

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



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LONDON CONFERENCE ON THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE
AND THE UNITED FOR WILDLIFE SYMPOSIUM

1. This document has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* particularly in relation to agenda item 27 on *Enforcement matters*.
2. The document consists of four parts:
 - A summary of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade hosted by the UK Government and the Declaration from that event that took place 12-13 February 2014 (pages 2-4); and
 - Synthesis of symposium hosted by the United for Wildlife collaboration, 11-12 February 2014, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) – prepared by the United for Wildlife collaboration (pages 5-10).
 - The London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade. (pages 11-22)
 - Agenda for symposium hosted by United for Wildlife collaboration, 11-12 February 2014, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) (pages 23-25)

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

London Conference on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife 12-13 February 2014

Introduction

The damaging consequences of the illegal wildlife trade, as an organised and widespread criminal activity, involving transnational networks, are increasingly being recognised. It threatens not only the survival of some species, but undermines good governance and the security of fragile states; corrupts the rule of law; and hinders efforts to provide long term sustainable development. The global scale of illegal wildlife trade is now a subject of serious international concern.

In this context the UK Government hosted the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade on 12-13 February 2014. It was hosted by the Foreign Secretary, William Hague, in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales, The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales. It was organised by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Home Office – demonstrating cross-Government commitment to tackling this issue.

41 countries, comprising source, transit and destination countries were represented, with attendees including Presidents, Foreign Secretaries and Environment Ministers together with senior representatives from the European Union and 10 international organisations, including Mr John Scanlon, Secretary General of CITES.

The London Conference

The London Conference galvanised action to address illegal wildlife trade in all its forms, through focusing high level political attention on the issue. However, the impacts of the illegal trade in elephants, rhino and tiger were targeted for specific and urgent attention within the focus of the Conference.

It built on efforts already taken, and ongoing, by the international community to renew and increase global effort to conserve species threatened by illegal wildlife trade and extended the spirit of co-operation witnessed at the 16th Conference of Parties to CITES held in Bangkok in March 2013, and through subsequent events such as the IUCN African Elephant Summit hosted in Gaborone in December 2013.

A key theme of the Conference was that the response of the international community needed to reflect the growing scale of the problem, and to be co-ordinated and comprehensive. Commitments to action need to come from the highest levels of Government to ensure that all the relevant Ministries and agencies of Government give this issue the priority it requires.

This means ensuring that the illegal trade in wildlife is recognised as not only an issue for those in Government with environmental and natural resource responsibilities, but also by those in Government responsible for national and international security and stability, and economic and social development.

Equally, governments cannot solve this problem alone. The London Conference sought to recognise this and build collaboration with civil society, the public, private and voluntary sectors. In advance of the London Conference the United for Wildlife collaboration held a symposium on 11-12 February, which is reported on separately as part of this Information document. Both the symposium and the Conference reflected many of the same issues and conclusions.

A reception hosted by the Foreign Secretary for over 400 guests at the Natural History Museum, on the evening of 12 February provided an opportunity to bring together attendees at the two events along with other interested parties to demonstrate a united desire to find a solution to this problem.

London Declaration on The Illegal Wildlife Trade

Participating Governments agreed an ambitious political declaration, signaling their intent that it should mark the turning point in the fight to save endangered species and to end the illegal wildlife trade.

Governments agreed to 25 specific commitments, grouped around the following themes:

- Eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products
- Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Sustainable livelihoods and economic development
- The way forward.

Notably, Governments committed themselves for the first time to renounce the use of products from species threatened with extinction, which sends the strong signal that Governments will not procure items that drive demand for illegal wildlife products. Governments also went further than earlier commitments and promised to support the existing provisions of CITES to prohibit commercial, international trade in elephant ivory until the survival of elephants in the wild was no longer threatened by poaching. Governments also committed to treating poaching and trafficking in wildlife as a serious, organised crime; the same category as trafficking in drugs, arms and people.

The London Conference also provided a platform for Governments to make new commitments, including the Elephant Protection Initiative, launched by the Governments of Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tanzania. These Governments committed to an extended moratorium on the sale of ivory and also to put all ivory stocks beyond economic use, showing their determination that it is the elephants that hold value for them and their communities, not their tusks. The Initiative will support the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan. A paper (SC65 Doc. 42.5) has been submitted on this Initiative at this meeting.

Collectively the Declaration provides a comprehensive set of actions to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, through strengthened law enforcement, reducing demand and supporting livelihoods of communities affected by poaching and the trafficking. Implementation of all the commitments made in the political declaration will be reviewed at a follow-up conference, to be held in Botswana in March 2015.

The Declaration is attached as an annex to this information document. Subsequent to the Conference a number of Governments have indicated their intention to associate themselves with the Declaration, and those Governments who have not yet done so are invited to consider whether they can support the Declaration.

International wildlife trafficking: solutions to a global crisis

Synthesis of symposium hosted by the United for Wildlife collaboration, 11-12 February 2014, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) – prepared by the United for Wildlife collaboration.

Context

The illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products across national borders is now a multi-billion pound global activity, with organised criminal networks supplying a rapidly increasing demand in consumer countries via unprecedented levels of poaching in producer countries and trafficking in poaching, transit, and consumer countries. This undermines the rule of law, promotes and is fed by corruption, threatens local livelihoods, ecotourism and other wildlife-based economic opportunities, compromises local, national and global security, and threatens some of the world's most iconic species, such as rhinos, elephants and tiger, which also have a key role in ensuring the integrity of natural ecosystems upon which people depend. In this context, the United for Wildlife¹ collaboration held a symposium on 'International wildlife trafficking: solutions to a global crisis' on 11-12 February 2014 at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), in advance of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, hosted by the UK government on 12-13 February.

The meeting brought together over 250 experts, from over 30 countries, from diverse fields and backgrounds, including law enforcement and customs agencies, government representatives, scientists, conservationists, wildlife managers, legal professionals, prosecutors, economists, marketing experts and the NGO community. Participants heard the latest evidence characterising the scale and nature of wildlife trafficking, reviewed the lessons learned from existing efforts to combat it, and sought to identify the solutions and approaches that would best stem the supply, stop the trafficking, and reduce the demand that together feed and drive the illegal wildlife trade.

This briefing presents a synthesis of the key messages presented and discussed at that meeting, and highlights some of the solutions proposed. It does not necessarily represent a consensus opinion of all participants or of all of the members of the United for Wildlife collaboration.

Stopping trafficking at source

Increasing international demand for illegally trafficked products from high value species such as rhinos and elephants, fed by corruption and other factors along the trade chain, is driving the expansion of wildlife crime in source countries. It is vital to protect populations of many trafficked species, through monitoring, enforcement, and management measures, as the cornerstone of efforts to conserve species and stop wildlife crime. A range of management systems have roles to play, with formal protected areas, private sector initiatives and community management all proven to be successful in many places. Evidence was presented on the success of monitoring and enforcement efforts, including the use of **SMART**² (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) by rangers and officers, in multiple countries. Trafficking in source countries is commonly associated with organised criminal networks often involving a relatively small number of people when viewed at a national scale. These networks can be characterised as being loosely hierarchical, with relative risk decreasing and reward increasing on the way up: at the bottom, poachers operate at high personal risk with relatively low reward, supplying and often commissioned by smaller numbers of brokers, and at the apex,

¹ *The United for Wildlife collaboration comprises seven international conservation organisations (Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF-UK and ZSL) convened by HRHs Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry and is committed to focusing increased attention on the most pressing conservation issues of our time. www.unitedforwildlife.org*

² *Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool: www.smartconservationtools.org*

exporters, often well connected to local and national elites and accruing much of the value of the trafficked goods. Many challenges exist in disrupting these networks and effectively controlling trafficking at source and a number of key themes were highlighted during discussions, as follows.

Of critical importance is the need for **genuine, cross-sectoral, multi-scale commitments to combating wildlife trafficking**. This can be driven from the highest level of government, but needs to be embedded institutionally at every level within the relevant agencies (wildlife management, administration, law enforcement, customs and judiciary), both locally and nationally. Without this commitment, wildlife trafficking will not be seen as the serious crime that it is, and treated accordingly with the required resources and incentives directed towards addressing it.

Communities must have a stake in the existence of wildlife populations for poaching and trafficking to be effectively addressed. Community-managed conservancies and community-linked management of national park buffer zones are examples of how positive outcomes for people and wildlife are linked to **local people being actively involved in management and deriving direct benefits** from maintenance of healthy wildlife populations. Although no one model will be applicable in all contexts, successes need to be better understood to enable lessons learned to be applied in other areas.

Successful models exist of **effective site-level protection** in both community- and government-run areas. In these, sufficient numbers of well-trained, adequately resourced and motivated rangers are essential for such protection to be truly effective. The application of tools such as the SMART system, as presently used in more than 100 sites globally, support stronger, more effective and transparent site management, whilst **new technologies** such as UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) and real-time, remote sensing camera traps promise to help target protection efforts and increase efficiency.

As criminal networks become more sophisticated, so must the response, and the importance of **intelligence-driven anti-poaching** is paramount. Securing the remote, potentially vast, areas in which trafficked species are often found is a challenge, compounded by the fact that criminals are increasingly mobile, adaptable and well-informed. It was suggested by some that up to 50% of total spending on site-level protection should be directed towards intelligence gathering.

Failure to prosecute the criminals implicated in wildlife trafficking is a major concern, as all too often seizure or other enforcement actions do not lead to successful prosecutions with meaningful, deterrent penalties. This is linked to a combination of factors; in some instances a legislative deficit exists, in the form of weak or absent laws relating to wildlife trafficking, whilst in many other cases laws exist but are inappropriately applied. **Engagement with the judiciary and prosecutors** is a priority, strengthening their capacity through raising awareness of the severity of wildlife crime and the relevant applicable laws, and to build and pursue cases, including proper use of crime scene evidence and tools such as DNA analysis. Legislators have a role to play in ensuring that national laws are adequate to address wildlife trafficking.

Like other serious criminal enterprises, wildlife trafficking thrives in and nurtures corruption. Many trafficked species are found in countries with low governance capacity, weak institutions and entrenched elites in which a culture of corruption and personal enrichment undermines the rule of law. Corruption is a significant problem at all levels of the trade chain. Those involved in fighting these crimes can be left with the choice of being party to corruption or performing their duties at great personal risk. The challenge of combatting wildlife trafficking in the context of corruption is great but models exist that have, to a degree at least, succeeded. One example is that of the Eco-Activists for Governance and *Law Enforcement (EAGLE)* network, which uses intelligence-led

operations, legal support and media to **expose bribery and corruption** and the criminals involved. External diplomatic encouragement also plays a role in stimulating national authorities to meet their commitments and crack down on corruption.

The international dimension

International wildlife trafficking has a global reach and an estimated value of over US\$19 billion per annum. Increasingly, transnational organised crime networks are involved which are often also implicated in other cross-border crimes such as narcotics, firearms and human trafficking. International wildlife trafficking must be taken as seriously as these related crimes, and the tools and approaches that have had success in these fields should also be directed towards fighting transnational wildlife crime.

There is a need to **'mainstream' and include wildlife crime as a serious crime** within global law enforcement and wider policy frameworks and ensure this process is reflected at the national level. Progress is being made on this front, as evidenced for example by Resolution 2013/40 adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council regarding the definition of wildlife crime as a serious crime under the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC).

International frameworks and institutions have a role in assisting national governments in meeting their commitments and holding them to account. The recent UN Security Council Resolution implementing sanctions against armed groups implicated in wildlife trafficking in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo is an example of harnessing existing instruments within international law to address this issue. All States should be encouraged to join the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and UNTOC. A specific protocol on wildlife trafficking developed under the UNTOC would bring trafficking of wildlife into line with that of people and firearms. Global implementation and oversight could be further supported by the designation of a UN Special Representative of the Secretary General focused on wildlife trafficking.

International organisations, institutions and conventions have shown **increased collaboration** to address international trafficking. The **International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)**, launched in 2010 by the CITES secretariat, INTERPOL, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Customs Organisation(WCO) and the World Bank, represents a framework for national governments to address illegal wildlife trade and strengthen capacity within national wildlife law enforcement agencies and regional networks. The development of regional **Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)** also has potential as a structured environment for national agencies to co-operate and share experience and expertise. National governments should be encouraged and supported to engage with these processes to strengthen their capacity to meet their commitments and crack down on this crime. Diplomatic agencies, overseas development funds and allied agencies should also co-ordinate and support these initiatives (although not at the exclusion of other efforts).

Serious organised crime implicated in wildlife trafficking involves extortion, use of violence and intimidation as well as expertise in money laundering and financial crime. Effectively countering this will require relevant authorities to employ many of the **same tools, approaches and attitudes as for other serious trafficking crimes**. Efforts to combat wildlife trafficking need to adopt a **pro-active and intelligence-led approach**, utilising the full array of tools available such as intelligence gathering, cross-border co-operation and information sharing and financial crime expertise. International organisations such as those in ICWC have a key role to play in facilitating this.

Given the negative impacts of wildlife trafficking on socio-economic development, governance and the rule of law, it is imperative that efforts to control it move **beyond environment and/or wildlife departments** into the jurisdictions of economic and rural development, foreign affairs, law enforcement and justice. A specific target addressing wildlife trafficking should be included in the **Sustainable Development Goals**, being developed as part of the post-2015 development agenda. **Free trade agreements (FTAs)** represent another such mechanism and commitments and obligations of governments under CITES should be included and enforceable under FTAs.

Addressing drivers of demand

Consumer demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products drives global trafficking and whilst efforts to protect wildlife *in situ*, combat trafficking and provide incentives to local actors to maintain wildlife populations are all essential, no long-term solution can be found without addressing this demand as well. The last 40 years of consumption of ivory and rhino horn include cycles of demand expansion in East and South East Asia, often associated with increasing disposable income, followed by demand reduction. A key message is that **patterns of demand for wildlife products can change** and consumption can be successfully reduced; evidence was presented showing that in one former major importer of ivory, consumption fell from 500 tonnes of ivory in 1983, to an estimated 5 tonnes per annum today.

A major need is to **understand the complex underlying factors that influence demand** for and consumption of trafficked wildlife products, a challenge made harder by the covert nature of the trade. Our understanding of the economic principles underpinning markets for trafficked wildlife products, including aspects such as elasticity of demand, consumer responses to supply-side interventions, the impacts of trader speculation and hedging of products, is incomplete. Research in these areas is urgently needed to guide any interventions, particularly with regard to the potential impacts of regulatory changes and controlled trade on wild populations of species currently impacted by trafficking.

A key theme from the meeting was the need for all approaches directed towards demand reduction to move **beyond raising awareness to being evidence-led** strategies aiming to change consumer behaviour. These approaches must demonstrate a clear understanding of the consumers, their motivations and the emotional, social and financial factors driving their consumption of trafficked products.

Many efforts to engage consumers fail due to a lack of this information; messages are often based on a misunderstanding of consumer motivations, follow apparently 'rational' or value-led arguments that are irrelevant or culturally inappropriate for the target audience, conflict with cultural norms or simply come from a source perceived as untrustworthy or biased. Strategies should also recognise that **countries and consumer groups presently seeing highest demand for trafficked products are not homogenous entities** and the diversity of consumer motivation needs to be acknowledged and appropriately targeted.

Programmes to alter consumer behaviour will likely take a **multifaceted approach** to delivering messages and engaging the target audience. The rapid expansion of social media provides a medium to communicate with but also to better understand consumers and potential consumers. Enlisting champions or key opinion-formers to help deliver messages has proven promising, with individuals often proving more popular than the message alone. Many other innovative communication approaches have potential. The key is to ensure that all interventions are evidence-driven and that impacts are monitored.

Consumer engagement should be nested within and complemented by wider approaches to reduce demand and consumption, such as ensuring and applying an **effective legal and regulatory framework**. For example, efforts to reduce consumption of shark fin have included trade/carrier controls in addition to campaigns aimed at restaurants and consumers, enforcement of the **CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) 1989 ivory ban in combination with high profile and long-lasting campaigns supported by key government, business and celebrity figures played a major role in reducing ivory consumption, whilst the threat of sanctions has triggered changes in the law regarding rhino and ivory trade in some consumer countries.

Conclusion

International wildlife trafficking represents a significant and increasing problem that has major negative social, economic, environmental and security impacts. Whilst it is evident that no single, 'solution' exists to combatting this illegal trade, the discussions at the UFW symposium highlighted several key elements that need to be addressed to effectively meet the challenge posed by trafficking:

International wildlife trafficking **must be treated as a serious crime**, accorded the same level of commitment and effort from governments, national and international enforcement agencies, and judiciary as is shown in tackling other forms of transnational criminal trafficking. This commitment, must be backed by sufficient resources, meaningful action and sustained over time if wildlife trafficking is to be effectively addressed.

Wildlife trafficking is by its very nature an international problem. This **requires a co-ordinated international response** that makes use of existing international frameworks, institutional capacity and resources for combatting serious transboundary crime and regulating trade applied to fighting wildlife trafficking.

Successful examples of tools and approaches that stop poaching and trafficking at source do exist and these should be adapted and applied in a **scaled up response** that **benefits from existing experiences** and avoids replicating mistakes or 're-inventing the wheel'.

The important role that the communities hosting wildlife have in combating trafficking needs to be recognised. Approaches that **provide communities with incentives** to support maintenance of healthy wildlife populations and play an active role in management should be applied based on already existing successful examples.

Addressing demand for trafficked wildlife and wildlife products will be crucial to reducing wildlife trafficking in the longer term. Evidence shows that demand for wildlife products is fluid and can change relatively quickly. Programmes to reduce demand need to be evidence driven, based on a sound understanding of both the consumer and the market, be culturally appropriate and nested within wider regulatory frameworks to be effective.

Understanding of the drivers and mechanisms of wildlife trafficking, and thus potential impacts of changes in policy, remain incomplete. There is a need for further research, monitoring and enhanced availability of data and information, to **better understand the impact of various policy measures**.

LONDON
CONFERENCE ON
**THE ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE TRADE**

12-13 FEBRUARY 2014

DECLARATION

LONDON CONFERENCE ON THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE Declaration

1. We, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations*, gathered in London on 13th February 2014, recognising the significant scale and detrimental economic, social and environmental consequences of the illegal trade in wildlife, make the following political commitment and call upon the international community to act together to bring this to an end.

The scale and consequences of the illegal trade in wildlife

2. There is a serious threat to the survival of many species if action is not taken to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. Poaching and trafficking undermines the rule of law and good governance, and encourages corruption. It is an organised and widespread criminal activity, involving transnational networks. The proceeds are in some cases used to support other criminal activities, and have been linked to armed groups engaged in internal and cross border conflicts. Rangers and others dedicated to protecting wildlife are being killed or injured in significant numbers.
3. The illegal wildlife trade, and the poaching which feeds it, has in some places reached unprecedented levels. Serious poaching incidents are more frequent, are occurring in areas previously safe from such activity, and are more devastating in scale. Individual poachers or ad hoc gangs are being increasingly replaced by well-resourced and organised groups including transnational criminal networks.
4. The illegal wildlife trade robs States and communities of their natural capital and cultural heritage, with serious economic and social consequences. It undermines the livelihoods of natural resource dependent communities. It damages the health of the ecosystems they depend on, undermining sustainable economic development. The criminal activity and corruption associated with trafficking restricts the potential for sustainable investment and development which is needed in new economic activities and enterprises.
5. Decisive and urgent action is now needed to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in endangered fauna and flora. For many species, the illegal trade, and the poaching which fuels it, is an ongoing and growing problem. There has been a particularly dramatic escalation in the rate of poaching of elephants and rhinoceroses in some places in recent years. The severe threat posed to these iconic species is increasingly also a threat to regional security and sustainable development. Action to tackle the illegal trade in elephants and rhinoceroses will strengthen our effectiveness in tackling the illegal trade in other endangered species. Such action will also support the sustainable utilisation of resources.

Building on the existing international framework for action

6. “The Future We Want”, adopted at Rio+20 and endorsed by consensus of the UN General Assembly, *“recognised the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides”* and also recognised the *“important role of CITES, an intergovernmental agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development”*.
7. We welcome the attention being given to this issue through the United Nations system, including in the Security Council and the General Assembly, which demonstrates the wider security, economic, social and development implications of the illegal wildlife trade; and further welcome the UN General Assembly decision to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day reaffirming the intrinsic value of wildlife and its various contributions - including ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic - to sustainable development and human well-being.
8. We welcome the actions taken under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and in particular the Decisions relating to elephants, rhinoceroses and big cats adopted at previous meetings of the Conferences of the Parties. We recommit ourselves to the full and effective implementation of relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions and to making further efforts to eradicate the illegal wildlife trade within the CITES framework.
9. We welcome the important action already being taken by Governments and others at local, national, regional and global level. Commitments to combat the illegal wildlife trade in particular species have been made in a number of other meetings, and we stress the urgent need for their full implementation. We note the particular importance of: The African Elephant Action Plan and the urgent measures endorsed at the African Elephant Summit in Gaborone; The St Petersburg Tiger Declaration on Tiger Conservation; the Global Tiger Recovery Programme and the Thimpu Nine Point Action Agenda; The Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and, those listed in Annex A.
10. The illegal wildlife trade has many inter-related dimensions, and can only be effectively tackled with the involvement of Ministries and agencies beyond the wildlife conservation sector. Action needs to be taken at all points in the illegal supply chain in source, transit and destination countries. International co-operation is essential, with full engagement by Governments in relevant bilateral, regional and international mechanisms.
11. Effective international co-operation demands the active participation of partners that support Governments in different sectors, in particular: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; INTERPOL; the World Customs Organization; the World Bank; and the Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (which together comprise the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime); the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption; the United Nations Environment Programme; the United Nations Development Programme; the African Development Bank; the Asian Development Bank; the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks. We recognise the efforts made and urge all these entities, and all States who participate in them, to make the eradication of the illegal wildlife trade a priority.

12. We recognise the importance of engaging communities living with wildlife as active partners in conservation, by reducing human-wildlife conflict and supporting community efforts to advance their rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and their habitats.
13. We recognise the important role that non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and the private sector can play in actions against the illegal wildlife trade.
14. To this end we, the Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations represented in London, commit ourselves and call upon the international community to providing the political leadership and practical support needed to take the following essential actions.

ACTIONS

Eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products

15. The economic, social, and environmental impacts of the illegal wildlife trade can only be effectively tackled if we eradicate both the demand and supply sides for illegal products wherever in the world this occurs. To this end, we commit ourselves and call upon the international community to take the following action, to:
 - I. **Support, and where appropriate undertake, effectively targeted actions to eradicate demand and supply for illegal wildlife products**, including but not limited to, raising awareness and changing behaviour. Government support is important to ensure demand and supply side reduction efforts are implemented on the scale and in the time-frame needed to have a meaningful impact. Governments should work in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, sectoral experts and key influencers, including business. Actions should be scientific and clearly evidence based, building on research into users' values and behaviour, and form part of coherent demand and supply side reduction strategies.
 - II. **Endorse the action of Governments which have destroyed seized wildlife products being traded illegally**; and encourage those Governments that have stockpiles of illegal products, particularly of high value items such as rhino horn or elephant ivory, to destroy them and to carry out policy research on measures which will benefit conservation. Independent audits, or other means of ensuring transparent management, should be carried out prior to destruction.
 - III. **Renounce, as part of any Government procurement or related activity, the use of products from species threatened with extinction**, except for the purposes of bona fide scientific research, law enforcement, public education and other non-commercial purposes in line with national approaches and legislation.
 - IV. **Take measures to ensure that the private sector acts responsibly, to source legally any wildlife products used within their sectors; and urge the private sector to adopt zero tolerance policies on corporate gifting or accepting of species threatened with extinction or products made from them.**
 - V. **Recognising the authority of the CITES Conference of the Parties, support the existing provisions of CITES prohibiting commercial international trade in elephant ivory until the CITES Conference of the Parties determines, informed by scientific analysis, that the survival of elephants in the wild is no longer threatened by poaching.**
 - VI. **Welcome the action already underway and urge those Governments that allow trade in legally acquired endangered wildlife products to implement measures, including labelling**

and wider traceability measures, to ensure that this trade does not allow any illegal wildlife products to enter these markets.

- VII. Minimise speculation in endangered wildlife products by opposing the use of misleading, exaggerated or inaccurate information, where this could stimulate poaching, trafficking or demand.**

Ensuring Effective Legal Frameworks and Deterrents.

16. To curb the illegal wildlife trade it is important to ensure that the criminals involved, in particular those 'kingpins' who control the trade, are prosecuted and penalised to provide an effective deterrent. To this end, we commit ourselves, and call upon the international community, to take the following action, to:

- VIII. Address the problem of the illegal wildlife trade by adopting or amending legislation, as necessary, to criminalise poaching and wildlife trafficking, and related crimes including by ensuring such criminal offences are "serious crimes" within the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,** as called for in Resolution 2013/40 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and by making maximum use of the UNTOC to facilitate international cooperation in appropriate cases. For criminal offences relating to poaching and illicit trafficking, the UNTOC is a valuable tool that can serve as the basis of international cooperation, including extradition and mutual legal assistance, where the offense is transnational in nature, involves an organised criminal group, and is punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years. We urge all States to become parties to, and implement, the UN Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime, and ensure that their domestic offences involving wildlife trafficking fall within the definition of "serious crime" in Article 2 of the Convention.

- IX. Address the serious problem of corruption and money-laundering facilitating wildlife trafficking and related offences by adopting or amending legislation, as necessary, criminalising corruption and bribery facilitating poaching, wildlife trafficking, and related offences,** and to institute measures to establish and promote effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption and detection of money-laundering, particularly in cases involving wildlife trafficking. We urge all governments to become parties to, and implement, the UN Convention against Corruption, which can be a valuable tool to prevent corruption and foster international cooperation in corruption cases, including extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery.

- X. Strengthen the legal framework and facilitate law enforcement** to combat the illegal wildlife trade and assist prosecution and the imposition of penalties that are an effective deterrent. As part of this, support the use of the full range of existing legislation and law enforcement deployed against other forms of organised crime. This should include, but not be limited to,

the enforcement of legislation on money laundering, tax offences and asset recovery, corruption and illicit trafficking in other commodities such as narcotic drugs and firearms. Effective multidisciplinary enforcement should be used to ensure effective investigations and prosecutions, and to secure sentences that act as an effective deterrent.

- XI. **Strengthen the ability to achieve successful prosecutions and deterrent sanctions** by raising awareness in the judicial sector about the seriousness, impact and potential profits of wildlife crime. Dedicated training and increased capacity building are essential tools to achieve this goal.
- XII. **Adopt a zero tolerance policy on corruption associated with the illegal wildlife trade**, recognising with great concern that corruption is an important factor facilitating the criminal activities associated with the illegal wildlife trade.

Strengthening law enforcement

- 17. Successfully tackling the illegal wildlife trade demands a strong and co-ordinated enforcement response, at the site, national and international levels, and in source, transit and destination countries, using the fullest capacity of institutions and available tools and techniques. To this end, we commit ourselves and call upon the international community to take the following action to:
- XIII. **Invest in capacity building to strengthen law enforcement to protect key populations of species threatened by poaching.** Effective law enforcement requires an increase in the number of well-equipped and well-trained law enforcement officers at key sites, using appropriate tools and techniques.
- XIV. **Establish and maintain national cross-agency mechanisms** to develop, resource and implement co-ordinated national and local action plans and strategies, and oversee the implementation of actions against wildlife crime; to strengthen enforcement systems for a stronger preventive and reactive response to wildlife crime by, inter alia, using the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit.
- XV. **Provide the necessary conditions for, and further support, including through international co-operation to share expertise, the use of the full range of investigative techniques and tools already deployed against other forms of domestic and transnational organised crime.** This should include, but is not limited to: criminal intelligence; controlled deliveries; traceability systems; risk profiling detector dog's; ballistic analysis and the use of existing forensic technology, including the further development of such technologies.

XVI. Strengthen cross-border and regional co-operation, through better co-ordination, and through full support for regional wildlife law enforcement networks. This should include the sharing of operational intelligence and information, sharing information on forensic research and collaborating with relevant forensic research institutions, collaboration on enforcement activity (such as joint operations) and joint capacity building initiatives (such as training activities, trans-border communication equipment and sharing of enforcement expertise and resources).

Sustainable livelihoods and economic development

18. The illegal wildlife trade is a major barrier to sustainable, inclusive and balanced economic development. It contributes to damage to ecosystems, undermines good governance and the rule of law, threatens security, and reduces the revenue earned from economic activities such as wildlife-based tourism and the sustainable utilisation and legal trade of wildlife, which can make a significant contribution to local livelihoods and national economic development. Recognising that sustainable livelihoods will be best achieved with the engagement of those communities surrounding protected areas, we commit ourselves and call upon the international community to take action, to:

XVII. Recognise the negative impact of illegal wildlife trade on sustainable livelihoods and economic development. This impact needs to be better understood and quantified and should form part of the assessment set out in Action XXIV.

XVIII. Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty. This includes promoting innovative partnerships for conserving wildlife through shared management responsibilities such as community conservancies, public-private partnerships, sustainable tourism, revenue-sharing agreements and other income sources such as sustainable agriculture. Governments should integrate measures to address illegal wildlife trade into development policy and planning, and the programming of development cooperation activities.

XIX. Initiate or strengthen collaborative partnerships among local, regional, national and international development and conservation agencies to enhance support for community led wildlife conservation and to promote retention of benefits by local communities for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife, including actions to reduce illegal use of fauna and flora.

XX. Work with, and include local communities in, establishing monitoring and law enforcement networks in areas surrounding wildlife.

The Way Forward

19. Successfully tackling the illegal wildlife trade and its impacts will need concerted political leadership, community engagement and international cooperation over a sustained period. To support these efforts further research is needed into the scale of the environmental, political, social and economic implications of the trade, as well as an improved understanding of the illegal trade itself and the impact of measures taken to prevent and combat it. To this end, we:
- XXI. Welcome the resources provided to date to support action to prevent and combat the illegal wildlife trade, including implementation of existing action plans and declarations. Urge all donors to provide resources, support and technical assistance, as appropriate, for the implementation of the political commitments contained in this Declaration.**
- XXII. Recognise and appreciate the ongoing support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address the poaching crisis in Africa and the associated illegal wildlife trade** and would welcome the prioritisation of the issue in the GEF-6 (2014-2018) biodiversity strategy.
- XXIII. Welcome the establishment within the UN of the ‘Group of Friends’ against illegal wildlife trafficking** and take note of the suggestion made at the High Level Event on Illicit Wildlife Trafficking hosted by Germany and Gabon in New York in September 2013, to establish a Special Representative to the Secretary General to further the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking, and for this to be requested by the UN General Assembly in a formal resolution (ref doc A/68/553).
- XXIV. Will undertake further assessment, initially over the next twelve months, building on existing assessments and collaborative work, of the markets and dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade, and the progress made in combatting it.** This should address the links between wildlife crime and other organised crime and corruption, explore links to terrorism, and investigate the underlying causes and implications of trade, including on regional stability and security, the environment, socio-economic development, and on international relations. It should report on progress on actions and political commitments to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, building on existing assessments and working collaboratively with other organisations already engaged on this issue.
- XXV. Welcome the offer of Botswana to host another high-level conference to review progress in early 2015.**

Annex A

- The Paris round table and declaration against poaching and illegal trade of threatened species, December 2013
- The African Elephant Summit, Gaborone, December 2013
- The Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard, October 2013
- APEC Bali Declaration, October 2013
- 1st Asian Rhino Range States Meeting, and the Bandar Lampung Declaration, October 2013
- UN General Assembly high level side event hosted by Gabon and Germany on Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking, September 2013
- Kunming Consensus on Transboundary Conservation and Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade, July 2013
- G8 Leaders Communiqué, June 2013
- The African Development Bank's Marrakech Declaration, May 2013
- Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit, April 2013
- Crime Commission 2013
- Yaoundé Declaration on the Fight against Poaching in Central African States, March 2013
- 2nd Asian Ministerial Meeting on Tiger Conservation, and the Thimpu Nine Point Action Agenda October 2012
- APEC Vladivostok Declaration, October 2012
- The St Petersburg Tiger Declaration on Tiger Conservation, November 2010
- The African Elephant Action Plan, March 2010

*** Annex B – The following countries and regional economic integration organisations participated in the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade.**

Republic of Angola
Commonwealth of Australia
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Republic of Botswana
Federative Republic of Brazil
Republic of Cameroon
Canada
Republic of Chad
People's Republic of China
Republic of Colombia
Congo - Republic of the Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
French Republic
Gabonese Republic
Federal Republic of Germany
Republic of Indonesia
Italian Republic
Japan
Republic of Kenya
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Republic of Malawi
Malaysia
United Mexican States
Republic of Mozambique
Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Union of Burma)
Republic of Namibia
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Republic of the Philippines
Russian Federation
Republic of Rwanda
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
United Republic of Tanzania
Togolese Republic
United Arab Emirates
Republic of Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Republic of Zambia
The European Union

symposium

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
REGENTS PARK, LONDON, NW1 4RY



11 and 12 February 2014

International wildlife trafficking: solutions to a global crisis

Organised by:

Paul De Ornellas, Zoological Society of London; Susan Lieberman, Wildlife Conservation Society; Jonathan Baillie, Zoological Society of London; John Robinson, Wildlife Conservation Society; Heather Sohl, WWF-UK; Rob Brett, Fauna & Flora International; Richard Jenkins, IUCN; Rosie Cooney, IUCN SULi; Thomasina Oldfield, TRAFFIC; Sabri Zain, TRAFFIC; Peter Paul Van Dijk, Conservation International; Russ Mittermeier, Conservation International; David Banks, The Nature Conservancy

The international illegal trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products has reached crisis proportions. It is a threat to the existence of iconic species, undermines the rule of law, threatens local community development and livelihoods, local and national revenue streams, and compromises local, national and global security. The growing menace of wildlife trafficking necessitates a call to action for the global community, which is increasingly recognised by governments, world leaders, conservation organizations and law enforcement agencies. There is an urgent need therefore to capitalise on this consensus and move forward from recognising the problem, to identifying the strategies and approaches that can successfully prevent this illegal trade. At this symposium we will draw on a wide array of expertise and experience; review the lessons learned from existing efforts and harness skills from other applicable fields in order to better understand how to protect the supply and reduce the demand that drives the illegal trade. It is only by identifying solutions and committing to implementation that we can meet the challenge posed by the global trafficking in wildlife.



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9.20 Welcome: Jonathan Baillie, Zoological Society of London and John Robinson, Wildlife Conservation Society

SESSION I: STOPPING TRAFFICKING IN SOURCE COUNTRIES

- 9.40 Ian Craig, Northern Rangelands Trust
What are the challenges to effectively combatting wildlife crime in source countries?
- 1. SECURING WILDLIFE STRONGHOLDS (Chair: Samson Parashina, Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust)**
- 10.00 Megh Pandey, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal
Wildlife crime control in Bardia National Park: A success story from Nepal
- 10.50 Raoul du Toit, Lowveld Rhino Trust
Lowveld conservancies in Zimbabwe: insights from private sector management
- 11.10 Craig Bruce, Zoological Society of London
The potential for technological innovations to help combat wildlife crime: the SMART approach
- 11.20 Anak Pattanavibool, Wildlife Conservation Society Thailand
Use of SMART for smart protection of tiger and elephant strongholds in Thailand
- 11.30 Lee White CBE, Gabonese National Parks Agency
Developing national capacity to combat increasingly organized and violent wildlife criminals on land and at sea in Gabon
- 11.50 John Kasaona, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
Protecting wildlife through community-based conservation
- 12.10 Panel discussion on solutions
- 2. STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR FIGHTING TRANSNATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME (Chair: Chris Dawson, US Department of State)**
- 13.40 Michael Lebovitz, DLA Piper UK LLP
Supporting national criminal justice systems and legislation relating to wildlife crime
- 13.55 Naftali Honig, Project for the Application of Law for Fauna Republic of Congo (PALF)
Fighting corruption that nurtures wildlife crime
- 14.15 Dwi Adhiasto, Wildlife Conservation Society
Strengthening the legal enforcement processes in Indonesia
- 14.35 Rod Potter, Wildlife Investigator, South Africa
The role of the wildlife investigator in professionally attending to wildlife crime scenes
- 14.50 Rob Ogden, TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network
Wildlife DNA forensics: tools for tackling illegal trade
- 15.05 Panel discussion on solutions

SESSION II: THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

16.05 John E. Scanlon, CITES Secretary General
An overview of the international dimension to illicit wildlife trafficking

1. FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME (Chair: Jorge Rios, UNODC)

16.25 John M. Sellar OBE, Anti-Smuggling, Fraud and Organized Crime Consultant
The war on drugs and arms: lessons from success and failure for wildlife trafficking

16.45 Debbie Banks, Environmental Investigation Agency
Fighting organised crime: combatting transnational wildlife criminal networks with intelligence

17.05 Davyth Stewart, INTERPOL
Combatting organised crime syndicates – what works?

17.25 Panel discussion on solutions

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2. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND CO-OPERATION (Chair: Susan Lieberman, Wildlife Conservation Society)

- 9.00 Ben Janse Van Rensburg, CITES
Coordinated support and increased cooperation: The International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)
- 9.20 Heather Sohl, WWF
Going beyond environment – making wildlife trafficking a priority foreign policy issue
- 9.40 Nav Dayanand, Fauna & Flora International
Free Trade Agreements as policy tools to tackle wildlife trafficking
- 11.10 Gaël de Rotalier, DG Environment - European Commission
The EU perspective on addressing the new challenges posed by international wildlife trafficking
- 11.25 The potential for regional development banks to help combat international wildlife trafficking
- 11.40 Panel discussion on solutions

SESSION III: ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS OF DEMAND FOR TRAFFICKED WILDLIFE

- 12.00 Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC
Demand: the forces and factors that drive illegal international trade and consumption in elephant ivory and rhino horn

1. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF CONSUMER DEMAND FOR TRAFFICKED WILDLIFE (Chair: Claudia Sobrevila, World Bank)

- 12.20 Alejandro Nadal, El Colegio de Mexico
The economic analysis of trade in endangered species: a critical review
- 12.40 Michael 't Sas-Rolfes, Independent Conservation Economist
Reviewing the evidence that legal trade can reduce pressure on wild populations of trafficked endangered species

2. ALTERING CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR TO REDUCE DEMAND FOR ILLEGALLY TRAFFICKED WILDLIFE PRODUCTS (Chair: Steven Galster, Freeland Foundation)

- 14.00 Lixin Huang, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM)
Sustainable health, environmental harmony: the ongoing collaboration between Traditional Chinese Medicine and environmental conservation
- 14.20 Naomi Doak, TRAFFIC
Changing minds to save rhinos: demand reduction through behaviour change in Viet Nam
- 14.40 Eric Phu, Independent Marketing Consultant
Learnings and insights from social media in China
- 15.00 Peter Knights, WildAid
When the buying stops, the killing can too
- 15.20 Grace Ge Gabriel, Asia Regional Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare
Reducing consumptive use of wildlife, insights from the field
- 15.40 Panel discussion on solutions

SYNTHESIS AND SOLUTIONS (Chair: Nick Booth, Royal Foundation)

- 16.40 Panel discussion – reflections and solutions
- 17.30 **End of Symposium**