



VIGNESH

# COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING

SUMMARY REPORT

January 12, 2023

Bangkok, Thailand



# COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING

January 12, 2023  
Bangkok, Thailand

*Cover Photo Caption: Tiger sitting on grass. Photo Credit: Vignesh*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OPENING SESSION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SESSION 1. CONCEPTUALIZING A REGIONAL CWT PARTNER COORDINATION PLATFORM.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SESSION 2. VISION.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SESSION 3. PLANNING AHEAD .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>SESSION 4. MOVING FORWARD.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ANNEX 1. AGENDA.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ANNEX 2. CALENDAR OF CWT ACTIVITIES IN 2023.....</b>	<b>16</b>

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTI-CFF	Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security
CWT	Counter Wildlife Trafficking
DNP	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RDW	USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
SIG	Special Investigation Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



## BACKGROUND

In 2021, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) teamed up with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), Thailand, and other key partners, including the ASEAN Secretariat, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to organize the first *Regional Counter Wildlife Trafficking Partnership Forum*. The event culminated in the release of the “Development Partner Dialogue Highlights” which helped provide a concrete path towards improved regional collaboration. This was followed in December 2022 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Regional Counter Wildlife Trafficking Partnership Forum* aiming to build on the 2021 event with the following objectives:

- Strengthen political will and coordinated resource mobilization to counter wildlife trafficking efforts across Southeast Asia and beyond;
- Address challenges and opportunities for multi-stakeholder coordination and collective action to more effectively counter wildlife trafficking; and
- Expand and strengthen participation of civil society groups, indigenous peoples, forest-reliant communities, academia, youth and other marginalized groups in counter wildlife trafficking efforts.

To expand on these discussions and obtain more concrete outcomes towards the creation of a Partnership Coordination Platform or similar mechanism, USAID and partners organized a one-day in-person *Counter Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) Regional Coordination Meeting* on January 12, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the meeting was to discuss and agree on a potential model for enhanced information sharing, coordination and collaboration among counter wildlife trafficking (CWT) partners, stakeholders and the broader conservation community that advances CWT efforts, outcomes, and impacts.

### OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the meeting included the following:

1. A plan for the year ahead that provides a framework for enhanced coordination;
2. The articulation of a long-term vision for what a CWT Partnership Coordination Platform can achieve in terms of advancing counter wildlife trafficking efforts; and
3. Visioning on the potential structure and scope of a Regional CWT Partner Coordination Platform including the identification of key tools to support ongoing collaboration.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Thirty-five people participated in the event, representing the following organizations:

- The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)
- Freeland
- Institute for Legal Support and Technical Assistance
- Institute for Wildlife Malaysia
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- USAID
- USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife (RDW)
- USAID Saving Threatened Wildlife
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Embassy Bangkok
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- TRAFFIC
- WildAid
- World Bank
- WWF

The gender distribution of participants included:

- 56 percent male
- 42 percent female
- 2 percent prefer not to say

## OPENING SESSION

### OPENING SESSION

#### ***Steven Olive, Mission Director, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia***

Steven Olive began by thanking the partners and the hosts. He said that USAID is proud to support the effort to end wildlife trafficking, and that this year marks 190 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Thailand. He noted that the U.S. Government is committed to a free and democratic culture within Asia. He stated that the challenges of human rights violations and environmental destruction are connected, and that we need to empower underrepresented and marginalized groups in order to address the problem. He continued by noting that 20 years and \$50 million has been dedicated to CWT through stronger regulatory and enforcement efforts, and that these efforts have reduced demand from 33 percent to 25 percent among target audiences. He noted that this is the final event for the USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife program, but that USAID is still focusing on ending corrupt practices and reducing demand. In the future USAID will continue to support biodiversity and conservation efforts in the country.

### MEETING OVERVIEW

#### ***Peter Collier, Chief of Party, USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife***

Peter Collier reviewed the agenda and objectives for the day. He noted that the design of the meeting was built around an action planning approach, so that the participants could continue this work moving forward.

## SESSION I. CONCEPTUALIZING A REGIONAL CWT PARTNER COORDINATION PLATFORM

### **EXAMPLES OF WORKING CWT OR OTHER COORDINATION MODELS THAT COULD BE APPLIED TO THE CREATION OF A BROADER CWT PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION PLATFORM**

Session I focused on the following questions:

- What could a coordination platform look like moving forward?
- What already exists or is in development that people are willing to share?
- What (describe the platform or mechanism)
- When (How often and where should partners meet)
- How (will people access and engage)
- Why (goals and objectives)
- Who (state who it is for)

This session took place in roundtable format, and participants shared an example for no more than three minutes. Other participants commented or asked questions for an additional three minutes.

**TP Singh, Director, Asia and the Pacific, TRAFFIC**

TP Singh formerly worked at IUCN and gave an example of Mangroves for the Future. There was a focus in the program for post-tsunami response and recovery. A national coordinating body in each relevant country included domestic ministries and departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and the private sector. Countries were able to balance their own priorities with the priorities of the project. Many of the projects are still ongoing, despite the formal project ending, and the regional committee disbanded due to the lack of funding.

Discussion

- Question: What facilitated the interactions in the platform?
  - Answer: The IUCN secretariat facilitated at the regional level, but some country offices, through UNDP, or other national ministries, were self-coordinated.

**Eleanora De Guzman, Demand Reduction Team Lead, USAID RDW**

Eleanora De Guzman discussed a demand reduction steering group in Thailand which started through UNDP and included government and local and international NGOs working on CWT in Thailand. There were informal meetings every quarter starting in 2020. Parties update each other on activities and discuss issues. In 2021, parties revised the terms of reference for the operationalization of the work. The initial project focused on four species but later broadened to include any wildlife demand reduction products. The DNP was very involved. Parties are currently discussing how to reduce demand in ASEAN as a regional approach and are working towards a strategy. Parties are currently discussing whether this issue will be included in the May 2023 ASEAN meeting.

Discussion

- Question: Are there examples of coordination between participants?
  - Answer: No, but there are examples of smaller group meetings on specific issues, such as traveler campaigns.
- Question: How does the committee interact with Thai wildlife enforcement networks?
  - Answer: The group has met with them but there is no formal coordination. However, this is evolving.
  - Comment: Thailand is developing a long-term strategy for this and will be the ASEAN chair for wildlife issues where work can continue.

**Steve Galster, Founder, Freeland**

Steve Galster talked about an anti-money laundering working group, which would be a multi-agency law enforcement task force working together with civil society. This group would focus on catching traffickers, seizing their assets, and redirecting resources to addressing the problem. There is a need to incentivize law enforcement to work on this. Support from the ASEAN Chiefs of National Police to work on this would be welcome, and any government could call a special interest group. Any NGO could call a special investigation group (SIG). They would provide intelligence allowing law enforcement to respond with much less bureaucracy.

Discussion

- Question: How would this involve existing financial task forces working on this? Will it be separate?

- Answer: This will be case-based, tailored to the needs of the case with relevant stakeholders based on intelligence. We need the right people for each case.
- Question: What's the follow on plan? How frequently do they meet?
  - Answer: There is no guarantee, but we should build in incentives to enforcement agencies to see the assets that can be seized and come back to their agencies. SIGs are not expensive. There is momentum to create a sustainable, working group without a secretariat.

**Brian Gonzales, Head of Protection of Endangered Species, WWF**

Brian Gonzales spoke about the United for Wildlife global chapter based in Hong Kong. It is run by the private sector. Some chapters work with governments, specifically in Africa. There are specialized operations with law enforcement and others. Last month in Thailand there was a workshop where participants learned about the collaboration between ports and customs. This model encourages more support from the private sector.

- Comment: There's a financial task force, and relationships and trust are built through regular meetings.

**John Parr, Protected Area Management Specialist, World Bank, Laos**

John Parr talked about how we can be distracted by international and regional issues, and that this group should be working to focus on national and sub-national issues. He described the need to understand the provincial landscape, to understand who has the most knowledge, motivation, and capacity to work on CWT. We need to think about wildlife in the country, and not only about the iconic species. We need specialized groups to tackle wildlife and forest crimes; a national wildlife crime taskforce; and increased focus on online issues in Laos. Dedicated training for these issues is also needed.

Discussion

- Comment: This model exists in Thailand funded by the U.S. State Department in the Golden Triangle Area. There are multiple governments working together on this at the regional level, but it is difficult to see substantial outcomes regionally, so we also focus at a provincial level. Last year between Thai and Laos there were seizures of methamphetamine, sun bears, and wild squirrels, which involved the same crime syndicate. This shows an example of the importance of subregional collaboration.

**Rabia Mushtaq, Program and Communications Director, WildAid Thailand**

Rabia Mushtaq shared a website containing information on social and behavior change communication. Users can reach out to experts and access resources for lesson sharing. People can get involved at <https://changewildlifeconsumers.org/>.

Discussion

- Comment: The platform was debranded so that multiple groups could see themselves as a part of it to share research, documentation, and other resources. Activity slowed down during COVID, and the team is trying to revive it now. Some governments were committed to working on guidelines for Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) recommendations on demand reduction. It is now recognized globally by all the country members, which was possible because this platform started in Southeast Asia.

**Regan Pairojmahakij, Senior Program Officer, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)**

Regan Pairojmahakij talked about community forestry in Thailand and about how much biodiversity is outside of national parks. In Thailand more than 11,000 community forests are recognized. The Citizens' Forest Network documents biodiversity resources and incentive mechanisms to protect them.

Discussion

- Comment: Laos has a similar community forestry program.
- Comment: The questions of this discussion are too big and there is a need to focus on the why and the who. This coordination platform is not only to support the government. It is also to empower civil society and center marginalized groups to work on CWT. We need to build trust and explore common interests and overlap. Coordination requires incentives—this is often thought of as financial support for projects. We need to remember the why and the who.

**Peter Collier, Chief of Party, RDW**

Peter Collier described challenges of the coordination mechanism, including sustainable financing. He mentioned that there is an expectation that governments will eventually take on the role of coordination and there is the question, “Coordination to what end?” He continued by describing the example of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and the formation of a CTI-CFF Secretariat. Takeaways included:

- It takes longer than you think, and while civil society is a focus, governments need to coordinate and finance.
- There needs to be a clear plan of action to not lose sight of the purpose of the efforts.

**REFLECTIONS**

The table below includes reflections on Session I, which were captured through comments that participants posted on notes in the meeting room.

**Table 1. Participants' Reflections on Session I**

<p>It's exciting that there are many new, untapped opportunities to link existing platforms.</p>	<p>It's not clear what all the different regional themes are yet.</p>	<p>It would be much simpler and more impactful if we all agreed to ban wildlife trade.</p>
<p>People have many examples of coordination models which seem specific to their work experience and organizations.</p>	<p>Focus. Continuity. Adaptive.</p>	<p>Define Coordination!</p>
<p>We should also be considering models from other sectors, e.g. UNOCHA [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs].</p>	<p>How do we engage or get representation of local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) in these discussions, consider the size of the group, and managing focus?</p>	<p>Community forest work is important for wildlife crime.</p>
<p>No magic bullets! Lots of options to consider pursuing to achieve different outcomes.</p>	<p>Seemingly a lot of platforms already. What is the niche for a regional CWT Partnership Platform?</p>	<p>Many existing platforms. Can one new one put them all together?</p>
<p>Best Practices of the coordination mechanisms and challenges.</p>	<p>New ideas and existing ideas can be integrated.</p>	<p>Good coordination needs to be defined.  Involvement of government in the coordination, as a participant or a convener.  Some platforms require political will (government!)</p>

<p>Focus needs to be on sustainability of the program once the donor funding ceases. Any platform that's created should be able to continue on its own.</p>	<p>Shift focus to building inclusive approaches, trust, or shared directions, recognizing existing platforms.</p>	<p>There are many existing examples of collaboration within the CWT sector. It is highly motivating and energizing to learn of this. The question is how to hasten the positive impact by lessening the competition, especially regarding funding.</p>
<p>Narrow down who is important and ensure that it is inclusive.</p>	<p>There are a lot of great independent projects working on singular substantive issues, but I'm not hearing a cohesive overall goal that we're all working towards and concentrating our efforts to make sure we achieve it.</p>	<p>Much work to be done. More willingness to share.</p>
<p>Achieving local coordination is a challenge.</p>	<p>Need to focus on how to change the culture of CWT. Not just focus on the government and law enforcement.</p>	<p>Regional law enforcement coordination platform. (ASEAN → national → provincial level)</p>
<p>Government-led working groups may make a stronger impact.</p>	<p>Anti-money laundering initiative related to wildlife.</p>	<p>How to prioritize engagement and ensure all aspects are covered: community, civil society, provincial government, national government, regional cooperation, etc.</p>
<p>Start small, looking at provincial before regional.</p>	<p>There are many issues to take into consideration to put together a functional CWT platform; many obstacles to overcome.</p>	<p>Balance between enforcement and incentives.</p>

## SESSION 2. VISION

### WHAT A CWT PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION PLATFORM COULD LOOK LIKE: FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS

**Sulma Warne, Senior Legal and Policy Specialist, USAID RDW**

Sulma Warne presented on the results of partner consultations to understand the needs, views, and ideas of partners on a potential regional coordination platform. Of those surveyed, 95 percent answered that a coordination platform is needed. While most (65 percent) agreed coordination meetings should take place on a quarterly basis, others (30 percent) felt that a larger gathering each year would be good and that the two approaches could be combined, i.e. quarterly meetings coupled with a large meeting at the end of the year. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of survey responses on involvement in the coordination platform. About 75 percent of respondents felt that in the long-term the platform should aim involve all relevant stakeholders. Figure 2 highlights the multi-faceted and interrelated approach of how the platform could be established.

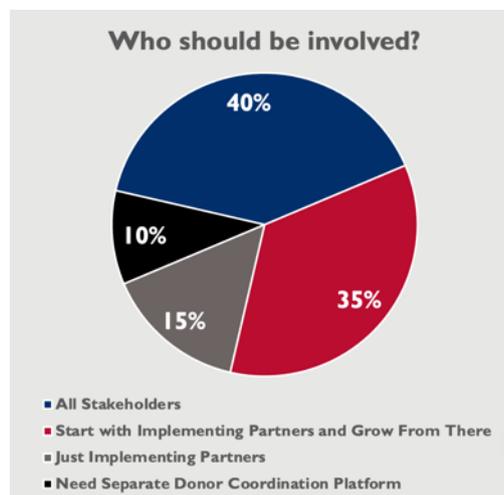


Figure 1. Survey responses to the question “Who should be involved?”

The recommendations highlighted in the presentation included the following:

- Move from information sharing to increased collaboration
- In the absence of any formalized coordination meetings, piggy-back on upcoming events to get together
- Add budgets to support coordination meetings in fund raising proposals

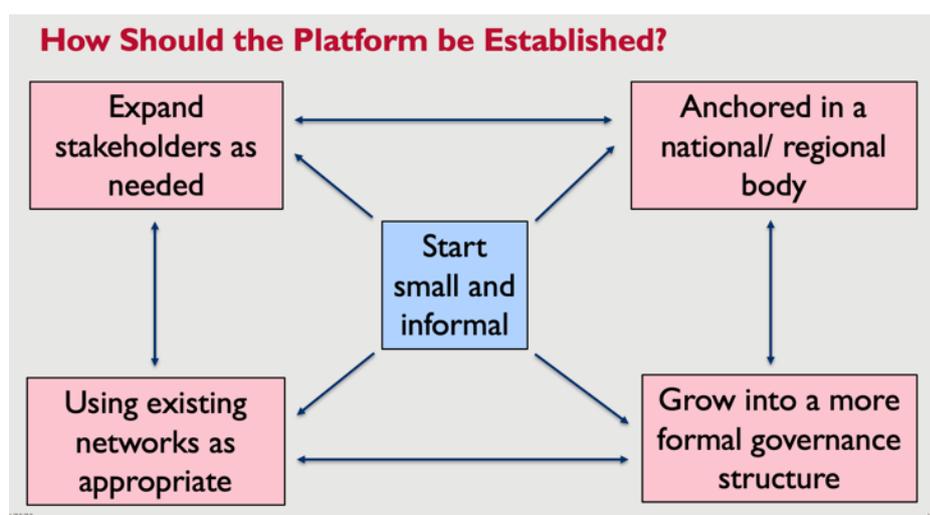


Figure 2. Key points on how the platform should be established

## **A LONG-TERM VISION FOR WHAT A CWT PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION PLATFORM CAN ACHIEVE: HOW TO ADVANCE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO BRING AN END TO THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

Session 2 continued with a group discussion. Each individual was asked the following questions:

- What could a CWT Partnership Platform look like?
- How is it going to contribute to ending the illegal wildlife trade?
- What are examples of major outcomes?

Participants were asked to answer the questions individually, pair up to discuss their answers, and then join with another pair to form a group of four to discuss further. The following are the key points from each group of four sharing in plenary.

### **Group 1**

- Use a hybrid platform (in person and online meetings).
- Use existing mechanisms and platforms (e.g. LinkedIn).
- Start small and informal with committed and passionate individuals.
- There is a need for inclusivity – reach out to CSOs and keep them on the listserv so they are always invited and receive meeting notes.
- The platform can help move policy both upstream and downstream.
- Start regionally and expand to the global level.

### **Group 2**

- Outcomes can include training materials, guides, documented lessons learned, and live interactions.
- Make it globally inclusive.

### **Group 3**

- Build collaboration around concrete solutions.
- Create an online solutions platform, include One Health (with climate change and regenerative agriculture).
- Create an online hub to capture overlap in other fields to come to one space to build comprehensive solutions together.
- Include NGOS, law enforcement, and educational institutions.
- Freeland is building a neutrally branded platform now with a calendar tool and funding map, which costs approximately \$18,000 per year to maintain.

### **Group 4**

- Use a hybrid platform.
- Partnership may benefit from dividing into two groups: 1) law enforcement and 2) demand reduction.
- Include national and regional partnerships, and aim to improve political will.

### **Group 5**

- Coordinate for the sake of outcomes and specialize groups around themes, such as law enforcement, legal issues, and demand reduction. Then bring key ideas together for cross-pollination.
- The coordinator needs a mandate and funding.
- Need key performance indicators to track coordination. These could be embedded in job descriptions. Without this, the efforts may continue to get stuck at information sharing.

### **Group 6**

- Group 6 was philosophical and questioned the meaning of the platform and whether this refers to a structure or the content. What does this mean to everyone, and is everyone working on the same definition? In order to have a progression, the structure empowers stakeholders to gain from the collaboration. Be realistic about the value proposition of the platform for stakeholders.
- Motive drives quality of engagement.
- What goals are specific and measurable?
- Outcomes: How to empower local people to leave the animals where they are? The right incentives will drive social generational change.

### **Group 7**

- There are existing efforts working towards these goals (e.g. in law enforcement, conservation, and One Health). These groups can work together to avoid duplication.
- In Laos, a spreadsheet is in use to help everyone know what resources are available and what activities are going on. Everyone contributes to the spreadsheet. This mechanism could be free and simple.
- Government buy-in is needed to ensure sustainability. When should government officials be included?

### **Group 8**

- Taking a step back, it is important to ask, “Why are we here in this room?” What are the donors doing? Who are the implementing partners? Is there duplication?
- The platform should be inclusive of all of these groups. There will always be competing agendas between different groups.
- It is difficult to include government because they already have their own platforms. How to dovetail with those platforms?
- What is needed to ensure that government commits to taking responsibility?
- ASEAN governments have a working group on CITES. What can civil society and donor groups do to help them achieve their plans of action? It is important to show solutions and examples.
- Do not assume governments are coordinating.

## Group 9

- Fundamentals: Why, What, and Who of the platform. CWT is a broad term and partners need to focus on what this platform wants to achieve and what issues it would work on.
- Existing national platforms need to be linked to a regional platform.
- Scope: unclear of whether to include governments.
- Scale: no consensus between formal or informal.
- Tangible outcomes: unified voice and message. Common messaging about policy recommendations to governments in the region.

## SESSION 3. PLANNING AHEAD

In Session 3, the group created an analog shared calendar using Post-it notes, flip chart paper, and stickers to identify the cadence, gaps, opportunities, and challenges of coordination and collaboration over the rest of 2023. Each event was written on a Post-it note, and participants were asked to include their name and organization, the event name, and a call to action. This initial map can be found on an interactive “digital whiteboard” called Miro (<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVPx7BjWVs=>) shared with participants, their teams, and additional partners (see Figure 3 and Annex 2).

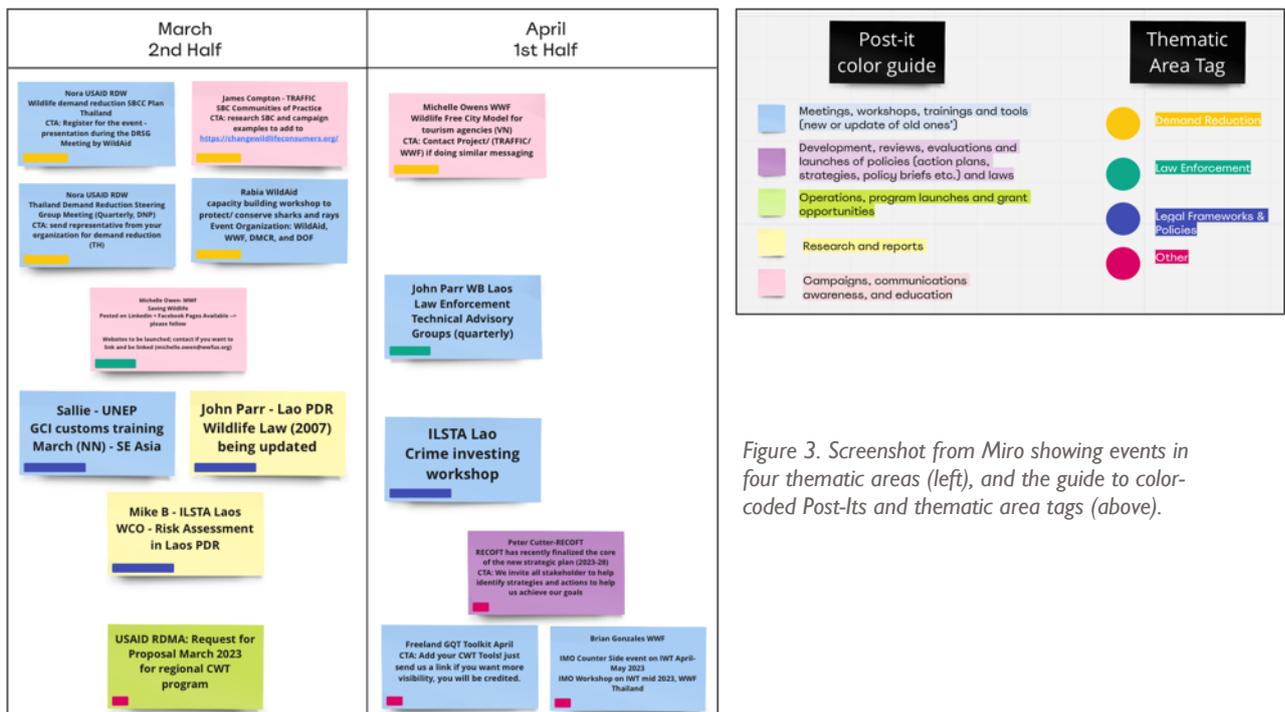


Figure 3. Screenshot from Miro showing events in four thematic areas (left), and the guide to color-coded Post-its and thematic area tags (above).

After the first set of events were put onto the calendar, facilitators asked the following questions:

1. Do you notice any gaps?
  - There were no government events.
2. What are your impressions of the shared calendar?
  - Things are in the planning process, and we will add events later.

- It is really helpful to see the connectivity between activities.
- It is difficult to absorb the information. Can people highlight key events from their organizations?
- It is nice to see a spread across the year.
- How narrow or how wide are we seeing CWT responses? What are we trying to focus this group on? Keep the definition as broad as possible. If you are unsure, put it on.
- One of the reasons why we're doing this is because we think there will be donor eyes on it, so this is also an opportunity to network.
- Not everything is on here. In terms of process, when we leave, it would be useful to have something that includes thematic approaches. Sometimes the ask is simply to "be aware." When we ask people to continue to populate this resource, we need to balance people's other priorities. We need to maintain momentum once we leave.
- We know certain things are coming up. It is useful to have a parking space for those.
- Who will maintain and remind folks to continue to update this?
- It's not that time-intensive to update. We did this activity in 10 minutes. It would be good to have a platform that allows us to search and filter the calendar in order to add value to the tool.
- It's important that the donors know what's going on, and we need to put this in a map format so they can access it easily. It becomes a mutually reinforcing thing if we know donors' eyes are on it.

After the first draft, participants were asked to put their name on Post-it notes where they wanted to respond to the call to action. The group then reflected on the process with the following comments:

1. Which initiatives need corporate champions?
  - Anti-money laundering trainings available for financial institutions
  - E-commerce training for identifying wildlife trafficking
2. Surprising amount of work going on in the legal sector.
3. No celebrity engagement.
  - Within campaigns there will be celebrity engagement.
4. Missing major regional intergovernmental flagship meetings.
  - Date for a potential ASEAN regional meeting on CWT not yet set.
5. Some organizations are not represented here today (e.g. UNODC) that will want to add events to this. It will look more crowded.

## SESSION 4. MOVING FORWARD

In Session 4, the group identified key events where the next coordination meetings could take place with this group and other partners. The events that were highlighted include:

1. March 2023 - World Wildlife Day
2. May 2023 - ASEAN Working Group on CITES Wildlife Meeting
3. Date TBD - ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
4. Date TBD - Regional Crime Convergence
5. September 2023 - USAID CWT project announcement
6. November 2023 - International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Wildlife crime meeting

Additional comments from the group included:

- Why is World Wildlife Day included as an opportunity to collaborate/meet?
  - Each year has a theme and DNP in Thailand is interested in this opportunity for coordinated actions between NGOs and the government.
  - The Thai Government might invite people/NGOs to meet then, and others could have side meetings.
  - It would be a good time to regroup, two months from now.
- A virtual get-together is a good idea.
- We can put this calendar on LegalAtlas, and it can be organized thematically and geographically.
- Suggestion: Goal of two in-person meetings per year, and one virtual meeting per year.
- A website has already been built (<https://illegalwildlifetradeprojects.org/project-map-and-database/>). Could we use that?
  - Challenge of having a gatekeeper, so maybe better if the platform is open source.
  - The World Bank would be involved. Are donors interested in seeing this calendar? Of course it's useful for implementing partners, but what about donors?
  - Donors want to know where their money is going. If they had access to this tool, they will take advantage of using that as a resource.
- InsightPact could coordinate a virtual meeting in March to work on updating this calendar on Miro if there's interest.
- If DNP puts on a big event, we can coordinate with them and they have strong public relations. We need to coordinate in advance about upcoming events and other countries like Vietnam or Laos can be invited to this conversation.
- Regional Demand Reduction Initiatives: Issue joint statement to have regional governments share.

Peter Collier, USAID RDW Chief of Party, closed the meeting by extending appreciation to participants, noting the productive and useful discussions. He was pleased to see the activity calendar as a concrete outcome of the event and as a resource to continue regional coordination on CWT.

## ANNEX I. AGENDA



### AGENDA

#### COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING

January 12, 2023, Novotel Bangkok Ploenchit, Thailand (In-person Event)

In 2021, USAID teamed-up with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and other partners, including the ASEAN Secretariat, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to organize the first Regional Counter Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) Partnership Forum. The event culminated in the release of the “Development Partner Dialogue Highlights” which helped provide a concrete path towards improved regional collaboration. This was followed in December 2022, by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Counter Wildlife Trafficking Partnership Forum which built on the 2021 event with the following objectives:

1. Strengthen political will and coordinated resource mobilization to counter wildlife trafficking efforts across Southeast Asia and beyond;
2. Address challenges and opportunities for multi-stakeholder coordination and collective action to more effectively counter wildlife trafficking; and
3. Expand and strengthen participation of civil society groups, indigenous peoples, forest-reliant communities, academia, youth and other marginalized groups in counter wildlife trafficking efforts.

To advance these discussions and development of a Partnership Coordination Platform, USAID and partners will hold a one-day in-person meeting in Bangkok with the following objective and outcomes:

#### Objective

- Discuss and agree on a potential model for enhanced information sharing, coordination and collaboration among CWT partners, stakeholders and the broader conservation community that advances CWT efforts, outcomes and impacts.

#### Outcomes

1. A plan for the year ahead that provides a framework for enhanced coordination.
2. A long-term vision for what a CWT Partnership Coordination Platform can achieve to counter wildlife trafficking including proposed models for its potential structure and scope.

TIME	SESSION DESCRIPTION AND SPEAKERS
8:30-9:00 am	Participants arrive and register
<b>Opening, Overview and Introduction</b>	
9:00-9:30 am (30 min)	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> Steven Olive, USAID Mission Director (5 min)</p> <p><b>Meeting Overview</b> Peter Collier, Chief of Party, USAID Reducing Demand for Wildlife (5 min)</p> <p><b>Introductions</b> Hermes Huang, Facilitator, InsightPact (20 min)</p> <p><b>Group Photo</b></p>

## ANNEX 2. CALENDAR OF CWT ACTIVITIES IN 2023

Screenshots from the shared calendar showing CWT events in 2023 are below.

Partners are invited to update the calendar at [https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVPx7BjWs=](https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVPx7BjWs=/).

Post-it color guide	Thematic Area Tag
Meetings, workshops, trainings and tools (new or update of old ones)	Demand Reduction
Development, reviews, evaluations and launches of policies (action plans, strategies, policy briefs etc.) and laws	Law Enforcement
Operations, program launches and grant opportunities	Legal Frameworks & Policies
Research and reports	Other
Campaigns, communications awareness, and education	

January  
2nd Half

Rabia WildAid  
Lunar New Year "No Shark Fin" awareness campaign-  
build momentum [Wildaid.org](http://Wildaid.org)

Freeland - CTOC  
Philippines

ILSTA  
10-12 Workshop in 2023 on  
Criminal Investigation (2 week  
course for OSPD, PSC, MDS, DOFI)

Chaia FWS  
ILEA Wildlife investigation  
training  
ILEA Bangkok, Jan 17-27, Regional

Pete Cutter RECOFT  
RECOFT has an active and dynamic website  
We invite stakeholders to visit the site,  
learn about our approach, and suggest  
ideas for new partnerships and innovative  
approaches.

February  
1st Half

February  
2nd Half

March  
1st Half

March  
2nd Half

Alex McWilliam IUCN - MIKE Programme  
Poisoning forensics workshop for 1st responders Malaysia  
CTA: Ask to be more aware

Brian Gonzales WWF  
New online cybercrime tool for WWF network in Asia

Jesse WWF - Tour Guide Training TH For CWT Feb 7

Michelle Owen WWF  
Vietnam National and Provincial WEN Assessment + Share any Lessons learned on other WEN assessments

Ann - Justice for Wildlife Malaysia  
White paper on Anti-Money Laundering Legislation as a tool to prosecute wildlife criminals: Subah Perspective  
Call to Action: Drafting (JWM - funding for follow up actions)

Nives - USAID  
Feb 18 World Pangolin Day  
CTA Partners to repost social media posts of other orgs

Sylvia - USDOJ  
Feb 27-Mar 3 Prosecutor (OSPP) transnational org crime/ dig evidence workshop in Luang Prabang  
CTA: Let me know about good WLT case studies for Laos or seizures/ prosecution

WWF  
Online IWT Training Modules for companies available in Vietnamese  
Share through Contacts and networks

Mike - ILSTA Laos  
Rapid reference guide on IWT

Brian WWF  
iNaturalist roll-out in Asia for CWT

Nives - USAID RDW  
USAID RDW Final reports completed online  
CTA: Please be aware, read, share

Nives - USAID RDW  
March 3 World Wildlife Day  
CTA: Partners to repost on social media posts of their orgs and other orgs

Rabia - WildAid  
World Wildlife Day - highlight partnerships for conservation  
Thailand DNP

Rabia - WildAid  
Thai Elephant Day event organized by DNP

Nuch WildAid  
March 3 World Wildlife Day- opportunity to coordinate and campaign/ statement

Michelle Owen- WWF  
- Small grants to be launched in VN for confiscated wildlife  
- Research (DNC)  
- Ongoing youth campaigns  
- Policy advocacy  
CTA: Share with networks/ provide recipiences based on experience

Nora USAID RDW  
Wildlife demand reduction SBCC Plan Thailand  
CTA: Register for the event - presentation during the DRSG Meeting by WildAid

James Compton - TRAFFIC  
SBC Communities of Practice  
CTA: research SBC and campaign examples to add to <https://changewildlifeconsumers.org/>

Nora USAID RDW  
Thailand Demand Reduction Steering Group Meeting (Quarterly, DNP)  
CTA: send representative from your organization for demand reduction (TH)

Rabia WildAid  
capacity building workshop to protect/ conserve sharks and rays  
Event Organization: WildAid, WWF, DMCR, and DOF

Michelle Owen- WWF  
Saving Wildlife  
Posted on LinkedIn + Facebook Pages Available -> please follow  
Websites to be launched; contact if you want to link and be linked (michelle.owen@wwfus.org)

Sallie - UNEP  
GCI customs training  
March (NN) - SE Asia

John Parr - Lao PDR  
Wildlife Law (2007) being updated

Mike B - ILSTA Laos  
WCO - Risk Assessment in Laos PDR

USAID RDMA: Request for Proposal March 2023 for regional CWT program

April  
1st Half

April  
2nd Half

May  
1st Half

May  
2nd Half

Michelle Owens WWF  
Wildlife Free City Model for  
tourism agencies (VN)  
CTA: Contact Project/ (TRAFFIC/  
WWF) if doing similar messaging

John Parr WB Laos  
Law Enforcement  
Technical Advisory  
Groups (quarterly)

ILSTA Lao  
Crime investing  
workshop

Peter Cutter-RECOFT  
RECOFT has recently finalized the core  
of the new strategic plan (2023-28)  
CTA: We invite all stakeholder to help  
identify strategies and actions to help  
us achieve our goals

Freeland GQT Toolkit April  
CTA: Add your CWT Tools! just  
send us a link if you want more  
visibility, you will be credited.

Brian Gonzales WWF  
IMO Counter Side event on IWT April-  
May 2023  
IMO Workshop on IWT mid 2023, WWF  
Thailand

Nives - USAID RDW  
April 22 Earth Day  
CTA: Partners to repost social  
media posts of other orgs

Sylvia, USDOJ  
April 24-28: Combining Wildlife trafficking/ Money  
Laundering charges workshop - Kalimantan,  
Indonesia  
CTA: Let me know about good WLT case studies  
from Indonesia or seizures/ prosecutions

Michelle Owens - WWF  
Financial Training Modules  
available in Vietnam  
+ Share through contacts/  
networks

John Parr WB  
scientific paper; Gathering of  
National WENS and subnational  
WENS - Core study of Lao PDR

Brian Gonzales, WWF, NEW  
IMO World Maritime  
University Course on IWT  
supported by WWF (mid 2023)

OSIMT Report  
S. American Trade in Reptiles  
to Europe and SE Asia- Call for  
Review- Freeland

Rabia - WildAid  
Launch Shark Fin DNA Report  
- Raise awareness, increase protection  
of sharks  
- Event organization  
WildAid, DOF, DMCR

Michelle Owen - WWF STW  
Workshop with Judiciary and Prosecution  
to follow up on regional chief justice  
meeting (by June hopefully) + Vietnam  
USDOJ Regional participation/ presentation

Mike ILSTA Laos  
Posters - not species  
CITES Law, Penalty

Sallie UNEP  
GCI customs Training  
May, Maldives, SA

Sylvia US DOJ  
May 8-12: Combining Wildlife Trafficking/ Money  
Laundering Charges and digital evidence workshop  
Ulanbaatar, Mongolia  
CTA: Let me know about good WLT case studies  
and/ or seizures from Mongolia or nearby  
countries like China!

Freeland SIG - SE Asia- Tripod  
May  
Freeland and Partners: (WWF)

James Compton- TRAFFIC  
ASEAN WG CITES + Wildlife  
Enforcement Meeting  
CTA: Input on SBC case studies for  
options paper

ASEAN CITES + Wildlife Enforcement Annual  
Meeting, May 2023  
CTA: Support POA, Support regional  
demand reduction coordination strategy  
Peter Collier, USAID RDW

June 1st Half	June 2nd Half	July 1st Half	July 2nd Half
<div data-bbox="73 536 309 663"> <p>Pim - WWF Thailand Provincial Wildlife Enforcement network trainings</p> <p>CTA: - event organization - promote and share the event on WWF platform</p> </div> <div data-bbox="338 536 573 663"> <p><b>ILSTA Laos Crime Investigation Workshop</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 695 439 823"> <p>Freeland- Special Invest. Group on AML "SIG-AML" -&gt; follow up Aug SIG w/Laos involved in next one TBD Get Laos LE to join</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="607 536 842 663"> <p>Development of OSINT Train the Trainer program in tri-border region in S. America for global use SEA Implementation Partner- Freeland</p> </div> <div data-bbox="875 536 1111 663"> <p>Ann - Justice for Wildlife Malaysia Workshop: Justice for silent victims 13 CTA: Logistics Coordination event organization (JWM)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="741 695 976 823"> <p>Sylvia, US DOJ June 23-26 Regional Wildlife Trafficking Workshop for judges- justice for silent victims Panang, Malaysia</p> <p>CTA: Let me know about good WLT case studies or seizures/ prosecutions from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, or the Philippines</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1267 584 1503 711"> <p>Freeland- CTOC/ SIG South America/ Asia Europe (June/July) Find and Fund Chinese and Vietnamese CE Participation to join</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1155 871 1391 999"> <p><b>ASEAN Environmental Law Conference July 4-5</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1424 871 1659 999"> <p>Sallie UNEP Judicial Curriculum Intermediate Caucus on environmental and climate law for Asia Pacific UNEP/ IUCN Launch - July Training- second half of July</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1267 1134 1503 1262"> <p>Freeland: Earth Team July CTA: join by adding your trg programs, activities funding and needs</p> <p>Freeland and Partners</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1686 304 1921 432"> <p>Nives - USAID RDW July 29 International Tiger Day</p> <p>CTA: Partners to repost Soc Med Posts of other orgs</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1933 304 2168 432"> <p>Nuch - WildAid World Tiger Day (July) Coordinate Campaign Statement</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1805 448 2040 576"> <p>Nora - USAID RDW Thailand DRSG Meeting (DNP) Send representative of your org responsible for canvassing (?)/ DR</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1805 608 2040 735"> <p><b>ILSTA Laos Crime Investigation Workshop</b></p> </div>

August 1st Half	August 2nd Half	September 1st Half	September 2nd Half
<div data-bbox="85 309 315 437"> <p>Nives - USAID RDW Aug 12 World Elephant Day CTA: Partners to repost soc med posts of other orgs</p> </div> <div data-bbox="338 309 568 437"> <p>Nuch WildAid World Elephant Day Opportunity for coordination, campaign/ statement</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 888 439 1018"> <p>Sallie - UNEP SAFE Legal review of wildlife facilities for Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia Recommendation on national guidelines restricted circulation</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 1142 439 1272"> <p>Alex McWilliam IUCN Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) sub-regional meeting of parties/ partners Late Q3/ Early Q4 2023 Ask: Be aware</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="741 596 976 726"> <p>UNODC Regional Crime Convergence Meeting (TBC)</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1335 596 1570 726"> <p>ILSTA Lao Crime Investigation Workshop</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1189 888 1424 1018"> <p>Nuch - WildAid ASEAN Ministerial meetings CTA: Push for statements for top/urgent topics</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1464 888 1700 1018"> <p>Freeland - End Pandemics G20 Sept. CTA: Help update and deliver memo to G20 leaders</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1850 309 2085 437"> <p>Nives - USAID RDW Sept 22 World Rhino Day CTA: Partners to repost soc media posts of other orgs</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1816 612 2051 742"> <p>Freeland - Taskforce Governance Short report on how to sustain a taskforce CTA: help peer review and translate (written by an experienced TF leader from AFP)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1850 1142 2085 1272"> <p>USAID RDMA Award for next regional CWT Program Sept 2023</p> </div>

October 1st Half	October 2nd Half	November 1st Half	November 2nd Half
<p data-bbox="215 309 452 437">Nuch - WildAid China Golden Week - Lunar New Year Communication opportunities to target travelers</p> <p data-bbox="91 624 329 746"><b>ILSTA Lao Crime Investigation Workshop</b></p> <p data-bbox="338 624 575 746">Freeland- SIG- Asia/ Africa Sept/ Oct CTA: Help Find SE Asia LE to join Freeland, DSWF</p> <p data-bbox="215 1166 452 1294">Alex McWilliam IUCN MIKE Programme Guidance docs published -collecting MIKE Data -Poisoning Forensics -Crime Scene Management for Rangers Q3 2023 CTA: Be Aware</p>	<p data-bbox="757 316 994 443">Nora - USAID RDW Thailand DRSG meeting (DNP) Send representative from your organization responsible for Communication DR</p> <p data-bbox="734 624 972 751">Ann - Justice for Wildlife Malaysia Prosecutors' Workshop CTA: Logistics Coordination and event coordination (JWM)</p> <p data-bbox="757 1166 994 1294">Carolina Lumpach USD-05, Regional ESTH Office Event: Embassy Science Fellows (ESF) to assist Mongolian government on CWT data analysis CTA: Logistics support to the fellow and working space. Technology support such as big data organizing computer data input from government and private sector</p>	<p data-bbox="1283 316 1520 443">Freeland Mother Earth Speaks Help from KOLs to play localized version of Mother Earth (currently featuring Jane Seymour) Help fund taping \$35k-50k (November)</p>	<p data-bbox="1783 320 2020 448"><b>INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting</b></p>

December 1st Half	December 2nd Half
<p data-bbox="212 991 479 1134"> <b>Climate Change COP 28</b>  <b>Dubai Nov. 30-Dec 12,</b>  <b>2023</b>  <b>CTA: you going?</b> </p>	<div data-bbox="763 671 1032 815" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Ann (JWM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tool: Rapid Reference Guide for Peninsular Malaysia wildlife crime prosecutors</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CTA: Funding, Drafting (JWM)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="658 991 927 1134" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Ann (JWM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tool: Sentencing guidelines for Peninsular Malaysia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CTA: Coordination (JWM) Funding???</p> </div> <div data-bbox="949 991 1218 1134" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Ann (JWM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report: Establishing Baseline for Wildlife Crime Court Cases in Malaysia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CTA: Research (JWM) Drafting (JWM)</p> </div>