

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventy-first meeting of the Standing Committee  
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 22 May 2019

Species specific matters

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN AFRICAN AND ASIAN RHINOCEROSSES  
(RHINOCEROTIDAE SPP.): REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON VIET NAM

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee adopted *inter alia* recommendations e), g) and h) directed to Viet Nam, as follows:<sup>1</sup>

**Viet Nam**

e) *The Standing Committee encouraged Viet Nam to:*

- i) *scale up efforts to conduct analyses of available information to map out the organized crime groups active in the country that deal in rhino horn, with a strategic focus on the places within Viet Nam most affected by illegal trade in rhino horn;*
- ii) *through Viet Nam Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (WEN), convene multi-disciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities, to work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas that are involved in the illegal trade in rhino horn, and initiate intelligence driven operations and investigations to address the activities of those criminal elements that remain active in Viet Nam, with a particular focus on illegal rhinoceros horn trade;*
- iii) *institutionalize the collection of samples of rhino horn from seizures for forensic analyses, with a particular focus on paragraph 1 f) of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses, and paragraph 22 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens by putting in place a national protocol that will facilitate the collection of samples in accordance with recognized procedures, and relevant legislation regulating the exchange of such specimens; and*
- iv) *develop country-specific guidelines and materials that can assist officers to identify worked rhinoceros horn and ivory specimens worn as jewelry, to facilitate greater awareness about such items among frontline officers working at posts where they might encounter tourists wearing these items, and to ensure that officers will be alert to the detection of such commodities, and that any attempts to exploit smuggling wildlife specimens in this manner can be detected and addressed;*

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g) *The Standing Committee requested Viet Nam to submit a full report on the implementation of Penal Code 2017, including information on arrests, prosecutions and convictions for offences involving illegal trade in rhinoceros horn committed at both border points and domestic markets in Viet Nam, achieved*

<sup>1</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/sum/E-SC69-SR.pdf>

through the implementation of Penal Code 2017, and information on any activities conducted or measures implemented in accordance with recommendation e) i) to iv) above, to the Secretariat by 31 January 2019, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at its 71st meeting (SC71), together with any recommendations it may have;

h) The Standing Committee agreed to consider the report submitted by Viet Nam and the recommendations of the Secretariat, at SC71, to determine if the implementation of Penal Code 2017 and the activities or measures implemented sufficiently respond to illegal trade in wildlife as it affects Viet Nam, in particular illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, or if any further measures may be needed.

3. The report received from Viet Nam in accordance with recommendation g) above is available as an Annex to the present document, in English only. Viet Nam is one of the Parties included in the NIAP process. 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 to a large extent incorporated the matters outlined in the recommendations above in its revised and updated NIRAP, assessed as 'adequate' in July 2018. For its report to the present meeting, Viet Nam used the template for reports on progress with NIAP implementation. The Party provided an update on progress with the implementation of its revised and updated NIRAP, also reporting on matters that goes beyond the scope of the recommendations above. Parties are invited to consult the full report for detailed information. A summary of the key matters relevant to the recommendations are provided in paragraphs 4 to 10 below.

#### Implementation of the revised Penal Code 2017 ('Amended Penal Code 2015')

4. Viet Nam's newly revised Penal Code 2017 ('Amended Penal Code 2015') entered into force on 1 January 2018. The Party reports on a number of activities conducted to further strengthen its legal framework to address illegal trade in wildlife, including illegal trade in ivory and rhinoceros horn. This includes the development of a new Decree on *Management of endangered, precious and rare species of forest plants and animals and CITES implementation* as described in Action 1.1 of its NIRAP. This Decree came into effect on 10 March 2019. Further, Viet Nam reports that a Decree on *Sanctions for administrative violations on management, development, protection of forest and forest products*, as described in Action 1.2 of its NIRAP, was submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. Regarding Action 1.3 in its NIRAP, Viet Nam reports that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has issued a Circular on *Management and traceability of forest products*, which took effect on 1 January 2019. Viet Nam also reports that its Supreme Court issued Directive 05/2018/NQ-HDTP of 5 November 2018, on the Implementation of the Penal Code.
5. Viet Nam reports that, to implement Action 2.9 in its NIRAP, nine training courses on the regulation of wildlife trade and the revised Penal Code were conducted between January and December 2018, involving more than 500 officials from customs, police and the Department of Forest Protection, among others. The Party further reports on progress with the development of a quick-reference pocket guide for law enforcement officers on the application of new Penal Code, as anticipated by Action 2.11 in its NIRAP. In addition, it is reported that, to implement Action 2.10 in its NIRAP, three training courses on wildlife and forestry crimes with a focus on illegal trade in ivory and rhinoceros horn and the revised Penal Code were conducted and attended by 169 judges.
6. According to the report, customs authorities in Viet Nam detected 40 incidents of illegal trade in wildlife, including three involving ivory and three involving rhinoceros horn. Viet Nam further reports that law enforcement agencies have been applying the new revised Penal Code to cases since it came into effect, and that 29 offenders were arrested in ten cases in 2018. Criminal prosecution was instituted in two of these cases, and administrative penalties were imposed in the other eight. The Party does not provide details on the outcome of the cases or the administrative penalties imposed.

#### Activities conducted or measures implemented in accordance with recommendation e) i) to iv)

7. Regarding recommendation e) i) above, Viet Nam provides limited information in its report, noting that collaboration between police, customs, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have taken place, but that information of a confidential nature regarding these activities could not be included in the report. The Secretariat considers this understandable, since such information is often sensitive.
8. Regarding recommendation e) ii), Viet Nam reports that, in accordance with Action 2.4 in its NIRAP, its Border Guard Command coordinated with the Provincial Department of Forest Protection and local authorities to mobilize 12 inspection teams targeting key areas known to be affected by illegal trade in wildlife. The report states that the Department of Forest Protection cooperated with the Hanoi People's Committee to carry out

investigations at carving and souvenir shops at the Phu Khe and Thuong Tin communes in Hanoi in June and July 2018. Regarding Action 2.3 in its NIRAP on investigations to address key areas identified as affected by wildlife crime, Viet Nam reports that the Ministry of Public Security is considering a detailed plan. The Secretariat notes that pillar 2 in Viet Nam's NIRAP contains a number of actions to support national level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration, including through the Viet Nam Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN), and encourages Viet Nam to continue to undertake such activities.

9. Recommendation e) iii) is incorporated in the NIRAP as Action 2.6, and Viet Nam reports that initial guidance on ivory and rhinoceros horn specimen collection for forensic analyses has been drafted and that this work is ongoing.
10. Recommendation e) iv) is incorporated in the NIRAP as Action 2.7, and it is reported that this work is ongoing.

### Conclusions

11. Viet Nam is making commendable progress with the implementation of its NIRAP, developed to be implemented in the period 2018 – 2020. The report prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC<sup>2</sup> for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Colombo, 2019), indicates that the number of seizures made in Viet Nam in the period 2014-2018 increased by 35%, compared to the period 2009-2013. Comparing the same periods, seizures associated with Viet Nam made by other Parties decreased considerably. This is encouraging to note and, as highlighted in the report, could be indicative of improvement in law enforcement in Viet Nam.
12. However, the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC report to CoP18 also indicates that Viet Nam remains one of the Parties most affected by rhinoceros horn trafficking. It states that available seizures data suggests that Viet Nam continues to be a leading destination for illegal rhinoceros horn consignments. The report notes that, overall, the estimated numbers of illegal rhinoceros horns involved increased approximately 24% in the latter period. The Secretariat elaborates in more detail on Viet Nam in document CoP18 Doc. 83.1.
13. Although much has been done and progress is being made, it is evident that sustained and further enhanced efforts are needed in Viet Nam to address rhinoceros horn and ivory trafficking. It remains essential for Viet Nam to pursue, as part of the implementation of its NIRAP, conducting analyses of information to map out the organized crime groups active in the country involved in illegal rhinoceros horn trade, with a strategic focus on the places within Viet Nam most affected by this illegal trade. It remains essential to convene multi-disciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities to work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas and to initiate intelligence driven operations and investigations to address the activities of those criminal elements that remain active in Viet Nam. The Secretariat considers that these activities can be pursued by Viet Nam through the implementation of its NIRAP.
14. Viet Nam is encouraged to prioritize the activities outlined in paragraph 13 above in the implementation of its NIRAP, and to include reporting on these activities in its report on progress with NIRAP implementation to be submitted to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee, in accordance with the Guidelines to the NIAP process contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.

### Recommendation

15. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - a) encourage Viet Nam to, through the implementation of its NIRAP:
    - i) pursue the analyses of information to identify organized crime groups involved in illegal rhinoceros horn trade in the country, and the locations in Viet Nam where they operate; and
    - ii) undertake investigations and operations involving all relevant authorities to halt these activities.

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<sup>2</sup> See Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc 83.1 on *Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.): Report of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat*

- b) request Viet Nam to include, in its report on the implementation of its NIRAP to SC73, the status of activities conducted regarding recommendation a) i) and ii).



## CITES NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared for the eighteenth meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

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Party: VIET NAM

Reporting period: 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018

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## **PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation**

The National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) is implemented in Viet Nam as the National ivory and rhino horn action plan (NIRAP) for the period 2018-2020 which has been developed to implement to urgent actions in order to (1) control the illegal trade of ivory and rhino horns to and from Vietnam, (2) continue to implement the initiatives, programs and plans to prevent and furtherly tackle illegal wildlife trade in general and illegally traded ivory in particular in accordance to the Directive no.28/2018/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister. The NIRAP initially aims to response to Prime Minister's Directive, the Penal Code and the Decree on Sanctions for administrative violations on forest management, development, protection and CITES management.

After one year of implementation, the results are relatively positive in which 24% of the total planned activities has been achieved and 36% will be achieved in the target timeframe, as follows:

- Viet Nam has gradually completed the legal framework related to tackling illegal wildlife trade including ivory and rhino horn. The achievements include the development and completion of the Governmental documents such as Directive no.28/2018/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister some urgent solutions to prevent and tackle behaviors violent to the wildlife; Governmental Decree no.06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 on management of endangered, precious and rare species of forest plant and animals and CITES implementation; Circular no. 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 16/11/2018 of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on management and traceability of forest products
- Viet Nam has strengthened the law enforcement and improve the inter-agency cooperation by (i) organizing 09 training courses on capacity building to improve technical skills on investigation, prosecution, judgement related criminal cases, and other skills related to specimens identification for customs and border guards at the Northern border; (ii) applying of the new revised 2015 Penal Code and related criminal frames; and (iii) implementing other cooperation activities of the Viet Nam Wildlife Enforcement Network (Viet Nam-WEN). After the amended Penal Code took effect, the Vietnamese law enforcement and investigation agencies restarted suspended cases due to lack of sanctions and applied the Penal code for new cases. In 2018, in according to the report of the Steering Committee of 1389, the Border Guard Command coordinated with other enforcement agencies to arrest 10 cases with 29 suspects, including 02 prosecuted criminal cases and 08 administrative violations. The Customs have detected and arrested 40 cases involving illegal wildlife trade, of which three were related to ivory and three were related to rhino horn. These show the great efforts of the Viet Nam Government and serious punishment for this type of crime.
- Viet Nam has initially completed the technical guidance on ivory and rhino horn specimen collection and identification in compliance with the national and international laws.
- Viet Nam spends a lot of efforts on issue on domestic demand and demand from the foreign visitors to Viet Nam for ivory, rhino horn. These include conducting a survey on domestic demand for ivory and horns; to conduct the communication plan for demand reduction based on the scientific evidence and facts applied for different components and objects. The goals aim to improve social awareness in parallel with behavioral change in which a part from focusing on a number of target groups such as healthcare, business, tourism and services sectors, are also in other sectors such as education for pupils and students.
- Initial exchange and coordination within Viet Nam-WEN to build a unified national database on controlling the illegal trade of ivory, rhino horn in order to share among enforcement agencies and to meet the

international requirements by updating and summarizing data from relevant agencies and periodically report to the CITES Secretariat.

- Viet Nam continues to promote bilateral and multilateral exchanges and cooperation between source - transit - destination countries and between the Government agencies and non-governmental organizations, international organizations to strengthen the trading control and law enforcement implementation.

- Viet Nam has been fulfilling the obligations as a CITES Party in responsibly collecting information, preparing and sending periodic reports to CITES upon request.

Thus, in comparison with the proposed objectives set out in the NIRAP, Viet Nam has initially successfully completed its first year of NIRAP. Specifically, of a total of 25 activities of NIRAP, the progress is summarized as follows:

No.	Implementing progress	No. of activities	Percentage (%)
1	Achieved	6	24%
2	Substantially achieved	9	36%
3	On track	7	28%
4	Partial progress	0	0%
5	Pending completion of another action	1	4%
6	Not commenced	2	8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

According to provided information, only one activity stopped implementing due to legal barriers of the domestic regulations. With the summary, Viet Nam self-assesses the completion of the NIRAP is 24%. This is an initial indicator of the NIRAP implementation which show the right direction and effectiveness of Viet Nam. Viet Nam's view point on tackling wildlife crime, particularly the organized crimes related to ivory and rhino horn is a long-term fight which requires attention and coordination of the source country and the transit country due to the sophisticated and complex crime activities. This will be less effective with the single effort of one country without information network and cooperation among countries.

Specifically, the Vietnamese Government won many priorities for this activity; Vietnam's law enforcement forces have abolished numerous shipments of ivory originating from Africa into Vietnam (before shipment to Vietnam) is a clear demonstration of drastic, efforts of Vietnamese law enforcement agencies. Viet Nam enforcement agencies has discovered numerous shipments of ivory originating from Africa into Vietnam (before shipment to Vietnam) is a clear proof of the efforts of Viet Nam Government in tackling this issue.

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

PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
1. Legislation and regulations	<p>1.1. Develop the Decree on endangered, rare and precious wildlife management and CITES implementation;</p> <p>1.3. Develop a degree 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.</p>	<p>1.2. Amend the Decree on Sanctions for administrative violations on management, development, protection of forest and forest products.</p>				
2. National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration	<p>2.4. Forest protection departments, interdisciplinary agencies to cooperate to carry out 01 investigation at souvenir shops, processing workshops that is likely to be involved with wildlife crime in hotspot areas;</p> <p>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;</p>	<p>2.1. Cooperate, exchange information on VN-WEN network;</p> <p>2.8. Training workshops for law enforcement agencies to strengthen their CITES implementation capacity using specifically designed curriculums suitable for each group.</p>	<p>2.5. Survey, report, recommendation, and solution in controlling online illegal wildlife trade, cyber-crime on social media;</p> <p>2.6. Develop technical guidelines on collecting forensic samples of ivory, rhino horns and training for forensic officers to use the guidelines;</p> <p>2.7. Standardize and publicize guideline documents for identification of ivory and rhino horn specimens, specifically</p>			<p>2.2. Hands-on training of environmental police on investigation techniques;</p> <p>2.3. Environmental police to carry out 02 investigations in the area to strengthen control on wildlife crime in hotspot area.</p>



PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
	<p>2.10. Training courses to raise awareness of judiciary officials on the seriousness of wildlife crimes, particularly ivory and rhino horn offences;</p> <p>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.</p>		for front-line law enforcement officer at border gate, in checking processing workshop, hand luggage, jewelries of tourist			
3. International and regional enforcement collaboration		<p>3.1. Continuous exchange of information on seizures within ASEAN-WEN countries or joint-training among countries who signed MoU with Viet Nam;</p> <p>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</p>				

PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
		<p>assistance agreements between Vietnam and African countries;</p> <p>3.3. Cooperate with non-governmental and international organizations in receiving, transferring, processing information of early warning, arrests, suspects and other information.</p>				
4. Outreach, public awareness and education		<p>4.1. National extra-curricular training curriculum on the protection, conservation of prioritized wildlife animals for elementary school students.</p> <p>4.6. Raise public awareness on the protection and conservation of wildlife in general and elephant and rhinoceros in particular.</p>	<p>4.2. Incorporate issues on protection, conservation of prioritized wild species in the reformed national curriculum for general education;</p> <p>4.3. Surveys on consumer demands, consumer behaviors domestic market of ivory and rhinoceros horns;</p> <p>4.4. Outreach of demand reduction for ivory and rhino horns among international tourists to Viet Nam;</p> <p>4.5. Survey on consumer demands, consumer behaviors on reducing demand for ivory and rhino horns to business groups.</p>			

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

## **PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions**

<b><i>PILLAR 1: Legislation and regulations</i></b>			
1.1. Develop the Decree on endangered, rare and precious wildlife management and CITES implementation	<b>INDICATOR:</b> New Decree incorporate the contents on species lists, management scheme, regulations on CITES implementation, marking, traceability to address gaps in domestic legislation in comparison to international requirements	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governmental Decree no.06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 on management of endangered, precious and rare species of forest plant and animals and CITES implementation. The decree takes effect on 10/03/2019.</li> </ul>
1.2. Amend the Decree on Sanctions for administrative violations on management, development, protection of forest and forest products	<b>INDICATOR:</b> the Decree is amended with relevant contents	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Governmental Decree on Sanctions for administrative violations on management, development, protection of forest and forest products has been submitted to the Prime Minister for approval and expected to be issue on Quarter 1 of 2019.</li> </ul>
1.3. Develop a degree 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	<b>INDICATOR:</b> Degree issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has issued Circular no. 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated 16/11/2018 on management and traceability of forest products. The Circular takes effect on 01/01/2019.</li> <li>Apart from the three above activities, the Viet Nam Supreme Court has issue the Directive no.05/2018/NQ-HDTP on implementation of the Penal Code on crimes related to wildlife protection, dated 5/11/2018.</li> </ul>
<b><i>PILLAR 2: National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration</i></b>			
2.1. Cooperate, exchange information on VN-WEN network	<b>INDICATOR:</b> 01 - 02 meeting organized annually, information exchange to allow Viet Nam MA generate an unified, official and national database about the illegal wildlife trade, especially ivory and rhino horn	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01 Viet Nam-WEN meeting was conducted on May 2018 to discuss on information sharing information.</li> </ul>
2.2. Hands-on training of environmental police on investigation techniques	<b>INDICATOR:</b> number of police officers trained	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Not commenced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Public security is considering the detailed plan of the training.</li> </ul>

2.3. Environmental polices to carry out 02 investigations in the area to strengthen control on wildlife crime in hotspot area	<b>INDICATOR:</b> basic investigation report in the area	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Not commenced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Public security is considering the detailed plan of the training.</li> </ul>
2.4. Forest protection departments, interdisciplinary agencies to cooperate to carry out 01 investigation at souvenir shops, processing workshops that is likely to be involved with wildlife crime in hotspot areas	<b>INDICATOR:</b> investigation report	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Forest Protection has cooperated with the Hanoi People's Committee to carry out the investigation at the craving, souvenir shops at Phu Khe and Thuong Tin commune in Hanoi in June and July 2018.</li> <li>The Steering Committee 1389, Border Guard Command has coordinated with the Provincial Department of Forest Protection and local authorities to organize 12 delegations to inspect and combat smuggling and trade fraud in hotspots.</li> </ul>
2.5. Survey, report, recommendation, and solution in controlling online illegal wildlife trade, cyber-crime on social media.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> increased level of information exchange and interaction with cyber-crime police	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities are allocated in the Saving Species project funded by USAID and expect to be completed in July 2019.</li> </ul>
2.6. Develop technical guidelines on collecting forensic samples of ivory, rhino horns and training for forensic officers to use the guidelines	<b>INDICATOR:</b> 01 technical guidelines issued / recommended considering CITES guidelines in Resolution 9.14 (Rev CoP14)	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CITES management authority, the CITES scientific authorities and INGOs have been cooperating to develop technical guidelines on collecting forensic samples of ivory, rhino horns</li> <li>The procedure is expected to be completed in 2019.</li> </ul>
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	<b>INDICATOR:</b> 01 materials recommended by management authorities and provided for relevant parties, number of guidelines incorporated	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities are allocated in the Saving Species project funded by USAID and expect to be completed in 2019.</li> </ul>
2.8. Training workshops for law enforcement agencies to strengthen their CITES implementation capacity using specifically designed curriculums suitable for each group.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> 01 training curriculum for law enforcement groups adapted to local practice; number of officers participate in workshops.	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has conducted 01 training course on CITES implementation and tackling illegal wildlife trade for 55 official from the Border Guards, Customs, Environmental Police, Department of Forest Protection, Department of Fishery Protection, Marine Police and Directorate of Fishery at 15 provinces in the Southern Vietnam in October 2018.</li> <li>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority continues to conduct similar trainings in 2019.</li> </ul>
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	<b>INDICATOR:</b> number of officers participate the training workshop	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 training courses for enforcement agencies including official of Customs, Police, Department of Forest Protection on legal regulation on controlling wildlife trade and revised Penal Code: + 03 courses conducted by the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in cooperation with Humane Society International and UNODC for 250 officials in January 2018;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ 03 courses conducted by the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in cooperation with Border Guard Command and Humane Society International for 100 border guards and customs at the border area in Northern Vietnam in November 2018;</li> <li>+ 03 courses conducted by the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in cooperation with USAID for 158 enforcement officials in December 2018.</li> <li>• The outcome of the training course is the improvement on awareness and knowledge on wildlife in general.</li> </ul>
2.10. Training courses to raise awareness of judiciary officials on the seriousness of wildlife crimes, particularly ivory and rhino horn offences	<b>INDICATOR:</b> Number of convicted cases with penal sanctions	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme People's Court in the collaboration with UNODC with the support of USAID Governance for Inclusive Growth program and Saving Species Project has organized 03 training courses for judges from 63 provinces and cities across the country on wildlife and forestry crimes in focusing on illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn, and the revised Penal Code. The total number of trained judges is 169.</li> <li>• The Supreme People's Court has conducted a seminar to get feedbacks and suggestions for the drafting of the Resolution of the Judges Council. Resolution No. 05/2018 / NQ-HDTP has been issued on 5 November 2018.</li> </ul>
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	<b>INDICATOR:</b> 01 pocket guide to be disseminated to enforcement officers	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies of Ministry of Environment and Natural resources have cooperated with UNODC to get feedbacks on the 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 from 158 environmental inspectors, environmental police and prosecutors.</li> </ul>
<b>PILLAR 3: International and regional enforcement collaboration</b>			
3.1. Continuous exchange of information on seizures within ASEAN-WEN countries or joint-training among countries who signed MoU with Viet Nam.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> number of information exchanges including data on seizures, prosecution, conviction, forensic test	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has updated on illegal wildlife trade issues periodically to the CITES Secretariat in the annual reports.
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	<b>INDICATOR:</b> The number of cases is exchanged legal assistance information	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme People's Procuracy completed negotiations on the Criminal Mutual Assistance Treaty with Mozambique in December 2018. The agreement is submitting to the President of Vietnam and the President of Mozambique for approval, which is expected to take effect in 2019.</li> <li>• From 2015-2018, the Supreme People's Procuracy sent 08 requests for legal assistance on criminal matters related to trade in ivory, specifically: 02 to China, 02 to Nigeria, 02 to Mozambique, 01 to Laos and 01 to Malaysia but only received 2 responses.</li> </ul>

legal assistance agreements between Vietnam and African countries			
3.3. Cooperate with non-governmental and international organizations in receiving, transferring, processing information of early warning, arrests, suspects and other information.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> : The number of receiving information and arrests made from sufficient quality information	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Police and Customs have cooperated with non-governmental and international organizations in receiving, transferring, processing information of early warning, arrests, suspects and other information (<i>confidential information could not be stated in this report</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>PILLAR 4: Outreach, public awareness and education</b>			
4.1. National extra-curricular training curriculum on the protection, conservation of prioritized wildlife animals for elementary school students	<b>INDICATOR:</b> extra-curricular training program to be approved by the Ministry of Education and Training and endorsed for nationwide application.	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<p>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Training and the support from Humane Society International has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed the draft educational materials on wildlife protection for primary school which will be pilot in teaching in 5 provinces and cities;</li> <li>Two pilots will be completed in June 2019 and the materials will be appraisal before applied nationwide.</li> </ul>
4.2. Incorporate issues on protection, conservation of prioritized wild species in the reformed national curriculum for general education.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> extra-curriculum activities approved by the National Assembly and applied nationwide.	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has submitted to proposal to the General Education Reform Board.</li> </ul>
4.3. Surveys on consumer demands, consumer behaviors domestic market of ivory and rhinoceros horns	<b>INDICATOR:</b> survey reports towards a more behavior-oriented demand reduction outreach	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USAID Wildlife Asia in cooperation with TRAFFIC has conducted the surveys and expected to be completed in Quarter 1 of 2019.</li> </ul>
4.4. Outreach of demand reduction for ivory and rhino horns among international tourists to Viet Nam.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> number of tourist received communication messages	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in cooperation with Humane Society International has developed the plan and will implement the project.</li> </ul>
4.5. Survey on consumer demands, consumer behaviors on reducing demand for ivory and rhino horns to business groups.	<b>INDICATOR:</b> number of business/business-person received communication messages	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities are allocated in the Saving Species project funded by USAID and expect to be completed in July 2019.</li> </ul>
4.6. Raise public awareness on the protection and conservation of wildlife in general and elephant and rhinoceros in particular	<b>INDICATOR:</b> carry out a number of communications on the mass media (newspapers, radio ...) and other forms	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has announced One year progress report on the Hanoi statement on illegal wildlife trade in May 2018; the event has been projected on the media national wide and international.</li> <li>Vietnam has committed in the London statement on illegal wildlife trade in October 2018;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has joined the Wildlife Village at the UK Festival in Hanoi in November 2018 with thousands of people attended.</li> </ul>
<b>PILLAR 5: Reporting</b>			
5.1. National database system of illegal trade, transport, possession and related cases, from seizures, prosecution, convictions	<b>INDICATOR:</b> information regularly updated, statistical report made annually	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Pending completion of another action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activity has discontinued due to barriers from domestic legislation in sharing and publicizing information on arrest, prosecution and trial.</li> </ul>
5.2. The international reporting and information systems include the Elephant Species Information System (ETIS), the rhino horn specimen storage report, the annual national report	<b>INDICATOR:</b> Information and reports are updated by Viet Nam CITES Management Authority from the relevant agencies and sent to the CITES Secretariat periodically.	<b>PROGRESS RATING:</b> Substantially achieved	<p>The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To submit to the rhino horn specimen storage report to the CITES Secretariat;</li> <li>To provide information on ETIS for seizures more than 500kg;</li> <li>The country annual report will be completed in Quarter 1/2019.</li> </ul>



**Part D: Annex (supporting information)**

***PILLAR 1: Legislation and regulations***

The Decree no.06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 on management of endangered, precious and rare species of forest plant and animals and CITES implementation is available in Vietnamese ([download here](#)).

The Circular no. 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated 16/11/2018 on management and traceability of forest products issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is available in Vietnamese ([download here](#)).

The Directive no.05/2018/NQ-HDTP on implementation of the Penal Code on crimes related to wildlife protection, dated 5/11/2018 issued by the Viet Nam Supreme Court is available in Vietnamese ([download here](#)).

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

**Activity 2.4:** Some images on illegally traded ivory crimes



***Figure 1: Border guards seized ivory transporters in Cao Bang province in December 2018.***



***Figure 2: The cooperation of police, border guards, and customs arrested a case of transporting over 2 tons of ivory in Da Nang in October 2018***



**Figure 3: Hanoi People's Procuratorate completed the indictment of prosecuting Nguyen Huu Tien in the case of Hanoi police arresting 85kg of ivory at Thuong Tin, Hanoi in August 2018**

**Activity 2.8:** Training workshops for law enforcement agencies to strengthen their CITES implementation capacity using specifically designed curriculums suitable for each group..



**Figure 4: The training course on CITES implementation and tackling illegal wildlife trade in October 2018**

**Activity 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



**Figure 5: Training courses on strengthening law enforcement and the revised Penal Code in January 2018**



**Figure 6: The training course for border forces on CITES implementation and improving skills in law enforcement on the management of wildlife trade across borders, border gates and land in November 2018**

**Activity 2.10:** Training courses to raise awareness of judiciary officials on the seriousness of wildlife crimes, particularly ivory and rhino horn offences



**Figure 7: The training course on awareness raising for judicial officials on the severity of wildlife crimes, especially ivory and rhino horn-related crimes**

**Activity 2.11:** The quick-reference pocket guide for law enforcement officers on application of the revised wildlife crime under the new Penal Code is available in Vietnamese ([download here](#)).

**Activity 4.6:** Raise public awareness on the protection and conservation of wildlife in general and elephant and rhinoceros in particular

An article on the event hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced One year progress report on the Hanoi statement on illegal wildlife trade in May 2018 ([download here](#)).

One year review of progress on proposed actions of the Hanoi Statement on illegal wildlife trade ([download here](#)).

Video on the Viet Nam's commitment at the London Conference on illegal wildlife trade in October 2018 ([download here](#)).

Video news of Nhan Dan news on the wildlife village at the UK Festival in Hanoi in November 2018 ([download here](#)).