



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual 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)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2020

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT 040
Project title	Strengthening transcontinental cooperation to combat IWT between Viet Nam and Mozambique
Country/ies	Viet Nam, Mozambique
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Partner institution(s)	Viet Nam Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP), Viet Nam Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Mozambique National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC)
IWT grant value	£339,716
Start/end dates of project	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020
Reporting period (e.g. April 2019-Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2019 – March 2020, Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Hoang Bich Thuy
Project website/blog/social media	None
Report author(s) and date	Hoang Bich Thuy, 30 April, 2020

1. Project summary

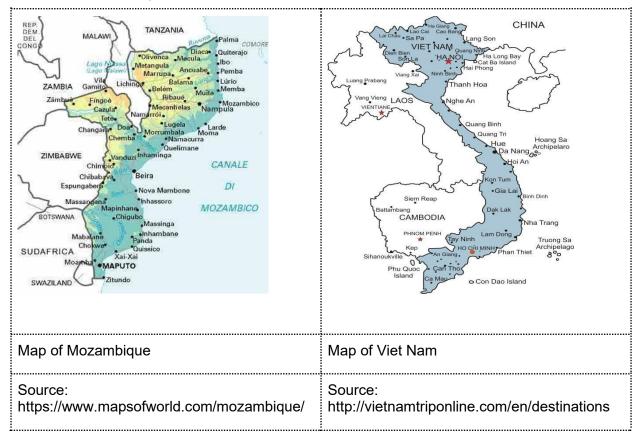
Effective, strategic, intelligence-led enforcement approaches are urgently required to combat wildlife trafficking networks operating between Africa and Asia. Growing Asian demand for rhino horns, elephant ivory, pangolin scales, lion bones, freshwater turtles and tortoises continues to drive poaching pressure on those species across the African continent. Mozambique remains a key country in the global trafficking network for many of these species and represents a crucial entry point for enforcement. Mozambican citizens are heavily involved in the poaching of rhinos in South Africa and elephants in their own country, in cooperation with Vietnamese and Chinese criminal groups, horns and tusks are trafficked by air, road, or sea to neighbouring Tanzania and Asian consumer markets including Viet Nam, Thailand and China.

Despite the high profile that wildlife trafficking now receives at a global level and substantial recent investment in law enforcement cooperation, wildlife trafficking flows remain largely undeterred. Based on the WCS Viet Nam's intelligence database, only 10 people have been

jailed in Viet Nam for rhino horn crimes in the last eight years (2010-2017) despite numerous seizures being made. International mechanisms (e.g. Interpol, World Customs Organization/WCO) and regional support initiatives (e.g. Wildlife Enforcement Networks, Operation Cobra) have provided greater opportunities for coordination between countries but are only as strong as their members, and are hampered by geopolitics and lack of trust between enforcement officers. Memorandum of understanding and bilateral agreements does not automatically lead to reduction of illegal wildlife trade, unless they are translated into enforcement actions in the field, where it is most needed.

Similarly, legal frameworks are insufficient to enable proactive intelligence sharing among different countries; internationally secured communication channels provided by Interpol and WCO are underused; and countries do not plan law enforcement together strategically. To combat organized criminal networks that communicate and cooperate internationally, national agencies must cooperate at similar levels.

Please see the maps of Mozambique and Viet Nam with neighbouring African and Asian countries, respectively.



The project aims to reduce the pressure on rhino species across Africa by strengthening policy and enforcement efforts to combat wildlife trafficking networks in Viet Nam. We aim to generate the political commitment required to implement a strategic wildlife crime prevention program that will reduce consumption and tackle wildlife trafficking networks through effective enforcement actions against major wildlife traffickers. The overall goal of our work is to catalyse judicial and law enforcement processes through increased south-south political coordination, and more effective crime prevention approaches, to significantly curtail the illegal trafficking of wildlife along a major Africa-to-Asia route involving Mozambique and Viet Nam.

2. Project partnerships

The partnership between WCS as the lead organization and partners including the Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP) and Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of Viet Nam and Mozambique National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) has been developed based on the needs

for fostering mutual cooperation of Viet Nam and Mozambique in handling criminal matters; particularly transnational organized crimes.

- The Supreme People's Procuracy of Viet Nam (SPP), which is the equivalent of the Attorney General's Office in Mozambique, supervises prosecution and legal compliance for the government and judiciary of Viet Nam. In this project, the Department of International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance collaborates with Mozambique Attorney General's Office to lead the development of an MLAT and protocols for enforcement cooperation.
- The Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of Viet Nam, specifically Department of Foreign Relations and Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB) will lead the information sharing, especially intelligence on wildlife crime with their counterparts in Mozambique, and initiate the development of a standard operating protocols for sharing information among police and other relevant agencies of the two countries.
- The Mozambique National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) is responsible for managing Mozambique's Conservation Areas and all wildlife throughout the country, including investigating wildlife crime. A recent amendment to the Conservation Law in Mozambique officially gives ANAC a role to investigate wildlife crimes and allows them to bring cases directly to the Prosecution Authority Mozambican Attorney General's Office (PGR), making ANAC the most appropriate government authority to engage with on this project in Mozambique. Their Intelligence and Investigations Department is expected to engage with the Vietnamese liaison officer to exchange criminal information.

During this third year, WCS has gained the following results:

With Viet Nam SPP: In collaboration with the Ha Noi Procuratorate University under Viet Nam SPP and Mozambique PGR, WCS conducted a post training survey with 20 Mozambican and Vietnamese prosecutors who were trained on judicial skills to handle transnational wildlife trafficking cases in March 2019 in Ha Noi with leveraged funds from the US government (the bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs). Responses from all 20 participants showed that after the March 2019 training, 65% of them maintain their contacts with their fellow trainees to share their issue, exchange experience in handling with crimes including wildlife but all the connection was within country. Only a half of the trained participants (50%) involved in working on wildlife-related crimes. Of these people, seven participants (35%) applied the acquired knowledge and skills in handling wildlife cases, which includes cases involving foreigners or transnational trafficking network. One Mozambican prosecutor used what he learned to advise his department in handling a case of a Chinese offender who was sentenced to 15 years in prison.



3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Political commitment for cooperation between Viet Nam and Mozambique to combat IWT is strengthened through legal mechanisms and improved protocols.

Activity 1.2: Secure agreement on MLAT and protocols for enforcement cooperation

This activity has been completed with the MLAT (Mozambique – Viet Nam Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty) on criminal matters signed in December 2018 which was ratified by the President of Viet Nam in July 2019. However, it has been on hold for ratification by the Parliament in Mozambique because of the national selections held in Mozambique in 2019. In a follow-up effort, with leveraged funds from the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the United State's Department of State, WCS facilitated a discussion between Viet Nam's SPP and Mozambique's PGR to organize the first bilateral review meeting in Viet Nam. However, this meeting was delayed twice in November 2019 due to the election for the presidency and National Assembly in Mozambique and in February 2020 because of the impact of COVID-19. At the moment, this meeting is planned in the second half of 2020.

With leveraged resources from INL, starting in September 2019, WCS conducted a post-training survey with 20 Vietnamese and Mozambican prosecutors who were trained together in March 2019 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam as an opportunity to develop relationships between officials of both countries and help foster their bi-lateral cooperation in prosecuting transnational crimes. A set of survey questions (in Vietnamese and Portuguese) was developed and sent to all 20 trained participants via email. A report was included in the Annex 4 with more details (with the file named 1 Report Post training survey VN-MZ Prosecutor). The results showed that six months after the training, 65% of trained prosecutors (13 out of 20 respondents) maintain their contacts including a group chat on WhatsApp, with their fellow trainees to share their issue, exchange experience in handling with crimes including wildlife but all the connection was within country as with language barriers between Viet Nam and Mozambique. Other finding included 50% of them (10 out of 20; nine are Mozambican and one Vietnamese prosecutor) had involved in prosecution process of wildlife cases in their country (ranging from one to 27 cases by a Mozambican trainee) with no transnational cases between Viet Nam and Mozambique. The IWT cases they worked with are mostly in Mozambique and related to hunting and transportation of rhino, elephant, pangolin, tiger, leopard, lion, antelope, marine turtle, shark...with highest sanction of 14 years in prison as per Mozambican law. 80% of respondents (16 out of 20) reported that they had shared what they learned to their colleagues including how the mutual legal assistance works and preparation of a letter of request for mutual legal assistance, engagement of local community in conservation. One Mozambican prosecutor- advised his department in handling a case of a Chinese offender who was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Additionally, taking advantage of an official visit to Mozambique in December 2019 headed by the Minister of the Viet Nam MPS, WCS provided our planned activities and efforts to boost Viet Nam - Mozambique law enforcement cooperation. During that trip (8-10 December 2019), the MPS's minister, on behalf of the President of Viet Nam, and the minister of the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique, signed Treaties on Extradition and Transfer of Sentenced Persons. These two newly signed treaties together with the MLAT, once they are effective, set a comprehensive legal framework for Viet Nam – Mozambique cooperation in criminal justice.

Output 2: Enhanced capacity for cooperative law enforcement actions on IWT between Mozambique and Viet Nam



Output 3: Viet Nam and Mozambique proactively share information and actionable intelligence on African rhino horn and ivory trafficking networks

Activity 3.1: Investigate and collect data on trafficking networks





Output 4: Vietnamese residents in Mozambique perceive a greater risk of partaking in wildlife crimes

Activity 4.1. Conduct KAP survey in Mozambique

As reported in Year 2, WCS planned to conduct an additional KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) survey to verify issues related to illegal consumption and trade of wildlife products within Mozambique. With the VLO in Maputo and getting to know better about the Vietnamese community and their business in Mozambique, starting in September 2019, WCS designed an additional quantitative KAP survey deploying two specialized questioning techniques (SQTs) that are Nominative Technique (NT) and False Consensus Bias (FCB) to overcome possible under-reporting of IWT-related issues and illegal behaviours among the Vietnamese community in Mozambique. The survey instrument with closed-questions was initially developed in English and translated into Vietnamese. It was then piloted and revised during a training with the two experienced consultants and WCS communication team.

In November 2019, in-depth interviews were carried out with a total of 78 Vietnamese citizens living in Maputo, Mozambique. The report was finalized in February 2020 and will be shared with the Vietnamese Embassy in Maputo and Viettel for their subsequent collaboration on mitigation interventions (see detailed report in the Annex 4 - 3_2019 KAP Survey_2_Summary Report). The KAP findings showed that 89% of Vietnamese immigrants in Maputo understand that illegal trading and smuggling of wildlife products, such as rhino horn and elephant ivory is a serious crime. However, with the specialized Nominative Technique, the results showed us that 6.47% of the respondents may have smuggled rhino horn to Viet Nam from Mozambique. This requires a different approach to change their behaviours by addressing factors that facilitate their illegal trade of rhino horns out of Mozambique not just a traditional awareness-raising campaign.

Activity 4.2 Develop a mitigation strategy and intervention development

With the KAP report finalised, WCS has started to discuss on how to apply BCC process to change the behaviour of the Vietnamese community in Mozambique. We are analysing root causes and identifying solutions so that mitigation strategy and behaviour change activities can be developed. We need more time to work on other components of this strategy and its interventions so we have enclosed a request to extend the end date of this project to December 2020 to allow us complete this activity (see enclosed Change Request for review and approval).

Activity 4.3: Develop model zero tolerance policies for wildlife trafficking and gift giving by staff among Vietnamese companies in Mozambique

Findings from both the 2018 and 2019 KAP surveys revealed that there are three branches of Viettel – Viettel Global, Viettel Construction and Movitel having their Vietnamese staff seasonally travel and work in Mozambique. They have developed their own company's policies and regulation on crime prevention, including illegal wildlife trade and punishment levels when committing crimes in light of the legal framework of Viet Nam and Mozambique. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between WCS and Viettel Construction was signed in August 2019 (see Annex 4 for reference - 4a MOU btw Viettel Construction and WCS VN) to outline our cooperation efforts with a press release attached in the Annex 4 with more details (4 Press Release MOU btw Viettel Construction and WCS EN). As updated in our half year report, our on-going work with Viettel Construction's headquarters in Ha Noi included designing a series of learning and communication materials on laws on wildlife protection in Mozambique, Viet Nam and other African countries for staff who will depart to Mozambique and other African and Asian countries, of the risks of partaking in wildlife trafficking. Viettel Construction provided in cash and in-kind contribution to deliver this training and awareness raising and disseminate to all staff through their internal communication channels (see Annex 4 for reference on infographics on wildlife related legislation of Viettel Construction talking about wildlife protection – 5a, 5b). They reportedly have strict policies to punish staff who violate concerned laws including employment termination. However, these policies have not yet been shared with WCS because they are considered to be their institutional and internal documents. Movitel could share with us their letter of commitment from staff who will receive different levels of punishment if violating laws of Mozambique and Viet Nam, including termination of employment (see details in the Annex 4 – 6 Letter of commitment Movitel VN with EN translation).

In recent months, WCS explored the possibility to reach out and improve the internal policies with the above and other Vietnamese companies operating in Mozambique, working through the Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) of the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) - a national overarching organisation that leads business in corporate social responsibility and advises Viet Nam government on development of the business sector, and thus has significant leverage. We had several meetings with the VBCSD to understand the Council and how it operates; in order to build cooperation we provided inputs to a review of the current legal frameworks and policy related to biodiversity and wildlife protection, in order to revise the Corporate Sustainable index (CSI) with more indications on governance and environment protection. However, following these initial meetings and review of the CSI (see more detailed meeting minutes and review report in the Annex 4 – 7a, 7b and 7c), we concluded that it would not be possible to adequately target companies and Vietnamese citizens working and living in Mozambique through this mechanism (see section 3.2. below).

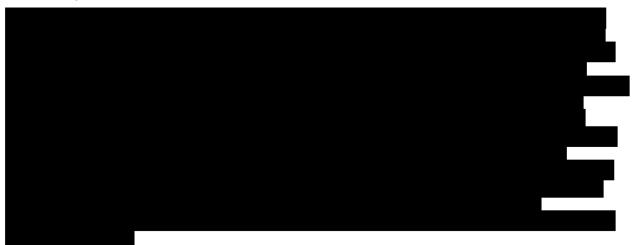
3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Political commitment for cooperation between Viet Nam and Mozambique to combat IWT is strengthened through legal mechanisms and improved protocols.

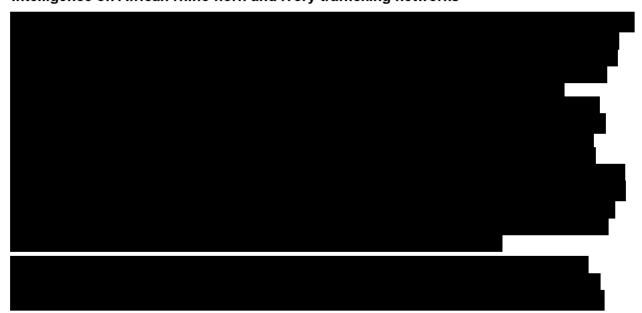
Overall, there is greater political commitment today on criminal justice cooperation between Mozambique and Viet Nam than there was when this project started; but this is yet to lead to any significant impact on people trafficking wildlife between the two countries. Viet Nam has ratified the signed MLAT on 3 July 2019 and it has been waiting to be ratified by Mozambique government, this is a direct result of this projects support. We are uncertain if the MLAT will be ratified in Mozambique before the end of the project especially due to the impact of COVID-19 . To date, no IWT cases have been requested through the mutual legal assistance mechanism but through the system of Interpol NCBs and have failed to get an adequate response.

The two countries have continued to undertake joint-training of prosecutors in March 2019 and police (the latter was delayed due to the impact of COVID-19) and plans were in motion on a bilateral meeting to discuss cooperation. In addition, Viet Nam sent a high-level delegation led by the Minister of Public Security to Mozambique in December 2019. All of these activities have set the framework at the ground level for cooperation. However, Mozambican and Vietnamese police officers and ANAC are not yet directly sharing information on wildlife crime cases, and have not developed any enhanced protocols for communications past the existing system of Interpol NCBs.

Output 2: Enhanced capacity for cooperative law enforcement actions on IWT between Mozambique and Viet Nam



Output 3: Viet Nam and Mozambique proactively share information and actionable intelligence on African rhino horn and ivory trafficking networks





Output 4: Vietnamese residents in Mozambique perceive a greater risk in partaking in wildlife crimes

Because the additional KAP survey has not been completed until February 2020 so we are still in the design phase of a mitigation strategy and interventions towards increasing risk perception of partaking in wildlife crime. According to our both 2018 and 2019 KAP surveys, Vietnamese residents in Mozambique have quite good understanding, as high as 89.61%, on illegal trading and smuggling of wildlife products, such as rhino horn and elephant ivory is a serious crime, and illegal transporting of these products could lead to monetary fines and imprisonment. It will be really hard if not impossible to increase more awareness. We'd rather design behaviour change intervention to increase risk perception of wildlife trafficking than traditional awareness raising campaign. We will request to extend our project end date to December 30, 2020 to give us more time to complete these behaviour change interventions and will monitor their increase of awareness and perceived risk of wildlife trafficking. We will update in the upcoming report on this indicator 4.1. regarding awareness and perceived risk of wildlife trafficking increases by at least 50%.

In this Year 3, WCS did not have any awareness raising activities in Maputo. However, if we are allowed to extend the end date of the project to December 30, 2020, we will have enough time to execute behaviour change interventions in coordination and cooperation with related Mozambique government agencies such as ANAC, National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC), PGR and Ministry of Interior as appropriate. We will either integrate into the embassy's gathering events and/or organize separate events to raise their awareness on updated wildlife laws and regulation and risks of partaking wildlife crimes. Thus, the indicator 4.2 (75% of the Vietnamese community in Mozambique has participated in awareness-raising activities (baseline = 0%) will be monitored along our intervention implementation.

As mentioned above, Viettel Global, Movitel and Viettel Construction have their own companies' policies and internal regulation on crime prevention, including illegal wildlife trade in which severe punishment as termination of employment if a staff committed a wildlife crime. If this is the case, then these companies already have zero tolerance policies in place and indicator 4.3 may already partially be achieved. We have requested a copy of their policies and internal regulations for verification but they only shared with us the staff's commitment letter. It appears to us that at this time, wildlife-related issues/policy is not viewed as a priority by the management and communication department of Viettel with whom we cooperate, thus it is not likely we will achieve the public enactment of a zero tolerance policy for wildlife trafficking and gift giving with Viettel by the end of the project.

In this period, as reported in section 3.1 we explored the possibility of reaching to other companies operating in Mozambique, through the Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD), which is developing corporate sustainability standards for Vietnamese businesses. However, following initial meetings and reviews, we determined we would not be able to target Vietnamese businesses operating in Mozambique through this mechanism, so work with VBCSD will not be continued.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Our first outcome indicator 0.1 seeks to increase the number of arrests and convictions for wildlife trafficking between Mozambique and Viet Nam from five to 10 by the end of the project.



The last indicator 0.3 focuses on how the CITES Standing Committee, and IUCN Specialist Group judge the progress in enforcement cooperation between Mozambique and Viet Nam. At CITES CoP18, the IUCN/SSC Rhino Specialist Group reported that there was evidence that Vietnamese-led transnational criminal syndicates are still heavily engaged in the trafficking of South African-sourced rhino horn in Mozambique. The report stated that the joint action plan between Viet Nam and Mozambique had not been realized and there was continued need for strengthened cooperation and efforts from Vietnam. At CoP18 there were growing calls for Viet Nam to face a CITES trade suspension.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumptions	Comments
Outcome	
	The reshuffling and reform within the MPS affected our ability to deploy a police attaché as planned in Year 1.
	Moving to the Year 4 of the project, with the local CWT coordinator based in WCS Mozambique, travel restrictions as results of

Assumptions	Comments
	COVID-19 pandemic, there will be some impact on our data collection activities on IWT in Mozambique which may also lead to less enforcement actions from both countries.
(ii) WCS maintains itself as a credible, loyal and trusted partner with the Vietnamese and Mozambique government agencies in the field of conservation, and continues to cooperate with a range of agencies at multiple levels.	Still holds true: With the restructure and staff changes of the Viet Nam MPS, it took more than a year for WCS to get more understanding of the interest and priority of their new leadership and start to build up new partnership in order to gain trust and openly share IWT information. In addition, WCS has been maintaining our good relationship with other government partners including Viet Nam SPP and Mozambique ANAC and PGR.
(iv) Political and economic relationships between Viet Nam and Mozambique continue to develop positively	Still holds true: A Vietnamese high-rank delegation headed by the Minister of the MPS to Mozambique in December 2019 showed political support and long-term collaboration between Mozambique and Viet Nam not only in economic development, education but also in tackling transnational crimes in general and wildlife crimes in specific.
	Viet Nam continues to also improve its legal framework to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking in the past three years however it has yet to deliver on its commitments on cases of arrests, prosecuted and convicted.
Outputs	

Assumptions	Comments
i) SPP, MPS, ANAC and the Attorney-General's office in Viet Nam and Mozambique continue to support collaboration with WCS on IWT issues and maintain commitment to furthering bi-lateral enforcement cooperation	Still holds true: WCS worked closely with Ha Noi Procuratorate University (under the Viet Nam SPP) and Mozambique PGR to conduct a post-training survey to follow up with trained Vietnamese and Mozambican prosecutors on how they put in practice what they have learned in the March 2019 joint training and discussed future support. More capacity building activities will be supported by other leveraged funds.
	Bilateral cooperation seems going well in meeting and signed documents.
(ii) The Vietnamese embassy and corporations in Mozambique continue to be supportive to IWT issues and collaboration with WCS	Still holds true: Vietnamese Embassy in Mozambique are still supportive to WCS's project activities including the completion of an additional KAP survey in November 2019. Viettel companies were involved in both KAP
	surveys but they less interested in CWT policy development compared to their other for profit priority so we attempted to reach out to more companies through VCCI, which we determined would not be feasible.
(iii) The Viet Nam MPS continues its plan for wider deployment of police attachés globally and Mozambique remains a pilot case.	To date, WCS is not aware of any further actions from the Viet Nam MPS on deploying police attachés in African countries to address transnational crime prevention.
(iv) Vietnamese people and businesses continue to work and visit Mozambique	Still holds true: In a Viet Nam – Mozambique business forum hosted by Viet Nam Embassy in Mozambique, in June 2019, Júlio João Pio - Mozambique Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade highly appreciated the recent progress in bilateral relations including the effective investment of Movitel - Viettel's joint venture with over US \$ in the locality. [Link]
	In 2019, service revenue of Movitel is estimated at nearly an increase of more than 20% - approximately 10 times compared to 2018. [Link]

Assumptions	Comments
	In 2019, Movitel was selected as a partner of the World Bank (WB) in a project worth US dollars to improve the quality of life and financial access for the poor in rural and remote areas in Mozambique [Link]
	The number of Vietnamese in Mozambique has increased rapidly in recent years from 60 (2009) to 500 (2013), and as reported in April 2019, fluctuates in the population of about 300 people residing in 11 provinces and cities of Mozambique. [Link]
(v) Vietnamese residents in Mozambique continue to be open to participating in events organised by the Vietnamese embassy	Still holds true: Vietnamese community are always willing to join events organized by Vietnamese embassy. So upcoming activities to increase risk perception with Vietnamese community will be in collaboration with the Mozambique government agencies including ANAC, National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC), PGR and Ministry of Interior as relevant.

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

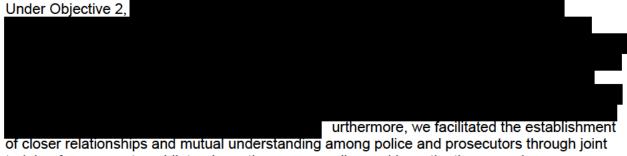
Project impact: Reduced poaching of wild populations of rhinoceros and elephant in Southern and East Africa through disruption of trans-continental wildlife trafficking networks.

The project has helped to put in place significant measures that facilitate greater bi-lateral collaboration between Viet Nam and Mozambique to combat wildlife trafficking networks.



4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

Overall, this project is working to support two main IWT Challenge Fund objectives number 2) Strengthening law enforcement and 3) Ensuring effective legal frameworks.



of closer relationships and mutual understanding among police and prosecutors through joint training for prosecutors, bilateral meeting among police and investigation agencies.

Under Objective 3, building on the previous IWT grant, WCS facilitated the signing of the MLAT between Viet Nam and Mozambique in 2018, which lays out a formal foundation for bilateral collaboration to tackle transnational crimes. A draft mechanism of collaboration developed in Jan 2019 between police and investigation agencies in Viet Nam and Mozambique strengthen trust and intelligence sharing for collaboration on IWT case detection, seizures and arrest.

5. Impact on species in focus

The project aims to reduce pressure on African elephant, black and white rhino species across Africa by strengthening policy and enforcement efforts to identify key IWT traders and networks in and to Viet Nam.

Reports on both Rhinoceroses and Elephant at CITES CoP18 (CoP18 Doc. 83.1, and Doc. 69.5) indicate that the poaching rate for both taxa is slowing. The way these data are compiled and analysed means it is not possible to attribute this to any particular reason. It could be reduced poaching, reduced reporting of carcasses, or that poaching is spreading to countries who are not reporting accurately. These reports highlighted that Viet Nam was one of the most heavily implicated countries in global ivory trafficking supply chains, with more seizures routing to and through Vietnam than any other country.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project aims to strengthen cooperation and address illegal wildlife trade from Mozambique to Viet Nam. We hope that with disruption of IWT network, there will be no supply of wildlife product then reduce the pressure on illegal poaching and hunting of endangered species in the sources countries including Mozambique so that it will help reduce the negative impacts onto the livelihood of African people, with a high number as female who lives on well-known ecotourism and livestock production in a rich bio-diversified environment. Transnational crimes facilitate illegal armed forces threatening the lives of community living in the areas and along the routes where poaching and trafficking of wildlife operate.

In the past three years, WCS has strengthened capacity of state enforcement and judicial institutions in Mozambique and Vietnam, supported legal revision including the 2017 Viet Nam Penal Code and other guiding decrees and circulars on punishment including criminal and administrative sanction for law enforcement agencies to follow that provide clear guidance for prosecution and conviction. We also track enforcement responses through IWT cases detected along Africa – Asia networks to hold agencies accountable to taking action.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Our work in this project which is to strengthen the cooperation Viet Nam and Mozambique to address transnational wildlife trafficking might not have direct effects on gender equality but

throughout our project implementation, WCS has been trying to recognize the gender issue from the stage of designing activities. WCS continued to encourage the equal opportunities for women and men to access to resources and capacity building opportunities provided throughout this project. In measuring relevant outputs, the collection of gender disaggregated data was consistently done to help us monitor and adjust gender dimensions in each activity accordingly. In this Year 3, a positive progress to promote the gender equality is clearly seen by the number of female participants involved in the survey was increased up to 29.4% in 2019 KAP survey while there were only 6.5% female informants in 2018-online survey. In this year, the post-training survey was also completed with all the participants including 70% of them are female.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Internally, WCS develops quarterly and monthly workplans that incorporate the targets and reporting indicators from all grants so that staff are well aware of our expected outputs and outcome when planning interventions. When organizing any activities, an activity outline was developed with M&E indicators and communication plan as well to ensure alignment. When that activity is completed, we have a report to highlight outputs that we achieve and monitor afterwards against the indicators from each project, and direct evidence from implementation is gathered. Together with the office of WCS Mozambique, WCS Viet Nam and the regional team had quarterly review meetings to review our achievement, discuss challenges and brainstorm solutions and review progress towards meeting the indicators set in the M&E matrix.



We monitor CITES documents and IUCN Specialist Group reports related to Vietnam to measure progress towards indicator 0.3

Output 1: The signed MLAT forms the evidence for indicator 1.1 and ratification is monitored qualitatively through regular conversations with SPP and PGR in both countries.

Output 2: Activity reports of the VLO enabled us to monitor progress towards indicator 2.1. Indicator 2.2 is measured through regular conversations with law enforcement partners in Viet Nam and Mozambique to determine the number of cooperative actions taken.

and similarly, the number of criminal cases initiated is monitored and cross-checked through conversations with government partners and WCS offices. We also monitor through daily scanning of media on IWT and CWT actions not only in Viet Nam but also incidents happened in Asia and Africa – Asia connections.

Output 4: The KAP surveys are the main tool with which we monitor awareness and perceptions of Vietnamese residents in Mozambique. Their participation in awareness-raising activities will be monitored through pre and post tests and attendance tracking. Indicator 4.3 is monitored through zero tolerance corporate policies that WCS get a copy; although Viettel companies (Global, Construction and Movitel) has reported they have strict policies in place, we have not been able to monitor this as they are unwilling to share this policy publicly.

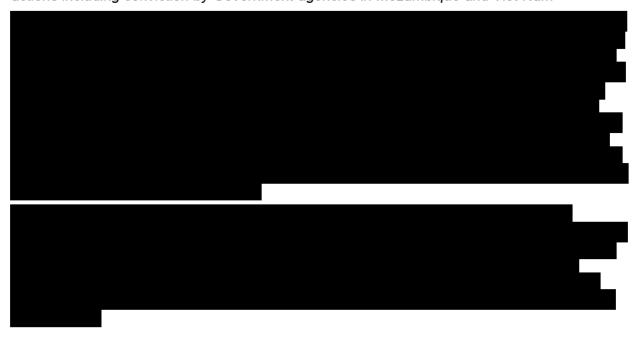
Lessons learnt

Diversified working approaches with Vietnamese community and companies in Mozambique In our project proposal, WCS planned to work with Vietnamese community living and traveling to Mozambique and Vietnamese companies operating in Mozambique to increase their risk perception in partaking in wildlife crimes (see details in Activity 4.3).

During the 2018 KAP surveys, we found that there were few companies including Viettel Global (including Movitel branch) and Viettel Construction, Long Viet cashew nut import export company) brought their Vietnamese workers seasonally to Mozambique. Very few numbers of students and other travellers in Mozambique so interventions could be done in both Viet Nam to reach out to their headquarters and in Mozambique to reach out to these communities. In the last three years, WCS has done sufficient awareness raising activities on IWT including posters and pamphlets dissemination to Vietnamese residents in Mozambique, sending text messages on IWT and punishment levels by Viet Nam and Mozambique Governments to Vietnamese phone numbers living and travelling to Mozambique, and speeches during gathering events by the Viet Nam Embassy in Maputo.

In addition, our 2019 KAP Survey revealed that a majority of the respondents worked for Viettel Global, Movitel and Viettel Construction are well aware of the company's policy on crimes, including illegal wildlife trade. WCS also provided additional presentation on legal updates to their pre-departure training for staff. These companies have strict punishment on staff who violate relevant laws including termination of employment. As explained in the above section, it seemed the management and communication department of Viettel construction were not interested to work with us to make revision on specific wildlife crimes or an additional zero tolerance policy on IWT. WCS decided to explore the possibility of reaching more enterprises and companies who operate in Mozambique through the network of the VCCI by working with VBCSD to improve the Corporate Sustainable index (CSI) that incorporate principles, policies, activities related to wildlife and biodiversity protection. To build opportunities for cooperation, we contributed to a review report on the current legal frameworks and policy related to biodiversity and wildlife protection, in order to revise the Corporate Sustainable index (CSI). However based on these meetings and a better understanding of the Council and the CSI, we determined that we would not be able to directly target companies operating in Mozambique, thus working with VCCI would not help us to fully achieve output 4.

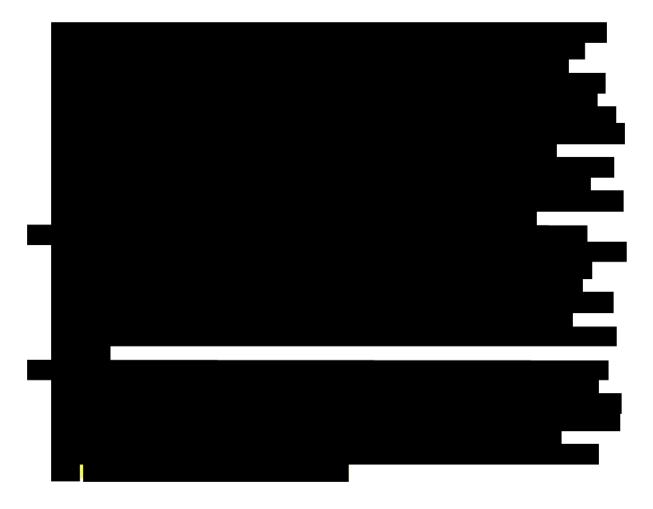
It takes time and huge efforts to realize actions from intelligence sharing to taking enforcement actions including conviction by Government agencies in Mozambique and Viet Nam



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

Yes, we responses all comments on our Year 2 Annual Report in this annual report including:

1. Use the correct template of IWT Challenge Fund Annual Report: yes, we are following the IWT Challenge Fund Annual Report template



11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

With the vast impacts of COVID-19 globally, our project activities in Viet Nam were delayed in February to April 2020 so far due to the travel restriction, social distancing regulation from the Government of Viet Nam. With staff and local partners working from distance, WCS had to change some of face-to-face meeting and workshops to more online and written consultation and review meeting. However, WCS could not travel to hotspot provinces and to Mozambique to monitor and collect data on illegal wildlife and meet up with local partners for cases follow up. With businesses are back in late April and early May, we hope to catch up our delayed activities and resume our planned activities with local partners who also need to speed up their workplan implementation. We propose with an enclosed change request to have a 6 month no cost extension to December 30, 2020 so that we can complete our remaining activities, especially those outputs 4.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The dynamic nature of organised wildlife crime requires a similarly dynamic response of governments and civil society. This project is therefore unlikely to ever reach an 'endpoint,' although the threat of poaching can be significantly reduced with effective enforcement that targets both criminal networks and weak and/or corrupt enforcement officers involved in wildlife trade. However, by working closely with relevant government agencies in both Viet Nam and Mozambique, once being ratified, the signed MLAT will be an official and legal instrument to combat transnational wildlife crimes, we hope to have more cases detected and handled between Viet Nam and Mozambique law enforcement agencies in timely manner. New MLAT with other African countries can be supported to develop upon the priority and lesson learned of the Viet Nam SPP and available support from WCS in the future.

WCS will continue to

wildlife trafficking well into the future.

Our planned exit strategy still works at the time of writing this report.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

WCS has been framing activities as those of our key partners including Viet Nam SPP, MPS and VBCSD with technical support from WCS and funding from the UK Government through IWT Challenge Fund. UKAid Logo and IWT Challenge Fund appear on all visual communications, including printed handouts, event backdrops, speeches, press releases and reports to recognize UK Government as the donor of this project. (See sample branding in the Annex 4 – 4, 5a, 5b)

14. Safeguarding

All trustees, officers, employees, volunteers, interns, externs and fellows of WCS worldwide and WCS Viet Nam have been following a set of institutional policies and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, donor requirements and best practices. Our WCS Code of Conduct requires compliance with a set of principles and organizational policies including safeguarding human rights, combatting human trafficking, respect in the workplace and protection of whistle-blowers.



15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2019-March 2020)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	Gr	9/20 ant £)	Total	019/20 actual costs (£)	Variance %	e Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	£					
Consultancy costs	£					
Overhead Costs	£					

Travel and subsistence	£			
Operating Costs	£			
Capital items (see below)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Others (see below)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TOTAL	£			

In Feb 2020, WCS has sent a request to carry over the unspent budget of Year 3 to Year 4 due to impact of COVID-19. Specifically, we requested to reallocate the amount of £ to Year 4 and therefore total budget of Year 3 is finalized at a three total budget of Year 3 is finalized at the confirmed by Darwin in March 2019.

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

N/A

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Reduced poaching of wild populations and East Africa through disruption of tr networks.		Better understand the dynamic of Vietnamese community and identify suspected traders and networks between Viet Nam and Mozambique	
Outcome By catalysing judicial and law enforcement processes through the establishment of intelligence-led policing, increased south-south political coordination, and greater compliance amongst overseas Vietnamese communities, the illegal trafficking of wildlife along a major Africa-to-Asia route involving Mozambique and Viet Nam is significantly and demonstrably curtailed.	 0.1 By the end of Y3 the number of people arrested and convicted for wildlife trafficking between Mozambique and Viet Nam has at least doubled from the 2015 baseline of 5 to at least 10 0.2 By the end of Y3 criminal networks trafficking wildlife between Mozambique and Viet Nam show signs of disruption and degradation (e.g. Reduced criminal activity, key individuals prevented from operating, new routes being established, network 'collapse') resulting in lower activity 0.3 By the end of Y3, the reports submitted by government agencies, relevant international organizations and NGOs to the CITES Standing 	03. By the end of Y3, the reports from Viet Nam Government agencies were send to 71st and 72nd meeting of the CITES with the progress in enforcement cooperation made between Mozambique and Vietnam. However, NGOs, CITES/IUCN-SSC are in consensus that there hasn't been enough progress and that Viet Nam and	With extension of the project end date, WCS will be able to monitor and report on the Viet Nam – Mozambique taking enforcement actions and report to the 73 rd Standing Committee meeting.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period	
	Committee and IUCN Specialist Group are in consensus that progress in enforcement cooperation is being made between Mozambique and Vietnam.	Mozambique are not yet doing enough.		
Output 1. Political commitment for cooperation between Viet Nam and Mozambique to combat IWT is strengthened through legal mechanisms and improved protocols. 1.1 By the end of Y3, an MLAT between Viet Nam and Mozambique has been enacted (baseline = agreement on MLAT development in place, no further actions to date)		1.1. MLAT between Viet Nam and Mozambique was officially ratified by Vietnamese President in July 2019. Ratification by Mozambique has been on hold.		
	1.2 By the end of Y2, communication and bilateral information/intelligence sharing protocols are developed and agreed upon (baseline = no SOPs or formal protocols exist)	Indicator may change by the end of the project upon the actual need of the		
Activity 1.1 Prepare draft MLAT and So	OPs with Vietnamese agencies	Completed.		
Activity 1.2. Secure agreement on MLA cooperation	AT and protocols for enforcement	Ongoing progress		
Output 2. Enhanced capacity for cooperative law enforcement actions on IWT between Mozambique and Vietnam	2.1.			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		Completed	
		Completed	
		Completed	
Output 3. Viet Nam and Mozambique proactively share information and actionable intelligence on African rhino horn and ivory trafficking networks			
Activity 3.1. Investigate and collect dat	a on trafficking networks	On-going	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period	
4. Vietnamese residents in Mozambique perceive a greater risk in partaking in wildlife crimes 4.1. Among Vietnamese people living and travelling to Mozambique, awareness and perceived risk of wildlife trafficking increases by at least 50% between Y1 and the end of Y3		4.1. No progress in this Year 3. Mitigation interventions are being designed. We need a no cost extension to run and monitor these activities to raise awareness and perceived risk of wildlife trafficking among Vietnamese citizens working and living in Mozambique.		
	4.2 By the end of Y3, 75% of the Vietnamese community in Mozambique has participated in awareness-raising activities (baseline = 0%) 4.2. No awareness raising activity by WCS the Vietnamese community in Mozambique raising activities hosted by WCS and the With the 6-month extension of the project, the 4.1) in our upcoming mitigation activities Mozambique.		oique well attended in awareness ne Vietnamese Embassy in Maputo. ect, we will monitor this indicator (and	
	4.3. By the end of Y3, at least one major Vietnamese corporation in Mozambique has publicly enacted a zero-tolerance policy for wildlife trafficking and gift giving by staff (baseline = 0)	4.3. By the end of Y3, Viettel Global, Movitel and Viettel Construction no		
Activity 4.1 Conduct KAP survey in Mozambique		Completed with two KAP surveys, one in 2018 and one in 2019		
Activity 4.2 Develop a mitigation strategy and intervention development		Ongoing upon the KAP survey results	Finalize a mitigation strategy and intervention plan. Work with the relevant government agencies in Mozambique such as ANAC, National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC), PGR and Ministry of Interor as appropriate to execute and engage staff from Viettel Global,	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
			Movitel and Viettel Construction for co-implementation, where possible.
Activity 4.3 Develop model zero to gift-giving by staff among Vietnam	lerance policies for wildlife trafficking and ese companies in Mozambique	Completed. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between WCS and Viettel Construction was signed in August 2019. WCS has been working with the training and communication department of Viettel Construction to design a series of learning and communication materials (including infographics on wildlife related legislation) to educate and increase awareness of their staff, especially those who will be sent to the sites in other African and Asian countries, of the risks of partaking in wildlife trafficking. Viettel reportedly has strong internal policies and regulations in place including punishment for involvement in wildlife crimes. Tested the possibility of reaching out to Viettel and other companies operating in Mozambique through VCCI but it was not feasible.	

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Reduced poaching of wild popula networks	tions of rhinoceros and elephant in Souther	n and East Africa through disruption of tr	ans-continental wildlife trafficking
Outcome: By catalysing judicial and law enforcement processes through the establishment of intelligence-led policing, increased south-south political coordination, and greater compliance	0.1 By the end of Y3 the number of people arrested and convicted for wildlife trafficking between Mozambique and Viet Nam has at least doubled from the 2015 baseline of 5 to at least 10	0.1. Law enforcement reports to CITES-SC, Viet Nam WEN	(i) Re-shuffling of central government level officers does not have negative impacts on project implementation.
amongst overseas Vietnamese communities, the illegal trafficking of wildlife along a major Africa-to-Asia route involving Mozambique and Viet Nam is significantly and demonstrably curtailed.	0.2 By the end of Y3 criminal networks trafficking wildlife between Mozambique and Viet Nam show signs of disruption and degradation (e.g. Reduced criminal activity, key individuals prevented from operating, new routes being established, network 'collapse') resulting in lower	0.3 CITES Standing Committee documents/proceedings	(ii) WCS maintains itself as a credible, loyal and trusted partner with the Vietnamese and Mozambique government agencies in the field of conservation, and continues to cooperate with a range of agencies at multiple levels.
	0.3 By the end of Y3, the reports		(iii) Corruption and inefficiency of law enforcement officers and the judiciary does not prevent effective enforcement
	submitted by government agencies, relevant international organizations and NGOs to the CITES Standing Committee and IUCN Specialist Group are in consensus that progress in enforcement cooperation is being made between Mozambique and Vietnam.		(iv) Political and economic relationships between Viet Nam and Mozambique continue to develop positively
Outputs: 1. Political commitment for cooperation between Viet Nam and Mozambique to combat IWT is strengthened through	1.1 By the end of Y3, an MLAT between Viet Nam and Mozambique has been enacted (baseline = agreement on MLAT development in place, no further actions to date)	1.1 Signed MLAT 1.2 Viet Nam WEN meeting minutes	(i) SPP, MPS, ANAC and the Attorney-General's office in Viet Nam and Mozambique continue to support collaboration with WCS on IWT issues and maintain commitment to

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
legal mechanisms and improved protocols.	1.2 By the end of Y2, communication and bilateral information/intelligence sharing protocols are developed and agreed upon (baseline = no SOPs or formal protocols exist)		furthering bi-lateral enforcement cooperation (ii) The Vietnamese embassy and corporations in Mozambique continue to be supportive to IWT issues and
2. Enhanced capacity for cooperative law enforcement actions on IWT between Mozambique and Vietnam	2.2 By the end of Y3, cooperative law enforcement actions between Viet Nam and Mozambique have increased from a baseline of 0 to at least 5.	2.2. Law enforcement agency reports to Viet Nam WEN and CITES Standing Committee	(iv) Vietnamese people and businesses continue to work and visit Mozambique (v) Vietnamese residents in Mozambique continue to be open to participating in events organised by the Vietnamese embassy
3. Viet Nam and Mozambique proactively share information and actionable intelligence on African rhino horn and ivory trafficking networks		3.1 Law enforcement agency reports to CITES SC/Viet Nam WEN	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Vietnamese residents in Mozambique perceive a greater risk in partaking in wildlife crimes	4.1. Among Vietnamese people living and travelling to Mozambique, awareness and perceived risk of wildlife trafficking increases by at least 50% between Y1 and the end of Y3	4.1. Knowledge, Attitude and Practices research report 4.2. WCS Activity reports	
	4.2 By the end of Y3, 75% of the Vietnamese community in Mozambique has participated in awareness-raising activities (baseline = 0%)	4.3 Published corporate policies	
	4.3. By the end of Y3, at least one major Vietnamese corporation in Mozambique has publicly enacted a zero-tolerance policy for wildlife trafficking and gift giving by staff (baseline = 0)		

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

1.1. Prepare draft MLAT and SOPs with Vietnamese agencies

WCS will provide technical and financial support to the Department of International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance (Supreme People's Procuracy) to organize a series of consultancy meetings in Ha Noi for representatives from SPP, MPS (Departments of International Cooperation, Anti-smuggling Police, Environment and Economic Crime police), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affair and the CITES Management Authority to gather recommendations and to finalise drafts of the MLAT and SOPs for joint-enforcement operations.

1.2. Secure agreement on MLAT and protocols for enforcement cooperation

WCS will support a joint-agency 5-day mission to Mozambique for WCS, the Supreme People's Procuracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President to meet with counterpart agencies in Maputo including the Prosecutor General's office, ANAC and Ministry of Interior to negotiate and finalise the MLAT and SOPs. WCS Mozambique Program will support the Prosecutor General's office to prepare for this trip.

2.2. Conduct bilateral meeting

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
We will provide technical and financial support for a formal meeting with participants from the Ministry of Interior and ANAC to finalise the deployment plan. The selected liaison officer will have sufficient orientation training by WCS to understand the criminal context in Mozambique, African – Asia illegal trade networks and build relationships with law enforcement partners in Mozambique.			
	_		_

4.1. Conduct KAP survey in Mozambique

In cooperation with the Viet Nam Embassy in Maputo, WCS and a KAP survey expert will carry out interviews with over 500 Vietnamese people living in Mozambique. Furthermore, focus groups in-depth interviews (e.g. travel industry, state-owned enterprise leaders, and Vietnamese community leaders) will be carried out to fully understand the demographics, transience and Knowledge-Attitude-and Perceptions of Vietnamese citizens in Mozambique to IWT issues.

4.2. Develop a mitigation strategy and intervention development

Based on the results from the KAP survey, WCS will coordinate informal and formal consultancy meetings with relevant agencies including MPS, CITES MA, MOFA and the Viet Nam Embassy in Mozambique to develop a mitigation strategy and interventions including online/offline tactics to increase perceived risks of law enforcement and build support within these communities, especially focussing on key groups such as the travel industry, state-owned enterprise leaders, and Vietnamese community leaders.

4.3. Develop model zero tolerance policies for wildlife trafficking and gift giving by staff among Vietnamese companies in Mozambique

Currently, WCS is working with Viettel Group on a Short Message Service program for Vietnamese communities in Mozambique and pre-deployment briefing packs to Vietnamese staff. Through this proposed project, we will extend our activities for the mitigation strategy and intervention to Vietnamese communities in Mozambique. WCS and the Viet Nam Embassy in Mozambique will select key Vietnamese enterprises in Mozambique to support the development of zero tolerance policies for wildlife trafficking and gift giving by staff. These policies will first be adopted by the Viettel Group.

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

<u>Link</u> to the following materials:

- 1 Report Post training survey VN-MA Prosecutors EN
- 2 Alerts and bulletins UfW-TT EN
- 3 2019 KAP Survey Summary report EN
- 4a MOU btw Viettel Construction and WCS VN
- 4b Press Release MOU btw Viettel Construction and WCS EN
- 5a Infographic Species VN
- 5b_Infographic_IWT Law_VN
- 6 Letter of commitment Movitel VN with EN translation
- 7a VCCI-VBCSD First technical meeting minutes EN
- 7b VCCI-VBCSD Second technical meeting minutes EN
- 7c VCCI VBCSD Legal Review Report Draft VN
- 8. IWT Newsletter March 2020 'The Price of a Life' (see highlighted activities of this project on page 14-15)

Checklist for submission:

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to https://www.iww.iww.iwu.number-in-the-subject-line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with lWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
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.	Yes
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. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	No
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	1