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PRESS RELEASE

**COMBATTING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP 2015:
PROTECTING AND SAVING OUR TIGERS**

Dhaka, August 13, 2015 – Earlier today, U.S. Ambassador Marcia Bernicat and Law Minister of Bangladesh, Honorable Anisul Huq presided over the closing ceremonies for the 2015 *Combating Wildlife Trafficking Workshop: Protecting and Saving our Tigers* at the Police Staff College in Mirpur, Dhaka. The workshop was opened on August 12 by USAID-Bangladesh Mission Director Janina Jaruzelski and Secretary of Forest and Environment Ministry Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed.

Over 60 judges, prosecutors, police, forestry officials, customs officials, Coast Guard officers, NGO representatives and academics from Dhaka, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Chittagong participated in the historic two-day workshop. The event marked the first time in the history of Bangladesh that representatives from all components of the criminal justice system, enforcement agencies and civil society gathered to share their knowledge and establish working relationships to combat wildlife trafficking. The workshop included presentations and panels on the current state of the tiger population in the Sundarbans, interagency cooperation, and wildlife trafficking criminal law, best practices for the investigation and prosecution of wildlife trafficking crime and an action plan for the way forward in combatting wildlife trafficking in Bangladesh.

The symposium was organized and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), the U.S. Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training and Assistance Program (ICITAP), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State’s International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau (INL).

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