

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement*, the Conference of the Parties:

DIRECTS the Secretariat to pursue closer international liaison between the Convention's institutions, regional and subregional wildlife enforcement networks and national enforcement agencies, and to work in close cooperation with ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization as ICCWC¹ partner organizations.

3. The Resolution also instructs the Secretariat to:
 - a) *cooperate with ICCWC partner organizations, regional and subregional wildlife enforcement networks, and competent national authorities to:*
 - i) *prepare and distribute appropriate training material; and*
 - ii) *facilitate the exchange of technical information between the authorities in charge of border controls.*
4. The purpose of the present document is to update Parties on the activities that have been conducted collectively under the auspices of ICCWC since CoP16. The Secretariat also take this opportunity to highlight some of the important projects of ICCWC partner organizations, delivered under their individual programmes, in this document.

Activities conducted collectively under the auspices of ICCWC

5. The *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*,² launched at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62, Geneva, 2012), 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.³ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is leading the implementation of the Toolkit, which is in the process of being rolled-out in Angola, Bangladesh, Gabon, Mexico, Nepal, Peru and Viet Nam.

¹ <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>

² http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/resources/pub/ICCWC_Toolkit_v2_english.pdf

³ http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120725_ICCWC_toolkit.php

6. Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement* under *Regarding compliance, control and cooperation* recommends that all Parties:

...

iv) *if appropriate, make use of the ICCWC Wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit*

7. The Secretariat welcomes formal requests from Parties for ICCWC support to implement the Toolkit.
8. A key outcome of the 22nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) held from 22 to 26 April 2013 in Vienna, Austria, was the adoption of a Resolution on “Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora”.⁴ This Resolution, which was subsequently adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 25 July 2013, commends the efforts of ICCWC and encourages UNODC, in coordination with ICCWC partners, to continue its efforts to provide technical assistance and training to combat illicit trafficking in wild fauna and flora, including through the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*.
9. The London Declaration, adopted at the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade on 13 February 2014⁵, also calls on the international community to “strengthen enforcement systems for a stronger preventive and reactive response to wildlife crime through, *inter alia*, the use of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*”.
10. To support the analysis provided by the Toolkit, ICCWC is developing indicators to assist countries in measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of their law enforcement efforts. UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, hosted an expert workshop on ‘Indicators for measuring the enforcement response to wildlife and forest crime’ (16-18 December 2013, Vienna, Austria). The CITES Secretariat, along with representatives of several national CITES Management Authorities and the Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements, participated in this workshop. The Secretariat has agreed to take the lead within ICCWC to finalize the work on these indicators in 2014.
11. ICCWC has continued to develop and deliver capacity-building interventions and tools for national enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime more effectively, particularly with respect to the use of specialized investigation techniques and forensic technologies, including:
- a) UNODC on behalf of ICCWC, developed *Guidelines for forensic methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis*.⁶ ICCWC also collaborated with the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington, in the United States of America, to conduct DNA analysis of samples from large-scale ivory seizures. Both projects were made possible through generous funding from the World Bank Development Grant Facility. Further information on these projects can be found in document SC65 Doc. 42.1 Annex 1 on *Elephants*, prepared for the present meeting.
 - b) ICCWC, in close collaboration with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), held a two-day training workshop for wildlife law enforcement officials from 21 countries from Africa and Asia (30-31 October 2013, Nairobi, Kenya).⁷ The workshop preceded the operational phase of Operation COBRA II and strengthened the skills of officers participating in the operation in a broad range of innovative and specialized investigation techniques, including tools and services available to them through ICCWC partner organizations.⁸ ICCWC also participated in an Operation COBRA II operational planning meeting on 1 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. Both these events were made possible by generous funding made available to ICCWC by Sweden.
 - c) In consultation with rhinoceros range States, ICCWC identified the need for training on rhinoceros horn DNA sampling for law enforcement officials. In response to this need, and in support of the implementation of Decisions 16.84, paragraph d), and 16.89, paragraph b), on *Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)*, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs, the University of

⁴ http://cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130502_ccpcj_resolution.php

⁵ <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/sundry/2014/london-wildlife-conference-declaration-140213.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2013/November/unodc-hosted-meeting-strengthens-measures-to-protect-elephants-killed-for-illegal-ivory-trade.html>

⁷ http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20131104_iccwc_training.php

⁸ http://cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2014/20140210_operation_cobra_ii.php

Pretoria's Veterinary Genetics Laboratory and ICCWC co-hosted a rhinoceros DNA sampling workshop, on 5 and 6 November 2013 at the Southern African Wildlife College near Hoedspruit, South Africa.⁹ The workshop, which included field training in Kruger National Park, was attended by law enforcement officers from each of the eleven African rhinoceros range States, as well as from China, Thailand and Viet Nam. The workshop was made possible by funding generously provided to ICCWC by the Netherlands. The Secretariat reports in more detail on the workshop in document SC65 Doc. 43.2 on *Rhinoceroses*, prepared for the present meeting.

- d) At the time of writing (May 2014), ICCWC partners are developing projects to support the implementation of Decision 16.78 paragraphs c) and d) on *Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens* (*Elephantidae spp.*). These projects, aimed at building capacity in the use of controlled deliveries and anti-money laundering tools, will be delivered through funding provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Commission.
12. Decision 16.40, paragraph a), on *Enforcement matters* calls for Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WISTs), composed of enforcement staff or relevant experts, to be dispatched at the request of countries affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that have made large-scale seizures of such specimens, to assist, guide and to facilitate appropriate follow-up actions in affected countries in the immediate aftermath of an incident.¹⁰ In July 2013, Sri Lanka requested assistance from ICCWC, which subsequently deployed its first WIST, led by INTERPOL, to collect DNA samples from a large-scale ivory seizure.¹¹ The deployment of the WIST was generously funded by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC.
13. In close cooperation with ICCWC partners, the Secretariat convened the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force on 28 and 29 October 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.¹² This meeting was held in accordance with the provisions of Decision 16.89, paragraph a), on *Rhinoceroses* (*Rhinocerotidae spp.*) and brought together experts and representatives from 21 countries affected by rhinoceros poaching and the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn. During this meeting, participants were provided with information on the tools and services available to the law enforcement community through ICCWC partner organizations, including secure real-time communication systems, international criminal databases and technical operational support. Further information on the Task Force can be found in document SC65 Doc. 43.2 on *Rhinoceroses*, prepared for the present meeting.
14. Under the auspices of ICCWC, an INTERPOL team worked alongside a World Bank team to support the development of a project to build the law enforcement capacity of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Global Environment Facility approved a USD 12 million Protected Areas and Wildlife (PAWS) project¹³ for the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The work completed under the auspices of ICCWC secured the inclusion of over USD 3 million for wildlife and forestry law enforcement capacity building as part of the PAWS project. The review of law enforcement capacity needs was generously funded by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC.
15. The World Customs Organization (WCO), on behalf of ICCWC was, at the time of writing, finalizing the preparation of an "ICCWC Workshop to Combat the Smuggling of Timber from Madagascar to Asia", to be held on 19 and 20 May 2014 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The workshop will be funded by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC. The Secretariat report in more detail on this matter in document SC65 Doc. 48.1 on *Malagasy ebonies* (*Diospyros spp.*) and *Malagasy rosewoods* (*Dalbergia spp.*).
16. Among other ICCWC projects currently being developed are an INTERPOL-led project designed to build capacity in the investigation and apprehension of fugitives suspected of having been involved in wildlife crime, and Operation UNITY, an INTERPOL-led operation aimed at addressing the illegal trade in bear parts and derivatives in Asia. Both of these projects have benefited from generous funding provided by the European Commission.

⁹ http://cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131106_forensics.php

¹⁰ <http://www.cites.org/eng/dec/valid16/192>

¹¹ http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130725_iccwc_wist_srilanka.php

¹² http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131031_rhino_task-force.php

¹³ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/02/19231957/lao-peoples-democratic-republic-protected-area-wildlife-project>

17. Building on the outcomes of the first global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks, held on the margins of CoP16,¹⁴ ICCWC has supported activities to improve enforcement cooperation across sectors and regions. These activities have been made possible thanks to generous resources provided by the Department of State of the United States of America, including:
- a) ICCWC facilitated the participation of a representative from the Horn of Africa WEN (HA-WEN) in a meeting of the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office East and Southern Africa (RILO-ESA), held from 14 to 18 October 2013 in Uganda;
 - b) ICCWC supported the participation of the Association of South-East Asian Nations WEN (ASEAN-WEN) and HA-WEN in a regional workshop held from 29 to 31 October 2013 in Kuwait. The workshop on “Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime in West Asia”¹⁵ was attended by eight West Asian countries. It was jointly organized by the Environment Public Authority of Kuwait, the West Asia Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat, and made possible through resources provided to the Secretariat by the European Commission;
 - c) ICCWC is currently in the process of finalizing arrangements to sponsor an officer from the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Asia-Pacific (RILO-AP) to attend the ASEAN-WEN Multi-Donor and Partnership Sustainability Workshop and the ninth ASEAN-WEN Annual Meeting, from 27 to 29 May 2014, in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

ICCWC support staff

18. The contract of the Secretariat’s ICCWC Support Officer, which commenced in October 2012, ended on 15 December 2013. The Secretariat would like to thank Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the funding it provided to support this post.
19. The Secretariat is pleased to inform Parties that further funding has been made available by the United Kingdom for a one-year fixed-term ICCWC Support Officer post at the Secretariat. At the time of writing, the post is being temporarily filled while a recruitment process is underway. The Secretariat would like to thank Australia, in particular the Government of South Australia, and Sweden for making available resources that have supported this temporary placement.
20. The ICCWC Support Officer post at the Secretariat significantly contributes to the implementation of the multiple activities conducted by ICCWC. INTERPOL has also recruited two dedicated ICCWC support staff through funding provided by the European Commission. The Secretariat believes that similar posts within each of the ICCWC partner agencies would significantly enhance the capacity of the consortium to achieve its goals.

Individual ICCWC partner agency projects

21. ICCWC partner organizations manage and deliver a number and variety of important projects and activities under their respective organizational programmes. It would not be practical or possible to highlight all of these projects and activities in the present document, but the Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to draw the following to the attention of Parties.

INTERPOL

22. On 6 September 2013, 5 December 2013 and 22 January 2014, INTERPOL issued Purple Notices to obtain further information on the location and activities of vessels believed to be engaged in illegal fishing.¹⁶ This is the first time that Purple Notices, which are used to obtain or provide information on *modi operandi*, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals, have been used to combat illegal fishing. The Secretariat encourages Parties to increasingly draw upon the INTERPOL Notices system to assist them in their efforts to combat wildlife crime.¹⁷

¹⁴ http://cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130715_wen_report.php

¹⁵ http://cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20131111_west-asia_cooperation.php

¹⁶ <http://www.interpol.int/INTERPOL-expertise/Notices/Purple-notices—public-versions>

¹⁷ <http://www.interpol.int/INTERPOL-expertise/Notices>

23. As part of Project LEAF (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests),¹⁸ INTERPOL completed a publicly-available “Assessment of Law Enforcement Capacity Needs to Combat Forest Crime”,¹⁹ which outlines the common resource needs of forest law enforcement agencies and the legislative reform required to strengthen legal mandates or forest protection.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

24. On 5 March 2014, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNODC, launched a global campaign calling on tourists to help reduce demand for illicit goods and services. The “Your Actions Count – Be a Responsible Traveller” campaign aims to raise awareness of the most common illicit goods and services that tourists might be exposed to while travelling, including illicitly-trafficked wildlife products.²⁰
25. On 19 December 2013, UNODC issued a public service announcement on wildlife crime for South-East Asia and the Pacific in order to bolster existing efforts to reduce demand for illegal wildlife specimens. The “Wildlife crime: Don't be a part of it!” campaign, which featured the UNEP Goodwill Ambassador and Chinese actress Ms Li Bing Bing, aimed to raise awareness among young Asians about the effects of buying, selling and consuming endangered species of illegal origin.²¹

World Bank

26. The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative is a partnership between the World Bank and UNODC to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate the timely return of stolen assets.²² A range of knowledge products have been developed through this initiative, including guides for recovering stolen assets and asset tracing tools. The Secretariat made these resources available to Parties through the CITES Virtual College.
27. To support the collection and use of criminal intelligence, the World Bank is completing a Global Environment Facility-funded assessment project on elephant poaching and ivory trafficking called “Elephant Crime Intelligence System and Governance Model Assessment”. Under this project, a framework is being examined to enhance criminal intelligence collaboration at local, national, regional and global levels, as well as an accompanying governance model. The World Bank consultant met with and received inputs from all ICCWC partner organizations, and carried out extensive site visits to Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

World Customs Organization

28. The WCO Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform (CENcomm),²³ a web-based communication system permitting a closed user group of officers, enabled secure and encrypted real-time exchange of intelligence and information between Customs, police and wildlife authorities that participated in Operation COBRA II. CENcomm played a critical role during Operation COBRA II, and the Secretariat encourages Parties to enhance the secure sharing of information and intelligence across regions and sectors through the communication tools administered by ICCWC partners.

Final remarks

29. The threats posed by serious wildlife crime can only be effectively addressed through increased collaboration and collective efforts across range, transit and destination States, and across entire enforcement chains. The establishment of ICCWC in 2010, was in recognition of this need, and the consortium has since delivered a broad range of activities to build law enforcement capacity and improve geographic and cross-sector cooperation to combat wildlife crime.
30. The activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC continue to gain momentum in support of the aim of the consortium to build the long-term capacity of enforcement authorities, by providing them with the

¹⁸ <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-Leaf>

¹⁹ <http://www.interpol.int/content/download/20244/182327/version/5/file/INTERPOL%20Needs%20Assessment%20Report.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.bearesponsibletraveller.org/>

²¹ http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2013/November/unodc-launches-new-psa_wildlife_crime_-dont-be-a-part-of-it.html?ref=fs1

²² <http://star.worldbank.org/star/>

²³ <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/instruments-and-tools/cen.aspx>

tools and services they need to combat wildlife crime more effectively. ICCWC is currently in the process of developing a Strategic Plan and associated joint work plan to guide the implementation of its future activities. Both documents will be made available to Parties when ready.

31. The ICCWC web portal on the CITES website has been expanded and updated to share information on the consortium's tools and activities and give it greater prominence.²⁴ The portal is available in English, French and Spanish.
32. ICCWC can only achieve its goals through the support of the donor community. The generous funding provided to ICCWC by the European Commission, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the World Bank Development Grant Facility is highly appreciated by the consortium.
33. However, ICCWC needs the ongoing support of the donor community to achieve its goals, as recognized in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement*, in which, under *Regarding additional actions to promote enforcement* the Conference of the Parties:

URGES the Parties and the donor community to provide financial support to ICCWC, to ensure that the Consortium can achieve its goals of bringing coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to subregional and regional networks, and of delivering capacity-building activities.

Recommendation

34. The Standing Committee is invited to note this report.

²⁴ <http://www.cites.org/eng/ICCWC-launches-new-web-portal-on-combating-wildlife-and-forest-crime>