INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE)
REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (RCE)
Amendment #1 to the IEE #ASIA 16-019

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Program/Activity Number: New Combatting Wildlife Trafficking Activities

Country/Region: USAID/Vietnam

Funding Begin: June 2016   End Date: September 2021

Life of Project (LOP) Amount: $15,000,000

Prepared by: Thang Nguyen

Current Date: April 7, 2020

IEE Amendment (Y/N): IEE Amendment #1 to the IEE #ASIA 16-019


Environmental Action Recommended:

- Categorical Exclusion: ☒
- Positive Determination: ☐
- Exemption: ☐
- Deferral: ☐
- Negative Determination: ☐
- Negative Determination with Conditions: ☐
I. **Background:**

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.

The Saving Species Activity, covered by the IEE #ASIA 16-019, supports Vietnam to address illegal wildlife trafficking issues. The Activity has three objectives including (1) reducing consumer demand for and consumption of illegal wildlife and wildlife products, (2) strengthening wildlife law enforcement and prosecution, and (3) improving and harmonizing the legal framework for wildlife crime. Detailed descriptions of the objectives and illustrative activities are presented 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 mis-information 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

When the IEE Asia 16-019 was approved in Dec 2015, the end date proposed was June 2020. However, due to the delay of approval from the government of Vietnam, the project’s implementation cannot be finished by this time.

This amendment will extend the Life of Project. All conditions as approved in IEE Asia 16-019 remain the same.

**II. Purpose of the Amendment**

The purpose of this Amendment is to extend the LOP end date from June 2020 to Sep 2021.

The scope of activities, justifications for categorical exclusion activities, as approved in the original IEE Asia 16-019 remain unchanged.
APPROVAL OF EEE Amendment #1 to the IEE #ASIA 16-019:

APPROVAL:

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