PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA:

Activity Name: New Combating Wildlife Trafficking Activities
Country/region: Vietnam
Start Date: 06/01/2016  End Date: 06/01/2020
Life of Project Amount ($): 15 million
IEE Prepared by: Corina Warfield  Date: 12/15/2015

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: [ X ]  Negative Determination with Conditions: [ ]
Positive Determination: [ ]  Deferral: [ ]

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document, in accordance with Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 216 (22CFR216), is to provide a preliminary review of the reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment, as well as recommended Threshold Decisions, for the activities detailed below. This document provides a brief statement of the factual basis for Threshold Decisions as to whether an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is required for the activities managed under the scope of this document.

The activities under review are recommended for categorical exclusion.

Background and Description of Activities

Wildlife trafficking—the poaching and illicit trade of marine and terrestrial animals worth an estimated $20 billion a year—is one of USAID’s highest priority biodiversity concerns. Global wildlife crime continues to rise at exponential rates and has reached crisis levels. Vietnam is a Tier One country under USAID’s Biodiversity Policy and is also a USG priority for combatting wildlife trafficking (CWT) activities. It is the principal destination country for illegal African rhino horn and serves as a key transit hub for the illicit trade in elephant ivory, tigers, and pangolins.

New CWT activities will focus on the three Tasks and corresponding activities below.
1. Reduce Consumer Demand for and Consumption of Illegal Wildlife and Wildlife Products -- Target the behaviors, beliefs, norms, and cultural expectations of key populations that drive Vietnamese consumption of focal wildlife and products.

**Illustrative Activities**

- Initiatives to make buying, gifting, and using rhino horn socially unacceptable
- Targeted campaigns to dispel medical misinformation related to consuming threatened and endangered species
- Information campaigns to encourage the reporting of illegal sales of wildlife products
- Development and implementation of primary and secondary school curriculum
- Surveys to identify targets for behavior change and best methods of reaching them

2. Strengthen Wildlife Law Enforcement and Prosecution -- Bolster law and customs enforcement, institutionalize police and customs CWT training, and fight corruption.

**Illustrative Activities**

- Provision of scanning equipment and technology to customs officials to improve ability to detect and intercept illicit wildlife trade
- Workshops with judges and prosecutors on existing laws, their intent, and avenues for application to wildlife crime
- Institutionalization of training for park rangers and police to improve detection and monitoring of wildlife crime
- Efforts to support forensic data collection and analysis

3. Improve and Harmonize the Legal Framework for Wildlife Crime -- Address the core rule of law and governance weaknesses, support TPP compliance, and improve the situation of overlapping jurisdictions, contradictory or unclear mandates, legal loopholes, and weak authorities.

**Illustrative Activities**

- Support to identify policy gaps related to wildlife crime
- Support to draft legislative reforms related to wildlife crime
- Support to establish/strengthen coordination mechanism(s)
- Development and adoption of training curriculum

**Recommended Threshold Decisions**

**Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request**

The activities described justify Categorical Exclusions, pursuant to 22CFR216.2(c)(1) and (2), for which an Initial Environmental Examination, or an Environmental Assessment are not required because the actions do not have an effect on the natural or physical environment.
Specifically, as currently planned, these activities fall into the following classes of action:
- Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)
- Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings
- Document and information transfers

Revisions and Limitations

If during implementation, project activities are considered outside of those described in this document, an amendment shall be submitted. Pursuant to 22CFR216.3(a)(9), if new activities are added and/or information becomes available which indicates that activities to be funded by the project might be “major” and the project’s effect “significant,” this determination will be reviewed and revised by USAID or the Implementing Partner, in collaboration with the Contracting Officer’s Representative of the project, and submitted to the Mission Environmental Officer and Bureau Environmental Officer for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared.
APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Office Director, Clearance
_by email______________ 12/17/15
Christopher Abrams Date

Mission Environmental Officer Clearance
_by email______________ 12/17/15
Khuong Tran Chinh Date

Program Development Director Clearance
_by email______________ 12/18/2015
Randy Flay Date

Resident Legal Officer Clearance
_by email______________ 12/18/15
Richard Nelson Date

Regional Environmental Advisor Clearance
_by email______________ 12/17/15
William Gibson Date

APPROVAL:

USAID/Vietnam Mission Director

Joakim Parker Date

CONCURRENCE:

Bureau Environmental Officer

William Gibson Date

December 18, 2015