



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Partnership against Transnational Crime through Regional Organized Law Enforcement (PATROL)

Project Number: XAP/U59

Baseline survey and training needs assessment in Cambodia



FREELAND
Foundation for Human Rights and Wildlife


UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

23-28 May 2010



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Summary

This report summarizes the main findings of a training needs assessment survey carried out by UNODC in Cambodia between 23-28 May 2010. The survey was carried out primarily to support implementation and monitoring of the UNODC supported ‘Partnership Against Transnational Crime through Regional Organized Law Enforcement (PATROL)’ project.

The main survey findings were as follows:

- drug trafficking remains the most serious border crime among officers but new organized forms of crime have emerged as new security threats;
- 85% of the interviewed border officers think that illegal migrants mostly cross the border with the help of human smugglers;
- according to the officers’ perception, illegal movements of human being include mainly male workers and female sex workers from south Viet Nam to Cambodia, as well as male workers from Cambodia to Thailand;
- the awareness of the border officers of the difference between migrant smuggling and human trafficking is limited;
- in the field of wildlife and timber illicit trade, 62% of the officers never heard of CITES and 95% never received a training on species identification;
- there is a strong need for basic awareness raising campaign among border officers in the area of ozone-depleting substances and hazardous waste;
- due to the rapid turnover of BLO officers/staff, there is a continued need for training on drugs, especially precursors identification.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and context - The PATROL Project

The PATROL Project aims to expand cross-border cooperation in the fight against Transnational Organised Crimes (TOC). It specifically targets illicit cross-border movements of drugs and precursor chemicals, human beings, migrants, wildlife, timber, Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), and hazardous waste. Furthermore it supports implementation of the UNODC Regional Programme for East Asia and the Pacific 2009-2012, the UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013 and Programmes of Work 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora 2005-2010.

UNODC is leading the project implementation in cooperation with UNEP, TRAFFIC and Freeland Foundation. At national level the authority responsible for the project development in Cambodia is the National Authority to Combat Drugs (NACD), under the Ministry of Interior. The Project aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation through the Border Liaison Office (BLO) mechanism. It will increase the capacity of concerned government agencies and civil society to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of cross-border crimes. Successful implementation will help ensure that such TOC threats are met with a truly inter-agency, transnational organized response.

1.2. Approval by Cambodia

The design and development of the PATROL project was the result of intense consultation among programme key partners. These consultations culminated in the UNODC Partnership Forum on Transnational Organized Crime, organized by UNODC in Bangkok on 27-29 January 2010. During the Forum, representatives of the six Governments involved reviewed and endorsed the programme document.

Following this process, the Deputy Prime Minister – as the Chairman of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) – on behalf of the Government of Cambodia signed a Letter of Agreement with UNODC on 19 April 2010 to officially approve and initiate the PATROL project.

1.3. Objective of the survey

The objective of the survey is twofold:

- **To serve as a Training Needs Assessment (TNA):** the survey generated information on the level of awareness, training needs and knowledge gaps of BLO law enforcement staff in the area of drugs and precursor chemicals, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), wildlife and timber, and dumping of hazardous waste. The results will be used to craft a customized training programme and a country-specific package of technical assistance.
- **To provide a baseline:** the assessment of the current level of understanding and capacities will form a baseline against which it will be possible to measure change over time, and thus the effectiveness of project activities with respect to improved knowledge/understanding and implementation capacity.

This report describes the main results of the survey that was conducted by the PATROL team in Cambodia on 23-28 May 2010 along the borders with Viet Nam and with Thailand.

2. Methodology

The survey in Cambodia combined the use of a structured questionnaire amongst 140 border enforcement from nine Border Liaison Offices¹ (BLOs), spread across seven provinces², with an additional ‘open’ interview with 6 selected heads of BLOs.

The structured questionnaire addressed 8 main themes, namely: 1) migrant smuggling, 2) human trafficking, 3) drugs and precursor chemicals, 4) wildlife trafficking, 5) timber trafficking, 6) smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), 7) smuggling of hazardous waste and 8) communication and integrity. The survey form was designed in a self-completion format and used closed questions (multiple-choice questions and Likert scale questions) as well as open questions to evaluate the respondents’ knowledge in each of the areas. The questionnaire was translated into Khmer.

Each officer had to complete the standard questionnaire regardless of his specific background and expertise, in order to assess the general and basic understanding of the officers in each TOC area. The complete list of questions and answers is available at Annex I.

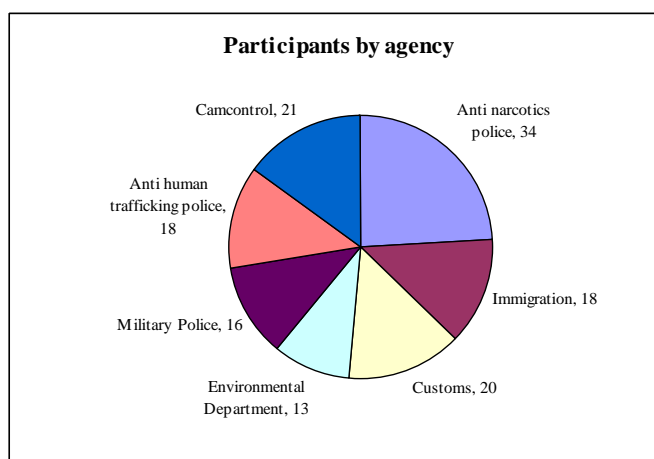
The answers were analyzed based on thematic areas, geographic location and agency of origin of the respondents. In order to allow a quick comparison of the general level of understanding of each agency, thematic indices have been built based on selected questions. The answers to the selected questions have been given a simple score and then they have been summed up (See par. 3.3).

The interviews with the heads of BLO were organized as an informal dialogue about their general perception of the importance of BLOs for border security, including questions on the expansion of the BLO mandate, main constraints in their functioning, support measures for BLOs and the role of communities in connection to border security and law enforcement.

NOTA BENE: The results from the questionnaire reflect the perception of the officers, and not the results of specific investigations by UNODC or the PATROL partners.

2.1. Basic statistics of the sample

In total 140 valid questionnaires have been gathered from the sample. Respondents gathered from 9 different BLOs spread across 7 Provinces. Participants from each BLO consisted of at least one representative from Customs, Military Police, Camcontrol, Immigrations, Anti-Human Trafficking Police, Anti-Narcotics Police and Environmental Department.



¹ Kaam Samnor, Chrey Thom, O Smach, Chum, Dong, Cham Yeam, Bavet, Prum, Poipet

² Kandal, Oddar Meanchay, Battambang, Koh Kong, Svay Reang, Pailin, Banteay Mean Chey

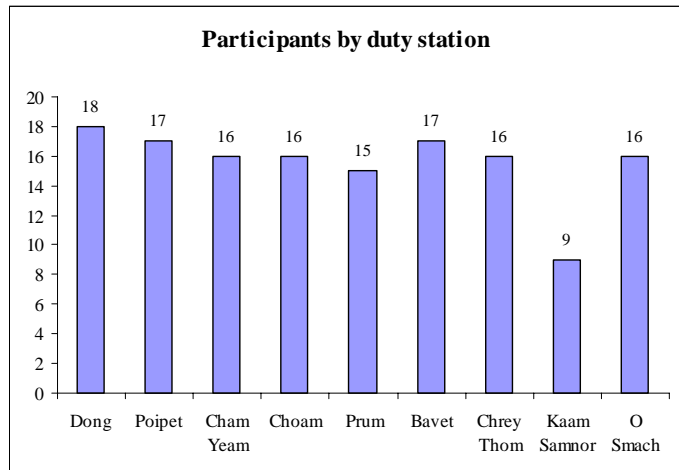
2.2. Data gathering

Upon request by UNODC, the National Authority to Combat Drugs (NACD) invited each relevant authority to appoint selected officers from border duty stations. For sake of cost-effectiveness, it was decided not to conduct a survey in each single border area, but rather to select two areas with a higher concentration of BLOs, and gather them in a selected location.

Therefore, the survey was conducted in two separate workshops (See Annex IV, Agenda):

- **Bavet (25 May 2010):** The workshop addressed representatives from 3 BLOs³ at the border between Cambodia and Viet Nam. In total, 42 border officers filled the questionnaires and 2 heads of BLOs were separately interviewed;

- **Poi Pet (27 May 2010):** The workshop addressed representatives from 6 BLOs at the border between Cambodia and Thailand. In total, 98 border officers filled the questionnaire and 4 heads of BLOs⁴ were separately interviewed.



In both events, the Assessment Team was composed of representatives from UNODC, NACD, Freeland Foundation, TRAFFIC and UNEP, who were available to provide clarification and assistance throughout the workshops.

The two events were carried out in Khmer language for ease of understanding of the Cambodian officers.



Picture 1: Border officers at the workshop in Poi Pet (Cambodia)

³ Chrey Thom, Kaam Samnor and Bavet

⁴ Cham Yeam, Prum, Dong, Poi Pet, O Smach and Choam

3. Major findings

This section provides a short overview of the major findings from the assessment in Cambodia, first by thematic area, than by geographic location and finally by agency.

3.1. Selected findings by thematic area

Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Human Beings

Migrants smuggling and trafficking in human beings are two different crimes with a number of different causes and consequences. Understanding of the differences between these two crimes among the frontline officers is crucial for the successful interdiction and response by the criminal justice system.

When presented with hypothetical scenarios of illegal crossing, the vast majority of respondents consistently showed a limited understanding of the differences between migrants smuggling and human trafficking, as they used these expressions as interchangeable terms to refer to illegal border crossing. This seems to be confirmed by the fact that when asked which legislation criminalizes the migrant smuggling, respondents widely refer to the Law on Human Trafficking.

The overwhelming majority of the surveyed officers never have dealt with cases of migrant smuggling (93%) or human trafficking (89%) and have never interviewed a suspected human trafficker (87%) or a suspected smuggled migrant (88%).

According to the respondents, most of the illegal migration takes place with the help of smugglers (85%) and through unofficial crossings (70%). Moreover, the most common form of illegal crossing, according to the respondents is linked to male labour.



Picture 2: Border crossing in Poi Pet (Cambodia)

Between 80 and 88% of the respondents have never received training on the identification of migrants smuggling or human trafficking, nor on the procedures and protocols used to handle cases of smuggling and/or trafficking. The most commonly identified areas that are considered to be most important for training purposes are:

- training on how to identify human smugglers/traffickers
- training on how to identify fraudulent documents
- training on national legislation concerning smuggling of migrants and human trafficking
- training on how to identify victims of human trafficking or smuggled migrants

Drugs and precursors trafficking

Nearly 82% of the respondents know that drug trafficking is criminalized under the Anti- Narcotics Law. Moreover, 62% of the respondents consider drug trafficking as a priority problem if compared to other forms of cross-border trafficking.

Around 62% of the surveyed officers consider Cambodia as a country of transit for drug trafficking, especially synthetic drugs, while 27% of the respondents consider Cambodia as a country of destination.

Approximately 40% of the respondents have previously

received training on drug identification and searching techniques, but only 28% received training on identification of drug precursors. As a result, when the respondents were asked to name three drug precursors, only a very small percentage (< 10%) could actually list three correct ones. The most commonly mentioned precursor chemical is Sulphuric Acid, but very often respondents also named substances that are not drug precursors (e.g. Cocaine, Heroine or Cannabis).

According to the surveyed border officers, the two most useful forms of training for them would be:

- Training on identification of drugs
- Training on identification of drug precursors



Picture 3: Border Liaison Office in Poi Pet (Cambodia)

Wildlife and timber trafficking

The trade in endangered wild plants and animals and their parts and products is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Hence the cross border movements of animals and plants requires the application of CITES norms and standards.

While 65% of the surveyed border officers recognize the correct definition of wildlife trade, 62% of them has never heard of CITES and only 18% of them actually know what CITES is. The most commonly traded species seem to be snakes, turtles and orchids.

Only 28% of the respondents know that the trade of species listed in CITES requires permits/certificates to travel across borders and only 25% of the officers have access to relevant legislation on the subject. Yet, when posed in front of hypothetical scenarios of wildlife illegal trade, a significant majority of the border officers intuitively identified the correct best practices to apply.

When asked about the most common ways wildlife is smuggled across the border, the majority of the respondents stated that wildlife was mostly smuggled by avoiding official checkpoints, hidden in vehicles (trucks, cars, motorcycles) transporting fruit, sand, rice or by boat.

Illegal logging is considered to be a serious problem in Cambodia by 96% of the respondents and 32% of them observe timber crossing at least once a week. More than 62% of the respondents claim to be able to recognize illegal timber in a shipment, but 99% of them have never received before any training on timber identification.

The most useful areas of training according to the respondents include:

- Species identification (animal, plants and timber)
- Roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the implementation of CITES
- Case studies on commonly smuggled species
- How to use CITES Appendices



Picture 4: Border crossing in Bavet (Cambodia)

Trafficking in hazardous waste and Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

Unlike other forms of trafficking such as natural resources and human beings in which a strong foreign demand can drain out some crucial domestic resources, in the case of hazardous waste many countries want to push these commodities outside their own borders as the legal disposal procedure can be overly costly and complex. The smuggling of ODS is mainly due to long life of CFC based equipments, harsh

competition, avoid of import tax, either lack of knowledge of alternatives, higher price of alternatives, needs for retrofitting to use alternatives or hesitation to converting to new alternatives by not being aware of their efficiency.

The respondents demonstrated a certain familiarity with the issue, since 54% of the officers claimed to know what ODS are and 47% claimed demonstrated to have good understanding of what hazardous wastes are. Yet, among those who claimed to know what ODS are, 29% of them thought that hydrocarbon and carbon dioxide are classified as ODS, while in reality they are not.

The most commonly identified ODS is the refrigerant cylinder (R-12 or CFC-12) while the most commonly identified hazardous wastes are lead-acid batteries and waste drugs/medicines.

When asked what they would do if they encountered a suspect shipment carrying some of these dangerous substances, most of the officers responded that they would detain it (78% for hazardous waste and 65% for ODS). The follow-up action would then be to contact the competent authorities for 83 to 90% of those who would detain the substances.

Approximately 42% of the respondents identified the correct definition of the Basel Convention and the Montreal Protocol, but more than 85% of the respondents claim not to have at their duty station any copy of the relevant national legislations in the field of hazardous waste and ODS.

The vast majority of the surveyed border officers claimed to have NOT taken part to any training activity on hazardous waste (95%) or ODS (85%) and they indicated that the most useful topics for training would be the following:

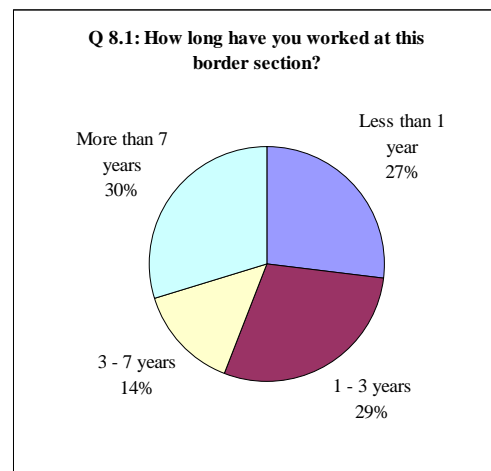
- International treaties and laws concerning export and imports of hazardous waste and ODS
- National legislation concerning export and imports of hazardous waste and ODS
- How to identify hazardous waste and ODS

General questions

This section of the survey was meant to highlight some aspects of the work of the border officers which do not necessarily fall under any of the thematic areas discussed above.

In particular it was interesting to note that 56% of the respondents have worked in the current border station for less than 3 years.

Such frequent rotation of the staff may have an impact on the capacity of the border units to retain the benefits of the specific training programme that the PATROL project aims to deliver.



Among various factors that influence the effectiveness of a BLO, the level of communication with counterparts is certainly one of the most relevant. One indicator to help measure the level of communication for one BLO is represented by the frequency of meetings that each office holds both with the counterparts across the borders and with the relevant local and national authorities.

What has emerged quite clearly from the answers of the officers is that BLOs do not seem to have standard rules in this regard and each BLO works quite often on an *ad-hoc* basis. Moreover, the frequency of the meetings in the southern cluster (border Cambodia-Viet Nam) seems to differ from the frequency of meetings at the border with Thailand.

In particular, BLOs at the border with Viet Nam seem to have quite regular cross-border meetings with the counterparts in the neighbouring country (more than quarterly meetings on average). On the other hand, a significant number of respondents from the second cluster (Cambodia-Thailand) meet their counterparts only once or twice a year.

The situation seems to reverse when looking at the frequency of meetings between BLOs and district or provincial counterparts: in fact in this case the officers from the border with Thailand seem to meet local authorities more often than what is reported by the officers working in the southern cluster.

After evaluating the level of communication within and between BLOs, the officers were asked to assess the crime situation at their duty station: in this context it emerged that the most serious forms of crime according to the border officers are drug trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling of timber.

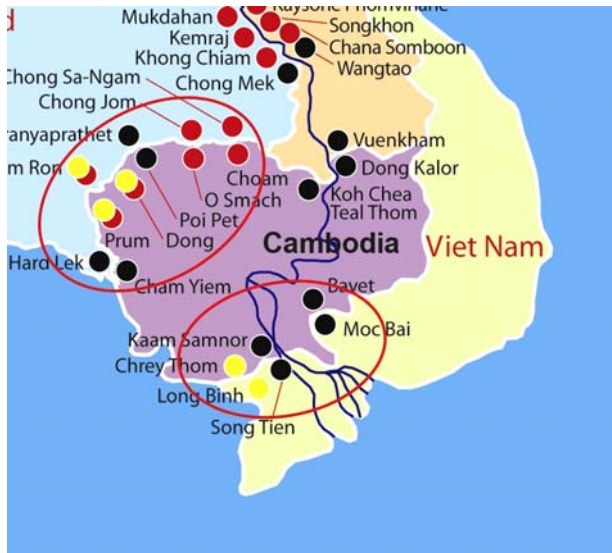
Besides those directly addressed during this survey, there are other commodities that according to some respondents are smuggled across the border. These include: weapons, counterfeit medicines, fake currency, domestic animals, gasoline, antiques, low quality (or contaminated) food and a wide array of goods that are illegally smuggled to avoid tax payments.

In front of a hypothetical scenario in which a colleague at the border is offered a present to turn a blind eye to incorrect travel documents, nearly every respondent indicated that the colleague would certainly refuse the present and furthermore, 43% of the officers would report the incident to the supervisor. Also, 84% of the respondents would disagree with (and/or report) the colleague, in case he/she accepted the present. At the same time 77% of the respondents are not aware of any rule on being offered present as a public official and 92% of them have never received training on the subject.

3.2. Selected findings by location

As described above, the sample was composed by 140 border officers from 9 duty stations. Of the selected BLOs, six are clustered in the western part of Cambodia, towards Thailand, and three in the southern part of the country, towards Viet Nam.

Hence it was important to breakdown the results of the survey also into geographical area.



Map 1: BLOs in Cambodia

In order to maintain a significant size of the sample, the BLOs were clustered in two groups:

- **CL1:** for the three BLOs in the southern parts
- **CL2:** for the six BLOs in the western part

This analysis did not reveal dramatic differences between the two clusters, although some elements emerged quite clearly (See Annex III, Geographical analysis).

In particular, border officers from the southern cluster (close to Viet Nam) consider Cambodia more as a **transit and**

destination country for illegal migration and human trafficking. According to these respondents, such illegal movements of people happen mainly for male labour and female sexual exploitation.

On the other hand, border officers from the western cluster (close to Thailand) consider Cambodia mainly as an **origin and transit** country for illegal migration and human trafficking. Compared to the picture in the south, here the trafficking for male forced labour seems to be far more common, even when compared to trafficking in women and children.

In terms of **drug trafficking**, according to the respondents in the south, synthetic drugs are by far the most commonly trafficked drugs (followed by heroin), and it seems that hiding them in cars, trucks, and other vehicles is a quite common concealment technique.

The picture in the western part is very similar, with the only difference being a slightly higher perception of cannabis trafficking into Cambodia, if compared to the southern results. Also, the most common trafficking technique in this area seems to be on foot, by human mules or couriers.

Concerning wildlife, the picture does not change dramatically across the two clusters. The only significant difference can be found when analyzing the smuggling of orchids, which seems to be irrelevant in the south, while it is perceived as the most commonly trafficked wildlife species in the western border with Thailand.

No significant difference was found between the 2 clusters with respect to their views on ozone depleting substance and hazardous waste.

Finally, when asked which are the most serious forms of cross-border crimes, respondents from both clusters indicated drug trafficking and trafficking in persons as the first and second choices. Yet, in the southern cluster, the smuggling of hazardous waste and ODS is equally

ranked with trafficking in persons, while the third option for respondents in the western part is timber smuggling.

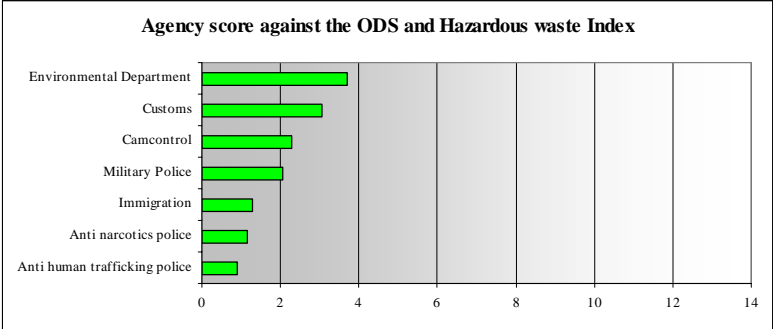
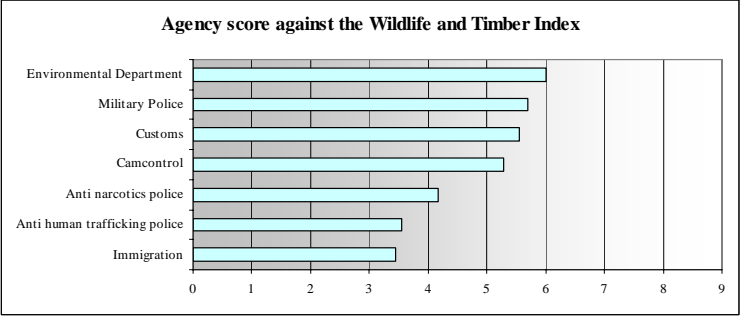
| Question 8.4 | | CL1 | CL2 |
|--|--|-----|-----|
| Which of the following forms of crime do you consider most serious for your border section? Please rank the options in order of importance. Use the numbers 1 to 5 to implicate the importance of your choice (1: not serious at all; 5: very serious) | Trafficking of persons | 3.0 | 3.4 |
| | Smuggling of migrants | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| | Smuggling of wildlife | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| | Smuggling of timber | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| | Smuggling of hazardous wastes and ozone depleting substances | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| | Drug trafficking | 3.6 | 4.0 |

3.3. Selected findings by agency

In order to capture the general understanding of the topics on the basis of each single agency involved in survey, some indices have been built by compiling answers to selected questions (See Annex II, Indices structure). In particular, after selecting questions with true/false options, the answers have been given a score (for example 1 for true and 0 for false). Subsequently, these questions have been grouped according to their thematic focus, and the scores of each questions have been summed up to form an index.

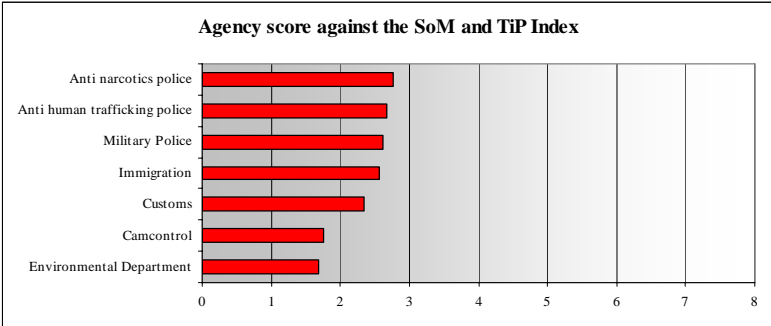
Obviously, officers from some specialized agencies have a more specific focus. The purpose of this exercise was to analyze what is the general understanding of topics that go beyond the specific focus of the agency of origin. Therefore, the ranking below is not meant by any mean to assess the performance of each specialized agency against a specific TOC threat, but rather to design tailor-made awareness programmes for different agencies.

It comes as no surprise the fact that the officers from the Environmental Department resulted as the most knowledgeable against the indicators for Wildlife/Timber trafficking (to the right) and ODS/Hazardous waste smuggling (below).



By the same token, it is no surprise that officers from Immigration, Anti-narcotic Police and Anti-Human Trafficking Police are less aware of topics that are not directly linked to their specialized functions.

Yet, looking at the 2 different scales of the indicators, and at the overall score of each agency, it seems clear that the general knowledge about hazardous waste and ODS is minimal also for more specialized agencies, such as Environmental Department, Customs and Camcontrol.



On the other hand, some surprising results are shown by the index on Smuggling of Migrants / Trafficking in Persons (on the left), since the officers from the Anti-narcotic Police demonstrated the highest understanding of the differences between the two crimes. This may be explained

by the intertwined connections between drug trafficking and human trafficking. Yet, it must be noted that also in the case of this index, the overall score of each agency is generally very low.

3.4. Interviews with heads of BLOs

During the survey to Cambodia, the PATROL staff met the following six heads of BLOs:

- H.E. Mr. Phay Bunchhoeun Deputy Governor of Kandal Province (25 May 2010)
- H.E. Mr. Sum Socheat, Deputy Governor of Svay Rieng Province (25 May 2010)
- H.E. Mr. San Vanna, Deputy Governor Oddar Meanchey Province (27 May 2010)
- H.E. Mr. Koeut Sothea, Deputy Governor Pilin Province (27 May 2010)
- H.E. Mr. Say Socheat, Deputy Governor Koh Kong Province (27 May 2010)
- H.E. Mr. Try Narin, Governor of Poi Pet, Bntey Meanchey Province (27 May 2010)

The main content of the interviews is summarized below.

▪ How important are the Border Liaison Offices for border security?

The BLOs have proven to be extremely important to counter the trafficking of drugs but they remain limited in scope if they cannot address other forms of transnational organized crime

▪ How do you consider the expansion of the BLO mandate beyond drugs?

All of the provinces suffer severe forms of trafficking of different illicit commodities like chemicals, waste, women, children, wildlife, low quality food products and counterfeit medicines. Yet the BLOs cannot help addressing these threats because their mandate is limited to the area of drug control. Expanding their mandate to other forms of TOC is therefore crucial to ensure border security and human security.



Picture 5: Interviews with Heads of BLOs in Bavet

▪ What are the main constraints of the BLOs?

Law enforcement officers need to have more and clearer responsibilities in their functions at the border. There is a strong need for a single and comprehensive law that addresses TOC threats as a whole rather than having several different regulations, which may conflict one another and create confusion among the law enforcement officers.

The deputy governors highlighted the lack of law enforcement capacities to suppress drug trafficking, mainly because of the shortage of training and equipment, including motorbikes, radios, cameras, recorders and computers with internet connection.

The frequent turnover of BLO members, from the law enforcement officers up to the Heads of BLOs has been identified as another obstacle to the correct functioning of the BLOs.

Moreover there is a significant budget constraint which limits the possibility of BLOs to meet with neighbouring counterparts. In some cases, Thailand has supported Cambodian BLOs

with equipment and/or coverage of travel costs to attend and organize meetings. Nonetheless, Cambodian BLOs need a more systematic financial support to ensure effective functioning.

▪ **How can UNODC and the PATROL project support the BLOs**

There are three main areas that will need specific attention: i) improving the clarity of the laws addressing the crime areas mentioned in the PATROL project and address specific conflicting provisions within the laws, ii) the provision of training for law enforcement officers, and iii) the provision of equipment necessary for conducting BLO functions.

It is also important to build and deliver solid awareness raising campaigns on transnational organized crime.

▪ **What is the role of communities in the area of border security and law enforcement?**

Communities will benefit from effective law enforcement but they also have an important role to play in terms of crime prevention. At provincial level the government of Cambodia- through the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) – is supporting Community Competitive Plans against drugs which entail a strong interaction between communities and law enforcement. Through these plans communities become more aware about the threats posed by crime and start to report drug-related crimes to relevant authorities. Based on the extent of drug-related crimes, communes are clustered in color codes (black, gray and white).

▪ **Do you regularly meet with counterparts in Viet Nam, Thailand and in Cambodia?**

While some BLO staff meets on a monthly base, most of the BLOs have no regular meeting schedule mostly due to budget constraints. The check points meeting happen every three months. The heads of BLOs do not meet their international counterparts at regular intervals: while some Heads of BLOs meet on a 2-month basis, others meet on ad-hoc basis, mainly when the need arises. At national level, BLOs try to meet at least twice a year although it is not always possible.

4. Lessons learned and recommendations for future surveys

After carefully evaluating the results of the survey in Cambodia – and based on the participants and the team member’s suggestions – some adjustments are highly recommended for future surveys to other countries:

LESSONS LEARNED

- The **translation** of the questionnaire from the original English formulation into Khmer proved to be more challenging than expected. Failures to produce easy to understand questions or answer categories might seriously affect the reliability of the answers due to confusion, misinterpretation, or failure to follow instructions accurately;
- Several participants have reported some difficulty to understand the questions, as the language was perceived to be **too technical**;
- Attention should be paid to the **layout of the survey**, since the formatting may largely determine the capacity of the respondent to return a fully answered and accurately filled questionnaire;
- Many participants perceived the questionnaire as **too long**;
- The open questions generated a very long process to translate and interpret the answers, which – in many cases – demonstrated to be unclear and not well-connected to the questions;
- For some of the reasons above many participants **did not fill the questionnaires correctly** or they simply left it blank in many sections;
- The questions were **not initially designed to build indices** or knowledge and understanding of the topics. Therefore there is no common scale for the identified indices and it was not possible to build an index for the Drug and Precursors section;
- In general the size of the **sample was too large**. Some of the participants were not frontline officers at the borders or had limited experience in service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to the limited time and receptivity of the survey participants, some of the questions should be removed;
- Although some attempts have been made to ensure quality of the translation through peer reviews, the next phases of the survey should look at more comprehensive pilot testing with competent counterparts in order to ensure the use of a clear and simple language;
- In order to ensure a better comparison between the basic understanding of the officers on issues related to migrant smuggling and human trafficking, the two components should be merged into one;
- In order to ensure a better comparison between the basic understanding of the officers on issues related to wildlife and timber trafficking, the two components should be merged into one;
- In order to ensure a better comparison between the basic understanding of the officers on issues related to ODS and hazardous waste, the two components should be merged into one;

- It is recommended to adopt only multiple-choice questions;
- The size of the sample should be smaller (around 60-80 participants in total) and more focused on frontline officers only;
- Before accepting the submission of the questionnaire by a participants, the survey team should ensure that each section has been duly filled in a correct and sensible manner;
- The questionnaire on the Drugs and Precursors section should be re-designed to allow more analysis on the level of understanding and awareness of the threats;
- The next survey in Cambodia should take place in 3/4 years and focus on the same locations of this survey. The agencies involved should be the same although the size of the sample could be smaller. The questions to be utilized for the next survey should attempt to be as close as possible to the ones of this pilot survey, in order to allow proper comparison of the results.

PATROL Team for Cambodia Survey



From Left: Douglas McCarty (Freeland Foundation), Giovanni Broussard (UNODC), Chalinsa Varanyanda (UNODC), Julie Tomaszewski (UNODC), Edward Van Asch (TRAFFIC), Songsatit Kittikunwatchana (UNODC), Liu Ning (UNEP)