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

Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

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 [International Criminal Police Organization], the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization as ICCWC 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 the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC65, Geneva, July 2014).

Activities conducted collectively under the auspices of ICCWC

5. ICCWC has continued to develop and deliver activities and tools for national enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime more effectively. The dedicated portal on ICCWC, available in English, French and Spanish on the CITES website, is constantly updated and provides information on the Consortium’s activities, as well as tools and services available through its partner organizations. This includes, among others, a revised brochure on ICCWC; details on ICCWC and its Global Network; and up-to-date information on the implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit.

6. The ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016 outlines five focus areas to be simultaneously pursued by the Consortium: strengthening cooperation and coordination; analysing current responses to wildlife and forest crime; building national enforcement capacity; raising awareness and political support; and; improving the use of knowledge and innovation in responses to wildlife and forest crime. All activities delivered are in line with the Strategic Mission as well as the strategic plans and work programmes of ICCWC partner organizations. Below are key actions and activities delivered by ICCWC for each of its focus areas.
Focus Area 1: Strengthening cooperation and coordination in combating wildlife and forest crime

7. INTERPOL, in cooperation with ICCWC, led the organization of a number of operations and projects to combat the illegal trafficking in wildlife. Key projects and operations include: Operation INFRA TERRA: an international operation targeting fugitives wanted for environmental crimes; Operation PAWS: a regional operation in Asia targeting wildlife trafficking in tigers and other big cats, and; Operation URSA: a regional operation in Asia to support countries in the development of an intelligence-led enforcement operation targeting illegal trafficking in wildlife and the criminal networks involved. The organization of such activities was made possible thanks to funds generously provided to ICCWC by the European Commission through a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC. Such funds also contributed to support Project Connexus, a global INTERPOL project that includes a series of simultaneous, multi-agency, multi-focus and multi-regional activities to promote investigative follow-up to identify and disrupt international criminal networks.¹

8. To further enhance international cooperation to combat rhinoceros poaching and the associated illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, the CITES Secretariat, in collaboration with ICCWC, hosted a Ministerial-level meeting and a Senior Officials meeting² in February 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of these meetings was to bring together key States implicated in the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn to discuss the priority areas for enhanced bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation to address both the supply and demand for rhinoceros horn, and to secure further political commitment to implement appropriate activities and cooperation in response. A number of recommendations on well-targeted short and medium-term actions to further enhance international cooperation were adopted at the meeting.³ Based on a recommendation arising from the Senior Officials meeting, a Rhinoceros CENComm (Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform) closed user group for key States was developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO), and is maintained by the CITES Secretariat. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC66 Doc. 51.1 on Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.). Funding to support such activity was generously provided by the European Union under a CITES project to support the implementation of CoP16 Decisions, as well as by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. Building on the outcomes of the first global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks,⁴ ICCWC has continued to support activities to improve enforcement cooperation across sectors and regions:

a) The Secretariat has prepared a directory of wildlife enforcement network focal points to facilitate increased collaboration and communication at the subregional, regional and international levels. The directory is updated and circulated among networks periodically and contains the latest information as submitted to the CITES Secretariat.⁵

b) INTERPOL played a leading role in coordinating ICCWC’s financial, operational and technical support⁶ to Operation COBRA III and the World Customs Organization facilitated the use of its CENComm secure and encrypted communication tool by creating a secure closed user group for enforcement authorities involved in the operation to exchange real-time intelligence and information, and to target and track suspicious cargoes, poachers and traffickers of endangered species. In addition, UNODC led, on behalf of ICCWC, the organization of a post-operational review and training workshop for African countries involved in the operation in Tanzania on 2-4 September 2015. The organization of such activities was made possible thanks to funds generously provided to ICCWC by the European Commission through a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC, as well as funds provided to UNODC by the US Department of State for ICCWC activities.

c) Alongside other ICCWC partner agencies, the Secretariat continued to participate in and support networks, and attended the 29th (Brussels, October 2014) and 30th (Brussels, April 2015) meetings of the EU Enforcement Group, as well as the Indian Ocean Maritime Crime Forum meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 12-14 May 2015. The Secretariat expresses its sincere appreciation to the

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⁵ [https://cites.org/eng/resources/enforcement_focal_points](https://cites.org/eng/resources/enforcement_focal_points)
Focus Area 2: Facilitating analysis of national responses to wildlife and forest crime

10. The ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit, 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. UNODC is leading the implementation of the Toolkit, which, at the time of writing, has been completed in Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Mexico, Nepal, Peru and Viet Nam, and is in the process of being rolled-out in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania. Implementation of the Toolkit has been possible thanks to funding generously provided to ICCWC by Sweden, the US Department of State and the World Bank.

11. 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

12. The Secretariat welcomes formal requests from Parties for ICCWC support to implement the Toolkit and encourages Parties to consult the ICCWC toolkit fact sheet and the Implementation step by step guide available on the ICCWC website for more details.

13. Upon completion of Toolkit implementation, a detailed national Implementation action plan is developed by UNODC, containing recommendations on how the country could improve its responses to wildlife and forest crime. This is formally presented to the government of the country concerned for consideration. In countries where Toolkit implementation has been completed, ICCWC is, upon request and based on availability of resources, supporting national governments to implement the recommendations of the Toolkit Implementation action plans. For example, at the request from Bangladesh, and in line with the findings and recommendations of the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit, the CITES Secretariat, in cooperation with INTERPOL and the WCO, delivered a one day workshop on the fundamentals of CITES followed by a two-day train-the-trainers workshop on CITES and special investigative techniques for front-line officers. The training was organized on 5-7 October 2015 in Dhaka, Bangladesh and was coordinated by the Forest Department of Bangladesh in collaboration with ICCWC, with funds from the Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection Project, a comprehensive project funded by the World Bank to increase the capacity of the law enforcement community to combat wildlife crime.

14. ICCWC is in the process of finalizing the development of indicators which Parties could implement to assist them to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their own law enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime. Building on the outcomes of an expert workshop on indicators convened by UNODC in December 2013, the Secretariat has developed, on behalf of ICCWC, a framework of indicators for national level use. The ‘ICCWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime’ has been designed to be completed as a self-assessment by national enforcement authorities. When finalized, it will consist of approximately 50 performance measures that cover the major components of a law enforcement response to wildlife and forest crime. The ICCWC indicator framework is intended to provide a standardized approach to measure the effectiveness of national law enforcement responses to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife. It will also enable a Party to monitor performance over time and to identify any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses. It should be noted that the indicator framework is not

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8 https://cites.org/eng/news/targeted_training_for_Bangladesh_law_enforcement_authorities_on_CITES_and_special_investigative_tec_hniques_to_combat_wildlife_and_forest_crime
9 ICCWC expert workshop on ‘Indicators for measuring the enforcement response to wildlife and forest crime’ hosted by UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, in December 2013.
intended to be used to compare or ‘rank’ the effectiveness of efforts in different countries, but to serve as a tool that any individual country could use to measure and respond to its own areas of relative strengths and weaknesses. At the time of writing, the draft indicator framework was being finalized, taking into consideration feedback received from targeted consultation with recognized international experts. The Secretariat believes that the ICCWC indicator framework will provide a valuable tool to assist Parties in better measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of their law enforcement responses to illegal wildlife trafficking. Following its release, the indicator framework will be publically available as a stand-alone ICCWC tool for use by Parties. ICCWC will also work to incorporate the indicator framework into the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit assessment process, and into any future revised versions of the Toolkit. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on progress at SC66.

Focus Area 3: Building capacity to prevent and respond to wildlife and forest crime

15. 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.\(^\text{10}\) In January 2015, a WIST was deployed to the United Arab Emirates, upon request, to assist national authorities to collect DNA samples from a large-scale ivory seizure for forensic analysis. In March 2015, ICCWC deployed a WIST to Madagascar, upon request, to provide analysis and support on the government’s efforts to deal with illegal logging and trafficking in rosewood and other precious timber species. ICCWC also supported a complimentary Customs mission to Madagascar. The deployments of these WISTs were led by INTERPOL, on behalf of ICCWC, and were made possible thanks to funds generously provided to ICCWC by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC66 Doc. 32.1 on Enforcement matters and in document SC66 Doc. 46.1 on Ebonies (Diospyros spp.) and rosewoods and palisanders (Dalbergia spp.) from Madagascar.

16. In support of the implementation of Decision 16.78 paragraph c) on Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens (Elephantidae spp.), the WCO convened a controlled delivery workshop as part of a broad international law enforcement project and operation targeting the illegal trafficking in wildlife in Africa. This activity was delivered as part of the multi-donor WCO Project INAMA, which is aiming to enhance customs capacity regarding CITES enforcement. Funds to support the controlled delivery workshop, and activities related to it within INAMA, were generously provided to ICCWC by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition, at the time of writing, INTERPOL is coordinating Project WAYLAY to support law enforcement to track and investigate illegal consignments of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn using controlled deliveries. This activity was made possible thanks to funds generously provided to ICCWC by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC, and by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Secretariat reports in more detail on the work conducted under Project INAMA and Project WAYLAY, in document SC66 Doc. 47.1 on Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade.

17. Following the successful development of the ICCWC guidelines for forensic methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis, which was launched in November 2014, INTERPOL and UNODC are currently developing, on behalf of ICCWC, a training video on ivory sampling to complement the ICCWC guidelines for forensic methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis. Funds for this activity have been generously provided to ICCWC by the European Commission, under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICCWC.

18. The Consortium is currently developing guidelines for timber sampling and analysis. UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, convened an expert group meeting on timber analysis in Vienna on 10-12 December 2014.\(^\text{11}\) A second meeting of the expert group was convened in Vienna on 7-9 October 2015 to further progress this work, with the aim to promote the development and strengthen the use of tools and technologies to address illicit trafficking of timber. This activity was made possible through generous funding provided to UNODC by the World Bank for ICCWC activities. A detailed overview about this work was provided in document PC22 Doc. 14.2 (Rev 1) on Development of timber identification guidance, prepared by UNODC for the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22, Tbilisi, October 2015).

\(^{10}\) http://www.cites.org/eng/doc/valid16/192

\(^{11}\) https://cites.org/eng/node/16878
19. In support of the implementation of Decision 16.78 paragraph d) on Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens (*Elephantidae* spp.), the World Bank is leading, in cooperation with ICCWC, the development of anti-money laundering learning materials for a programme with a specific focus on wildlife crime, that can be used for the training of investigators, prosecutors, judges, and other relevant stakeholders involved in the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime cases. Funding to support such activity was generously provided by the European Union under a CITES project to support CoP16 Decisions and Recommendations. The Secretariat would also like to express its sincere appreciation to the World Bank, for the significant additional funding it secured in support of this work. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC66 Doc. 47.1 on *Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade.*

**Focus Area 4: Increasing awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime**

20. The CITES Ministerial Dialogue and Senior Officials Meeting for key States concerned with the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn (see paragraph 8 above) encouraged increased political support to combat poaching and illegal trafficking in rhinoceros horn, through the adoption of the Geneva Statement on Combating Rhinoceros-related Crimes.

21. To increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime, ICCWC organized side events alongside meetings such as the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. These side events highlighted the importance of combating wildlife crime and the need to treat wildlife crime as a serious transnational organized crime; informed Parties of key ICCWC activities; and highlighted new tools and services available through ICCWC. In addition, ICCWC partners collectively and individually supported and participated in a variety of high level events to raise awareness of the illegal trafficking in wildlife. This included events such as a High-level Discussion at the United Nations Headquarters on Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking (New York, September 2014), the Second World Wildlife Day (March 2015), themed ‘It’s time to get serious about wildlife crime’, the African Elephant Summit and the Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (Kasane, March 2015), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum on Combating Wildlife Trafficking (Kota Kinabalu, March 2015), the International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna in Africa (Brazzaville, April 2015), the XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, September 2015), a high level event on Illegal Wildlife Trafficking at the Central Park Zoo (New York, September 2015), a Conference on Wildlife Crime and International Security (Wilton Park, October 2015), and the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption (St. Petersburg, October 2015), among a number of other events. Additional details can be found in document SC66 Doc. 32.1 on Enforcement matters.

22. At the time of writing, UNODC is finalizing, on behalf of ICCWC, a Public Service Announcement on combating transnational organized wildlife crime, thanks to funds provided to ICCWC by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL, on behalf of ICCWC, as well as funds provided to UNODC by the US Department of State for ICCWC activities.

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13. [https://cites.org/eng/unga_side_event_26092014](https://cites.org/eng/unga_side_event_26092014)
16. [https://cites.org/eng/ASEAN_member_states_discuss_enhancing_regional_cooperation_toCombat_poaching_and_illegal_trade_in_wildlife](https://cites.org/eng/ASEAN_member_states_discuss_enhancing_regional_cooperation_toCombat_poaching_and_illegal_trade_in_wildlife)
18. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5xeQ2JWNI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5xeQ2JWNI&feature=youtu.be)
19. [https://cites.org/eng/un_system_and_intl_orgs_applaud_sust_dev_commitments_by_govts_to_battle_illegal_wildlife_trade_27092015](https://cites.org/eng/un_system_and_intl_orgs_applaud_sust_dev_commitments_by_govts_to_battle_illegal_wildlife_trade_27092015)
20. [https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/conference/wp1423/#conference_introduction](https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/conference/wp1423/#conference_introduction)
Focus Area 5: Improving use of knowledge and innovation to inform contemporary approaches to wildlife and forest crime

23. The UNODC Studies and Threat Analysis Section (STAS) is currently conducting a global research initiative on wildlife crime under the auspices of ICCWC. The research will take stock of the present wildlife crime situation and conduct a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. It will include a quantitative market assessment and a series of in-depth illicit trafficking case studies. The study is rooted in a Global Wildlife Seizures Database, primarily comprised of information reported to the CITES Secretariat, data from the WCO’s Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) database, and seizures reported through regional bodies and networks. Funds to support this activity were provided to UNODC by the European Commission and by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Secretariat would like to thank Parties that provided data for the study in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/050 of 5 November 2014, and encourages other Parties to provide such information to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

24. To further align the efforts and activities of ICCWC partner organizations and promote access to available forums and information for the law enforcement community, the Secretariat has worked closely with the WCO to integrate the CITES Enforcement Authorities Forum (EAF) with the WCO’s ENVIRONET. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC66 Doc. 32.1 on Enforcement matters.

Operation and coordination of ICCWC

25. At SC65, the Secretariat reported that the recruitment of an ICCWC Support Officer was underway. Between SC65 and March 2015, the post was temporarily filled while the recruitment was finalized. The Secretariat would like to thank the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the funding it made available, which enabled the Secretariat to support this temporary post. The Secretariat is pleased to inform Parties that the one-year fixed-term post of the recruited ICCWC Support Officer commenced in March 2015. The Secretariat would like to thank the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Norway for the funding it provided to support this post for one year.

26. A growing number of activities are being delivered under the auspices of ICCWC each year, and the ICCWC Support Officer post at the Secretariat has been key to the coordination and implementation of the multiple activities conducted by the Consortium. INTERPOL has also recruited two dedicated ICCWC support staff through funding provided by the European Commission for an ICCWC project managed by INTERPOL. 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.

27. There is strong recognition of the need for increased international collaboration and coordination to combat illicit trafficking in wildlife, and of the important role of ICCWC. This includes recognition in global and regional declarations and statements, as well as by the governing bodies of ICCWC partner organizations. Most recently, the UN General Assembly adopted a dedicated resolution on Tackling Illicit Trade in Wildlife, which in its preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 3 includes the following recognition of ICCWC:

Recognizing the important work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, a collaborative effort of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Criminal Police Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization, by, inter alia, providing technical assistance to Member States,

[...]

3. Urges Member States to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, on both the supply and demand sides, including by strengthening the legislation necessary for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of such illegal trade as well as strengthening enforcement and criminal justice responses, in accordance with national legislation and international law, acknowledging that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime can provide valuable technical assistance in this regard;

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22 For full details please see SC66 agenda item 32 on enforcement and Notification No. 2015/039 (June 2015): Integration of the CITES Enforcement Authorities Forum with WCO’s ENVIRONET.
The Secretariat has prepared a document containing examples of such declarations and statements made since the launch of ICCWC, which is made available to Parties as an information document for the present meeting.

28. To ensure that ICCWC can live up to growing expectations, it will be crucial for these expectations to be matched by adequate financial and other support, including for ICCWC to expand its capacity by securing sufficient funding to maintain ICCWC Support Staff. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind Parties of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on Compliance and enforcement, under Regarding additional actions to promote enforcement, in which 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;

Development of ICCWC Programme – Programme of work 2016-2020

29. The ICCWC Strategic Mission 2014-2016 identifies five focus areas in which ICCWC is uniquely placed to make a contribution to effectively combat the illegal trafficking in wildlife, based on the diverse and extensive technical expertise, regional networks and on-the-ground experience of the five ICCWC partner organizations. Building on the Strategic Mission, ICCWC is currently developing a Programme for 2016-2020 that outlines the types of activities to be pursued by ICCWC up to 2020. Implementation of these activities will be based on funding availability and donor support.

Final remarks

30. 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 the entire enforcement chain. 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.

31. The number of activities that are being conducted under the auspices of ICCWC in support of the aim of the Consortium to build the long-term capacity amongst authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement, by providing them with the tools and services they need to combat it, is continuously increasing. Globally there is also a growing expectation from ICCWC, but the Consortium can only live up to these expectations with adequate support from the donor community. The generous funding provided to ICCWC to date, by the European Commission, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the World Bank Development Grant Facility is highly appreciated by the Consortium.

Recommendations

32. The Standing Committee is invited to:

a) note this report;

b) encourage Parties to make full use of the “ICCWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime”, developed by the Secretariat on behalf of ICCWC, to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their national law enforcement responses to illegal trafficking in wildlife, and to initiate actions as appropriate, to ensure that these responses are adequate, and;

c) encourage Parties to provide financial support to strengthen the Consortium to ensure that it continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law enforcement community by implementing its mission and global programme.