2016 and 2017 responding in a meaningful way to existing decisions and commitments (Baseline = Lao suspended from CITES due to lack of compliance on reporting, and inactive in meetings)</p> <p>2.3 Five actions annually by diplomatic missions, donor agencies and neighbouring countries that advocate to GoL on required enhancements in national response to IWT</p>	<p>reports, Meeting minutes from the Lao IWT Coordination Forum</p> <p>2.2 Attendance at CITES and submission of progress reports ie NIAP</p> <p>2.3 Official media releases, meeting minutes or proceedings from National Assembly, MoFA, GI</p>	<p>for UK, US, Germany, EU, World Bank and ASEAN.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>An informed, supportive and active constituency is developed from The National Assembly, Government Inspectorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,</p>	<p>3.1 By March 2018, five statements, legal documents, or actions by National Assembly, MoFA, and GI on IWT responses (Baseline: 0)</p>	<p>3.1 Official statements, Legal gazette, national assembly proceedings, WCS media scanning reports</p>	<p>The Lao National Assembly and other government agencies continue to show an interest in Environmental issues and are active in lobbying the Executive</p>

Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Finance			branch of Government.
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Information-gathering surveys by WCS and partners in Lao 1.2 Maintenance/licensing of WCS Intelligence management and analysis system, ensuring Lao program has access to global database on IWT 1.3 Production and dissemination of intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos 2.1 Develop an informed and active media network of domestic and foreign journalists (including media briefings, interviews, field trips, media analysis feedback reports) 2.2 Tri-lateral dialogue on IWT enforcement collaboration between Laos, Viet Nam and China 2.3 Technical and fiscal support to participation of key Lao government agencies at global IWT events (e.g. Standing Committee) 2.4 Establish a regular IWT coordination forum to inform and activate bilateral donor agencies and diplomatic missions 3.1 Technical assistance to DoFI and the CITES MA to implement actions towards compliance with national and international IWT commitments 3.2 Briefings to National Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government Inspectorate on IWT issues and responses 3.3 Multi-agency workshops to plan actions and disseminate information on responses to IWT 			

Annex 3: Links to media articles linking Lao PDR IWT including 6 articles on the 3 major wildlife trafficking syndicates.

2016

1 <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Laos-failing-to-curb-illegal-wildlife-trade-monito-30296036.html>

2 http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=332931

3 <http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2016-09-23/laos-promises-to-phase-out-tiger-farms-conservation-groups>

4 <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/09/23/laos-promises-to-phase-out-tiger-farms-conservation-groups.html>

5 <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/laos-promises-phase-tiger-farms-groups-102617349.html>

6 <https://asiancorrespondent.com/2016/09/laos-to-phase-out-tiger-farms/>

7 <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/6378e3b8d19b4880b9949840bee41f96/laos-promises-phase-out-tiger-farms-conservation-groups>

8 <http://www.arabtoday.net/environ-187/laos-failing-to-curb-illegal-wildlife-trade-130837>

9 <://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/26/bach-brothers-elephant-ivory-asias-animal-trafficking-network>

10 <http://www.pattayamail.com/worldnews/laos-promises-phase-tiger-farms-conservation-groups-149782>

11 <https://omwww.theguardian.c/environment/2016/sep/27/revealed-how-senior-laos-officials-cut-deals-with-animal-traffickers>

12 <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Laos-Authorities-Help-Smuggle-Exotic-Wildlife-for-Kickbacks--20160927-0009.html>

13 <http://www.truth-out.org/buzzflash/commentary/two-hundred-farms-in-china-breed-tigers-for-slaughter-for-body-parts-luxury-goods>

14 <http://alert-conservation.org/issues-research-highlights/2015/8/5/growing-concerns-over-lawless-lao-a-paradise-for-poachers>

15 <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/22964-myanmar-highlighted-as-a-priority-hub-in-ending-tiger-trade.html>

16 <://kpl.gov.la/En/Detail.aspx?id=17921>

17 <http://www.nampa.org/index.php?model=categories&function=display&id=16023950>
<https://www.thedodo.com/laos-promise-shut-down-bear-bile-tiger-farms-2017609256.html>

18 <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/09/lao-pdr-commits-to-shut-its-commercial-tiger-farms/>

19 <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/09/lao-pdr-commits-to-shut-its-commercial-tiger-farms/>

20 <http://www.economist.com/news/international/21696961-first-two-articles-we-look-how-poachers-smugglers-and-lax-law-enforcemen>

21 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/17/revealed-the-laos-market-selling-ivory-carvings-and-medicinal-rh/>

22 [://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Barring-China-other-countries-at-wildlife-convention-in-Joburg-unanimous-on-curbing-tiger-farming-for-trade/articleshow/54703418.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Barring-China-other-countries-at-wildlife-convention-in-Joburg-unanimous-on-curbing-tiger-farming-for-trade/articleshow/54703418.cms)

23 <http://www.whio.com/news/world/laos-promises-phase-out-tiger-farms-conservation-groups/SCHYba3eX0g28NpcMgmfuJ/>

24 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-10/27/c_135785783.htm

25 <https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://famagusta-gazette.com/laos-bolsters-efforts-to-stop-illegal-wildlife-trade-p37076-26>

26 famagusta-gazette.com/laos-bolsters-efforts-to-stop-illegal-wildlife-trade-p37076-26-26-htm&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoSNjA1Mzc5NjMyMzAwNzMwOTQzMhpIM2U1Y2U4MTgyN2QyMmRmOmNvbTplbjpVUw&usg=AFQjCNFsPVh4XODC2eZXzc3MF8hEfXtCug

2017

1 <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-01-10-wildlife-trafficking-the-sordid-connection/#.WHXf3VN96Ko>

2 <http://military-technologies.net/2017/01/12/surge-in-seizures-of-captive-bred-tigers-strengthens-call-for-asia-to-close-all-tiger-farms-by-2019/>

3 <http://www.asiasentinel.com/society/laos-society/gambling-on-chinese-investment-in-laos/>