



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA

Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST)

November 2012



Photo: Royal Thai Customs

Ivory from South African region seized by the Royal Thai Customs at the Bangkok airport in October 2012. Since 2005, USAID support has helped train Asian task forces, increasing arrests of trafficked wildlife and wildlife products ten-fold.



Photo: FREELAND Foundation

Launch of the ARREST Program with top officials from ASEAN, US, Thailand, and the Philippines in July 2011.

BACKGROUND

The illegal wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar business, threatening Asia's unique ecosystems and robbing its people of the benefits they provide. Wildlife trafficking also undermines regional security, strengthens criminal syndicates, and raises the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans. The traffickers are well-organized; they prey on endangered species, move them across borders, and sell them around the world. Addressing these challenges means targeting each aspect of wildlife crime.

USAID began its wildlife trafficking programs in 2005 with the establishment of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) under the five-year ASEAN-WEN Support Program during 2005-2010. Since then, the Network has increased arrests and seizures of illegal wildlife trafficking by ten-fold as a result of:

- Raising the awareness of more than 100 million individuals;
- Training of more than 8,500 local government officials in law enforcement techniques; and
- Strengthening regional cooperation through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

USAID *Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking*, (ARREST) Program is a consortium of partners working together to fight trafficking in illegal wildlife in Asia through:

- Reducing consumer demand;
- Strengthening law enforcement; and
- Promoting regional cooperation and anti-trafficking networks.

ARREST unites the efforts of 10 ASEAN member states, China and South Asia, NGOs, and the private sector. Together, they help Asia respond to the challenge of protecting its unique wildlife.



Photo: FREELAND Foundation

Indian and Indonesian participants join the Asia's forest rangers training to boost defense against poaching and illegal logging in August 2011.

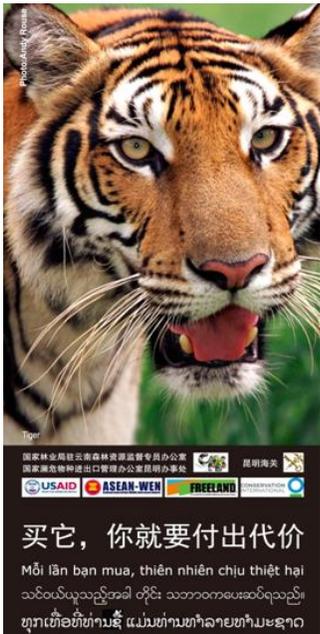


Photo: FREELAND Foundation

Public awareness banners are placed at customs offices and airports to alert passersby about endangered species threatened by wildlife trafficking.

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APPROACH

Reducing Consumer Demand: ARREST uses its extensive media and advertising resources for public awareness campaigns in order to reach targeted wildlife consumers and transit countries and reduce the consumption of endangered species. ARREST campaigns include:

- Public service announcements featuring opinion leaders in Thailand, Vietnam and China;
- Production and airing of global TV series, “Crimes Against Nature”;
- Airport-based campaigns in China, Laos and Cambodia; and
- Mobile smartphone application to help consumers make informed choices about sustainable and legal wildlife purchases.

Strengthening Law Enforcement: ARREST strengthens law enforcement capacity by engaging law enforcement leaders and training managers to lead front-line staff in reducing wildlife crime. Regional and national courses include the following subjects:

- **Prevention:** Terrestrial and marine protected area enforcement and management;
- **Detection:** Nature crime investigation, forensics, and border inspection; and
- **Prosecution:** Judicial awareness and wildlife crime legal support.

In addition to training, ARREST works closely with regional legislative bodies to strengthen and harmonize legislation related to wildlife crime.

Promoting Regional Cooperation and Anti-Trafficking Network:

ARREST helps ASEAN-WEN expand links to China, South Asia, the US, Africa, and to other parts of the world to replicate best practices for wildlife law enforcement and conservation. It also promotes the development of regional ‘centers of excellence’ in marine enforcement, forest protection and wildlife crime forensics.

ARREST mentors the ASEAN-WEN to become a stronger, more independent, and service-oriented institution that connects directly with enforcement agencies across the ASEAN region and beyond.

PARTNERS

ASEAN-WEN, Freeland Foundation, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, ACRES, AsiaWorks TV, African Wildlife Foundation, Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Conservation International China Program, IFAW China, WildAid, Education for Nature Vietnam, Freeland Trust of India, INTERPOL, JWT, National Geographic, MTV-Exit, Wildlife Alliance, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.