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TERMINAL EVALUATION REPORT

AD/VIE/03/G55

Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building with Special Emphasis on ATS and Precursors

Vietnam

Report of the Evaluator

Mr. John Dillon

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

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List of Acronyms

AFP	- Australian Federal Police
ATS	- Amphetamine Type Stimulants
CND	- Counter Narcotics Department of the General Police Department
DEA	- Drugs Enforcement Administration
HCMC	- Ho Chi Minh City
ITFU	- Interdiction Task Force Unit
MPS	- Ministry of Public Security
NCADP	- National Committee for Aids, Drug and Prostitution Control
SODC	- Standing Office on Drug Control
UNODC	- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Summary table of findings, supporting evidence and recommendations

<i>Findings: identified problems/issues</i>	<i>Supporting evidence/examples</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<p>1. <u>Project Management</u></p> <p>Project successfully executed by UNODC Country Office Vietnam.</p>	<p>1. Concise, comprehensive Project Document</p> <p>2. Timely programme delivery</p> <p>3. Project Objective achieved</p> <p>4. Project within budget</p>	<p>1. UNODC to execute future projects</p> <p>2. Technical Advisor suitably qualified</p> <p>3. Locally employed personnel to be used</p>
<p>2. <u>Interdiction Task Force Units</u></p> <p>Successful in interdicting drug traffickers, seizure of illegal narcotics and overall effectiveness.</p>	<p>1. Arrests increased during project</p> <p>2. Drug seizures increased during project</p> <p>3. Increased level of knowledge and skill in drug trafficking investigations</p> <p>4. Appreciation of the value of information led operations</p> <p>5. Improvement in the collection and sharing of information</p>	<p>1. Maintain existing ITFU's</p> <p>2. Extend ITFU's to other selected hotspot provinces</p>
<p>3. <u>Training</u></p> <p>Training provided through the project appropriate and tailored to the needs of the operational officers.</p> <p>There is a need for further training in the future in order to keep pace with developments in investigative techniques.</p>	<p>1. Increased level of knowledge in modern investigative techniques</p> <p>2. Increased levels of arrests and drug seizures</p> <p>3. Increased level of knowledge on information collection and sharing</p>	<p>1. Continue a programme for refresher, intermediate and advanced training of law enforcement officers</p> <p>2. Consider utilising the expertise of the in-country Police Liaison Officers to deliver this training</p>
<p>4. <u>Equipment</u></p> <p>The equipment provided through the project was selected according to the needs of the operational officers and allowed them to be more effective in combating drug trafficking at the borders.</p> <p>Certain specific items of equipment are still needed in some provinces.</p>	<p>1. Vehicles supplied allowed greater mobility in difficult terrains</p> <p>2. Telephone and radio equipment supplied allowed for an increased level of communications at the borders</p> <p>3. Increased levels of arrests and drug seizures</p>	<p>1. Supply of boats to Long An and An Giang provinces</p> <p>2. Supply of night vision equipment to ITFU's</p>
<p>5. <u>Signature Profiling</u></p> <p>The signature profiling of suspected substances, in particular Heroin, to determine its origin by submitting it to a partner laboratory abroad has not taken place. It awaits the approval of the office of the Deputy Prime Minister.</p>	<p>1. Drug samples at present are not being submitted to an overseas, partner laboratory for examination</p>	<p>1. Request an update on the current position from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister</p>
<p>6. <u>Media Strategy</u></p> <p>Effective use of the media made throughout the duration of the project.</p>	<p>1. Television and newspaper coverage</p> <p>2. Vietnamese and English coverage</p> <p>3. Greater public awareness</p> <p>4. Displayed international cooperation</p>	<p>1. UNODC Headquarters Vienna to consider inclusion of a Media Strategy section within Project Document</p> <p>2. UNODC to utilise the media when executing projects</p>
<p>7. <u>Best Practice</u></p> <p>The rationale, methodology and execution of this project were major contributory factors to its successful outcome.</p>	<p>1. Projective objective achieved</p> <p>2. Timeframe met</p> <p>3. Project within budget</p>	<p>1. UNODC Headquarters Vienna to consider using this project as 'best practice' in other countries where the interdiction of drug traffickers at borders is required</p>
<p>8. <u>Information Collection and Sharing</u></p> <p>This project has led to an improvement in the collection and sharing of information between the three agencies forming the ITFU's. More development is needed in the future to refine this process.</p>	<p>1. Increase in arrests and drug seizures</p> <p>2. Sharing of information demonstrated</p> <p>3. More targeted, focused operations</p> <p>4. Greater use of information for pro-active operations</p>	<p>1. UNODC executed project is needed to enhance the collection, sharing and use of information by Vietnamese law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking</p> <p>2. Establish a secure information database</p>

2. a) Description of project and objectives

It is estimated that that only a limited amount of the illegal drugs smuggled into Vietnam is seized. Despite considerable success in largely eradicating opium cultivation, the country faces increasing threats in other drug related areas, most noticeably in regard to the trafficking and domestic consumption of illicit drugs. It has witnessed a growing traffic in Heroin, Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) and psychoactive substances, as well as the trafficking of precursor chemicals through its borders.

The objective of this project was to strengthen the law enforcement efforts in the trafficking of drugs, in particular Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) and precursor chemicals, through the development of inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units (ITFU's) in six selected hotspot provinces. Each ITFU consisted of ten officers, six from the Counter-Narcotics Department, and two each from the Border Army and Customs Department. The project supported the targeting of drug traffickers by providing training and equipment in order to maximise the effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies engaged in investigating these offences.

This project was executed by UNODC Country Office Vietnam and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS). It was implemented by the Counter-Narcotics Department of the police (CND), the Anti-Smuggling Department of Customs and the Surveillance Department of the Border Army.

The project was initiated on the 1st January 2004 and is scheduled to finish at the end of December 2006 (36 months). Through the efforts of UNODC, the Vietnamese authorities and with full funding of US\$736,800 provided by the government of the United States of America, the project implemented drug law enforcement activities in the form of Interdiction Task Force Units in six hotspot provinces bordering China, Laos and Cambodia (2 bordering each country).

The project was operationally focused and designed to target the supply side of the drug control problem by building and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate offences of this nature. In addition, an element of the project was designed to improve the efficiency of the Drug Testing Laboratories in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in their capacity to test illicit substances.

The project was also cognisant of and aimed at both contributing to and assisting with the Vietnamese government's 'Master Plan for Drug Control in Vietnam 2001-2010'.

b) Major findings

Project Management

The fact that UNODC executed this project was in the view of the evaluator fundamental to its success, as was the exemplary, continuing cooperation and commitment from the implementing agencies in Vietnam. The control and management exercised in ensuring compliance with agreed protocols, work plans, achievement indicators and indeed all issues where timely delivery was essential in attaining the project's objective was excellent; it was also a significant contributory factor in delivering the programme within the set timeframe.

Project Document

The clarity and comprehensive structure of the project document was a key factor in ensuring that all parties involved in the programme were fully aware and cognisant of their roles and responsibilities in contributing towards achieving the project objective.

Project Activities

The evaluator has reached the conclusion that this project delivered exactly what it was intended to in accordance with the terms of the project document, and the objective of the programme has clearly been achieved. By the successful completion of the outputs and activities the achievement indicators were all met apart from one. There is a direct correlation that indicates the establishment of the ITFU's has led to an increase in arrests and the seizures of illegal drugs (Appendix 4), an improvement in investigation skills and a greater awareness and knowledge of ATS and precursor chemicals.

Signature Profiling

This was an achievement indicator for the immediate objective of the project and was the only one not completed at the time this evaluation was carried out. The process of signature profiling allows for the origin of Heroin seized to be identified by sending it to a partner laboratory abroad for analysis. The decision on this being implemented is with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and it is hoped will be resolved prior to the conclusion of this project.

Information Sharing and Collection

A significant outcome of this project has been a major improvement in the collection and sharing of operational information between the law enforcement agencies involved. This has been a direct result of the ITFU's being staffed in a multi-agency discipline and there is evidence that they are operating more effectively in targeting the drug traffickers

through the use of information shared by all three agencies. It has also enhanced the trust and cooperation between them.

Training

The training provided under the project is considered appropriate and tailored exactly to the level required, improving the skills of the officers in investigation methods and techniques to combat the trafficking of drugs. It has clearly increased the effectiveness of the ITFU's and improved the knowledge and expertise of the officers concerned. A Drug Law Enforcement Training Manual was also produced which is of high quality, and is both instructive and informative.

Reference is also be made to the quality and expertise of the contribution to this training by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Drugs Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The training was an essential element in achieving a successful outcome to this project.

Equipment

The equipment provided, as with the training, was exactly to the specification required by the operational members of the ITFU'S to increase their effectiveness in interdicting drug traffickers at the country's borders. The provision of essential vehicular and communications equipment has allowed for greater mobility in remote areas where the traffickers operate. The project also provided technical equipment to assist with the training of officers located in the provinces, which has increased the level of knowledge of the ITFU's.

UNODC Country Office Vietnam

The commitment, expertise and coordination by the personnel from the UNODC involved in the project were significant, contributory factors in the successful delivery of the programme. The Technical Advisor possessed the level of knowledge and experience in the legal and law enforcement field to provide the effective backstopping and direction needed to ensure the project objective was achieved.

The use of locally employed staff by UNODC as the National Project Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant provided a valuable link with the implementing agencies; these two individuals were able to fulfil an important coordination role between the various agencies within the Vietnamese authorities.

Media

Effective use was made of the media to promote the programme and its aims by utilising both television and newspapers to inform the public of the project and its objective. This was maximised by ensuring that the reports were in both Vietnamese and English. This was an effective way of increasing public awareness of the international effort to combat drug trafficking.

Drug Testing Laboratory Hanoi

Under an agreement made in May 2004 and within the framework of this project the Drug Testing Laboratories at Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City were required to report in writing on results of substances submitted to them for analysis within 3 to 7 days of receipt. On occasions the laboratory in Hanoi was unable to meet this deadline and the results of the tests took 2 to 3 weeks to complete. This according to the Vice Director of the laboratory was only in the cases where new pharmaceutical chemicals had been submitted for examination.

Best Practice

The evaluator was particularly impressed with the rationale, methodology and execution of this project. The concept of combined, multi-agency law enforcement task forces is an effective way of making the best use of resources; this is particularly relevant when it is focused at a specific area of activity, in this case the interdiction of narcotics at or near a country's borders.

Given the success this project has achieved the evaluator considered it as an example of 'best practice' for consideration and possible use in similar circumstances in other countries.

c) Lessons learned and best practices

Lessons Learned

This project was an example of the value of adopting a consultative approach when designing a multi-discipline programme; involvement of key individuals in formulating a comprehensive project document and its strategy is an important lesson in ensuring that the project is supported at the appropriate level throughout its duration.

The project addressed the real needs in practical terms of law enforcement officers to improve their effectiveness in combating drug trafficking in Vietnam. This is an important consideration when designing capacity enhancing projects; as is to ensure the

inclusion of essential elements such as training and equipment for benefits in practical terms to be realised.

A properly structured Steering Committee was in place throughout this project with the appropriate level of representation from the key agencies involved. This ensured both accountability for programme delivery and that it was done so within the timeframe set.

The members of the UNODC team responsible for the execution and backstopping of this project possessed the required knowledge and experience to ensure effective programme delivery. This is an important element of a project as is the use of locally employed personnel by UNODC who play an important coordinating role between the agencies. The correct balance of the UNODC team is important for effective programme delivery.

In respect of projects of this nature the evaluator felt that they should be considered from the outset within a regional context, with a view to maximising the impact on the illegal drugs trade. For example, if a group of neighbouring countries adopted a UNODC strategy such as the one in this project, the impact on the traffickers must be greater by a concerted, collaborative approach.

Best Practices

The involvement of the participating institutions at the preparatory, planning stages of a project is an essential ingredient in ensuring continuity and consistency of approach throughout the duration of the programme. It is a key element in any project, regardless of the thematic area and provides the underpinning required for ensuring a successful outcome.

As mentioned above it is also considered by the evaluator to be best practice to have in place a properly formed Steering Committee, with the appropriate executive power, throughout the duration of any project. This should prevent any loss of direction or momentum occurring in the programme.

It is also considered to be best practice to recruit into the project locally employed personnel. This project has been a perfect example of the benefits of doing so in terms of coordinating activities between the agencies involved and ensuring access to decision makers is facilitated.

Lastly, the focus of this project itself is in the view of the evaluator best practice, in that it is practically based and seeks to have an impact on reducing the flow of illegal narcotics into Vietnam and increase the numbers of traffickers arrested. It delivered

exactly what it was intended to which made a tangible benefit to law enforcement efforts to combat drug trafficking.

d) Recommendations and Conclusions

The evaluator considered that one of the significant factors in achieving a successful outcome to this project was the management, backstopping and control in its execution by UNODC Country Office Vietnam. It is a recommendation that future law enforcement projects, similar to this in design, are also executed by them.

It is recommended that UNODC Headquarters considers scoping the use of this project design not only in other countries in the region, but also in other parts of the world where the trafficking of illicit drugs across borders is a predominant and significant problem for law enforcement agencies. Part of this recommendation also includes not only maintaining the existing ITFU's but to increase and expand them to other selected hotspot provinces within Vietnam.

This project provided an initial training package which was tailored towards the immediate needs of officers engaged in drug interdiction activities and investigations. In order to maintain the level of expertise required in modern investigative techniques there will be a requirement for ongoing training in the form of refresher, intermediate and advanced courses to be delivered, which is recommended.

The vehicular and communications equipment provided by this project was essential and fit for purpose; it satisfied the core requirements to allow the teams to be effective in their interdiction efforts, in difficult and sometimes remote terrain. There is a genuine need for further items such as boats in certain provinces and the provision of night vision equipment to allow for more effective interdictions to take place. Subject to funding being made available this is also a recommendation.

This project was successfully promoted by utilising the media in the form of television and newspapers. It is recommended that UNODC Vienna consider including a section within their project documents internationally on media strategy.

This project clearly improved the ability of the law enforcement agencies involved to collect and share information upon which to base targeted operations against drug traffickers; it also improved the cooperation between them. Whilst significant inroads have already been made there is in the view of the evaluator an identified requirement for this area of their work to be developed further. There needs to be a more refined system of collecting, analysing and disseminating the information, together with a secure

database on which to record it. This is needed in order to increase their effectiveness in combating organised crime, in this case the trafficking of drugs. It is recommended, that subject to funding being available a project to incorporate these requirements is undertaken in the near future.

The overall objective of this project was to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over the trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS and precursor chemicals, by developing inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units in six selected hotspot provinces.

The overwhelming conclusion reached by the evaluator having objectively assessed all of the evidence and material made available through documents, interviews and personal observations is that this project was extremely successful in achieving both its goal and in providing a positive, international contribution to Vietnam in the country's efforts to combat the illegal trafficking of narcotics.

The combined, collective efforts of the Vietnamese authorities, stakeholders and the UNODC Country Office Vietnam have been the main contributory factors to attaining this success.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and Context

1. Vietnam is situated on the eastern seaboard of the Indochina peninsula. It borders China to the North and Laos and Cambodia to the west. It has a population of 82 million people and covers a geographical area of 330,991 kilometres. It has 64 provinces, including 5 municipalities (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong, Can Tho and Danang).
2. Despite considerable success in largely eradicating opium cultivation, Vietnam faces increasing threats in other drug related areas, most noticeably in regard to the trafficking and domestic consumption of illicit drugs. In recent years Vietnam has witnessed an escalation in the trafficking of illegal narcotics through its borders; its proximity to the 'Golden Triangle' (Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand), combined with its extensive borders with Cambodia, China and Lao PDR, as well as the coastline, leaves drug traffickers with extensive opportunities for smuggling illicit drugs both into and through Vietnam.
3. Vietnam has witnessed a growing traffic in Heroin, Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) and psychoactive substances, as well as the trafficking of pre-cursor chemicals through its borders. Some countries in the region have emerged as conduits for the transit of Heroin and ATS which poses a threat of increased trafficking at the Vietnamese borders. Various types of ATS manufactured in neighbouring countries are smuggled into Vietnam for domestic consumption, whilst this a relatively new phenomenon there are signs that consumption is spreading, particularly in urban areas. The Government of Vietnam expressed genuine concern about Amphetamine-Type Stimulants as experience has shown that its usage spreads quickly and is popular amongst the younger generation.
4. Project AD/VIE/03/G55 "Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building with Special Emphasis on ATS and Precursors" was executed by UNODC Country Office Vietnam and the Ministry of Public Security. It was implemented by the Counter-Narcotics Department of the Police (CND), the Anti-Smuggling Department of Customs and the Surveillance Department of the Border Army. The project was initiated on the 1st January 2004 and is due to finish at the end of 2006 (36 months). Through UNODC, and with full funding of US\$736,800 provided by the government of the United States of America, the project implemented drug law enforcement activities in six 'hot spot' provinces (2 bordering China, 2 bordering Laos and 2 bordering Cambodia).

5. The objective of the project is to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS precursor chemicals, through the development of inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units (ITFU's) in 6 selected 'hotspot' provinces. Each Task Force Units consist of 10 ten officers, 6 from the Counter-Narcotics Department (CND), 2 from the Anti-Smuggling Department of Customs and 2 from the Surveillance Department of the Border Army. The project supported the targeting of traffickers by providing training and equipment to enhance the use of investigative techniques promoted in the 1988 UN Convention.

6. Project Concept and Design - The overall concept of the project of achieving its goals through the introduction of multi-agency task force units (ITFU's), is recognised throughout international law enforcement circles as a tried and tested method of maximising efforts, resources and outputs. It allows for increased, enhanced co-operation between agency's, and a sharing of knowledge, information and expertise; it also contributes considerably in breaking down historic barriers that may exist between a number of agency's each charged with a duty to enforce the law and investigate a wide range of criminal offences. The design of the project by UNODC Field Office in Hanoi was thoroughly considered and the evaluator noted that in each of his personal interviews with the respective senior members of the Vietnamese law enforcement agencies, Ministry of Public Security, Police Liaison Officers and Stakeholders, that they felt sufficient consultation had taken place with them in designing the project and its strategy.

7. Project Strategy – The project was designed to target the supply side of the drug control problem by building and enhancing the capacity of the law enforcement agencies in Vietnam; additionally it was also to improve the Drug Testing laboratories in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in their capacity to test illicit substances. It supported the targeting of drug traffickers by providing basic but essential equipment, for use in particular by those officers policing the borders under difficult, dangerous conditions, where access to effective communications is essential. Another key element was the provision of training in modern investigative techniques to allow more effective targeting of the traffickers. The project strategically was also a key element of UNODC's law enforcement priorities in the country and the evaluator also considered that it played an important, contributory role towards the Vietnamese government's 'Master Plan for Drug Control in Vietnam 2001-2010'.

8. Project Timeframe and Resource – The timeframe of the project was three years, from the 1st January 2004 until the 31st December 2006, with an overall budget of US\$736,800. It is the view of the evaluator through examination of the relevant project documents, interviews with respective interested parties, both from Vietnamese law enforcement and externally, that this was a realistic period in which to achieve the project's objectives. This also takes into account the funding available and the time required to formulate and implement the six Interdiction Task Force Units in their respective Provinces, the acquisition and supply of equipment and the delivery of training. Comment was made during interviews with officers at the three Provinces visited by the evaluator that more could have been achieved if both the timescale and funding for the project had been extended. These issues are discussed in more detail later in the report, but as an initial, first step towards continued capacity enhancing in the drug enforcement field the evaluator considers that both the timescale and funding supplied were correct.

9. Project Document – The project document was compiled in a logical, sequential format which clearly and coherently set out the purpose, strategy and objective it sought to achieve. It was drafted by the Technical Advisor with assistance and input from the National Project Coordinator. The evaluator was particularly impressed with the structure and detailed content of the document; it accurately reflected the objective and expected outcome of the project, achievement indicators, outputs and the activities required in order to achieve these. There was a detailed breakdown of the budget expenditure, reporting and evaluation requirements, together with a comprehensive Logical Framework where all of the project activities were recorded. In essence, the document was well constructed, contained all the necessary information and produced a project strategy that was realistic, achievable and if successfully implemented would contribute considerably to Vietnam's fight against the trafficking of drugs through its borders.

1.2. Purpose and Objective of the Evaluation

10. Project AD.VIE/03/G55 is programmed to finish on the 31st December 2006, and is required to undergo an independent, terminal evaluation to examine its mandate, strategies, objectives, relevance, effectiveness, results, impact, sustainability and the added value of UNODC's actions. This evaluation has adopted a participatory approach in order to allow all interested parties to provide informed views of the project and

where relevant suggestions for future co-operation with Vietnam on tackling drug trafficking and any alternative or improved methods of delivering projects such as this again. The evaluation contains the following objectives:

- Establish whether or not the intended project impacts and outcomes have been met and/or whether satisfactory progress was made towards them.
- Analyse underlying factors that could have influenced project impacts and outcomes.
- Identify and analyse, barriers and constraints that delayed implementation, analyse Project Steering Committee/UNODC responses, and their result.
- Identify a list of ‘lessons learned’ and recommendations.
- State whether or not achievement indicators have been achieved; and, whether current and planned outcomes can be sustained, including determination of measures needed to ensure continued sustainability of results in the future.
- State whether achievements and impacts warrant other UNODC drug law enforcement projects.

1.3. Executing Modality / Management Arrangements

11. The UNODC Country Office Vietnam and the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam were responsible for the execution of the project. The Standing Office on Drug Control assisted the Ministry of Public Security, Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Aids, Drugs and Prostitution Control (NCADP), in multi-sector coordination. The Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) of the Vietnam Police were the implementing agency and the Surveillance Department of the Border Army are associated implementing agencies.
12. A National Project Coordinator, Mr. Do Dinh Khiem, was appointed within the project to support the government in procedural matters relating to UNODC. This was deemed necessary in order to maintain effective communication channels between the various agencies involved in the project and the UNODC. An Administrative Assistant, Mr. Pham Huu Vuong was also appointed to the project to assist the National Project Coordinator. Whilst it is included in the findings of the report (page 25, paragraph 41) both persons accompanied the evaluator throughout the duration of his visit to Vietnam and it was apparent from the interviews held with the respective agencies and other

interested parties, that their input and assistance during the three year project had provided invaluable assistance and support. Again, whilst mentioned in more detail in the report findings (page 25, paragraph 40) the evaluator will comment at this stage, that in his opinion, the effort and input of the Technical Advisor, UNODC Vietnam, as the person responsible for the ‘backstopping’ of the project was fundamental to its high level of success; as was the continuing work and cooperation of the implementing agencies.

13. The Project Steering Committee (Police, Customs, Border Army and SODC) were responsible for overseeing the coordination arrangements of the project. The structure of the institutional and management arrangements for implementing this project has in the view of the evaluator impacted considerably on the successful delivery of the programme. It also worthy of mention that it was the view of the evaluator that the commitment from individuals within the UNODC and all of the Vietnamese agencies involved in this project over the past three years was also key to its success.
14. The project has delivered exactly what it was designed to achieve, and has done so in a timely, efficient manner. Apart from one Achievement Indicator (“Determination of the origin of Heroin seized in Vietnam (signature profiling) by providing test samples for examination by a partner laboratory abroad”), the Objective, Outputs, Activities and Achievement Indicators have all been achieved. It should be noted that at the time of this evaluation a decision on implementing the above Achievement Indicator was with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for consideration.

1.4. Scope of the Evaluation

15. The duration of this project is from January 2004 until December 2006, and the terminal evaluation will examine and assess the following areas;

a) Approaches and Procedures – To assess

- Outcomes of actual project management
- Approaches towards each activity by direct project stakeholders
- Appropriateness, quality and delivery of activities
- Outcomes of technical inputs, including training
- Utilisation of financial resources

b) Output Performance – To assess

- Outcomes to determine achievement in line with project design

- Quality, timeliness, effectiveness and sustainability of management arrangements, technical inputs and assistance
- The degree to which intended beneficiaries participated in project activities
- Ways in which information was gathered, shared and used within the project
- Impact on overall drug law enforcement, with particular reference to outcomes in the project document; and determine any significant impacts of the project, whether beneficial or detrimental

c) Current relevance of concept and design – To assist UNODC to gather evaluative knowledge to improve comprehensive drug law enforcement activities, and capacity building and coordination efforts with other agencies, the evaluation will assess;

- Project relevance, with a focus on assessing project impacts directly related to capacity building, training and development, drug law enforcement, and project coordination
- Implementation strategy
- Actual managerial arrangements against those outlined in the Project Document

d) Lessons learned and recommendations – To assist future UNODC programming, list lessons learned (what works, what doesn't work and why) and additionally;

- Recommend, as deemed necessary and feasible, practical changes to the current project's approach that should be considered for future projects
- Recommend concrete action that could have been taken to rectify undesired impacts and/or outcomes, and to improve performance
- Make recommendations with respect to issues related to any variances in the project environment, including work by other government and non-government agencies

1.5. Evaluation Methodology

16. The evaluator adopted a specific methodology for this Terminal Project evaluation, consisting initially with a detailed examination of all relevant documents made available;

- *Project Document*
- *Mission Reports to 6 ITFU'S*
- *Mid-Term Evaluation Report*
- *Annual Progress Reports for 2004 and 2005*

- *Semi- Annual Progress Report 2006*
- *Co-operation Agreement between 6 ITFU's and 2 Drug Testing Centres*
- *Report on equipment check at 6 ITFU's*
- *Reports on study tours to Singapore and France*
- *Independent reports/audits from KPMG 2004 & 2005*
- *Evaluation report of training given under this project 2006*
- *Co-operation agreement between Customs, CND and Border Army*
- *Narcotics Drugs Prevention and Control Master Plan for Vietnam*
- *Decision to establish Interdiction Task Force Units*
- *Drug Law Enforcement Training Manual*

17. Primary data to assist with the evaluation was gathered through personal interviews with representatives of the Police Counter Narcotics Department, Anti-Smuggling Department of Customs and the Surveillance Department of the Border Army, both centrally in Hanoi, and at three of the six Provinces where the ITFU's are located (Full list at Appendix 2). It should be noted that whilst the evaluator was at the three provinces (Son La, Lang Son and Long An) he was able to interview not only senior officers, but those officers who formed part of the ITFU's and were engaged daily in border operations to interdict the drug traffickers. This assisted greatly in assessing the true benefit of the equipment and training provided to front line officers through the project.
18. The evaluator was also provided with data from the Vietnamese authorities detailing arrests and seizures of narcotics since the project commenced which again aided the evaluation of the project's performance. Interviews and a site visit were also conducted at the Drug Testing Centre Hanoi.
19. Personal interviews were conducted with Stakeholders, UNODC Country Office Vietnam personnel and Police Liaison Officers to gain an overall opinion of the project and its effectiveness from a different perspective; this was felt essential by the evaluator to obtain a balanced, objective view of the project's overall performance. Whilst three of the six ITFU's were not visited as part of the evaluation process, the evaluator considered that those visited, which bordered China, Laos and Cambodia respectively, gave sufficient and broad information as to the effectiveness of the project in assisting Vietnam in combating drug trafficking at its borders.

2. ANALYSIS AND MAJOR FINDINGS

20. This project, in the view of the evaluator, has met with considerable success and has achieved far in excess of the anticipated outcomes. Whilst the examination of the respective documents and reports was of considerable assistance to the evaluator, the

field visits to the Interdiction Task Force Units at the three provinces and the Drug Testing Centre in Hanoi, provided first hand invaluable information from which to reach an informed, considered opinion of the overall effectiveness of the project. Analysis of this collective information and data has led the evaluator to conclude that the following items are considered as the major findings of this terminal evaluation report.

21. Project Management – The fact that UNODC executed this project was fundamental to its success, as was the exemplary, continuing cooperation from the implementing agencies in Vietnam. The control exercised in ensuring compliance with agreed protocols, work plans, achievement indicators and indeed all matters where timely delivery was essential to successfully reaching the project’s objective, was excellent and contributed greatly to the delivery of the programme within the set timeframe.

I would highlight the contribution the Technical Advisor, UNODC Country Office Vietnam, and indeed the senior representatives of the Vietnamese authorities for maintaining strict control on the delivery of the programme, ensuring that it progressed on time and according to the project schedule. In particular the support, input and control exercised by the senior officers from the three agencies responsible for establishing and staffing the ITFU’s (Counter Narcotics Department, Border Army and Customs), was also key to the project’s success. The fact that the project received support at such a high level from the Vietnamese government was also a contributory factor.

22. Project Document – The clarity, comprehensiveness and structure of the project document was a key factor in ensuring that all parties involved in the programme were fully aware and cognisant of their roles and responsibilities in contributing towards achieving the project objective (*“To strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS and pre-cursor chemicals, through the development of inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units in 6 selected hotspot provinces”*). The indicators to achieve this were set out in a logical sequence as were the outputs and activities that needed to be completed. It is also worthy of note that this project document supported the Vietnamese Government’s action plan to tackle drugs in the country.

23. The document detailed fully the financial components that were key to the project being successfully implemented, in particular the breakdown of anticipated expenditure in relation to the acquisition and purchase of essential equipment for use by the ITFU’s.

It is the view of the evaluator that an accurate well formulated project document is the foundation upon which to deliver a successful project; it is recognised that outside

influences may affect programme delivery, however, this did not occur, and the project was delivered in accordance with the expectations set out in the document.

24. Project Activities – The expected outcome at the conclusion of the project can be summarised as follows;
- a) Interdiction Task Force Units established, equipped and trained in 6 selected hotspot provinces
 - b) Interdiction Task Force Units capable of undertaking effective investigations into those suspected of trafficking in illicit drugs or precursor chemicals
 - c) 6 Interdiction Task Force Units will have structured, supported and secure agency information systems for operational support and inter-agency dissemination
 - d) Drug Testing laboratories in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to have information systems to support investigations through accurate testing of substances and precursor chemicals to confirm their identity and confirm their purity. This would support the development of national and sub-regional programmes for drug characterization/impurity profiling.
25. When looking at the above criteria the evaluator has drawn the conclusion that this project has delivered exactly what it was intended to in accordance with the terms of the project document. The project objective as detailed in paragraph 22 above has been achieved. By the successful completion of the outputs and activities the achievement indicators have all been met apart from one. (Paragraph 26 below). Through the establishment of the ITFU's, arrests for drug trafficking and the seizure of Heroin, ATS and precursor chemicals in Vietnam have all increased significantly. There is a direct correlation between the establishment of the ITFU's and these increases that did not exist prior to January 2004 when the project commenced. It is also noted that the law enforcement officer's knowledge of ATS and precursors has improved. Clearly there remains two months before the end of the project, however, the evaluator has discussed the remaining project work plans with the UNODC Technical Advisor, Country Office, Vietnam and all remaining activities are progressing according to and within the timescale.
26. Signature Profiling – One of achievement indicators for the immediate objective of the project was not completed at the time the evaluation was carried out. This was a process called 'signature profiling' whereby the determination of the origin of heroin seized is established by sending test samples for examination by a partner laboratory abroad. This

is key to providing up to date information on the source country of a narcotic, routes that may have been used to import the drugs and will also allow for analytical work to be carried out to assist operational officers in their efforts to combat drug trafficking.

27. The evaluator visited the Drug Testing Centre in Hanoi and interviewed the Vice Director of the unit, Assistant Professor, Doctor Hoang Manh Hung of the Institute of Forensic Science. He stated that approval for the 'signature profiling' to commence was with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for consideration. This fact was confirmed to the evaluator in interviews with senior members of the respective Vietnamese authorities and it was anticipated by them that this issue would be resolved prior to the project finishing in December 2006.
28. Information Collection and Sharing – A significant outcome from this project and one mentioned by the ITFU's during interviews with their officers at all three provinces visited by the evaluator, was how this project had significantly improved the collection and sharing of information. Through establishing multi-agency task force units, consisting of the Police, Border Army and Customs they believed that they now were more effective in targeting the drug traffickers through the use of information shared by all three agencies. The evaluator saw no evidence of a reluctance to work together, quite the opposite and this has resulted in a more focused approach by the three agencies in combating drug trafficking.
29. A natural product of a multi-agency task force such as this working together and sharing information is the strengthening of the Country's borders. Whilst not a direct objective of the project the evaluator considered that by the use of combined resources focused on border activity, sharing information, albeit on drug trafficking, it provided additional support and hardening to Vietnam's borders. This comment is made with due regard to size and geography of the country's boundaries.
30. The evaluator considered that inroads and improvements have clearly been made through this project in the collection, sharing and use of information by the law enforcement agencies in Vietnam. However, there is an identified need for an integrated information management and analysis system in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of operational outputs in combating the trafficking of drugs and other organized crime.
31. There is a need to maximise the opportunities presented by the enhanced information now being collected in order to focus the resources of law enforcement more effectively on arresting, disrupting and dismantling those engaged in the trafficking of drugs into and through Vietnam. There is considerable scope for enhancing this area of law

enforcement; the evaluator is aware of a project proposal by UNODC Country Office Vietnam to strengthen the collection and sharing of information procedures by law enforcement agencies, the evaluator believes that this would not only improve the current position, but complement and build upon the achievements attained through this project. The overall effect would be to increase the effectiveness in combating drug trafficking and ensure consistency and standardisation in the collection and sharing of information.

32. Training – During the course of the evaluation process personal interviews were held at three of the six provinces Son La, Lang Son and Long An, the Drug Testing Laboratory Hanoi, Standing Office on Drugs Control, Counter Narcotics Department, Border Army and Customs. Without exception every individual spoken with during these interviews considered that the training given under the project was one of the most important and essential elements of the programme, and was key to the success of the ITFU's in increasing their effectiveness in investigating drug trafficking.
33. The training was considered appropriate and conducted exactly at the level required to improve their skills in investigation methods. The evaluator also had the opportunity to confirm that the training was of the right quality and content by interviewing the operational members of the ITFU' at the three provinces visited. Each officer felt that their knowledge and expertise in investigation techniques had been greatly improved through the training they had received and now felt better equipped to investigate drug trafficking offences.
34. Interviews were also held with the main project stakeholders who also felt that the training delivered through the project had been an important element towards the programmes success and that the Vietnamese law enforcement officers had benefited greatly from learning new methods and techniques of investigation. A Drug Law Enforcement Training Manual was also produced which the evaluator has viewed, again the content is of high quality, and is both informative and constructive in its approach to investigating offences of this nature.
35. An evaluation report was completed on the training conducted within the framework of this project which displayed that the training had been successful in increasing considerably the knowledge of those instructed.
36. A total of 534 officers were trained in 18 one week courses; 463 from the provinces and 71 from the central level. In addition, in order to maximise the effectiveness of the training and to enable a 'roll out' of the training to take place, 2 one week train-the-trainers courses were held, where a total of 26 officers were trained, 20 from the

provinces and 6 from the central level. Additionally, 786 officers were trained on precursors via DVD which is linked to a regional project. A synergy was also created with another UNODC Vietnam project on drug prevention among ethnic minorities in the way that training by the police at village level was carried out by the trained-trainers under the G55 project. Material and curricula was modified to fit a lower level. The training took place in a few villages due to drug prevention efforts being hampered by large amounts of Heroin in the villages. Training of the police on the 'supply side' led to more favourable conditions being present for the prevention side. The evaluator considers that the overall success of the training programme is primarily due to the quality, knowledge and professionalism of those individuals who delivered the inputs. In particular, the evaluator would mention the contribution of the Australian Federal Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration as being an essential element in the success of the training.

37. Equipment – A key element of the project both in terms of programme expenditure and in improving the operational effectiveness of the ITFU's was the acquisition and supply of equipment. This consisted primarily of communications equipment (radios and telephones) and transport (land cruiser and motorcycles), there was also equipment to assist with training (television, DVD) and some computing equipment. Photographic equipment was also supplied. The evaluator was pleased to see that the equipment purchased under the project was for operational rather than non-operational use. Having been afforded the opportunity to visit three of the six provinces, and speaking with the officers from the units there, it was apparent that items such as the motorcycles and the communications equipment have been invaluable in improving their daily operational effectiveness.
38. When taking into account the length of the borders with Cambodia, Laos and China, coupled with the formidable, difficult terrains that exists, to have at ones disposable effective communications and method of transport is essential in order to have any realistic prospect of preventing or apprehending drug traffickers. The situation is by no means perfect, there are still areas where communications via radio or mobile telephone is not possible; satellite telephones are probably the only solution but are price prohibitive on a project such as this. Comment was also made at provincial level that the use of the television and DVD player had also been of great assistance in providing training to the officers. In essence the equipment provided by the project was in the view

of the evaluator, of the right quality, type and quantity to fulfil the requirements of the ITFU's.

39. Observations were made during the personal interviews with the evaluator that had finances within the project permitted it, the supply of more equipment would have been beneficial. One item that was highlighted in more than one province was night vision equipment, which the officers believed would assist them to intercept the traffickers during the hours of darkness. During the visit to Long An province the officer in charge of the ITFU there, whilst pleased with the equipment supplied under the project, stated that there was a real need for a boat to intercept the traffickers; this is particularly relevant during the months of June to October when the waters rise considerably. Although not visited as part of the evaluation this also applies to An Giang province as well. The issue of the boats was discussed at the commencement of the project however, with finite resources available and the on-costs involved the equipment provided was deemed the most constructive use of the funding.
40. UNODC Country Office Vietnam – The evaluator considered it worthy of mention and indeed a major finding of the project that the quality, commitment, expertise and general coordination by the Country Office personnel was a significant contributory factor leading to the success of the project. The Technical Advisor had the knowledge and experience within legal and law enforcement fields to provide effective backstopping for the project as well as the direction needed to ensure that the project objective was achieved.
41. Another important finding within this area was the use of local staff to support the project's Technical Advisor. It was apparent to the evaluator that these two individuals, the National Project Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant, were key also to the project's success. They provided a valuable link between the UNODC and the implementing agencies and were able to assist with coordination between the various organizations within the Vietnamese authorities. It also fair to comment that through the hard work of the UNODC, implementing agencies and stakeholders that the level of trust and cooperation between all parties has improved.
42. Media – The evaluator noted that the project had made effective use of the media to promote the programme and its aims by utilising both television and newspapers to inform the general public of this project and its objective. Also, this effect had been maximised by ensuring that this was done both in Vietnamese and in English. The evaluator felt that this was an effective way in which to increase public awareness in

respect of drug trafficking and to display the international contribution to tackling the problem.

43. Drug Testing Laboratory Hanoi – Some observations were made during the personal interviews conducted by the evaluator in the provinces concerning the length of time it took for the laboratory to reply on their examinations of suspected illicit drugs. The agreement between the laboratory and the 6 ITFU's signed in 2004, committed the laboratory to reply in writing with the result within 3 to 7 days of receiving the test sample. It was stated that on occasions it took 2 to 3 weeks, and one province informed the evaluator that they had submitted a sample for analysis in July 2006, and to date had not received a reply.
44. UNODC Country Office stated that they had requested a written assessment from the laboratory eight months ago detailing new trends and drugs logos and at the time of this evaluation had not received a satisfactory response. This type of information is of particular value to the operational officers in their efforts to keep up to date with new trends and methods used by the traffickers; it also plays an important part in assessing and analysing information on the criminal's modus operandi.
45. Best Practice – The evaluator was particularly impressed with the rationale, methodology and execution of this project. The concept of combined, multi-agency task forces within law enforcement is not a new one but it still proves to be effective in making the best use of resources; this seems particularly to be the case when it is focused at a specific problem or area of activity, in this case the interdiction of narcotics at or near a country's borders.
46. It was the view of the evaluator, given the success that this project has achieved in terms of arrests, seizures of drugs, sharing of information and much improved interdepartmental cooperation, that using it as an example of 'best practice' for future UNODC projects in countries where similar or identical problems exist may be worthy of consideration.
47. For example, this project whilst focused within Vietnam was in effect designed to stem the flow of illicit drugs through its borders with China, Laos and Cambodia; logically it therefore follows that to maximise the impact a similar, if not identical project on those countries borders would have the potential to achieve a greater success regionally. In essence, the evaluator felt a more holistic, regional approach may achieve even more success in combating the trafficking of drugs in the region. The evaluator accepts that this may not be achievable in certain countries.

48. Lastly, whilst not listed as a major finding by the evaluator it is felt appropriate to mention within this section the cooperation extended throughout the period of evaluation by the Vietnamese authorities. The evaluator was afforded complete cooperation and access to members of the implementing agencies at all levels for interview purposes. Being able to conduct interviews with operational staff as well as senior managers within the Ministry of Public Security enabled the evaluation to have a balanced, well informed view of the project and its real worth in combating drug trafficking in Vietnam. This was the case both centrally and whilst visiting the three selected provinces. Again, the evaluator considered that the strong relationship that exists between UNODC Country Office Vietnam and the Vietnamese authorities was instrumental in facilitating this level of cooperation and access.

2.1 Overall Performance Assessment

49. The overall goal of this project was to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS and precursor chemicals, through the development of interagency Interdiction Task Force Units in 6 selected hotspot provinces. It was intended to support the targeting of traffickers by providing training and equipment to enhance and improve the use of modern investigative techniques.
50. The appropriateness and relevance of the project is without question and from the observations made and through the personal interviews of the relevant individuals the evaluator formed the opinion that this project was extremely well received by the Vietnamese government. Whilst trafficking in opium in Vietnam has decreased due to considerable efforts by them in crop eradication, there was an identified, emerging market in the trafficking of heroin, ATS and psychoactive substances through its borders with China, Laos and Cambodia. It therefore logically follows that concentrated, combined efforts by the three agencies, CND, Border Army and Customs to interdict the traffickers at or near the borders was the most appropriate and effective method of stemming the drugs flow and apprehending the traffickers.
51. The effectiveness and efficiency of the programme can be assessed as follows; arrests and seizures of illicit drugs have increased significantly since the project was implemented, this is clearly in the view of the evaluator a direct result of the training and equipment provided through the project. The skill and knowledge of the officers to conduct investigations into drug trafficking has been improved and there is now a more focused awareness of modern techniques that can be used. There has been a considerable improvement in the sharing of information between the three agencies and the

advantages of combining efforts and resources by working as a multi-agency task force is evident by the results achieved.

52. Comment was made to the evaluator at a number of the personal interviews held that it was felt that there were other hot spot provinces, in addition to the 6 selected for this project, where ITFU's would be effective. This view displays that in the opinion of the Vietnamese agencies this project impacted successfully on the trafficking of drugs. The evaluator considers that based on the achievements made under this project it may be a consideration for the Vietnamese government to extend the ITFU's to other provinces. Clearly with the financial restrictions of a project such as this is was not possible to establish the units in more than six provinces.
53. The design of the project as mentioned in detail at paragraphs 21 and 22 above was a significant factor in its successful outcome. The concept was to meet the need of the operational officers tasked with combating drug trafficking along the Vietnamese borders, the equipment and training provided was again for their benefit. By designing into the programme the ITFU's were to consist of the three agencies working as a team it resulted in a cohesive, effective unit, well trained and well equipped to carry out their duties. It also enabled the sharing of experience and expertise to take place between them. All these elements were contributory factors to the overall successful performance of the project.

2.2. Attainment of Objectives

54. The Drug Control Objective under this project was to reduce the availability of illicit drugs on the domestic as well as the international market. The immediate objective was to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS and precursor chemicals, through the development of inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units in 6 selected hot spot provinces.
55. As previously mentioned Vietnam has witnessed an increase in the availability of illicit drugs (apart from Opium) domestically over recent years and this project is just one part of the government's planned activities to combat it. The UNODC project to establish the ITFU's to assist with the efforts in preventing the drugs from both entering and transiting through Vietnam is a significant contribution towards the Drug Control Objective. The seizure results since the project has been in place, coupled with the arrests, display that a considerable quantity of illicit drugs has been prevented from finding their way on to the streets of Vietnam. Additionally, Vietnam is also a transit country for the illegal

trafficking of narcotics and it therefore follows that a percentage of the drugs seized would have found their way on to the international market. It should also be noted that whilst Vietnam is making a comprehensive, detailed effort to combat drug trafficking it is also incumbent upon neighbouring countries in the region to implement their own measures in this regard.

56. The immediate objective has in the view of the evaluator clearly been achieved. The efforts of the Vietnamese law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking have been both strengthened and improved by the establishment of the 6 ITFU's in the selected provinces. Major contributory factors towards achieving the objective were the training and essential equipment provided under the project which impacted positively upon improving the skills and ability of the officers to investigate drug trafficking offences and interdict the offenders at the country's borders. The continued support of the Vietnamese authorities, stakeholders and the coordination and direction provided by UNODC Country Office Vietnam in backstopping the project have also been significant factors in achieving the project objective.

2.3. Achievement of Project Results

57. There a total of nine planned results scheduled to be completed throughout the duration of this three year project;

- 1) 6 Interdiction Task Force Units, adequately equipped and staffed by trained law enforcement personnel from different agencies, are operational and effective
- 2) Each of the ITFU's has established basic, compatible, standardized intelligence systems and developed procedures for information sharing
- 3) Minimum of 500 officers trained, 100 of which have passed computer-based training provided under regional projects, in basic operational drug and interdiction skills
- 4) Seizure of heroin, ATS and other illicit drugs made by the ITFU's shows a progressive increase against the total national level of seizures
- 5) Progressive increase in the number of individuals arrested by the ITFU's for drug offences compared to the number of arrests nationally
- 6) Standardized systems established in the 6 ITFU's for accurate reporting of drug seizures and arrests
- 7) Drug testing laboratories in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City will improve their capacity in testing heroin and other substances
- 8) Determination of the origin of heroin seized in Vietnam (signature profiling) by providing test samples for examination by a partner laboratory abroad

9) 4 workshops conducted

58. The evaluator is able to report that apart from number 8, 'signature profiling' the planned results have all been achieved, and within the set timeframe and budget. The 6 ITFU's are fully equipped, operationally effective and continue to achieve good results having received training among other things to improve their knowledge and skill in drug investigations. During the personal interviews with the ITFU's they demonstrated their ability to share information between the respective agencies which was a direct result of this project. This is an area which would benefit from further development in the future, in particular the collection, analysis and operational use of information.
59. A total of 534 officers were trained in a one week course and also 786 officers have been trained on precursors via DVD, the latter being linked to a regional project. The project also created synergy with another UNODC project on drug prevention among ethnic minorities in the way that training by police at village level was carried out by the trained-trainers under the G55 project. Material and curricula was modified to fit a lower level. The reason for the training taking place in a few villages was that the drug prevention efforts were hampered due to a large amount of Heroin in the villages. By training the police on the 'supply side' more favourable conditions were then present for the prevention side.
60. Both the seizures of drugs and the arrests for drug offences by the ITFU's have increased progressively under the project against national levels. The ITFU's are required to report seizures and arrests via the completion of specially designed forms, 'Weekly Report of the Interdiction Task Force Units on Number of Seizures and Arrests', and Report of the Interdiction Task Force Units on Individual Drug-Related Cases' which again were devised under this project and provide basic, accurate information required to assess performance and trends in trafficking.
61. Results 7 and 8 above refer primarily to the performance of the two drug testing laboratories, the 'signature profiling' issue has already been discussed in this report and a decision is awaited from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
62. Comment was made to the evaluator concerning the time in producing the results of some drug analysis tests at the laboratory in Hanoi, however, these appear to be isolated occurrences that happen when the laboratory is presented with a new drug for analysis. According to its Vice Director, Assistant Professor, Dr. Hoang Manh Hung, this on occasion is due to the officers submitting the suspected substance in insufficient quantity. The evaluator considers this to be an internal matter between the investigators and the

laboratory, their capacity in examining suspected illicit drugs has been improved under this project and aided by the equipment provided.

63. Lastly, workshops were also conducted under this project in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City; these included ones designed specifically for ‘train-the-trainers’. The evaluator has been provided with two reports on the workshops completed by a national consultant and the content indicates a positive outcome to the training.

2.4. Implementation

63. The implementation of this project appears to the evaluator to have enjoyed a smooth transition due both to the participatory formulation process of the programme and the on-going backstopping support from UNODC Country Office Vietnam; the fact that the three UNODC staff remained the same throughout the duration of the project was a stabilising factor for continuity purposes. In addition the support and assistance from the stakeholders and the coordination and cooperation afforded to the project by the Vietnamese authorities were also contributory factors in ensuring that the implementation phase of the project was delivered according to plan and within both the allocated budget and timeframe allowed.
64. The evaluator also considered that the efforts and participation of the UNODC’s National Project Coordinator and Administrative Assistant in coordinating activities between the various organizations and agencies assisted greatly in ensuring the implementation of the project went according to plan.
65. The project was overseen by a Steering Committee (Police, Border Army, Customs and SODC) which in the view of the evaluator gave ownership, responsibility and accountability for ensuring that the activities within the project, required to both implement it and achieve the programme objective were delivered within the timeframes set. The fact that the Steering committee included senior representatives from the three agencies forming the ITFU’s as well as the SODC, also ensured a commitment to implement the project with an adequate level of monitoring in place, and to give direction where needed. It also ensured that possible sensitive issues that may arise, such as the distribution of the equipment was handled through the committee meetings well in advance of procurement and the equipment needs assessment mission.
66. The constraining factors, as with most projects, were financial and the timeframe during which the project was to be implemented. The former will always present challenges for the implementing agencies and those responsible for overseeing the project, in ensuring

that the programme remains within budget whilst still completing the activities required to achieve the project's goal.

67. The evaluator can report that not only was the project implemented successfully within the financial constraints, but also within the timeframe set out in the project document. The evaluator also notes the contribution and work of the Technical Advisor, UNODC Country Office, Vietnam in backstopping the implementation of the project.
68. Comment was made to the evaluator during one of the personal interviews in the provinces that implementation over a longer period than three years may have been advantageous; this was based on the assumption that the first year is primarily taken with establishing the units and providing equipment and training. Whilst the rationale for this observation may be logical, realistically, a reasonable timeframe for delivering a project of this type and design is three years. This then ensures that slippage does not occur in the timeliness of programme delivery and of the results expected as an outcome of the implementation.
69. This does not of course prevent the Vietnamese authorities maintaining the existing ITFU's once this project has finished or indeed expanding the programme to include other selected hot spot provinces. Indeed, it is the opinion of the evaluator that in view of the success achieved in this project that the implementation of further ITFU could only benefit the on-going fight against drug trafficking.

2.5. Institutional and Management Arrangements

70. The UNODC Country Office Vietnam and the Ministry of Public Security were responsible for the execution of this project. The Standing Office on Drugs Control of Vietnam assisted the Ministry of Public Security. The Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) of the police were the implementing agency. In looking at these arrangements the evaluator has drawn the conclusion that the balance, structure, involvement and direction given by these institutions has had a significant impact on ensuring that successful project delivery took place.
71. The commitment from both the UNODC staff and the senior Vietnamese officials responsible for the management of the project was in the view of the evaluator exemplary and led to the project being conducted efficiently, professionally and in accordance with laid down and agreed procedures. Their backstopping of the project enabled the various elements of the programme to be implemented without hindrance or delay. A tight control mechanism has clearly been in force throughout the project

ensuring that the respective phases of the programme were delivered on time and according to specification.

72. The input and involvement of the main stakeholders is also worthy of note and was instrumental in ensuring that successful collaboration continued throughout the duration of the project and that the coordination required between the various organisations and agencies was in place. Particular mention is made by the evaluator of the inputs and efforts of the Australian Federal Police and the Drugs Enforcement Administration of the United States; their committed involvement on the project was of particular value both in the formulation and delivery of the essential investigative training that was provided.
73. The project received effective backstopping from UNODC Headquarters in Vienna, the evaluator has learned from the Programme Management Officer responsible there that this project has strictly followed UNODC project guidelines; all work plans to date have been submitted on time; the project delivery has also been on time as have the audits required to be submitted. It was noted by the Programme Management Officer that the implementation rate of the project was timely and an overall favourable comment was made concerning the contribution of the Technical Advisor.

3. OUTCOMES, IMPACTS and SUSTAINABILITY

3.1. Outcomes

74. The purpose of the project was to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) and precursor chemicals. The issues and problems to be addressed by the project included the following; a lack of vehicular and communications equipment; equipment for investigations, surveillance of suspects and the identification of drugs; training in modern investigation techniques; information collection, sharing and analysis systems; the capacity to mount joint, coordinated operations, particularly in the border regions.
75. With the assistance of this UNODC led project I consider it accurate to report that the purpose of the project has indeed been achieved and there is supporting evidence to confirm this to be the case; increased arrests, increased drug seizures and officers that are far better equipped through training and the provision of equipment to carry out investigations into the trafficking of illicit narcotics.
76. This outcome has been achieved by the establishment of 6 multi-agency Interdiction Task Force Units at selected hot spot provinces bordering China, Cambodia and Laos, that are adequately equipped and staffed by trained law enforcement personnel from the Counter-Narcotics Department of the Police, the Border Army and Customs. The visit to

the three provinces by the evaluator led him to conclude that they are both operational and effective. These units were established by the first nine months of the project, as was the provision of the equipment required in accordance with the agreed terms of the project document.

77. The units now have basic, compatible, standardized intelligence systems and procedures by which to share information, which whilst it is accepted is the first step in developing a more structured, refined method of information collection and analysis, has already improved the sharing of information amongst the law enforcement agencies. This is a good outcome of the project which in the view of the evaluator is one which to build upon for future development.
78. Collectively all of the results and objectives which have been achieved have contributed to the successful outcomes of the project; arguably the intervention by UNODC and the Vietnamese authorities through this programme has led to the seizure of drugs that may otherwise have found their way on to the streets, and led to the arrest of traffickers engaged in this illegal activity. Additionally, it has improved the capacity of law enforcement officials to investigate offences of this nature. In essence these outcomes have contributed to both improving the quality of life for people in Vietnam by removing both drugs and the traffickers from the streets, and secondly have assisted the Vietnamese government in its on-going programme to combat illegal drug use in the country.

3.2. Impacts

79. The implementation of this project has in the view of the evaluator produced a number of positive, immediate and long-term effects on combating drug trafficking into and through Vietnam. The immediate effects that have been realised are an increase in the efficiency of law enforcement to investigate and arrest those involved in the trafficking of drugs in Vietnam; the increase in the quantity of illicit drugs seized; a more thorough knowledge of ATS and precursor chemicals; an appreciation of the value of effective collection, analysis of information for use in tactical operations; the benefit of working together in a multi-agency forum in achieving results and sharing expertise.
80. In the long term the project has contributed towards bringing together law enforcement agencies in Vietnam to work in a cohesive, constructive manner whereby they can operate more effectively through adopting a collaborative approach. The benefits of this have also been apparent throughout the duration of the project.

81. The training that has been provided to the officers through this project has impacted significantly on improving their ability and expertise to carry out investigations; this should also be recognised as something that will have a long term impact on theirs and their future colleague's knowledge and practical ability. Whilst this should be viewed as the first part of continued professional development through training, it has undoubtedly in the view of the evaluator provided the foundation needed for effective investigations to be conducted into drug trafficking.
82. The project has also shown that through the involvement and collaborative efforts of the various Vietnamese law enforcement agencies, Vietnamese government, UNODC, and external stakeholders that a project such as this can be successfully implemented for the benefit of the host nation. It is also the view of the evaluator, through the personal interviews held, that this project has increased the level of trust and cooperation between all of the agencies involved. This should also be viewed as a long term benefit which can be further developed to both aid the Vietnamese efforts to combat drug trafficking, and be a reference for good practice in the advantages of multi-discipline working.

3.3. Sustainability

83. The question of sustainability was raised by the evaluator at all personal interviews held whilst in Vietnam. The collective view of those spoken to was that the continuation of the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units once the project finished was guaranteed as it had government support and direction.
84. When looking at the viability of this happening there are a number of factors to take into consideration. Firstly, financially the expenditure made on the equipment was a single requirement and should not have to be repeated. The on-going costs for the future are minimal. The training given should allow for effective investigations by the ITFU officers to continue and therefore the positive results as well.
85. The commitment of those involved, in particular at a senior level within the Vietnamese law enforcement agencies and Ministry of Public Security is an essential element for ensuring continued sustainability in future years. It is the view of the evaluator that there is a genuine commitment and indeed a strong desire, no doubt driven by the success in practical terms the project has achieved, to maintain the ITFU's after the duration of the programme. With this level of undertaking the sustainability of this project is a realistic outcome and one which will continue to benefit the efforts of Vietnam to combat drug trafficking.

86. Lastly, it was the view of a number of persons interviewed during the evaluation process, that not only should the ITFU's continue to operate once the project has concluded, but they should be expanded incrementally to other selected hot spot provinces. The evaluator considers this to be both a logical and natural development building upon the success of the first 6 provinces. The template for an ITFU is already in place as are the factors that make it successful. Clearly a consideration would be the cost of additional equipment and training in setting up any new ITFU's, this is not part of the evaluator's remit but will be commented upon in the reports recommendations.

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

4.1. Lessons Learned

87. The lessons learned in this project are reflective of the findings of the evaluation report, they are positive in that they demonstrate the strengths in the way in which this project was designed, managed and implemented. This ultimately has led to sustainable outcomes which will provide short and long term benefits; it will also complement any future law enforcement projects that may or may not take place.
88. Firstly, this project was an example of the value of adopting a consultative approach when designing a multi-discipline programme; involvement of key individuals and organizations in formulating a structured, comprehensive project document both in content and purpose is an important lesson in ensuring that the project has the support and commitment at the appropriate level throughout its duration.
89. This project was well considered and addressed the real needs, in practical terms, required to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement officers in combating the trafficking of drugs at the Vietnamese borders. It is the view of the evaluator that this is also an important lesson when designing capacity enhancing projects; for example, simply supplying equipment, that albeit may be essential, is of reduced value and impact if important components such as training and practical application are omitted.
90. The evaluator considers it to be not only best practice, but an essential element of any project such as this, that a properly constructed Steering Committee formed with representation from all of the key agencies, at the appropriate seniority, is in place from the outset to ensure that accountability for delivery and direction of the project is maintained. This project had such a committee with this oversight and the evaluator considers that this was a significant factor contributing to its success.
91. Throughout this project the staff at UNODC Country Office Vietnam adopted a very much 'hands on' approach to their involvement in the delivery of each element of the

programme. The Technical Advisor was experienced in the legal and law enforcement fields, both in practical terms and theory, and the National Project Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant, both Vietnamese, were able to assist greatly in ensuring that the right level of coordination was maintained between the agencies. This had a positive affect on the delivery of the programme.

92. The important factors for future projects in this regard are the balance, experience, local knowledge and awareness of the UNODC team who are responsible for the execution and coordination of these types of programmes. This lesson cannot in the view of the evaluator be over emphasised, an experienced well managed UNODC team as this was, is essential not only for credibility with the host nation but also stakeholders and beneficiaries alike.
93. The value of the stakeholders input is another important area, on this project their involvement and commitment, in particular with the training element of the programme, was key to improving the effectiveness of the ITFU's which has a direct impact on achieving the projects objective.
94. Lastly, the evaluator felt that this project whilst highly successful should have been considered from the outset within a more regional context, with a view to maximising the impact on combating the trafficking of drugs, not only in Vietnam, but also neighbouring countries where the activities of the traffickers directly affect the whole region. In future a more regional, coordinated effort in preparing capacity enhancing projects such as this may not only be an effective use of resources, but may meet with a more sustained, prolonged effect.

4.2. Best Practices

95. The involvement of the participating institutions at the preparatory, planning stages of this project has in the view of the evaluator been an essential ingredient in ensuring continuity and consistency of approach throughout the duration of the programme. It was felt to be a key element in any project, regardless of the thematic area, that collective and collaborative arrangements and agreements are entered into at the earliest possible stage and form the underpinning required for ensuring a successful outcome.
96. The recruitment of local Vietnamese personnel as National Project Coordinator and Administrative Assistant clearly impacted positively on the delivery of the project. Being able to facilitate the coordination activities needed between the agencies, and in the case of the National Project Coordinator, having the appropriate level of access to the Vietnamese authorities, contributed significantly to the timely, successful delivery of the

project's objectives. The use of locally employed personnel on these types of projects is in the view of the evaluator an ideal example of best practice.

97. The evaluator has noted in the past that some projects lose direction and momentum due to there not being a properly structured mechanism in place for managing the programme throughout its duration. This leads to difficulties in delivering the elements of a project in accordance with the timeframes set, where hurdles are identified too late in the project to allow effective remedial action to be taken.
98. In this project a Steering Committee was in place from the outset with the appropriate executive power needed to ensure that each element of the project, i.e. training, acquisition of equipment, establishment of ITFU's etc, was delivered on time and within budget. There was accountability through the Steering Committee which again is essential for effective, efficient programme delivery together with an ownership and acceptance of responsibility.
99. Whilst the evaluator is informed that it is standard practice for these types of UNODC projects, it was noted that an independent audit of the project was conducted annually by KPMG; a final one will be completed for 2006. The evaluator is not aware whether this type of audit is relevant to all UNODC projects but would comment favourably on the transparency in approach that this process displays and would list it as an example of good practice.
100. This project was practically based and sought to make a difference at an operational, front line level which in the view of the evaluator is sometimes lacking in capacity enhancing projects such as these. The focus from the outset was to establish 6 multi-agency units and then train and equip them to be more effective in tackling drug trafficking at the Vietnamese borders. The project delivered exactly what it was designed and intended for and the outcomes are evident in the results the units have achieved. The evaluator considers that projects such as these, i.e. designed to have a practical impact and outcome are in themselves examples of good practice.

4.3. Constraints

101. This project and the work plans contained within it have been delivered both within the timeframe and finances allocated. The efficient management of the project at country level has been confirmed to the evaluator by the respective UNODC Headquarters Programme Management Officer responsible for its overall supervision.
102. The only part of the project that was not completed at the time this evaluation was conducted was the determination of the origin of heroin seized in Vietnam by providing

test samples for examination by a partner laboratory abroad (signature profiling). As previously mentioned this still awaits approval from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The evaluator considers this to be a constraining factor; however, this issue is clearly outside the remit of UNODC to resolve as the responsibility for the decision is one for the host nation.

103. The evaluator through the personal interviews held in Vietnam and through examination of the projects documents supplied did not identify any other constraints that have had an adverse effect on the delivery of this project.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Issues resolved during evaluation

104. During the course of this evaluation process there were very few issues that arose requiring resolution. The small number that did arise can be summarised as follows. During a visit to one of the provinces comment was made that within the project there was a need more vehicle fuel and stationary to be supplied to the ITFU's. This issue was resolved immediately by the National Project Coordinator who was able to inform them that under the agreed terms of the project the responsibility for the supply of these items was that of the Vietnamese government.
105. The Border Army raised the issue of equipment distribution stating that it had not been shared equally amongst the three participating operational agencies that made up each ITFU. The Counter-Narcotics Department of the police had received the most equipment, however on balance they supplied 6 officers to each ITFU and the Border Army and Customs each supplied 2 officers. The rationale being that entitled the CND to a larger proportion of the equipment. This was not in the view of the evaluator a major issue of contention.
106. The issue raised by some of the ITFU officers concerning the length of time it sometimes took for the laboratory in Hanoi to reply to them with the results of drug analysis was discussed with the laboratory's Vice Director. It was his contention that on occasions this was the case, but only in instances where the substances submitted were new types of pharmaceuticals. These more complicated tests he accepted may take 2-3 weeks as opposed to the agreed 3-7 days. He also stated that some of the delays are due to the officers submitting insufficient quantities of the suspect substances for analysis.
107. The matter of signature profiling has already been discussed in this report, it was an issue raised but it is not within the authority of the evaluator, or indeed UNODC, to resolve.

108. Lastly, representatives from the Standing Office on Drugs Control and the Drug Testing Laboratory in Hanoi were asked what use was being made of the information they had on their respective databases as far as identifying new trends, methods and tactics being used by the traffickers. This matter was raised by UNODC Country Office Vietnam. Clearly there is an identified need to keep abreast of these issues. Both stated that this information was passed by report to the Ministry of Public Security and to the ITFU's, whilst the provinces confirmed this to be the case the evaluator felt that there was an opportunity for future, further development on this subject.

5.2. Actions recommended

109. a) Project Management – The evaluator considered that one of the overriding factors that contributed to the successful management, control and ultimately the outcome of this project was that it was executed by UNODC Country Office Vietnam. The Technical Advisor had the appropriate knowledge, experience and credibility required in both legal and law enforcement fields to ensure effective programme delivery. The significant support and cooperation from the Vietnamese agencies involved has already been noted.
110. It was clear to the evaluator that the execution of the project by the UNODC personnel involved was carried out in a professional, methodical, and committed manner, which has led to increased trust and cooperation between all parties involved. This has also laid the foundation for future law enforcement projects to be undertaken.
111. The evaluator would recommend that any future UNODC law enforcement projects in Vietnam, similar in design to this one, are executed by UNODC Country Office Vietnam; additionally, and as part of the recommendation, the evaluator also considers the use of locally employed personnel to assist with the delivery of the programme to be integral in ensuring the smooth implementation of the project and effective coordination between the agencies involved.
112. b) Interdiction Task Force Units – As previously mentioned in this report the ‘task force’ conception of joint working between law enforcement agencies to impact collectively, and with more focus on a particular problem is not new. The evaluator is led to believe that this the first time it has been trialled in Vietnam on such a large scale, building on an earlier UNODC Vietnam small-scale interdiction unit project in the late 90s. It has met with considerable success in the 6 provinces where it has been operating. Based on this evidence the evaluator would strongly recommend that it is extended to other selected hot spot provinces, where its establishment would impact positively in stemming the flow of illegal narcotics into Vietnam.

113. In addition to the recommendation to extend the ITFU's to other provinces the evaluator would also urge the continuance of the 6 existing units in their present format, firstly in order to maintain the level of success being achieved in combating drug trafficking, and secondly to be used as the model for establishing any new ITFU's should this be an option the Vietnamese authorities decide upon implementing.
114. c) Best Practice – The trafficking of drugs by nature of the offence necessitates the movement of the commodity across the borders of one or more countries. This is so whether it relates to Cocaine in Latin America or Heroin and other illicit substances as in the case of this project. The evaluator considers that this project design in establishing and implementing Interdiction Task Force Units in Vietnam is worthy of scoping for use in other countries whose borders are used for the trafficking of narcotics.
115. This would encompass the training materials used in this project, and where relevant, the provision of suitable equipment to assist the unit in being effective in interdicting the traffickers. The evaluator would suggest that UNODC Vienna adopt this project as an example of 'best practice' in this thematic area of law enforcement, and may wish to consider recommending it to other UNODC offices worldwide as an example of effective multi-agency working. The rationale of the project is one the evaluator considers to be sound in principle and logic.
116. Another arm of this recommendation is the regional perspective; the evaluator believes that projects such as these should not be planned in isolation but should form part of a regional strategy to tackle the trafficking of drugs, or indeed whichever thematic area is to be targeted. This is essential for maximising the impact and benefits from UNODC projects. In this case the evaluator would recommend that consideration is given by UNODC to scoping the use of this project design in the neighbouring countries of Cambodia and Laos. The evaluator accepts that each country presents different challenges; however that should not deter the organization from exploring the viability of implementing similar projects elsewhere.
117. d) Training – This project delivered an initial training package that was tailored towards the needs of the ITFU officers in order to introduce them to modern investigative techniques. During each of the personal interviews held by the evaluator positive feedback was given as to the quality and content of the materials, and the expertise and professionalism of the instructors. The evaluator believes that training of this nature and quality is essential for a project such as this to succeed.

118. The evaluator considers that in order to maintain the level of expertise and ensure that new, developing investigative techniques are made known to the officers there is a real need to introduce a programme of refresher, intermediate and advanced training modules to build upon their existing skills. This in the view of the evaluator is a natural progression which is essential to keep abreast of the ever changing environment which law enforcement officers are required to work in and deliver a professional service. This would also complement and build upon the investment already made under this project in assisting the Vietnamese authorities in their efforts to combat the trafficking of drugs.
119. e) Equipment – The equipment provided through this project was correctly selected according to the needs of the officers working on the ITFU's at the country's borders. Essential communications equipment and vehicles fit for purpose were supplied; these satisfied the core requirements to allow the teams to be effective in their efforts at interdiction. The evaluator feels there is a genuine need for additional, specialised items of equipment that are particularly relevant to the geographical terrain in which the ITFU's operate.
120. Two of the provinces where the existing ITFU's are located, Long An and An Giang, are subjected to an annual rise in water (between June and October) whereby the only realistic method of interdicting the traffickers is by use of a boat, which neither currently has. Additionally, each of the provinces visit commented upon the need for night vision equipment to assist them in identifying the movement of suspected traffickers during the hours of darkness.
121. The evaluator accepts that in order to fulfil these requirements further funding would need to be made available. Nevertheless, this is a recommendation and the equipment is genuinely required to increase the ITFU's effectiveness in their capacity to interdict the traffickers.
122. f) Media Strategy – This project was successfully promoted by effective use of the media, both via television and newspaper. It was also promulgated in Vietnamese and English languages thereby maximising the opportunity to reach more people within the country. Every important phase of the programme was publicised jointly between UNODC and the Vietnamese authorities, which had the added benefit of displaying to the public the benefit of international cooperation projects.
123. The evaluator would recommend that UNODC consider adopting as part of and included in their formal project document a "Media Strategy" section; this would allow a

structured plan as to how information on a project can be best used to benefit programme delivery. It also enables UNODC and its project partners to demonstrate how their joint efforts are positively impacting on the quality of life of ordinary members of the public. This is of particular relevance in thematic area of law enforcement where the public are looking for hard results in terms of drug seizures, arrests and an improvement in the ability of their law enforcement agencies to tackle crime.

124. g) Information Collection and Sharing – This project has undoubtedly led to an improvement in the collecting and sharing of operational information between the three law enforcement agencies involved in the Interdiction Task Force Units. This has in turn improved the cooperation between the three organizations. The evaluator considers that this is an area that still requires significant development in the near future.
125. There is a need for a more structured, refined process of information collecting, analysis and dissemination; this will lead to improved knowledge by the investigators and a more focused, targeted approach on combating drug trafficking. It is also an essential tool for investigating all types of organized crime.
126. As part of this requirement there also appears to the evaluator to be a lack of recognised processes for the handling and dissemination of information and no secure database for collecting and analysing information. These processes and the establishment of a database are essential in being effective and efficient in tackling drug trafficking. It also enables resources to be deployed where they are most needed; the ‘information led’ investigation is far more effective when trying to dismantle organized crime gangs involved in the trafficking of narcotics.
127. The evaluator is aware of a proposed UNODC project in Vietnam to improve the above areas as described and would recommend, subject to funding, that such a project be implemented in order to build upon the important inroads made under this programme in improving the flow of information.

6. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

128. The overall objective of this project was to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS and precursor chemicals. This was to be achieved by developing inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units, consisting of officers from the Counter-Narcotics Department of the police, the Surveillance Department of the Border Army and the Ant-Smuggling Department of Customs, in 6 selected hotspot provinces in Vietnam.

129. The overwhelming conclusion reached by the evaluator having objectively assessed all of the evidence and material made available through documents, interviews and personal observations is that this project was extremely successful in achieving both its goal and in offering a positive, international contribution to Vietnam in its fight against drug trafficking.
130. There are a number of elements to this project that contributed to its smooth implementation and in ensuring that the programme was delivered in a timely, efficient manner. A number of these have already been documented in the Findings section of this report (page 19, paragraph 20) but are still worthy of reiterating as part of the conclusions reached by the evaluator.
131. Firstly, the project document was the foundation upon which the programme was delivered; the consultative process that took place in formulating it and the clear, concise way in which it was drafted made the process of delivering the various elements of the three year programme challenging, but achievable. Coupled with this was the execution and management of the project by UNODC Country Office Vietnam using a Technical Adviser with the requisite knowledge for 'backstopping', and locally employed personnel as the National Project Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. The UNODC input was a significant factor in the project's success.
132. It was evident to the evaluator that there had been over the three year period of the project considerable support and cooperation from senior levels within the Vietnamese government and law enforcement agencies. Enlisting commitment at that level was another key factor in ensuring the success of the project. It should also be noted that the same level of commitment was evident to the evaluator when interviewing the operational members of the Interdiction Task Force Units.
133. One of the elements that made this project so viable to implement was that it was focused on improving operational performance at the borders in interdicting drugs and apprehending the traffickers. It was a 'practically based' project with the provision of training and equipment that greatly improved the officer's knowledge both of investigation techniques, and of ATS and precursor chemicals. It is acknowledged that Heroin is still the main type of drug trafficked into Vietnam.
134. The project has improved the cooperation and sharing of information between the three law enforcement agencies involved and it was apparent to the evaluator that the professional relationship and trust between them has also been improved through the establishment of this programme. This has led to a much better standard of collecting,

analysing and sharing information; whilst further development in this area is still needed, this project has formed the basis for future collaborative efforts to be undertaken in this field.

135. When looking at a sample of the results this project has achieved in practical outputs, i.e. arrests, seizures etc (Appendix 4) in the three provinces visited by the evaluator, the evidence in real terms of the success of the project is there to be observed; a clear improvement in performance and effectiveness that can be directly attributed to the establishment of the ITFU's. These results have been achieved through training, the provision of necessary equipment and a commitment from all parties to work together in a multi-agency unit.
136. Comment was made during the evaluation process concerning the Drug Testing Centre in Hanoi and the delay on occasions in replying with the results of drugs analysis. The evaluator learned that this does sometimes happen in the case of new pharmaceuticals but has not adversely affected the delivery of the project. The 'signature profiling' aspect of the drug analysis which awaits approval from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister, is an issue predicted to be resolved by the end of the year. Again, whilst this is needed it has not had a significant detrimental effect on the project.
137. The rationale and methodology of this project in using a combined, multi-agency task force to focus on a particular crime problem, in this case the trafficking of drugs into Vietnam via its borders, is a tried and tested way of utilising resources to best effect. It allows for the sharing of expertise and experience between officers from different designations which is particularly pertinent when investigating drug trafficking as the methods, tactics and resourcefulness of the criminals may be diverse.
138. It was focused primarily on interdiction at the borders, which in the case of Vietnam are many hundreds of kilometres long. The evaluator can only conclude that due to the success the project has achieved consideration to introducing similar programmes in countries whose borders are used for the trafficking of drugs is a logical proposal for UNODC Headquarters Vienna to explore. Indeed, the evaluator concluded that the design of this project, with its training materials and criteria for selecting the appropriate operational equipment required is one that UNODC may wish to consider adopting as 'best practice'.
139. In conclusion the evaluator was impressed with the commitment of all those involved in the implementation of this project who have contributed to its success. Hopefully, the Interdiction Task Force Units will not only continue in their present format but will

increase from six in number to other hotspot provinces within Vietnam. The sustainability of this project once finished is achievable through continued commitment and support from the Vietnamese government.

140. The natural progression for the immediate future is to build upon this success and to enhance further the information collecting and sharing processes in order to increase the operational effectiveness in combating the trafficking of drugs into and through Vietnam.

Annex 1

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Project Evaluation Terms of Reference

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

IN-DEPTH TERMINAL PROJECT EVALUATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE (Final, 1 September 2006)

Project Title: Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building with Special Emphasis on ATS and Precursors (2004-2006)

Project Number: AD/VIE/03/G55

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project G55 is executed by UNODC Vietnam and The Ministry of Public Security. It is implemented by the Counter-Narcotics Police Department (CND), the Anti-Smuggling Department of Customs and the Surveillance Department of the Border Army. This project was initiated on 1 January 2004. Through UNODC, and with full funding of \$736,800 provided by the Government of the United States of America, the project is implementing drug law enforcement activities in 6 hot spot provinces (2 bordering China, 2 bordering Laos and 2 bordering Cambodia).

The objective of the project is to strengthen the law enforcement efforts over trafficking in drugs, in particular ATS and precursor chemicals, through the development of inter-agency Interdiction Task Force Units in 6 selected hotspot provinces. The project will support the targeting of traffickers by providing training and equipment to permit the use of investigative techniques promoted in the 1988 UN Convention.

Expected outputs, activities and achievement indicators of the project, as outlined in the project document, can be summarised as follows:

Outputs and activities:

Output 1

By the first 9 months of the project, operational Interdiction Task Force Units established in 6 selected hotspot provinces.

Activities for Output 1:

1. Identify and nominate focal points for inter-agency co-operation at the central level

2. Conduct two workshops attended by operational managers from Police, Customs and Border Army to identify and resolve issues regarding the establishment of the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units
3. Expand the existing policy between Police, Customs and Border Army to regulate and formalize cooperation in drug enforcement matters in 6 selected provinces
4. Establish Interdiction Task Force Units at provincial level

Output 2:

By the first half of the project, equipment provided to the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units in the selected provinces of Viet Nam and the central coordinating and monitoring office located in the Counter-narcotics Police Department to conduct drug investigations with a special emphasis on precursor control and ATS.

Activities for Output 2:

1. Conduct needs assessment in each of the selected provinces. Two national consultants will meet with operational personnel and determine what type and number of equipment are required based upon operational needs and maintenance capabilities in Viet Nam
2. Procure and deliver equipment. All equipment that can be purchased in Viet Nam with a sufficient standard and to a reasonable price will be bought in Viet Nam. All other equipment will be bought abroad. Possible vehicles will be bought abroad
3. Immediately after delivery of equipment a consultant will for two weeks train relevant staff on its use. If necessary, follow-up training for one week will be conducted 4 months after delivery of equipment

Output 3

By the end of the project, the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units trained to conduct drug investigations. The Interdiction Task Force Units strengthened with improved capability to investigate and identify drug trafficking cases as well as providing evidence for court convictions. The Interdiction Task Force Units in a position to provide drug law enforcement as stipulated in the Vietnamese Counter-narcotics law.

Activities for Output 3

1. Review and update existing training material in co-operation with training academy staff
2. Review and update the existing course to instruct the investigative techniques of controlled deliveries, undercover operations, informant handling and others as deemed appropriate and necessary for drug enforcement investigators from the Police, Customs and Border Army
3. Conduct two drug investigative techniques courses for personnel (who have preferably already passed the computer-based training provided for under C51 and D91 regional projects) assigned to drug enforcement duties using experienced trainers. Course material will be provided in Vietnamese and extensive use will be made of interpreters during classroom presentations. Course will include classroom and practical exercises
4. Conduct two instructional techniques courses to be provided to 20 participants from the preceding courses who demonstrate a teaching ability

5. Support approx. 80 courses on investigative techniques to be carried out by trained instructors in their respective units. Participants should preferably have passed the computer-based training provided for under C51 and D91 regional projects.
6. The operational commanders of the 6 interdiction task forces will through study tour have visited similar units in neighbouring countries to gain on the job experiences

Output 4:

By the end of the project, drug testing laboratories' and Interdiction Task Force Units' capacity strengthened to support investigations in 6 selected provinces.

Activities for Output 4:

1. Conduct drug testing laboratories needs assessment for proper equipment and training concerning identity and purity of drugs, ATS and precursors in particular. A national consultant will meet with drug testing laboratories in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang under the Institute of Forensic Science to determine the type and number of equipment and training are required based upon operational needs
2. Deliver equipment and training to drug testing laboratories (in-house/study tour/fellowship programme)
3. Conduct one workshop on cooperation agreement between task force units and drug testing laboratories
4. Establish a database at the drug testing laboratory in Hanoi under the Institute of Forensic Science of seized tablet information (physical dimension, weight, logos, analytical findings etc.)
5. Establish standardized systems in the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units to ensure accurate reporting of drug seizures and arrests
6. Establish basic, compatible, standardized, intelligence systems and develop procedures to share information in the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units
7. Carry out drug testing services
8. Provide financial support to procurement of drug and precursor testing kits produced by the drug testing laboratory in Hanoi under the Institute of Forensic Science supplied for use by law enforcement personnel
9. Conduct one workshop on precursor law enforcement

Achievement Indicators

- 6 Interdiction Task Force Units, adequately equipped and staffed by trained law enforcement personnel from different agencies, are operational and effective
- Each of the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units has established basic, compatible, standardized, intelligence systems and developed procedures to share information
- Trained minimum 500 drug law enforcement officers, of which at least 100 officers have already passed the computer-based training provided for under C51 and D91 regional projects, in basic drug operational and interdiction skills

- The seizure of heroin, ATS, opium and other illicit drugs made by the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units shows a progressive increase against the total national level of seizures of those drugs
- A progressive increase in the number of individuals arrested by the Interdiction Task Force Units for trafficking in illicit drugs compared to the total number of arrests for drug trafficking made nationally
- Standardized systems established in the 6 Interdiction Task Force Units to ensure accurate reporting of drug seizures and arrests, thus contributing to improved national data collection and analysis
- Drug testing laboratories in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang (under the Institute of Forensic Science within the Ministry of Public Security) will improve their capacity in testing heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy and other substances.
- Determination of the origin of heroin seized in Viet Nam (signature profiling) by providing test samples for examination by a partner laboratory abroad
- 4 workshops conducted

A mid-term evaluation was completed in September 2005 by a national consultant.

2. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

This terminal evaluation is a requirement stated in the project document. Its primary purpose is to assess if project activities have been carried out and to see if project outputs and objective has been met as well as to give recommendations for future UNODC drug law enforcement efforts.

The UNODC views project evaluations as rigorous and credible assessments of measurable progress toward achievements of stated outcomes. As such, this terminal evaluation should invoke a participatory approach in order to allow project stakeholders to assist in the generation and application of evaluative knowledge. Project stakeholders include the Interdiction Task Force Units in the 6 provinces, the central office of the police, customs and border army, the drug laboratories in Hanoi and HCMC and indirectly some embassies and police liaison officers.

The evaluation contains the following objectives:

1. Indicate whether or not intended project impacts and outcomes have been met and/or whether satisfactory progress was made toward them.
2. Analyse underlying factors that could have influenced project impacts and outcomes.
3. Identify and analyse barriers and constraints that delayed implementation, analyse Project Steering Committee/UNODC responses, and their result.
4. Identify a list of 'lessons learned' and recommendations.

5. State whether or not achievement indicators have been achieved; and, whether current and planned outcomes can be sustained, including determination of measures needed to ensure continued sustainability of results in future.
6. State whether achievements and impacts warrant other UNODC drug law enforcement projects

3. EVALUATION SCOPE

A mid-term evaluation was conducted covering the period from January 2004 until August 2005. Reference should be made to the results of this assessment, and follow-up on the progress made with regard to identified mid-term evaluation concerns should be made. This terminal evaluation will cover the entire project period from January 2004 and until the time of evaluation as well as an assessment of plans for the remaining duration of the project.

The evaluator needs to ensure that the following aspects of the project are covered:

a) Approaches and procedures

Bearing in mind the limitations identified in the project design and possible variances and/or barriers and constraints inherent in the project's implementation environment, and bearing in mind the findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, the terminal evaluator will:

- Assess outcomes of actual project management, including allocation of time and other resources;
- Assess approaches toward each activity by all direct project stakeholders;
- Assess the appropriateness, quality and delivery of activities
- Assess the outcomes of sub-contracted technical inputs, including training;
- Assess utilisation of financial resources;
- Assess efficacy of project information systems between stakeholders.

b) Output performance

To assist the UNODC in assessing the outcomes and results of the project, the evaluator will:

- Assess output outcomes to determine if they have been achieved in line with project design;
- Assess overall quality, timeliness, effectiveness and sustainability of management arrangements, technical inputs and assistance;
- Evaluate the degree to which intended beneficiaries participated in project activities;
- Assess ways in which information was gathered, shared and used within the project;
- Assess the impact of project activities on overall drug law enforcement, with particular reference to desired outcomes outlined in the project document; and, determine and discuss any significant secondary or unexpected impacts of the project, whether beneficial or detrimental;

c) Current relevance of concept and design

To assist UNODC to gather evaluative knowledge to improve comprehensive drug law enforcement activities, and capacity building and coordination efforts with other agencies, the evaluator will:

- Evaluate the project relevance, with a focus on assessing project impacts directly related to capacity building, training development, drug law enforcement, and project coordination and sub-contract performances;
- Analyse the implementation strategy
- Evaluate the actual managerial arrangements against those outlined in the Project Document;

d) Lessons learned and recommendations

To assist future UNODC programming, the evaluator should list lessons learned (what works, what does not work, and why?), and:

- Recommend, as deemed necessary and feasible, practical changes to the current Project's approach that should be considered for future projects;
- Recommend concrete action that could have been taken to rectify undesired impacts and/or outcomes, and to improve performance;
- Make recommendations with respect to issues related to any variances in the project environment, including work by other government and non-government agencies;

4. EVALUATION METHODS

The evaluation will be based on the review of project documents and other reports, such as work plans, assessments, mission reports, correspondence, data from other organisations, etc. Interviews will be conducted with identified stakeholders at central level in Hanoi, including government counterparts, UNODC, and other relevant agencies and organisations incl. police liaison officers. Field-based visits to 3 (out of 6) of the project provinces (one border with China, one with Laos, one with Cambodia).

A list of suggested agencies and/or individuals to be interviewed at the central and provincial levels (including project beneficiaries) will be developed by the UNODC and the evaluator. Detailed notes with English language summaries should be kept for each interview. The project Administrative Assistant will serve as an interpreter in all meetings with Government agencies. Where appropriate, the evaluator should protect stakeholders' right to provide confidential opinions.

5. EVALUATION TEAM COMPOSITION

The evaluation will be conducted by one international specialist, and this person should meet the following criteria:

- A graduate degree in law or law enforcement or a related discipline (police officer or custom officer), and strong analytical skills;
- Demonstrated project/programme evaluation experience;
- Experience in evaluating drug law enforcement programming is strongly desired;

- At least ten years' experience in drug law enforcement - preferably with experience in programme/project management in Southeast Asia in general, and Viet Nam in particular;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, in difficult conditions, and to meet deadlines;
- Fluency in English and excellent report writing skills.

The evaluator must be independent and impartial, and with no connections to the design, formulation or implementation of the project or any of its outcomes. The evaluator is directed to the "Guiding Principles for Evaluations at UNODC" attached as Annex 1 for further reference on these issues.

6. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The evaluator will work with relevant officials within the executing agency (the UNODC) as well as with project staff and Interdiction Task Force Unit members. The UNODC Technical Adviser will be responsible to meet with the evaluator for briefings and in regard to the agency's respective execution responsibilities. In addition the evaluator may request other meetings with and briefings by other officials or staff related to the project provided they are available and able to meet with the evaluator. After receiving a briefing from the UNODC the evaluation mission will take place for 9 working days (See Annex 3 for draft travel plan). The duty station is Hanoi, but time will be allocated for work in three provincial project field locations.

Meetings with local officials and intended beneficiaries will be facilitated by the UNODC National Project Coordinator. The UNODC Country Office and the Counter-Narcotics Police will be responsible for arranging all necessary field visits and interviews (See Annex 3 for draft list of suggested stakeholder interviewees).

The Project will provide administrative and other support as required, including travel, accommodation, and translation.

All drafts and final reports with applicable annexes and attachments will be submitted in both hard copy and digital formats, and shall be in English. Digital version should be submitted on disk, CD, or via email, and shall be submitted in Microsoft Word format. The expected evaluation outputs include the following:

- A ***draft final report*** written according to UNODC evaluation reporting requirements, with an **executive summary**, immediately after the completion of the field assessment.
- A ***final report*** to the UNODC, Hanoi one week after receipt of UNODC's comments on the draft final report.

A lump sum will be provided to the successful candidate based on his/her qualifications, travel arrangements etc.

Annex 2

Organizations and Places Visited and Persons Met

Counter Narcotics Department Police Hanoi

1. Colonel Vu Hung Vuong, Director of Counter Narcotics Department

Counter Narcotics Department, Border Army. Hanoi

1. Colonel Nguyen Sinh Xo, Director
2. Colonel Le Dinh Huy, Deputy Director
3. Colonel Ho Quang Thai, Head of Professional Department.
4. Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Van Thi, Deputy Head of Staffing Department
5. Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van Phuong, Deputy Head of Staffing Department
6. Colonel Nguyen Manh Toan, Head of Oversea Department
7. Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Van Thanh, Deputy Head of Oversea Department

Anti-Smuggling Department, Customs. Hanoi

1. Mr. Nguyen Van Quy, Deputy Director of Anti-smuggling Department
2. Mr. Nguyen Viet Thanh, Head of Counter Narcotic Session
3. Mr. Nguyen Duc Long, Head of Drug Investigation Session
4. Mr. Le Thanh Hien, Deputy Head of Drug Investigation Session

Standing Office On Drugs Control. Hanoi

1. Col. Bui Xuan Hieu, Head of the International Cooperation and Project Management Department.
2. Col. Ta Duc Ninh, Deputy Head of the International Cooperation and Project Management Department
3. Ms. Hoang Thi Thu Huyen, staff of the International Cooperation and Project Management Department

Son La Province Interdiction Task Force Unit

1. Col. Le Minh Loan – Head of Son La CND, Head of ITFU
2. Vu Duy Dinh, Head of Son La Customs, Deputy Head of ITFU
3. Vu Xuan Luc, Deputy Head of Son La Border Army, Deputy Head of ITFU
4. Nguyen Danh Tung, Staff of Son La Border Army, member of ITFU
5. Tang Dinh The, Staff of Son La customs, member of ITFU
6. Nguyen Tuan Anh, Staff of Son La CND, member of ITFU
7. Cam Huan, Staff of Son La CND, member of ITFU

Lang Son Province Interdiction Task Force Unit

1. Col. Ta Quang Vu, Head of Lang Son CND, Head of ITFU
2. Nguyen Huu Tri, Head of Lang Son customs, Deputy head of ITFU
3. Hoang Van Nam, Deputy head of Lang Son CND
4. Nguyen Duc Cuong, Staff of Lang Son Border Army, member of the ITFU
5. Nong Van Quan, Staff of Lang Son CND, member of the ITFU

Long An Province Interdiction Task Force Unit

1. Col. Do Thanh Phong, Head of Long An CND
2. Nguyen Van Quy, Deputy Head of Long An CND, Head of ITFU
3. Tran Hung Dzung, Deputy Head of Binh Hiep customs, Deputy Head of ITFU
4. Col. Nguyen Van Ca, Head of Counter Narcotic Session, Long An Border Army, member of ITFU
5. Nguyen Van Nuoi, staff of Long An CND, member of the ITFU
6. Nguyen Dac Ke, staff of Long An CND

United States Embassy Hanoi

1. Peter Eckstrom, First Secretary
2. Jeffrey Wanner, Country Attaché, Drugs Enforcement Administration
3. Neil Rubin, Assistant Country Attaché, Drugs Enforcement Administration

British Embassy Hanoi

1. Karen Maddocks, Political Section

Australian Federal Police

1. Stephan Obers, Counsellor, Senior Police Liaison Officer, Hanoi
2. Darren Rath, Senior Liaison Officer, Ho Chi Minh City

Institute of Forensic Science Hanoi

1. Assistant Professor, Dr. Hoang Manh Hung Vice Director

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Hanoi

1. Narumi Yamada, Representative
2. Troels Vester, Technical Advisor, Legal and Law Enforcement
3. Do Dinh Khiem, National Project Coordinator
4. Pham Huu Vuong, Administrative Assistant

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Vienna

1. Soumaya Al Alami, Programme Management Officer

Annex 3

Evaluation and Assessment Questionnaire

Programme/Project Title: Interdiction and Seizure Capacity Building with Special Emphasis on ATS and Precursors

Programme/ Project Number: AD/VIE/03/G55

Introduction:

This assessment form must be completed by the evaluator or evaluation team and submitted to the Independent Evaluation Unit. The purpose of the assessment is to provide information for UNODC evaluation database. This information will be used to provide an overview of UNODC's overall performance of programmes and projects.

Ratings:

The evaluators are required to give a rating to each of the items shown below. The ratings are on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest). Ratings are based on the following criteria:

Excellent	=	5
Very good	=	4
Good	=	3
Fair	=	2
Unsatisfactory	=	1

The ratings must reflect the level of achievement, completion, attainment or impact depending on what is being measured. These ratings are based on the findings of the evaluation and hence are a translation of the evaluation results.

A.	Quality Performance Items	Ratings				
		1	2	3	4	5
1.	Project Design (clarity, logic, coherence)					X
2.	Appropriateness of overall strategy					X
3.	Achievement of objectives					X
4.	Prerequisites fulfilment by Government				X	
5.	Adherence to Project Duration					X
6.	Adherence to Budget					X

B.	Implementation	Ratings				
		1	2	3	4	5

7.	Quality and timeliness of UNODC inputs					X
8.	Quality and timeliness of Government inputs					X
9.	Quality and timeliness of Third Party inputs				X	
10.	UNODC HQ Support (administration, management, backstopping)					X
11.	UNODC FO Support (administration, management, backstopping)					X
12.	Executing Agency Support					X

C.	Results	<i>Ratings</i>				
		1	2	3	4	5
13.	Achievement of results					X
14.	Timeliness and quality of results				X	
15.	Attainment, timeliness and quality of outputs				X	
16.	Programme/project impact				X	
17.	Sustainability of results/benefits				X	

D.	Recommendations	<i>Ratings</i>				
		1	2	3	4	5
18.	Continue/extend no modifications				X	
19.	Continue with modifications (minor, extensive)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
20.	Complete Project Revision	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
21.	Terminate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

E.	<p>Comments (Provide relevant explanations as well as issues of clarification, replicability, best practices etc.)</p> <p>This project was well executed and has been extremely successful in achieving the objectives of the programme.</p> <p>The design of the project and the project document was logical, coherent and set a clear direction for the programme to proceed to a successful conclusion.</p> <p>The elements of the project were delivered and implemented in a timely manner, within budget and in accordance with the projects delivery plan. The backstopping, execution and coordination provided by UNODC Country Office Vietnam was a significant contributory factor in the successful implementation of this project.</p> <p>The results achieved were very good, not only in terms of arrests and seizures of drugs (Appendix 4), but in improving cooperation between the agencies and their collection and sharing of operational information.</p> <p>It is the view of the evaluator that this project should be extended to other selected hotspot provinces within Vietnam; additionally consideration should be given by UNODC Headquarters to scoping the viability of implementing projects with a similar design, strategy and objective to this one in other countries.</p>
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Annex 4

Figures on Drug Seizures

Son La province

In 2003, opened 708 cases, arrested 1,019 criminals, seized 12,282 kg of heroin; 85,19 kg opium; 859 shots of heroin, 3157 tablets of ATS; 65 motorbikes, 8 mobilephones; 4000 USD; 7000 Kip (Laos currency) and 183,799 million Vietnam Dong.

In 2004, opened 736 cases, arrested 1,006 criminals, seized 92,249 kg Heroin, 21,314 kg opium, 10,978 tablets of ATS, 1,936 small bags of heroin; 97 motorbike, 28 mobile phones, 3 radio phones, 50.158 USD, 23,000 kip Laos, 662,901,000 Vietnam dong.

In three years of project implementation Son La Police, Border Army and Customs has opened 1,802 cases, arrested 2,395 criminals, seized 171,033 kg of heroin, 32,326 kg of opium, 22,653 tablets of ATS, 11 vehicles, 217 motobikes, 104 mobile phones, 118,373 USD, 1,880,422,000 Vietnam dong, 43,200 kip Laos.

Lang Son province

In 2004, opened 14 cases, arrested 21 criminals, seized 4,961,138 gram of heroin, 500 tubes of diazepam, 13,161,000 Vietnam dong, 7000 USD, 3 motor bikes, 2 mobile phones.

In 2005, opened 20 cases, arrested 30 criminals, seized 4,973,229 gram of heroin, 970 tubes of diazepam, 578,108,000 Vietnam Dong, 8 motorbikes, 16 mobile phones.

In 2006, open 20 cases, arrested 34 criminals, seized 43,303,211 gram of heroin, 695 gram of faked heroin, 20 tablets of ATS, 800 tubes of diazepam, 41,188,000 Vietnam Dong, 3 vehicels, 9 motorbikes, 18 mobile phones.

Long An province.

The ITFU in total has opened 4 cases, arrested 7 criminals, seized 343,377 gram of heroin, 4,160 kg precusors. Opened 1 case relating to 2 Campuchia criminals transporting 1,000 tables of ATS. In 2006 the precursor seized increased 3,578 kg.