

CITES NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared for the 77th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

Party: VIET NAM

Reporting period: January 2022 - September 2023

PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

The National Ivory and Rhinoceros horn Action Plan (NIRAP) 2018 – 2020 of Viet Nam was developed to enhance the prevention and combat illegal trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn in Viet Nam within a timeframe of 30 months. The Action Plan includes 25 activities carried out by different state authorities including management and enforcement agencies, and multiple stakeholders. In follow to CITES guidance, the plan was designed with a focus on 05 areas of work, including the enhance and strengthening of legislation, law enforcement and capacity building, international collaboration, awareness raising and demand reduction, and reporting.

A short summary of NIRAP progress and assessment for Viet Nam was recorded in a chronological order as follow:

- In 2017, at SC69, the Standing Committee requested Viet Nam to revise and update its NIAP and to develop a combined National Ivory and Rhinoceros Action Plan (NIRAP). Viet Nam later endorsed and submitted its NIRAP for period 2018 2020 in 2018.
- In 2019, Viet Nam submitted Progress Report for the period January to December 2018. Under self-assessment, Viet Nam reported 24% of activities rated "Achieved", 36% "Substantially achieved", the rest in other categories.
- In July 2020, Viet Nam submitted the second Progress Report 23 months after implementation with self-assessment 96% activities rated "Achieved". There was 01 activity (Activity 5.1) reported as "Pending" due to difficulties in implementation based on actual practice.
- In February and November 2021, Viet Nam submitted two updates on progress, made a self-assessment of 88% "Achieved", with the other 03 actions rated as "Substantially achieved". The SC74 re-assessment to Viet Nam progress was 76% "Achieved" (19/25 actions), 16% "On track" (4/25 actions), 4% "Partial progress" (1/25 action), 4% "Not commenced" (1/25 action). SC75 agreed on a final rating for Viet Nam as "partial progress".
- By this Interim progress report for the period January 2022 September 2023 to SC77, Viet Nam give a self-assessment of 88% "Achieved" (22/25 actions), 4% Substantially achieved (01/25 action), 4% "On track" (01/25 action) and 4% "Pending completion of another action". The report provide updates on 06 actions that the Secretariat ranked in different categories aside from "Achieved". In addition, it incorporates progress on the already completed actions.

No.	Implementing progress	No. of activities	Percentage %
1	Achieved	22	88%
2	Substantially achieved	1	4%
3	On track	1	4%
4	Partial progress	0	0
5	Pending completion of another action	1	4%
6	Not commenced	0	0
	Total	25	100%

Analysis of Actions with progress and updates

2.3. Environmental police department to carry out 02 investigations in the area to strengthen control on wildlife crime in hotspot areas

By the last assessment, the Secretariat suggested Viet Nam to continue implement activities specifically targeting key locations known to be associated with illegal wildlife trade, both at borders and domestic markets. In this report, Viet Nam update data on seizures and prosecution progress in violations of the laws associated with **elephant ivory and rhinoceros specimens** from 2022 – September 2023.

* At the time submission of this interim report, the Viet Nam CITES MA is in the process to collect information and data from state authorities as Customs, Environment Polices, Border Force control for enforcement control efforts. The final and comprehensive version of the report will be ready for submission within December 2023. The current data on seizures and case resolution is recorded and provided by Environmental Investigation Agency and Education for Nature Viet Nam.

Elephant Ivory

Table 1. The data provides information on 17 cases during the period, with a total of 17 suspects reported. Among those, 11 cases have been prosecuted and trialed, received criminal penalties and administrative fine based on accordant regulations; the other 06 cases are under investigation. The largest record in trafficked ivory seized was 7.5 tons at Hai Phong city in March 2023. At the same period of time, Hai Phong city Customs, in cooperation with the city Police and local seaports, successfully conducted a series of 03 ivory seizures from African countries to Viet Nam, transited through Singapore. The seizures do not only demonstrate the great and applauded work of the Hai Phong city Customs and Police, but also depict the increase in cross-collaboration that contribute to collaboratively joint efforts, in the fight against illegal wildlife trade. At the current state, the Viet Nam MA is in close cooperation with the Singapore MA for a possible specimen's sample exchange and forensic analysis.

In regard to judicial proceeding and case resolution, the case recorded with most severe criminal penalty as 13-year imprisonment is the illegal trade of 456.9kg ivory and 6.2 tons pangolin scales, seized at Da Nang city in early 2022. In addition to the criminal punishment, the subject received an administrative find of VND 50 million. Per the progress report by Viet Nam to previous meetings, the *Resolution 05/2018/NQ-HDTP by the Judge Panel, Supreme People's Court dated 05/11/2018* has been enacted to provide guidance on related crimes in violation of regulations on protection of endangered wild fauna. It is witnessed that the guidance has resulted greatly in the judicial process to resolve associated cases, with a significant increase in cases reported to be imposed with criminal penalties. It should be noted that in a number of cases, the confiscated consignments were left abandoned without genuine information of consignees, make it a hard work for enforcement and prosecution work.

Rhinoceros

The seizure data of illegal traded of rhinoceros and resolution is presented in detail in **Annex. Table 2**. The data shows 13 cases from 2021 - 2023, with a total of 24 suspects arrested. Among those, 05/13 cases are under investigation, while the rest has been resolved. The largest account in weight of was 9.3 kg rhino horn by a seizure made at an international airport in Ha Noi. 02 subjects of the

cases received criminal penalties by the court for 8-year and 7-year imprisonment respectively, recorded as the most severe punishment associated with rhinoceros in the period. At another cases, 03 subjects considered important personnel in the criminal network received 30-month to 42-monh imprisonment. Online trade and E-commerce have been acting as emerging trade platforms with 03 seizures made associated with the sales over Internet or social media. The work in tracking cyber criminals is currently confronting difficulties in resources and techniques.

Overall, the enforcement efforts and judicial proceeding by Viet Nam should be recognized and applauded, although challenges remain given the lack of resources, information exchange from foreign countries, international support and facilitation.

Viet Nam gives a rating as "Achieved" for this action, given the great work has been accomplished during the past years.

3.1. Continuous exchange of information on seizures within ASEAN-WEN countries or joint-training among countries who signed MoU with Viet Nam

Viet Nam has been continuing to conduct the exchange of information with other countries, both on a regular basis in trade control, and in particular enforcement programs as transnational Operations by the Customs. Given the significant achievements of the enforcement force in the past years, the success that was internationally acknowledged and inspired, Viet Nam propose this action to be rated "Substantially achieved". We align with the Secretariat that the action needs to be continued in future work, however, we regard a proper rating should be given for the great collective efforts so far, rather than to be regarded as "Partial progress".

3.2. Collaborate with source countries (Africa) to exchange information on solutions to improve the effectiveness of criminal legal assistance; To actively support the implementation of criminal legal assistance requests in order to respond to the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases related to wildlife; Promoting the negotiation and signing of bilateral criminal legal assistance agreements between Vietnam and African countries.

To be updated.

* At the time submission of this interim report, the Viet Nam CITES MA is in the process to collect information and data from state authorities as the Supreme People's Procuracy and Supreme People's Court. The final and comprehensive version of the report will be ready for submission within December 2023.

4.1. National extracurricular training curriculum on the protection, conservation of prioritized wildlife animals for elementary school students

Viet Nam reported in 2021 that the action is completed and gave a rating as "Achieved". Latest assessment of the Secretariat was "Not commenced" die to lack of information on the final approval. In this report, Viet Nam provide further clarification on the approval of the extra-curricular program on "Education of conservation on threatened species for primary schools" by Ministry of Education and Training in 2019, its follow-up activities to supply primary schools national wide with teaching aids and educational tools to support the use of the program.

4.5. Survey on consumer demands, consumer behaviors on reducing demand for ivory and rhino horns to business groups

Viet Nam CITES MA was in partnering with USAID, TRAFFIC to conduct several market and social research serving as baseline study for demand reduction outreach in Viet Nam, focused on prioritized illegal traded specimens as rhino horn, elephant ivory and pangolin scale. The communication campaigns aiming at demand reduction and awareness raising, tailored as Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) was implemented during 2018 – 2021 targeted on business groups as the main communication audience. To avoid duplication in reporting, details of the actions to be presented in *Viet Nam Report on Rhinoceroses to SC77*.

Viet Nam assess this actions as "Achieved" instead of "On track", given clarification made.

5.1. National database system of illegal trade, transport, possession and related cases, from seizures, prosecution, convictions

Under review of the actual practice, the plan on development of a national database system of illegal trade, prosecution, convictions were later dismissed. The reason for this is that the information is regularly collected and reported by the Viet Nam MA on an annual basis or reported through the Viet Nam-WEN scheme. As the development of such database was deemed not necessary, resources were given to another imperative task, which is the development of the CITES E-permit system. Since the completion of the activity was shown as the CITES E-permitting through *Online Single Window of Customs* and *Online Single Window – Public Services System of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*, we believe this action rating to be "Achieved".

5.2. The international reporting and information systems include the Elephant Species Information System (ETIS), the rhinoceros specimen storage report, the annual national report

The information on rhinoceros and elephant ivory under state stock and stockpile is currently kept confidential due to national regulations. Viet Nam is working towards a solution on this report responsibility and will keep this updated in next report phases given the laws allow. Viet Nam regards this action to be rated as "Pending completion of another action".

PART B: Summary evaluation of actions (assigned progress ratings)

		PRO	GRESS RATING			
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
1. Legislation and regulations	 1.1. Develop the Decree on endangered, rare and precious wildlife management and CITES implementation. 1.2. Amend the Decree on Sanctions for administrative violations on management, development, protection of forest and forest products. 1.3. Develop a decree regulating the exploitation of forest products, lawful files of forest products and management of forest products origin, files of traceability and marking of specimens of forest plants and animals. 					
2. National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration	2.1 Cooperate, exchange information on VN-WEN network. 2.2. Hands-on training of environmental police on investigation techniques. 2.3 Environmental police to carry out 02investigations in the area to strengthen control on wildlife crime in hotspot area 2.4 Forest protection departments, interdisciplinary agencies to cooperate to carry out a range of investigation at					

	PROGRESS RATING					
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
	souvenir shops, processing workshops that are likely to be involved with wildlife crime in hotspot areas. 2.5. Survey, report, recommendation, and solution in controlling online illegal wildlife trade, cyber-crime on social media. 2.6. Develop technical guidelines on collecting forensic samples of ivory, rhino horns and training for forensic officers to use the guidelines. 2.7. Standardize and publicize guideline documents for identification of ivory and rhino horn specimens, specifically for front-line law enforcement officer at border gate, in checking processing workshop, hand luggage, jewelries of tourist. 2.8. Training workshops for law enforcement agencies to strengthen their CITES implementation capacity using specifically designed curriculums suitable for each group. 2.9. Training on the amended Penal Code 2015, related to the crime of trade, transport, possession of ivory and rhinoceros horns for law enforcement officers.					

		PR(OGRESS RATING			
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
3. International and regional enforcement collaboration	2.10. Training courses to raise awareness of judiciary officials on the seriousness of wildlife crimes, particularly ivory and rhino horn offences. 2.11. Development of a quick reference pocket guide for law enforcement officers on application of the revised wildlife crime under the new Penal Code, including ivory and rhino horn offences. 3.3. Cooperate with NGOs and international organizations in receiving, transferring, processing information of early warning, arrests, suspects and other information.	3.1 Continuous exchange of information on seizures within ASEAN- WEN countries or joint training among countries who signed MoU with Viet Nam	3.2. Collaborate with source countries (Africa) to exchange information on solutions to improve the effectiveness of criminal legal assistance; To actively support the implementation of criminal legal assistance requests in order to respond to the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases related			

			PRO	OGRESS RATING			
	PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
				to wildlife; Promoting the negotiation and signing of bilateral criminal legal assistance agreements between Vietnam and African countries.			
4.	Outreach, public awareness and education	4.1. National extra-curricular training curriculum on the protection, conservation of prioritized wildlife animals for elementary school students. 4.2. Incorporate issues on protection, conservation of prioritized wild species in the reformed national curriculum for general education. 4.3. Surveys on consumer demands, consumer behaviors domestic market of ivory and rhinoceros horns. 4.4. Outreach of demand reduction for ivory and rhino horns among international tourists to Viet Nam. 4.5. Survey on consumer demands, consumer behaviors on reducing demand for ivory and rhino horns to business groups.					

	PROGRESS RATING					
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
	4.6. Raise public awareness on the protection and conservation of wildlife in general and ivory and rhinoceros horn in particular					
5. Reporting	5.1. National database system of illegal trade, transport, possession and related cases, from seizures, prosecution, convictions				5.2. The international reporting and information systems include the Elephant Species Information System (ETIS), the rhinoceros specimen storage report, the annual national report	

PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions

*Remark: The updates on progress since the last report is added in blue text.

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY 0	OF PROGRESS (and comments)
PILLAR 1: Legislation an	nd regulations		
1.1. Develop the Decree on endangered, rare and precious wildlife management and CITES implementation		Achieved	• The GoV has issued Decree no. 06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 on endangered, rare and precious wildlife management and CITES implementation. Decree took effect as of 10/3/2019. This Decree replaced for the Decree no. 32/2006/ND-CP and Decree no. 82/2006/ND-CP.
1.2. Amend the Decree on Sanctions for administrative violations on management, development, protection of forest and forest products	Indicator: the Decree is amended with relevant contents	Achieved	• The GoV has issued Decree no. 35/2019/ND-CP dated 25/4/2019 regulating Sanctions for administrative violations in the field of forestry sector, took effect as of 10/6/2019. This Decree replaced for the Decree no. 157/2013/ND-CP to unify the Sanctions for administrative violations and the sanctions according to the provisions of the Penal Code.
1.3. Develop a decree regulating the exploitation of forest products, lawful files of forest products and management of forest products origin, files of traceability and marking of specimens of forest plants and animals	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural	Achieved	 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has issued Circular no. 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16/11/2018 of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) regulates the management and traceability of forest products. Circular took effect as of01/01/2019. Viet Nam Supreme Court has issued the Directive no.05/2018/NQ-HDTP on implementation of the Penal Code on crimes related to wildlife protection, dated 5/11/2018. Out of the three activities mentioned above, the Government has issued the Decree no. 26/2019/ND-CP dated 08/3/2019 detailing a

PILLAR 2: National level	l enforcement action and inter-age	ncy collaboratio	number of articles and measures to enforce Fisheries law; The Supreme People's Court of Vietnam has issued Resolution No. 05/2018/NQ-HDTP dated 05/11/2018 providing guidelines for application of the Penal Code on crimes of wildlife protection; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development has signed to issue the Circular no. 29/2019/TT-BNNPTNT dated 31/12/2019 on handling of forest animals being exhibits and forest animals voluntarily submitted to the State by individuals and organizations.
2.1. Cooperate, exchange information on VN-WEN network	Indicator: 01 - 02 meeting organized annually, information exchange to allow Viet Nam CITES MA generate a unified, official and national database about the illegal wildlife trade, especially ivory and rhino horn	Achieved	 Organized 02 Vietnam-WEN meeting to discuss information sharing mechanism on May 2018 and March 2019 Organized 01 Vietnam-WEN meeting on February 2020to review activities stated in the National Ivory and Rhino Action Plan (NIRAP) and follow up plan to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, focusing on into ivory and rhino horn Information sharing mechanism is more effective(sharing trial cases, arrests, etc.)
2.2. Hands-on training of environmental police on investigation techniques	Indicator: number of police officers trained	Achieved	Organized 06 training courses for 150 environmental police officers on CITES implementation and Wildlife Crime Investigation.
2.3. Environmental police department to carry out 02 investigations in the area to strengthen control on wildlife crime in hotspot areas	Indicator: basic investigation report in the area	Achieved	• Seizures and Case Resolution 2022 - 2023 Elephant Ivory The seizure data of illegal traded of elephant ivory and prosecution progress is presented in detail in Annex. Table 1. The data provides information on 17 cases during the period, with a total of 17 suspects reported. Among those, 11 cases have been prosecuted and trialed, received criminal penalties and administrative fine based on accordant regulations; the other 06 cases are under investigation. The largest record in trafficked ivory seized was 7.5 tons at Hai Phong city in March 2023. At the same period of time, Hai Phong city Customs, in cooperation with the city Police and local seaports, successfully conducted a series of 03 ivory seizures from African countries to Viet

Nam, transited through Singapore. The seizures do not only demonstrate the great and applauded work of the Hai Phong city Customs and Police, but also depict the increase in cross-collaboration that contribute to collaboratively joint efforts, in the fight against illegal wildlife trade. At the current state, the Viet Nam MA is in close cooperation with the Singapore MA for a possible specimen's sample exchange and forensic analysis.

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Rhinoceros

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			sales over Internet or social media. The work in tracking cyber criminals is currently confronting difficulties in resources and techniques.
2.4. Forest protection departments, interdisciplinary agencies to cooperate to carry out a range of investigation at souvenir shops, processing workshops that are likely to be involved with wildlife crime in hotspot areas	Indicator: investigation report	Achieved	 Forest protection departments cooperated with Environmental Police Department and relevant law enforcement agencies to launch the Ivory Campaign on the Vietnam-China border. Forest protection agencies cooperated with Hanoi Municipal Police Department to check processing workshops in Phu Khe, Thuong Tin, Ha Noi in June and July 2018. The Steering Committee 1389 of the Defense Ministry cooperated with the Forest protection agencies and local authorities to organize 12 groups of inspectors to check the fight against smuggling and trade frauds in key areas. In June 2019, Forest protection departments checked 01handicrafts shop in Tu Son district, Bac Ninh province and identified the shop owner illegal stored 0.6kg of products processed from ivory.
2.5. Survey, report, recommendation, and solution in controlling online illegal wildlife trade, cyber-crime on social media	Indicator: increased level of information exchange and interaction with cyber-crime police department.	Achieved	 Collecting information online to detect illegal wildlife trade websites. Completed the report on reviewing the wildlife trade status via Internet in Vietnam on April 2020, in which recognized that the online wildlife trade activities are increasing and changing continuously. Therefore, it is needed to promote multi-solutions to effectively manage online wildlife trade, such as to develop communication campaign toward related subjects including companies, individuals involving in transportation and delivery online; supplement legal regulations and policies to strengthen the effective management; to speed up collaboration among law enforcement agencies.
2.6. Develop technical guidelines on collecting forensic samples of ivory, rhino horns and training for forensic officers to use the guidelines	Indicator: 01 technical guidelines issued / recommended considering CITES guidelines in Resolution 9.14 (Rev CoP14)	Achieved	• Vietnam CITES MA has cooperated with Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), Humane Society International to finalize the development of technical guidelines on collecting forensic samples of ivory, rhino horns according to technical guidelines of CITES and current national regulations. This activity was completed on December 2019 and is waiting approval of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

2.7. Standardize and publicize guideline documents for identification of ivory and rhino horn specimens, specifically for front-line law enforcement officer at border gate, in checking processing workshop, hand luggage, jewelries of tourist	Indicator: 01 materials recommended by management authorities and provided for relevant parties, number of guidelines incorporated	Achieved	Documents for identification of ivory and rhino horn specimens have been developed and circulated at the training courses for front-line law enforcements at border gates.
2.8. Training workshops for law enforcement agencies to strengthen their CITES implementation capacity using specifically designed curriculums suitable for each group	Indicator: 01 training curriculum for law enforcement groups adapted to local practice; number of officers participate in workshops	Achieved	• In the period 2018-2020, Vietnam CITES MA organized more than 20 training courses on CITES implementation and combating wildlife trade and on disseminating legal knowledge related to the wildlife protection for the officers of Border Guard, Customs, Environmental Police, Fisheries Resources Surveillance, Forest Rangers, Coast Guard, Fisheries Management Agencies, etc.
2.9. Training on the amended Penal Code 2015, related to the crime of trade, transport, possession of ivory and rhinoceros horns for law enforcement officers	Indicator: number of officers participate the training workshop.	Achieved	Organized 15 training courses on Penal Code for the law enforcement officers including Customs, Police, Forest rangers, border guard on the legal regulations in controlling wildlife trade. 750 officers have been trained.
2.10. Training courses to raise awareness of judiciary officials on the seriousness of wildlife crimes, particularly ivory and rhino horn offences	Indicator: Number of convicted cases with penal sanctions	Achieved	• The Supreme People's Court (SPC), in collaboration with UNODC, with the assistance of the GIG USAID Project and the Saving Species project has organized 05 training courses for judges from 63 provinces and cities across the country on violations of regulations on forestry and wildlife protection, focusing on illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn. 230 judges have been trained. • Supported to develop draft of resolution of Judicial Council and consultation activities to contribute comments to the Resolution. On 05/11/2018, SPC's Judicial Council

2.11. Development of a quickreference pocket guide for law enforcement officers on application of the revised wildlife crime under the new Penal Code, including ivory and rhino horn offences.	Indicator: 01 pocket guide to be disseminated to law enforcement officers	Achieved	issued Resolution no. 05/2018/NQHDTP guiding the application of Article 234 on wildlife crimes and Article 244 on crimes on precious and rare animal protection of the Penal Code • Agencies under Ministry of Natural Resources Environment, in collaboration with UNODC organized the collection of comments on the Draft of Handbook on technical guidelines to identify environmental crimes. Comments of 158 environmental inspectors and police officers were collected. The handbook has been completed and circulated to relevant partners.			
PILLAR 3: International and regional enforcement collaboration						
3.1. Continuous exchange of information on seizures within ASEAN-WEN countries or joint-training among countries who signed MoU with Viet Nam	Indicator: number of information exchanges including data on seizures, prosecution, conviction, forensic test	Substaintially achieved	 Viet Nam CITES MA regularly exchange seizures with ASEAN countries and countries who are signatories to MoU with Viet Nam, such as exchanging with Indonesia the case of 322 Red Lory parrots captured at the Noi Bai airport; exchanged with the South Africa about rhino horn seizures, especially cooperated with Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources on December 2019 to carry out the handover of 55 inspection samples of rhino horn to the representative of South Africa CITES MA The CITES enforcement agencies in Vietnam frequently have professional exchange with the regional and international agencies, especially Customs agencies, which often share information with Customs intelligence of other countries. Intelligence exchange is largely recorded in transnational Operation that Viet Nam is a part of. Operation Mekong Dragon as led by Customs of Viet Nam and China; and Operation Thunder initiated Customs, supported by WCO and INTERPOL were typical success stories showing the effectiveness in information in intelligence exchange, resulting in 113 cases of seizures in trafficking of endangered wildlife species. Details to be found at the Viet Nam Report on Rhinoceroses to SC77. 			

			• Exchange of information for control of trade, permit verification, LAFs especially on timbers are maintained under a regular basis with source and destiny countries, such as: Asian, African, EU, etc. countries.
3.2. Collaborate with source countries (Africa) to exchange information on solutions to improve the effectiveness of criminal legal assistance; To actively support the implementation of criminal legal assistance requests in order to respond to the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases related to wildlife; Promoting the negotiation and signing of bilateral criminal legal assistance agreements between Vietnam and African countries	Indicator: The number of cases is exchanged legal assistance information	On track	 In 2018, Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP) of Vietnam hosted in collaboration with related Ministries and sectors to organize the negotiation and successfully signed the Agreement on Criminal legal assistance with Mozambique. At present, SPP is processing the endorsement of this Agreement. From 2015 to 2018, SPP sent 8 requests of Criminal legal assistance related to ivory trade, particularly: 02 requests to China, 02 requests to Nigeria, 02 requests to Mozambique, 01 request to Laos and 01 request to Malaysia, however, only 2 responses have been received. From 2018 to June 2020: SPP received and handled 4legal assistance requests from Competent procedural authorities of Vietnam to send oversea (China, Nigeria, Cambodia, Mozambique) and 04 request from foreign authorities to Vietnam (France, Kenya, Mozambique, Poland). The requests are mainly to verify, collect document and evidence, in which, Vietnam handled 2 requests for oversea, 01 request has been partially fulfilled, 01 request sent oversea to provide more information however, the requested additional document has not been received so far. For the request of Vietnam sent oversea, the results of legal assistance requests have not been received.
3.3. Cooperate with nongovernmental and international organizations in receiving, transferring, processing information of early warning, arrests, suspects and other information	Indicator: The number of receiving information and arrests made from sufficient quality information	Achieved	• Police and customs authorities have received and processing information from several local and international non-governmental organizations to serve investigations and arrests. Typically, the environmental police department of Vietnam cooperated with• Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) - an international foundation with headquarters in the Netherlands, to share information and arrest, investigate, and prosecute at least3 cases illegally storing and transporting ivory and rhino horn (For privacy reasons, it is not possible to disclose specific information of these organizations).

4.1. National	Indicator: Extracurricular	Achieved	• Vietnam CITES MA in collaboration with Department of Political
extracurricular training curriculum on the protection, conservation of prioritized wildlife animals for elementary school students	programs approved by the Ministry of Education and Training to recommend for national application	Achieved	Education and Student Affairs (Ministry of Education and Training), Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, with the support of Humane Society International, has successfully developed a set of training curriculum on protection and conservation of wildlife for elementary students nationwide. • The educational materials titled "Education of conservation on threatened species for primary schools" was developed through two pilot phases across the country, later be endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Training as the national extra-curricular curriculum for primary schools in 2019. The curriculum included of 10 books, 09 subjects, covering 08 prioritized species, e.g.: rhino, elephant, tiger, pangolin, bear, marine turtle, hornbill, langur). Under the support of Humane Society International, in the same year, Viet Nam CITES MA distributed thousands of flashcard game set for primary schools at all provinces of the countries to use as learning teaching aids and educational materials to be used along with the provided curriculum.
4.2. Incorporate issues on protection, conservation of prioritized wild species in the reformed national curriculum for general education	program is approved by the	Achieved	• Vietnam CITES MA cooperated with the Department of Education and Training of provinces / cities to successfully organize 07 events/propaganda competitions to reduce demand for rhinoceros horn in major provinces and cities in Vietnam, including Hanoi city, Ho Chi Minh city, Da Nang city, Hai Phong city, Nha Trang city and Can Tho city
4.3. Surveys on consumer demands, consumer behaviors domestic market of ivory and rhinoceros horns	Indicator: Survey report towards changing consumption habits in demand reduction propaganda programs	Achieved	• In May 2020, Vietnam CITES MA established an intersectoral survey team consisting of representatives from the Supreme People's Procuracy, the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources to conduct a survey on the cooperation situation in control of illegal wildlife trade, focusing primarily on ivory and rhinoceros horn; simultaneously, the team investigated the demand for ivory and rhinoceros horn products in 3 provinces/cities: Lao Cai, Hai Phong and Da Nang. • Besides, USAID Wildlife Asia

			cooperates with TRAFFIC to conduct a survey on the demand for ivory and rhinoceros horn products in some big cities annually.
4.4. Outreach of demand reduction for ivory and rhino horns among international tourists to Viet Nam organized the Conference "Sustainable Tourism - The role of tourism in the combat against illegal wildlife trade".	Indicator: number of tourists having access to propaganda	Achieved	• Vietnam CITES MA cooperated with the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, the Tourism Association of Quang Ninh province to complete a report on the demand of wildlife for 550 international tourists in Quang Ninh, Da Nang and Khanh Hoa; constructed 02propaganda billboards on stopping the wildlife trade in restaurants, hotels in Ha Long tourism area; placed propaganda posters on stopping the wildlife trade in restaurants, hotels in Ha Long tourism area; successfully
4.5. Survey on consumer demands, consumer behaviors on reducing demand for ivory and rhino horns to business groups.	Indicator: number of business/business-person received communication messages	Achieved	 Currently, Vietnam CITES MA is deploying communication on mass media such as television, newspapers, airports, etc. To avoid duplication in reporting, details of the actions to be presented om <i>Viet Nam Report on Rhinoceroses to SC77</i>.
4.6. Raise public awareness on the protection and conservation of wildlife in general and ivory and rhinoceros horn in particular	Indicator: number of propagandas on mass media (newspaper, radio) and other forms of propaganda conducted.	Achieved	 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development held a Conference to announce the One-year Review of progress on proposed actions in the Hanoi Statement on the Illegal Wildlife Trade on May 2018. The information has been widely published with national and international media; Vietnam announced its commitment at the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade on October2018. The information has been widely published with national and international media; Vietnam CITES MA attended the UK Festival in the area of Natural Village to propagate about law enforcement in the combat against illegal trade of wild fauna and flora in Hanoi on November 2018 with thousands of attendees. Vietnam CITES MA and USAID Saving Species (USS)supported the propaganda activities on the online business system of Vietnam E-Commerce Association(VECOM) to raise awareness and responsibility of online businesses as well as customers about not consuming illegal wildlife.

PILLAR 5: Reporting			• The project supported training activities for tourism companies, tour guides on the situation of illegal wildlife trade and consumption as well as the legal regulations and recommended responsibility in companies and tour guides to guide tourists not to participate or to violate. More than 170 tour guides, hotel managers and tours have been trained with the support of USS.
5.1. National database system of illegal trade, transport, possession and related cases, from seizures, prosecution, convictions	Indicator: Information is updated regularly, statistical reports are made every year	Achieved	 Deployment stopped due to barriers from national law in sharing and publicizing information on arrest, prosecution and adjudication The action was replaced by the development of the E-permit systems. 02 separate E-Systems was developed, with one acts as an integral part to the Online Single Window by Customs, while the another is an integral part to the online Single Window - Public Services System by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Both systems are well functioning and maintaining to date to allow CITES permitting through electronic environment.
5.2. The international reporting and information systems include the Elephant Species Information System (ETIS), the rhinoceros specimen storage report, the annual national report	reports are updated, collected from relevant agencies by Vietnam CITES MA and sent to	On track	Vietnam CITES MA has completed: • Submit reports on the storage of rhinoceros specimens to the Secretariat; • Provide data for the Elephant Trade Information System(ETIS) in accordance with the regulation on arrest of ivory specimens over 500 kg; • Annual national report is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2019.

Part D: Annex (supporting information)

PILLAR 2: National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration

TABLE 1. SEIZURE AND CASE RESOLUTION IN ELEPHANT IVORY 2022 - 2023

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/r e-export	Coun try of desti natio n	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of trans port	Method of concealm ent	Mode of detection	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
1	Dien Chau district Traffic Police (Nghe An province)	Seizure: 20/3/2020 Trial: 14/4/2022	Nghe An province				63 tusks weighting 213.8 kg	Land way	Hidden in jute bag in the truck		02 suspects	01 subject: 36- month suspended sentence, 60- month probation, VND 100 million fine
2	Dak Lak province Environment Police	Multiple seizures: 31/3/2022	Dak Lak province				Ivory rings, pendants ivory products		Sales at jewelry shops	Inspection		VND 195.75 million to 391.5 million fine
3	Da Nang city Customs	Seizure: 12/01/202 2 Trial: 21/02/202 3	Tien Sa Port, Da Nang city	Nigeria		Viet Nam	456.9 kg ivory, 6.2 tones pangolin scales	Sea way	Declared as cashew nuts	Inspection	01 suspect	13 year imprisonment VND 50 million fine
4	Kien Giang province Environment Police	Seizure: 17/2/2022	Kien Giang province				27 ivory bracelets		Sales at souvenir shop	Inspection	01 suspect	VND 217 million fine
5	Dak Lak province Environment Police	Seizure: 29/4/2022	Dak Lak province				11 ivory rings		Sales at jewelry shop	Inspection	01 suspect	VND 195.75 million fine

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/r e-export	Coun try of desti natio n	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of trans port	Method of concealm ent	Mode of detection	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
6	Kien Giang province Environment Police, Kien Giang province Market Surveillance Department	Seizure: 05/7/2022	Kien Giang province				31 ivory bracelets, 6 ivory rings, 15 ivory bead string, 2 ivory pendants		Sales at gold shop	Inspection	01 suspect	VND 400 million fine
7	Kien Giang province Environment Police, Kien Giang province Market Surveillance Department	Seizure: 06/7/2022	Kien Giang province				06 ivory bracelets, 03 ivory rings, 17 ivory bead strings, 8 ivory pendants		Sales at gold shop	Inspection	01 suspect	VND 400 million fine
8	Ha Noi city Environment Police, Ha Noi city Forest Protection Department	Seizure: 29/12/202 2 Trial: 28/9/2023	Ha Noi				21 ivory products weighting 15.4 kg		Craft shop	Inspection	01 suspect	30-month imprisonment
9	Phu Xuyen District Police (Ha Noi)	Seizure: 20/12/202 2 Trial: 14/9/2023	Ha Noi				3 ivory bracelets, 2 sun bear claws		Post	Operation	01 suspect	18-month suspended sentence. 36- month probation, VND 195 million fine
10	Ba Dinh district Police, Ha Noi city Forest Protection Department	Seizure: 26/12/202 2 Trial: 16/02/202 3	Ha Noi				1.3 kg ivory bracelets, pendants, ivory pipe		Displayed at jewelry shop	Inspection	01 suspect	VND 37.5 million fine

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/r e-export	Coun try of desti natio n	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of trans port	Method of concealm ent	Mode of detection	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
11	Kien Giang province Market Surveillance Department	Seizure: 11/5/2023 Trial: 03/7/2023	Kieng Giang province				29 ivory bracelets, rings weighting 178.6g		Private business sales	Inspection	01 suspect	VND 375 million fine
12	Dinh Vu Port Customs (Hai Phong city)	13/7/2023	Hai Phong city	Nigeria		Viet Nam	110 kg ivory	Sea way	Hidden among logs	Inspection		Under investigation
13	Noi Bai International Airport Customs	28/6/2023	Ha Noi	Angola		Viet Nam	42.42 kg ivory bracelets, chopsticks 20kg rhino horns	Air way		Inspection	05 suspects	Under investigation
14	Noi Bai International Airport Customs, Hanoi city Police	25/4/2023	Ha Noi	Angola	Qatar	Viet Nam	37 ivory bracelets weighing 4.712 kg 11.82kg rhino horn	Air way	Hidden in checked baggage	Inspection	01 suspect	Under investigation
15	Hai Phong city Customs Department, Hai Phong city Police, Nam Hai - Dinh Vu port	20/3/2023	Hai Phong city	Angola	Singap ore	Viet Nam	7.5 tons ivory, 110kg products from ivory	Sea way	Hidden in a container	Inspection		Under investigation

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/r e-export	Coun try of desti natio n	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of trans port	Method of concealm ent	Mode of detection	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
16	Hai Phong city Customs, Department of Antismuggling and Investigation (General Department of Customs), Hai Phong city Police Department, Dinh Vu Port Customs	06/2/2023	Hai Phong city	Nigeria	Singap ore	Viet Nam	42 tusks weighing 130 kg	Sea way	Hidden among cow horns	Inspection		Under investigation
17	Hai Phong city Customs, Department of Antismuggling and Investigation (General Department of Customs), Hai Phong city Police Department, Dinh Vu Port Customs	02/2/2023	Hai Phong city	Nigeria	Singap ore	Viet Nam	117 tusks weighing 490 kg	Sea way	Hidden among cow horns	Inspection		Under investigation

TABLE 2. SEIZURE AND CASE RESOLUTION IN RHINOCEROS SPECIMENS 2022 – SEPTEMBER 2023

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Locat ion of seizur e	Countr y of origin	Count ry of transi t/re- export	Count ry of destina tion	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of transp ort	Method of concealme	Mode of detectio n	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
1	Ha Noi city Environment Police	Seizure: 30/1/2021 Trial: 30/09/2022	Ha Noi			Viet Nam	301g white rhino horn	Unide ntified	Online trade	Seizure	02 suspects	1st subject: 30-month imprisonment 2nd subject: 36-month imprisonment
2	Hung Nguyen District Police (Nghe An province)	Seizure: 09/9/2021 Trial: 28/2/2022	Nghe An			Viet Nam	06-piece white rhino; 01 piece black rhino, weighted 0.711kg			Seizure	02 suspects	1st subject: 7-year 3- month imprisonment, 50,000 million VND fine 2nd subject: 24-month probation
3	Ha Noi city Anti- Smuggling Police and Noi Bai International Airport	Seizure: 24/9/2021 Trial: 01/07/2022	Ha Noi	Mozam bique		Viet Nam	9.3kg white rhino pieces	Air way	Hidden in suitcases, covered by aluminum foil and plastic bags	Seizure	02 suspects	1st subject: 8-year imprisonment 2nd subject: 7-year imprisonment
4	Noi Bai International Airport Customs	Seizure: 17/4/2022 Trial: 29/12/2022	Ha Noi	Angola		Viet Nam	o6 rhino horn piece, weighted 1.9kg	Air way		Seizure	01 suspect	6-year imprisonment
5	Yen Thanh District Police (Nghe An Province)	Seizure: 10/6/2022 Trial: 15/11/2022				Viet Nam	164g black rhinoceros horn		Online trade	Seizure	01 suspect	12-month imprisonment

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Locat ion of seizur e	Countr y of origin	Count ry of transi t/re- export	Count ry of destina tion	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of transp ort	Method of concealme	Mode of detectio n	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
6	Tan Binh district Investigation Police Agency, Ho Chi Minh city	Seizure: 24/6/2022 Trial: 18/8/2023	Ho Chi Minh city	Luanda Angola	Dubai UAE	Viet Nam	2 kg rhino horn piece, 1/6kg ivory pieces	Air way	Hidden among beef and goat meat in nylon bags	Inspecti on	02 suspects	5-year imprisonment
7	Ha Noi city Environment Police	Seizure: 14/9/2022 Trial: 12/5/2023	Ha Noi			Viet Nam	02 kg rhino horn piece	Land way		Seizure	03 suspects	1st subject: 42 month, 50 million VND fine, 2nd subject: 36 month 3rd subject: 30-month imprisonment
8	Pleiku city Economics Police (Gia Lai Province)	Seizure: 18/11/2023 Trial: 16/6/2022	Gia Lai			Viet Nam	02 rhino horn pieces weighted 100g		Online trade		02 suspects	1st subject: 18-month imprisonment 2nd subject: 15-month imprisonment
9	Noi Bai International Airport	Seizure: 08/07/2022	Ha Noi	Angola		Viet Nam	9 kg rhino horn, 6 kg ivory	Air way	Hidden among beef	Inspecti on	01 suspect	Under investigation
10	Ha Noi city Environment Police	Seizure: 05/01/2023	Ha Noi	Angola		Viet Nam	7.108 kg rhino horn pieces	Land way	Hidden in suspect's house	Search	01 suspect	Under investigation
11	Ha Noi city Police, Noi Bai International Airport Customs	Seizure: 25/4/2023	Ha Noi	Angola	Qatar	Viet Nam	04 rhino horns weighted 11,82 kg	Air way	Hidden in checked baggage	Inspecti on	01 suspect	Under investigation

No	Information source/ Seized by	Date of seizure	Locat ion of seizur e	Countr y of origin	Count ry of transi t/re- export	Count ry of destina tion	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of transp ort	Method of concealme	Mode of detectio n	Informa tion suspect	Status of the case
12	Noi Bai International Airport Customs	Seizure: 28/6/2023	Ha Noi	Angola		Viet Nam	20kg rhino horn, 42kg elephant ivory bracelet, chopsticks	Air way		Seizure	05 suspects	Under investigation
13	Lai Chau province Criminal Police Department	Seizure: 10/9/2023	Lai Chau	Lao PDR		Viet Nam	759,6 grams white rhino horn	Unide ntified		Inspecti on	01 suspect	Under investigation

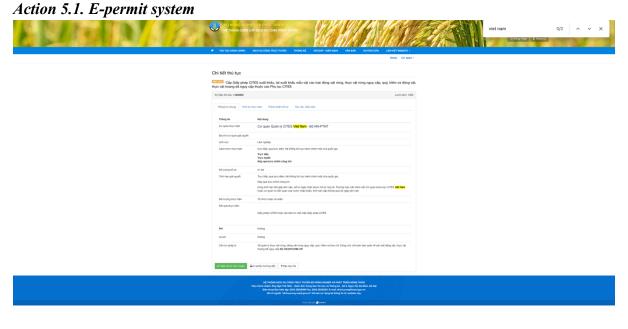
PILLAR 4. Outreach, public awareness and education

Action 4.1. National extracurricular training curriculum on the protection, conservation of prioritized wildlife animals for elementary school students

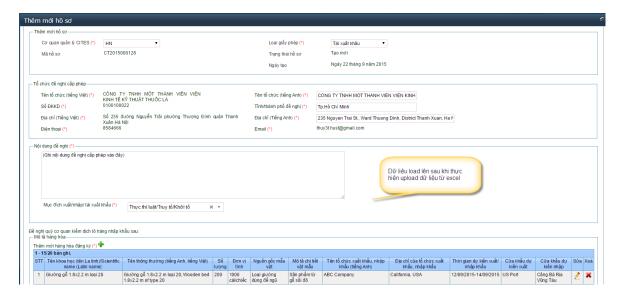


The extra-curricular educational curriculum for primary schools titled "Education of conservation on threatened species for primary schools"

PILLAR 5: Reporting



Screenshot of the online application for CITES E-permit through the Online Public Services by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development



Screenshot of the online application for CITES E-permit through the Online Customs Single Window