

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.\*

Background

2. In paragraph 9 b) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to:
  - b) *submit a report on activities that have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC at each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consult with the Standing Committee on the development of the ICCWC Programme of Work to ensure CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed;*
3. Further, at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 18.13 on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* directed to Parties, as follows:

***Directed to Parties***

- 18.13 *Parties are encouraged to continue provide funding support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and any newly developed future Strategic Programme, to ensure that the Consortium continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community.*
4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee was convened online (SC73, online, May 2021) with a reduced agenda that did not include reporting on activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC. The Secretariat prepared document [SC74 Doc. 33.3](#) on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime*, for the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74, Lyon, March 2022). The document provided a detailed overview on the broad range of activities conducted since CoP18 under the auspices of ICCWC, the collaborative effort between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 2010.
5. In the intersessional period, the Consortium has continued to play a critical role in engaging and working with Parties globally to combat wildlife crime, using a coordinated and cohesive approach and providing Parties with the [tools, services and technical support](#) needed to address wildlife crime and bring the criminals involved to justice.

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

6. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Consortium moved swiftly to adapt its workplans, ensuring that implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme could progress uninterrupted and to the fullest extent possible. With in-person capacity-building opportunities and meetings limited by the COVID-19 pandemic and new protection protocols in place, in 2020, where possible, ICCWC shifted its activities online. This carried forward in 2021 and 2022 with the provision of targeted support through the convening of online or hybrid meetings. Further, the ICCWC response was adapted to take into consideration emerging challenges identified during the pandemic. Largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some activities inevitably had to be delayed or postponed. The ICCWC Strategic Programme and related subgrants have therefore been extended until 2023.
7. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat worked closely with its ICCWC partners to ensure that activities delivered by the Consortium align with CITES priorities and mandate, as well as Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, paragraph 9. b). The ICCWC workplan included the relevant valid Decisions and Resolutions so that the activities delivered under the auspices of ICCWC contributed directly and indirectly to the implementation of several Decisions and Resolutions adopted at CoP18. The Secretariat will ensure that the relevant Decisions and Resolutions adopted at CoP19 will be addressed through the implementation of the ICCWC Vision 2030.
8. The delivery of the Consortium's programme of work continues to be overseen by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG), supported by a Technical Experts Group (TEG) established in January 2020. Both groups are chaired by the CITES Secretariat and include representatives from each of the five partner organizations. The SEG identifies priorities for the implementation of activities; takes decisions on initiatives to support; oversees overall effectiveness of delivery; and evaluates progress and takes corrective action as appropriate. The TEG is tasked with coordinating and implementing the daily work and activities of the Consortium. The ICCWC SEG meets on a quarterly basis and regular TEG calls take place monthly to monitor project implementation and adapt approaches based on needs and lessons learned. Additional *ad hoc* calls are held where needed. This governance structure was adopted following an ICCWC strategic planning meeting held in January 2020 that explored ways to further enhance cooperation and synergies between partners to strengthen the collaborative ICCWC response and enhance the support provided to Parties.
9. The dedicated [ICCWC website](#) maintained in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 9 c) was comprehensively revised and updated in October 2020. Further updates have been conducted throughout 2021 and 2022. It is available in English, French and Spanish on the CITES website and provides access to the latest information on the Consortium's activities, as well as tools and services available through its partner organizations. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is working to develop a new ICCWC website and will provide an oral update on progress in this regard at the present meeting.
10. Further, at SC74, the Secretariat highlighted the launch of the [ICCWC Annual Report 2020](#). The report showcases how the work of the Consortium in partnership with Parties and other stakeholders helps enhance the capacity of criminal justice systems across the world. It provides examples of how ICCWC assessments and support throughout 2020 led to positive changes in penal codes and how technical assistance contributed to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals involved in wildlife crime. The *ICCWC Annual Report 2020* is available in English, French and Spanish on the [ICCWC website](#) and was also made available as information document [SC74 Inf. 6](#). At the time of writing, the *ICCWC Annual Report 2021* is being developed.
11. The work delivered by ICCWC since its inception would not have been possible without strong support from [various donors](#). The implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme has been funded by the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Contributions from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, Norway, and the United States of America to the Secretariat also contributed to the work and coordination of ICCWC. On behalf of all Consortium partners, the Secretariat thanks these Parties for their generous support.
12. The present document is structured in accordance with the focus areas of the ICCWC Strategic Programme and provides a summary of the activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since CoP18 and on the implementation of Decision 18.13. Further details can be found in the ICCWC Annual Reports 2020 and 2021.

#### Focus Area 1: Provide institutional support and strengthen cooperation and coordination

13. In 2020 and 2021, INTERPOL and the WCO convened the fourth and fifth of the Thunder-series Operations supported by ICCWC ([Operation Thunder 2020](#) and [Operation Thunder 2021](#)). Operation Thunder 2021

involved 118 countries and resulted in a significant number of seizures and arrests. Further arrests and prosecutions are also foreseen globally as investigations continue to unfold. Other activities conducted include regional workshops or meetings to enhance international cooperation to address wildlife crime. Support was also provided in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, to the East African Association of Prosecutors to convene their 9th Annual General Meeting, to 250 law enforcement and criminal justice representatives from 34 countries across Africa and Asia through a UNODC Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (meeting) and to an online Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC). In addition, three new iterations of Operation Mekong Dragon were conducted under the leadership of China Customs and Viet Nam Customs, with the support of the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia-Pacific (RILO AP) and UNODC.

14. Between January and June 2022, INTERPOL organized four Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings (RIACMs), focusing on lions and leopard teeth, cheetahs, exotic species and other ongoing cases and conducted four annual regional meetings on wildlife crime (for Asia, East and Southern Africa and Caribbean, West and Central Africa, and Latin America), as well as several targeted trainings.
15. In accordance with Decision 18.79, the Secretariat convened in February 2022 an online [Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species](#) funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme (see document CoP19 Doc. 35 for further details). In support of the implementation of Decision 18.93, targeted support is being provided through the Consortium to strengthen responses to wildlife crime in West and Central Africa (see document [SC74 Doc. 35.2](#)).
16. During the intersessional period, ICCWC also supported wildlife enforcement networks at regional and subregional levels to facilitate increased collaboration and coordination between national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement from different countries. Following the convening of the [3rd Global meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) (WENs) in the margins of CoP18, the Secretariat led the development of [ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) that were launched in May 2020 and are available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on the ICCWC webpage. They outline the key considerations to be taken into account in the development of a new WEN and provide a self-assessment tool for use by existing WENs to assist them in evaluating their level of maturity and operational performance and identify areas that could be further strengthened. ICCWC has been providing targeted support to WENs in [South America \(Sud-WEN\)](#) and the Horn of Africa (HAWEN).
17. In close collaboration with its ICCWC partners and with generous funding support from the United States of America, the Secretariat will convene the *4th Global meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks* alongside CoP19 on 21 and 22 November 2022. The meeting will enhance synergies between existing initiatives and regional enforcement bodies; strengthen cooperation; and explore potential activities to be pursued with the aim of further strengthening responses to wildlife crime at subregional, regional and global level.
18. The Secretariat has also continued to update the directory of [WEN focal points](#) available on the CITES website and encourages WENs to inform the Secretariat when further updates are needed.

#### Focus Area 2: Facilitate analysis of national capacity to strengthen law enforcement responses and help guide investment

19. To date, ICCWC has received 37 requests for the implementation of the [ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit](#). The Toolkit process has been completed in 16 countries (Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Congo, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Peru, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam) and is at different stages of implementation in eight countries [Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Nigeria, Philippines and Paraguay].<sup>1</sup>
20. Where Toolkit implementation is completed, the resulting report and recommendations are presented during a high-level meeting with all relevant government agencies, as well as at a multi-stakeholders meeting, to plan for implementation and potential support. Activities to support the implementation of the resulting recommendations are ongoing in several countries and have been scaled up in the intersessional period.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional details on the status of the implementation in the different countries can be found on the following link: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Action>

21. Feedback received from Parties that have implemented the Toolkit to date continues to be positive. At SC74 the Standing Committee encouraged Parties that have implemented the Toolkit to actively pursue mobilizing resources and to make dedicated efforts to implement the resulting recommendations, requesting support from ICCWC where needed. The Standing Committee further encouraged donors, international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives in countries that implemented the Toolkit to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with the recommendations of the Toolkit and support their implementation [see paragraph 33.3 of document [SC74 Sum 5 \(Rev. 1\)](#)].
22. The Secretariat encourages Parties that have implemented the Toolkit to also explore possible opportunities to address the implementation of Toolkit recommendations through GEF-8, and to engage in their national Global Environment Facility (GEF) prioritization processes in this regard, where appropriate.
23. The Consortium has also continued to support implementation of the [ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime](#). To date, the *ICCWC Indicator Framework* has been successfully implemented in 15 countries [Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cameroon, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Namibia, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). At the time of writing, implementation is also ongoing or planned for the Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Peru.
24. The *ICCWC Indicator Framework* is included as an integral part of the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit process and continues to be available as an independent self-assessment tool that enables a Party to monitor performance over time and to identify any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses to wildlife crime. The *step-by-step guides* for these tools were updated in the intersessional period and Parties are encouraged to consult these guides available on the ICCWC website.<sup>2</sup>
25. As reported at SC74, the *ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework* are in the process of being updated. The revised Toolkit is expected to be finalized before CoP19 and will be made available in English, French and Spanish.

### Focus Area 3: Develop or enhance criminal justice and preventive capacity across institutions

26. Under the auspices of ICCWC, UNODC provided classroom and on-the-job training opportunities, as well as prosecution mentoring to promote successful prosecution of wildlife crime in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mozambique, Peru, Thailand, the Philippines, Uganda and Viet Nam.
27. In Africa, activities in 2021 included training for judges, prosecutors, investigators and first responders in Botswana, Kenya Mozambique and Uganda. In Asia, support included workshops and training in the Lao People's Democratic Republic Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These trainings covered law enforcement, wildlife crime prosecution, wildlife crime scene management, financial investigation training, wildlife crime scene search and evidence documentation, risk profiling and management and forensic examination. In South America, training was delivered in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru on corruption risk mitigation, coordination against wildlife and forest crime at national and regional levels, financial investigations linked to wildlife and forest crime and mentoring on forensic accounting techniques.
28. In 2022, support focused in Africa on financial wildlife crime investigations in a case involving ivory, on training for judges and on the development of a Law Enforcement Curriculum in Kenya and Uganda. In Asia, activities in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Viet Nam focused on law enforcement advisory support, wildlife crime and prosecution training and money laundering investigations. In South America, UNODC continued to provide training to the State School of Prosecutors of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on environmental crime with a focus on wildlife and forest crime.
29. In addition, during the intersessional period, the World Bank, under the auspices of ICCWC, delivered technical assistance to several Parties to facilitate roll-out and implementation of the World Bank's *National Money-Laundering Risk Assessment (NRA)* tool and related environmental crime module. This included drafting of anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing (AML/CFT) legislation and preparation of

<sup>2</sup> *ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework step by step guide:*  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/EN\\_Toolkit%20Indicator%20Framework.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/EN_Toolkit%20Indicator%20Framework.pdf) *ICCWC Indicator Framework step by step guide:*  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/EN\\_ICCWC%20Indicator%20framework%20step-by-step%20guide.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/EN_ICCWC%20Indicator%20framework%20step-by-step%20guide.pdf)

AML/CFT strategies incorporating environmental crime issues, financial sector compliance, and law enforcement and prosecutorial training to address money laundering. Parties that benefitted from NRA implementation support include Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Sri Lanka, St Maarten's, Sudan, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

30. The Consortium further continued its work to combat corruption associated with wildlife crime in accordance with Decisions 18.77 and 18.78 (see document CoP19 Doc. 33).
31. The Secretariat reported at SC74 that the Consortium was able to deliver additional training courses than those initially envisaged, due to costs savings against some of the trainings conducted online or in a hybrid format. It should be noted however that, although additional trainings were possible and online events often facilitated engagement by a larger number of participants, feedback from Parties and partners suggest that careful consideration should be given regarding trainings conducted online. While online delivery facilitated efforts to progress the work during the pandemic, in-person interventions for some types of training would have been preferable and would likely have been more effective. Worth noting is that in many cases, training provided responded directly to the needs identified in the Toolkit and Indicator Framework implementation reports as well as other partner reports and assessments.

#### Focus Area 4: Increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime

32. The World Wildlife Crime reports ([Second edition, 2020](#) and [First edition, 2016](#)) produced by UNODC in cooperation with ICCWC partners take stock of the global wildlife crime situation and include quantitative market assessments and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies for key species found in illegal trade<sup>3</sup>. At SC74, the Standing Committee encouraged Parties to draw upon the *World Wildlife Crime Report 2020* to inform their decision-making and in support of the development of appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime [see SC74 Sum. 5 (Rev. 1)]. At the time of writing, UNODC is working on the third edition of the World Wildlife Crime report, expected to be available in late 2023.
33. At SC74, a Party raised concerns about the content of the *World Wildlife Crime Report 2020* and how data was used in the report. The Committee recommended that the Party work with the Secretariat to discuss its concerns and engage ICCWC partners in this regard. To address the concerns expressed by the Party, UNODC prepared information document [SC74 Inf. 29](#) which provides information on the processes established in relation to data collection, verification and usage in the *World Wildlife Crime Report*. The Party concerned engaged with the Secretariat and UNODC to discuss the matters it raised and the Secretariat trusts that these discussions provided further clarification. Feedback from Parties is welcomed and encouraged. Such feedback contributes to ensuring that the *World Wildlife Crime Report* remains an authoritative document to be drawn upon to inform decision-making and the development of law enforcement responses to address wildlife crime.
34. In support of increased awareness to combat wildlife crime, Consortium partners undertook several activities at different events and meetings to draw attention to the tools, services and support available to Parties and the importance of mobilizing these in the fight against wildlife crime, for instance:
  - a) in the margins of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC COP, October 2020);
  - b) at the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ, May 2021);
  - c) at a meeting convened by the African Union in collaboration with TRAFFIC to discuss the implementation of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (May 2021);
  - d) at a Counter Wildlife Trafficking Partnership Forum for ASEAN countries (September 2021); and
  - e) at the Second-High Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade (April 2022) on targeted support to SudWEN.

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<sup>3</sup> The second World Wildlife Crime Report, launched in July 2020, includes illicit trade case studies on rosewood, ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, live reptiles, big cats and eels. In addition, value chains and illicit financial flows from the illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn is presented. See information document [SC74 Inf. 7](#).



In addition, the CITES Secretary-General delivered a high level statement at the [14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) (March 2021); at the [Financial Action Task Force \(FATF\) High-level Conference: Partnering for Greater Impact Environmental Crime](#) (December 2021) and opening remarks during the [CCPCJ Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment](#), held on 14-16 February 2022. The CITES Secretary-General highlighted the importance of addressing wildlife crime as a serious crime and the support available through the Consortium.

35. The Consortium also conducted a range of communications activities:

- a) In November 2020, ICCWC celebrated its 10th anniversary representing the first decade of action since the Consortium was established,<sup>4</sup> under the theme "[10 years, 10 achievements](#)".
- b) The Consortium is currently implementing the *ICCWC Communications and Visibility Strategy* for 2021-2022 and launched the first *ICCWC Annual Report*.
- c) A range of materials have also been developed and updated in the three working languages of the Convention to make Parties aware of the tools and services available to them to strengthen their responses to wildlife crime.
- d) Further, an [ICCWC Twitter account](#) (@ICCWC\_WFC) was launched in June 2021 and an [ICCWC LinkedIn account](#) was launched in April 2022. Targeted short videos, success stories and communications campaigns were developed and launched across social media channels. These can be viewed on the ICCWC social media accounts, on the [ICCWC website](#) or on the new [ICCWC YouTube account](#).

36. On behalf of ICCWC and the GEF funded Global Wildlife Programme (GWP), the World Bank convened a [Wildlife Forum](#) in January 2020. The Forum provided an opportunity for ICCWC to learn more about the activities and priorities of participating countries and agencies and to explore possible synergies with initiatives and activities being delivered by a broad range of entities to combat wildlife crime. The information originating from the Forum was considered in the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme and was also drawn upon in the development of the ICCWC Vision 2030.

#### Focus Area 5: Expand the use of knowledge, technology and innovation

37. The Consortium continued to deliver activities to promote and support the use of forensic applications in the fight against wildlife crime.

- a) A Portable Enforcement Laboratory for Testing Seizures (PELTS) was established to support requesting African countries and to support the institutionalization of training at wildlife colleges.
- b) The Secretariat is working with UNODC to finalize updating the [Guidelines on methods and procedures for ivory sampling and laboratory analysis](#) to be made available in English and French.
- c) UNODC is supporting a research project to evaluate the potential threat of infectious diseases by applying modern technologies to facilitate pathogen screening of illegal wildlife products, and thus help mitigate the risks of zoonotic disease to human and agricultural health.
- d) UNODC also coordinated a pilot project supporting six forensic laboratories through the donation of essential materials in support of DNA analysis to strengthen wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions in their jurisdictions.

38. To enhance online training tools and materials, the Secretariat is enhancing and updating the CITES Virtual College. This includes undertaking a comprehensive mapping of all enforcement-related materials available through the Virtual College. This work co-funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme is expected to culminate in a new CITES Virtual College that is user-friendly and easy to navigate and provides up-to-date materials and resources.

39. As reported at SC74, the WCO, in close collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and relevant customs experts, developed and finalized a new online training course for customs on CITES implementation and

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<sup>4</sup> The Consortium was formally established in November 2010 upon the signing of a [Letter of Understanding](#), and has been supporting Parties through various [national, regional and global initiatives](#) throughout the last decade.

enforcement, and addressing wildlife crime. The course includes modules on CITES that cover the Appendices, permits and certificates, specimen identification, safe handling of specimens, and legal versus illegal trade. The online training course for customs is a restricted access course available to customs officers only on the [WCO CLiKC](#) (Customs Learning and Knowledge Community) platform. Further, in December 2021, the WCO launched an [Environmental Guide for frontline customs officers](#) designed as a user-friendly tool that will provide customs officers with pertinent on-the-spot guidance when confronted by incidents that relate to environmental matters. The chapter of the guide on CITES and illegal wildlife trade was funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Guide is available in English and French.

40. Through the ICCWC Strategic Programme, the Consortium also supported a range of activities to increase capacity to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet such as training courses on tactical online investigations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. UNODC also conducted a series of advanced online investigation training courses for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. INTERPOL developed guidelines entitled [Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet: Practical Guidelines for Law Enforcement Practitioners](#) that provide a practical tool for law enforcement officers, detailing how to investigate cases of wildlife crime linked to the Internet and targeted capacity-building and training on the use of the guidelines will continue to be provided. The Secretariat maintains relevant information on the [Wildlife crime linked to the Internet](#) webpage available on the CITES website, and reports further details on this matter in document CoP19 Doc. 37.

#### Focus Area 6: Cross-cutting: Ensure the effective operation, coordination and evaluation of ICCWC

41. The ICCWC SEG continues to oversee implementation of the Consortium's programme of work with support of the TEG that coordinates implementation of daily work and activities. In addition to the January 2020 Strategic Planning meeting convened by ICCWC, the Consortium also convened several project-specific meetings such as yearly EU-ICCWC project Steering Committee meetings and broader meetings with donors to the ICCWC Strategic Programme.
42. To further streamline efforts and maximize the impact of activities in different countries, ICCWC partners continue to align the activities delivered through their individual organizational programmes with the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Consortium also works to increasingly coordinate ICCWC activities with those of other stakeholders active in the field of addressing wildlife crime. This is for example done by initiating regular country-specific coordination calls involving different stakeholders implementing activities in target countries. Through the World Bank, the Consortium also maintains engagement with the GEF-funded GWP to ensure effective coordination and collaboration between ongoing initiatives and to leverage the support of ICCWC regarding wildlife law enforcement activities included in the different GWP national projects.
43. In addition, to ensure that ICCWC activities have the desired impact and result in the expected outcomes of the programme, the Consortium commissioned in 2021 an internal evaluation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme with funding support from the GEF via the GWP. The evaluation provided a number of insights that have been taken into consideration by the Consortium in the development of the *ICCWC Vision 2030*. An external evaluation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme will be commissioned once the Programme has concluded.
44. Parties are invited to provide feedback to the Secretariat on ICCWC support and tools, for the Consortium to draw upon such feedback to continue to enhance its interventions at national, regional and international level. The Secretariat will compile any feedback and information received and liaise with its ICCWC partners for the feedback to be considered, as appropriate, in the implementation of the *ICCWC Vision 2030*. In this regard, the Secretariat proposes draft Decision 19.AA as presented in Annex 1 to the present document.

#### ICCWC Vision 2030

45. Building on the successes achieved and lessons learned through the implementation of the [ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016](#) and [ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020](#), and taking into consideration inputs received from a broad range of stakeholders, ICCWC is finalizing the *ICCWC Vision 2030*. The *Vision* outlines the next phase in the continuation of ICCWC's work and will guide this work in the decade to come, in pursuit of the Consortium's long-term vision of working towards a world free of wildlife crime. The *ICCWC Vision 2030* takes into account over 70 responses received to [Notification to the Parties No. 2021/14](#) of 29 January 2021 issued to consult with Parties and other stakeholders on the development of ICCWC's future programme of work. In September and October 2021, in close collaboration with ICCWC partners, the Secretariat also conducted further targeted consultations, including with the CITES Standing Committee to ensure that CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed. Advanced drafts of the *ICCWC Vision 2030*

and *Strategic Action Plan 2023-2026* were shared with the Standing Committee through its Chair for comment. On behalf of ICCWC partners, the Secretariat thanks Parties, Standing Committee Members and other stakeholders that provided feedback and inputs during the consultation process. ICCWC partners also thank the GEF and the World Bank for the funding provided via the GWP to support the development of the *ICCWC Vision 2030*.

46. In accordance with the Vision 2030, the Consortium will work following a Theory of Change to support wildlife authorities, police, customs and entire criminal justice systems, building capacity and further strengthening responses to wildlife crime. ICCWC recognizes the importance of both proactive and reactive responses to combating wildlife crime, and consequently, the Theory of Change identifies five critical ICCWC outcomes:
- a) reduced opportunity for wildlife crime;
  - b) increased deterrence of wildlife crime;
  - c) increased detection of wildlife crime;
  - d) increased disruption and detention of criminals; and
  - e) evidence-based actions, knowledge exchange and collaboration, as a basis for the achievement of the first four outcomes and to drive ICCWC's impact.

The five outcomes generate 13 sub-outcomes on which ICCWC will focus its interventions. This outcome framework of the *ICCWC Vision 2030* provides a roadmap that will be implemented through two four-year Strategic Action Plans (2023-2026 and 2027-2030). The Strategic Action Plans outline the approaches that ICCWC will take to achieve the five outcomes identified in the Vision and indicate the types of activities that ICCWC could deliver against each approach.

47. At SC74, the Standing Committee noted the progress made with the development of the *ICCWC Vision 2030* and accompanying *2023-2026 Strategic Action Plan* and encouraged Parties to continue their support to ICCWC in the context of Decision 18.13. The *ICCWC Vision 2030* is expected to be launched at the present meeting and will be made available as an information document once finalized.

#### Implementation of Decision 18.13

48. Decision 18.13 encourages Parties to continue provide funding support to ICCWC for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and any newly developed future Strategic Programme. Contributions towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme received to date amount to approximately USD 22,5 million. At the time of writing, most of this funding has been used and remaining funding is being mobilized. As noted in paragraph 6 above, the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme has been extended until 2023 at which point it is expected all funds will have been used. On behalf of ICCWC, the Secretariat reiterates its thanks to the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for their contributions towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Secretariat also thanks the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for funds through the ICCWC Strategic Programme which maintained the positions of the ICCWC Coordinator and ICCWC Support Officer at the CITES Secretariat. Additional contributions from Hong Kong SAR of China, Norway and the United States of America to the Secretariat have also been mobilized to this effect.
49. The Consortium is grateful to the Parties that responded positively to Decision 18.13. Taking the above into account, the Secretariat recommends that the Decision be deleted, and replaced with draft decision 19.BB as presented in Annex 1 to the present document.

#### Final remarks

50. The number of Parties that request and benefit from ICCWC support continues to grow. The benefits of the Consortium's holistic and coordinated approach and the complimentary mandates of its partners are evident. There is [broad recognition](#) of the central role of ICCWC in supporting and building long-term capacity among authorities responsible for addressing wildlife crime. This recognition was further reaffirmed by various Resolutions adopted since CoP18 such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) omnibus [Resolution on Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme](#) adopted in November 2020, that acknowledges the assistance that can be provided to Member States by ICCWC.



The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) Resolution on [Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment](#), adopted in May 2021, and subsequently adopted by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, recognizes the important role of inter-agency collaboration such as through the ICCWC to effectively prevent and combat wildlife crime. On 23 July 2021, the UNGA also adopted a Resolution on [Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife](#), which reaffirms and builds upon other Resolutions on this topic adopted by the UNGA, and recognizes the important work of ICCWC. Most recently, the CCPCJ Resolution on [Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife](#), adopted in May 2022, recognized the important work of ICCWC.

51. Feedback received from Parties that benefitted from ICCWC support highlights that the broad range of tools, services, support and capacity-building activities provided by the Consortium continues to be well received and are delivering positive results. This work would not have been possible without strong donor support. The Consortium stands ready to continue its work under the *ICCWC Vision 2030*, engaging closely with Parties to further enhance the capacity of customs, police, wildlife authorities and entire criminal justice systems and supporting them in their response to wildlife crime in an increasingly robust, synergized and effective manner. Activities of the Consortium under the *ICCWC Vision 2030* is subject to external funding and will only be possible through continued strong donor support. ICCWC partners look forward to continuing their collaborative work, providing Parties with the tools, services, capacity-building and technical support needed to combat wildlife crime and ensure that the criminals involved are brought to justice.

Recommendations:

52. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
  - a) adopt draft decisions 19.AA to 19.BB contained in Annex 1 to the present document; and
  - b) delete Decision 18.13 on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* as it has been implemented.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE  
*INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)*

***Directed to Parties***

- 19.AA** Parties are invited to provide feedback to the Secretariat on ICCWC support and tools, to be drawn upon by the Consortium in its implementation of the ICCWC Vision 2030 to continue to enhance its interventions at national, regional and international level.
- 19.BB** Parties are encouraged to provide funding support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for the implementation of the *ICCWC Vision 2030* and its associated *Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026* to ensure that the Consortium continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS**

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

**Decision 19.AA**

Implementation of draft Decision 19.AA would require some time from the Secretariat but would be accommodated as part of the work of the externally funded ICCWC programme and accommodated within its regular work programme.

**Decision 19.BB**

Implementation of draft Decision 19.BB would be subject to the provision of external funds.

The tentative costs implications will vary significantly depending on the number of activities to be implemented under the *ICCWC Vision 2030* through the *ICCWC Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026*.

Based on the growing number of requests for support that continue to be received from Parties, potential new requests, activities envisaged by ICCWC partners and on funding received towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme (approximately USD 22,5 million were mobilized to support the implementation of activities delivered by all five ICCWC partners), the Secretariat estimates that a budget of approximately USD 30 million would be required to implement the *ICCWC Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026* in a comprehensive manner.

During the intersessional period, the Secretariat would require, at a minimum, sufficient resources to maintain the position of the ICCWC Coordinator (estimated at USD 720,000 for the duration of the first Action Plan or USD 180,000 per annum). To enable the Secretariat to absorb the broad range of activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC and to ensure the effective implementation of the *ICCWC Vision*, it is also essential to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer (estimated at USD 600,000 for the duration of the first Action Plan or USD 150,000 per annum). Co-funding for administrative and financial support would also be required if the Secretariat manages grants on behalf of ICCWC. It is envisaged these costs would largely be integrated into the *ICCWC Vision 2030* and its associated Strategic Action Plans, following the same approach as for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicative costs (USD)</b>	<b>Source of funding</b>
Decision 19. BB	ICCWC Programme Coordination	USD 720,000 (ICCWC Coordinator)  USD 600,000 (ICCWC Support Officer)	Extrabudgetary
	ICCWC Vision 2030 and associated Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026	USD 30 million (ICCWC Programme Coordination included)	