

COUNTER TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC) TRAINING PACKAGE

USAID Wildlife Asia | At A Glance

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The Counter Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) training course is a set of training materials that includes an Instructor Manual, PowerPoint presentations, and case scenario materials. It is available in five languages: English, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. The course empowers the international enforcement community to identify and disrupt transnational organized crime groups involved in wildlife trafficking.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

The modules cover the following topics:

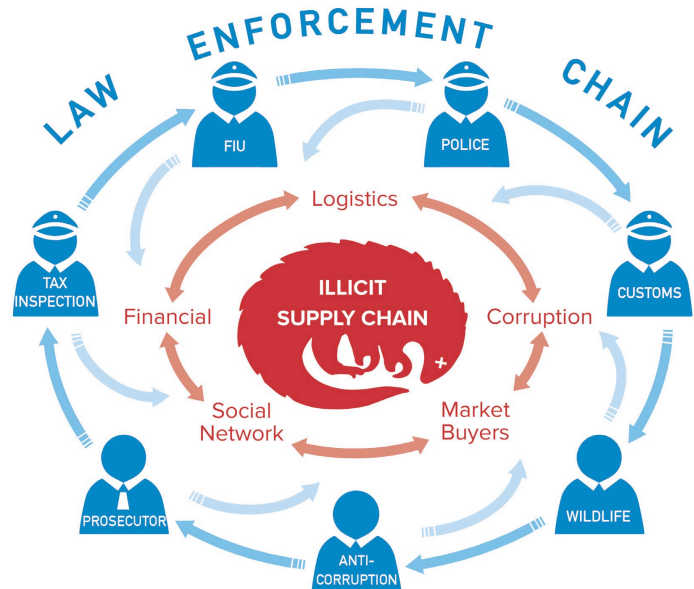
- Introduction to the Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Transnational Organized Crime
- Identification of Supply Chains
- CTOC's Nine Investigative Pillars
- Development of Informants
- Document Exploitation
- Controlled Deliveries
- Acquisition and Handling of Evidence
- Digital Forensics and Communication Exploitation
- Open-Source Intelligence
- Data Analysis
- Interviewing Techniques
- Financial Investigations
- Money Laundering
- International Assistance/Collaboration Prosecution

WHERE CAN I FIND THE TRAINING PACKAGE?

In the wake of COVID travel restrictions, USAID Wildlife Asia and Freeland developed an online version of the CTOC training to make these courses more accessible and expand their reach globally.

Participants can take the online course in English, and the training package is available for download in English, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese at:

<https://cwtraining.usaidwildlifeasia.org>



WHAT IS THE GUIDE FOR?

Freeland, a key implementing partner of USAID Wildlife Asia, developed the CTOC training package as an innovative way to address gaps in global enforcement efforts to curb transnational organized wildlife crime. The CTOC training course responds to the need for the global law enforcement community to unite in a more coordinated manner to effectively combat wildlife trafficking. It became increasingly clear that because the illegal wildlife trade is an issue that crosses borders and continents, no single agency or country can address the problem alone. Capacity-building initiatives needed to be integrated with platforms, systems, skills, and knowledge that enhance coordination, collaboration, and information sharing. The approach of the CTOC initiative is thus two-pronged: cutting-edge investigative training coupled with enhanced collaboration, coordination, cooperation, and information sharing.

The modularized, hands-on training package is built around a series of specific investigative pillars and formulated around targeted competencies. It draws from actual case typologies to equip law enforcement networks with the knowledge and skills necessary to dismantle organized criminal syndicates, to increase and sustain transnational multi-agency coordination and information sharing, and to trigger bilateral and/or multilateral investigations. This approach culminates in more arrests, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences for the criminals involved.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The CTOC course targets officers from customs, police, wildlife/forestry authorities, prosecutors, and financial crime investigators, such as anti-money laundering and tax inspection. The course brings together officers from source, transit, and consumer countries to bridge law enforcement responses between Africa and Asia. Between 2017 and 2021, USAID Wildlife Asia and partners conducted eight CTOC training events for officers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and African countries.

To strengthen and sustain the integration of its law enforcement training tools and materials, USAID Wildlife Asia is working with partners such as the Association of Southeast Asian National Police (ASEANAPOL) Secretariat to expand access to the CTOC training package.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Based on an evaluation of USAID Wildlife Asia's training support, including CTOC and other law enforcement trainings:

- 91% of participants had applied the skills and knowledge gained in the courses.
- 80% agree that the abilities and performance of their agencies to counter wildlife trafficking had improved.
- 72% say their agencies have contacted other agencies in their own countries more frequently to discuss wildlife cases.
- Participants say they now contact agencies in neighboring countries more frequently to discuss wildlife cases.

“In the past, agencies minded their own business. Now if there is a case, all relevant agencies will investigate together using each other’s intelligence to connect the whole picture of the criminal chain, from the beginning to the end.”

– Thai Customs officer on in-country coordination



Thai law enforcement officials participated in the Counter Transnational Organized Crime training in Bangkok. Photo © FREELAND

HOW WAS THE CTOC TRAINING PACKAGE DEVELOPED?

Freeland conceptualized the CTOC package to address gaps in enforcement efforts to curb transnational wildlife trafficking. USAID and Freeland then turned the CTOC model into a comprehensive training package now available to law enforcement professionals globally. The development of the course benefited from the inputs of key partners including the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and countless professionals, students and instructors who helped guide the thinking behind and approach to the CTOC training package. The Vietnam People's Police Academy (PPA) was the first institution in Asia to support institutionalization by hosting and integrating the training.

PARTNERS

- ASEANAPOL
- Vietnam PPA
- Freeland
- INTERPOL
- International Law Enforcement Academy of Bangkok (ILEA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. DOJ
- U.S. INL
- U.S. Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)

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 crimes.

<https://www.usaidwildlifeasia.org>