



## MONEY LAUNDERING AND WILDLIFE CRIME ASSESSING THE RISK IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

*Perpetrators of wildlife crime use sophisticated techniques to disguise and legitimize illicit profits. They exploit weaknesses in a country's anti-money laundering controls to enable these proceeds to circulate undetected in the financial system. In Côte d'Ivoire, ICCWC is working to raise awareness of the scale of wildlife crime impacting the country, and identify the factors that may render the country attractive to money laundering activities. By understanding these vulnerabilities, steps can be taken to strengthen the financial system, and assist law enforcement authorities to better detect and disrupt illicit money flows generated from the illegal wildlife trade.*



“Inadequate measures are being undertaken to mitigate the risks of wildlife crime and associated money-laundering.”  
- [World Wildlife Crime Report 2020](#)

scope of the proceeds generated by wildlife crime and the associated money laundering and terrorist financing risks.

The assessment findings enabled Côte d'Ivoire to develop an action plan to build capacity in the private and public sectors to tackle this issue. Support to law enforcement aims to strengthen their ability to detect and pursue suspicious financial flows, strengthen prosecutions, and ultimately recover the proceeds of these crimes.

### IMPACT

#### Money-Laundering Risk Assessment tools have helped Côte d'Ivoire to:

- ✓ Mobilize multiple stakeholders for a coordinated national response against wildlife crime
- ✓ Analyze current drivers, methods and trends in money laundering
- ✓ Identify sectors (such as lawyers, real estate) being used for money laundering
- ✓ Train law enforcement, financial intelligence, and industry to detect suspicious financial flows
- ✓ Build tougher court cases against wildlife crimes and associated money-laundering

Wildlife crime is one of the most lucrative of organized crimes in the world, generating billions of dollars in illegal income annually. These large volumes of illicit proceeds require sophisticated money-laundering schemes, often involving the use of shell companies, third party transfers and transfers across jurisdictions to hide the source and beneficiaries of the funds. Globally, government actions to combat these illicit money flows have so far been limited and disproportionate to the scale of these crimes.

ICCWC recently developed and tested an environmental crime risk assessment tool in Côte d'Ivoire. Led by the World Bank Group and complementing the broader money laundering and terrorism financing National Risk Assessment process the country was undertaking, the tool helped wildlife stakeholders to better understand the

## MONEY-LAUNDERING RISK ASSESSMENT



ICCWC's money-laundering risk assessment tool helps countries look at wildlife crime as part of their national risk assessment for money laundering and financing of terrorism. It advocates a “follow the money” approach to wildlife crime investigations as a means of dismantling criminal networks by going after the proceeds generated from wildlife crimes.

## DID YOU KNOW?



have been used by  
**100+ COUNTRIES**

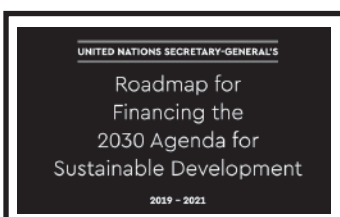


**US \$38-76 MILLION**

is lost in tax revenue  
annually from illegal  
logging alone  
WBG Report, 2019



Despite increasing efforts by Côte d'Ivoire to tackle illegal trade, the country has emerged as a hub for wildlife trafficking, illegal logging and fishing. Government actions need to focus on adopting an holistic national environmental crime strategy and strengthening prosecutions and judiciary processes, including financial investigations and the recovery of illicit proceeds generated by environmental crimes.



ICCWC's work supports the UN Secretary General's "Roadmap for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," which calls for accelerated action in combatting illicit financial flows, money laundering and environmental degradation.



The UN, G7, G20 and other international bodies have recognized the need to criminalize illicit wildlife trafficking and to integrate parallel financial crime investigations into wildlife crime investigations.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

ICCWC will continue to support **Côte d'Ivoire** as it implements its new anti-money laundering and financial terrorism strategy. Training sessions are planned for law enforcement, financial intelligence and environmental protection authorities which will develop their expertise in conducting financial investigations, as well as support to financial supervisory authorities to ensure illicit proceeds from wildlife crime are detected and cases successfully tried in court.

The Environmental and Natural Resource Crime assessment tool has been delivered in **Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda and Zimbabwe** and is on-going in the **Central Africa Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Zambia**; it is also programmed in the upcoming National Risk Assessments of **Maldives, Vietnam and Cambodia**.

United under the banner of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), these five inter-governmental organizations form a unique pool of complementary expertise, providing a holistic approach to combating wildlife crime along the entire criminal justice chain.



ICCWC's work to conduct national money laundering risk assessments related to wildlife crime is generously supported by:



Questions? [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)