

The **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. Over its proud 120 year history, WCS has significantly helped to advance wildlife conservation around the globe in partnership with governments and local communities. Currently, WCS has nearly 60 country offices worldwide, and the New York headquarters in the United States.

WCS has worked in Viet Nam since 2006, focusing on enhancing the law enforcement capacity of Vietnamese authorities and improving the legal framework to fight wildlife crimes. We prioritize different key areas of work which can impact all levels of the wildlife illegal trade network in Viet Nam and eventually lead to the arrest and successful prosecution of wildlife criminals.

We improve capacity for intelligence-led law enforcement by embedding the necessary expertise within the mandated enforcement authority or institution.

We collect and analyze intelligence on criminal wildlife networks.

We promote international and inter-departmental cooperation to tackle illegal wildlife trade issues.

We raise the profile and priority of wildlife through working with and influencing government stakeholders to make well informed decisions on policy, resourcing and legislation.

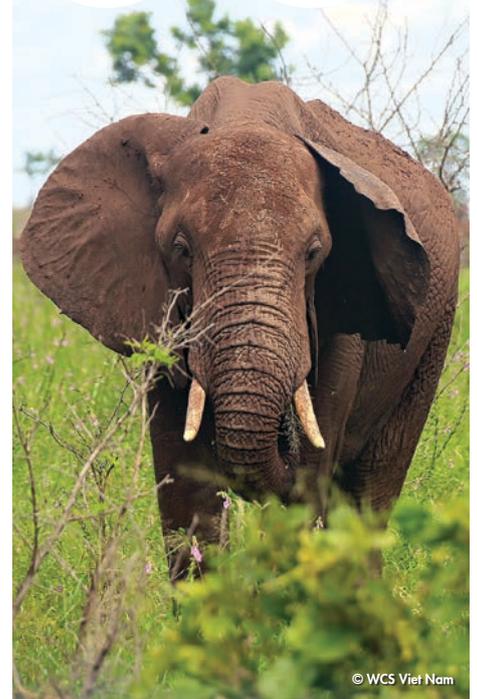
We partner with other One Health partners to conduct research to inform interventions and policy towards enabling more effective action targeting the illegal wildlife trade and mitigation of pandemic threats.

Recently, WCS Viet Nam has also expanded its areas of work to species conservation, with focus on finding Swinhoe's giant softshell turtle.



### IMPROVING INTELLIGENCE-LED LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY

WCS Viet Nam builds the commitment of central government agencies and the capacity of frontline police, prosecutors, customs officers, border security and forest rangers through briefing, classroom-based training programs, and direct on-the-job support with inputs from national training institutions and international experts, to enable strategic intelligence-led policing, professional investigative techniques and accurate species identification. WCS Viet Nam has also created local language training materials and mobile technology enforcement support tools such as [www.giamdinhloai.vn](http://www.giamdinhloai.vn).



### PROMOTING INTELLIGENCE-LED ACTIONS TO DISRUPT WILDLIFE CRIMINAL NETWORKS



WCS Viet Nam supports national and provincial law enforcement agencies and policy makers with reliable information, analyses and actionable intelligence products on wildlife trafficking networks and critical wildlife conservation issues. We have deployed a global wildlife trafficking intelligence database to support and catalyze intelligence-led enforcement operations. Powered by i2-IBM software, the database provides a secure, accessible repository for wildlife trafficking data that is fully searchable and integrated across WCS countries and field programs in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.





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## BOOSTING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION TO TACKLE TRANSNATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIMINAL NETWORKS

WCS Viet Nam supports the Vietnamese government agencies including the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme People’s Procuracy, and the CITES Management Authority to strengthen law enforcement cooperation with countries along major wildlife trafficking routes. WCS facilitates bilateral meetings between key enforcement agencies in Viet Nam and in a number of countries in Asia and Africa to: (i) build high-level commitment to tackle wildlife trafficking, (ii) support the implementation of existing mechanisms for enforcement/judicial cooperation such as Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), and (iii) support the development of further cooperation mechanisms, e.g. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties, or the exchange of information on criminal cases. We encourage countries to share intelligence in a proactive manner and develop joint enforcement strategies. WCS has provided logistical support and technical assistance to legal, political and institutional mechanisms that will enable mutual assistance on the investigation, prosecution and judiciary of illegal wildlife trade between Viet Nam and China, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, and the USA.

## ENABLING A FAVORABLE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR EFFECTIVE ACTIONS

WCS Viet Nam works to build political commitment to combat wildlife trafficking. We analyze and suggest reforms to the legal framework to strengthen wildlife crime laws and regulations. WCS has contributed to the adoption of new wildlife-related laws and regulations, the increase of penalties for violations of wildlife crime legislation, and efforts to prioritize this issue. Our work aims to encourage the government to adopt a strategic approach to tackling wildlife crime that will effectively disrupt, degrade and eventually dismantle the major wildlife trafficking networks and that will reduce consumer demand for wildlife and wildlife products. WCS Viet Nam supports partners to host events and issue publication that will inform influential government agencies and individuals to shared commitment and actions.



WCS working with the Forest Protection Department to identify illegally traded species, December 2014



Species identification training with local authorities from Quang Ninh province, 2013

## CARRYING OUT TARGETED RESEARCH TO INFORM POLICY AND INTERVENTIONS ON RISK MITIGATION AND PANDEMIC THREATS

WCS Viet Nam veterinarians collaborate with Vietnamese research, academic, government institutions and One Health partners to target thought-to-be-high-risk sites for disease surveillance and detection transmission between livestock, wildlife and people. The sites include markets selling wildlife, restaurants serving wild meat, wildlife farms, wildlife rescue centers and sanctuaries, and sites where wildlife are found in and around human dwellings. WCS’s work through USAID PREDICT also focuses on understanding the biological and behavioral factors influencing the spillover, amplification and spread of pathogens through drivers of disease emergence, like wildlife farms. Findings will inform policy and intervention strategies to address disease drivers and mitigate the risk of pandemic emergence.



Multilateral dialogue among Viet Nam, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania on cooperation for transnational wildlife crime prevention, November 2015

## FINDING THE SWINHOE’S GIANT SOFTSHELL TURTLE (RAFETUS SWINHOEI) IN VIET NAM

WCS Viet Nam has been working with key provincial partners in Yen Bai and Thanh Hoa to search additional wild Swinhoe’s softshell turtles (known as Yangzte giant Softshell turtle or *Rafetus swinhoei*) – a species that is extremely close to extinction. WCS Viet Nam will propose recommendations for conservation priorities and management actions of the species based on the results of the project.

**Contact us**  
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