

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade, focusing on Ivory, Rhino Horn, Tiger and Pangolins in Thailand



Image by Whitecat sg / Flickr

OVERVIEW

Species Focus: Thun Yai and Huay Kha Kaeng World Heritage Site; Key land and sea ports

Total Project Cost: US\$4.02 million

Executing Partner: Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Royal Thai Police, IUCN, TRAFFIC, TRACE

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Contact: Napaporn Yuberk
napaporn.yuberk@undp.org
Saengroj Srisawaskraisorn
saengroj.srisawaskraisorn@undp.org



CONTEXT

Thailand plays a significant role in the global illegal wildlife trade, being a major source, transit and destination country for many different types of wildlife and wildlife products. In particular, Thailand is a consumer and trans-shipper of pets and high-value luxury items. The trade is driven by its growing economy with accompanying increased purchasing power, and facilitated by the country's major international transport hubs.

To combat the illegal trade, the Thai government implemented a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) and an Action Plan on Ivory 2014-2020 and it is a participant in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force. Additionally, the country coordinates with other agencies through the Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) and participates in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a five year investment to conserve globally important biodiversity.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Thailand project aims to reduce the trafficking of wildlife (focusing on elephant ivory, rhinoceros horn, tiger and pangolins) in Thailand through enhanced enforcement capacity and collaboration and targeted behavior change campaigns. The main project components are:

- Improved Cooperation, Coordination and Information Exchange
- Enhanced Enforcement and Prosecution Capacity
- Reduced demand for illegal wildlife products and targeted awareness actions conducted to support law enforcement

PROJECT FOCUS

- Strengthening Thailand WEN, information management and analytical capacity, and piloting an integrated approach to wildlife crime surveillance and enforcement
- Supporting infrastructure & capacity of Wildlife Forensic Science (WIFOS) Laboratory
- Conducting standardized market and consumer research and targeted social and behavioural change communications to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products and support law enforcement activities
- Strengthening coordination between organizations engaged in demand reduction and advocacy on illegal wildlife trade

