

WILDLIFE CRIME LINKED TO THE INTERNET

Practical Guidelines for Law Enforcement Practitioners

MARCH 2021

INTERPOL - RESTRICTED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Guide – Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet. Practical Guidelines for Law Enforcement Practitioners – was developed by the INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme (ENS), at the request of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, to implement the relevant provisions of Decision 17.93, paragraph d), adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016). This Decision inter alia directed the CITES Secretariat to engage with INTERPOL on efforts to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet, and to invite INTERPOL to develop guidelines for Parties¹ on how to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet more effectively.

It is believed that these guidelines will be of great value to member States in scaling up their efforts to address wildlife crime linked to the Internet. Member States are encouraged to in accordance with Decision 18.82 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), as may be needed, make full use of the guidelines in their investigation of cases of wildlife crime linked to the Internet.

INTERPOL would like to express its gratitude to – in alphabetical order: the Adessium Foundation, the CITES Secretariat, the European Commission, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for their expertise and generosity in creating this Guide.

INTERPOL would also like to thank the individual experts who kindly contributed their knowledge and experience to this Guide at various stages in its development. INTERPOL ENS internally consulted with the Cyberspace and New Technologies Laboratory of the Innovation Centre Directorate and externally consulted with specialists working in the Homeland Security Investigations of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Wildlife Asia Activity of the United States Agency for International Development, and the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit of the Stirling Police Office.

NOTE The full version of the guidelines is restricted to law enforcment authorities only. The document is

available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish upon request to INTERPOL

(<u>environmentalcrime@interpol.int</u>) via each country's respective National Central Bureau.