



KATE BROOKS/REDUX PICTURES

Guidelines on Methods and Procedures for Ivory Sampling and Laboratory Analysis

THE GUIDELINES ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR PARTS:



CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT



SAMPLING AND LABORATORY ANALYSIS



INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS AND USE OF DATA



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Elephant poaching levels remain of serious concern and continued vigilance is essential. Led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) developed *Guidelines on methods and procedures for ivory sampling and laboratory analysis* to support the deployment of forensic technology to combat elephant poaching. The Guidelines cover the whole chain of custody, from the crime scene to the courtroom.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to ensure that forensic data are credible and admissible, appropriate methods and procedures must be used throughout the investigation process, from crime scene management, sample collection and shipping, forensic analysis, interpretation of results, and database maintenance. These Guidelines were developed as a guide to best practices and procedures.

The Guidelines are divided into four parts.

1. Crime scene management.
2. Available methods and procedures to identify and analyse ivory specimens, to determine species, age and geographical origin, and to link samples to individual elephants.
3. Guidance for interpreting scientific data and properly describing results to law enforcement and the judiciary.
4. Discussion of the importance of international cooperation in the fight against wildlife crime.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Guidelines are designed for first responders, investigators, law enforcement officials, forensic scientists, prosecutors and the judiciary, all of whom have essential parts to play in the investigation of cases involving large-scale ivory seizures. The Guidelines aim to inform these key players about how to appropriately collect and submit specimens to wildlife forensic facilities.

BENEFITS OF GUIDELINES

The use of laboratory analysis to generate intelligence data to identify the areas where seized wildlife specimens originated can increase efficiency of law enforcement responses by ensuring that resources are directed to those areas where the most significant poaching of elephants or illegal ivory harvesting occur. In recent years, advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis have provided a powerful tool to assist crime investigators and prosecutors. The CITES Secretariat promotes the use of forensic analysis results from samples that have been submitted in support of ongoing investigations by national authorities. Determining the origin of large ivory seizures can also assist authorities in identifying current and potential poaching “hotspots”. Such knowledge can, in turn, assist law enforcement responses by ensuring that resources are targeted more effectively. Information on the origin of seized ivory arising from forensic analysis of ivory samples, would greatly benefit and complement the analyses and reporting of Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS).



PHOTO TAKEN FROM THE ICCWC TRAINING VIDEO

To access the ICCWC training video on Methods and Procedures for Ivory Sampling and Laboratory Analysis, visit:

English: <https://youtu.be/TqwqLlO-R7k>

Arabic: <https://youtu.be/HX0bfEc59Uc>

Chinese: https://youtu.be/LRw-qZ2i3_o

French: <https://youtu.be/vM6Vr2zmPyA>

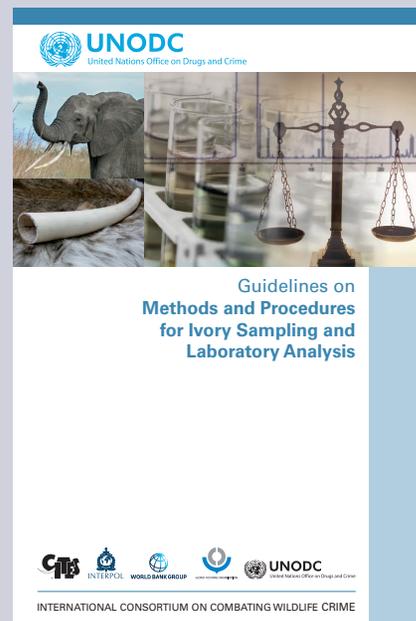
Under the umbrella of ICCWC, the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) are working together to bring coordinated support to wildlife law enforcement agencies and networks at national, regional and global levels to enhance global cooperation and capacity to combat wildlife and forest crimes.



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To find out more visit:
https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Guidelines_Ivory.pdf or
<https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

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