



CITES NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

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CAMBODIA

Reporting period: 01 November 2014 – 31 July 2017

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PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

The implementation of the NIAP currently receives a rating of '*Partial Progress*' as there have been 3 of 13 actions that have been either *Achieved* or *Substantially Achieved*, while there have been 10 actions that have had *Limited/Partial Progress* or have *Not Commenced*.

The national conservation action plan was drafted and national level consultations have been organized, notwithstanding that large-scale jurisdictional changes have affected the administrative mandates of the Forestry Administration in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment.

'Stop Ivory' protocols have been used to inventory and manage ivory seizures.

Progress to date

There are 2 of 13 actions that have been *Achieved*, 1 action that has been *Substantially Achieved*, 7 actions that have had *Limited/Partial Progress*, and 3 actions that have *Not Commenced*.

Regular reporting and information sharing with relevant agencies has been established.

'Stop Ivory' protocols were used during the current reporting period to inventory and manage ivory seizures and training in those protocols was provided in March 2016 to 10 Forestry Administration staff and 9 Customs and Excise officials from Phnom Penh and Siem Reap provinces.

There was a partial inventory of ivory confiscated by the Forestry Administration that was completed in Siem Reap province in March 2016, but the remaining ivory that had been confiscated cannot be inventoried until the court cases in which that ivory was retained as evidence have been completed.

Future outlook

There are plans within the next 12 months to meet with officials in Vietnam to strengthen enforcement efforts to stop the cross-border smuggling of wildlife, as well as other planned initiatives with other neighboring countries that will be introduced and discussed at regional meetings and fora.

Collaborative efforts will continue with the General Department of Customs and Excise to inventory and manage ivory seizures in Cambodia pending the rendering of final verdicts of on-going court cases. We are currently awaiting the resolution of those cases to discuss with the General Department of Customs and Excise the management of ivory seizures and to plan and conduct a complete inventory of ivory.

We are continuing to monitor the progress of the court case involving the country's only large-scale seizure of ivory, which occurred in Sihanoukville, until that case has been processed by the court and we are able to obtain samples of the ivory for testing.

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

PROGRESS RATING					
Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited/Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
			<p>1.1 Revise the Government Prakas (proclamation) No. 020 PR. MAFF on the Classification and List of Wildlife Species to include African elephants on the list of Endangered species*</p> <p>1.2 Issue a Ministerial Proclamation on the management of seizures of ivory*</p>		
<p>4.1 Develop a national conservation action plan to conserve elephants in Cambodia, encompassing anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts*</p>	<p>5.1 Regular reporting and information sharing with relevant agencies</p>		<p>2.1 Establish a specialized Wildlife Crime Investigation unit within the Forestry Administration to focus on combating the illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife both within and outside of Cambodia*</p> <p>2.2 Determine ways in which inter-agency cooperation could be increased to combat wildlife crimes</p> <p>2.4 Establish a system for the management of ivory seizures*</p> <p>2.5 Increase cooperation with other countries on wildlife crime investigations and enforcement operations*</p>		<p>2.3 Enhance the awareness and capacity of Customs and Excise and other relevant agencies with regard to wildlife trafficking *</p>
<p>6.1 Explore implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit in Cambodia</p>					
			<p>3.2 Increase the capacity of Forestry Administration officials in wildlife crime investigations and monitoring to increase the rate of prosecutions for wildlife crimes*</p>		<p>3.1 Increase awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crimes among prosecutors and judiciaries*</p>
					<p>5.2 Explore sharing intelligence related to wildlife crimes through international mechanisms</p>

PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions

ACTION	EVALUATION		SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)
PILLAR 1: Legislation and regulations			
1.1 [Revise the Government Prakas (proclamation) No. 020 PR. MAFF on Classification and List of Wildlife Species, to include African elephants on the list of Endangered species*]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	During the previous period, consultations were conducted within the Forestry Administration and the drafting of the Prakas had commenced, but during the current reporting period there have been large-scale jurisdictional changes that have affected the administrative mandates of the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the Forestry Administration, which have slowed this process to a considerable extent.
1.2 [Issue a Ministerial Proclamation on the management of ivory seizures]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Stop Ivory’ protocols were used during the current reporting period to inventory and manage ivory seizures. • Training in ‘Stop Ivory’ protocols was provided in March 2016 to 10 Forestry Administration staff and 9 Customs and Excise officials from Phnom Penh and Siem Reap provinces. • There was a partial inventory of ivory confiscated by the Forestry Administration that was completed in Siem Reap province in March 2016, but the remaining ivory that had been confiscated cannot be inventoried until the court cases in which that ivory was retained as evidence has been completed.
PILLAR 2: National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration			
2.1 [Establish a specialized Wildlife Crime Investigation unit within the Forestry Administration to focus on combating the illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife both within and outside of Cambodia]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some progress has been made regarding this initiative due to the jurisdictional changes that have been made that are affecting the administrative mandates of the MOE and the Forestry Administration. These include potential changes in Forestry Administration responsibilities, as well as in the Forestry Law, that will affect the means of combating the illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife. The continued progress in the implementation of this action remains contingent on the clarification and subsequent institutionalization of these administrative modifications.
2.2 [Determine ways in which inter-agency cooperation could be increased to combat wildlife crime]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forestry Administration met with the Director General of Customs and Excise in February 2017 to seek cooperation in managing ivory seizures. • No formal agreements have yet been developed.
2.3 [Enhance the awareness and capacity of Customs and Excise and other relevant agencies with regard to wildlife trafficking]	[INDICATOR]	[Not commenced]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no implementation of this action aside from the training of 9 Customs officers by ‘Stop Ivory’ during the partial inventory of confiscated ivory that was conducted in March 2016. • There is no funding that is currently available to implement this action.

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)	
2.4 [Establish a system for the management of ivory seizures]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Stop Ivory’ protocols were used during the current reporting period in Siem Reap province to conduct the first partial inventory of ivory confiscated by the Forestry Administration. We await the processing of cases by the courts to cooperate with the General Department of Customs and Excise in the management of ivory seizures and to plan and conduct a complete inventory of ivory. Samples from Cambodia's only large-scale ivory seizure, which occurred in Sihanoukville, will not be able to be obtained until the case in which that ivory is used as evidence has been processed by the court.
2.5 [Increase cooperation with other countries on wildlife crime investigations and enforcement operations]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a follow-up meeting planned within the next 12 months to further strengthen collaborative efforts to stop wildlife smuggling that has been initiated between Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as other planned initiatives with other neighboring countries that will be introduced and discussed at regional meetings and fora. The Forestry Administration, Customs and Excise, and the Phnom Penh court responded to a request from the Namibian Police to sample the two rhinoceros horn seizures that were made by Phnom Penh authorities in 2016. Samples of the two horns have been taken and the process of obtaining CITES permits to send them to South Africa for genetic analysis to assist in the investigation are in process.
PILLAR 3: International and regional enforcement collaboration			
3.1 [Increase awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crimes among prosecutors and judiciaries*]	[INDICATOR]	[Not commenced]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans are under development to implement this action.
3.2 [Increase the capacity of Forestry Administration officials in wildlife crime investigations to increase the rate of prosecutions for wildlife crimes]	[INDICATOR]	[Limited/Partial progress]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was provided in January 2016 to 14 Forestry Administration rangers in patrolling and anti-poaching methods, including methods of collecting evidence, judicial procedures, and presenting court cases. Limited funding has prevented more progress in the implementation of this action.
PILLAR 4: Outreach, public awareness and education			
4.1 [Develop a national conservation action plan to conserve elephants in Cambodia, encompassing anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts]	[INDICATOR]	[ACHIEVED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local level consultations with relevant stakeholders have been conducted. The national conservation action plan has been drafted and national level consultations have been organized, as well. <i>The next step in this process is to finalize the action plan and submit it to relevant ministries for approval.</i>
PILLAR 5: Reporting			
5.1 [Regular reporting and	[INDICATOR]	[Substantially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports are regularly completed and submitted as required.

ACTION	EVALUATION		SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
information sharing with relevant agencies]		achieved]	
5.2 [Explore sharing of intelligence related to wildlife crimes through international mechanisms]	[INDICATOR]	[Not commenced]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation has not yet started.
PILLAR 6: Other			
6.1 Explore implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit in Cambodia	[INDICATOR]	[ACHIEVED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forestry Administration has committed itself to implement several of the actions in the National Ivory Action Plan by the end of 2017. Those commitments incorporate changes to, or the introduction of new, legislation, enhancement of enforcement capacity and inter-agency coordination, raised awareness on the part of prosecutors and judiciaries of the seriousness of wildlife and forest crimes, and strengthened information sharing between agencies and countries. We do not, therefore, anticipate the necessity at the present time to implement the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit in Cambodia.