

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

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Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

ICCWC BIENNIAL REPORT 2021-2022

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 39.2.\*
2. The ICCWC Biennial Report 2021-2022, launched in June 2023, highlights the successes and achievements of Parties that benefitted from ICCWC support and activities undertaken across the globe to better deter, detect, detain and dismantle the criminal networks involved in wildlife crime. It is available in [English](#) and [French](#) and will be available shortly in Spanish.

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**iccwc**

**TOGETHER AGAINST  
WILDLIFE CRIME**

# **2021 - 2022 Biannual Report**

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For further information about ICCWC, contact the CITES Secretariat  
Palais des Nations Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Genève 10, Switzerland  
Email: [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)



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# GLOSSARY

<b>AML</b>	Anti-Money Laundering
<b>CCP</b>	UNODC – WCO Container Control Programme
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CoP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CRA</b>	Corruption Risk Assessments
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GWP</b>	Global Wildlife Program
<b>HAWEN</b>	Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network
<b>ICCWC</b>	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>NRA</b>	National Risk Assessment
<b>RIACMs</b>	Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings
<b>RRG</b>	Rapid Reference Guide
<b>SudWEN</b>	South America Wildlife Enforcement Network
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Group
<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organization
<b>WEN</b>	Wildlife Enforcement Network
<b>WIRE</b>	Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement

# FOREWORD



**Ivonne Higuero**  
**Secretary-General**  
**CITES Secretariat**

Wildlife and forest crime is a complex and highly organized transnational challenge that requires the cooperation and coordination of a broad range of organizations and law enforcement agencies within and across borders. It not only impacts wildlife and their habitats and ecosystems but has broader implications for national and global security and public health. It poses a serious threat to the conservation and sustainable use of many species, the economic and social development of communities that depend on them and the well-being of future generations.

Efforts to combat wildlife crime require a multi-faceted approach that includes strengthening laws and regulations, improving enforcement and prosecution, engaging local communities, and addressing the underlying drivers of demand. The fight against wildlife crime requires the collaboration of governments, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, conservation organizations, and civil society, as well as the participation of individuals and businesses in making responsible choices and taking action to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products.

Countries are on the front lines to bring the criminals involved in wildlife crime to justice and the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) continues to be of vital importance to help them. Working towards a world free of wildlife crime is crucial to safeguard our planet's biodiversity.

ICCCWC works with law enforcement authorities across the globe to better deter, detect, detain and dismantle the criminal networks involved in wildlife crime. In the following pages, we highlight some examples of the extensive range of activities that ICCWC Partners completed across 2021 and 2022 in support of countries efforts to combat wildlife crime. Support was provided based on a targeted approach aimed at strengthening criminal justice systems and providing coordinated support to further enhance countries' responses to combat wildlife crime. This includes technical support, intelligence-led global operations, capacity building, financial investigations trainings, anti-corruption risk assessments and the latest forensic science, to name a few. It also includes an overview of new or updated ICCWC tools and services developed.

Throughout the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic, ICCWC provided unwavering support to governments through online trainings, virtual meetings and other support. In this difficult time from which many governments are still recovering, ICCWC continued to support countries in the fight against wildlife and forest crime, which is far from over. In November 2022 the ICCWC Vision 2030 was launched, outlining the next phase of the Consortium's long-term strategy to support countries to combat wildlife crime.

Without the strong support of our donors, our work would not be possible. We thank the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America for their generosity.

We thank you, our partners in this fight, for taking the time to read this review and witness the achievements of countries in 2021 and 2022 thanks to ICCWC support. Together we will work towards a world free of wildlife crime.



# ICCWC PARTNERS



The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) sets out the rules for international trade in wildlife, which have to be enforced by the countries that are signatories to the convention.



INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization with 195 member countries cooperating across borders to share and process criminal information globally.



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) leads the global fight against illicit drugs and transnational organized crime with an extensive network of field offices in all regions of the world.



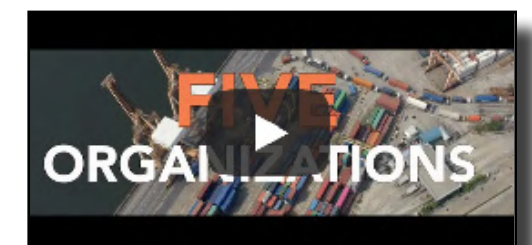
The World Bank Group (WBG) plays a key role in the global effort to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity by working in 100 countries, to provide financing, advice and other solutions.



The World Customs Organization (WCO) facilitates cross-border trade by promoting best customs practices, enforcing standardized regulations, and combating illegal trade.



**About ICCWC Video**  
[Click to play](#)



**ICCWC Partners Video**  
[Click to play](#)



## **VISION**

A world free of wildlife crime.

## **MISSION**

To strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at the national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime.

# WILDLIFE CRIME & THE GLOBAL GOALS

© Shane Rounce

Wildlife crime is a complex and cross-cutting issue, interconnected to many of the challenges the world faces. It drives many wild animal and plant species towards extinction, exacerbates hunger and poverty, creates conflict and instability, poses a risk to the health of our communities, undermines the rule of law and good governance and hinders progress towards achieving the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).

ICCWC works with countries to strengthen their criminal justice responses to help deter wildlife crime, protect the planet's remaining natural resources and support socio-economic change. The work of ICCWC contributes to:



## SDG 14 - Life Below Water

SDG 14 works to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Wildlife crime impacts the health of our oceans and marine biodiversity, which play a key role in supporting life on earth.



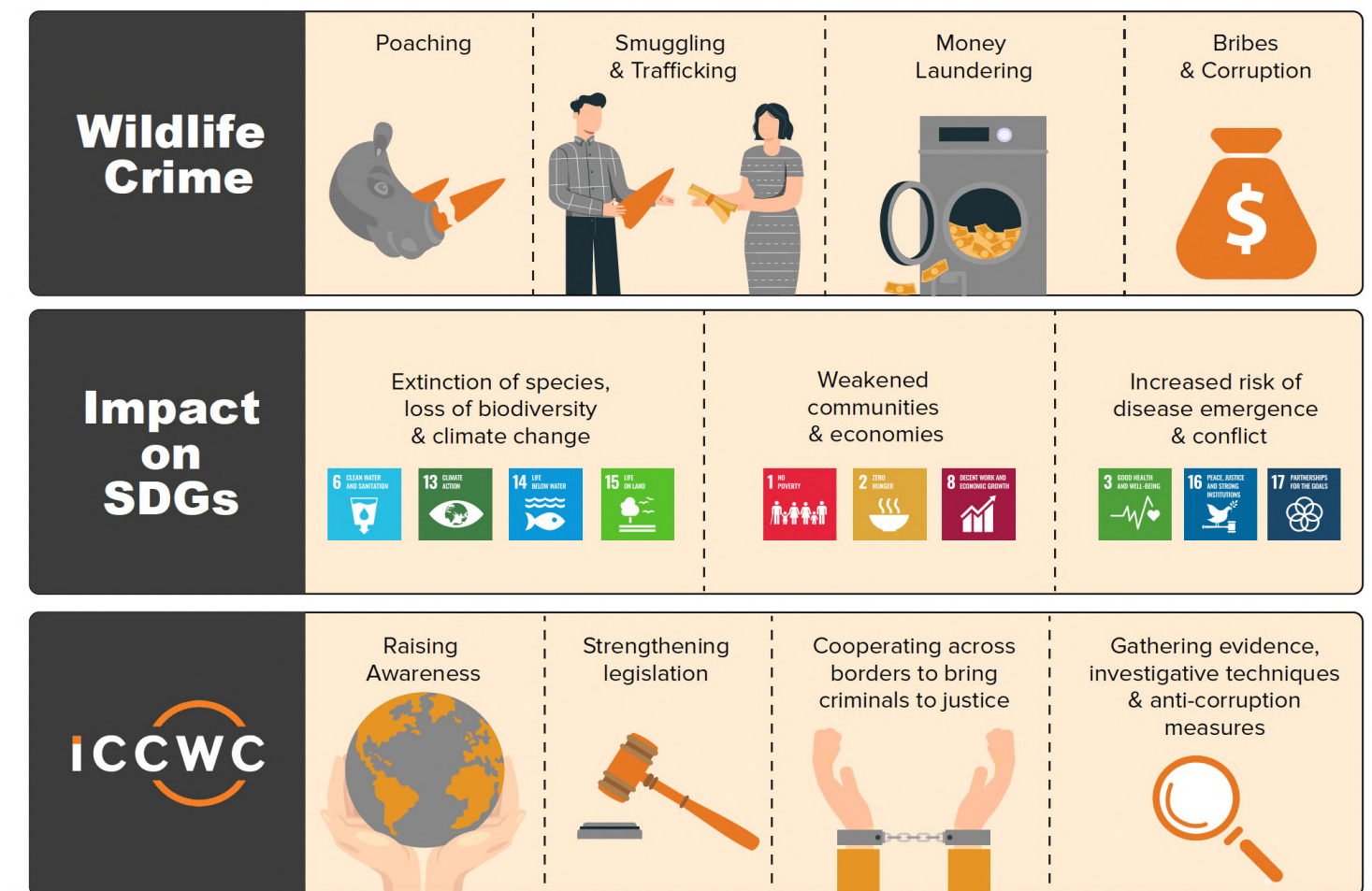
## SDG 15 - Life On Land

SDG 15 works to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. This SDG includes specific targets to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and taking urgent action to combat these issues is at the core of ICCWC's mission.

The work of ICCWC is also **directly** linked to:



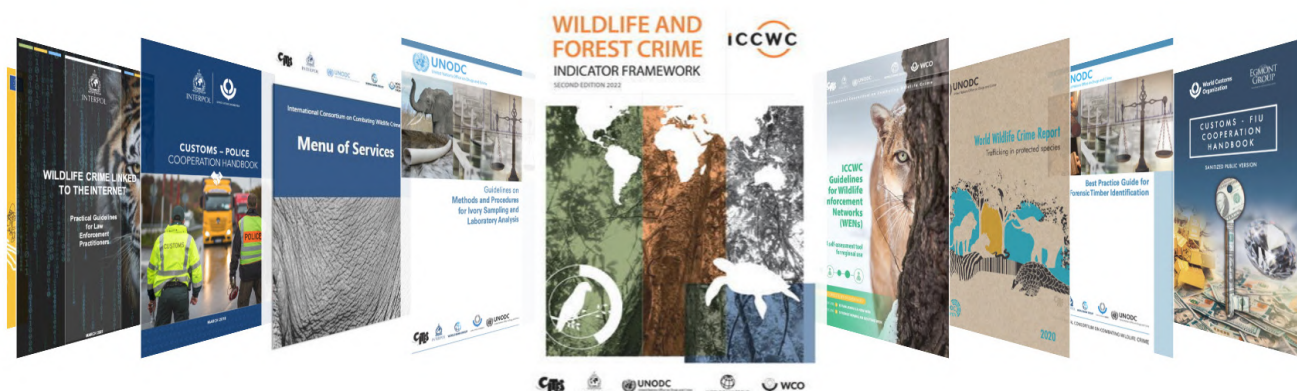
The work of ICCWC is also **indirectly** linked to:



# TOOLS & SERVICES

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ICCWC partner agencies provide a range of training courses, tools, services and capacity building activities designed to strengthen criminal justice systems and build long-term capacity among authorities to effectively address wildlife crime. In 2021 and 2022, ICCWC produced and updated a number of Tools and Services.

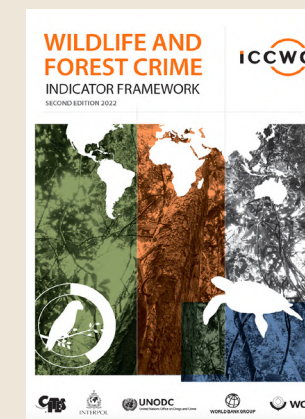


[Click to view all ICCWC Tools & Services](#)



## ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit (second edition, 2022)

The [ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit](#) was updated in 2022 based on lessons learned with implementation of the tool. To date, the tool has been revised to provide a comprehensive overview of the main issues related to addressing wildlife and forest crime in a country. The Toolkit provides government officials, customs, police and other relevant enforcement agencies with a framework to conduct a comprehensive analysis of their response to wildlife and forest crime and identify their technical assistance needs.



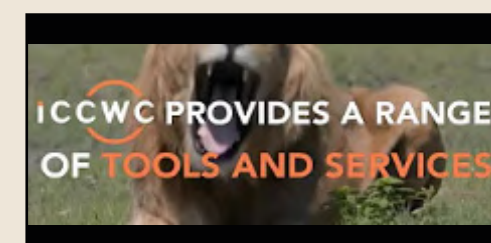
## ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (second edition, 2022)

The [ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime](#) was updated in 2022 to align with the revised ICCWC Toolkit and to include forestry-specific indicators. The Indicator Framework is a tool to enable countries to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their law enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime. The ICCWC Indicator Framework is a comprehensive set of 50 indicators arranged against eight desired outcomes of effective law enforcement and provides a standardized framework to monitor any changes in national law enforcement capacity and effectiveness over time.

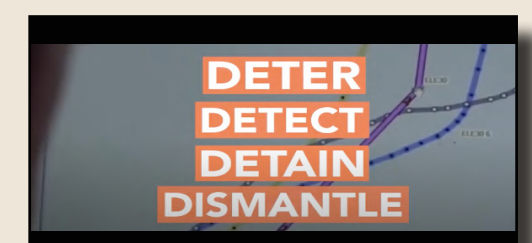


## New ICCWC Website

ICCWC launched its [new website](#) in 2022 where all information related to ICCWC and Partners, including ICCWC Tools & Services, reports, latest updates and news stories can be found.



**Tools & Services video**  
[Click to play](#)



**Our Approach video**  
[Click to play](#)

# OUR APPROACH

## TOGETHER AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

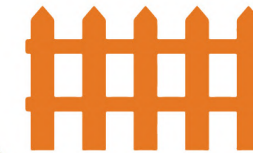
### DISMANTLE

Creating a strong legal framework to enable sentencing and convictions which are critical to dismantling organized crime groups.



### DETER

Awareness-raising of wildlife crime consequences and sharing knowledge with law enforcement, policy makers, government and civil society to combat this organized and transnational threat.



ICCWC

Cross-border cooperation, global intelligence-led operations, seizures and detentions of criminals involved in wildlife crime.



### DETAIN

Gathering evidence, using forensic science, investigating illicit flow of money and building capacity to detect and address wildlife crime on social media and the internet.



### DETECT

# DETER



**Valerie Hickey**

Global Director - Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy  
World Bank

*"Countries need to tackle wildlife crime from crime scene to the courthouse. More importantly, governments must deter wildlife crime before it happens. By addressing corruption, preventing financial crimes linked to wildlife crime, and developing strong natural resources management and sustainable livelihoods, governments promote good governance and can stop environmental crime before it starts."*

Over 2021 and 2022, ICCWC continued to raise awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime consequences and worked with law enforcement, policy makers, government and civil society to enhance efforts to combat and deter this organized and transnational threat. This included sharing knowledge, research and best practices as well as supporting corruption prevention and anti-money laundering policies. It also included trainings, workshops and the convening of Task Forces to strengthen responses to wildlife crime.

## Online Courses & Trainings for Law Enforcement

A mobile application and video tutorials were developed as complementary tools to the [ICCWC Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification](#).

The [CITES Virtual College](#) is an essential resource to strengthen the understanding of the CITES Convention by those in the frontline of its implementation in each of the Parties. In 2022, it was revamped with a new interface including a new enforcement section within the Virtual College, which is more user-friendly, easy to navigate, and updated with current materials and courses for law enforcement officers.

The [CLiKC! Platform](#) developed by WCO provides e-learning modules on environmental guides including modules to combat illegal wildlife trade, CITES, and to improve customs officers' understanding of what they should observe during inspections and verifications of CITES-listed species. The environmental training materials were updated in 2021 and translated into French in 2022.

**188**  
customs officers  
successfully  
completed the WCO  
CLiKC! e-learning  
modules in 2022



## Money Laundering & Financial Crime

Wildlife crime and financial crime are linked. Illegal wildlife trade generates large sums of money that often flow through the same financial systems used for other criminal activities, including money laundering. Criminals involved in wildlife crime, often use money laundering techniques to evade detection and conceal their illicit gains. Investigating and disrupting the financial flows associated with wildlife crime is crucial to effectively combating this illegal activity and ICCWC has developed specialized training courses and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and National Risk Assessments (NRA) to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in preventing and combating wildlife and forest crimes.

### Specialized Training Courses

In 2021, ICCWC delivered a series of regional specialized trainings for customs and wildlife enforcement officers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, with a focus on enhancing officers' capacities in intelligence analysis, open-source intelligence collection and investigation of financial and corporate crime. These training courses took place both in person and virtually.

In 2022, representatives from 8 countries across Africa were trained on Financial Investigation of Wildlife Crime, by [INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme and Financial Crime Unit](#).

Training courses on financial investigations linked to wildlife crime were delivered to national authorities in Latin America (Colombia and Peru) by [UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch](#). Through trainings and mentoring, public officials received guidance on the identification of cases where financial investigations should be undertaken, financial investigation techniques and opportunities, as well as challenges that may present themselves throughout the course of an investigation.



Over 100 officers in charge of investigating wildlife crime cases from all provinces of Cambodia were trained by UNODC and Cambodia's Forestry Administration. As a result, the participants gained the knowledge and skills needed to utilize money laundering investigation techniques to support the investigation of wildlife and forest crimes in Cambodia, ultimately strengthening law enforcement efforts in preventing such crimes. To ensure practical application of the learned techniques, a hands-on case training was also organized, providing participants with real-life experience in dealing with wildlife crime cases from a financial investigation perspective.

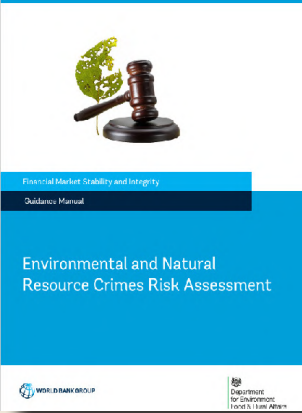
**Anti-Money Laundering and National Risk Assessments**

Led by the World Bank (WBG), ICCWC supported the development of the [Environmental and Natural Resource Risk Assessment Tool](#) (ENV crime module).

The tool supports countries in understanding their money laundering and terrorism financing risks associated with wildlife and natural resource crimes, and drafting AML risk-based strategies to ensure that these crimes are adequately reflected in national responses. It can be taken independently or as part of the broader [National Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Toolkit](#).

Countries that implemented the tool include Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Uganda.

On-going assistance is also being provided to Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Sierra Leone. Further support to finalize the implementation of the National Risk Assessment and ENV crime module is being provided to Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Viet Nam, with the support from Global Wildlife Program (GWP) which is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the World Bank.



In 2021-2022, countries received the WBG's support in implementing recommendations from their National Risk Assessment for money laundering and financing terrorism, including the drafting of AML strategies and action plans (Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Mozambique), reviewing AML laws and providing support in drafting amendments (Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Mozambique), and organizing compliance workshops (Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar). Support was also given to Malagasy Banking and Financial Supervisory Commission and the Central Bank of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the development of tools to implement AML and Combating the Financing of Terrorism risk-based supervision in the financial sector.

**Combating Corruption**

In the context of wildlife crime, corruption can be particularly detrimental because it enables the illegal trade of endangered species to thrive, leading to the further depletion of wildlife populations and the destruction of ecosystems. Furthermore, corruption can hinder law enforcement agencies' ability to investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes effectively. Fighting corruption is critical to stopping wildlife crime by ensuring that law enforcement agencies are able to operate independently and that laws and regulations are enforced fairly and consistently. UNODC, as guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, leads the Consortium's work on combating corruption, in close cooperation with ICCWC Partners.

Various actions were undertaken with wildlife enforcement authorities across 2021 and 2022 to identify and prioritize corruption risks as well as designing corruption risk mitigation strategies, placing mentors to support implementation of key measures to mitigate corruption linked to wildlife crime.

As part of efforts to combat corruption in the wildlife sector, ICCWC conducted two Corruption Risk Assessments in Nigeria in 2021, upon request from the Federal Ministry of Environment.

The assessments targeted the Nigeria Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency and the Nigeria Customs Service, the two main agencies responsible for wildlife sector regulation in Nigeria. Following the assessments, ICCWC conducted two workshops under each Corruption Risk Assessment and is now supporting the agencies in the implementation of corruption risk mitigation strategies. In addition, ICCWC collaborated with the Agência Nacional de Controle Ambiental in Mozambique and with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in Malawi, to conduct corruption risk assessments and develop risk mitigation strategies. These initiatives are expected to reduce the prevalence of corruption in the wildlife sector and improve conservation efforts in Nigeria, Malawi and Mozambique, ultimately helping to safeguard endangered species and their habitats.

**Corruption Prevention in Kenya**

In 2022, ICCWC supported the production of a Compendium of Good Practices that will inform national consultations in Kenya. It worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) on the development of a risk mitigation plan and held a workshop to review policies and procedures to enhance anti-corruption mechanisms. The Corruption Prevention Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, and Code of Conduct and Ethics were officially launched on International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2021. As alcohol and substance use were identified by the KWS as a vulnerability to exposing the institution to corruption, support was provided to undertake a survey on this issue, as to the KWS for the establishment of its Integrity Office, an office with the sole purpose to coordinate all anti-corruption efforts for KWS. In 2022, Kenya Wildlife Service received 100% scoring for the first time for work on corruption prevention implementation from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, compared with 40% just 3 years ago.

**Enhancing wildlife enforcement support in West & Central Africa**

Across 2021-2022, ICCWC provided support to countries in West and Central Africa. This was initiated through an invitation for expressions of interest to receive capacity building support to strengthen CITES implementation and address illegal trade in wildlife. Through the consultation, ICCWC identified a number of activities based on needs identified by Parties in West and Central Africa. Various complementary activities were also conducted such as a CITES online international workshop on legal acquisition findings or a regional workshop on drafting legislation to combat wildlife crimes.

Based on an assessment of capacity building needs, ICCWC identified a number of activities that will be rolled out in 2023, including targeted support through the [UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme \(CCP\)](#). The CCP aims to build capacity in countries seeking to improve risk management, supply chain security, and trade facilitation in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods.



**Annual Regional Meetings**

Recognizing the evolving nature of wildlife crime, ICCWC convenes yearly regional meetings with national law enforcement agencies to take pulse of wildlife crime developments and related national enforcement priorities across ICCWC target regions. These meetings, led by INTERPOL, addressed three major themes including the main wildlife criminal threats in the post-pandemic phase, the evolution of wildlife crime linked to the Internet, and key operational, international cooperation and capacity building needs in member countries. In 2022, meetings were held in Asia, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.



### Increased synergies with the Global Wildlife Program

ICCWC continued to strengthen synergies with the [Global Wildlife Program \(GWP\)](#), a global partnership on wildlife conservation and wildlife crime prevention financed by the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) and led by the World Bank, bringing together 31 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Eight GWP countries are identified as ICCWC priority countries for combating wildlife crime, due to their significant role in global wildlife trafficking chains and the need for stronger national responses.

The GWP is helping align ICCWC efforts with country GEF investments, while ICCWC tools such as the ICCWC Indicator Framework are used as project indicators in GWP countries. In Madagascar the GWP project was designed to integrate and operationalize an interagency task force to mitigate IWT in accordance with ICCWC Toolkit recommendations.

The knowledge products and technical support delivered under the GWP knowledge platform help complement ICCWC tools. The GWP [Guidance Note for Strengthening National Inter-Agency Coordination to Combat Wildlife Trafficking](#), for example, summarizes lessons learned from GWP projects that set up or strengthened national law enforcement coordination mechanisms and provides practical recommendations. Under the new GEF-8 replenishment cycle, the WBG will lead the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, providing a good opportunity to continue aligning ICCWC vision and work plans with national level priorities of the 15 participating GEF-8 countries.

### Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species

In 2022, CITES in close cooperation with ICCWC, convened the online Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species. A total of 140 representatives from 34 countries met to jointly develop strategies to combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species. Topics discussed included forest legality, traceability and CITES provision, international and regional cooperation, physical inspections, species identification and risk assessment and profiling and addressing corruption and financial crimes linked to the forestry sector.

The Task Force meeting ended with the agreement of a final outcome document outlining a comprehensive set of measures and activities to be undertaken to elaborate strategies to prevent and combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, and to promote and further strengthen regional and international cooperation.



A total of **800 tree species** are included in the [CITES Appendices](#). Of these, 97% are listed in Appendix II, meaning that they can be traded, provided that they meet the Convention's provisions on sustainability, legality and traceability.



# DETECT



*“Wildlife crime is best detected and intercepted at borders. The application of risk management, technology and innovation, as well as collaboration with the relevant authorities and with business are the key means for Customs to serve as the first line of defence against illegal wildlife trade across borders. ICCWC raises much-needed public awareness, helps with capacity building and enhances international cooperation. It also supports subsequent investigations and prosecutions, thereby dismantling criminal networks often associated with corruption and money laundering. This is our joint response to fighting organized crime and protecting our natural heritage.”*



**Dr. Kunio Mikuriya**  
Secretary General  
World Customs Organization

Over 2021 and 2022, ICCWC continued to develop capacities to better detect and respond to wildlife crime. The use of innovative solutions and technologies can help address these challenges by enabling the rapid and accurate detection of illegal wildlife trade, tracking of poachers and traffickers, and monitoring of wildlife populations and habitats. For ICCWC, this means enhancing wildlife forensics capacities worldwide and supporting wildlife crime scene management efforts. Additionally, ICCWC works to develop new technologies and investigate wildlife crime linked to the Internet to help overcome the challenges posed by sophisticated criminal networks using advanced technologies and tactics to avoid detection and prosecution.

## Global Wildlife Forensics

Global wildlife forensics capacity for CITES enforcement is going from strength to strength. When ICCWC was established in 2010, the potential of the application of forensic science to combat wildlife crime was being discussed. Today, we see a clear impact of wildlife crime scene and laboratory training on prosecutions. Countries are increasingly improving their capacities and conducting casework with the aim to strengthen detection, investigations and prosecutions of wildlife crime.

### Enhancing laboratories' capacity to support wildlife enforcement

In 2021, a pilot project to support six forensic laboratories that face challenges in accessing certified chemicals, reagents, and basic consumables was conducted to enhance the laboratories' ability to support wildlife law enforcement efficiently and effectively. The project strengthened investigations and prosecutions of wildlife crime, including supporting investigations of wildlife poisoning in Zimbabwe and analyzing samples related to investigations in Malaysia. The project improved the availability of essential materials for wildlife crime investigations, enhancing the capacity of forensic laboratories and ultimately contributing to the successful prosecution of wildlife crime.

### Portable Laboratory for Testing Seizures

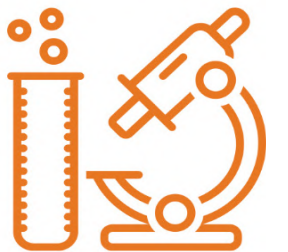
The establishment of the Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures (PELTS) in Uganda, in partnership with TRACE, has yielded significant results. In 2021, the portable lab successfully supported four wildlife crime investigations in Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, providing crucial forensic analysis capabilities. Additionally, the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) in Tanzania received training and mentorship support through PELTS, facilitating knowledge exchange and skill development.



Notably, staff members from the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority laboratory visited Uganda for a week-long exchange visit in 2022, receiving hands-on training. This south-south cooperation element has proven highly successful within the project. In Uganda, the PELTS equipment has been instrumental in supporting national casework for the Uganda Wildlife Authority. With substantial engagement from national counterparts, Uganda Wildlife Authority assigned two staff members to the laboratory for long-term training and mentorship. As a result, the laboratory is now actively processing casework and preparing forensic reports. The tangible impact of PELTS was exemplified when the laboratory manager testified in court in 2022, presenting one of the first forensic casework reports.

# 16

Investigations were supporting with analysis conducted by the Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures laboratory in Uganda in 2022



### Tiger DNA Registration

The DNA registration of all captive tigers in Lao PDR is ongoing as part of a broader regional DNA registration process, which aims to provide traceability of individual tigers and prevent cubs from being illegally traded across countries. The Department of Forestry successfully managed to coordinate the collection of 236 tiger samples, which have been analyzed in Malaysia, with support from ICCWC, led by UNODC and with technical support from TRACE and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The data produced will be catalogued in a database with photographic records and used to support enforcement action in Lao People Democratic Republic targeting illegal tiger trade.

### African Wildlife Forensics Network

The [African Wildlife Forensics Network](#) has provided a strong framework to support inter-lab relationships and to encourage peer-to-peer cooperation. ICCWC and civil society partners have continued to foster the network through various initiatives. In October 2021, 70 forensic practitioners (crime scene investigators and laboratory analysts) were brought together through a virtual meeting of the Network including members from 14 African countries. In July 2022, the Network met in-person in South Africa for a week-long meeting bringing together 65 members and stakeholders from 13 African countries. These meetings provided an opportunity for networking and training as well as for discussions on enhancing wildlife forensic capacity throughout Africa.

70  
forensic practitioners  
from 14 countries met  
to enhance wildlife  
forensic capacity  
throughout Africa in  
2021

### Digital Forensics for Wildlife Investigations

In November 2022, 15 officers from countries from Latin America, Africa and Europe participated in a mentoring programme supported by ICCWC and the French Gendarmerie on digital forensics and increasing the use of forensically extracted data in wildlife investigations.

### Wildlife Crime Scene Management

It is important for first responders to know how to approach and process a crime scene correctly. The forensic process is highly dependent on the evidence and actions taken at a crime scene and any errors made at the beginning of a forensic investigation may have negative consequences for the validity of analysis. ICCWC trains park rangers, judicial authorities and law enforcement officers to manage wildlife crime scenes effectively.

Over 2021 and 2022, support was given to the following countries:

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

To strengthen the capacity and skills of park rangers and judicial authorities, ICCWC conducted a training in 2021 for the park rangers and magistrates at the Garamba National Park. The practical training allowed park rangers, investigators and prosecutors to collect, preserve and analyze data from a mock crime scene. The trainings helped increase the participant's awareness of the need for coordination between park rangers and judicial authorities, bridging the gap between crime scene and court. The training was organized in collaboration with Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature and the Corps chargé de la sécurisation des parcs nationaux et réserves apparentées.



*Institutionalizing capacity at Garoua Wildlife School*

[Click to play](#)

### Lao PDR

ICCWC held a training course on Wildlife Crime Scene Search and Evidence Documentation for 24 law enforcement and prosecutorial officers from across Lao PDR in 2021. Modern wildlife crime scene management, including search and evidence documentation, frontline health and safety, 3D crime scene reconstruction and practice exercises on search and seizure were conducted.

### United Republic of Tanzania and Cameroon

In 2021, UNODC, TRACE, and the Netherlands Forensics Institute, with co-funding through ICCWC, completed a year-long 'Train the Trainer' programme at the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, United Republic of Tanzania, providing training based on the [Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation Guide for First Responders](#). The new training programme is now embedded in the national 'Curriculum For Technician Certificate In Wildlife Management' which has been approved by Tanzania's National Council for Technical Education and will be used to educate new wildlife crime scene first responders in Tanzania. Officers who were trained during this process have since used the crime scene methods taught to secure 15 separate convictions using DNA evidence for offences involving the poaching of elephant, buffalo, and giraffe. This sustainable institutionalization approach is considered best practice and was replicated in 2022 at the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon where 13 national officials completed their instructor training in December 2022.

"For me this project is the cherry on the cake. I am born again as a park ranger because my conception of wildlife crime scene analysis is not the same as it was one year ago. I will have the possibility to share this knowledge with all the other eco-guards of Cameroon, people involved in conservation, and we will all be at the same level. We will win the fight against wildlife crime."

- Trainee Trainer, Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon

### Viet Nam

ICCWC supported crime scene management training for 33 frontline officers from across the country, through training on virtual 3D crime scene reconstruction, as well as the chain of custody, wildlife seizure and storage, frontline safety and health.



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## New Technologies

### Timber Identification Mobile App

UNODC with support from ICCWC, collaborated with specialists in Peru from the Specialized Environmental Prosecutors Offices, the Timber Technological Innovation Center, and National Agrarian University to develop a mobile application for rapid forensic timber identification for frontline law enforcement authorities called [ID Maderas](#) (Timber ID). This application enables the Peruvian authorities to access technical information in a simple and efficient manner when working on detection and inspection of timber shipments.



### Pathogen research through MinION technology

A research project is underway to evaluate the potential threat of infectious diseases in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade by applying MinION technology to pathogen screening of illegal wildlife products, conducted in partnership with TRACE, the University of Edinburgh and with laboratories in Malaysia and Zambia.

The aim is to help mitigate the risks of zoonotic disease to human and agricultural health and strengthen the capacity of partner labs through the provision of equipment and training, including training on safe handling of wildlife products. Laboratory analysts from Malaysia and Zambia visited the University of Edinburgh for two weeks of training to practice MinION sequence analysis and are now able to conduct the analysis to proactively screen wildlife seizures for disease.

## Investigating Wildlife Crime linked to the Internet

### Jaguar trafficking

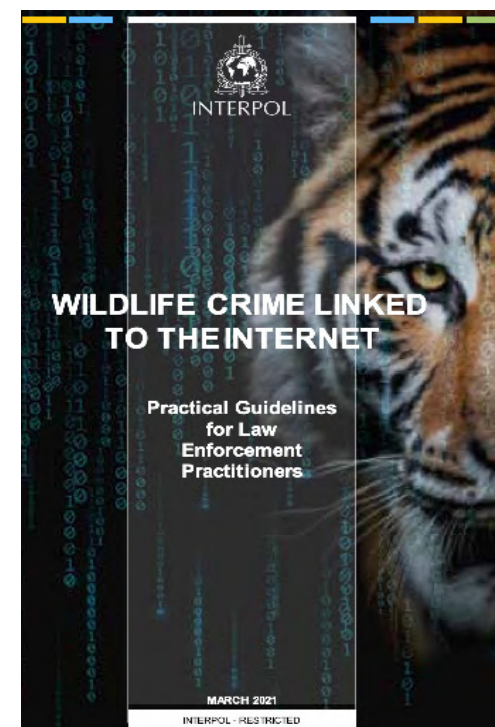
ICCWC held a discussion about e-commerce sites and social media accounts used to advertise jaguars and other big cat species during a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) with participants from Latin America and Asia in 2021. This promoted capacity building and exchange of intelligence in wildlife crime linked to ongoing Internet investigations, shared best practice for investigations of online sales of prohibited wildlife, and discussed targets identified for enforcement actions and use of INTERPOL notices.



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## INTERPOL Guidelines on combating wildlife crime linked to the Internet

In 2021, the INTERPOL [Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet - Practical Guidelines for Law Enforcement Practitioners](#), were updated to assist Parties in combating wildlife crime linked to the Internet more effectively. These guidelines provide law enforcement officers with a practical tool for investigating wildlife crime linked to the Internet. They include concepts related to online investigations, identifying and disrupting wildlife crime linked to the Internet, analyzing content, and modern police investigation techniques. The guidelines document is a restricted document available only to law enforcement authorities upon request via their respective [INTERPOL National Central Bureaus](#).



## Open-source Intelligence Training for wildlife crime investigations in Africa

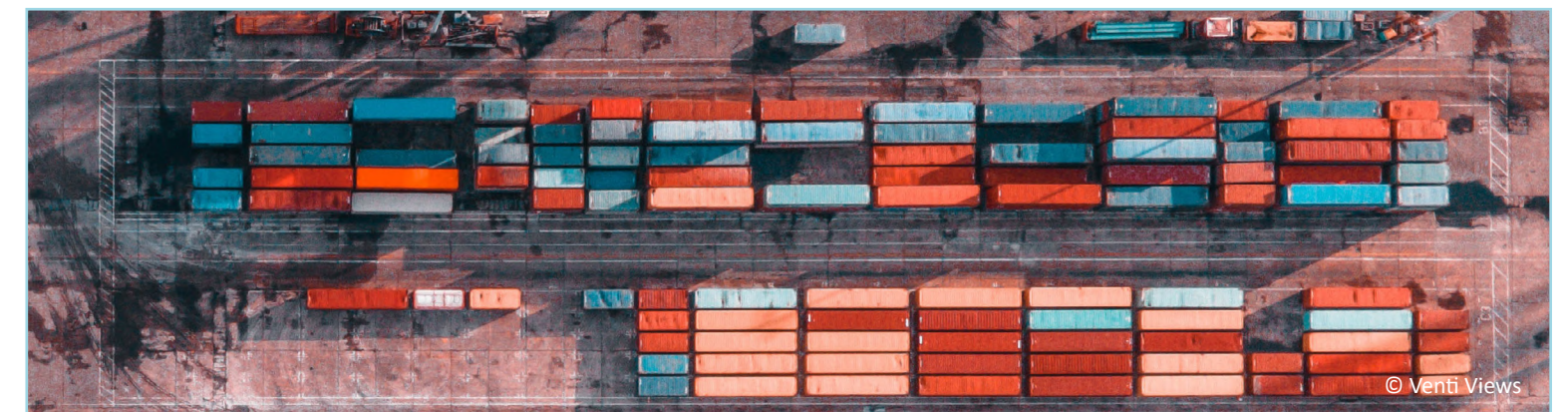
ICCWC held a training to equip wildlife crime investigators from Africa (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon), with various essential tools and techniques to locate, collect and utilize information sourced from the internet and social media platforms, while protecting their privacy.



© UNODC

## Sharing knowledge

In addition to targeted activities, ICCWC has also supported a broad range of initiatives to enhance responses to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet. For example, in August 2022 ICCWC contributed to a webinar '[The Inside Out of Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet](#)' convened by the Global Wildlife Program, TRAFFIC and WWF. The event aimed at enhancing governments', private sector' and broader civil society' knowledge on the latest trends and existing best practice examples at global, regional and national levels to counter this issue; as well as to encourage further coordinated action by governments and collaboration with the tech sector.



© Venti Views

# DETAIN

Across 2021 and 2022, ICCWC continued to provide a strong, coordinated response to detain and disrupt illegal trade in wildlife across source, transit and destination countries. This included the implementation of the annual global Thunder-series of Operations, and the CROSSLINE Initiative, Operation Mekong Dragon Phases III and IV and WIRE Meetings, intelligence sharing through regional and cross border activities and support to Wildlife Enforcement Networks.

## Thunder Operations

The ICCWC Thunder Operations, led by INTERPOL and WCO, are an annual global crackdown on wildlife and forest crime. The operations bring together police, customs, financial intelligence units and national bodies responsible for combating wildlife crime.

Customs and police units around the world share wildlife and timber trafficking intelligence both ahead of and during operations, enabling field officers to identify and target trafficking hotspots, with an emphasis on land and airport border points as well as wildlife parks. Known criminals, particularly INTERPOL Red Notice fugitives, are identified ahead of operations, along with companies used to facilitate wildlife and timber crime.

The results of the global Thunder Operations allow for the identification of emerging and target cases of illegal wildlife trade among countries along with the implementation of activities (operational, analytical and training) with continuing investigations. Read more about the [Thunder Operation 2021](#) and [Thunder Operation 2022](#).



**Operation Thunder**  
[Click to play](#)



**Jürgen Stock**  
Secretary General  
INTERPOL

*"Organized crime networks are generating billions in illicit profits every year, at significant cost to our environment as well as the associated impacts of fraud, corruption, and violence. We are seeing the continued globalization of crime, which means only an international response can be effective. This is why the work of ICCWC and the annual Thunder Operations along with the follow up investigations are important to support countries to combat the threat of wildlife and forest crime."*

## THUNDER SEIZURES 2022



Angola arrested a Vietnamese national with four rhino horns and 174 ivory ornaments en route to Hanoi.



Argentina police authorities rescued one of 34 primates seized from traffickers globally during the Operation.



Pakistan authorities intercepted the smuggling of young birds of prey.



Protected plant species were seized in Tbilisi, Georgia.



Namibia seized two lorries of timber en route to South Africa.



Indian Customs at Chennai International Airport seized 1,204 reptiles declared as "ornamental fish" and packed in cardboard boxes sent from Malaysia.



Norway customs seized 13 undeclared parrots which were concealed amongst declared birds.



Live common spotted cuscus marsupials were seized from a passenger traveling from Thailand.

### CROSSLINE Initiative

ICCWC initiated the CROSSLINE Initiative with China Customs in 2021, which sought to address the border vulnerabilities for wildlife trafficking at the time of COVID-19.

Led by UNODC, CROSSLINE is a law enforcement advisory project targeting cross border criminal networks between China and its neighboring jurisdictions through mentoring on the investigation of cross border cases and networks.

Two networks were dismantled in 2021 including the arrest of 11 people in mainland China and four people in Hong Kong, China.

From April to June 2021, China Customs conducted an operation against a smuggling network between China and Viet Nam. The suspected smugglers commissioned Vietnamese and other international smuggling groups to purchase wildlife products, which were delivered in Viet Nam, and further smuggled into China. UNODC provided information on the whereabouts of the head of the syndicate of this network and facilitated the bilateral cooperation between China and Viet Nam, which resulted in the successful handover of the kingpin from Viet Nam to China, based on an arrest warrant in China.

In June 2021, Hong Kong Customs, based on support from China Customs, conducted enforcement operations against a suspected speedboat smuggling network. A batch of suspected smuggled goods with an estimated market value of about \$120 million was seized, including 186 kilograms of products of endangered species. This is the largest speedboat smuggling case detected by Hong Kong Customs on record in terms of the seizure value. UNODC provided intelligence analysis support and investigation recommendations to China Customs, who in turn supported the Hong Kong Customs in cracking down this network. Four people were arrested in Hong Kong, China.

### Operation Mekong Dragon

Operation Mekong Dragon is a series of joint operations, initiated in 2018 against drug trafficking and illegal trade in wildlife. It is a cooperative enforcement effort among Customs and other law enforcement authorities in Asia-Pacific supported by ICCWC, targeting transboundary trafficking in the region.

#### Phase III - 2021

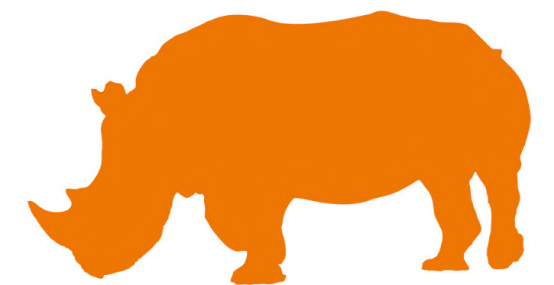
A historic total of 23 law enforcement agencies from 20 member countries and territories in Asia and the Pacific participated. Even with continued mobility restrictions posed by COVID-19 pandemic, a total 868 seizures were made by 14 participating members, including 425 tonnes of wildlife and timber products, specifically 200 cubic meters of wood and 28,311 pieces of wildlife timber.

#### Phase IV - 2022

An increased participation of 24 countries and territories, including 24 Customs administrations and 3 specialized drugs and wildlife law enforcement authorities. In total, there were 1,362 case seizures including 78 wildlife and timber cases.

Seizures included 6,540 kgs of *Pterocarpus santalinus* (red sandalwood) in the course of a single operation by the customs authorities of Hong Kong, China. Malaysia Customs seized 4,559 kgs of ivory, 112 kgs of pangolin scales, 308 kgs of tiger parts and 27 kgs of rhinoceros horn in a single case.

↑ **57%**  
increase in case numbers  
from 2021 - 2022



## Cross Border Cooperation

**120**  
countries supported in  
2021



Latin America (18 countries), Asia (29 countries), Africa and Middle East (39) and Europe and North America (36 countries).

**135**  
countries supported in  
2022

Latin America and the Caribbean (27 countries), Asia-Pacific (28 countries), Africa and the Middle East (46 countries) and Europe and North America (34 countries).

### Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings

ICCWC convenes RIACMs (Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings) to bring together countries with valuable insights and experience in national and regional priorities, border hotspots, trade routes, specific wildlife crime cases and emerging trends. Reports from countries participating in the annual Thunder Operations are analyzed to find connections and bring together countries working on the same cases.

The meetings, led by INTERPOL, help to strengthen connections between countries as well as identify targets, priorities for actions and follow up activities in the global Thunder Operations.



### Investigation into seizure of suspected lion teeth and bones and trafficking of reptiles

A series of three RIACMs took place across 2021 and 2022 which brought together officers from Europe and South Africa to discuss ongoing investigations specifically related to lion teeth trafficking, chameleons as well as a case involving a reptile trafficker. The meetings served to determine the priorities of existing investigations, facilitate discussions and build a clearer picture of the criminal networks involved and DNA analysis revealed the samples to be leopard teeth.

### Bird Trafficking

The issue of increased trafficking in exotic birds was raised by a number of countries during the annual regional meetings for Asia held in 2021 and 2022. To seize the momentum and to increase opportunities for information exchange, a RIACM with a focus on Asian Hornbill took place in 2022 concerning this protected species.

### Exotic Species Smuggling

A RIACM provided a platform for intelligence exchange between investigators and analysts from police, immigration and wildlife authorities from Africa and Asia. Discussions focused on an [INTERPOL Red Notice](#) suspect wanted since 2011 for his involvement in the smuggling of a large number of exotic animals.

### Elephant Tusks, Pangolin Scales and Rhino Horn Trafficking

ICCWC provided a platform for investigators from Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Viet Nam and the USA in order to share information on the trafficking of elephant tusks, pangolin scales and rhino horn from Africa to Asia with links to the USA.

### Cheetah Smuggling

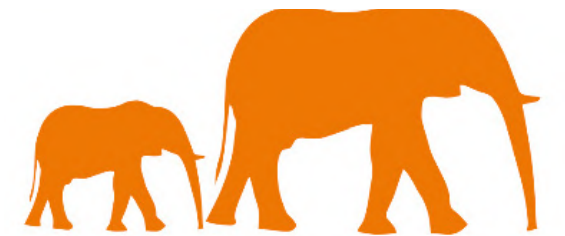
In 2021 and 2022, ICCWC brought together investigators, analysts, and environmental enforcement officers from Africa and the Middle East to discuss ongoing cases involving the smuggling and trade of cheetahs between Eastern Africa and Gulf States, which involved online trade. During the meeting, key smuggling routes, modus operandi, known cases and persons of interest were identified.

### Madagascar Tortoises Smuggling

To enhance understanding and information on the supply chain of Radiated Tortoise and Ploughshare Tortoises – two of Madagascar's endemic tortoise species – between Madagascar and Asia, ICCWC organized a RIACM to allow officers to identify potential smuggling routes and criminal networks involved.

### Intelligence Exchange Meeting in the Galapagos

A mission was organized to support authorities in the Galapagos to obtain further intelligence regarding suspects of transnational trafficking in CITES listed species. Five operational reports were produced, and Ecuadorian authorities requested further support from ICCWC to advance their ongoing investigations.



## WIRE Meetings

Each year, ICCWC convenes law enforcement and criminal justice specialists to collaborate through the Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) initiative, led by UNODC. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss cooperation on interception, investigation and prosecution of wildlife and forest crime cases.

In 2021, the [fifth](#) WIRE Meeting brought together over 200 law enforcement and criminal justice representatives from 34 different countries across Africa and Asia.

In 2022, the [sixth](#) WIRE Meeting took place with a total of 90 police, prosecutors, wildlife and forest officers and customs officials from 32 different countries, including for the first time, participation from five Latin American countries. In more than 50 bilateral meetings held in the margins of WIRE, national authorities discussed recent and previous cases in closed sessions as well as the potential for joint investigations targeting syndicates of mutual interest across regions. Both WIRE meetings were held in Bangkok, Thailand.

**“I have been to several such international meetings before, but never before have I had the opportunity to discuss so many concrete cases bilaterally and face to face with so many countries.”**

- Thai delegate, WIRE Meeting 2022



## ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)

In 2021 and 2022 ICCWC supported the third and fourth meetings of the [Working Group on Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife and Timber](#), which were held under the framework of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC).

The meetings were attended by 10 ASEAN countries and the information shared contributed to the development of a work programme for 2022-2024, as well as for ASEAN countries to update each other on the Illegal Wildlife Trade situation, including their post Covid-19 national strategies.



## Wildlife Enforcement Networks

Regional and inter-regional cooperation is essential to combating wildlife trafficking effectively. In support of such efforts ICCWC has convened a number of Global meetings of Wildlife Enforcement Networks.

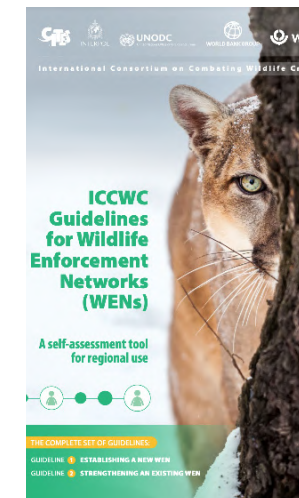
### What is a Wildlife Enforcement Network?

A number of networks with different purposes and objectives focused on combating wildlife crime, and with varying degrees of formality and organization, have been developed across the world. In most cases these networks are known as Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs), and these WENs if functioning optimally, can play an important role in facilitating increased collaboration and coordination to combat wildlife crime.

## 4th Global Meeting of WENs

In November 2022, over 100 representatives from networks, law enforcement authorities, inter-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations came together at the [4th Global meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks \(WENs\)](#), held alongside the CITES CoP19 in Panama. Representatives from established and developing networks from around the world, shared experiences and considered measures to further strengthen WENs, promote their operational effectiveness, and enhance cooperation and interaction.

As a key outcome of the meeting, WENs were encouraged to use the [ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) as well as other tools and services available through ICCWC Partner agencies. Other outcomes encouraged WENs to increase collaboration and engagement with activities and initiatives in their respective regions; further strengthen cooperation and collaboration between and across networks and to consider the key trends, priorities and species identified.



## Targeted support to SudWEN and HAWEN

Throughout 2021 and 2022 ICCWC supported the reinvigoration of the South America Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN) and provided support to the [Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network \(HAWEN\)](#).

ICCWC support to SudWEN included discussions and activities with focal points, ICCWC members, and civil society. A [regional meeting of SudWEN](#) was held in 2021, which implemented the ICCWC WEN Guideline 1 (Establishing a new WEN) culminating in the draft of the Terms of Reference for the Network. ICCWC continued to support these efforts in 2022 by supporting the review process of the Terms of Reference as well as through a number of targeted activities.

ICCWC support to HAWEN included implementation of the ICCWC WEN Guidelines and seconding an officer to HAWEN to assist in the development of an action plan and associated strategy. HAWEN was the first network to implement ICCWC WEN Guideline 2 (Strengthening an existing WEN), which helped identify gaps in responses and priorities for action that were then included in HAWEN's revised Action Plan.



# DISMANTLE

*"Dismantling the criminal networks that target and endanger our environment is an urgent task that we must tackle swiftly and collectively. Wildlife crimes and crimes that affect the environment threaten our ecosystems and jeopardize the well-being of people and communities who rely on these precious natural resources to sustain their livelihoods. ICCWC has had real success in strengthening criminal justice capacities within Member States, to dismantle criminal networks and put an end to their exploitation of our planet's natural wealth."*



**Ghada Waly**  
Executive Director  
UNODC

An important part of ICCWC's work is supporting countries in addressing gaps in their criminal justice response to wildlife crime, including reviewing legal frameworks and penal codes, detailing strengths and weaknesses of a country's criminal justice response to wildlife and forest crime, and supporting the development of national Action Plans. Addressing gaps in criminal responses to wildlife crime is a priority of ICCWC to help dismantle criminal networks. Between 2021 and 2022, ICCWC collaborated with countries to evaluate and assess their capacities to address wildlife crime through the utilization of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework. The objective was to conduct an assessment that would establish a foundation and benchmarks for creating a comprehensive strategy to respond to and prevent wildlife crime.

## ICCWC Toolkit & Indicator Framework

Across 2021 – 2022, ICCWC presented Toolkit reports in Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Toolkit Evaluations were also conducted in Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and the Philippines.

ICCWC supported the following countries to implement Toolkit recommendations in 2021 and 2022: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Gabon, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam.

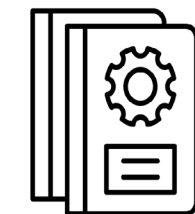
ICCWC Indicator Framework workshops were also conducted in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador (mainland), Galapagos, Malawi, Mexico and Paraguay.

## South East Asia

### Lao People's Democratic Republic

Across 2021 – 2022, ICCWC delivered trainings, workshops and meetings in Lao People Democratic Republic.

One of the findings of the ICCWC Toolkit Report was a general lack of appreciation of the gravity of wildlife crime among judges, especially as it relates to organized crime. In response, ICCWC, led by UNODC partnered with the People's Supreme Court to hold the Judiciary Dialogues on the adjudication of wildlife and forest crime in 2022. ICCWC also partnered with the People's Supreme Court to hold a Specialized Training on the Prosecution and Supervision of Investigation of Wildlife and Forest Crime in August 2022, where local and international experts were invited to each training. The experts shared their experiences in applying several of the good practices in the investigation, supervision, prosecution, and adjudication of wildlife and forest crimes. They also shared several platforms for international cooperation and mutual legal assistance, as well as existing tools to help the 31 participants in their work.



**28**  
countries

have completed assessments of  
wildlife crime responses using the  
ICCWC Toolkit and/or the  
ICCWC Indicator Framework

 **66%**  
of recommendations  
have been followed up  
on by ICCWC since the  
Lao PDR Toolkit report  
was finalized in 2020

ICCWC conducted the training course on Wildlife Domestic Controlled Delivery Techniques for frontline officers in Lao People Democratic Republic. A total of 18 law enforcement officers from Customs Department, Department of Forest Inspection, and DEP attended. To enrich Lao People Democratic Republic's frontline capacity in the investigation of wildlife related cases, as well as to provide a platform for multi-agency cooperation to combat wildlife crime, focused topics included controlled delivery techniques, wildlife crime scene management, and surveillance techniques. Finally, ICCWC continued mentorship and advisory support, including three advisory workshops to discuss current wildlife trafficking cases, bilateral meetings with government agencies and the post COVID-19 challenges.

#### Viet Nam

In 2022, ICCWC led by UNODC organized a training on Safe Wildlife Handling Techniques for Frontline Officers in Nha Trang, with a total of 26 attendees from Provincial Environmental Police Departments. The training included discussions on exposure and risks from wildlife seizures, crime scene assessments, evidence collection, safety protocols and collecting, packaging and transporting for DNA examination along with practical exercises and team reporting.

#### A study on the impact of COVID-19 was conducted in the Upper Mekong region

In 2021, ICCWC developed a report to provide a snapshot analysis of illegal wildlife trade trends and dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, at selected border areas and key locations in Myanmar, southern China, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.



### Latin America

#### Bolivia

Throughout 2021 and 2022, ICCWC continued to build national capacities in Bolivia. A series of trainings and workshops were delivered, including a Train the Trainer workshop for prosecutors and environmental specialists on crimes against the environment, with the aim to ensure sustainability building cascade trainings. Assistance was provided to working group on the draft law on environment crime, and a report providing "Observations and Suggestions to the Preliminary Draft Law of Modification to the Penal Code", to include crimes against Earth and its components. Following a request for support from the Agro-environmental Tribunal, UNODC conducted an expert review of the proposed agro-environmental procedure code, focused on environmental, wildlife and forest crime procedures and prosecutions.

ICCWC continued to support the School of State Prosecutors (Escuela de Fiscales del Estado). As part of the Schools' Initial Training Programme for new prosecutors, UNODC developed and delivered a module on experiences and challenges faced in the prosecution and adjudication of wildlife crime.

Corruption prevention was identified as one of the early technical assistance needs, as part of the preparatory work to launch the ICCWC Toolkit process in Bolivia. In 2021 and 2022, UNODC supported the Ministry of Environment and Water to identify corruption risks within the institution, and to develop a risk mitigation strategy and implement corruption risk mitigation measures.

### Mexico

Following the first national assessment of capacity building by the UN involving environmental and prosecutorial authorities of 32 countries, ICCWC, led by UNODC developed and conducted an introductory tailor-made training programme which was delivered to Governments across Mexico in 2022. National officials and local authorities increased their capacities to address crimes that affect the environment, with special emphasis on wildlife and forest crime.

In total, 388 officials were trained, and 18 focal points nominated for the ongoing implementation of the capacity building programme.

#### Peru

The Forest Crime Platform coordinates against forest crime at national and regional levels and brings together an inter-agency team of technical experts and decision-makers from national justice and forest authorities whose range of functions are directly related to the regulation, prevention, and enforcement efforts to combat forest crime.

ICCWC, led by UNODC held a series of trainings on the Use and Operating of OSINFOR Information Systems for prosecutors in Iquitos, Puerto Maldonado and Pucallpa with 65 prosecutors trained.

### Africa

#### Kenya

Throughout 2021 and 2022, ICCWC continued to support Kenya in strengthening criminal justice systems to combat wildlife and forest crime. This included supporting national efforts in improving the efficiency, effectiveness and fairness of investigations and prosecutions by providing training on the Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) in Kenya.

In 2022, support was given to the Environment and Land Court Judges Forum in Mombasa and ICCWC together with the Kenya Forest Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions convened the first Case Progression Unit Training workshop in Kenya. This allowed for officers to be oriented within their new roles and to discuss challenges in prosecuting forest crimes.

ICCWC supported the 'Continuous Judicial Education on Environment and Land Matters' training workshop for Magistrates convened by the Judiciary Training Institute of Kenya and UNODC, with a total of 42 participating magistrates and judges. The workshops aimed to increase awareness on the resolution of environmental cases and impact upon wildlife and forestry resources and associated criminality.

4

## Trainings on the Rapid Reference Guides in Kenya



### What is a Rapid Reference Guide?

Rapid Reference Guides (RRG) outline the different points and steps required to build strong cases against perpetrators, set out the ancillary powers available to court members and provide guidelines to assist investigators and prosecutors with the drafting of charging documents. The RRGs also facilitate and encourage the exchange of information between investigators and prosecutors to ensure that those investigating are collecting the information required by the prosecution to build a solid case.

#### Mozambique

In 2021, a Train the Trainer session was held for 21 judges, which helped strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to train future judges on the use of the Wildlife Crimes Manual. This Manual supports the judiciary in navigating complex wildlife criminal cases. As a result of a two-year collaboration with the judiciary and prosecutors, UNODC, in partnership with the Mozambique Judiciary, officially launched the fully government endorsed Benchbook for Judges on Wildlife Crimes in Maputo in 2022. This launch further raised awareness among the judiciary on the effectiveness of judicial decisions and reinforced relationships and cooperation between national authorities and ICCWC.



**Nigeria**

In 2021 – 2022, ICCWC continued supporting the national authorities with the development of the Nigerian National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime 2022-2026. ICCWC also responded to a request from the Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria to conduct four corruption risk assessments in the fight against wildlife and forest crime in Nigeria.

**Uganda**

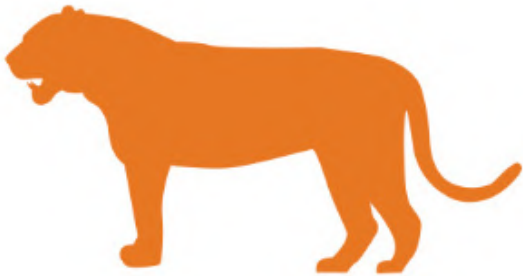
In 2021, ICCWC presented the Toolkit assessment report. The Toolkit assessment had a total of 54 recommendations to address legislative overlap and inconsistencies, enforcement challenges, interagency cooperation, and judicial and prosecutorial barriers in Uganda.

The Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) Wildlife Prosecution Guidelines were launched in 2021 in Uganda. The launch was followed by a Training of the Trainers to provide 37 prosecutors and investigators with the expertise to train future investigators and prosecutors on the RRG resource tool. Following the launch in March 2022, an inter-agency RRG training workshop was convened, which brought together various national authorities in Uganda to sensitize participants on the RRG and the key points to prove in court in a wildlife criminal case.

As a follow up to the Toolkit recommendations, a Curriculum Development Planning Workshop was convened, which brought together various stakeholders in Uganda, including Uganda Police Force, Uganda People’s Defence Force and the Uganda Wildlife Authority to develop a roadmap for the development of a new Law Enforcement Curriculum for Uganda Wildlife Authority. The workshop’s aim was to better understand the training needs and current gaps in capacity among Uganda Wildlife Authority officers in order to guide the development of the Law Enforcement curriculum.

**United Republic of Tanzania**

Across 2021 and 2022, ICCWC worked with the National Prosecution Service of the United Republic of Tanzania on the development of strong prosecution policies. Support was provided to the national authorities to draft guidance on the decision to charge.



# SUCCESS STORIES

## Tackling environmental crime in Africa and Asia

Environmental crime, including illegal wildlife trafficking and forest crime, is one of the largest transnational criminal activities in the world. Combating it requires cooperation across borders and along the entire criminal justice chain. ICCWC has been supporting Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meetings since 2016 to strengthen regional cooperation and information exchange among criminal justice practitioners in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking. WIRE meetings are an important platform to establish contact with and build an informal network of trusted law enforcement and criminal justice peers across Africa and Asia.

[Read more here.](#)



## Building a case against wildlife crime in Mozambique

Mozambique is tackling wildlife crime head on, to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking including for ivory and rhino horn, and to support conservation in the country. Committed to protect endangered species and to deter the illegal wildlife trade, Mozambique requested ICCWC support with the implementation of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and has since improved legislation, named environmental crime prosecutors, reduced courtroom wait times, and increased sentencing for wildlife crimes. ICCWC continues to support Mozambique and to roll out the Rapid Reference Guide in other parts of Mozambique to arm rangers, investigators and prosecutors with the necessary skills and knowledge to build stronger court cases to and to ensure that the law is enforced in all regions of the country.

[Read more here.](#)



# 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. ICCWC supported Côte d'Ivoire to develop an action plan to address these issues and will continue to support as it implements its new anti-money laundering and financial terrorism strategy.

[Read more here.](#)



# Cooperating across borders to fight wildlife crime in Latin America

The Latin American region (Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America) struggles with the same factors that have led to devastating rates of wildlife crime in Africa and Asia, including corruption and organized crime. Governments and law enforcement are placing increased emphasis on the protection of the many rich and varied species of the region. Law enforcement organizations in Latin America have begun to take wildlife crime seriously and are undertaking extensive, sophisticated and cooperative efforts to fight this form of organized crime.

Arrests and prosecutions are ongoing as global investigations build cases against the illegal networks identified during the annual Operation Thunder. ICCWC continues to support law enforcement cooperation and information sharing, for example, between Peru and Ecuador, in a case of shark fin trafficking, where data extracted from seized telephones revealed the involvement of global export companies and links with other serious crimes, such as tax evasion and false declaration.

[Read more here.](#)





In November 2022, the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19) took place in Panama. CoP19 focused on ensuring trade is legal and sustainable while enhancing the levels of protection for those species that may need it.

The Consortium reported on its work to the [CITES CoP19](#) (see [CoP19 Doc. 17.5](#)) and organized an exhibition throughout the conference to highlight the successes of CITES Parties to enhance their responses to wildlife crime thanks to support provided by ICCWC.

ICCWC also hosted a number of [high-profile events](#) to draw the attention of Parties to activities conducted, successes achieved, and lessons learned over the past few years. These events further highlighted new and enhanced tools and services available through ICCWC to support authorities in further strengthening their responses to wildlife crime.



# LOOKING AHEAD

Much has been achieved by many countries across the globe over the past two years to combat wildlife crime. Global efforts have led to many successes and there has been a continued increased collaboration and engagement in operational activities and efforts to combat wildlife crime supported by ICCWC. For example, the number of countries involved in the global Thunder Operations has continued to grow to 118 countries in 2021 to 125 countries in 2022.

However, wildlife crime still remains a significant threat and more needs to be done to tackle this complex phenomenon, and all its layers and dimensions. Addressing corruption is important to strengthen law enforcement efforts, improve governance and raise awareness of the negative impacts of wildlife and forest crime. We must continue to engage and empower those on the front lines and work with countries to provide them with the tools, services and technical support they need to combat wildlife crime more effectively. Efforts by countries must increasingly focus on investigations, prosecutions and convictions. The work of ICCWC continues to be crucial, now more than ever.

The road ahead will present many challenges and ICCWC will strive to continue to enhance its interventions at national, regional and international level. The continued cooperation of stakeholders and countries, together with the unique expertise of the five ICCWC partner organizations and the generous support from donors will ensure criminals involved will be brought to justice.

ICCWC activities have been guided by a set of strategies that evolved over the last decade, initially, with the [ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016](#) and then the [ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020](#).

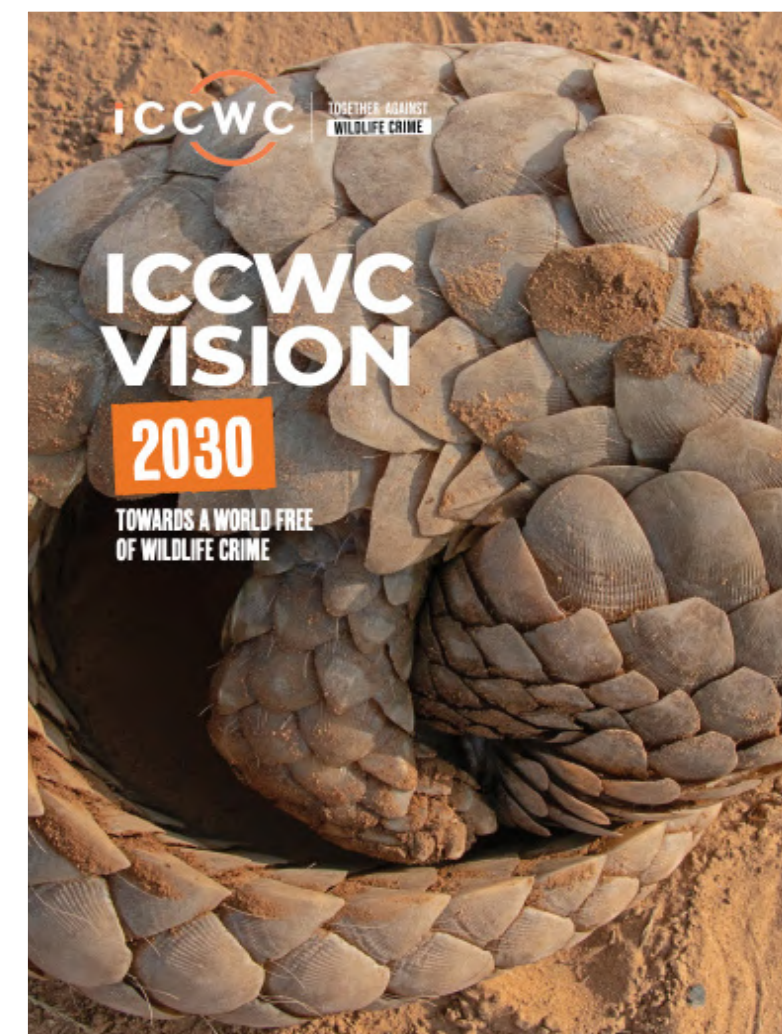
The **ICCWC Vision 2030 - Towards a World Free of Wildlife Crime** is the Consortium's ambitious roadmap that will guide the work of ICCWC in the decade to come to ensure that the Consortium continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community.

The Vision follows a Theory of Change methodology, designed to support and strengthen wildlife authorities, police, customs and entire criminal justice systems to ensure that they are well equipped and capacitated to effectively respond to the threat posed by wildlife crime.

The [ICCWC Vision 2030](#) shows the commitment of ICCWC to continue the fight by engaging and empowering those on the front line and working with Member States to provide impactful tools, services and technical support for the decade to come.

**Together, we will continue to work towards a world free of wildlife crime.**

**The ICCWC Vision outlines the next phase of ICCWC's work and is our long-term vision of a world free of wildlife crime.**



**Messages from ICCWC Partners at the launch of the Vision.**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Together Against Wildlife Crime

ICCWC would like to extend our gratitude to the law enforcement personnel around the world who work on the frontline of wildlife crime every day. The excellent progress made over the past few years would not have been possible without their tireless efforts.

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