



**Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime  
Bangkok, Thailand – 13-14 February 2012**

**Final Report**

## **Executive Summary**

The “Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime” was hosted by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) on 13-14 February 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The seminar came about through a Decision made by the Parties to the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties held in Doha in 2010, which called for such a meeting to be held in order to brief senior police and customs officers on the threatened status of tigers, and the impact wildlife crime has upon them.

The Seminar also served as a progression of the Global Tiger Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 21 - 24 November 2010 during which Heads of Government from all tiger range countries declared their intention by working collaboratively, to double the number of wild tigers across their range by 2022.

The Seminar was intended for the most senior national officer of Customs and Police Agencies. One participant from each agency of the thirteen tiger range countries was invited. Other delegates included senior representatives from the ICWC partner organisations, and key partners from the tiger conservation movement.

The outcomes of the meeting included a list of challenges to an effective criminal justice response to wildlife crime. More significantly, many practical and achievable solutions were identified by the national enforcement officers. It is hoped that this list may be used by those agencies represented and considered as the professional advice of the enforcement community from tiger range countries.

### **International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)**

In November 2010, five inter-governmental organizations joined together to form ICWC. These organizations are: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the World Bank. Together they aim to combat wildlife crime through the combination of their collaborative strengths, by bringing coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defence of natural resources.

The “Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime” was one of the first activities to be conducted by ICWC and provided an opportunity to explore the needs of senior law enforcement officers and demonstrate to them the services that ICWC can provide both as a consortium and with the services offered by each member.

### **Logistics and Funding**

The Seminar was jointly funded by the CITES Secretariat and the World Bank with in-kind financial support from the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme. The meeting was organised by INTERPOL on behalf of ICWC.

## **Rationale**

Environmental crime has a serious negative effect on the environment, biodiversity and human security. As a result of this, environmental crime is a serious international problem that can have a detrimental impact on global economy and security. Criminals violate national and international laws and treaties, contributing to the erosion and instability of governance and infrastructure.

There are thirteen tiger range states and today the largest tiger population is located in India. The tiger is a highly endangered species and may be close to extinction in many of these range states.

Besides the need to conserve tigers themselves, the tiger may be considered a symbol of our ability to effectively combat wildlife crime and more broadly environmental crime. Threats challenging the fate of wild tigers are well documented and known, as are the measures necessary to reverse the decline of tigers and particularly to address crime which impacts tiger populations, prey, and habitat. Therefore, the tiger may be considered a test of our ability and will to conserve wildlife and the environment. If we can effectively build and sustain the entire enforcement system for the tiger, we will help save countless other species together with their ecosystems.

Wildlife crime today has all the hallmarks of organized and sophisticated crime and there is a need for a more coordinated enforcement effort across different agencies and at different levels to effectively tackle tiger crime.

Wildlife crime is often a low priority enforcement issue. However, it has evolved into serious transnational organised crime over time and needs to be elevated into the agenda of mainstream law enforcement. The skills, resources and investigation techniques of mainstream law enforcement are required to effectively combat wildlife crime.

The Seminar aimed to enhance awareness and raise the status of wildlife crime amongst police and customs authorities. It also aimed to further explore how the region's key law enforcement agencies can contribute to ensure that tigers never disappear as a result of criminal activity, which is one of the most significant threats to the species.

### **The St Petersburg Declaration**

The St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation (Russia, November 23, 2010) states:

"We, the Heads of the Governments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, being custodians of the last remaining tigers in the wild, having gathered at an unprecedented Global Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 21 - 24 November 2010, with the common goal of tiger conservation;

Strive to double the number of wild tigers across their range by 2022 by working collaboratively to eradicate poaching, smuggling, and illegal trade of tigers, their parts, and

derivatives through:

1. Strengthened national legislation, institutions, and law enforcement to combat crime directed against tigers;
2. Strengthened regional law enforcement activities through bilateral and multilateral arrangements such as Association of South East Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SA-WEN), and the Protocol between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Russian Federation on Tiger Protection;
3. Strengthened international collaboration, coordination, and communication;
4. Specialized expertise, where relevant, from international organizations including the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank, and the World Customs Organization, (recognizing that some of these agencies may, themselves, require additional resources); and
5. Long-term national and global programs to create awareness of the value of wild tigers and their ecosystems and thus eliminate the illicit demand for tigers and their parts."

#### **CITES Decision 15.48**

Decision (15.48) was adopted at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held in Doha in 2010. The Decision states:

"The Secretariat shall seek funds to convene, as soon as possible, a seminar involving senior-level Customs and police officers from tiger range States, to brief them on the threatened status of this species, particularly the impact wildlife crime has upon it. The officials shall also be briefed by the Secretariat regarding the Global Tiger Summit, planned under the Global Tiger Initiative, so that the law enforcement community throughout tiger range States is prepared to engage in efforts to safeguard this species and respond to measures adopted at the Summit. The Secretariat shall collaborate with ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization in preparing the seminar. The Secretariat shall report on the outcomes of the seminar at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee."

## **Objectives**

The Seminar objectives were:

1. To raise institutional awareness of the impact that criminals have on the existence of wild tigers,
2. To share expertise, make recommendations and develop enforcement strategies to tackle tiger crime,
3. To enhance national and international cooperation and collaboration between police and customs agencies with respect to combating tiger crime,
4. To recognise INTERPOL's "Project Predator", which aims to develop the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and establishing National Environmental Security Task Forces.

## Participants

The Seminar was attended by 64 participants who included 26 police and customs delegates from tiger range countries, 16 representatives of ICCWC organisations, and 22 partner organisations and observers.

All tiger range countries were represented by senior national delegates.

Observers included representatives from regional enforcement networks, national wildlife departments, national donor/aid agencies, independent experts and non-governmental organisations.

A significant number of journalists and representatives of local and international press agencies attended the Seminar under the coordination of the Communications Team of the UNODC Regional Office for Asia Pacific. Recorded and live interviews were conducted with delegates, particularly ICCWC representatives, and media coverage was extensive.

A full list of attendees is attached as Appendix I.

## Agenda

The Seminar formally commenced with an opening ceremony on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012, jointly with that of the INTERPOL 23rd Wildlife Crime Working Group and 17th Pollution Crime Working Group meetings which took place during the same week. The opening ceremonies were organised to a high standard by the Royal Thai Police.

The Seminar work programme commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and the agenda was divided into the following key areas:

- Introductions from Senior ICCWC Representatives
- Crisis Briefing

This session included presentations on the wildlife crime situation globally and regionally. A presentation on INTERPOL's Project Predator and the formation of National Environmental Security Task Forces was made. The session concluded with a presentation on the tiger.

- Tiger Range Country Priorities

Delegates were invited to contribute presentations on opportunities for collaboration and best practices. Representatives from India, China and Nepal gave information presentations to the groups.

- Working Groups

The national enforcement representatives discussed challenges facing their efforts to conduct effective enforcement. This session was aided by a questionnaire which was completed earlier in the

day. The facilitated discussion led to a combined list of solutions to combating wildlife crime. (These are reported below).

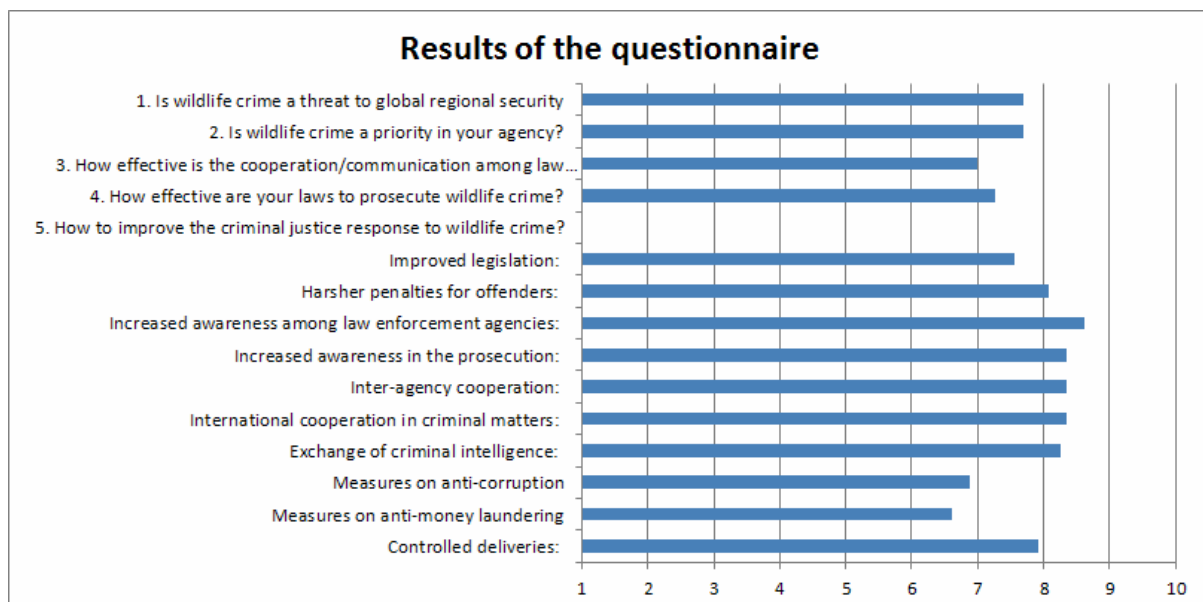
The agenda is attached as Appendix II.

## Outcomes

The main outcomes of the meeting were obtained through working group sessions.

In order to assist participants with their deliberations on the challenges and solutions to effective enforcement, a questionnaire was distributed and completed. The questionnaire was not intended to be comprehensive but give an overview of national situations and responses, and act as an initial stimulus for constructive discussion.

The results of the questionnaire are shown on the below table.



From these results it can be deduced that increased wildlife crime awareness amongst enforcement authorities is considered to be vital to ensure an appropriate criminal justice response to wildlife crime. Communication and inter-agency cooperation were thought to be a challenge to effective enforcement.

Facilitated discussion which took place in two groups provided further insight into challenges related to developing effective enforcement responses to combat wildlife crime. The combined conclusions can be summarised as follows:

**What are the main challenges to develop effective enforcement?**

- Enforcement agencies in different countries have different authorities and powers. For example, customs agencies in some countries are empowered to conduct investigations following seizures, while in other countries the case must be referred to police authorities.
- Lack of professional skills in the investigation of wildlife crime
- Lack of acknowledgement of the seriousness of wildlife crime
- Lack of resources for enforcement agencies to effectively address wildlife crime
- In some countries, advanced investigation techniques such as Controlled Deliveries may only be conducted by Customs agencies

The delegates were then invited to spend time considering solutions to tackle wildlife crime and in the immediate future to save wild tigers.

**What are the main solutions that you recommend to tackle wildlife crime and save the tigers?**

- Many of the represented countries requested National Seminars to involve relevant agencies in an effort to improve coordination and cooperation in cases of wildlife crime
- Identifying the lead agencies to coordinate information exchange, capacity building, and joint operations
- Increasing the level of information and intelligence exchange by using existing information management platforms such as INTERPOL and WCO
- Cooperation should be improved in relation to the exchange of forensic data
- Regional Cooperation should be designed in a way to accommodate differences in legislative powers of investigation agencies
- Specialised capacity building should be conducted on wildlife crime for Law Enforcement agencies working at national ports
- Wildlife training material should be included in existing police/customs training curricula
- Awareness of wildlife crime should be increased among Law Enforcement Agencies, especially at the level of front line officers

- Awareness should be increased amongst the wider public in order to reduce demand at national and international level
- ICCWC should play a significant role in enhancing awareness with regard to wildlife crime and should ensure that countries are aware of the support that it and its member organizations can offer
- There should be an increase in the sharing of national best practice (possibly as an activity of ICCWC)
- Full use should be made of internationally supported programmes on capacity building on wildlife crime

## **Recommendations and Conclusions**

The Seminar achieved what may be considered its overarching goal, which was to bring together senior law enforcement officers from core enforcement agencies in tiger range countries. Through those officers the Seminar will raise institutional awareness of the impact that criminal activities have on wild tiger populations.

Knowledge and experience was shared and recommendations were made with regard to solutions to tackle wildlife crime.

Undoubtedly the Seminar served to enhance national and international cooperation and collaboration between agencies. During the Seminar itself, at least two countries took the opportunity to meet bilaterally to discuss ongoing investigations.

Services that can be provided by international organisations were highlighted, along with the significant contribution that can be made by ICCWC and initiatives such as the development of National Environmental Security Task Forces, which is being coordinated by INTERPOL.

All stakeholders are encouraged to take note of the outcomes, recommendations and conclusions contained in this report, which were formulated through inputs of senior law enforcement representatives with extensive experience in the investigation of organised crime, national and international cooperation and prioritization of criminal justice responses.

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International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)  
May 2012



### APPENDIX I - Participants

Country/ Organisation	Department/Agency	Name	Title
<b>Representatives of National Agencies</b>			
Bangladesh	National Board of Revenue	Md. Shah Alam Khan	Member of Customs
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Police	AKM Hafiz Akhter	Superintendent
Bhutan	Department of Revenue & Customs	Choyzang Tashi	Director
Bhutan	Royal Buthan Police HQ	Thinlay Drukla	Deputy Chief
Cambodia	Customs and Excise	Siek Ngorn Tech	Deputy Chief of Office and Assistant to Director of Prevention and Suppression
Cambodia	Police Anti Economic Crime Department	Sem Sunly	Police Captain, Chief of Section
China	INTERPOL National Central Bureau	Xin Hu	Division Chief
China	Customs	Jin Guo	Principial Staff Officer
India	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence	Vanaja Sarna	Additional Director General
India	Wildlife Crime Control Bureau	Rina Mitra	Additional Director
Indonesia	Customs Enforcement and Investigation	Istadi Prahastanto	Head of Regional Office
Laos	Ministry of Public Security	Houmpheng Panyakeo	Specialist - Environment Police Investigation Division
Malaysia	Royal Malaysian Customs	Mohd Jasri Othman	Assistant Director - Enforcement Division
Malaysia	Royal Malaysian Police	Adzhar Othman	Deputy Superintendent
Myanmar	Police	Lu Lu Than	Director for Crime
Myanmar	Customs	San Aung Phyu	Director
Nepal	Customs	Shisir Kumar Dhungana	Chief Customs Administrator
Nepal	Police	Rabindra Pratap Shah	Inspector General of Police/Head of NCB
Russia	Federal Customs Service	Igor Ten	Representative of Federal Customs Service of Russia in Rep. Korea
Thailand	Police	Subsak Chavalviwat	Deputy Commander – Natural Resource & Environmental Crime Division
Thailand	Police	Kiattipong Khawsamang	Deputy Commander - Natural Resource & Environmental Crime Division
Thailand	Police	Vatanarak Suranartyuth	Police Lieutenant
Thailand	Customs	Pinvilai Paripunna	Customs Technical Officer
Vietnam	Anti-smuggling & Investigation Department, Viet Nam Customs	Dinh Long Le	Customs Expert
Viet Nam	Anti-Environment Crime Department, Ministry of Public Security	Sy Nguyen Thi	Deputy Director
Viet Nam	Transnational Crime Division –	Chi Nguyen Hoa	Chief - INTERPOL Viet Nam

International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)			
CITES Secretariat		John Scanlon	Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat		Pia Jonsson	Enforcement Support Officer
CITES Secretariat		Ben Janse Van Rensburg	Chief, Enforcement Support
INTERPOL	General Secretariat	Jean Michel Louboutin	Executive Director
INTERPOL	Environmental Crime Programme	David Higgins	Manager
INTERPOL	Environmental Crime Programme	Justin Gosling	Wildlife Crime Officer – Asia-Pacific
INTERPOL	Environmental Crime Programme	Ioana Botezatu	Project PREDATOR Coordinator
UNODC		Jorge Rios	
UNODC	Regional Office for Asia-Pacific	Giovanni Broussard	Associate Expert
World Bank	Global Tiger Initiative	Keshav Varma	Program Director
World Bank	Global Tiger Initiative	Andrey Kushlin	Programme Coordinator
World Bank		Bruno Laporte	Director for Thematic Knowledge and Learning
World Bank		Hartwig Schafer	Director of Strategy and Operations, Strategic Development
World Bank		Rena Stenhouse	Biodiversity and Environment Specialist
World Bank		Waraporn Hirunwatsiri	
WCO	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office	Kye-Suh Park	Intelligence Analyst

Partner Organisations and Observers			
Independent		Valmik Thapar	Tiger Conservation Expert
ASEAN WEN	Law Enforcement Extension Office	Chanvut Vajrabukka	Chief Technical Advisor
ASEAN WEN		Keophouong Chanthapanya	Technical Attache
SA WEN	Dept of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	Krishna Acharya	Chief Enforcement Coordinator SAWEN
Thai Carbon Fund		Terapol Ketphan	
Thai Carbon Fund		Chantana Kijkarnnont	
Thailand	Dept. National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Budsabong Kanchanasaka	
Thailand	do.	Ronasit Maneesai	
Thailand	do.	Suppakorn Patumrattanathan	
Thailand	do.	Keophouong Chanthapanya	
Thailand	do.	Theerapat Prayurasiddhi	
UNEP	Biodiversity MEA Focal Point	Haruko Okusu	
USAID	Regional Environment Office – Asia	Juniper Neill	Deputy Director
USAID	Regional Environment Office – Asia	Mikell O’Mealy	
USAID		Apichai Thirathon	
US Department of State	Regional Environmental, Science and Health Office	Rick Switzer	Chief
US Department of State	Regional Environmental, Science and Health Office	Jacob Schultz	Officer
Education for Nature Vietnam		Douglas Hendrie	Technical Advisor
Environmental Investigation Agency		Debbie Banks	Head – Tiger Campaign
Freeland Foundation		Steven Galster	Chief Executive Officer
International Fund for Animal Welfare		Grace Gabriel	Director
Wildlife Conservation Society		Scott Robertson	Country Director - Vietnam

## APPENDIX II - Agenda

TIME	ITEM/SUBJECT	SPEAKER
0800-0830	Registration	
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>		
0830-0850	Welcome and Introduction	Jean-Michel Louboutin, Executive Director, INTERPOL
0850-0900	Statements from Heads of ICCWC member organisations	John Scanlon, Secretary General, CITES Secretariat
0900-0910		Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, UNODC ( <i>video</i> )
0910-0920		Robert B. Zoellick, President, World Bank ( <i>video</i> ) Keshav Varma, Program Director -Global Tiger Initiative, World Bank
0920-0930		Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, WCO ( <i>video</i> )
0940-0950		Group Photograph
0950-1020	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>CRISIS BRIEFING</b>		
1020-1030	Wildlife Crime: Serious, Transnational, Organised Crime	Ben Janse Van Rensburg Chief - Enforcement Support - CITES Secretariat
1030-1040	Wildlife Crime in Asia	Justin Gosling Criminal Intelligence Officer INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme – Asia Pacific
1040-1110	Project PREDATOR – Formation of National Environmental Security Task Forces	David Higgins Manager - INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme
1110-1140	“The Tiger – Asia’s Very Special Icon”	Valmik Thapar - Tiger Conservation Expert

<b>COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES</b>		
<b>1140-1225</b>	National Priorities, Opportunities for Collaboration and Best Practices	Hu Xin Division Chief - INTERPOL China  Vanaja Sarna Additional Director General - Directorate of Revenue Intelligence - India
<b>1225-1230</b>	Film – Save Wild Tigers	
<b>1230-1330</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>NATIONAL EXPERTS - PRACTICAL RESPONSES</b>		
<b>1330-1515</b>	National Enforcement Experts - Working Group Session <i>Identifying and Overcoming Wildlife Crime Challenges</i>	Facilitators: Giovanni Broussard – UNODC Andrey Kushlin – World Bank
<b>1515-1545</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>1545-1600</b>	Feedback of Working Group Sessions	Facilitators: Giovanni Broussard – UNODC Andrey Kushlin – World Bank
<b>1600-1615</b>	Conclusions and Agreement on Action Points	Justin Gosling - INTERPOL
<b>1615-1630</b>	Closing Remarks	John Scanlon – CITES Secretariat Hartwig Schafer - World Bank David Higgins - INTERPOL
<b>1800-2100</b>	<b>Evening Reception</b>	