EUROPEAN UNION’S BEST PRACTICES IN FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME LINKED TO THE INTERNET

Report for law enforcement practitioners

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This report – “EU Best Practices in Fighting Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet” – was drawn up by the INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme (ENS) as a product of the EU Wildlife Cybercrime Project to compile existing best practices from European Union (EU) enforcement authorities and other relevant agencies regarding the methods and tools used to investigate wildlife crime linked to the Internet.

The purpose of this report is to raise awareness among EU Member States about the methods used to fight wildlife crime linked to the Internet and, accordingly, assist them in scaling up their efforts to address this crime trend. Where appropriate, Member States are encouraged to make full use of the Report in their investigations of cases of wildlife crime linked to the Internet in accordance with EU Directives. At the same time, the report also contributes towards Decision 18.84 paragraph a) adopted by the 18th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18) regarding best practices and model domestic measures for addressing wildlife crime linked to the Internet.

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INTERPOL would also like to thank the experts who agreed to participate in the interviews and review the document. Their knowledge and experience is invaluable. For reviewing purposes, ENS consulted the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat and EUROPOL as well as some partners belonging to the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), TRAFFIC and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
Transnational organized criminal groups exploit wildlife across the globe, threatening protected species, affecting vulnerable communities, undermining national economies, jeopardizing food security and, most notably, increasing the risk of spreading infectious diseases. Since 2010, INTERPOL, through its Environmental Security Programme (ENS), is supporting Member Countries in the fight against environmental crime – included wildlife crime and its facilitation via Internet.

Within this context, the report "European Union’s Best Practices in Fighting Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet" is the result of INTERPOL’s partnership with the European Union (EU) Wildlife Cybercrime Project, supported by the EU Internal Security Fund — Police.

The recommendations provided in this report should not be interpreted as inciting the readers to adopt practices or conduct activities non-compliant with the applicable legal framework. INTERPOL does not endorse or recommend any commercial product, process, tool, software or service. Any mention of commercial products, processes, tools, software or services in this report cannot be construed as an endorsement or recommendation.

Any quotes from outside experts included in this report are included for informational purposes only, have not been edited by INTERPOL, and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of INTERPOL, its Member Countries, its governing bodies, or contributory organizations.

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# CONTENT

Acknowledgements........................................................................................................3
Disclaimer ..........................................................................................................................4
Executive Summary .........................................................................................................5
Introduction .......................................................................................................................8

1. Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet .........................................................................10
   1.1 General Overview of Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet ............................10
   1.2 Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet in the European Union ..................11

2. Methodology ..................................................................................................................13

3. Best practices ................................................................................................................16
   3.1 Legal Framework .................................................................................................16
      3.1.1 National approach to addressing wildlife crime linked to the Internet .16
      3.1.2 Enforcing the national approach .................................................................20
   3.2 Case Building .......................................................................................................26
   3.3 Investigation Tools and Techniques .....................................................................29
      3.3.1 Investigation Tools .......................................................................................29
      3.3.2 Investigation Techniques .............................................................................31
   3.4 Cooperation ..........................................................................................................33
      3.4.1 National Law Enforcement Cooperation ..................................................33
      3.4.2 Transnational Law Enforcement Cooperation ..........................................33
      3.4.3 Cooperation with Non-Law Enforcement Bodies ....................................38

Conclusions and Recommendations ...........................................................................41

Annex I: Questionnaire .....................................................................................................43
Annex II: Interviewed Countries and Agencies ..............................................................45
Annex III: Investigation and forensic tools ......................................................................46
Annex IV: Manuals for Law Enforcement ......................................................................47
NOTE:

This document is restricted to law enforcement only.

The full version of the guidelines is available via INTERPOL and CITES through their respective restricted access libraries as well as on the CITES Virtual College (restricted access) and on ENVIRONET.