

# FACTSHEET

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW



### လူနှင့်ဆင်ပဋိပက္ခလျော့ချရေးလက်ကမ်းစာစောင်

လူနှင့်ဆင် ပဋိပက္ခဆိုသည်မှာ

ရပ်ရွာနှင့် ဖိုက်ခင်းများအနီး တောဆင်ရိုင်းများ ဝင်ရောက်ခြင်းကြောင့် -

- လူနေအဆောက်အအုံနှင့်ဖိုက်ခင်းများဖျက်ဆီးခံရခြင်း
- လူနှင့် ကျွဲမွှားတိရစ္ဆာန်များ ထိခိုက်သေကြေခြင်း
- အပြန်အလှန်အားပြိုင် ဆင်များအသတ်ခံရခြင်း



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The "Partners Against Wildlife Crime" Project is a 10M€ Action implemented through a consortium of 12 international and national partner organizations. Its goal is to disrupt the illicit supply chains of tiger, Asian elephant, Siamese rosewood and freshwater turtles – from source to market. It represents the European Union (EU)-funded "Support to Civil Society in Combating Wildlife Trafficking and Forest Crime in the Greater Mekong Region, Malaysia and PR China".

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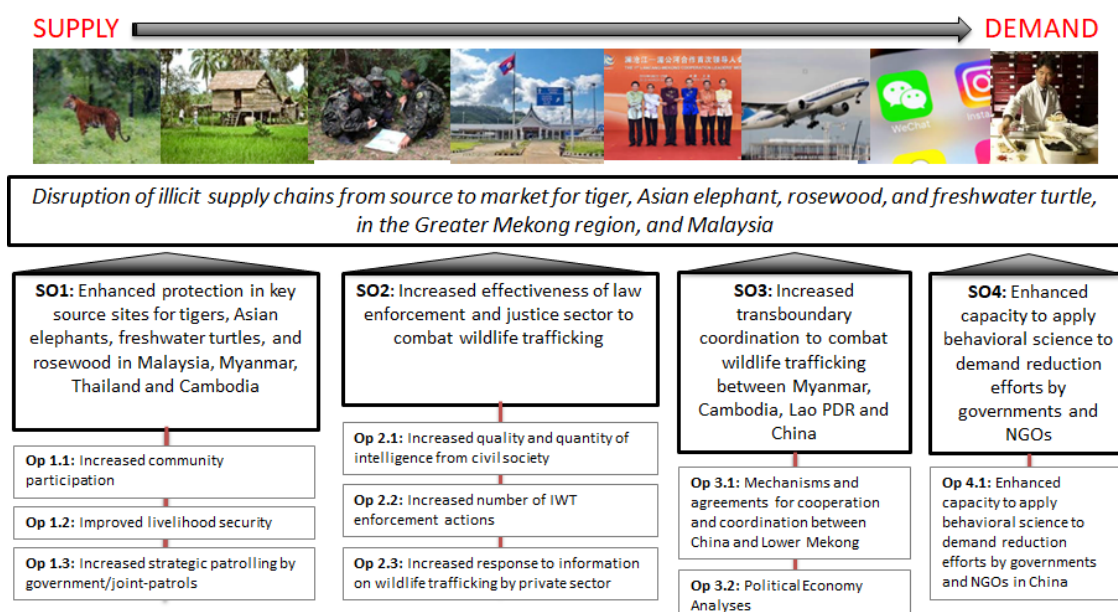
Title:	Disrupting illicit supply chains of wildlife in Asia by leveraging civil society partnerships to increase the effectiveness of Government action
Lead:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with 11 other implementing partners
Location:	Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam
Duration:	4-year project: 1st Jan. 2019 – 31st Dec. 2022
Budget:	10M€, of which 8M€ from the European Union (EU)

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## Project Overview

The project's overall objective is to disrupt illicit supply chains from source to market for tiger, Asian elephant, Siamese rosewood, and freshwater turtles, in the Greater Mekong region, Malaysia and China by leveraging civil society partnerships to increase the effectiveness of Government action. The project coordinates a set of activities along clearly defined supply chains for high priority Asian taxa being trafficked in the Greater Mekong and Malaysia along trade routes between source sites to end markets. It works with six protected areas identified as high priority for tigers, Siamese rosewood or Asian elephant in Malaysia (Endau Rompin National Park), Thailand (Huai Kha Khaeng, Thung Yai East and Thung Yai West Wildlife Sanctuaries and Thap Lan National Park) and Myanmar (Rakhine-Yoma Elephant Range Protected Area), as well as two priority wetland KBAs for freshwater turtles in Cambodia along the Mekong and Sre Ambel Rivers. It focuses its anti-trafficking interventions in key localities in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and China. Finally, it seeks to reduce the consumption of these taxa in the main end markets in southern China.

In order to disrupt illicit supply chains trafficking wildlife, interventions are taken along the entire supply chain in a coordinated manner that together contribute to achieve the overall project goal.





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## Project Context

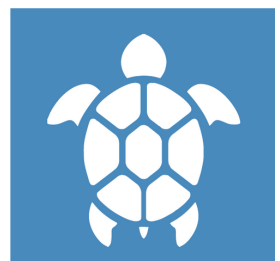
Wildlife trafficking is devastating populations of many species across the globe; the problem is at its most extreme in eastern Asia. A large number of species native to the Mekong region in particular are now threatened primarily by poaching due to an international demand for their specimens, parts and products, particularly from China.

**Tiger:** We have lost 93% of tiger rangeland across Asia, and over recent years, tigers have become extinct in Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia. The low numbers of wild tigers increase the value of remaining individuals, with wild tigers always considered more “potent” than captive tigers, providing even greater incentives for poachers. Endau Rompin National Park in Malaysia and Huai Kha Khaeng, Thung Yai East and Thung Yai West Wildlife Sanctuaries in western Thailand are among the most important sites for tigers globally, also containing key habitats for other species including Asian elephant, gibbons, wild ungulates and pangolin. Demand for tigers and their products is greatest from Vietnamese and Chinese consumers, with Vietnamese tiger poaching and trafficking syndicates operating as far afield as Thailand and Malaysia.

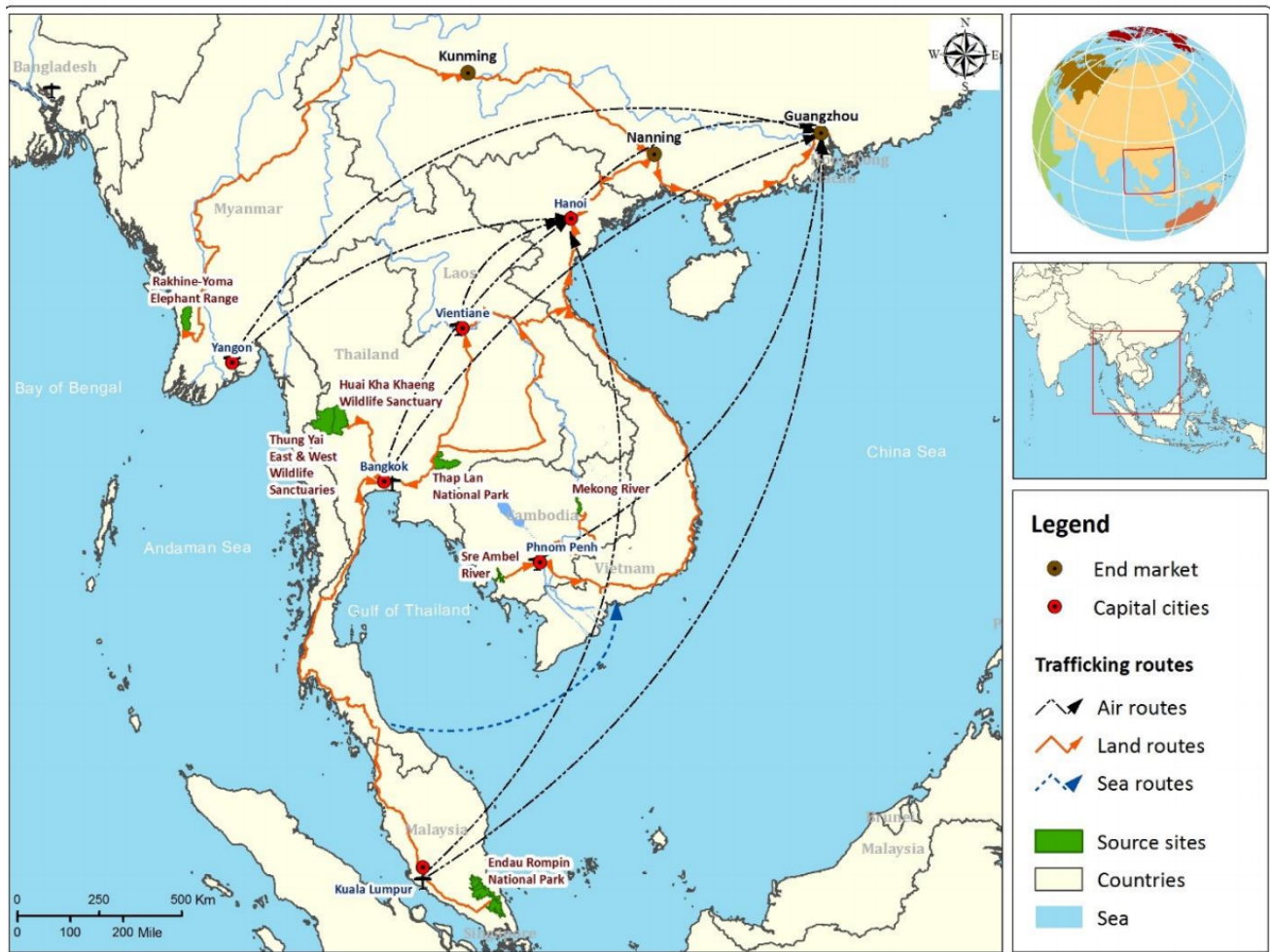
**Siamese rosewood:** The demand particularly in China for furniture and decorative items made from Siamese rosewood and the high prices these command have led to an epidemic of illegal logging and trafficking. Rosewood is the world’s most trafficked timber globally, accounting for a third of all seizures recorded by UNODC from 2005-2014. Thap Lan National Park in eastern Thailand is now the frontline for efforts to protect this species as it is facing significant pressure from logging groups from Cambodia organized by Thai and Chinese middlemen. Thap Lan National Park is critical not only for Siamese rosewood, but also for tiger, Asian elephant, pangolin and bears.

**Asian elephant:** In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in commercial poaching of Asian elephants in Myanmar to supply a growing market for their skin in China, with at least 59 elephants killed in 2017 alone and incidents continuing into 2018. Poaching is targeted and organized; whilst currently focused on Myanmar, it has started to expand to North-east India. The highest priority area to combat wildlife trafficking of the Asian elephant in the Greater Mekong is in the Rakhine-Yoma Elephant Range Protected Area in Myanmar, where at least half of recent elephant poaching events have occurred. The area also contains critical habitat for a range of other species including bear, wild cattle, and turtles.

**Freshwater turtles:** These are being driven to extinction by one of the most globalized and lucrative supply chains for any taxonomic group, with certain Asian species commanding a higher price per/kg than even rhino horn. These species are in demand primarily from China, as pets, for traditional Chinese medicine, for meat and increasingly now as a long-term financial investment. Many are also exported live to collectors in Europe and the US. To date, there have been minimal investments at a transnational scale to address freshwater turtle trafficking. Cambodia supports globally significant populations of a number of highly threatened turtles now largely restricted to intact wetlands in the Mekong and Sre Ambel river systems. Traders along the Mekong will pay up to \$10 per kilo for *Pelochelys cantorii*, and with adults reaching up to 50kg this creates a significant incentive for poaching. As a result, Cambodia has become both a source for the illegal trade of turtles and also a transit country with turtles trafficked from Thailand onto Vietnam and China.



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Map of the major supply chains the project targets highlighting common land, sea and air routes used by traffickers from source sites in Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia to end markets in China via Vietnam and Lao PDR

## Main Donor:



This project is funded by the European Union

## Implementing partners:





This project is funded by  
the European Union

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