

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Illegal trade and enforcement

Enforcement matters

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, paragraph 30 b) and c), the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to:
 - b) *submit a report on activities, and outcomes as appropriate, conducted under the auspices of ICCWC at each regular meeting of the Standing Committee and each 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;*
 - c) *maintain the dedicated portal on the CITES website on ICCWC, in the official languages of the Convention, to enable Parties to identify opportunities and support available through ICCWC;*
3. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.26 and 19.27 on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)*, as follows:

Directed to Parties

- 19.26** *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.*
 - 19.27** *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.*
4. Since the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77; Geneva, November 2023), the Consortium has continued to support Parties globally in their efforts 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 criminals involved to justice. The present document provides an update on progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned Resolution and Decisions since SC77. It includes examples of key activities undertaken and support provided. Further details can be found in the [ICCWC Annual Report for 2023](#) (see paragraph 8 below).
 5. As reported previously, the page on [ICCWC](#) on the CITES website maintained in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) was revised and updated in 2023 following the launch of the new dedicated [ICCWC](#)

[website](#) at CoP19.¹ Since then, the dedicated ICCWC website has continued to be updated to ensure that Parties can access the most recent information available. Information also continued to be shared across ICCWC accounts on social media, including on X (formerly known as Twitter) (@ICCWC_WFC), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). At SC77, the Secretariat reported that, to reach a broader audience, the Consortium expanded its accounts on X to French (@ICCWC_FR) and Spanish (@ICCWC_ES). Following an internal evaluation of the ICCWC communications and visibility strategy conducted in 2024, these additional accounts did not achieve the expected results, and the Consortium has therefore agreed that French and Spanish accounts on X will be discontinued. Instead, messaging in French and Spanish will be actively integrated into other social media channels as appropriate.

6. The delivery of the Consortium's programme of work continues to be overseen by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG), supported by the Technical Experts Group (TEG).² Both groups are chaired by the CITES Secretariat and include representatives from each of the five partner organizations.³ The Secretariat has continued to work closely with its ICCWC partners to include relevant Decisions and Resolutions and recommendations agreed by the Standing Committee in the workplan of the ICCWC Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026 and related projects and partner initiatives. This ensures that activities delivered under the auspices of ICCWC continue to align with CITES priorities and mandate, as well as Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 30 b). Further details on the ICCWC Vision and its associated workplan can be found in paragraphs 42 to 44 of the present document.
7. As reported at SC77, the ICCWC Strategic Programme was coming to a close in 2024. The last associated activities were completed and the programme has now ended. From late 2023 onwards, the Consortium initiated the implementation of the ICCWC Vision 2030 and its associated Strategic Action Plan 2023-2026. The implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, launched in 2016, was 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, Switzerland and the United States of America to the Secretariat also contributed to the work and coordination of ICCWC during this period. On behalf of the Consortium partners, the Secretariat would like to thank these Parties for their generous support. The Secretariat would also like to thank the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank on behalf of the ICCWC partners for the funding provided via the [Global Wildlife Program \(GWP\)](#) to support the interim internal evaluation of the ICCWC programme and the development of the ICCWC Vision. Thanks to the generous support from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in early 2025, the Consortium will initiate an external evaluation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, envisaged to focus on impact and include all donors and projects to the Strategic Programme.

Update and summary of activities

8. In August 2024, the ICCWC Annual Report for 2023 was launched. The report highlights the efforts of Parties across the world to combat wildlife crime and provides an overview of the work undertaken by ICCWC globally to better deter, detect, detain and dismantle the criminal networks involved in wildlife crime. The Consortium uses targeted and evidence-based approaches to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support to enhance responses to wildlife crime. This includes technical assistance, intelligence-led global operations, capacity-building, financial investigations training, anti-corruption risk assessments and support to mobilize forensic science in the fight against wildlife crime, amongst others. The Annual Report is available as an information document for the present meeting. Some highlights of the report include *inter alia*:
 - a) Focus stories: Focus stories showcase some of the Consortium's collaborative efforts as well as the results achieved. Highlights include:
 - i) Global collaboration to combat illegal trade in big cats: ICCWC supported the [CITES Big Cats Task Force](#) which brought together authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement, experts and other

¹ The ICCWC page on the CITES website provides an overview of ICCWC, the Consortium's approach and tools and services available, with further details made available on the new dedicated ICCWC website, available in English, French and Spanish.

² 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 TEG calls take place monthly to monitor project implementation and adapt approaches based on needs and lessons learned. Additional ad-hoc calls are held when needed.

³ The CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

relevant stakeholders, to develop strategies to strengthen law enforcement responses to combat illegal trade in big cats and their parts and derivatives.

- ii) Using forensic science to combat wildlife crime: With ICCWC support, UNODC in partnership with the TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network, set up a [forensics wildlife laboratory](#) in Uganda which has been instrumental in supporting wildlife crime cases in Uganda and other African countries. In 2023, a total of 37 wildlife crime investigations were supported by this laboratory.
 - iii) Thunder Series of operations: [Operation Thunder 2023](#) marked the highest participation and engagement by Parties since the Thunder-series began, with 133 Parties participating. The Annual Report details seizures, trends, data, and ICCWC support during pre- and post-operation phases.
 - iv) Enhancing responses to wildlife crime in West and Central Africa: In support of Decisions 18.90 (Rev. CoP19), 18.91 (Rev. CoP19) & 19.84 to 19.88 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, ICCWC trained 163 law enforcement professionals in these two subregions in 2023.
- b) ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework implementation: In line with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 19. c), in 2023, support was provided to 17 Parties to implement the recommendations resulting from assessments using the [ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit](#) and the [ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime](#) allowed eight Parties to create baselines against which progress can be measured and to create tailored strategies and action plans to combat wildlife crime.
 - c) International cooperation: Work delivered under the auspices of ICCWC facilitated and made a significant contribution to strengthened international cooperation. The report outlines examples such as the [2023 Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement \(WIRE\) meeting](#) which involved 36 countries, facilitated 86 informal bilateral discussions, and resulted in the initiation of joint investigations and new operations.
 - d) Combating corruption, addressing wildlife crime linked to the Internet and promoting anti-money laundering investigations: In 2023, the Consortium continued its capacity-building work, assisting countries in combating corruption, tackling wildlife crime linked to the Internet, and training over 400 professionals in addressing financial crime and money laundering.
9. In addition to the above, to conclude the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme and initiate activities of the ICCWC Vision and its associated Strategic Action Plan, ICCWC continued to deliver diverse targeted activities across 2024 as summarized below.

Implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework

10. In line with Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 19, under section *VIII. Regarding available tools, services and resources*, the Consortium continued to support requests from Parties to implement tools such as the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework to strengthen enforcement-related aspects of the Convention, as elaborated upon in paragraphs 13 to 15 below. The Toolkit and Indicator Framework are complementary technical tools designed for use by competent national law enforcement authorities around the world to enable them to assess and measure the effectiveness of criminal justice system responses to wildlife and forest crime and identify technical assistance needs. The Indicator Framework is an integral part of the implementation of the Toolkit when conducted by the Consortium and is also available for use as a stand-alone self-assessment tool to monitor progress over time by identifying and addressing any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses.
11. As reported at SC77, revised versions of these tools were launched in 2022. Parties are encouraged to request support from the Consortium for their implementation, noting the tools can be used independently or with ICCWC assistance. Should these tools be used independently or with non-ICCWC partners, Parties are encouraged to involve the Consortium, where possible and appropriate, to benefit from lessons learned over a decade of implementation. In cases where ICCWC has not been involved, in the context of Decision 19.26, Parties are invited to share the results with the Consortium to help inform and enhance ICCWC activities and initiatives.
12. 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-stakeholder meeting, to discuss and plan for implementation, including considering potential implementation support. The Secretariat

reiterates the importance for Parties that have implemented the Toolkit to make dedicated efforts to mobilize resources to implement the recommendations and to request support from ICCWC, where needed. Similarly, the key findings from the implementation of the Indicator Framework should be used to prioritize activities at the national level and results of follow-up Indicator Framework assessments to monitor progress and the effectiveness of responses over time.

13. Donors, international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives in the countries that have implemented the Toolkit and Indicator Framework are encouraged to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with these processes and support their implementation, where possible and appropriate.
14. Since SC77, two new Toolkit assessments were completed (Nigeria and the Philippines), nine Indicator Framework assessments were conducted (Brazil, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea and Thailand) and 17 Parties received support to implement the Toolkit and Indicator Framework recommendations [Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam]. The ICCWC Annual Report for 2023 includes further details in this regard and specific examples of support. Additional details are included below and will be available in the forthcoming ICCWC Annual Report for 2024.
15. Since the launch of the ICCWC Toolkit at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62; Geneva, 2012), ICCWC has received a total of 37 requests for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. Implementation has been completed in 18 countries (Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Congo, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam). Implementation is ongoing and at different stages of the process in two countries [Bolivia (Plurinational State of), and Paraguay].
16. Since the launch of the ICCWC Indicator Framework at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66; Geneva, 2016), ICCWC supported implementation of the Indicator Framework and it has now been completed in a total 23 countries: Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador (mainland and province of the Galapagos), Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. At the time of writing, implementation is ongoing or planned for Colombia and Peru.

National level activities

17. The Consortium has continued to provide a broad range of support including training on wildlife crime scene investigation; use of special investigative techniques; preparation of case files for court; financial investigations related to forestry crimes; and use of Rapid Reference Guides⁴. In some countries, it also included mentorships that provided advisory support to investigators and prosecutors.
18. Cameroon: Wildlife crime scene management capacities were strengthened, and training and mentorship delivered by UNODC on the investigation and prosecution of wildlife and natural resources crimes. UNODC also guided the implementation of the national anti-poaching and wildlife crime strategy.
19. Madagascar: A National Environmental Security Seminar convened by INTERPOL brought together 23 officials from eight national agencies involved in investigation of wildlife crime in Madagascar. The Seminar facilitated a case coordination meeting during which ongoing cases were reviewed, intelligence exchanged and next steps in investigation and capacity-building needs identified. Two INTERPOL-ICCWC online courses on best practices in investigating cyber-enabled wildlife crimes and on intelligence-led enforcement in environmental crime were presented to the Antananarivo Police Academy. In addition to developing capacities of national police officers, these online courses will serve as a prerequisite for enrolment to in-person specialized training planned relevant to Madagascar.
20. Mozambique: The World Bank continued its support to Mozambique to implement the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plan through Anti-Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT). A train the trainers' programme on financial investigations was conducted for judges of the

⁴ A Rapid Reference Guide is developed for national level use and provides guidance to national authorities of the country concerned on the legislation to apply in wildlife crime cases and the points to be proved in court.

Mozambican Supreme Tribunal in three provinces, with the final training fully delivered by local trainers trained under the programme. These events also fostered significant technical discussions on integrating financial investigations into cases involving environmental crimes, as encouraged in Decision 19.78 on *Enforcement*.

21. The Philippines: Support to implement Toolkit and Indicator Framework recommendations was provided in the Philippines by UNODC. This included targeted support to enhance judiciary and prosecution capacities. Meetings were facilitated to bolster law enforcement capacities and inter-agency collaboration, as well as to ensure that Toolkit recommendations were integrated into the national Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan.
22. Viet Nam: In response to a request from Viet Nam to enhance its capacity to address wildlife crime linked to the Internet, INTERPOL organized a national training in November 2024, which gathered 20 law enforcement agency representatives from five provinces and focused on how to detect and identify illegal wildlife trade activities on the internet and how to capture evidence to ensure admissibility in court, as well as on developing operational planning skills related to these crimes.
23. Others: Additionally, support was provided by the World Bank to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to elaborate its national AML/CFT risk-based strategy, which was approved in January 2024. The World Bank also supported the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines in updating their Environmental Crimes National Risk Assessment.

Regional level activities

24. The CITES Secretariat continues to work closely with ICCWC partners in support of the outcomes of the CITES Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species. This includes training on physical inspection of timber shipments and encouraging and supporting risk assessments to develop national risk indicators specific to this illegal trade, as called for in Decision 19.90 on the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*, paragraphs b) and c). In the latest of these undertakings, the Secretariat worked with UNODC to host a [regional training for Parties](#) in Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa. This training was held in Uganda from 25 to 29 November 2024 and equipped officers with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to combat the illegal timber trade. Further detail is found in document SC78 Doc. 38.3 on the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*.
25. To implement Decision 19.105 on *Illegal trade in cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus)*, at the time of writing, the Secretariat was working with INTERPOL to put in place arrangements for a targeted Regional Investigative and Analytic Case Meeting (RIACM), to support Parties to combat illegal trade in cheetahs. Further detail is found in document SC78 Doc. 40 on *Illegal trade in cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus)*.
26. Support to Parties in West and Central Africa is continuing in accordance with Decision 19.87 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*. At the time of writing, the Secretariat was working with INTERPOL to put in place arrangements for three RIACMs to be convened, focusing on key illegal wildlife trade matters affecting West and Central Africa. The first RIACM is scheduled to be convened before the end of 2024, and two additional follow-up RIACMs are envisaged to be organized in 2025.
27. ICCWC partners also supported regional networks, regional bodies and platforms. For example, UNODC supported the 8th annual meeting of the African Wildlife Forensics Network, bringing together crime scene and laboratory practitioners in Malawi, in October 2024. UNODC also worked with the Royal Thai Police to convene an online meeting of the Senior Officials on Transnational Crime Working Group on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Timber, in May 2024. UNODC further supported the first in-person meeting of the South American Wildlife Enforcement Network under Peru's presidency, during which member countries approved a two-year work plan. ICCWC is also providing targeted support to the Caribbean region, *inter alia* by supporting the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network, and will convene a meeting of the network in 2025 to support the implementation of the *ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*. In addition, the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Southern Africa enhanced its support in the subregion through the implementation of targeted activities such as the pilot testing of an e-learning course on "Intelligence-led approach to environmental crime" for wildlife officers. As of the end of August 2024, 13 officers from the region have enrolled to the course.
28. Based on the results of Operation Thunder 2023, training on addressing trafficking in various marine species was co-organized by WCO in partnership with the Customs and Excise Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China and Singapore National Parks Board, and with the support of Bloom Association and ADM Capital Foundation from 6 to 10 May 2024. The training enhanced the capacity

of front-line customs officers primarily engaged in seaport operations and container shipments in risk profiling, detecting, seizing, and handling trafficked commodities, with a focus on marine species of shark fins, shark meat and sea cucumbers. Participating countries and territories included Hong Kong SAR of China, Indonesia, Mozambique, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Global level activities

29. Within the framework of [Operation Thunder 2023](#), WCO and INTERPOL convened a post-operational meeting in Singapore from 22 to 26 January 2024. Officials from 11 targeted countries participated in the meeting, which aimed to deepen customs and police cooperation in case development, and facilitated sharing of country-specific operational experiences, achievements, results and lessons-learned. It also facilitated discussions on how future iterations of operation Thunder could be further strengthened.
30. In April 2024, 85 representatives including customs, police and prosecuting authorities from across the world convened at the first [ICCWC Global Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) held in Belgium. The Conference was organized under the theme “*Building Strong Cases through Operation Thunder: From Seizure to Prosecution*” and sessions focused on law enforcement efforts and actions across the criminal justice system, as well as public-private partnerships in the fight against illegal wildlife trade. With a focus on [Operation Thunder 2023](#), discussions focused on case development, going beyond seizures, investigations, prosecutions and convictions. The Conference included a dialogue with civil society organizations and highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen efforts to dismantle criminal networks involved in wildlife crime.
31. In support of the implementation of Decision 19.203 on *Pangolins (Manis spp.)*, paragraph d), the Secretariat worked with INTERPOL and the National Parks Board of Singapore to organize a Pangolin Species Identification Workshop in Singapore, which was held in October 2024. Further detail is found in document SC78 Doc. 67.2 on *Pangolins (Manis spp.)*.
32. UNODC convened the 8th Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting in South Africa in November 2024. The WIRE provides a platform to make connections and build relationships between relevant authorities and strengthening capacity for global, subregional and cross-border enforcement cooperation. A total of 140 participants from 36 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America participated in the WIRE. During the WIRE, 65 bilateral meetings were held between government officials from different countries to discuss opportunities for collaboration, information exchange and joint investigations.
33. In accordance with Decision 18.294 (Rev. CoP19) on *Totoabas (Totoaba macdonaldi)*, paragraph c), and SC77 recommendation i) on *Totoabas (Totoaba macdonaldi)*, in the margins of the above-mentioned WIRE meeting, the Secretariat, INTERPOL and UNODC worked jointly to support a closed working group for representatives from China, Mexico and the United States of America to discuss matters related to totoaba specimen trafficking. It provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration, as well as to consider and agree on follow-up activities and joint actions. Further detail is found in document SC77 Doc. 33.12.1 on *Totoabas (Totoaba macdonaldi)*.
34. In May 2024, WCO convened a workshop on addressing timber trafficking in Madagascar, in which front-line customs officials engaged in seaport operations and handling container shipments participated. The workshop, which was attended by officials from Angola, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, focused *inter alia* on advanced capabilities in risk profiling, detecting, seizing, and handling illegal wildlife trade with a particular emphasis on combating timber trafficking of CITES-protected species and improving risk management strategies.
35. The World Bank developed technical guidance to help countries enhance compliance with FATF recommendation 12 on domestic “politically exposed persons” (PEPs). This guidance supports the creation of lists identifying individuals who hold or have held prominent public positions, aligning with the definition of PEPs under national AML/CFT legislation. The guidance was developed in collaboration with countries already implementing PEP lists and in consultation with ICCWC partners and aims to reduce illicit financial flows and combat corruption including in the environmental and natural resource sectors. The pilot implementation of domestic PEP lists is scheduled to begin in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2025.
36. ICCWC partners continue to engage with the GEF GWP. Since SC77, the Secretariat, UNODC and the World Bank worked closely to explore synergies and alignment between national level priorities of the 15

participating GEF-8 countries and the workplans of ICCWC partner organizations in these countries. In particular, the use of ICCWC tools such as the ICCWC Toolkit or Indicator Framework or how to mobilize support available through ICCWC were discussed. The ICCWC Annual Report for 2023 includes some examples of these synergies. In addition, coordination calls between ICCWC partners and GEF-8 national project development teams have been held for Colombia, Guinea, Indonesia, Paraguay, Thailand and Zambia, to date. The World Bank in collaboration with UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), also supported implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework in Ethiopia to inform the country's GEF-8 GWP project design. The Secretariat continues to encourage Parties that have implemented the Toolkit and Indicator Framework to explore opportunities to address the resulting recommendations through GWP projects and to, where not yet done, consider ICCWC tools and services in their prioritization processes and in the development of activities, where appropriate.

37. As reported previously, based on a proposal originating from the [4th Global meeting of WENs](#), the Secretariat launched a [page on Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) on the ICCWC website. The page includes *inter alia* information on the [ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#); all global WEN meetings held in the margins of the Conference of the Parties to CITES since 2013; and a [directory of WEN focal points](#) and details of existing WENs as provided by the networks. WEN focal points are encouraged to inform the Secretariat if any changes are needed to the directory of focal points. Should any WENs wish to submit updated information sheets or make any additional information available regarding the WEN, this information can be shared with the Secretariat for consideration. The Secretariat notes that it will organize, in collaboration with ICCWC partners and with the generous support from the United States of America, the 5th Global meeting of the WENs alongside the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20, Samarkand, 2025).
38. Lastly, at SC77, the Secretariat reported on the ongoing efforts to enhance online training tools and materials on enforcement matters and on the launch of the second phase of this work, which included the development of enforcement courses for the CITES Virtual College, in close collaboration and with support from ICCWC partners. At the time of writing, the script and supporting materials for 14 online courses on enforcement matters have been developed, to support all stages of the process from the crime scene to the court. The next step will be initiated in early 2025 and includes a targeted consultation with experts from selected Parties to further refine and tailor the training materials. Following the review, the courses will be finalized and made available in the restricted section of the CITES Virtual College as an interactive training resource. The Secretariat will provide a further update on progress at CoP20.

Implementation of Decision 19.26

39. At SC77 the Secretariat reported that the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework were revised and updated, and subsequently launched at CoP19. Information on Parties' experiences with the use of these revised and updated tools is therefore still limited. The Secretariat also reported it intended to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting feedback from Parties as outlined in Decision 19.26.
40. At the time of writing, implementation of the new revised and updated Toolkit was completed in one country, and implementation is ongoing in two others with an expected completion in early 2025. In addition, a further two Indicator Framework assessments are ongoing or planned. Taking these into account, the Secretariat delayed issuing the Notification until the implementation of the two ongoing Toolkits are completed. The Secretariat continues to welcome feedback from Parties on ICCWC support received and tools available that they may have used. The Secretariat will provide a further update in this regard in its document to CoP20.
41. The Secretariat further notes that the Consortium held initial targeted consultations with Parties likely to benefit from support through implementation of the ICCWC Vision 2030 and its associated Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026. These consultations took place during a working group meeting that were arranged in the margins of the WIRE meeting reported in paragraphs 31 and 32 above. The working group meeting was attended by 11 Parties, ICCWC partners and other stakeholders, and discussions laid the foundation to identify priority issues to address in the respective countries as part of the project.
42. As reported in paragraph 7 above, an external evaluation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme is envisaged. The evaluation will also contribute to the implementation of Decision 19.26 and will be used by the Consortium to further enhance its interventions at national, regional and international level. The Secretariat will provide a further update in this regard in its document to CoP20.

Implementation of Decision 19.27

43. ICCWC initiated the implementation of the [ICCWC Vision 2030](#) in late 2023. The framework of the ICCWC Vision 2030 provides a roadmap to be implemented through two 4-year Strategic Action Plans ([2023-2026](#) and [2027-2030](#)) that will enable addressing wildlife crime in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The Vision was designed taking into consideration lessons learned from previous programmes and feedback received from a broad range of stakeholders. It 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.
44. The workplan for the Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026 was finalized in 2023 and, to date, the Consortium held discussions with donors to explore their possible contribution towards the ICCWC Vision as anticipated by Decision 19.27 and urged in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP19), paragraph 20. At SC77, the Secretariat reported on the generous contributions of [GBP 4 million](#) from the United Kingdom, and EUR 200,000 from Monaco towards the ICCWC Vision and its Strategic Action Plan. Since then, further contributions of approximately USD 350,000 were received from the United States of America. At the time of writing, funding from the European Union is expected in support of *inter alia* the ICCWC Vision and its associated Strategic Action Plan as part of a broader project with components on 1) coordinated responses to combat wildlife crime implemented at national level and 2) on demand reduction.
45. As reported at CoP19 and at SC77, funds required to fully implement the workplan for the Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2026 amounts to USD 30 million. The number and scale of activities to be delivered will be adjusted according to the available funding.
46. The Secretariat also informs the Parties that the World Bank, through the GWP, is leading the preparation of the third iteration of the Analysis of International Funding to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade, drawing on contributions from 73 donors, including Parties, multilateral organizations, foundations, private donors, and non-governmental organizations. It examines global efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade between January 2010 and June 2023, covering 89 countries in Africa, Asia, and, for the first time, Latin America and the Caribbean. Between 2010 and 2023, international donors invested \$3.63 billion in combating illegal wildlife trade. The findings of this report will help guide future investment priorities and be considered by the Consortium to guide interventions.
47. In conclusion, significant support has been provided by the Consortium to CITES Parties to combat wildlife crime since SC77. The Parties are to be congratulated for their gains in this fight and their recognition that efforts must continue to disrupt these illegal wildlife trafficking networks. The ICCWC Vision thus aims to continue working closely with Parties to further strengthen their responses against wildlife crime in line with their priorities. The Consortium thanks the European Union, Monaco, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for their support to the ICCWC Vision. The Consortium expresses its appreciation to previous and current donors and contributors to ICCWC, as well as to Parties, governmental authorities, intergovernmental partner organizations, civil society organizations, research institutions, and others that have and continue to collaborate with ICCWC in the implementation of the Programme.

Recommendations

48. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) note the information provided in the present document on the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife crime and the support provided by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC);
 - b) encourage Parties to actively engage in ICCWC initiatives and activities and to reach out to the Consortium for support, where needed; and
 - c) welcome the generous contributions from donor Parties towards the ICCWC Vision and its associated Strategic Action Plan, as anticipated by Decision 19.27 and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, paragraph 20.