

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



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INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICWC)
ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

Annual Report 2013

This Annual Report provides a summary of the activities and operations of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013.

ABOUT ICCWC

ICCWC is a collaboration of five inter-governmental organizations working to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that act in defence of natural resources. ICCWC was established in 2010 in response to the increasingly organized and transnational nature of wildlife and forest crime, and the need to increase global and regional coordination to effectively combat this serious crime.

The five organizations that collaborate as ICCWC are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The alliance is chaired by the CITES Secretariat.

ICCWC's mission is to usher in a new era where perpetrators of serious wildlife crimes will face a formidable and coordinated response, rather than the present situation where the risk of detection and punishment is all too low.

This mission is supported by a Letter of Understanding between the five organizations, in which they agree, under the auspices of ICCWC, to *inter alia*, work collaboratively to support national law enforcement agencies and regional wildlife law enforcement networks, assist countries to review their current responses to wildlife crime, facilitate national multi-agency cooperation and develop capacity-building materials to enhance the knowledge and skills of national agencies in combating wildlife crime.

Further information about ICCWC, including the Letter of Understanding, can be found at the ICCWC web portal: <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>.

ICCWC ACTIVITIES 2013

Support from the international community

The work of ICCWC during 2013 was supported by the following donors. ICCWC thanks the donors for their generous contributions that enabled the activities detailed in this Annual Report to occur.

2013 funding contributions to ICCWC

European Commission: Project Combat Wildlife Crime to strengthen the capacity of ICCWC, support capacity-building of national law enforcement agencies, the implementation of ICCWC tools and activities and support the appointment of an ICCWC Support Officer at INTERPOL.

Netherlands: A project in rhinoceros Range States to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers in Africa and Asia to detect and counter the illegal trade in rhino horn.

Sweden: Implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*, ICCWC capacity - building activities, increased cooperation between Africa and Asia, support for the ministerial roundtable on combating transnational organized wildlife crime at CITES CoP16 and support for the ICCWC Support Officer in the CITES Secretariat.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Support for the ICCWC Support Officer in the CITES Secretariat along with support for ICCWC activities and visibility.

U.S. Department of State: Enhancing collaboration amongst regional wildlife enforcement networks and support for the first global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks at CITES CoP16.

World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF): Implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and support for ICCWC capacity-building activities.

Activities and achievements

1. Strategy and high-level commitment to combat wildlife and forest crime

- **Meeting of the ICCWC executive heads or their representatives**

Senior officials from the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and WCO convened in Bangkok on 3 March 2013 to review the activities that have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since its creation, as well as to discuss the next steps and future activities of the Consortium. The meeting took place in the margins of 16th CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16) and was the first of a number of ICCWC-supported events at CoP16.

The organization of this event was made possible thanks to funds generously provided by Sweden.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130305_icwc.php

- **Ministerial roundtable on combating transnational organized wildlife and forest crime**

On 4 March 2013 ICCWC convened a roundtable for Ministers and high-level representatives to share their experiences with tackling wildlife crime and to discuss what further measures are required. Representatives from over 30 countries – along with observers from international organizations – attended the Ministerial roundtable which was held alongside CITES CoP16 in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the discussion, which was Chaired by CITES Secretary-General Mr John E. Scanlon, Ministers acknowledged the serious nature of transnational organized wildlife and forest crime, in particular the escalating levels of poaching and illegal trade and the increasing involvement of organized crime groups. Ministers and high-level representatives reaffirmed the strong commitment of their countries to combat transnational organized wildlife and forest crime and shared information on the measures that they are implementing to combat this crime. The discussion highlighted the compelling need to develop and implement coordinated responses to transnational organized wildlife and forest crime.

The organization of this event was made possible thanks to funds generously provided by Sweden.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130305_ministerial.php

Chair's Summary of Roundtable: <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/inf/E-CoP16i-54.pdf>

- **UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution on wildlife crime**

The 22nd UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) met from 22-26 April 2013 and adopted a resolution tabled by Peru and the United States of America entitled '*Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora*'. The resolution recognizes the illicit trafficking in protected species as a serious crime and commends the ICCWC's efforts and role in combating the illegal wildlife trade. The draft resolution, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council, encourages UNODC and its ICCWC partners to support member States, particularly in the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit.

The topic for the thematic debate at the CCPCJ was '*Challenges posed by emerging forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment and ways to deal with it effectively*'. Opening remarks provided by the UNODC Director of Operations and the CITES Secretary-General highlighted the need to treat wildlife crime as a serious transnational organized crime, along with the important coordination role of ICCWC. Member States shared their concerns, experiences and

lessons learned with tackling environmental crime in their countries and acknowledged the transnational and serious nature of this crime.

ICCWC along with the Environmental Investigation Agency and WWF (also representing TRAFFIC), organized a side event on 23 April 2013, entitled '*Wildlife and Forest Crime – A transnational organized crime*'. The side event was opened by the UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, and the CITES Secretary-General, Mr. John E. Scanlon, and highlighted the role of ICCWC and the ICCWC Toolkit. Its aim was to raise awareness of the transnational nature of wildlife crime and the importance of considering it as a serious crime.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130423_CCPCJ.php

2. Global and regional coordination

• First global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks

The first global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks took place on 5 March 2013 during CITES CoP16. The meeting saw wildlife law enforcement officers from around the world convene in Bangkok to share their experiences at combating wildlife crime and discuss ways of further enhancing cooperation. Participants included representatives from the ten wildlife enforcement networks or groups operating within Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America; and from the proposed networks under discussion for Central Asia, West Asia and the Oceania/Pacific region.

There was broad support for increased cooperation between networks to create a 'network' of wildlife enforcement networks or groups – using existing cooperative arrangements at the global level, such as ICCWC – to improve communication between the networks, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify joint activities to help combat wildlife crime. Participants acknowledged the benefits of coming together for the event and encouraged future global meetings to continue the discussion on how to develop links between enforcement networks.

In addition to the global meeting, ICCWC has supported cooperation between individual wildlife enforcement networks by providing funding to enable representatives from some networks to attend the meetings of others.

The organization of this event was made possible thanks to funds generously provided by the United States of America.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130307_wen.php

Press release (launch of workshop report): http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130715_wen_report.php

Workshop report: <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/docs/ICCWC%20Report%20-%20First%20Global%20Meeting%20of%20the%20WENs%20-%20Final.pdf>

• CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting

The CITES Secretariat, in cooperation with ICCWC partners, hosted a Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 28-29 October 2013. The meeting was attended by 52 representatives from 21 countries that play a role as source, transit or destination countries in the illegal rhinoceros horn trade. Participants included senior law enforcement officers representing Customs, police and wildlife authorities from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, as well as representatives from wildlife enforcement networks.

The meeting gave representatives the opportunity to interact with their law enforcement counterparts from other countries and to discuss poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade trends, to share

information and intelligence, and to discuss specific cases. The meeting also developed strategies and proposed actions to improve international cooperation and combat the growing trends in rhinoceros poaching and the associated illegal trade in rhinoceros horn.

The organization of this event was made possible thanks to funds generously provided by Sweden.

See also

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

Notification to CITES Parties following meeting: <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2014-006.pdf>

Annex to Notification (strategies and proposed actions arising from meeting):

<http://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2014-006A.pdf>

3. Needs assessment and capacity building

- **Implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit**

The *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* is a flagship product of the consortium. It aims to provide government officials, Customs, police and other enforcement agencies with a framework to complete an analytical assessment of their national response to wildlife and forest crime. During 2013 ICCWC supported the implementation of the Toolkit in Peru and Bangladesh. In 2014 the Toolkit will be implemented in Gabon, Mexico, Nepal, Angola and Vietnam.

Implementation of the Toolkit was made possible due to funds generously provided by the World Bank and Sweden.

The ICCWC Toolkit is currently available in English, French and Spanish. During 2013, 1,500 copies of the Toolkit were printed and 1,000 USBs containing the Toolkit in all languages were produced. These were distributed at major ICCWC events (e.g. CITES CoP16, 22nd UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) and made available to Parties upon request.

Printing of the Toolkit was made possible due to funds generously provided by Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

See also

Press release (toolkit launch, 2012) : http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120725_ICCWC_toolkit.php

- **Development of wildlife law enforcement indicators**

A set of wildlife law enforcement indicators is under development to provide a guide for enforcement agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of their responses to wildlife and forest crime and to support the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. An ICCWC expert workshop on *Indicators for Measuring the Enforcement Response to Wildlife and Forest Crime* was held in Vienna on 16-18 December 2013. The workshop brought together experts on developing environmental and law enforcement indicators and ICCWC representatives, to agree on a set of principles and the scope of the proposed indicators. The process of identifying indicators will continue during 2014.

The convening of the workshop was made possible due to funds generously provided by the World Bank.

- **Specialized training during Asian Development Bank symposium on combating wildlife crime**

ICCWC delivered specialized technical training and was a key partner in the Asian Development Bank symposium on *Combating Wildlife Crime: Securing Enforcement, Ensuring Justice and Upholding the Rule of Law* held in Bangkok on 10-12 March 2013 during CITES CoP16. The symposium brought together senior judiciary, prosecutors, police and Customs officers. Its aim was to secure cooperation throughout the law enforcement chain and among countries in Asia to combat the illegal wildlife trade by upholding the rule of law, promoting integrity and increasing action to combat the illegal trade.

The ICCWC-delivered training focused on specialized investigative techniques and tools such as controlled deliveries, information and intelligence management, anti-money laundering and asset recovery, that can be used by law enforcement officers to combat wildlife crime more effectively.

The organization of this event was made possible thanks to the Asian Development Bank.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130313_iccwc_training.php

- **Specialized training for wildlife law enforcement officers from Africa and Asia**

ICCWC delivered a two-day training workshop to wildlife law enforcement officials from 21 countries in Nairobi, Kenya, on 30-31 October 2013. The event was held in close collaboration with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF). The training strengthened the skills of law enforcement officers to combat transnational organized wildlife crime through exposure to hands-on training in the use of a broad range of innovative and specialized investigation techniques. It also highlighted the importance of increased international collaboration to facilitate multi-disciplinary investigations and coordinated law enforcement responses across range, transit and destination States. The training was held in advance of the operational phase of Operation COBRA II in January 2014, to update skills and knowledge prior to this month-long global operation to combat illegal wildlife trade. ICCWC also assisted the LATF with operational planning for Operation Cobra II.

The organization of this event was made possible due to funds generously provided by Sweden.

See also

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

Press release (Operation COBRA II, 2014): http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2014/20140210_operation_cobra_ii.php

- **First international rhinoceros DNA training workshop**

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the University of Pretoria's Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL), in collaboration with ICCWC, hosted a rhinoceros DNA sampling workshop in South Africa on 5-6 November 2013. Participants included law enforcement officers from the African rhinoceros range states (Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe), as well as from China, Thailand and Vietnam, and South African National Parks.

The workshop increased the capacity of law enforcement officers working along national borders and in protected areas to detect, investigate and prosecute offenders involved in the illegal rhinoceros horn trade through a series of lectures and field visits to the Kruger National Park and training on the identification of rhinoceros horn, rhinoceros horn DNA sampling and wildlife crime scene investigation.

The organization of this event was made possible thanks to funds generously provided by the Netherlands.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131106_forensics.php

- **Assessment of law enforcement capacity needs in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR)**

In November 2013 INTERPOL and the World Bank, on behalf of ICCWC, worked together to assist the Government of Lao PDR with the preparation of a project to strengthen wildlife and forest law enforcement. International law enforcement specialists engaged by INTERPOL worked alongside a World Bank team responsible for developing financial support for what has now been finalized as the Protected Areas and Wildlife Project (PAWS). The work done under the auspices of ICCWC secured the inclusion of over USD3 million for wildlife and forestry law enforcement capacity building as part of the USD12 million that the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility approved for Lao PDR.

This work was made possible thanks to funds provided by the European Commission.

- **Workshop on illegal timber trade in South-East Asia**

UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, delivered a national workshop for prosecutors, law enforcement officers and relevant government representatives in Vietnam in October 2013. The workshop aimed to strengthen collaboration between different agencies and establish a task force to improve the criminal justice response to illegal trade in timber, especially in the view of the new EU Timber Regulations. The workshop produced recommendations in relation to legislation, law enforcement, capacity building and equipment.

The workshop was made possible due to resources provided by the World Bank Development Grant Facility.

- **Guidelines for forensic analysis of seized ivory**

In collaboration with the University of Washington's Center for Conservation Biology and other experts in the field, UNODC on behalf of ICCWC is leading the development of international guidelines for forensic analysis covering the whole chain of custody (from crime scene to court). The consultative process included a 3-day expert group meeting in Vienna in December 2013, at which participants reviewed a draft of the guidelines, which are to be finalized by June 2014.

The development of the guidelines was made possible due to resources provided by the World Bank Development Grant Facility.

- **Forensic DNA analysis of large-scale ivory seizures**

On behalf of ICCWC, UNODC employed the services of the University of Washington's Center for Conservation Biology to conduct DNA analysis of three large seizures of elephant ivory. With the technical and financial support of other ICCWC members, samples from ivory seizures in Togo, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong were provided to the University of Washington. Identifying the origins of these large-scale seizures will inform authorities about the major geographical locations of poaching and ivory trade operations, providing intelligence to facilitate direct law enforcement actions.

The DNA analysis was made possible due to resources provided by the World Bank Development Grant Facility.

4. Enforcement support

- **First Wildlife Incident Support Team (WIST) deployed**

At the request of Sri Lanka, INTERPOL deployed the first Wildlife Incident Support Team (WIST) on behalf of ICCWC in July 2013. The WIST was to collect DNA samples from 359 elephant tusks that were seized by Sri Lanka Customs authorities in the port of Colombo.

The samples were sent to the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington in the United States for DNA analysis to identify the origin of the ivory, and to the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for chemical isotope analysis to determine the age of the ivory.

The deployment of the WIST was made possible thanks to funds generously provided by the European Commission.

See also

Press release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130725_iccwc_wist_Srilanka.php

Meetings of the ICCWC Senior Experts Group

The operations of ICCWC are guided by a Senior Experts Group (SEG) comprising representatives from all five ICCWC organizations. The ICCWC SEG is responsible for coordinating and developing activities to be delivered under the ICCWC banner and for monitoring the implementation of ICCWC activities.

During 2013, the ICCWC SEG met on the following occasions:

- ICCWC SEG meeting on 15-16 January 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ICCWC SEG meeting on 22 April 2013 in Vienna, Austria.
- ICCWC SEG meeting on 2-3 December in Vienna, Austria.

These face-to-face meetings were supported by five SEG conference calls held during 2013.