#### CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Project Title:	Analyzing trade dynamics and catalysing enforcement responses towards eliminating the illegal trade in CEPF priority species in Southern Vietnam
Date of Report:	28 <sup>th</sup> July, 2013
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**CEPF Region:** Indochina (Indo-Burma)

#### **Strategic Direction:**

- 1.1 Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade
- 3.3 Conduct targeted outreach and awareness-raising for decision-makers, journalists and lawyers

Grant Amount: \$18,998 USD

Project Dates: From 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- The joint-agency briefing on wildlife crimes and the 1<sup>st</sup> national roundtable meeting on the online trade in wildlife in Vietnam were co-hosted by the Vietnam CITES Management Authority (CITES MA), and had participation from all relevant law enforcement agencies from the HCMC Metropolitan area.
- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of Dong Nai, as a
  representative to the Provincial People's Committee of Dong Nai, co-hosted the high-level
  government briefing in collaboration with WCS in June 2013 and have since committed to an
  ongoing series of activities.
- The Ho Chi Minh City-based student-run civil society organization, Action for Wildlife Organization (AWO) co-organized training workshops and provided volunteers under its network for the illegal wildlife trade surveys conducted in this project. The AWO consists of about 100 active members (of over 2000 registered members), and is committed to active approaches to wildlife conservation. Under the leadership of Nguyen Thanh Hung, and the slogan "from thinking to acting", they have been working (without official registration) since 2010 to 'promote voluntary work for wildlife protection', particularly the monitoring of retailers selling wildlife, and 'raising awareness of wildlife conservation issues in the community'. With leveraged funding, the AWO has become involved in many of WCS' Southern Vietnam projects, and has become a prominent partner for WCS Vietnam.

# **Conservation Impacts**

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The capacity-building workshops and meetings with local stakeholders, including local civil society groups and government agencies, and the provision of accurate information and detailed analysis of the illegal trade dynamics provided through this project contributes to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile by improving law enforcement and increasing political awareness and commitment of the illegal wildlife trade in CEPF priority species in the major wildlife trade and demand hub of the Ho Chi Minh Metropolitan Area (HCMMA) defined as Bien Hoa City (Dong Nai province), Thu Dau Mot town (Binh Duong province) and Ho Chi Minh City).

Component 1. Collect information on the illegal wildlife trade, and provide accurate and detailed analysis of illegal trade dynamics in CEPF priority and other endangered species in the HCMMA

#### Expected results:

- Development of research methods to gather reliable and accurate information on the illegal wildlife trade in the HCMMA
- Analysis of data collected from surveys and wildlife trade violation records on the scale, dynamics of the illegal trade in endangered species, and law enforcement implementation effectiveness in the HCMMA

#### Actual results:

Over the last two years, WCS has developed and applied different survey methods to generate accurate data on the scale and dynamics of the illegal trade in wildlife in the HCMMA. We have piloted these methods and generated a set of data that will serve as our baseline for future comparisons and to guide the development of a Wildlife Crime and Enforcement Monitoring Tool currently under development. This has included the following surveys:

• Survey into the online trade of wildlife

To assess the scale and dynamics of the trade occurring online, an area receiving almost no attention to date, we first identified a number of key questions for our survey to answer:

- 1. What websites are most implicated in illegal wildlife trade?
- 2. What species are being traded, and in what quantities?
- 3. Where is the traded wildlife being sourced from?
- 4. How are these transactions completed?

We then developed a standardized methodology for the survey. By applying online database searches with keywords (in Vietnamese), such as 'buy', 'trade', 'treatment', 'traditional medicine', 'farm', 'breeding', with species and wildlife products, such as 'gibbon', 'elephant ivory', 'rhino horn', 'turtle', 'tiger bone glue', 'bear bile', and 'crocodile', we were able to locate sites and forum posts offering wildlife. The following basic information was collected:

- Names of traders, farms, restaurants, traditional medicine pharmacies
- Online pseudonyms and IP addresses of those advertising wildlife products
- Species and products advertised, and for what advertised purpose
- A list of websites implicated in illegal trade
- · Whether the websites have a policy prohibiting wildlife trade
- How the trade is continued offline
- The scale of trade (for example numbers of advertisements posted every month)

A two-month survey was completed in July-August 2012 that identified nine forums, three online trading websites (vatgia, raovat, rongbay) and one social network (Facebook) that were most

commonly used to trade wildlife. We then concentrated our efforts in collecting further information on the online advertisements (e.g. post date, time, name, link, regulation); sale detail (species, name, quantity, price, volume) and the details of the traders (name, nick name, year born, location, and contact detail).

We found that online wildlife trade is a popular method in Vietnam for trading both species occurring in Vietnam such as pygmy loris, long-tailed macaque, elongated tortoise, cobra, tiger bone balm, crocodile skin wallets (183 posts) and exotic species such as green iguana, chameleon, bearded dragon, snakes, Indian star tortoise, grey parrot, and sugar glider (73 posts), of mainly low-value (price ranges from \$5-\$350), for pets, medicine and for farming (Table 1).

A total of 108 species were recorded for sale online including 26 protected species under Decree 32 of the Government; 25 species protected from international trade under CITES of which eight are on CITES Appendix I (Loris *Nycticebus* sp., tiger *Panthera tigris*, elephant *Elephant* sp., Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*, Otter *Lutrinae* sp., Black pond turtle *Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Red tail boa snake *Boa constrictor*, and elephant ivory) and 17 are listed on CITES Appendix II. We identified eighteen Globally-Threatened species for sale online including six Globally-Endangered species (Tiger *Panthera tigris*, elephant *Elephant* sp., elongated tortoise *Indotestudo elongata*, big-headed turtle *Platysternon megacephalum*, black-breasted leaf turtle *Geoemyda spengleri*, and collared laughing thrush *Garrulax yersini*) and one Critically Endangered species (Siamese crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*).

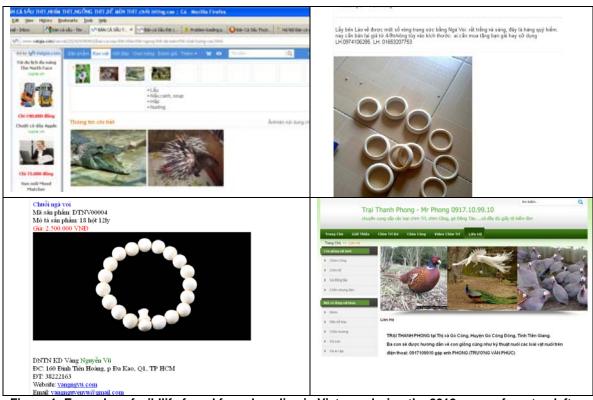


Figure 1: Examples of wildlife found for sale online in Vietnam during the 2012 survey from top left clockwise: selling Siamese crocodile, Southeast Asian porcupine, elephant ivory bracelets, pheasants, peafowl, guineafowl, and more ivory bracelets.

The advertisement of nationally protected species, or those on CITES Appendices I/II online is illegal, although to date this crime has received little-no attention from law enforcement agencies. The data on the number of websites and posts about protected species, and the species involved will form a core part of on-going monitoring as we would hope these to reduce over time.

We are currently in consultation with the media, relevant website administrators, regulatory and law enforcement agencies to draw attention to this currently unregulated illegal trade to identify mechanisms to enforce the law on people violating in the online world. Our analysis was presented to the relevant government agencies (e.g. CITES MA, high-tech crime police, department of information and communication) and website administrators in April.

• Surveys of traditional medicine pharmacies, restaurants, souvenir/jewelry shops
We have been working in partnership with the Ho Chi Minh City-based Action for Wildlife
Organization, on surveys of retail establishments over the course of this grant.
We have trained over 100 students in basic wildlife identification and survey techniques, and
carried out surveys on retail outlets in the HCMMA in Dec-Mar 2012 and repeated them in July
2012. Survey techniques include volunteers posing as prospective customers for wildlife meat or
traditional medicines. Information was collected on the proportion of retail establishments offering
un-protected and protected species; quantity of wildlife observed (indv/pieces/kg); and species
advertised (menu, signs, TCM drawers, adverts).





Figure 2: WCS and the Ho Chi Minh City-based Action for Wildlife Volunteer Group preparing volunteers to commence the surveys of retail establishments

In Dec-Mar 2012 surveys were carried out at 176 retail establishments (157 restaurants, 5 TCM pharmacies, 6 souvenir shops, and 8 pet shops) with 145 (82%) offering wildlife and 59 (34%) offering protected wildlife. The same surveys were repeated in July 2012 at 73 retail establishments that had been identified in the earlier surveys (65 restaurants, 8 TCM pharmacies) with 70 (96%) offering wildlife of which 45 (62%) were offering protected wildlife. The most common non-protected species offered included soft-shell turtles, snakes, wild pig, bamboo rat, deer and porcupine, with king cobra, pangolin, monitor lizard, civet, crocodile, mouse deer, hard-shell turtles, and the most common protected species offered.

The proportion of retailers offering surveyors protected wildlife is more indicative of the lack of effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in preventing wildlife crimes (i.e. the willingness of retailers to offer something illegal to a stranger) than the quantity of wildlife being traded as our surveyors cannot confirm if retailers are regularly selling wildlife or simply making the offer opportunistically. Our results highlight that retailers show little fear in offering illegal wildlife, underlining that increased effort is required by law enforcement agencies. We believe this information is critical to changing attitudes of local law enforcement agencies and government departments and a critical measure in law enforcement monitoring as we would hope that the proportion of retailers willing to offer protected species reduces with increased enforcement, as we have seen in Da Lat City, following our USFWS-funded interventions.

#### Private zoo survey

A detailed assessment of private zoo holdings across the HCMMA was carried out throughout the month of March 2012. The quantity, species, gender (where possible), and estimated age were collected of all major holdings of apes and other protected and endangered species. Data was collected on estimated turnover of animals, source areas, approximate prices, the availability/difficulty of acquisition of protected species, the ease of acquiring permits for the

purchase and transport of animals, and also to collect any evidence of these zoos acting as suppliers to other zoos, retailers or consumers. A survey of the eight main zoos and collections in the HCMMA (Đai Nam, Thanh Cảnh and the private collection held at the Asia-Pacific Brewery in Bình Dương Province, Bửu Long and Tám Đáng in Biên Hòa Province, and Suối Tiên, Đầm Sen and Công Viên Nước Củ Chi in Ho Chi Minh City) was completed.



Figure 3: Locations of seven major private captive facilities in the Ho Chi Minh Metropolitan area (HCMMA) that were surveyed by WCS in 2011-2013

We completed a full inventory of the species being kept by these zoos (Table 1). Fifteen yellow-cheeked crested gibbons (See left adjacent photograph from Dam Sen) and seven pileated gibbons (*Hylobates pileatus*) were observed, and reports of at least another 10 yellow-cheeked crested gibbons that had died in captivity in the last two years were recorded. Six of the eight zoos we surveyed held gibbons, and another had kept one, until it recently died. Most zoos keeping gibbons reported that they had previously owned more, but they had died. Additionally, spread across the eight zoos, we observed 74 tigers (breeding populations kept legally (see below), but originally illegally wild-sourced, fifteen southern white rhino (legally imported from South Africa), primates (illegally sourced from hunters and local people) such as silvered langurs, black-shanked douc langurs, pygmy loris, one orangutan, and turtles such as giant Asian pond turtles, Asian box turtles, yellow-headed temple turtles, elongated tortoise, and soft-shelled turtles. The keeping of these turtle species is illegal by Vietnamese law (Decree 32/2006/ND-CP).

During the surveys we also collected reports from zoo managers and staff that highlight the central role of zoos in the illegal trade dynamic in the south of Vietnam including zoos actively sourcing animals from local hunters and traders, not only from within Vietnam, but also internationally, from Cambodia, other Southeast Asian countries and even Africa; and zoos selling animals directly to restaurants. We identified a Ho Chi Minh City-based company trading live animals internationally for private collections, including rhino and lions from Africa to Vietnam, tigers from zoos in the Czech Republic, and primates (including gibbons and langurs) from Laos and Cambodia. The surveys also identified a number of legal loopholes and deceptions through which private zoos are able to function without prosecution. For example, zoo owners reported they would often buy adult gibbons from Government auctions of seized animals, then wait some weeks before buying an infant gibbon from hunters and reporting to the authorities they had bred.

The existence of intensive tiger breeding facilities emerged during WCS surveys in 2006 on commercial wildlife farming, and these private, captive-breeding facilities for tigers have come under significant scrutiny in recent years. The Prime Minister permitted four of these facilities to 'experimentally' breed tigers for non-commercial purposes, although data from Education for Nature - Vietnam surveys suggest the owners continue to sell tigers and their products. Our surveys this year have revealed that the owner of one private zoo with 20 tigers is trying a new approach and offered our undercover surveyors (funded through co-funding) that they could buy any number of tigers from him for US\$30,000/head, however, a 25 year 'loan agreement' would have to be signed between the two parties that stated the funds would be used for management of the remaining tigers. We found that these facilities are being poorly managed and there is 'leakage' of live and dead tigers. For example, some reported they often under-report the number of tiger cub births and then sell the cubs; whilst others admitted to the elaborate measure of disguising dead pigs as young tigers by covering the pig carcass in a tiger skin and freezing them, whilst selling on the bones and body parts of the tiger.





Figure 4: Local surveyors captured these images on hidden cameras of a tiger, allegedly bought from a local tiger 'farm' being butchered for its parts in Ho Chi Minh City in January 2013

Our zoo survey highlights the central role private zoos play in the illegal live animal trade in the south of Vietnam and that current management and regulation by the authorities is vastly inadequate. WCS has compiled our findings on this and presented it to the central and provincial authorities (Forest Protection Department (FPD), police, judges, prosecutors, market control, and the Department of Animal Health) from Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong and Dong Nai in a meeting we co-hosted with the CITES MA (see below for details). This intelligence has also been shared with high-level officials during the 1-on-1 briefings with the Environmental Police and the Forest Protection Department to facilitate law enforcement actions. Our inventory data will be used to compare to government records of what is registered to identify any discrepancies, though obviously measuring turnover in this context is challenging, as identification of individuals is unavailable.

Table 1: Animal inventory of eight major private collections on the south of Vietnam (Updated in February 2013)

		Number										0.777	ND-
Species	Cu Chi	Dai Nam	Suoi Tien	Dam Sen	Pacific	Thanh Canh	Buu Long	Tam Dang	Total	Gender	r IUCN	CITES	32
					MA	AMMALIA							
					PRO	BOSCIDE	4						
Elephant	2	2		4					8		EN	I	IB
					CA	RNIVORA							
Tiger	12	36			20	6			74		EN	I	IB
Asian golden cat		1				1			2	1,0,1	NT	I	IB
Sun bear		9							9	2,0,7	VU	I	IB
Asian black bear	30	11	15	5	+		5		66		VU	I	IB
Binturong		3	+		1				4		VU	III	IB
Ferret badger sp.		6							6		DD		TT
Common palm civet		4							4		LC		TT
Small Indian civet	1								1		LC		
Leopard cat		3							3		LC	Ш	IB
Leopard					6	2			8		NT	I	IB
African lion	13	2							15		VU		
Small-clawed otter		6							6	3,0,3	VU		
Weasel sp.	3								3				
•	•			•	PI	RIMATES	•					•	
Squirrel monkey	4	6							10	4,0,6	LC		
Orangutan	-	-		1					1	1,0,0	EN	I	
Yellow-cheeked crested gibbon	1	1	5	4	2		1	1	15		EN	I	IB
Pigmy Ioris		1							1		VU	I	IB
Pileated Gibbon	1	6							7	4,0,3	EN	I	
De Brazza's monkey	2								2		LC	I	
Macaque sp.	+	25	+	10		+	20	6	61			II	
Silver langur		3							3	1,0,2	EN	II	IB
Black-shanked douc langur		3				_			3	0,0,3	EN	I	IB
	_				ARTI	ODACTYL	A						1
Sambar deer		11		1			3		15		VU		TT
Kudu	8	5							13	6,0,7	LC		
Giraffe		4							4	2,0,2	LC		
Gaur	2								2	0,0,2	VU	I	IB
Blue wildebeest	8	7							15	4,0,3	LC		
Oryx		6							6	3,0,3	VU		
Sika	+	25		6			3		34		LC		
Mouse deer	2								2		DD		
Antelope species	5								5	2,1,2			
		1		1	PERIS	SODACTY	LA	1	,			1	
Southern White Rhino	10	5							15	8,0,7	NT	I	

Zebra sp.	8	5							13	7,0,6	LC		
			T		HIPPO	POTAMUS	ES				•	•	1
Hippo sp.	3	3							6		VU		
				CHIRC	PTERA								
Fruit bat sp.			+						0				
					R	ODENTIA							
Southeast Asian Porcupine	+	35						2	37		LC		TT
Bamboo rat sp.		1						_	1	1,0,0	LC		TT
Brush-tailed porcupine		1						2	3	.,0,0	LC		
Guinea pig	+	<u> </u>							0		CR		
			I.	1	CETAR	TIODACT	/LA						
Eurasian wild pig				2					2		LC		TT
			I.		·	AVES							
					PSTT	ACIFORME	S						
Cockatoo sp.		3							3		LC		
Macaw sp.		2					6		8		LC		
dd.ii op.		<del>_</del>	L		BUC	EROTIDA			<u> </u>				
Oriental-pied hornbill		7	+	1					8				TT
Great hornbill		2	-	2					4	1,2,1	NT	I	IB
		<del>_</del>	L		GΔ	LIFORMES				-,-,-			
Green peacock	+	7							7		EN	I	IB
Jungle fowl	+	<u> </u>	+						0		LC		TT
Peacock			+	4			15		19		LC	II	IB
Indian peafowl		30							30		LC	II	IB
Pheasant sp.		2							2				
Siamese fireback		3							3		LC		IB
Imperial pheasant	+						3		3				IB
Guinea fowl sp.		10					14		24		LC		
					ACC	CIPITRIDAE	<u> </u>						
Black baza						1			1		LC		TT
Vulture				+					0				TT
White – bellied sea eagle						1			1		LC		TT
Raptor sp.				2					2				TT
Crested Serpent Eagle	1								1		LC		TT
Wallace's Hawk Eagle	1	1							2		LC		TT
- 3 - 1			-	-	CICO	NIIFORME	s		<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>				•
Heron sp.	2					_			2		LC		TT
Painted Stork	28	33							61		NT		
					PELEC	ANIFORMI	ESS						
Great cormorant	+	+							0		LC		
Oriental darter	12	6							18		NT		
Lesser Adjutant		2							2		VU		

			ı			1							
Wild duck sp.		2		+					2		VU		
					R	EPTILLA							
		1	1	ı	so	QUAMATA	ı	ı	,		1	<b>r</b>	
Water monitor	1			2				1	4		LC	П	IIB
King cobra		1		3					4		VU	1	IB
Monocellate Cobra		1							1	0,0,1		II	IIB
Green pit viper	+	+							0				
Python sp.								3	3				
Reticulated python		5	9				1		15		VU	П	IIB
Burmese rock python		4							4		NT	П	IIB
					TES	STUDINATA							
Elongated tortoise			+						0		EN	II	
Hard-shell turtle sp.	1								1			II	
Yellow headed temple turtle		8							8		EN	II	
Southeast Asia Soft- shell turtle	+								0		VU	II	
Giant Asian pond turtle		6	+						6		VU	II	IIB
Asian box turtle		10							10	0,10,0	VU	П	IIB
Asian water dragon	5	10							15	0,15,0	NE	П	
					CR	OCODYLIA							
Siamese crocodile	+	33	15000						15033		CR		
					отн	ER SPECIE	s						
Common hill myna								1	1		LC		
Emu						2			2		LC		
Laughing thrush	+								0				
Many small birds				+					0				
Masked laughing thrush		20							20				
Myna				+					0		LC		
Ostrich	+	10				5			15		LC		
Small toucan-like bird							1		1				
Stork				+					0				
Unknown black bird White-breasted water			+						0		LC		
hen		6							6		LC		
Domestic pig				+					0				
Arapaima		4							4	2,0,2	DD		

# Wild meat restaurant surveys

This section described the undercover approaches carried out by the project team in HCM restaurants. This technique is ongoing and the project asked CEPF-RIT remove this from the report to prevent the information from leaking.

Table 1: Quantity of wildlife sold in the Thanh Binh restaurant, Ho Chi Minh City, April/May 2012

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Time	Species	Amount	Price (VND)	Source	
23/04/2012	Wild pig	200g	40,000	Stored in fridge	

03/05/2012	Wild pig	200g	40,000	Stored in fridge
14/05/2012	Wild pig	200g	40,000	Stored in fridge
24/05/2012	Wild pig	200g	40,000	Stored in fridge
27/05/2012	Cobra	2 ka	3.000.000	Delivered by trader

Table 1: Quantity of wildlife sold in the Phat Dat restaurant, Ho Chi Minh City, September 2012

Time	Species	Quantity	Sources
08/09/2012	Mouse deer	2 kg	Delivered by trader
20/09/2012	Cobra	1.5 kg	Delivered by trader
22/09/2012	Mouse deer	2 kg	Delivered by trader
27/09/2012	Wild pig	250g	Stored in freezer
03/10/2012	Pangolin	3 kg	Delivered by trader

#### Wholesale wildlife trader surveys

We made significant progress in collecting intelligence and documenting 17 Vietnamese individuals and companies who we consider to be significantly involved in the illegal trade in the HCMMA. Specifically, these individuals are trading in wild elephants, tigers, hard-shell turtles, sun bears, orangutan and a range of birds including green peafowl and painted storks, sourced from Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, and for other species (e.g. rhino's and some ungulate species) from Africa. We have documented, on hidden cameras in some cases, major wildlife traders explaining their *modus operandi* and corrupt relationships with law enforcement and regulatory agencies. This data will fit into a monitoring protocol by tracking these individuals and networks and the enforcement response by the local and national agencies. We have analyzed the data and prepared it into a format to present to central and provincial authorities (FPD, police, judges, prosecutors, market control, and the department of animal health) from Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, and Dong Nai in the April meeting we co-hosted with the CITES MA (See below).

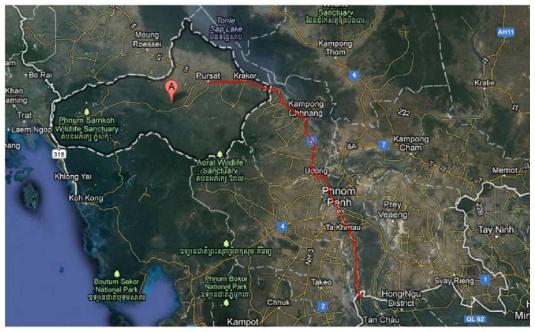


Figure 5: WCS was able to trace this specific trade route from Ho Chi Minh City, across the border into Cambodia to Pursat where that trader had arranged to purchase a large number (c. 100 individuals) of Painted Stork from a local trader in Cambodia for sale to zoos in Vietnam

#### Government record review

Using Forest Protection Department (FPD) data from each relevant province for the period 2010-2012, WCS researchers carried out analysis of forest crime data in the HCMMA. This analysis

highlighted the paucity of criminal prosecutions given to people committing forest crimes. These data will form the baseline of our intervention monitoring in this area as we hope to see increases in this over the coming years.

Table 3: Forest crimes reported by the Forest Protection Departments of Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc and Ho Chi Minh City from 2010-2012

Year	Total no. cases	No. wildlife crime cases	Total no. offenders (all forest crimes)	Total no. admin fine cases (all forest crimes)	Total no. criminal cases (all forest crimes)	Cases gone to trial (all forest crimes)
2010	2375	130	771	609	6	1
2011	646	139	646	534	3	0
2012	753	151	753	706	5	0

# Component 2. Communicate survey results to raise political awareness and commitment to catalyze action to eliminate the illegal wildlife trade

#### Expected result:

- Increase local political awareness and support to eliminate the illegal trade in protected species in the three urban centers of HCMMA (Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa City and Thu Dat Mot town)
- National law enforcement agency attention brought to the critical wildlife crime situation in South Vietnam
- Strategies to tackling wildlife crimes developed by the provincial inter-agency working groups

#### Actual result:

Joint-agency briefing on wildlife crimes in the HCMMA

At the meeting were thirty-nine officers from Environmental Police, Economic Crimes Police, Forest Protection Department, Procuracy (Prosecutors), Department of Security, Anti-smuggling unit of Customs representing the three focal provinces of Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, and Binh Duong in addition to our partners in Binh Phuoc, Dak Nong, Tay Ninh, and Dak Lak joined WCS, the CITES Management Authority (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment).



Officers from seven key southern provinces of all relevant agencies such as police, customs, FPD, market control, prosecutors attended the joint-agency briefing on wildlife crimes in the HCMMA – the first meeting to focus on this issue in this area with such broad participation



WCS (Scott Roberton, right) co-hosted the event with the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority (From Left, Mr Thai Truyen, Vice-Director and head of Southern CITES MA, and Middle, Mr Do Quang Tung, Director of CITES MA) giving a unique opportunity for local officers to share information and ask questions to the focal central agency addressing wildlife crimes

Participants were briefed on the results of the recent WCS surveys in the area, in addition to presentations from central agencies on recent developments at a national level e.g. CITES Conference of the Parties 16, new legislation and actions of the Vietnam-WEN. WCS's USAID Emerging Pandemic Threat - PREDICT project officer also provided a presentation to participants on the human health threats from wildlife trade. The participants also heard from the Ho Chi Minh City FPD on the new Directive 1317/UBND-CNN issued in April by the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City on 'strengthening control of import, export, trade, and consumption of wildlife and wildlife products'. This piece of legislation directs agencies to cooperate on awareness-raising activities of residents, and capacity building of law enforcement officers in wildlife crime investigations and inspections. The agencies have also been directed to develop cooperation

mechanisms with agencies in neighboring provinces (including Dong Nai, Ba Ria Vung Tau, and Soc Trang) – a first for Vietnam. WCS is following up with Ho Chi Minh City FPD on how we can support the implementation of this very positive directive.

In discussions a number of follow-up areas were identified that WCS and CITES MA will collaborate on in support of local agencies:

- Ho Chi Minh City Customs made a call for assistance to the agency for combatting the
  increasing international wildlife trade moving through Ho Chi Minh City's air and sea ports,
  highlighting that they have little knowledge of the laws, species and impacts and that there is
  insufficient coordination and support to each other's agencies in this field.
- The CITES MA Southern regional office offered to serve as a coordinating body to bring the various agencies together on this issue.
- The CITES MA urged more action from the border provinces with Cambodia to enact the national and provincial-level cooperation agreements and reduce the illegal flow of wildlife into Vietnam.
- The Ho Chi Minh City Environmental Police commented they treasured WCS's investigation results and hoped to be able to take action based upon that. WCS will now work in more detail with the Environmental Police on these issues.
- Dong Nai FPD made a specific request to WCS for additional training on the public and animal health impacts of wildlife trade for FPD and provincial veterinarians.
- 1<sup>st</sup> National roundtable meeting on the online trade in wildlife
  In April 2013, in collaboration with the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority, WCS hosted Viet
  Nam's first consultation meeting on the online trade in wildlife. Thirty-one participants from the
  key agencies such as the Department of Electronic Trade and Market Control department
  (Ministry of Industry and Commerce); Viet Nam Administration of Forestry, Forest Protection
  Department and CITES MA (Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development); High-Tech Crimes
  Police, Environment Police, Agriculture security Unit (Ministry of Public Security); Hanoi
  Department of Information and Communications (Ministry of Information and Communications);
  Supreme People's Procuracy (Attorney General's Office equivalent); Supreme Court of Viet Nam;
  Non-government organizations (Education for Nature Vietnam, TRAFFIC, PanNature, WWF)
  and 29 national journalists.

Participants agreed upon the need for a coordinated response across the multiple regulatory agencies and stakeholders (website owners, CSOs) involved in regulating e-commerce, e-crimes, and wildlife crimes, with the Department of Electronic Trade representative declaring they would "start immediately to....cooperate closely with Police to reduce wildlife online trade...starting by investigating all advertisements." Furthermore, the agencies agreed that there needs to be clarity to the public on who they should report these crimes to. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the different agencies to share upcoming legislation they are developing, including a new Decree on the regulation of e-commerce and a list of products banned from commercial trade – both highly relevant to this issue and that the wildlife authorities were not informed about. Therefore, through this meeting we now hope this new legislation will better address online wildlife crimes. The meeting had good participation of national media and resulted in widespread national media coverage, with over 20 articles published and two follow-up media investigations into online wildlife trade.

### • One-on-one briefings

In June 2013, a series of private meetings were arranged with local law enforcement agencies including the Ho Chi Minh City FPD, Ho Chi Minh City EP, and Southern Vietnam CITES MA to strengthen working-relationships, guide strategic enforcement responses and further collaborative law enforcement efforts. Reports on crackdown activities in other regions of the country were provided to demonstrate the assistance and expertise that WCS can lend to these agencies. Intelligence, resulted from project surveys, was also presented during these meetings to push for enforcement actions.

#### High-level government briefing in Dong Nai

This meeting was held jointly with the Provincial People's Committee (PPC) of Dong Nai province on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. Participants included 12 officers from the Environmental Police, Economic Crimes Police, Forest Protection Department, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Trade, and Customs Department. Notably, the director of DARD attended and contributed many ideas to the discussions.

In this meeting WCS gave talks on local and international wildlife crime and presented results from recent surveys in Dong Nai Province. After the talks, WCS facilitated a discussion on the current regional effort in combating illegal wildlife trade. It was agreed among all participants that many issues exist within the region regarding illegal wildlife trade. Key issues were identified and suggestions for improvements were made. The following conclusions were made as a result of the discussion:

- FPD Dong Nai agreed that implementation effort, such as crackdowns, needed to be strengthened for the protection of forest and wildlife in local FPD parks, particularly for areas bordering other provinces. The FPD should also provide guidance to commune committees and the PPC to stop the consumption of wildlife.
- The Economic Crimes Police will invite representatives from neighboring provinces and national parks, such as the directors of Cat Tien National Park and Vinh Cuu National Park, to wildlife trade-related meetings, to receive advice and increase cooperation.
- The Environmental Police (EP) agreed that wildlife farms licensing process needed to be reviewed, and all established wildlife farms should ideally be relocated away from conservation areas. This would both discourage participation in illegal wildlife trade and increase the detectability of criminal activities and offenders.
- There is a need for anti-wildlife consumption campaigns. One suggestion by the FPD was to have restaurants to sign or renew their pledges to not partake in illegal wildlife trade. Campaigns aimed at government agencies, traders, hunters, and consumers were discussed. The first step for this activity would be to identify who will take the lead on such a campaign.
- Dong Nai agencies need to collectively revise current penal code on wildlife protection, particularly on wildlife trade, to remove or update regulations that are no longer relevant. Particularly, agencies should aim to improve their coordination and implementation.
- Consider the combat against illegal wildlife trade in the context of the welfare of locals, and aim to align the welfare of locals with conservation.
- The director of DARD expressed that capacity building opportunities, such as WCS workshops and trainings, are an important component to continue combating illegal wildlife trade.

#### Enforcement Campaigns

Following these formal meeting WS continued to meet with a number of agencies in the Project area, providing greater intelligence and advice on strategic approaches on various individuals, facilities and companies, which has led to a number of enforcement actions. Throughout the crackdowns WCS provided on-the-job training for officers on species identification and wildlife-related prosecution procedures, and advised on the rescue of seized animals. The results are summarized below:

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2013, a crackdown led by Ho Chi Minh City EP on a restaurant highlighted in the WCS reports resulted in the rescue of one pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) and 2 macaques (*Macaca spp.*). This was followed up on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013, following information by WCS, with an inspection led by the Ho Chi Minh City EP and the Ho Chi Minh City FPD on an investment company that was found to be supplying wildlife products including medicinal wine made with tiger cubs and snakes. Additional actions are currently being planned with WCS that we cannot detail here but will follow up with CEPF once they occur.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013, following WCS intelligence the National EP investigated and identified three farms and one restaurant to be violating wildlife protection laws. With additional assistance from

the Binh Duong EP and the Binh Duong FPD, immediate actions were taken, resulting in three arrests; two criminal prosecutions and one administrative sanction. Two government officials were implicated. Among the animals discovered were two species of gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae* and *Hylobates pileatus*), sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), two species of raptors (*Spizaetus nipalensis* and *Spilornis cheela*), painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) and Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*). 6 gibbons and 5 birds were rescued and sent for rehabilitation. The news of this significant crackdown was supplied to the WCS Journalist network and generated a wealth of media reports (Annex 1).

#### **Lessons Learned**

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

- A number of on-site surveying methods were devised as part of our research approach in this
  project. This has given investigators insights into the pros and cons of various investigation
  methods; such as resource allocation, cost effectiveness, and information depth and accuracy.
  This is vital for future projects and studies.
- Our approach in this project to leverage political commitment and law enforcement actions
  was first trialed and proved successful in a previous CEPF-funded project in a different region
  of Vietnam. The success of this project once again confirms that this approach is effective for
  Vietnam, and will be used to guide future projects.

#### ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
USFWS	Α	\$ 58,937 USD	
WCS	В	\$ 39,966 USD	

#### \*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)
- **B** Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)
- **C** Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

#### Sustainability/Replicability

#### Long-term Sustainability/Replicability

• The approach of our work in this area is to build the capacity, political interest and longer-term government commitments to address the consumption and trade of wildlife trade in this area. These changes would have a lifespan well beyond the period of this grant. However, ensuring these changes are sustained requires persistence, as new priorities and work can very quickly put issues on the back burner. We believe that wildlife conservation NGOs have an important role in providing ongoing support and pressure to Government agencies in improving actions and in the short and medium term keeping the issue 'on the table'.

- Trialed surveying methods applied in this project provides different information on the illegal wildlife trade, and can be used to guide and optimize future implementation actions according to the need of law enforcement.
- Through this grant we have developed a close working relationship with the student-run
  volunteer organization 'Action for Wildlife Organization' in carrying out of retail surveys, and
  finding suitable individuals for surveying wild meat restaurants. We have trained over 100 of
  their volunteers and are now assisting them in developing into a Vietnamese NGO. The
  organization and the volunteers will provide continued and experienced support to future
  WCS projects to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- Our main partners and main audience for communications remains the provincial and national law enforcement agencies, namely the Forest Protection Department and the Environmental Police. We also work closely with the Vietnam CITES Management Authority who is a standing member of the Vietnam Wildlife Enforcement Network. The close workingrelationships enables further collaborations for the elimination of illegal wildlife trade, and ensure that the project's impact on local agencies and policies is sustained through the ongoing relationships
- The roundtable meeting on online trade in wildlife resulted in agreement across multiple
  regulatory agencies and stakeholders, who promised follow-up actions including coordinated
  responses, cooperation in investigations, and exchange of information for the development
  of relevant legislations.
- Similarly the high-level meeting provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to identify
  weaknesses in current strategies and re-align their goals and objectives in combating wildlife
  crimes. This facilitates coordination and ensures sustainable cooperation among these
  agencies.

# **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project n/a

Perfor	Performance Tracking Report Addendum				
CEPF Global Targets					
	(Ent	er Grai	nt Ter	m)	
Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.					
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	response	July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. (Attach annexes if necessary)	
Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.	

2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No		Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No		
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	No		

# If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following tab Additional Comments/Recommendations

# **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

# Please include your full contact details below:

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#### Annex I:

# Online media coverage in Vietnamese:

Newspaper Link

1 Tuổi Trẻ online http://tuoitre.vn/Chinh-tri-Xa-hoi/557494/can-bo-co-trang-trai-len-tieng-vu-giai-cuu-thu-

nuoi-trai-phep.html

2 Tuổi Trẻ online http://tuoitre.vn/Chinh-tri-Xa-hoi/557293/giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-

tinh.html#ad-image-0

3 Sài Gòn Tiếp Thi http://sgtt.vn/Thoi-su/181249/Thu-giu-29-ca-the-dong-vat-hoang-da-nuoi-nhot-trai-

phep.html

4 Lao Động <a href="http://laodong.com.vn/Xa-hoi/Binh-Duong-Giai-cuu-6-con-vuon-quy-hiem/126191.bld">http://laodong.com.vn/Xa-hoi/Binh-Duong-Giai-cuu-6-con-vuon-quy-hiem/126191.bld</a>

5 Nhân dân http://www.nhandan.com.vn/khoahoc/moi-truong/item/20704402.html

6 Tiền Phong online http://www.tienphong.vn/xa-hoi/phong-su/635395/Nguoi-trong-cuoc-ke-chuyen-giai-cuu-

dong-vat-hoang-da-tpp.html

7 Xa luan.com http://www.xaluan.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=647100

8 24h http://hcm.24h.com.vn/tin-tuc-trong-ngay/nguoi-trong-cuoc-ke-chuyen-giai-cuu-dong-vat-

hoang-da-c46a555442.html

9 Giaoduc.net <a href="http://giaoduc.net.vn/Xa-hoi/Chuyen-an-giai-cuu-11-ca-the-dong-vat-hoang-da-trong-sach-">http://giaoduc.net.vn/Xa-hoi/Chuyen-an-giai-cuu-11-ca-the-dong-vat-hoang-da-trong-sach-</a>

do/305870.gd

10 phapluatxahoi.vn http://phapluatxahoi.vn/20130706085659192p1005c1026/phat-hien-co-so-nuoi-nhot-dong-

vat-quy-hiem.htm

11 hanoitv <u>http://hanoitv.vn/Moi-truong/Theo-chan-canh-sat-giai-cuu-dong-vat/29432.htv</u>

12 tinmoitruong http://www.tinmoitruong.vn/dong-vat/theo-chan-canh-sat-giai-cuu-dong-vat-

rung 19 25290 1.html

13 Citinews http://citinews.net/phap-luat/thu-giu-29-ca-the-dong-vat-hoang-da-nuoi-nhot-trai-phep-

3Z7YYYY/

M3CCJKQ/

15 CAND.online http://www.cand.com.vn/vi-VN/xahoi/2013/7/203159.cand

16 Yahoo!Tin tức http://vn.news.yahoo.com/thu-gi%E1%BB%AF-29-c%C3%A1-th%E1%BB%83-

%C4%91%E1%BB%99ng-v%E1%BA%ADt-hoang-120000145.html

17 Diễn đàn đầu tư http://diendandautu.vn/c20n2013070611375914800/can-bo-co-trang-trai-len-tieng-vu-giai-

cuu-thu-nuoi-trai-phep.html

18 tintuc.wada http://tintuc.wada.vn/e/2893446/Thu-giu-29-ca-the-dong-vat-hoang-da-nuoi-nhot-trai-phep

19 tinmoi.vn http://www.tinmoi.vn/Giai-cuu-dong-vat-quy-hiem-trong-traig-traig-cua-quan-chuc-tinh/-

011272310.html

20 bao24h.info http://bao24h.info/an-ninh-hinh-su/binh-duong-giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-

<u>tinh/</u>

21 *vietnamplus* <u>http://www.vietnamplus.vn/Home/Binh-Duong-phat-hien-nhieu-ho-nuoi-giu-dong-vat-</u>

quy/20137/205302.vnplus

 $22 \ \underline{\mathit{savantdegrees.asia}} \ \underline{\mathsf{http://savantdegrees.asia/nguoi-trong-cuoc-ke-chuyen-giai-cuu-dong-vat-hoang-da.html}$ 

23 news http://news.go.vn/xa-hoi/tin-1398405/binh-duong-giai-cuu-6-con-vuon-quy-hiem.htm

24 vntimes <u>http://vntimes.com.vn/phap-luat/43451-giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh.html</u>

25 trithucthoidai <a href="http://trithucthoidai.vn/giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh-">http://trithucthoidai.vn/giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh-</a>

a100770.html#.UdogHTvBoWI

26 xzone http://xzone.vn/xa-hoi/giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh\_109254.html

27 ttxva http://ttxva.org/thieu-van-minh/

28 maylocrac.com/binh-duong-giai-cuu-6-con-vuon-quy-hiem/

29 diễn đàn	http://www.pgdhoavang.edu.vn/linh-tinh/354-giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh.html
30 <u>chaobuoisang.net</u>	http://chaobuoisang.net/%C4%91%C3%B4%CC%A3ng+v%C3%A2%CC%A3t+hoang+da
21 1 1 1:4 \\	%CC%83.tintuc
31 doanh nghiệp và họ nhập	i http://dnhn.vn/moi-truong/giai-cuu-6-con-vuon-quy-hiem.html
32 <u>cafeluat.com</u>	http://luathoc.cafeluat.com/showthread.php/323066-Can-bo-co-trang-trai-len-tieng-vu-giai-
	<u>cuu-thu-nuoi-trai-phep</u>
33 <u>baohomnay.com</u>	http://baohomnay.com/news/Doi-song/Chu-trang-trai-len-tieng-vu-giai-cuu-thu-nuoi-trai-phep-224698/
34 vnmedia	http://vnmedia.vn/VN/xa-hoi/tin-tuc/23 1374291/pha an cung canh sat moi truong.html
35 myloconline	http://myloconline.com/news/Thoi-su/Giai-cuu-thu-quy-trong-trang-trai-quan-tinh-5267/
36 Bộ tài nguyên và mơ trường	6ihttp://vea.gov.vn/vn/tintuc/tinvan/Pages/%C4%90i%E1%BB%83m-tin-m%C3%B4i-tr%C6%B0%E1%BB%9Dng-ng%C3%A0y57201.aspx
37 <u>baohay.vn</u>	http://baohay.vn/chuyen-de/doi-song/283038/Thu-giu-29-ca-the-dong-vat-hoang-da-nuoi-nhot-trai-phep.html
38 xã hội	http://xahoi.com.vn/xa-hoi/diem-nong/giai-cuu-nhieu-thu-quy-trong-trang-trai-cua-quan-tinh-139706.html
39 <u>khampha.vn</u>	http://khampha.vn/tin-nhanh/giai-cuu-thu-quy-trong-trang-trai-quan-tinh-c4a97187.html
40 <u>m.phununet.com</u>	http://m.phununet.com/tin-tuc/giai-cuu-do-ng-va-t-quy-hie-m-trong-trang-trai-cu-a-quan-chu-c-ti-nh/5c-3404sc-573826n.html
41 diễn đàn links building	http://huynhhuunghia.edu.vn/thu-vien-anh/5009-giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh.html
42 <u>tin247.com</u>	http://www.tin247.com/giai_cuu_thu_trong_trang_trai_quan_chuc_tinh-10-22365529.html
43 <u>news.zing.vn</u>	http://news.zing.vn/xa-hoi/giai-cuu-thu-trong-trang-trai-quan-chuc-tinh/a332516.html
44	http://news.zing.vn/xa-hoi/chu-trang-trai-len-tieng-vu-giai-cuu-thu-nuoi-trai-
45 phapluattphcm	phep/a332806.html http://phapluattp.vn/2013070410512676p0c1015/tiep-nhan-sau-con-vuon-quy-hiem.htm
46 tongcuclamnghiep	http://tongcuclamnghiep.gov.vn/tin-tuc/50/a-1159/23.html
47 baiviet32.com	http://www.baiviet32.com/cuu-ho-dong-vat-cung-canh-sat-moi-truong-jEPr.html
48 thiennhien.net	http://www.thiennhien.net/2013/07/05/tiep-nhan-sau-con-vuon-quy-hiem/
49 vietgiaitri	http://www.vietgiaitri.com/xa-hoi/doi-song/2013/07/giai-cuu-thu-quy-trong-trang-trai-
<b>50</b>	quan-tinh/
50 <u>tin.vn</u>	http://tin.vn/xa-hoi/giai-cuu-nhieu-thu-quy-trong-trang-trai-cua-quan-tinh.html
51 Tuoitre (video)	http://news.zing.vn/xa-hoi/toan-canh-giai-cuu-thu-quy-trong-nha-quan-chuc/a332735.html
52 Tieudiem	http://www.tieudiem.com/doi-song/145211/chu-trang-trai-len-tieng-vu-giai-cuu-thu-nuoi-trai-phep.html