



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WORKING WITH THE JUDICIARY: Lessons from Central America

USAID Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Group
December 14, 2021
9-10AM EST

*This presentation was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development.
It was prepared by Environmental Incentives, Foundations of Success and ICF for the Measuring Impact II (MII2) Contract.*

Today's Agenda

- Overview of CWT Learning Series (3 min)
- Presentation and Q&A with Christina and Fatima (40 min)
- Share your experience with us (15 min)

Purpose of the CWT Learning Series

- Learning exchange to facilitate the sharing of knowledge among USAID staff that work on USAID CWT activities
- Opportunity to share lessons learned while implementing key CWT strategic approaches, develop stories of innovation and change, and create action plans to apply to learning from the exchange to their own programming



Join USAID's Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Group for a 2021 Virtual Learning Exchange

September 21
Demand
Reduction Peer
Assist
Webinar

October 19
Transboundary
Cooperation
Knowledge
Harvest

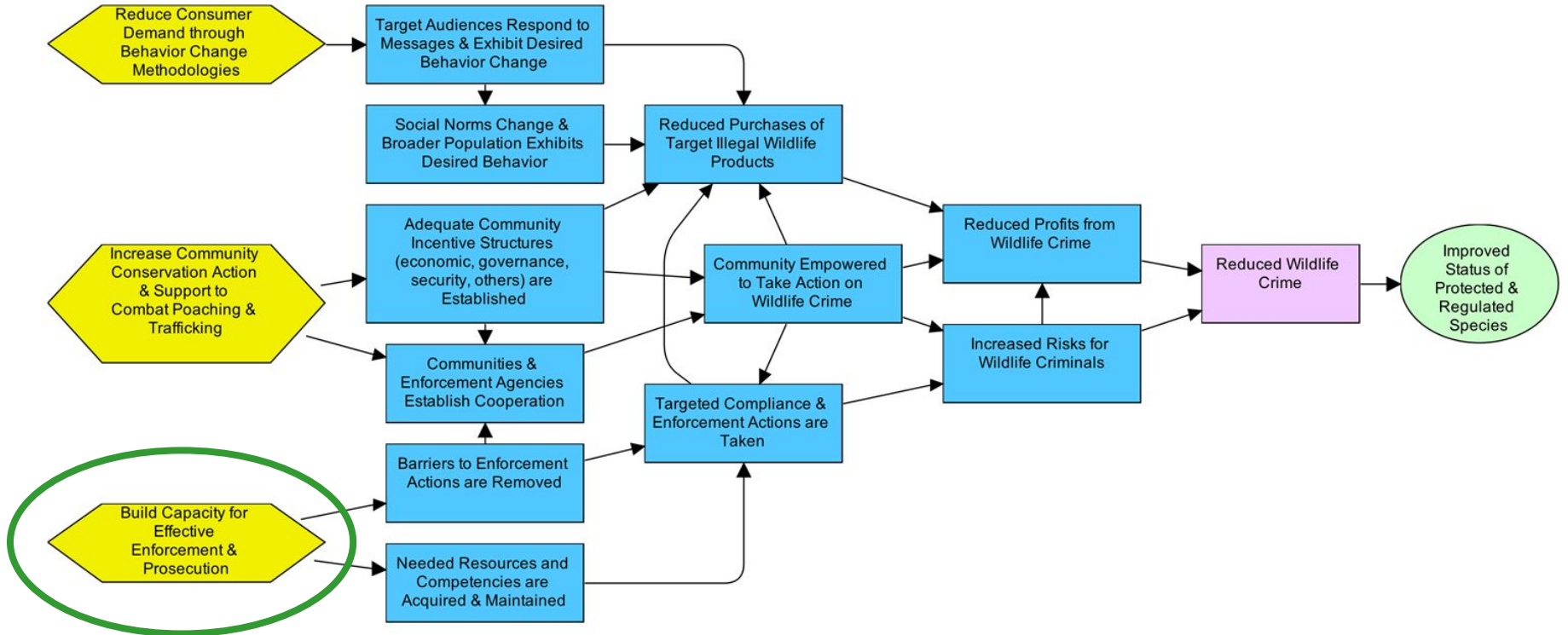
November 16
Inter-Agency
Coordination
Best Practices

December 14
Strengthening
the Judiciary
Experience
Sharing

Each event will feature speakers from USAID and partners, with shared lessons learned about strategic approaches, discussions on the latest evidence, and opportunities to identify action plans for implementing learning. Learning briefs on each topic will also be developed and shared widely.

Join us on Tuesdays at 9am EST

USAID's CWT THEORY OF CHANGE



Today's Speakers

Christina Kish
DOI/ITAP Program



Fatima Vanegas
DOI/Central America



Lessons from your experience

As you are listening, please [visit this jamboard link](#) and share your experience in working with the judiciary

Overview of DOI and ITAP

- U.S. Dept. of the Interior has 10 bureaus
 - Each has its own international office
- International Technical Assistance Program - <https://www.doi.gov/itap>
 - Bring technical expertise of DOI to partner governments for collaboration
 - Housed within DOI's International Office (+ Passports, Policy)
 - Sits at Secretary/Department level
 - Funding from other USG to implement projects along specified themes/regions
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement (FWS-OLE) attache program



**U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR**
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM






How We Work

- Assess needs, gaps, viable ideas
 - Consult with FWS attaches, partner governments, NGOs, Embassies, etc.
 - Ensure assessment is just the start of a project - not the end goal
- DECONFLICT!
 - Help funding agencies make sound decisions
 - Training fatigue is real
 - Leverage and partner every chance we get
- Implement funding
 - Design and deliver training
 - Develop study tours as applicable
 - Create training materials, guides, manuals
 - Sensitize governments to negative impacts of conservation crimes



Costs of Conservation Crime

The Retail Value of Transnational Crime

Counterfeiting		\$923 billion to \$1.13 trillion
Drug Trafficking		\$426 billion to \$652 billion
Illegal Logging		\$52 billion to \$157 billion
Human Trafficking		\$150.2 billion
Illegal Mining		\$12 billion to \$48 billion
IUU Fishing		\$15.5 billion to \$36.4 billion
Illegal Wildlife Trade		\$5 billion to \$23 billion
Crude Oil Theft		\$5.2 billion to \$11.9 billion
Small Arms & Light Weapons Trafficking		\$1.7 billion to \$3.5 billion
Organ Trafficking		\$840 million to \$1.7 billion
Trafficking in Cultural Property		\$1.2 billion to \$1.6 billion
Total		\$1.6 trillion to \$2.2 trillion



GLOBAL FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Source: *Transnational Crime and the Developing World*

Guiding Principles

- Support U.S. policies and goals
- Show up with something that is wanted and needed (political will)
- Obtain awareness/approval from highest level of host government
- Build to grow
- Put partner government in the lead - DOI-ITAP takes a back seat
- Emphasize successes and efforts of partner governments
- Mix U.S.+ regional + national experts
 - Especially use national experts on topics that are unique to each country
- Include the “whole chain” in discussions and training where applicable
 - Support formation of national networks and resources

DOI-ITAP Judicial Projects

- Judicial work centered around topic of conservation crimes
- Current projects:
 - State/OES - CAFTA-DR + U.S.-Panama TPA funding for environmental cooperation
 - State/INL - Combating Wildlife Trafficking in LAC + Dominican Republic
 - State/INL - Digital Evidence Exploitation Specialists (DEES)
 - FWS-OLE - Peru Counter-wildlife Trafficking Vetted Unit
 - USAID - Selva Maya, Philippines
- Partners:
 - Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN or ROAVIS in Spanish - www.roavis.net)
 - DOJ
 - U.S. courts
 - U.S. and regional recognized judicial experts



Judicial Work - Results

- University certificate courses (diplomados)
 - Honduras, Guatemala, Panama
 - Peru (WCS-Peru)
- Regulatory updates - Costa Rica
- Prosecutors/solicitors as POCs for CAWEN/ROAVIS
- Materials:
 - 1st ever Spanish language jurisprudence manual
 - Vida Silvestre - free app with national laws in reference section; www.vidasilvestre.net
 - Network of experts, trainers (incl. current and retired DOI)
 - 1st ever Spanish language frontline wildlife crime scene manual
 - Module on international treaties and conventions
 - ROAVIS YouTube channel - training videos;
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEoiR_GPBNnHiqDKX_xbQ7A/videos



Case Study - Panama

- Contacted CAWEN/ROAVIS POC for Panama (prosecutor)
- Identified Instituto Superior de la Judicatura Panamá (ISJUP) as relevant training unit
 - MOU with university and Dept. of Education
 - In some countries, it is with Public Ministry and university
- Engaged local technical expert
 - Terms of Reference with expert and with ISJUP
- Designed course with all necessary ISJUP requirements and key curriculum modules
 - Also pedagogical requirements of ISJUP
 - Professional credit in judiciary
 - Commitment to stay in job X time
- Started course - paused with COVID, restarted virtually
- Part of the course catalog
- Looking at follow up “procedural manual” so course can be easily replicated



Case Study - CAWEN/ROAVIS

- 11th regional CAWEN/ROAVIS meeting in-person Feb 2022 in Panama City
 - Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama
 - Will include regions CITES meeting with FWS attending
- POCs of the Network are prosecutors/solicitors
- Standard meeting agenda sessions - country updates (with template), working groups to identify work plan for coming year, training and/or information sharing sessions
- Key members - POCs, police/investigators, CITES officials
- Current highlights
 - Fostering binational operations via FWS and country-to-country
 - Regional database of government CWT+ actions
 - Prep for CITES CoP 2022 (Panama)
 - Strengthen network with FWS attaches



Lessons Learned - Judicial Work

- Learn about relevant national laws, jurisdictions, judicial powers
 - Don't train on something that is not applicable
 - Adapt training and engagement to national realities
- Consider support for regulatory/legislative needs - do regs/laws need updates?
- Engage with Attorney/Prosecutor General
- For training:
 - Weigh up short and long-term courses
 - Design course within existing national structures - judicial colleges, Supreme Court schools, training units, professional development
 - Try to include professional credit, work commitment from students
 - INSTITUTIONALIZE the course - make it part of the course catalog

(more) Lessons Learned

- Introduce judicial personnel to a wide range of topics, both conservation crime and other
 - Ensure basics such as money laundering, smuggling, false documents are also a part of training
- For conservation crime, core topics include:
 - CITES + other international environmental treaties, conventions
 - Working with police/investigators
 - Sensitization with judges
 - Understanding forensic evidence
 - Chain of custody/evidence
 - Sentencing options



DOI-ITAP Contacts

★ **CHRISTINA KISH**

- ckish@ios.doi.gov or 1-202-697-0667

★ **FATIMA VANEGAS**

- fatima.vanegas@cooperacion-doi.org or +505-8831-7721

Lessons from your experience

As we do Q&A, please [visit this jamboard link](#) and share your experience in working with the judiciary

DISCUSSION AND Q&A

- Drop Questions Here

USAID BIODIVERSITY
Combating Wildlife Trafficking
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING GROUP



CWT Learning Group Tools and Resources



USAID DDI/BIODIVERSITY
Combating Wildlife Trafficking
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING GROUP



Learning Agenda

Resources

News & Webinars

Search

LEARNING GROUP RESOURCES

- [CWT Learning Group Site](#)
- [CWT Learning Agenda](#)
- [CWT Crime Toolkit](#)

What's Happening



Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Exchange: Demand Reduction Posters

In November 2019, USAID hosted a regional CWT learning exchange in Bangkok, Thailand. The exchange featured poster presentations on demand reduction campaigns ...

[Read More](#)



Adaptive Management in the USAID CWT Portfolio: Current Practice and Opportunities

USAID's combating wildlife trafficking portfolio offers an opportunity to understand how adaptive management is practiced across a discrete portfolio. To this ...

[Read More](#)

Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Group

The CWT Learning Group is focused on building a knowledge base around how best to build capacity, reduce consumer demand, and improve community engagement to combat wildlife crime.

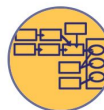
USAID has a long history of support for efforts to combat wildlife trafficking (CWT). These efforts are currently being prioritized due to a dramatic increase in the volume and scope of the threat in recent years and the February 9th, 2017 Executive Order on enforcing federal law with respect to transnational criminal organizations and preventing international trafficking.

Among the many strategic approaches employed by USAID to combat wildlife trafficking and outlined in the Agency's *Measuring Efforts to Combat Wildlife Crime Toolkit*, USAID's Biodiversity Division chose three for special attention for the CWT Learning Group based on their frequency in USAID programming: (a) reducing consumer demand through behavior change methodologies, (b) building capacity for effective enforcement and prosecution, and (c) increasing community conservation action and support to combat wildlife trafficking. These three strategic approaches are defined by development hypotheses (theories of change), as well as a combined hypothesis that, if implemented, these strategic approaches will increase the risks for wildlife criminals and reduce profits from wildlife trafficking, which will then reduce overall wildlife crime, leading to improved conservation results.

While used across many countries, there is often little supporting information available to practitioners regarding the effectiveness of these approaches or the validity of key assumptions. As USAID begins or ramps up efforts, there is an important opportunity for this Learning Group to support cross-mission collaboration to capitalize on previous experiences, share the latest information, and build the evidence base for these approaches.



What You Can Do Here



See What We've
Learned



Read the Latest
Research



Ask the Group



Meet Other
Members



Attend an Event

What's Next?

- Happy Holidays!
- We'll reconvene in early 2022 to take a look at our learning agenda and do a “light” update
- Planning webinar on learning question results from USAID Wildlife Asia



THANK YOU!

Megan Hill, Environment Specialist
Biodiversity Division
mhill@usaid.gov

