

# ASEAN ENGAGEMENT

USAID Wildlife Asia | At A Glance

July 2021

USAID Wildlife Asia works at the regional, national, and local levels leveraging and supporting partnerships to maximize impacts towards Counter Wildlife Trafficking. This includes working directly with the ASEAN Member States including Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam as well as ASEAN's multilateral mechanisms.

## WHO ARE USAID WILDLIFE ASIA'S ASEAN PARTNERS?

- **Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade:** ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime Working Group on Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber works to strengthen regional and international law enforcement cooperation, including through facilitation of the exchange of information related to combating wildlife and timber trafficking.
- **ASEANAPOL:** Association of Southeast Asian National Police works to prevent and combat transnational crime through a greater nexus and creative policing collaboration.
- **AIPA:** ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly serves as the center of communication and information among Member Parliaments across ASEAN.
- **AWG-CITES & WE:** ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement implements the commitment of ASEAN Member States to cooperate on improved implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) multilateral treaty.



Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Photo: Siriporn Sririam/IUCN

## HOW DOES USAID WORK WITH ASEAN ON COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING?

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a transboundary crime requiring ASEAN Member States and partners to work together at the transnational level to tackle it. Estimated at \$20 billion annually, the illegal wildlife trade threatens global economies and biodiversity, poses health risks, affects vulnerable communities, and undermines the rule of law. The countries of Southeast Asia are global hotspots for the supply and consumption of wildlife. Transnational criminal networks continue to adapt their methods to evade law enforcement. The challenges require a transnational approach: regional harmonization of laws and policies; joint law enforcement actions; sharing of intelligence; and training judges are just some of the ways USAID Wildlife Asia supports ASEAN countries to work together to protect wildlife and prevent extinction and zoonotic spillover events.

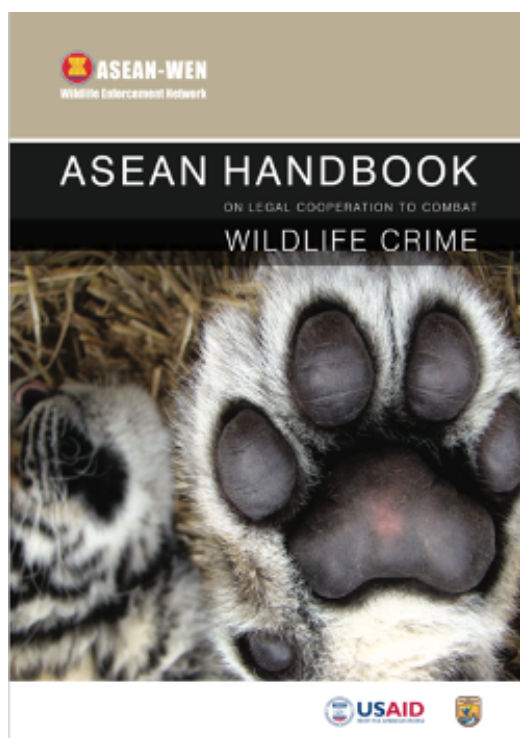
## WHAT ARE KEY ASEAN-LEVEL RESULTS AND IMPACTS?

### Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade

- March 2019, **Chiang Mai Statement** of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for CITES and Wildlife Enforcement on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT), which outlines ASEAN's commitments on increased action-oriented policy, law enforcement, wildlife cybercrime, and demand reduction.
- March 2019, **Partners Statement of Priorities and Areas of Cooperation** from Partners' Dialogue on Illegal Wildlife Trade

**“Currently a global collective effort is underway across governments, the UN, international and national organizations, the private sector, local communities, and others, to combat wildlife crime... There is a lot more work to be done, but there is reason for optimism. We are on the right track and we are making progress.”**

–Ms. Ivonne Higuero  
Secretary General of CITES



Cover of ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

<https://www.usaidwildlifeasia.org>

## ASEANAPOL

- June 2021, **ASEANAPOL Wildlife Crimes Resolution** to create a counter wildlife trafficking task force and add Social and Behavior Change Communications demand reduction to complement supply disruption efforts
- June 2021, **Counter Wildlife Trafficking Executive Leadership Consultation** to regionally institutionalize the USAID Wildlife Asia-developed Counter Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) Training Package

## AIPA

- July 2017, AIPA Caucus Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Protection featured in the **UN Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime**
- March 2018, **The Principles of Wildlife Conservation Funds and Restitution** – Additional remedy to wildlife and forest offenses (USAID/AIPA 2018)
- January 2019, **Scaling Efforts to Counter Wildlife Trafficking Through Legislative Reforms - A Selection of Best Practices, Key Innovations, and Model Provisions**

## AWG CITES & WE

- January 2021, **2021-2025 Regional Plan of Action (POA) for the ASEAN Cooperation on Cites and Wildlife Enforcement** strengthens regional and national efforts towards Counter Wildlife Trafficking.
- July 2019, **ASEAN Guidelines on Detecting and Preventing Wildlife Trafficking**
- February 2021, ASEAN Webinar on **Risks of Zoonotic Diseases Transmission from Illegal Wildlife Trade** (for ASEAN Member States, Government Officials, and Supporting Partners)
- May 2021, **ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime, 2021** provides a regional overview of the legal frameworks of all ten ASEAN Member States that regulates offences relating to illegal wildlife trade and includes a section on One Health collaboration and coordination in ASEAN in the light of the possible link of zoonotic diseases to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **CWT Digest 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020** developed to support data driven decision making by partners across the ASEAN region focusing on trafficking of elephants, pangolins, rhinos, and tigers.

## ABOUT USAID WILDLIFE ASIA

USAID Wildlife Asia is a five-year (2016-2021), US\$24.5 million, regional counter wildlife trafficking (CWT) initiative addressing the illegal trade in pangolins, tigers, elephants, and rhinos in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand, and Vietnam) and China. The project aims to reduce consumer demand for wildlife parts and products, strengthen law enforcement, enhance legal and political commitment, and support regional collaboration to reduce wildlife crime. <https://www.usaidwildlifeasia.org>