



## USAID SAVING SPECIES

2016 - 2021 | IMPLEMENTER: TETRA TECH ARD, WITH TRAFFIC IN VIETNAM AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY | PLANNED BUDGET: \$9,900,000

Wildlife trafficking - the poaching and illicit trade of marine and terrestrial animals - is one of USAID's highest priority biodiversity concerns. Global wildlife crime continues to rise at exponential rates and has reached crisis levels – a black market estimated at up to \$20 billion/year. Southeast Asia is a major center for the wildlife trade as a consumer, transit route, and supplier of illegal wildlife products. Over the last ten years, Vietnam has seen a dramatic increase in the illegal trade and consumption of rhino horn and ivory from Africa as well as increased consumption of pangolins, big cats, and other endangered species.

USAID Saving Species is a five-year project implemented by Tetra Tech in partnership with TRAFFIC Vietnam and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Its principal Government of Vietnam (GVN) counterpart is the CITES Management Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. USAID Saving Species works with the GVN to:

- **Reduce consumer demand** for and consumption of illegal wildlife and wildlife products by targeting the behaviors, beliefs, norms, and cultural expectations of key populations that drive Vietnamese consumption of target wildlife and products.
- **Strengthen wildlife law enforcement and prosecution** by building the capacity of law enforcement and customs agents, institutionalizing police and customs countering wildlife trafficking training, and fighting corruption.
- **Improve and harmonize the legal framework for wildlife crime** by addressing core rule of law and governance weaknesses, supporting trade compliance, and increasing clarity regarding overlapping jurisdictions, contradictory or unclear mandates, legal loopholes, and weak authorities.

Primary biodiversity targets of USAID Saving Species include: African rhinos, African elephants, and pangolins. However, project activities benefit a variety of species through general improvements in governance, law enforcement, and awareness. USAID Saving Species focuses geographically on major urban centers where target species are consumed, as well as areas where target species are trafficked, including airports, seaports, and specific land borders.

To assist the GVN in achieving the three above objectives, the USAID Saving Species project has established an Activity Fund that will directly support partnering organizations for approved projects. The Activity Fund will seek expressions of interest from organizations that wish to contribute to the three components through contracts, grants and cost-sharing arrangements.

*Photo: Save Vietnam's Wildlife*