



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Department of Forest Resource Management

No:...../DFRM

Vientiane Capital, Date: 14 JUL 2016

**Progress Report**  
**Implementing on National Ivory Action Plan (NAIP)-Lao PDR**  
**Reporting period: February-June 2016**

**Part A: Introduction**

Laos PDR has made significant progress in the implementation of the National Ivory Action Plan. Political will to end wildlife and forest crime has never been stronger in Lao PDR partly due to the recent inauguration of the new Prime Minister, Thongloun Sisoulith. He has a strong environmental policy and, as the former minister for foreign Affairs, is familiar of the importance of conventions and treaties and takes a serious view on maintaining these international obligations.

There has also been increased activity in wildlife enforcement actions, diplomatic missions to strengthen transnational cooperation and capacity building for agencies.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 Customs officers at Wattay Airport, discovered 9 pieces of ivory, weighing 48kg, hidden in two suitcases on a flight from Ethiopia via Korea. The seizure was a result of information shared by a neighboring country. Inspections in key ivory hotspots, such as the Chinese market, are being undertaken and have resulted in seizures of ivory products.

The Department of Forestry Inspections is chairing a Law enforcement technical advisors group (LETAG) to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Lao PDR. The group is comprised of key embassy staff, NGOs, law enforcement advisors and donors including the World Bank. The Wildlife Conservation

Society (WCS) has agreed to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the NIAP, with a focus on capacity building of frontline officers at key transit points, awareness campaigns and in facilitating Bilateral and Trilateral meeting with China and Vietnam to improve cooperation and coordination with neighboring countries.

Training programs on ivory identification have already been scheduled. In February 2016, The World Bank contracted a consultant to conduct a review on the legal Compendium to wildlife and Aquatic law and a draft review of the penal code has been conducted with stricter penalties for wildlife offences. Funding has been secured for consultants to conduct a review of current legislative, regulatory, enforcement, and other measures and initiatives in place in Asian elephant range States to address or prevent illegal trade in live Asian elephants and to report the findings. A smart phone appliance for offence recording and intelligence tracking has been implemented by key officers across all provinces.

Functional analysis, capacity assessments and systems assessments are being conducted for Laos WEN agencies and a systematic training program will commence once this has been finalized. This information is a brief synopsis of the efforts being undertaken in Lao PDR to implement the NIAP. We are confident that over the next year we will be able to achieve greater success. Lao PDR is firmly committed to prevent, combat and eradicate illegal ivory trafficking. We are taking serious step to end the Ivory trade in Lao PDR. We affirm our continued commitment to preserving and protecting Elephants under the obligations of the CITES.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lao PDR CITES MA for any clarification on our efforts.

**Attached hereby:**

**Part B:** Progress Rating

**Part C:** Detail Evaluation of Action

CATEGORY 1: Vongdeuane Vongsiharath  
DG of DFRM and CITES National Focal point

CATEGORY 2: Inthavy Akkharath  
DDG of DFRM and CBD National Focal point



**Mr. Vongdeuane VONGSIHARATH**

		Part B: Progress rating				
Category	Substantially achieved	On Track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
1.1 Conduct a revision of the regulation on National Biodiversity Conservation, wildlife and Aquatic Management in Lao PDR No.0360/MAF:2013, 8/12/2013, to update it in accordance with relevant legislation such as the wildlife Act.		Stage one of a stage two review completed on the Legal Compendium to wildlife law completed.				
1.2 Following the completion of 1.1 above, review the current regulation of MAF and institutional mandates regarding enforcement of Ivory trade through Lao PDR, identifying barriers to prosecution and punishment and make recommendations on required revisions			Awaiting completion of stage two of the Legal Compendium to wildlife law before final recommendations made.			
1.3 Develop a ministerial circular on the management of hunting trophies	Circulars delivered					
1.4 Review penalties under the penal code to ensure that wildlife crime is adequately addressed as a form of serious crime		Draft review of the penal code submitted.				
Category 2:						
2.1 Develop capacity of multi-agency (Lao-WEN) law enforcement officers through regional (North, Central, South) training courses in the following areas:		A capacity and systems needs assessment has commenced for the Department of Forestry Inspections. This will later be conducted on all Lao WEN agencies before capacity gaps are identified and a training plan developed.				
a) to conduct inspection and detection regarding smuggled wildlife including species identification (including genuine ivory from fake)		A training course in the identification of Ivory and other wildlife products has been developed by our NGO partner, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The course will be delivered to frontline officers of Lao WEN agencies commencing in August 2016.				
b) CITES requirements and examination of (CITES) documents and detect documentation misuse and fraud		WCS has agreed to deliver practical based training modules to customs officers in the requirements and examination of CITES requirements				
2.2 Ensure that border officers are in possession of necessary tools and guides to identify CITES species and determine genuine from fake documentation		Ivory and wildlife identification toolkits and materials are currently being translated. When this is complete we will disseminate them to relevant agencies along with necessary tools, i.e. ultra violet lights and magnifying glasses.				
2.3 develop advanced investigative capacity of multi-agency (Lao-WEN) law enforcement officers through regional (North, Central, South) training courses in subjects including:				This will be undertaken when capacity assessments and more basic training has been completed		
Forensic awareness						
Controlled deliveries						
Use of technology						
Judicial procedures and presenting cases						
2.4 Participate in international and regional law enforcement activities	Trade chain mission undertaken by key staff in 3 countries. Bilateral and trilateral meeting committed to in July and August					
2.5 Improve control of wildlife trade in Ivory and other wildlife in local markets		Inspections and seizures occurring at provincial and national hotspots				
2.6 Strengthen the enforcement at ports and border checkpoints			Capacity and systems assessments being conducted			
Category 3						

3.1 Enhance cooperation with other Asian, African countries on combating wildlife crime		MOU with China, Vietnam and Thailand in place. A draft plan of an agreement with South Africa has been developed. Tri lateral meeting with China and Vietnam scheduled. Bilateral meeting with Vietnam scheduled. Trilateral trade chain mission with China and Vietnam completed				
3.2 Increase use of international tools to enhance information and intelligence			Some training given by WCO in the WCO CEN Comms system			
3.3 Ensure reporting of information to MIKE and ETIS						
Category 4						
4.1 Increase awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime amongst prosecutors and judiciary			Prosecutors attending Lao WEN/PWEN conferences to raise awareness.			
4.2 Increase the capacity of relevant officers in wildlife crime investigation to help increase the rate of prosecutions for wildlife crime		Trilateral trade chain mission completed, 6 officers attended from Laos. 100 officials from 18 provinces attended a strategic planning meeting to discuss best practices				
Category 5						
5.1 conduct awareness and trafficking prevention trafficking at key border ports: VTE, Luang Prabang, Pakse airports and key land crossings			Awareness campaign still in the planning stages.			
6.1 Establish and maintain a robust system for management of stockpiles of wildlife seizures			Still in the planning stage			
7.1 Explore implementation of the ICCWC wildlife and forest crime Analytic toolkit in Lao PDR			With the support of WCS, we are progressing towards implementation of the ICCWC toolkit			

		Part C: Detailed evaluation of actions				
Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress				
1.1 Conduct a revision of the regulation on National Biodiversity Conservation, wildlife and Aquatic Management in Lao PDR, No.0360/MAF.2013, 8/12/2013, to update it in accordance with relevant legislation such as the wildlife Act.	On track	A report on phase 1 and a proposal for phase 2 legal compendium to the wildlife and aquatic law has been finalized by the World Bank on 9th June 2016. Phase one included Defining and mapping the wildlife dimension of the forest sector, identifying, compiling and reviewing the relevant legislation and to design the detailed steps to achieve objectives of phase 2. Funding has been secured for consultants to conduct a review on the illegal trade in live elephants. They will review legislative, enforcement and other measures and initiatives as requested by the CITES Standing Committee( SC65, Geneva, July 14) the review will commence in February 2017.				
1.2 Following the completion of 1.1 above, review the current regulation of MAF and institutional mandates regarding enforcement of ivory trade through Lao PDR, identifying barriers to prosecution and punishment and make recommendations on required revisions	Limited progress	During phase 1 of the legal compendium to the wildlife and aquatic law 9th June 2016 many barriers to prosecution have been identified and recommendations. We are waiting for the completion of phase two before we can review final recommendations.				
1.3 Develop a ministerial circular on the management of hunting trophies	Substantially achieved	On the 30/05/2016 ministerial circulars have been distributed by the Ministry of Natural Recourse and Management, The Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The notices are regarding the strengthening the management of wildlife and aquatic including the management of hunting trophies.				
1.4 Review penalties under the penal code to ensure that wildlife crime is adequately addressed as a form of serious crime	On track	On the 24/6/2015 a draft review of the penal code, relating to timber and wildlife crime, was submitted to the Ministry of Forest Resource Management. The penalties have been substantially increased for offences against wildlife including hunting and trade.				
Category 2						
2.1 Develop capacity of multi-agency (Lao-WEN) law enforcement officers through regional (North, Central, South) training courses in the following areas:	On track	A capacity and systems needs assessment has commenced for the Department of Forestry Inspections. WCS is undertaking this assessment with a purpose designed template. This will later be used to assess all Lao WEN agencies, capacity gaps are identified a training plan and curriculum developed.				
a) to conduct inspection and detection regarding smuggled wildlife including species identification (including genuine ivory from fake)	On track	A training course in the identification of ivory and other wildlife products has been developed by our NGO partner, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) The course will be delivered to frontline officers of Lao WEN agencies commencing in August 2016.				
b) CITES requirements and examination of(CITES) documents and detect documentation misuse and fraud	On track	WCS is preparing training in CITES documentation and document fraud to be delivered to Lao WEN agencies.				
2.2 Ensure that border officers are in possession of necessary tools and guides to identify CITES species and determine genuine from fake documentation	On track	Ivory and wildlife identification toolkits and materials are currently being translated and printed. When this is complete we will disseminate them to relevant agencies along with the necessary tools				
2.3 develop advanced investigative capacity of multi-agency (Lao-WEN) law enforcement officers through regional (North, Central, South) training courses in subjects including:	Pending completion of another action.	This more advanced training will take place following the completion of the capacity assessments and basic training. Between 29 Feb and 6 March DOFI staff attended a special investigators course in Thailand				
Forensic Awareness	Limited progress					
Controlled Deliveries	Limited progress					
Questioning	Limited progress					
Use of Technology	Limited progress	Training has been delivered in a smart phone offence reporting and intelligence appliance. This tool has been implemented in northern, central and southern provinces				
Judicial procedures and presenting cases	Limited progress					

2.4 Participate in international and regional law enforcement activities	Substantially achieved	<p>A trade chain mission, where six members from central and provincial law enforcement agencies, i.e. Department of Forestry Inspections, Customs, CITES MA, Environmental Police and Border Army, was held between 20 March and 30 March 2016. The participants joined corresponding agencies from China and Vietnam to visit known trafficking routes between the countries. Participant discussed ways of improving levels of coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, methods of international communication and information sharing and a practical exercise on intelligence led investigations.</p> <p>In July 2016, 17 central and provincial level delegates from Lao WEN agencies are travelling to Kunming, China to meet with counterparts in China to discuss ways of improving cooperation between the two countries. This is supported by China CITES MA.</p> <p>In August 2016 10 central level officials will join Vietnamese and Chinese officials to attend a tri lateral meeting in China. This is to improve cooperation and commitment between the three countries.</p> <p>In 2015 DOFI staff attended an workshop, in Singapore, with INTERPOL to learn about international communication mechanisms.</p>				
2.5 Improve control of wildlife trade in ivory and other wildlife in local markets	On track	Routine patrols are occurring in Vientiane and provincial market hotspots. The most recent occurred in June at the Chinese market in Vientiane. Shops selling wildlife products were targeted resulting in a number of jewelry items seized.				
2.6 Strengthen the enforcement at ports and border checkpoints	Limited progress	Capacity, systems and needs assessments are being conducted to identify capacity gaps to ensure targeted relevant training. Training in cross border investigations and information sharing was conducted during the trade chain meeting in March 2016.				
Category 3						
3.1 Enhance cooperation with other Asian, African countries on combating wildlife crime	On track	<p>An implementation plan between DFRM and the Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic Of South Africa on the Cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and protection has been drafted. This is expected to be formalized in Sept 2016. MOU exist between Lao PDR and Vietnam at the central level and Lao PDR and China CITES MA.</p> <p>Provincial level MOU exist between Thailand provincial agencies. A trade chain mission, where six members from central and provincial law enforcement agencies, i.e. Department of Forestry Inspections, Customs, CITES MA, Environmental Police and Border Army, was held between 20 March and 30 March 2016. The participants joined corresponding agencies from China and Vietnam to visit known trafficking routes between the countries. Participant discussed ways of improving levels of coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, methods of international communication and information sharing and a practical exercise on intelligence led investigations.</p> <p>In July 2016, 17 central and provincial level delegates from Lao WEN agencies are travelling to Kunming, China to meet with counterparts in China to discuss ways of improving cooperation between the two countries. This is supported by China CITES MA.</p> <p>In August 2016 10 central level officials will join Vietnamese and Chinese officials to attend a tri lateral meeting in China. This is to improve cooperation and commitment between the three countries.</p>				
3.2 Increase use of international tools to enhance information and intelligence	Limited progress	During May 2016 Customs staff were given training in the WCO Custom Enforcement Network communications systems. There have been difficulties accessing the system but customs staff are currently problem solving and expect to be connected in the near future.				
3.3 Ensure reporting of information to MIKE and ETIS	Not commenced	Are now aware of the requirement and will ensure future seizures are reported				
Category 4						
4.1 Increase awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime amongst prosecutors and judiciary	Limited progress	Members of the Laos procuracy have been attending ASEA/PWEN meetings including workshops in Thailand on Dec 2015 and Jan 2016 to raise their awareness of wildlife crime				

4.2 Increase the capacity of relevant officers in wildlife crime investigation to help increase the rate of prosecutions for wildlife crime	On track	A trade chain mission, where six members from central and provincial law enforcement agencies, i.e. Department of Forestry Inspections, Customs, CITES MA, Environmental Police and Border Army, was held between 20 March and 30 March 2016. The participants joined corresponding agencies from China and Vietnam to visit known trafficking routes between the countries. Participant discussed ways of improving levels of coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, methods of international communication and information sharing and a practical exercise on intelligence led investigations. Between the 23 May and the 7 June 2016 several meetings of the annual forest and wildlife law enforcement STEPP meeting was held in northern, central and southern provinces. Nearly 100 officials, representing all 18 Provinces, 5 international projects, and law enforcement agencies (including Customs, the Army, Police and Public Prosecutors). This strategic meeting provides an opportunity to identify best practices and encourage their adoption by other Provinces; clarifies national priorities and government policy; review new tools (including the Smart Phone Information Reporting and Intelligence Tracking system), inform participants of new project and upcoming support; and identify impediments, and identify solutions, to enhance forest and wildlife law enforcement efforts.				
5.1 conduct awareness and trafficking prevention at key border ports: VTE, Luang Prabang and Pakse airports and key land crossings.	Limited progress	In collaboration with WCS we have plans to conduct wildlife trafficking prevention and demand reduction awareness campaigns at key border entry points with support from the Environmental Protection Fund.				
Category 6						
6.1 Establish and maintain a robust system for management of stockpiles of wildlife seizures	Limited progress	Until this time there has been no requirement for system. Now that enforcement action is becoming efficient and seizures are occurring we recognize the necessity and are seeking external advice to establish a facility and system. CITES scientific authority will draft a proposal.				
Category 7						
7.1 Explore implementation of the ICCWC wildlife and forest crime Analytic toolkit in Lao PDR	Limited progress	With the support of WCS, we are progressing towards implementation of the ICCWC toolkit. Central level staff have been briefed (COBRA?) on the potential of the toolkit				

