



**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of S.R. Viet Nam**  
**VIET NAM CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**



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**PROGRESS REPORT OF VIET NAM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NATIONAL RHINO AND IVORY ACTION PLAN (NIRAP)**

Pursuant to the Recommendations of the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting from 27/11 to 01/12/2018 in Geneva on developing the National Ivory and Rhinoceros Action Plan (NIRAP) in SC69 Sum. 10 (Rev1);

Pursuant to the Notification No. JS/BVR/JSt dated 19/12/2017 of the CITES Secretariat on development and report on the implementation of NIRAP;

The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority updated the implementation progress of NIRAP in the period 2018-2020 as followed:

1. Developing the Decree on management of endangered, rare and precious fauna and flora and the implementation of CITES: As of 20 June 2018, the draft Decree has been publicized on Viet Nam government portal to gather feedbacks. The draft Decree includes provisions related to management of CITES Appendix I-listed specimens after confiscation and DNA forensic of CITES specimens.
2. Revising the Decree on Handling administrative violations in forest management, forest development, forest protection and forest product management: As of 20 June 2018, the draft Decree was publicly consulted, the draft has been revised pursuant to the provisions of the Penal Code 2015, amended in 2018.
3. Developing Circular on Exploitation of forest products, legal forest product dossiers and management of forest products origin, traceability records and forest plant and animal specimens marking: The draft Circular is being finalized, including provisions on CITES specimens traceability, such as marking and labeling products of Annex I of CITES-listed specimens.
4. Exchanging information through the VN-WEN network: On June 1, 2018, as the coordinating agency, the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority held an inter-sectoral meeting where participants from management and enforcement agencies

shared information related to arrests, revising legal provisions, information on prosecutions, hearings, challenges in combattign against wildlife crimes.

5. Training to enhance investigation skills of Environmental Police: From October 2017 to June 2018, with the support of HSI, VN CITES MA cooperated with UNODC to organize 03 training courses for 190 law enforcement officers, including police, customs and forest protection. The course contents include the application of the Penal Code; identification skills of ivory specimens, rhino horns; investigation of wildlife trade.

6. The Environment Police Department conducted two investigations to strengthen control over wildlife crime in focal areas: Environmental Police Department and Hanoi Police Department investigated and arrested cases including the arrest of 900 kg of ivory in Thuong Tin, Hanoi, the arrest of 20.5 kg of rhino horn in Lao Cai (being transported to the border area).



*Two offenders were arrested by police in Lao Cai province*

7. FPD units and interdisciplinary agencies coordinated in inspecting facilities manufacturing and selling souvenirs made from wild animals in focal areas: On 29 March 2018, interdisciplinary agencies inspected fine arts facility and arrested 4.7 kg of ivory.



*Ivory manipulation seized in Dak Lak province by Environmental Police*

8. Survey, report, recommendation and solution for controlling illegal wildlife trade through online platform and social network: Currently none activities have been implemented.

9. Developing technical guideline on collecting samples of ivory and rhino horns used in forensic: VN CITES MA and HSI are cooperating in developing the proposed project which have been not yet implemented.

10. Standardizing and disseminating guidance documents for the identification of ivory specimens, rhinoceros horns, specifically for front line enforcement officers in border areas in controlling portable goods, crafted products, jewelries of tourists: There are some documents including ID sheet of TRAFFIC, online forensic of WCS.

11. Developing reference manual for law enforcement officers applied for wildlife criminals under the revised Penal Code, including crimes related to ivory and rhino horns. UNODC has finalized the reference manual. The Supreme People's Procuracy is developing guidance on the handling of wildlife offenses to procurators. Expected guidelines will be approved in December 2018.

12. Exchanging information regularly about arrests with ASEAN-WEN Member States and countries who signed MOAs: Organized bilateral meeting with Czech Republic in 9/4/2018, bilateral meeting with China in 8/5/2018 to exchange information about arrests related to ivory and rhino horns. In 14/7/2017, Viet Nam transferred 50 ADN samples of rhino horns to South Africa.

13. Collaborating with origin countries (in Africa) to exchange information on solutions to improve the effectiveness of criminal judicial assistance; actively supporting the implementation of requests on criminal judicial assistance in order to serve the process of investigation, prosecution and judgment of criminal cases related to wildlife; facilitating the negotiation and signing of the Bilateral Mutual Judicial Assistance Agreement between Vietnam and Mozambique. On the side-events of 69<sup>th</sup> SC, Vietnam has discussed with Mozambique about the development of a Joint Action Plan.



*900 Kg of ivory was seized in Hanoi by environmental Police with the support by NGOs by sharing intelligent*

14. National extra-curricular education program on wildlife protection and conservation for primary school students: coordinated with IEBR and Ministry of Education and Training to complete the Framework of the curriculum for extra-curricular education program. The program is scheduled to be finalized in March 2019.

15. Conducting survey on national consumption demand and market for ivory and rhino horns: Based on previous researches conducted with HSI, in 12/2018, VN CITES MA will cooperate with TRAFFIC to conduct survey.

16. Propaganda of ivory and rhino horn demand reduction for international tourists in Viet Nam: Coordinated with Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism to disseminate leaflets on “What should be done and shouldn’t be done”

17. Coordinating with Business Associations to conduct ivory and rhino horn demand reduction campaigns for influential business in society: In 20/1/2018, the project closing workshop has been organized.

18. National statistics system of arrest, prosecution, trial and conviction cases: Some organizations, such as WCS, ENV, have developed and regularly updated information on arrests in Viet Nam and foreign countries. Information are shared with relevant stakeholders and publicized on website.

Official information from police, customs, procuracy, and courts are shared through system of official documents. Information are updated in interdisciplinary meetings.

19. The international reporting and information systems including the Elephant Species Information System (ETIS), report on rhino specimens storage, annual national report: during 2017- 2018, VN CITES MA has sent 15 ETIS report to the CITES Secretariat.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Best regards,

**Viet Nam CITES Management Authority**