

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) on *Compliance and enforcement*, the Conference of the Parties:

DIRECTS the Secretariat to pursue closer international liaison between the Convention's institutions, national enforcement agencies, and existing intergovernmental bodies, particularly the World Customs Organization, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and ICPO-Interpol.
3. At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Secretariat reported the launch of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) in document SC61 Doc.30. This consortium ensures closer communication, collaboration and cooperation between the intergovernmental bodies that have a mandate from their Member States to engage in or support wildlife law enforcement.
4. Since SC61, a number of activities have been conducted under the auspices of ICWC.
5. The first such event to take place was the first *International Workshop on Establishing a Network of Controlled Delivery Units for Forest and Wildlife Law Enforcement*, organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO) from 7 to 9 December 2011, in Shanghai, China¹. The workshop brought together 50 representatives from Customs, police, prosecution and specialized agencies from 18 countries in Africa and Asia [Cameroon, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam]. Substantial financial support for the workshop was obtained through a World Bank grant from funds provided by bilateral donors to the PROFOR (Program on Forests) trust fund. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also provided funds and all ICWC partners made significant contributions in kind.
6. Upon return from this workshop, representatives from the South African Revenue Service (SARS) encouraged the use of controlled deliveries to combat wildlife crime, through discussions with operational SARS officials. The value of the ICWC workshop became evident when, on 29 February 2012, the SARS Customs officials and the South African Police Service (SAPS) arrested a Chinese business man and seized ivory valued at ZAR 7.1 million (approximately USD 832,000), through a successful controlled delivery.
7. The second event was a seminar held on 14 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, for Heads of Police and Customs on Tiger Crime. This seminar was hosted in compliance with Decision 15.48 on *Asian big cats*. Detailed information on this workshop can be found in document SC61 Doc. 43.

¹ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2011/20111219_cd_workshop.php.

8. Even though the primary goal of ICCWC is building long-term capacity amongst enforcement authorities, the consortium also delivered a real-time response to incidents of significant elephant poaching in Cameroon in February 2012. The Secretariat issued a press release² and engaged with the countries concerned as well as with its ICCWC partners to share intelligence that could be used to help bring the perpetrators to justice, locate and confiscate the poached ivory, and help prevent future incidents. The Secretariat also issued CITES Alert No. 43 where it requested Parties to increase enforcement actions against the illegal trade in ivory. The CITES Alert was distributed through INTERPOL channels, encouraging enforcement authorities in the anticipated route through East Africa to be particularly vigilant. UNODC liaised with regional representatives in Africa and the World Bank consulted with the natural resource specialists working on Cameroon. The World Bank also distributed the CITES Alert to senior managers in the World Bank Africa and central Environment Departments, requesting them to monitor any requests for support from government authorities. WCO contacted its African regional liaison officers and distributed the CITES Alert to Customs officers and border stations in the affected region. Authorities from the Netherlands responded by informing the Secretariat that a consignment of 50 elephant tusks coming from Nigeria and destined for Thailand was intercepted on 3 March 2012 at Schiphol Airport.
9. Although it will often be difficult to link individual successes with ICCWC activities, the Secretariat is convinced that the ongoing support provided to enforcement authorities through the consortium will ensure that perpetrators of serious wildlife crimes face a more formidable and coordinated response. ICCWC is taking the fight against wildlife crime to another level through sharing data, analysis, intelligence, enforcement techniques and resources.
10. The CITES Secretary-General seized the opportunity of several international meetings to stress the significance of ICCWC and the synergy it creates between a Convention and implementing agencies: during the discussions on international environment governance at the 26th session of the Governing Council/UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum Panel (Nairobi, February 2012);); the Heads of Police and Customs Tiger Seminar (Bangkok, February 2012); at INTERPOL's first summit of International Chiefs of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (Lyon, March 2012) and at the United States of America Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing (Washington D.C., May 2012).
11. The *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*, commissioned by UNODC in collaboration with its ICCWC partners, will be launched at a side event during the present meeting. The toolkit was mainly designed to assist government officials working in wildlife and forestry administration, Customs and other relevant enforcement agencies to conduct a comprehensive analysis of possible means and measures to protect and monitor wildlife and forest products, and to identify technical assistance needs. In this sense, the toolkit may also be used as training material for law enforcers. Other stakeholders at the international and national levels, including non-governmental entities working in this area, may also find the toolkit useful. At the time of writing this document (early June 2012) the toolkit was available in English only, but the translation into French and Spanish was ongoing through funds provided by the European Commission.
12. ICCWC will continue to raise awareness of wildlife crime amongst the judiciary, politicians, diplomats, policy-makers and decision-makers, so that they may better understand why this area deserves to be a high priority for law enforcement and why they should devote further human and financial resources to it.
13. The threat posed by wildlife crime was brought to the attention of the United Nations Security Council by the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr Yury Fedotov, in his briefing on *Emerging Challenges to International Peace and Security* in November 2011. On 24 May 2012, the CITES Secretary-General also delivered a testimony focused on illegal trade in wildlife at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the United States of America. The written and oral testimony of the CITES Secretary General can be viewed at: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2012/20120525_SG_US-Senate_testimony.php.
14. At the time of writing the Secretariat was in the process of advertising a six-month vacancy for the recruitment of a junior professional to support the work of ICCWC. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for making funds available for this purpose.
15. ICCWC is taking the fight against wildlife crime to another level through sharing data, analysis, intelligence, enforcement techniques and resources; however, ICCWC needs the support of the donor community to

² See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120228_elephant_cameroon.php.

achieve these goals. The CITES Secretariat is aware that it is the only member of ICCWC that has full-time staff funded through the organization's core budget to assist national law enforcement agencies with the detection of and combat against illegal trade in wildlife. Whilst the recognition of the seriousness of wildlife crime amongst the international community, politicians and policy-makers is clearly welcome, it must also be matched by budgetary allocations at national and international levels.

Recommendation

16. The Committee is invited to note this report and to support the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* at the national level, as described in paragraph 11 above. Parties are also encouraged to include the toolkit in their training material for law enforcement officers.