

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



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Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICWC)
STRATEGIC MISSION 2014-2016

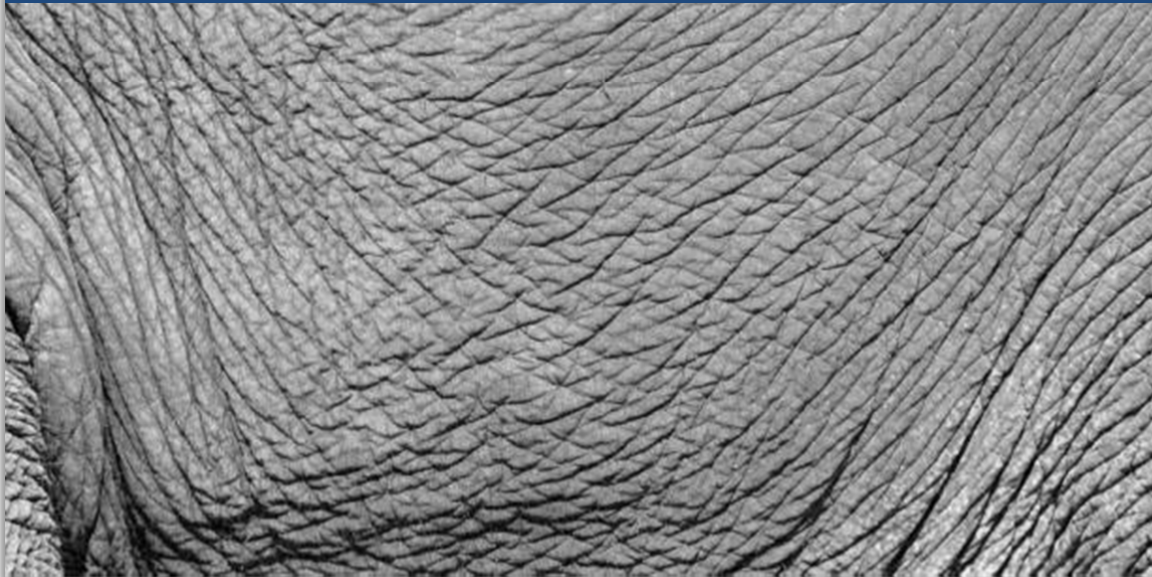
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International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

Strategic Mission

2014 – 2016



THE CHALLENGE

Despite considerable efforts to combat wildlife crime it remains a growing problem worldwide.

The world has confronted illegal wildlife trade for decades, but recent years have seen a spike in the scale of wildlife crime and a change in the nature of this illicit activity. The value of wildlife crime has been estimated at anything from USD 5-20 billion¹ and USD 8-10 billion² a year (excluding timber and marine species), making it a lucrative criminal activity. The increased involvement of organized crime groups has changed the dynamics of combating wildlife crime and law enforcement authorities around the world are facing increasingly difficult and complex situations in their fight against it.

Wildlife and forest crime has become a serious threat to the security, political stability, economy, natural resources and cultural heritage of many countries and regions. It threatens the survival of some of the world's most charismatic species, as well as many lesser-known species, and puts the sustainability of commercially-valuable marine and timber resources at risk. Illicit wildlife trafficking is slowly destroying the natural resources on which national economies and livelihoods depend, and is undermining efforts to eliminate poverty and develop sustainable economic opportunities for rural communities. The involvement of organized criminal networks and at times rebel militia in this crime is driving corruption and regional insecurity, and weakening application of the rule of law.

Reflecting the scale and urgency of the threat, there is increasing recognition of the serious nature of wildlife crime, the risks that it poses, and the need for enhanced and coordinated responses. Recent political attention has focused on recognizing illegal wildlife crime involving organized crime groups as a serious organized crime³ that accordingly demands a determined and coordinated response equal to that deployed against other transnational organized crimes such as trafficking of narcotics, humans or arms. Recent high-level events and summits, including those in New York⁴, Gaborone⁵ and London⁶, have helped secure increased international and national political support to combat wildlife and forest crime.



Ivory seized during Operation COBRA II, a global enforcement operation that took place in January 2014 and involved 28 countries. For more information, see: http://cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2014/20140210_operation_cobra_ii.php. © CITES Secretariat

¹ See Congressional Research Service Report: <http://openocrs.com/document/RL34395/>.

² See Global Financial Integrity Report: <http://transcrime.gfintegrity.org/>.

³ For example, see Resolution 2013/40 adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2013: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/ECOSOC/Resolution_2013-40.pdf. This ECOSOC Resolution was reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 68/193 of 18 December 2013.

⁴ The African Elephant Summit was held in Gaborone on 2-4 December 2013, see: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/who_we_are/ssc_specialist_groups_and_red_list_authorities_directory/mammals/african_elephant/summit/.

⁵ A high-level panel discussion on "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking – a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community" was held in New York on 26 September 2013, see: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2013/20130926_unga_side-event.php.

⁶ The London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade was held in London on 12-13 February 2014, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade>.



Joint UN Office on Drugs and Crime/ World Customs Organization container control programme: containers at the port of Balboa, Panama City. For more information, see: <https://www.unodc.org/ropan/en/BorderControl/container-control/ccp.html> © UNODC

ICCWC's mission is to usher in a new era where the perpetrators of serious wildlife crimes face a formidable and coordinated response

ICCWC's RESPONSE

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is based upon a bold, yet straightforward, idea – that five international organizations with mandates and expertise related to the wildlife law enforcement chain could, by aligning their efforts, provide a catalyst for significantly enhanced global cooperation and capacity to combat wildlife and forest crimes.

ICCWC is a collaboration between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). ICCWC's purpose is to bring coordinated support to wildlife law enforcement agencies and networks at national, regional and global levels.

By working collaboratively, the five organizations form a unique pool of technical and programming expertise, including the implementation of sustainable use frameworks for legal trade in wild fauna and flora, policing and Customs control, combating transnational organized crime and corruption, and mobilization of holistic investment programmes and technical assistance to support developing countries.

The consortium is supported by a Letter of Understanding⁷ between the five organizations to work collaboratively to support national law enforcement agencies and regional enforcement networks, facilitate national multi-agency cooperation, assist countries to review their current responses to wildlife crime, and jointly develop capacity-building materials and tools to enhance the skills of national enforcement agencies in combating wildlife crime.

Building on this collaborative support, ICCWC also provides a significant opportunity for the five organizations to speak collectively – to governments, policy-makers, NGOs, the donor community and the public – to raise awareness and support for the actions required to combat wildlife and forest crimes.

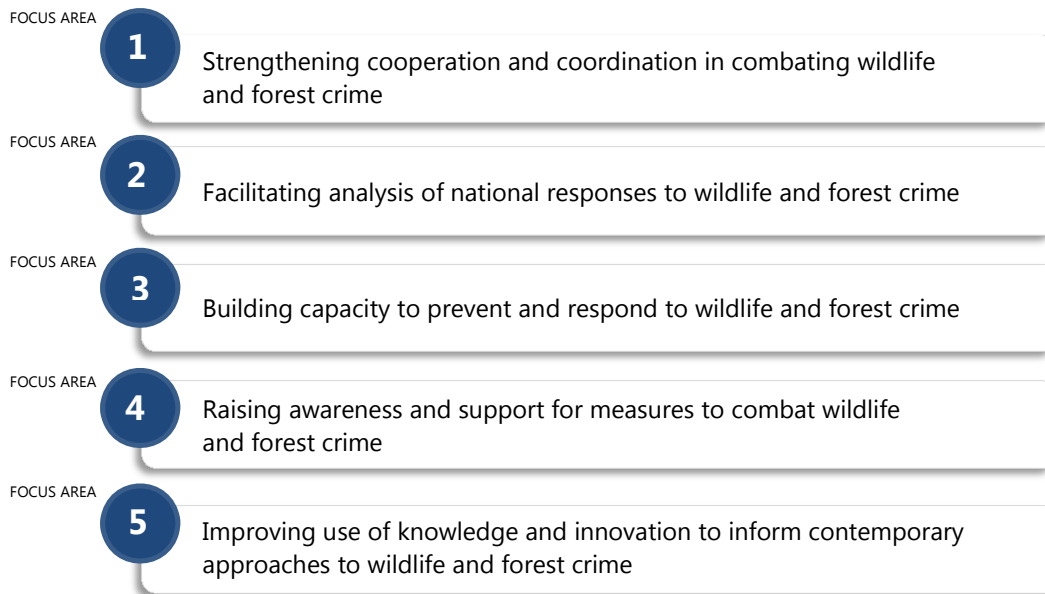
⁷ See the ICCWC Letter of Understanding at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc/mou.php>.

ICCWC's FOCUS AREAS

ICCWC's mission is to ensure that the perpetrators of serious wildlife and forest crimes face a formidable and coordinated law enforcement response. This document – the *ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016* – provides an overview of where ICCWC would like to focus its efforts in pursuit of this mission.

Importantly, the activities delivered by ICCWC are also guided by the strategic plans and work programmes of the five organizations (see Box 1) which are used to identify opportunities to work together to support the mission of ICCWC.

This *ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016* outlines five broad areas of focus for ICCWC activity:



These focus areas represent fields in which ICCWC is uniquely-placed to make a contribution based on the diverse technical expertise, regional networks and on-ground experience of the five organizations.

The *ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016* provides guidance on the types of activities to be pursued by ICCWC and will be supported by more detailed planning of activities coordinated by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group⁸. The five focus areas and their supporting strategies will provide a framework for organizing the activities conducted by ICCWC and, in doing so, will help identify funding gaps and opportunities for donor contributions. Potential new ICCWC activities will also be pursued opportunistically.

⁸ The ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG) comprises technical specialists from all five organizations. The SEG meets quarterly to discuss ICCWC activities and matters related to ICCWC, and holds monthly teleconferences between face-to-face meetings. The SEG is Chaired by the CITES Secretariat.

While all five organizations make a substantial in-kind commitment to ICCWC delivery, the consortium also requires the support of the donor community. The support of generous donors to date⁹ has allowed for the delivery of many activities that have enhanced on-ground responses to wildlife crime at national, regional and global levels. ICCWC welcomes further donor support to develop and deliver activities aligned to ICCWC's focus areas and their supporting strategies.

Box 1: Strategic settings of the five organizations that help guide ICCWC activities



- CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020
(<http://www.cites.org/eng/res/16/16-03.php>)
- CITES Conference of the Parties Resolutions and Decisions
(<http://www.cites.org/eng/res/index.php>; <http://www.cites.org/eng/dec/index.php>)
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets
(<http://www.cbd.int/sp/>)



- INTERPOL Strategic Framework 2014-2016
(<http://www.interpol.int/About-INTERPOL/Priorities>)



- UNODC Strategy 2012-2015
(<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/about-unodc/unodc-strategy.html>)
- Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime
(<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime/global-programme.html>)



- World Bank Group Goals 2013
(<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/WB-goals2013.pdf>)



- WCO Strategic Plan 2013/2014 - 2015/2016
(<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/what-is-the-wco/strategic-plan.aspx>)

⁹ ICCWC's on-ground work has been supported by generous contributions from the European Commission, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the World Bank Development Grant Facility.

FOCUS AREA



Strengthening cooperation and coordination in combating wildlife and forest crime

Wildlife and forest crime is complex, resulting from the interplay of many factors – environmental, cultural, economic and social – and involving a wide variety of actors, sometimes operating in transnational organized criminal networks. This complexity needs to be addressed by coordinated and multi-sectoral approaches to combating wildlife crime that consider all players of the enforcement chain, and source, transit and destination States – and that equally consider the prevention of crime alongside reactive enforcement. This sense of cooperation needs to extend to the sharing of information to promote intelligence-led enforcement and ensure that the design of law enforcement responses is based upon the best available information.

With the different – yet complementary – mandates of the five organizations and their comprehensive network of regional field offices, ICCWC is uniquely-placed to promote and facilitate collaborative approaches to wildlife crime. In addition, ICCWC's experience in real-time communication and information exchange tools – such as INTERPOL's I-24/7 Global Police Communication System and databases, and the WCO Customs Enforcement Network (WCO CEN) and WCO ENVIRONET¹⁰ – provides a strong foundation for facilitating more effective sharing and use of information.



Participants at the first global meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks held during CITES CoP16 in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013. The meeting was convened by ICCWC with the generous support of the US Department of State. For more information, see: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130715_wen_report.php. © CITES Secretariat

Strategies

- 1.1 Support the development and enhancement of regional law enforcement networks, joint operations, high-level meetings, and other cooperative mechanisms at global, regional and subregional levels, to help improve collaboration and coordination across source, transit and destination countries
- 1.2 Support the development and enhancement of inter-agency committees, task forces and other cooperative mechanisms involving Customs, Police, wildlife law enforcement agencies, specialized law enforcement agencies and prosecutors at the national level to help promote multi-disciplinary approaches to combating wildlife crime
- 1.3 Use international agreements and commitments to establish mutually-agreed strategies to combat wildlife crime and to harmonize legislative approaches
- 1.4 Promote real-time information sharing through the use of secure and cutting-edge law enforcement communication services and tools
- 1.5 Promote holistic responses to wildlife and forest crime that address prevention of crime as well as reactive enforcement, and that help build understanding of the relationship between wildlife and forest crime and broader rural and sustainable livelihood issues

¹⁰ For more information on these INTERPOL and WCO communication and information-sharing tools, see: <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>.

FOCUS AREA

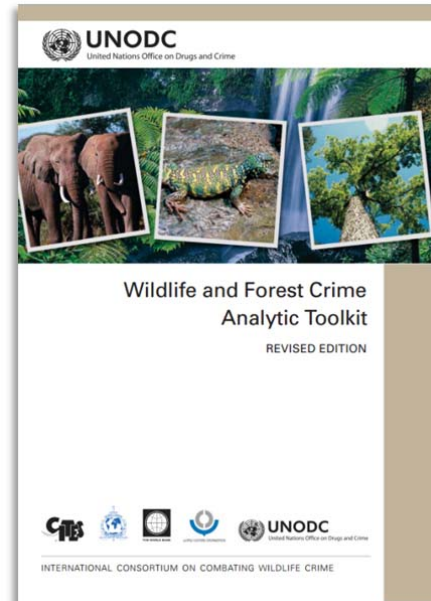
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Facilitating analysis of national responses to wildlife and forest crime

There is no 'one size fits all' approach to combating wildlife crime. The scale, patterns and drivers of crime are not universal and depend upon local contexts and factors. Similarly, there are great differences between national approaches to wildlife and forest crime, based upon the local dynamics of crime, and upon factors such as legislation, levels of resourcing, political support and cultural considerations.

Despite best efforts, current approaches might not be completely effective against the crime that they seek to combat – national legislation might be inadequate, enforcement efforts might not be targeted to match local patterns of crime, or the underlying drivers of crime may not be given adequate consideration. The assessment of responses to wildlife and forest crime, led by national governments and based on an understanding of locally-relevant issues and needs, should be used as the foundation of any capacity-building activities.

The *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*¹¹ is one of the flagship products of the consortium. The Toolkit provides a systematic framework to help countries assess their national response to wildlife and forest crime, ranging from their legal framework and enforcement capacity, to the operation of their judiciary and an understanding of whether the drivers of wildlife crime are being holistically addressed. Subject to available resources, ICCWC can provide support to help governments implement the Toolkit. This assistance is underpinned by the consortium's diverse technical expertise, including UNODC's analytical skills at identifying the strengths and weaknesses of responses to crime, and the World Bank's experience at developing and mobilizing large-scale investment programmes to build capacity in developing countries.



The *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* helps governments assess their preventative and law enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime. © UNODC

Strategies

- 2.1 Facilitate the assessment of administrative, preventative and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime and the identification of technical assistance needs by promoting and supporting the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* by national governments.
- 2.2 Promote the collection, collation and analysis of data to inform assessments of national responses to wildlife crime and to monitor the effectiveness of capacity-building interventions
- 2.3 Promote and support the mobilization of investment in accordance with the results of needs assessments

¹¹ The ICCWC Toolkit can be viewed at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_e.pdf (English), http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_f.pdf (French), http://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_s.pdf (Spanish).

FOCUS AREA



Building capacity to prevent and respond to wildlife and forest crime

National wildlife law enforcement agencies, especially those in developing countries, face many challenges including a lack of equipment and limited training opportunities. Additionally, as the scale and nature of wildlife and forest crime has changed, so too have the type of responses required to effectively combat it. Serious wildlife crime is best addressed through a combination of specialized investigation techniques alongside conventional wildlife crime responses, yet national enforcement agencies are not always aware of the range of techniques available or may lack the skills or technical capacity to apply them. Improving the long-term operational capacity of national enforcement agencies is at the centre of ICCWC's approach. The consortium aims to deliver a wide range of capacity-building activities – tailor-made to reflect local needs and individual situations – to support the work of national enforcement agencies and regional enforcement networks, and to build the awareness of all parties in the enforcement chain including prosecutors and the judiciary. In particular, ICCWC seeks to build capacity in the use of specialized investigation techniques deployed against serious crime, such as covert operations, controlled deliveries, anti-money-laundering and forensic analysis.

ICCWC's capacity-building programme is supported by the knowledge gained through in-country implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit along with knowledge of common gaps and weaknesses in enforcement responses. The five organizations have extensive experience in developing and delivering comprehensive training programmes for law enforcement officials, ranging from hands-on workshops to e-learning modules. ICCWC also has the operational capacity to deploy enforcement staff or relevant experts at the request of a country, to provide investigative assistance and support law enforcement efforts in the absence of relevant national capacity¹².



ICCWC WIST (Wildlife Incident Support Team) in action in Sri Lanka preparing to take DNA samples from a large-scale ivory seizure. © INTERPOL

Strategies

- 3.1 Develop and deliver capacity-building programmes across the entire enforcement chain
- 3.2 Develop and deliver training events and materials to facilitate the increased use of the specialized investigation techniques used to combat other serious crimes against wildlife and forest crime
- 3.3. Develop and deliver training events and materials to facilitate the increased use of forensic technology to combat wildlife and forest crime
- 3.4 Develop and deliver training events and materials to facilitate the increased use of the tools and databases available through ICCWC organizations
- 3.5 Develop and deliver programmes to combat corruption
- 3.6 Provide investigative assistance in support of national and regional investigations

¹² For example, read about the INTERPOL Wildlife Incident Support Team deployed to Sri Lanka on behalf of ICCWC: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130725_icwc_wist_Srilanka.php.

FOCUS AREA



Increasing awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime

Many people are not aware of the scale of wildlife crime and the significant threat that it poses to individual species and ecosystems, or of its broader consequences for economies, livelihoods and regional security. Similarly, there is often poor understanding around what constitutes ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ trade in wildlife and forest products. Raising awareness of these issues is pivotal to help reduce the global demand for illicit products and to build high-level political support for combating wildlife crime. While the increasing political attention that has been observed in recent years is positive, the allocation of resources and priority given to combating wildlife crime is not yet commensurate with the scale of the problem or the significance of its impacts.

ICCWC uses the global reach of its organizations, and its extensive networks, to influence agendas to better acknowledge the threats posed by wildlife crime and further enhance responses to it. This is matched by the consortium’s broad understanding of the complexity of the issues driving and related to wildlife crime, including knowledge of the areas in which building public and/or stakeholder awareness will be critical to success.

Strategies

- 4.1 Encourage the recognition of wildlife crime as serious crime at national and international levels including by promoting the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- 4.2 Encourage increased political support to combat wildlife crime, including the provision of additional financial resources from multiple sources and increased budgets at national levels
- 4.3 Conduct events and other activities to raise public awareness of wildlife and forest crime, and of frameworks for legal trade in wild fauna and flora
- 4.4 Promote the full implementation of enforcement-related CITES Resolutions and Decisions
- 4.5 Identify and explore opportunities where ICCWC can be used as a platform to speak collectively and authoritatively on wildlife crime to influence agendas and behaviors
- 4.6 Explore and capitalize on opportunities to engage and partner with non-government organizations, research and academic institutions, and the private sector, to build support for and action against wildlife crime



High-level representatives during an ICCWC Ministerial Roundtable on Combating Wildlife Crime held during CITES CoP 16 in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013, with the generous support of Sweden. For more information, see: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130305_ministerial.php. © CITES Secretariat

FOCUS AREA

5

Improving use of knowledge and innovation to inform contemporary approaches to wildlife and forest crime

Current responses to wildlife crime are undermined by a lack of knowledge and gaps in our understanding of the scale and dynamics of crime, its drivers and emerging trends. Targeted research is required to help improve understanding of the scale and value of wildlife crime, and to identify, test and develop new and innovative approaches that may prove useful in the fight against wildlife crime, including cutting-edge technologies such as forensic DNA analysis techniques. Enhancing the collection and use of knowledge, and supporting innovation, will help ensure that approaches to combating wildlife crime continue to evolve and improve into the future, based on the best available information, and on bold and inventive ideas.

ICCWC uses its existing partnerships with research and academic institutions to support its work against this focus area. The five organizations have engaged in extensive research into crime and also effective ways of combating it. ICCWC organizations also have expertise in knowledge management and use, and between them administer a broad range of knowledge management, information storage and exchange tools¹³.

Strategies

- 5.1 Encourage the collation and analysis of data to improve knowledge of wildlife crime trends and emerging issues
- 5.2 Encourage the use of information tools and databases that adhere to international standards
- 5.3 Promote and support research into the drivers, nature, scale and value of wildlife and forest crime
- 5.4 Promote and support research, pilots and proof-of-concept investigations to explore the potential for innovative and cutting-edge technologies, including forensic analysis, to be used to combat wildlife crime



DNA sampling is being used to help combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal trade in rhinoceros horn. For more information, see: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131106_forensics.php. © CITES Secretariat

¹³ For example, see the CITES Virtual College and other knowledge and communication tools at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>.

ICCWC ORGANIZATIONS



The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) establishes an international legal framework and common procedures for the strictest control of international commercial trade in species threatened with extinction, and for the effective regulation of international trade in others. The CITES Secretariat works to ensure that international trade in wild flora and fauna is legal, sustainable and traceable.

<http://www.cites.org>



INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 190 member countries. Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime. INTERPOL's General Secretariat has a Sub-Directorate devoted to environmental security.

<http://www.interpol.int>



UNODC is the global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and transnational organized crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices.

<http://www.unodc.org>



The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. Its mission is to fight poverty and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors. The Bank supports a global programme of technical assistance on anti-money laundering and has played a leading role in international efforts to strengthen forest law enforcement and governance.

<http://www.worldbank.org>



The World Customs Organization is the only intergovernmental organization exclusively focussed on Customs matters. The WCO is recognized as the voice of the global Customs community and is particularly noted for its work in areas covering the development of global standards, the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures, the facilitation of international trade, trade supply chain security, the enhancement of Customs enforcement and compliance activities, anti-counterfeiting and piracy initiatives, public-private partnerships, integrity promotion and sustainable global Customs capacity-building programmes.

<http://www.wcoomd.org>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Discover more at the ICCWC web portal: <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>

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