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Minutes of the 3rd Project Board Meeting

Project name: Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia
Project ID: 00109494
Output IDs: 00108842
Venue: Virtual (Skype)
Date: Tuesday, 18 February 2020

Agenda:

Time	Session
03:00	Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting [5 minutes] Gerd Trogemann, Istanbul Regional Hub Manager, UNDP IRH, Chairperson
03:05	Introduction of new Board Members and Project Team [5 minutes]
03:10	The project progress in 2019 [20 minutes] Mikhail Paltsyn, Project Technical Advisor, UNDP Tamara Tschentscher, Project Knowledge, Results and Learning Consultant, UNDP
03:30	Presentation of the project annual workplan 2020 and key priorities for 2020 [15 minutes] Harun Guclusoy, Project Manager, UNDP
03:45	Quality Assurance Report [10 minutes] Ekaterina Paniklova, Chief of Country Office Solutions & Regional Programme Coordination Team, UNDP
03:55	Plenary discussion and inputs: Board Members [30 minutes]
04:25	Conclusions, closing of the meeting [10 minutes] Gerd Trogemann, Istanbul Regional Hub Manager, UNDP IRH, Chairperson

Participants:

Name	Title
<i>Project Board</i>	
1. Gerd Trogemann	Istanbul Regional Hub Manager, UNDP IRH, Chairperson
2. Elisson M. Wright	Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank
3. Robert Campbell	Programme Manager - United for Wildlife Taskforces, The Royal Foundation
4. Javier Montano Duran (on behalf of Ricarda Amberg)	Regional Coordinator, Programme Management Officer, Container Control Programme (CCP), UNODC
5. Lisa Farroway	UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP
UNDP	
6. Ekaterina Paniklova	Chief, Country Office Solutions & Regional Programme Coordination Team, UNDP IRH
7. Harun Guclusoy	Project Manager, UNDP IRH
8. Mikhail Paltsyn	Project Technical Advisor, UNDP
9. Tamara Tschentscher	Knowledge Management Officer, UNDP
10. Zuhre Guven	Project Associate, UNDP



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Opening Remarks

Mr. Gerd Trogemann, Istanbul Regional Hub Manager and Chairperson of the meeting, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for all the inputs made into 2018 and 2019. He mentioned that we have reached the mid-way point of the project. However, year 2020 is a critical year for the project with the main bulk of the activities and budget allocated. He welcomed Harun Guclusoy, Project Manager, and Zuhre Guven, Project Associate, as new project team members, and thanked Tamara Tschentscher and Mikhail Paltsyn for their active work on the project in 2018-2019. Additionally, he welcomed new members of the Project Board (PB): Mr. Elisson Wright representing the World Bank Global Wildlife Program instead of Ms. Claudia Sobrevila, who sadly and unexpectedly passed away in 2019; Mr. Robert Campbell representing The Royal Foundation, and Mr. Javier Montano, a representative of UNODC.

Progress Made by the Project in 2019 and Work-plan for 2020

Mr. Mikhail Paltsyn, Project Technical Advisor, delivered a presentation on the project progress in 2019 (Outcomes 1 and 2), and Ms. Tamara Tschentscher, Knowledge Management Officer continued on the progress under Outcome 3. Additionally, Mr. Paltsyn gave an update on progress towards the targets in 2019 for the Project Results Framework Indicators. The final part of the presentation on the Project Budget, Project Risks, and the Project Work Plan for 2020 was given by Mr. Harun Güçlüsoy, Project Manager. The full presentation is available in the Annex1.

Project's Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Evaluation

Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova, Chief of Country Office Solutions & Regional Programme Coordination Team, gave a short summary on the quality assurance aspect of the Project based on the following UNDP quality criteria: strategy, relevance, principle, management and monitoring, effectiveness and efficiency, sustainability and national ownership. In terms of **strategy**, the project has been designed to complement the Global Wildlife Program and adjusted to reflect common interest of the partners. In terms of **relevance**, the project has been particularly working very closely with stakeholders and beneficiaries. The project is managed from UNDP IRH, but primarily implements activities in two countries in Africa – Kenya and Tanzania. Despite the distance, the project team managed to consult with more than 180 stakeholders (55 of which are government officials) and focus key activities on the ports of strategic importance to stop wildlife trafficking between Africa and Asia. In terms of **principle**, the project has developed a gender strategy and action plan (updated annually) but there are still certain things to be done to make the plan tangible. In terms of **management and monitoring**, certain issues have been observed over the last year in 2019: the project team is highly distributed across the world and based in 4 locations - Bangkok, Berlin, New York and Istanbul, with some partners in London. This very cross functional scene creates both advantages and disadvantages. In order to address this issue, UNDP IRH decided to establish a post for a Project Manager based in Istanbul to strengthen the Project Management Unit (PMU) and ensure efficient project implementation during the remaining project period. So far, the project management has improved. In terms of **efficiency and effectiveness** as well as **sustainability and ownership**, the team itself identified certain issues and elements they would like to improve. This is a global project and its impacts are likely to be observed only after its completion. However, in terms of **sustainability and national ownership**, the project has been taking significant steps to make sure that national governments of Kenya and Tanzania are involved, informed and have knowledge and skills transferred from the projects and other partners to deal with wildlife trafficking issues. During the next board meeting, it is anticipated that the elements that the team self-assessed and self-identified will be further improved. Overall, from the quality assurance point of the view, the project did very well in 2019.



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DISCUSSIONS

Lisa Farroway (UNDP Bangkok):

Ms. Farroway thanked Mr. Trogemann and all the team efforts to organize the meeting and welcomed the Project Manager and the Project Associate to their first PB meeting. Also, mentioned she has no objections to the progress report 2019 and the workplan 2020 as the team has done well in identifying realistic and tangible entry points for the project, providing opportunities to work effectively in partnership with other organizations. She proposed to strengthen the private sector engagement in 2020 -2021, as this was listed as a high risk for the project. To address this global workshop is scheduled in 2021 as per project framework. Alternatively, there could be other ways to leverage involvement of the Africa UfW Task Force Chapter that was launched in 2019 and to better engage with Buckingham Palace Declaration signatories.

Robert Campbell (The Royal Foundation):

Mr. Campbell congratulated all the hard work of the project team. Since the Royal Foundation collected 26 UfW signatories, he asked whether he should urge their involvement in the project. MSC and Maersk are independently carrying out related activities rather than cooperating with the project such as container scanning and detection methods and are looking into the KYC project that Space for Giants is doing. They are trying to implement enhanced due diligence at the point of booking, and it might be quite interesting to engage with them to support improving their ability to detect suspicious transactions or conduct risk profiling. While understanding that KYC project with Space for Giants was delayed, he thinks that the project in Kenya will be beneficial and is interested to see how this will evolve.

Elisson M. Wright (World Bank):

Mr. Wright congratulated the team on good results and inclusion of Asian partners in the cooperation in the last workshop. As always, the World Bank values input from the UNDP team. The project is a critical part of the Global Wildlife Program, which appreciates the strong links and collaboration the team has been engaged in over the last several years, particularly on M&E and use social media strategies, linking with celebrities. He also congratulated the project on the prospective co-financing of USD 2million from USAID and noted that it would be good to involve a dry port in Uganda in the project as well. Further information on the number of seizures at the ports and from GWP national projects is important, as these figures must be reported to the GEF. If currently this indicator at the target ports is zero, he inquired the plan to increase number of seizures at the ports and how the GWP can form further links to the World Customs Organization, noting that the project already has a strong link to WCO. He suggested to keep them in the loop as they may have other efforts that could be interesting. He also inquired the role of KYC program with Space for Giants and the timeline for getting the legislation in place. He suggested to share the project reports within the Global Wildlife Program and publish them on the website and elsewhere. Also, he is interested to learn more about the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on wildlife crime UNDP is working on, as well as its audience plan for rolling this out. He noted that this could be an interesting platform to add on by the WB. In his final comment, Mr. Wright pointed out that realizing the new IMO guidelines on wildlife trafficking would be a really good accomplishment with long term implications.

Javier Montano Duran (UNODC):

Mr. Montano congratulated the team for their active work to bring many stakeholders together. UNODC committed some co-financing to this project in 2019 to use the window of opportunity to launch a JPCU in Zanzibar. They have completed the port assessment and delivered both theoretical and practical trainings to the unit's candidates. Currently, WCO mentor in Zanzibar works to decide who should be part of the unit. They expect to start the formal process of signing the MoU with the Zanzibar authorities for the establishment of the



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unit, and the procurement of equipment and further training to be provided with the funds from the UNDP project. The KYC initiative in Kenya was launched the day after, when the initial meeting with stakeholders took place in Mombasa. At this workshop, UNODC will try to establish links to create synergies with this KYC project. Enhancing the private sector cooperation is one of the key outputs of the Port Stakeholder Workshops that were held in Dar es Salaam and Mombasa. As mentioned by Mikhail, involvement of the private sector sounds good, but it is important to demonstrate the benefits of this cooperation. The KYC project started from interactions with the ODP, and they expanded this initiative to other stakeholders. Currently, there is a good project buy-in from government agencies that was secured by Space for Giants. Now, this initial buy-in and ownership by Kenya government needs to be translated into further actions on the KYC framework. However, final gazettelement of the KYC framework is outside of the control of UNDP and UNODC, and possibly even SfG. The KYC framework will ensure concrete measures that the private sector can implement under this initiative. A strategy is needed to create synergies with the private sector and ensure their collaboration, e.g. through a mechanism to easily and frequently share information on containers with the JPCUs starting with the full cargo manifest. There are still challenges in obtaining the manifest and generating intelligence that can lead to enhanced seizures at the ports.

UNODC has a program that supports training on detection and identification of wildlife and timber, which is going to be rolled out to various units in Africa, such as in Mozambique and Namibia, as well as the units in Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. The wildlife related work with the units of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam will be funded with the support provided by the UNDP project. Also, there is a very good potential for synergy and cooperation between JPCUs via exchange visits among the African countries. UNODC very much welcomes the funds from UNDP to expand their activities in this area, particularly with a focus on wildlife crime. He acknowledged the points previously raised on enhancing the cooperation with WCO. Through the UNDP project UNODC is going to support the training for WCO Cargo Targeting System, completing the implementation of the system in Kenya. They have been in touch with Robert White from WCO in that context and recognize that there is also good potential to enhance cooperation with the WCO INAMA project. Regarding the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program, there was a planned meeting for Authorize Economic Operators spearheaded by WCO in March in Korea, but due to the coronavirus it has been cancelled until further notice. There could be an opportunity for the UNDP Port Project to present the project experience at the meeting.

Project Team's Responses:

- Thanked RF for offer to support PS engagement and note the challenges of engaging companies due to their competing priorities and the need to have dynamic response. Consequently, the project team offered to involve more stakeholders through a partnership with the AEO program that is implemented by East African Community Secretariat. As a result, the project will not only improve prevention and detection of wildlife trafficking in supply chains but also improve their income and effectiveness of business through speeding up the movement of goods through the border without delays.
- Acknowledged WB for its contribution to the meeting. The project team is tracking the number of seizures, but it is difficult due to dependency on two variables which are the flow of illegal wildlife trade through the port and the real capacity of law enforcement to intercept this flow that cannot be measured with sufficient precision. The project was ongoing while key traffickers at Mombasa and Dar es Salaam ports were arrested or jailed. Based on this incident, operations have been expanded/shifted to West African ports. This is probably the reason why wildlife seizures have not been made directly at the ports of project interest. But the seizures around the port and in the cities in 2017-2019 show that the ports are still vulnerable to wildlife trafficking. Unfortunately, in its lifespan, the project may not be able to improve this indicator.
- The WCO was involved in all the project consultations. An agreement has been signed with UNODC to support the UNODC-WCO Container Control Program to include introduction of the WCO Cargo



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Targeting System (for automatic risk profiling) to Kenya ports. Finally, the project is engaging, a WCO expert from India, in the delivery of training workshops on the AEO program, which is a WCO program.

- The idea of the KYC project was suggested by the Office of Department of Public Prosecution (ODPP), Kenya. when the prosecutors get a container full of ivory, the records of these export actors often only show a fake email, phone, or fake address. Hence, they could not do their duties properly. The KYC project will directly address this problem by encouraging and making it mandatory for export agents to conduct simple checks on their clients to provide investigators and prosecutions with the information in case needed. Based on a Responsible Party Agreement, project envisions their work to be completed by the end of this year. However, the final delivery as either primary or secondary law may be ready by the end of this year or early next year.
- The MOOC is being developed by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products that involves the CITES Secretariat, UN Environment, UNODC, UNDP and others in a joint effort; the course will have 2-3 lessons. The project is not directly involved; however, it provides some funds to support this process.

Gerd Trogemann (UNDP IRH):

Noting that the project implementation has not yet gained full speed, he suggests moving forward the project to prove all of these different partnerships with different trainings and communication activities that have been launched can be taken to the scale that is intended. He concludes with a consensus in approving the 2019 project progress report, the quality assurance report, as well as the project results framework with its outcomes in the indicators since there was no objection He thanked the quality assurance team for their good work in this regard and noted that this assessment was overall very positive. With respect to the Annual Work Plan 2020, he also concluded consensus in moving forward as proposed by the project team. The last remaining open point somewhat connected to the ability of the project to deliver at the pace that is now required halfway through implementation of the project is the potential USAID contribution. While this level of unsolicited interest underlines the importance of the work the project is doing, there may be need to convene another virtual board meeting once there is 90-100% clarity on the likelihood of this co-financing materializing to determine how exactly to move forward with the practical implementation in light of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-financed period coming to an end and related GEF requirements. The USAID funding would help extend project activities towards the lifespan that seems to be required to really move these activities forward, but details of a possible extension are yet to be discussed. Hence, The PB is in favor of a project extension once the USAID contribution is clear.

Project Board recommendations and conclusions:

❖ *The following considerations were presented to the project board and approved with consensus:*

- *Project Progress Report of 2019 along with the updated Project Result Framework;*
- *Quality Assurance report;*
- *Project Annual Work Plan and budget for 2020; and*
- *Responsible Party Agreement with Space for Giants (NGO) for Know Your Customer (KYC) program.*



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- ❖ Discussion of implementation arrangements of the potential USAID contribution to the project through another virtual board meeting once the project is contracted.

Mr. Gerd Trogemann thanked the board members for participating in the 3rd Project Board Meeting and the project team for their work and presentations before closing the meeting.

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Zuhre Guven

Tamara Tschentscher 17-Sep-2020

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17-Sep-2020

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17-Sep-2020

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