



Darwin Initiative Annual Report



Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	17019
Project Title	Developing wildlife forensic capacity for ASEAN biodiversity conservation
Country(ies)	UK, Malaysia, Thailand.
UK Contract Holder Institution	TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Traffic South East Asia (TSEA)
Other Partner Institution(s)	ASEAN-WEN PCU (Association of South East Asian Nations Programme Coordination Unit).
Darwin Grant Value	£205,750
Start/End dates of Project	01/09/2009 – 31/08/2012
Reporting period	01/09/2009 – 31/03/2010 Annual report 1.
Project Leader Name	Dr Ross McEwing
Project website	Darwin website: http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/17019/ Project website: http://www.asean-wfn.org/
Author(s) and main contributors, date	Jennifer Mailley (Project Manager), Dr Ross McEwing and Dr Rob Ogden (Directors of TRACE), Mr Chris Shepherd (Acting Director, TSEA) Date: 25 April 2010

1. Project Background

Project context

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) aims to limit the level of trade in species deemed as endangered, that the trade is sustainable. CITES is a voluntarily signed agreement and not itself law. Signatory nations are required to implement national laws which enact CITES.

The ASEAN region is a hub for the export, import and re-export of CITES protected species (TRAFFIC 2008). All ten ASEAN nations are signatories to CITES. The suitability of national laws which action CITES and the *implementation* of these laws varies greatly across the ASEAN region (Shepherd and Nijman, 2008). One reason for ineffective implementation is the absence of facilities which enable enforcement agencies to routinely identify which species are present in a shipment (import or export), and therefore whether the shipment contravenes CITES.

Problem addressed

Practical enforcement of national laws which implement CITES is currently seriously hampered in the ASEAN region by a lack of experience and capacity in wildlife crime investigation. Gathering evidence for successful prosecutions is problematic, one key issue being the accurate and robust identification of illegally traded animals and plant parts, derivatives, or trace evidence. Enforcement officers at airports, seaports, land-boundaries and within protected areas need to be able to identify the species and sometimes the geographic origin of specimens. When morphological identification (by eye) is not possible, forensic tests can be used. While analytical techniques and equipment used in wildlife forensics already exist in a number of ASEAN countries, there is a need for these to be supplemented through additional research and implemented within a coordinated forensic framework.

Project aims

This project seeks to increase the ability of South East Asian (ASEAN) nations to use forensic science in the investigation and prosecution of offences which contravene CITES. It will improve the ability of ASEAN nations to enforce national level conservation legislation (which supersedes and actions CITES) and therefore better comply with CITES/ CBD obligations.

Project location

The project will be implemented in two priority ASEAN countries, Malaysia and Thailand. The project will be managed from the office of TRAFFIC South East Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

References

Shepherd, C. R. and Nijman, V. (2008): *Pet freshwater turtle and tortoise trade in Chatuchak Market, Bangkok, Thailand*. TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

TRAFFIC, (2008). *What's Driving the Wildlife Trade? A Review of Expert Opinion on Economic and Social Drivers of the Wildlife Trade and Trade Control Efforts in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam*. East Asia and Pacific Region Sustainable Development Discussion Papers. East Asia and Pacific Region Sustainable Development Department, World Bank, Washington, DC.

2. Project Partnerships

Structure of TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network (TRACE)

The lead UK institution, TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network, works in close partnership with the two host country partners:

TRAFFIC South East Asia (TSEA) located in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, and

The ASEAN-WEN PCU (Association of South East Asian Nations' Wildlife Enforcement Network Programme Coordination Unit) located in Bangkok, Thailand.

TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network are the project lead and a full time Project Manager (PM), Jennifer Mailley, has been hired. The role of the PM is to carry out day to day running of the project activities to ensure that deliverables are realised. Responsibilities over this reporting period have specifically included liaising with the A-WEN PCU and meeting government and enforcement officials in Malaysia and Thailand in order to inform them of the project and gaining 'buy in'; carrying out the regional Needs Assessment; identifying facilities suitable for the 1st training workshop and securing these; developing publicity materials; planning and organisation of the 1st workshop; developing and updating the project websites (both the Darwin site and another separate site, see Project Progress below); working closely with TSEA staff; and reporting on budget expenditure.

TRACE project lead (PL) Dr Ross McEwing is based in the UK and is responsible for final financial and progress reporting to Darwin, providing support to the project manager as appropriate, and providing technical expertise on questions relating to wildlife forensics as and when required. For example, at a meeting where the PM meets officials in Thailand and is asked whether a certain forensic technique is possible, the PM can refer back to the PL.

TRACE and TRAFFIC South East Asia (TSEA)

TSEA and TRACE have signed a contract whereby TSEA are contracted by TRACE to provide services including introducing the Project Manager to key regional contacts, supporting the project with salaried and in kind staff contributions, and hosting the Project Manager at the TSEA office when appropriate. The contract can be provided upon request. The partnership with TSEA is strong with good working relationships between the PM, TSEA support staff and TSEA management.

TRACE, TSEA and ASEAN-WEN PCU

The project proposal states that as a Host Country Partner, the role of ASEAN-WEN is to coordinate the involvement of ASEAN CITES Management Authorities and wildlife enforcement authorities, to communicate the specific forensic capacity and training needs of its members and to eventually integrate the project outputs (forensic network, databases and information) into its larger framework.

Communication between TRACE PM and TSEA support staff occurs via personal interaction in the TSEA office on a regular (almost daily) basis, email and skype, supplemented by regular office based team meetings. The ASEAN-WEN PCU are located in Bangkok, Thailand and communication occurs via email and skype, and has been supplemented by 2 visits of the PM to Bangkok since project inception.

Development of partnerships

At the time of application to Darwin, the TSEA Director was Ms Azrina Abdullah. She had contributed significantly to the original Darwin application, including project planning and liaising with ASEAN-WEN. She was named as key consultant in charge of TSEA delivery of the project, and scheduled to commit to both salaried and in kind time on the project. Since that

time, Ms Abdullah has left TSEA. The role of Director passed to Chris Shepherd as Acting Director for a year, and has recently been filled by Dr William Schaedler. The changes in personnel have not affected the underlying commitment of TSEA to the project, but have changed the details of how the project has been run.

Since leaving TSEA, Ms Abdullah is no longer available to offer in kind contributions. Instead, TSEA's in kind contributions have been made up by other TSEA support staff (mainly Ms Noorainie Awang Anak). However, Ms Anak has less experience in project management than Ms Abdullah, and so there remained a skills gap at the TSEA office where project management was needed.

The original project plan envisaged TRACE's Project Manager being based in the UK with TSEA taking a lead on all regional liaisons with ASEAN enforcement organisations. Following a successful one month visit of the PM to TSEA in October- Nov 2009, it became clear that TRACE's capacity to deliver the project would be maximised if the PM was located in the TSEA office for large periods of time. The PM relocated to Kuala Lumpur in early February 2010. This move has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of communication with all project stakeholders since face to face meetings are normal and expected conduct in SE Asia. Hence, project activities have progressed more quickly than when the PM was off site, and ensured that the skills gap left by Ms Abdullah was better filled.

TSEA originally provided introductions to the ASEAN-WEN PCU and continue to act as key liaison points between TRACE and both Malaysian and Thai enforcement authorities. Liaison with ASEAN-WEN PCU has gradually been passed from TSEA to the Project Manager, a positive sign that the PM has become better integrated with the PCU and that the project is established as part of the PCU's work programme. TRACE has been invited to present an update of the project at the Annual ASEAN-WEN Meeting to be held in Myanmar, in May 2010, signifying this integration.

The PCU seems well placed to fulfil the role of coordinating the involvement of ASEAN CITES Management Authorities but does not have a directory of contacts within wildlife enforcement authorities. Hence PCU are not able to fully report back the forensic capacity and training needs of ASEAN member states. They have however been instrumental in distributing and following up on requests for information.

Other Collaboration:

At this early stage of the project several collaborations have been suggested with ongoing projects. Most are not yet formalised but are reported here to indicate the level of interest in the forensics project, the extent of contacts made within the region to date, and to act as a repository to refer to if further funds are sought.

One of the most important links to be made to date is between forensic scientists working *within* the same Thai enforcement authority. During the Needs Assessment of Thailand it became clear that two scientists within two closely related Divisions of the Thai enforcement authority believed they had the remit to carry out forensic tests on samples submitted. One scientist had technical experience and laboratory facilities but no funds, the other was new and had no laboratory, limited experience and limited funds. At face to face discussions in March 2010, it was suggested by the PM to higher Thai management that these two scientists be motivated to work together, and work remits clarified. The management did not appear to be fully aware of the apparent overlap of responsibilities nor the opportunity for sharing both experience, laboratory equipment and funding. It is hoped that this observation by the project team will initially lead to clarification of roles and increased efficiency *within* the Thai enforcement divisions, forming a more solid basis on which to base a network with other *external* experts such as those at Universities. It is not the role of the project, nor would it be wise, to attempt to instruct the Thai authorities in how best to reorganise their internal structure, but it is hoped that making management aware of the situation and 'leading them to the table' is a good start.

Within Malaysia, staff at the main government wildlife forensic laboratory (PERHILITAN) have recently set up the 'Malaysian Wildlife Genetics Working Group' by contacting relevant researchers and practitioners around the country. However, due to a lack of specified funds and a lead organisation, this group has not yet had its inaugural meeting nor agreed how it might best function. The Darwin project provides the ideal platform for the concept of such networking to become reality. A meeting of the Malaysian Wildlife Genetics Working Group after the 1st project training workshop (in June 2010) will provide the PM the opportunity to demonstrate the project website to the group, and develop a working plan to ensure the group are supported by the project and gain the momentum needed to deliver a working network of Malaysian specialists.

In November 2009 following a visit to Sabah Wildlife Department, TRACE were invited to author an "Application Essay" demonstrating a case study of the use of forensics in wildlife crime for Conservation Genetics Resources. This journal is edited by Dr Benoit Goossens, who has previously held Darwin funding. It is anticipated this essay will be submitted in the financial year 2010/11.

TRACE are currently advising WWF Malaysia on the costs of analysing tiger faeces (scats) in order to assess the size and distribution of wild tiger populations. TRACE are also working with Vietnamese NGOs to identify illegally traded tiger parts seized in Vietnam.

The ASEAN region currently receives international support for the development of forensic facilities via the USA based agency ICITAP. Contact has been made with the ICITAP project leader, David Gidley. Due to other work commitments he has to date not been available to provide detailed information to the Darwin project but will have more availability in May/ June 2010. ICITAP were involved in the establishment of forensic laboratories in Indonesia, focused on crimes against humans. These may prove suitable facilities to base local wildlife forensic services.

Within TRAFFIC South East Asia, the issue of morphological identification of specimens is being addressed by the development of Species Identification sheets listing all protected and endangered species, with pictures and descriptions of how species are recognised and visually differentiated from other similar species. TSEA are currently planning local workshops where enforcement officers from customs, airports and land patrols are educated in the use of these morphological guides. TRACE will supplement this training where budget allows, by giving training on forensic sample collection and storage. As well as increasing the training delivered by the Darwin project to 'on the ground' officers, these events will result in more detailed feedback and understanding of the day to day issues faced by officers in the field, which will in turn compliment the Needs Analysis (Outcome 3).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Key:

MI= Measurable indicator.

MV= means of verification.

Activity= activity as scheduled in the project workplan.

Output1: National wildlife forensic units following approved forensic protocols.

MI: Laboratory facility operational in each country with trained staff in place.

MV: Physical existence of forensic units and staff. Auditing of procedures.

Activity 1.1: Assessment of current facilities and staff in each country.

Time scale: Months 1 to 6.

The project has assessed both the current forensic facilities and capabilities of the key forensic laboratories in Thailand and Malaysia in line with the log frame. The findings are presented in the attached documents 'Malaysia capacity.doc' and 'Thailand capacity.doc'. At this stage it appears that neither country has documented procedures for how, when, why or exactly where forensic samples are submitted, save in a few specific scenarios. Therefore the project documentation which records this 'big picture' of how forensic samples are processed constitutes a significant contribution to knowledge. This assessment allows next steps to be identified for Malaysia and Thailand, and for the 1st training workshop to be planned. TSEA staff are currently gathering equivalent information for the other 8 ASEAN Member States.

Activity 1.2: Implementation of laboratory systems for supporting forensic analysis.

Time scale: Months 7 to 30.

Both Malaysia and Thailand already have laboratories where forensic samples are submitted and analysed. The assessment of current facilities revealed that before further progress can be made in implementing new or refined technical or quality assurance systems, each country should clarify their *procedural* systems along with longer term plans for their forensic facilities.

The Darwin project will submit brief reports to both Thailand and Malaysia, based on the outputs from Activity 1.1 and 3.1, in order to highlight these needs. The PM will offer assistance and support in resolving these issues by coordinating a meeting in each country, where key stakeholders will be invited to listen to the findings and then discuss potential solutions. This stage of the project will require delicate handling since external criticism will most probably not result in positive action. In summary, both Malaysia and Thailand need to make policy level decisions and commitments which essentially act as the precursors to the implementation of further laboratory systems.

Output 2: Trained wildlife forensic technicians, researchers and field officers.

MI: A minimum of 3 national wildlife staff and 3 lab staff trained in each country.

MV: Course certificates obtained by trainees; trainee feedback.

Activity 2.1: Training: Provision of specialist training in collection and identification of evidence.

Activity 2.2: Training: Provision of specialist training in laboratory methods.

Original timescale: months 7 to 9. Revised timescale: months 10 to 12.

Together activities 2.1 and 2.2 constitute the 1st Training Workshop. The workshop is scheduled to be held at Malaysia's DWNP Headquarters from 7th to 11th June 2010. Conference facilities and laboratory facilities have been booked and all countries notified of the workshop. Invites will be sent out the week commencing 19th April 2010. Each of the ten ASEAN Member States will be invited to send 3 participants: one laboratory scientist and two enforcement personnel. Participants will be vetted by TRACE to ensure that scientists are technically and linguistically skilled enough to benefit from training conducted in English, and that enforcement officers are middle management and active officers. This will ensure that training is delivered to those on the ground as opposed to higher management not active in the field. The results of the workshop will be detailed in the next annual report.

The date of the first international training workshop was altered from March 2010 to June 2010. The shift in timing was necessary because the original proposed date of March 2010 coincided with the date of CoP (CITES Convention of the Parties) 2010, meaning the South East Asian countries involved in the project did not have the capacity to help facilitate or to attend the proposed workshop. June was proposed by the ASEAN-WEN PCU (Association of South East Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network Program Coordination Unit). The impact on the

project budget was to shift expenditure relevant to the training workshop from FY 2009/10 to FY 2010/11. The shift in budget from FY 2009/10 to 2010/11 was agreed with LTS International via a change request from as per standard protocol, in January 2010. Confirmation of change of acceptance was received in February 2010 (see attached Change Request Form).

Output 3: A body of research highlighting regional forensic needs and delivering scientific resources for applied use.

MI: Production of a Needs Analysis Report.

MI: A series of forensic analysis protocols addressing key issues.

Activity 3.1: Research: Needs Analysis for wildlife forensic identification tools.

Timescale: Months 1 to 9.

The Needs Analysis is well underway in line with the log frame. The specific technical training needs of all ASEAN Member State laboratories are being assessed by requesting that each relevant laboratory completes a 'Scientific Questionnaire' (attached). The training needs of enforcement agencies are being assessed by an 'Enforcement Questionnaire' (attached). Both types of Questionnaires were disseminated in collaboration with the ASEAN-WEN PCU. The CITES focal points for each country were asked to disseminate the Questionnaires to relevant laboratories and enforcement agencies. The ASEAN-WEN PCU and the Darwin PM are being informed of each enforcement agency and laboratory the focal points contacted. PCU and the PM can then remind agencies to complete the questionnaires by the deadline of the end of April.

The questionnaires compliment the knowledge already gained during face to face meetings with key forensic scientists in Malaysia and Thailand. The technical and enforcement needs analysis feed into a broader needs analysis which identifies the needs for cooperation, collaboration, official policies and commitment from governments in order that forensic science is developed more fully in ASEAN Member States. In order to organise the many interrelated questions which comprise the complete needs analysis, the project team has devised an internal document (see 'Needs Assessment Questions Per Country.doc' attached). Many of these fields will be completed after the return of the questionnaires; others will be filled in as new relationships with stakeholders such as the judiciary develop over time.

Activity 3.2: Research: Development of key forensic tools to address identified priorities.

Timescale: Months 7 to 32.

This activity is dependent on the completion of the full Needs Analysis and feedback from the training workshop and has not been started. It is anticipated that discussions with ASEAN scientists at the workshop will form the basis for development of new forensic tools.

Activity 3.3: Research: Creation of a species reference collection of DNA samples for shared use.

Timescale: Months 7 to 32.

This activity is interlinked with activity 5.2, Establishment of online networking forum and website. The long term goal is for the species reference collections of ASEAN government laboratories and research facilities such as Universities to be listed on the project website. This Directory will enable collaboration and cooperation between specialists while protecting intellectual property rights. The Malay DWNP have developed a reference database for several Malaysian species and discussions are currently under way to decide how DWNP might list their collection as the first Directory entry on the project website. The website and its use as a Directory will be demonstrated at the 1st Training Workshop and scientists encouraged to participate in the Directory. Development of the website is reported under Output 5.

Output 4: A framework of inter-agency cooperation for incorporating forensic analysis into illegal trade investigations.

MI: Attendance at inter-agency seminars and development of multi-agency approaches.

MV: Seminar reports. Documented agreements between agencies.

Activity 4.1: Interagency Cooperation: Seminar attendance at key project meetings.

Timescales: Months 4 to 6, 10 to 12, 34 to 36.

Two project launch workshops were completed early in the project, one in Thailand from 27-28th October 2009 and one in Malaysia on 11th November 2009. Both were attended by key personnel from CITES and enforcement agencies. A list of attendees and issues discussed is attached as 'Thailand Project Launch.doc' and 'Malaysia Project Launch.doc'. These documents are essentially minutes of the meetings and actions/ requests for further information that resulted from them. Both Malay and Thai authorities agreed that efficiencies in the use of current forensic facilities were needed along with laboratory training and enforcement training.

Output 5: A regional network of wildlife forensic expertise for sharing protocols, samples and data.

MI: Central accessible online forum for sharing information.

MI: Electronic database of available reference samples in the region.

MV: Access and number of hits to online forum and database.

Activity 5.1: Network coordination: Identification of all regional stakeholders.

Timescale: months 1 to 3.

All key regional stakeholders with a role in enforcing CITES have been identified. The ASEAN-WEN PCU acts to coordinate project activities with CITES focal points in each of the ten ASEAN nations and hence have already identified high level key contacts. In addition to this high level contact, various sources are being used to gather a more complete list of the agencies and institutions relevant to wildlife forensics, starting with Malaysia and Thailand. It is anticipated that this list will continue to expand as the project progresses, and it is expected that a 'snowball effect' will occur where specialists introduce the project team to other specialists who are concerned with aspects of the project such as quality control and lab accreditation.

Activity 5.2: Network coordination: Establishment of online networking forum.

Timescale: months 4 to 12.

This activity is progressing in time with the log frame. A website has been developed upon which a networking forum can be hosted. The Project Manager is able to revise and update the website to post project news and relevant articles. The Project Manager has administrative control over the forum. This means individuals apply for forum membership, are vetted, and then assigned a unique log on identity with an associated level of permissions for posting comments to the forum, access to various levels of protected content, and communication with other forum members. Using this system the forum members can be vetted to ensure the forum is kept for relevant professionals only. This is aimed to increase confidence in the security of the forum and to increase a sense of identity amongst members. Next steps include working with the Malaysian Genetics Working Group to enable them to join the website and be the first forum members.

Activity 5.3: Network coordination: Project launch and interim workshops.

Timescales: Project launch workshop months 4 to 6.

As reported under Activity 4.1, the project launch was completed in October and November 2009 in Thailand and Malaysia respectively, on time with the log frame. It is anticipated that the interim workshop in 2011 (log frame timescale months 22-24) might be used to formalise agreements of interagency cooperation within Malaysia and Thailand.

Activity 5.4: Network coordination: Regional conference on wildlife forensics

Timescale: Months 34 to 36. This activity is not yet started in line with the log frame, save for informing all stakeholders of the intent to hold this workshop in Thailand in 2012.

Output 6: Broad dissemination of project results.

MI: Publication of project case study and conference proceedings.

MI: Peer-reviewed research publications.

MI: National press coverage overseas and UK

Activity 6.1: Press and Publicity: Design of a three year publicity plan.

Months 1 to 3.

An ongoing publicity plan has been developed in line with the log frame with advice from TRAFFIC International. The plan is attached as 'Publicity plan.doc'.

Activity 6.2: Press and Publicity: Coverage of project workshops and regional conference.

Time scale: Months 4 to 6, 21 to 24, and 34 to 36.

The timing of the press release announcing the 1st training workshop has altered to months 9 to 12 in line with the shift in the workshop timing. A joint press release between TRACE, TSEA, ASEAN-WEN PCU and Malaysia's DWNP announcing the 1st training workshop and introducing the project to the press is drafted and awaiting input from Malaysia's DWNP. The press release will be released to national (ASEAN) press via TSEA and to UK press via TRAFFIC International. The training workshop will be described to the local and UK press via another joint press release. The possibility of local TV interviews has been discussed with DWNP but due to previous negative experiences with press exposure there are reservations and further discussion and reassurance is needed from the project team to DWNP.

Activity 6.3: Press and Publicity: Incidental press releases.

Timescale: Months 6 onwards.

Incidental press releases will be released once the project is officially involved with ongoing investigations or the development of novel techniques within the region. These activities are likely to commence following the 1st training workshop.

The project has been communicated to **academic** and **enforcement audiences** via presentation at the EU CITES Enforcement Group meeting (Brussels, 2009) and the inaugural conference of the Society for Wildlife Forensic Sciences, (USA, April 2010).

An article concerning the project was published in the TRAFFIC Bulletin (Vol 22 (2) P.61)

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Progress towards each of the final project outputs is evidenced in Section 3.1. Since each activity builds towards these outputs, and the activities are currently on track with no significant risks, there is no reason to assume that project outputs will not be achieved.

The output level assumptions are still true apart from the efficiency of a few individuals within government office whose commitment to CITES enforcement activities appears weaker than the commitment of other individuals. The project is managing these individuals by making full use of TSEA personal relationships which to date have ensured that delays have not developed into stagnation.

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Please note that the project application did not quantify the planned number of measures.

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Total to date	Number planned for this reporting period	Total planned from application
Established codes					
8	No of weeks to be spent by UK project staff in host country	13	13	N/A	N/A
15A	No of press releases in host countries	1			
15C	No of national press releases in UK	1			
New Project specific measures					
	No of launch conferences organised and attended in host countries	2			

In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, eg title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Web site		TRACE	www.asean-wfn.org	1502.83
TRAFFIC Bulletin	Article describing Darwin project	TRAFFIC Int Vol 22 (2) p61	http://www.traffic.org/bulletin/	In-kind

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

As discussed for section 3.2 the project activities build towards the overall outcomes, and at this stage progress is in line with the logframe.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

Since the project activities have all been completed to time or in the case of the training workshop rescheduled with good reason, the extrapolation of this progress is that the project will achieve its overall goal. At this stage of the project (8 months since the start date) the outcomes and activities are building towards implementation of forensic processes and networks. Impact on biodiversity via enforcement of CITES is expected to be realised much later in the project.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Macro level assessment

The project purpose has Measurable Indicators and Means of Verification which are not included in Darwin standard measures. These are listed below. Verification of project impact on these indicators will only be possible further into the project timescale, and upon completion. However collation of baseline data has commenced in order that the project can assess changes in these indicators over the course of the project. Essentially the indicators and means of verification assess enforcement activities and success involving wildlife forensics before and after the project. Baseline data includes the number of wildlife forensic samples processed in each laboratory, and where available, the proportion of these which resulted in a successful prosecution in a court of law. Such management data is not routinely collected in either Malaysia or Thailand to the level of detail needed by the project, and again collation of these data and evidencing their usefulness to host countries is in itself expected to contribute to both regional knowledge and might alter current management practices.

Project purpose: to provide the ability for host countries to undertake coordinated wildlife forensic analysis for CITES enforcement operations in the ASEAN region.

Measurable indicators:

Future illegal trade investigations utilise forensic techniques.

Increased number of illegal wildlife trade prosecutions.

Means of verification:

Monitoring host country enforcement activity.

Quantifying change in investigation efforts and success.

Micro level assessment

Micro level progress (weekly or fortnightly progress) is assessed and recorded by using an internal project progress document. This document has proved useful in keeping broad and more detailed records of progress against key activities which need completing in order for project milestones to be realised. It is a flexible tool designed for internal use, and can be provided upon request.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

This is the first annual review. This section is not applicable.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project does not currently face significant risks. However the project team are aware of several political and resource issues which need to be handled in order for progress to continue. These are reported here for transparency and completeness.

Risk monitoring

Organising the training workshop has highlighted an issue which is being handled but requires monitoring. DWNP employs several members of staff who will be closely involved with and can affect project delivery. Although most are enthusiastic about the project the efficiency of some is less than ideal. Requests for agreements to hold meetings, for quotes for publicity releases, and agreement to hold the workshop in DWNP have at times resulted in repeated inaction or passing the task around various levels of management, over and above what is expected in Departments with stretched resources. Fortunately TSEA project support staff have good personal contacts with DWNP, and progress has been achieved by using these relationships to their full extent. It is anticipated that although delays may occur in the future due to the various efficiency levels of DWNP personnel, the expertise at TSEA can ensure delays are minimised and do not translate into stagnation. However, these relationships are only effective while the personal contacts remain in posts which affect project progress. Recent news from DWNP indicates that a key contact might move post, leaving a less efficient individual solely in charge of higher level decisions. It is perfectly possible for the project to continue in this scenario, but less likely that enthusiastic agreement will be obtained for issues such as inter-agency cooperation, and press coverage.

The overall conclusion of the project team (PM and TSEA staff) is that increased and sustainable interagency cooperation with regard to forensic submissions is reliant on each country accepting and acting upon the observations made by the project. Although the project can lead the relevant authorities to the table, it can not force them to talk or to alter current processes. The project can proceed whether the processes are better organised or not, but much greater gains will be made if processes are streamlined. To increase the chances of such streamlining being implemented the training workshops will encourage exchange of information between individuals and management can be reminded of their commitment to CITES enforcement via their pledges in the ASEAN-WEN Regional Action Plan. Furthermore, it is hoped that the benefits of positive publicity in relation to successful wildlife prosecutions will be proven as soon as a suitable case is processed using project support.

7. Sustainability

At this early stage of the project it is difficult to assess the sustainability of project outcomes. Interest at the regional level is evidenced by the integration of the project in to the ASEAN-WEN PCU weekly meeting agendas and the invitation to attend the ASEAN-WEN Annual Meeting in Myanmar in April 2010. Interest and commitment at the national level is evidenced by the agreement of the Malaysian Ministry (NRE) that DWNP can host the training workshop in Malaysia.

8. Dissemination

Dissemination activities are described under Actions 1.1, 2.1, and 6.1 thru 6.3.

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009)

Item	Budget (based on approved forecasted budget in Jan 2010)	Expenditure	Variance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment (specify)			
Others (specify)			
Salaries (specify by individual)			
TOTAL			

All expenditure has been in line with budget expectations. The only deviation from the original budget is in the TRACE (UK) staff spend, where a dedicated project manager, Jennifer Mailley (JM), has been employed full-time on the project, reducing the project lead time (Ross McEwing (RM)) from 80% to 30%. This has had no effect on any of the budget totals and has increased the level of staff time TRACE is able to dedicate to the project by 60%.

10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

We would prefer to wait until the first project workshop before submitting content for this section.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2009/10

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Sep2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources. To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve.</i></p> <p>Sub-Goal: An effective, coordinated regional network of wildlife forensic expertise exists to support enforcement of CITES regulations through a combination of quality assured investigative processes and the capacity to develop and apply new identification tools.</p>		<p><i>Project Manager relocated to Malaysia.</i></p> <p><i>Needs Analysis initiated.</i></p> <p><i>1st training workshop venue identified and secured for June 2010.</i></p> <p><i>Key regional stakeholders identified, contacted and engaged with project.</i></p> <p><i>Project website established in readiness to host forum of forensic specialists and directory of genetic databases.</i></p>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Purpose To provide the ability for host countries to undertake coordinated wildlife forensic analysis for CITES enforcement operations in the ASEAN region.</p>	<p>Future illegal trade investigations utilise forensic techniques. Increased number of illegal wildlife trade prosecutions.</p>	<p>As above, for goal/ subgoal.</p>	<p>Delivery of 1st regional training workshop.</p> <p>Enrollment of Malay and Thai forensic specialists to the online forum.</p> <p>Completion or Needs Analysis.</p> <p>Continuance of encouraging & enabling interagency cooperation.</p>

Output 1. National wildlife forensic units following approved forensic protocols.	Laboratory facility operational in each country with trained staff in place.	Progress: Laboratory facilities in each host country assessed and areas of development identified. Indicator is appropriate in long term, not applicable at this stage of the project.
Activity 1.1: Capacity Building: Assessment of current facilities and staff in each country (Log frame timescale Months 1 to 6).		Progress: Capacity of Malay and Thai laboratories assessed. Recommendations are that both Malay and Thai authorities need to clarify roles and responsibilities of individual scientists and Divisions, in order to allow project resources (training, research, and accreditation) to be focused on the most appropriate areas.
Activity 1.2: Capacity Building: Implementation of laboratory systems for supporting forensic analysis (Log frame timescale Months 7 to 30).		Progress: The first steps in implementing systems to support forensic analysis are to clarify roles and responsibilities, based on the recommendations from Activity 1.1 above. Next steps are to coordinate meetings in both Thailand and Malaysia to encourage this clarification.
Output 2. Trained wildlife forensic technicians, researchers and field officers.	A minimum of 3 national wildlife staff & 3 lab staff trained in each country.	Progress: the timing of the 1 st training workshop was altered due to the non-availability of resources during May 2010. Planning for the workshop has progressed well. The Indicator seems appropriate in the longer term i.e. when all workshops have been completed.
Activity 2.1: Training: Provision of specialist training in collection and identification of evidence (Revised timescale: Months 10 to 12)		Progress: 1 st training workshop venue secured and all ASEAN Nations notified. Next steps are to deliver the training workshop and assess effectiveness via training feedback.
Activity 2.2: Training: Provision of specialist training in laboratory methods		Timing, progress and next steps are as above for Activity 2.1.
Output 3. A body of research highlighting regional forensic needs and delivering scientific resources for applied use.	a. The production of a needs analysis report. b. A series of forensic analysis protocols addressing key issues	Progress: The assessment of technical and management/ policy needs is well under way. Next steps are to assimilate responses from Questionnaires distributed to stakeholders. The Indicators seem appropriate.
Activity 3.1: Research: Needs analysis (by species and problem) for wildlife forensic identification tools (Timescale: Months 1-9)		Progress: Background research for Thailand and Malaysia is completed. Questionnaires to feed in to the Needs Analysis have been distributed to

		the region. Next steps are to assimilate Questionnaire responses and to continue background research on the remaining 8 ASEAN Member States.
Activity 3.2 Research: Development of key forensic tools to address identified priorities (Timescale: Months 7-32)		Progress: this activity is dependent on the completed Needs Analysis and feedback from the training workshop. Not yet started, anticipated to be started following the 1 st training workshop.
Activity 3.3: Research: Creation of a species reference collection of DNA samples for shared use. (Timescale: Months 7-32)		Progress: website to host the species reference collection has been developed. Next steps are to continue discussions with Malaysian forensic specialists to be the first contributors to the collection. This to then be showcased at the 1 st training workshop.
Output 4: A framework of inter-agency cooperation for incorporating forensic analysis into illegal trade investigations.	Attendance at inter-agency seminars and development of multi-agency approaches.	Progress: project launch workshops indicated that interagency cooperation is agreed to be necessary. However, formalisation of agreements is partly dependent on the outcome of activity 1.2. Attendance at inter-agency seminars is a basic indicator: the more meaningful indicator is the development of (formalised) multi-agency approaches. It is anticipated these will develop over time but require careful handling.
Activity 4.1: Inter-Agency Cooperation: Seminar attendance and networking at key project meetings (Timescale: Months 4-6, 10-12, 34-36)		Progress: project launch workshops were attended by key agency officials. Next steps are to formalise inter-agency processes, likely to be initiated at interim workshops.
Output 5: A regional network of wildlife forensic expertise for sharing protocols, samples and data.	a. Central, accessible online forum for sharing information. b. Electronic database of available reference samples in the region.	Progress: key regional experts have been identified and involved in the project. The website is ready to host the online forum and the database of reference samples. Indicators seem appropriate in the long term.
Activity 5.1: Network Coordination: Identification of all regional stakeholders (Timescale: Months 1-3)		Progress: all major stakeholders in host countries are identified. Next steps are to snowball from these key stakeholders to encompass the entire regional forensic 'community'.

<p>Activity 5.2: Network Coordination: Establishment of online networking forum (Timescale: Months 4-12)</p>	<p>Progress: website is developed ready to host the forum. First members have been identified. Next steps are for the Malaysian Genetics Working Group to join the forum to allow demonstration of the forum at the 1st workshop.</p>
<p>Activity 5.3: Network Coordination: Project launch and interim workshops (Timescale: Months 4 to 6)</p>	<p>Progress: project launch workshops completed.</p>
<p>Output 6: Broad dissemination of project results</p>	<p>Publication of project case study and conference proceedings. Peer-reviewed research publications. National press coverage -O/S & UK</p> <p>Plans are in place for the first major press release though delays from DWNP have contributed significantly to the late timing of this. Conference proceedings will be publicised after the 1st workshop. Indicators appear appropriate.</p>
<p>Activity 6.1: Press and Publicity: Design of a three year publicity plan (Timescale: Months 1-3)</p>	<p>Progress: publicity plan agreed with TSEA and TRAFFIC Intl. Next steps include ensuring local and national press coverage of the 1st training workshop.</p>
<p>Activity 6.2: Press and Publicity: Coverage of project workshops and regional conference (Timescale: Months 4-6)</p>	<p>See Activity 6.1 above.</p>
<p>Activity 6.3: Press and Publicity: Incidental press releases (Timescale: Months 7 to 33)</p>	<p>Progress: in line with the log frame, this activity will progress dependent on identification of investigations or casework which the project is involved with. These are anticipated to start following the 1st workshop.</p>

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project start date= 1st September 2009.

Months of activity to end of March 2010 (date of 1st Darwin annual report) = 7 months.

Key: X indicates shift of 1st workshop timing from May 2010 to June 2010.

Activity	Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.1 Capacity Building: Assessment of current facilities and staff in each country	3												
1.2 Capacity Building: Implementation of laboratory systems for supporting forensic analysis	6												
1.3 Capacity Building: Joint preparation of funding applications for ongoing support	3												
2.1 Training: Provision of specialist training in collection & identification of evidence (Thailand)	1				X								
2.2 Training: Provision of specialist training in laboratory methods (Malaysia)	1				X								
2.3 Training: Training of host-country staff in the UK	4												
3.1 Research: Needs analysis (by species and problem) for wildlife forensic identification tools	3												
3.2 Research: Development of key forensic tools to address identified priorities	12												
3.3 Research: Creation of a species reference collection of DNA samples for shared use	12												
4.1 Inter-Agency Cooperation: Seminar attendance at key project meetings	1												
5.1 Network Coordination: Identification of all regional stakeholders	1												
5.2 Network Coordination: Establishment of online networking forum and website	2												
5.3 Network Coordination: Project launch workshop, interim workshop	2												
5.4 Network Coordination: Regional conference on wildlife forensics	1												
6.1 Press and Publicity: Design of a three year plan	0.2												
6.2 Press and Publicity: Coverage of project workshops and regional conference	1												
6.3 Press and Publicity: Incidental press releases	0.5												

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

The list below cross references the documents provided electronically to evidence progress against project activities and outcomes.

Activities and evidence

1.1 Capacity Building: Assessment of current facilities and staff in each country

Malaysia Capacity.doc

Thailand Capacity.doc

2.1 Training: Provision of specialist training in collection and identification of evidence

07019 TRACE change request.pdf

3.1 Research: Needs analysis (by species and problem) for wildlife forensic identification tools

Scientific Questionnaire.doc

Enforcement Questionnaire.doc

Needs Assessment Questions Per Country.doc

3.3 Research: Creation of a species reference collection of DNA samples for shared use

See project website at: www.asean-wfn.org

Screen shots:


ASEAN-WEN Wildlife Forensics Network - A Darwin Initiative - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.asean-wfn.org/


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Event Calendar


April 2010

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Done


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
Project Details

Purpose of the project: To provide the ability for members of the ASEAN WEN to undertake coordinated wildlife forensic analysis for CITES enforcement operations and to deter further wildlife crime in the ASEAN region.



Project Links

Links to forensic and enforcement organisations. Please contact us if you wish your website to be added.



Event Calendar

April 2010

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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4.1 Inter-Agency Cooperation: Seminar attendance and networking at key project meetings

Malaysia Project Launch.doc

Thailand Project Launch.doc

5.1 Network Coordination: Identification of all regional stakeholders

Contacts.xls

5.2 Network Coordination: Establishment of online networking forum

See project website at: www.asean-wfn.org and screen shots above.

5.3 Network Coordination: Project launch and interim workshops

See activity 4.1

5.4 Network Coordination: Regional conference on wildlife forensics

6.1 Press and Publicity: Design of a three year publicity plan

Publicity Plan.doc

6.2 Press and Publicity: Coverage of project workshops and regional conference

Joint press release.doc

6.3 Press and Publicity: Incidental press releases

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	