

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

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

Enforcement matters

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

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 instructs the Secretariat to:
 - b) *submit a report on enforcement matters at each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.39 and 16.40 on *Enforcement Matters*, as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.39 *At its 65th meeting, the Standing Committee shall initiate a process to assess implementation and enforcement of the Convention as it relates to the trade in species listed in Appendix I. The Committee shall report its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.*

Directed to the Secretariat

16.40 *Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *in cooperation with partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, establish Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WISTs) consisting of enforcement staff or relevant experts. WISTs shall be dispatched at the request of a country that has been affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that has made a large-scale seizure of such specimens, to assist it, and guide and facilitate appropriate follow-up actions in the immediate aftermath of such an incident. The Secretariat shall report on progress in this regard at the 65th or 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, as appropriate; and*
- b) *seek invitations from Parties that have carried out significant seizures of CITES specimens, for the Secretariat, or relevant experts, to conduct assessments of the circumstances of such seizures and the follow-up actions that were taken, so that lessons may be learned and disseminated. The Secretariat shall report its findings in this regard at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, as appropriate.*

4. The present document outlines enforcement-related activities and developments that have taken place since the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65, Geneva, July 2014), additional to those described in other documents on enforcement prepared for the present meeting.

Implementation of Decision 16.39

5. SC65 established an intersessional working group on enforcement to implement Decision 16.39, with the United States of America as Chair, and with the following membership: Indonesia, South Africa, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Lewis and Clark College, Natural Resources Defense Council, Species Survival Network and WWF. The terms of reference of the Working Group are detailed in document [SC65 Com. 2](#). The intersessional working group on enforcement to implement Decision 16.39 will report on its work at the present meeting.

Implementation of Decision 16.40, paragraph a)

6. Decision 16.40, paragraph a), calls for a WIST to be dispatched to assist Parties affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that have made a large-scale seizure of such specimens. The deployment of a WIST is subject to a formal request from a Party. In January 2015, a WIST led by INTERPOL on behalf of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) was deployed to the United Arab Emirates upon request, to support national authorities to collect DNA samples from a large-scale ivory seizure for forensic analysis. In March 2015, a WIST led by INTERPOL on behalf of ICWC was deployed 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. ICWC also supported a complementary customs mission to Madagascar in January 2015. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC66 Doc. 46.1 on *Ebonies (Diospyros spp.) and rosewoods and palisanders (Dalbergia spp.) from Madagascar*, prepared for the present meeting. The deployment of these WISTs was made possible thanks to funds generously provided to ICWC by the European Commission under a project managed by INTERPOL on behalf of ICWC.
7. Through the deployment of WISTs, valuable support is being provided to Parties that need and request it. Subject to available resources, the Secretariat will continue to work with ICWC partner agencies to establish and dispatch WISTs upon request of Parties. Parties affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that have made a large-scale seizure of such specimens are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat to request the deployment of a WIST, should expert support be needed in the immediate aftermath of such an incident.

Implementation of Decision 16.40, paragraph b)

8. Decision 16.40, paragraph b), directs the Secretariat to seek invitations from Parties that have carried out significant seizures of CITES specimens, for the Secretariat, or relevant experts, to conduct assessments of the circumstances of such seizures and the follow-up actions that were taken, so that lessons may be learned and disseminated. At the time of writing, such assessments have been conducted by the Secretariat in Bangladesh, Mozambique, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and further assessment missions are being planned. The Secretariat would like to express its sincere appreciation to the authorities in the above-mentioned countries that facilitated these missions. To ensure consistency in its approach to this work, the Secretariat developed a seizure assessment guide which sets out a series of questions that the Secretariat draws upon during its assessment missions. The Secretariat shares the seizure assessment guide with Parties prior to its mission.
9. The Secretariat plans to, on the basis of the information collected, prepare a report which will seek to provide an overview of the steps that are commonly taken, or not taken, by Parties in response to significant seizures of CITES specimens, and identify any common capacity-building needs. The report will not identify the steps taken by any individual Party, and will not compare the activities conducted in different countries against each other. It will rather aim to highlight the activities that work well at an operational level, or that support or inhibit ongoing investigations and national or international cooperation, as well as the challenges most often confronting frontline officers. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on its work in accordance with the provisions of Decision 16.40 paragraph b), at the present meeting.

International cooperation, commitment, measures and activities to combat wildlife crime

10. At SC65, the Secretariat reported that the convening of a number of major political events and the implementation of a number of important measures and activities since CoP16 have contributed to efforts to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife more effectively, to raise the profile of illegal trafficking in wildlife and to secure political support for combating it (see [SC65 Doc. 27.1](#)). Further key events continued to take place, and further key measures continued to be implemented following SC65, to combat illegal trafficking

in wildlife at the national, regional and global levels.¹ It is now well recognized that illegal trafficking in wildlife increasingly involves transnational organized crime groups and in some cases rebel militia and rogue elements of the military. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in July 2015, unanimously adopted a Resolution on 'Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife', the first dedicated Resolution on the topic adopted by the UNGA.² The UNGA Resolution calls, amongst others, for firm and strengthened national measures, and an enhanced regional and global response, including by strengthening legislation, providing for illegal trafficking in wildlife offences to be treated as predicate offences and taking steps to prohibit, prevent and counter corruption. On 25 September 2015, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit adopted the new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, which represent the agreed vision of the 193 Member States of the UN for the next 15 years, call for the protection of wild fauna and flora as well as the ecosystems that they depend on. The SDGs specifically address tackling illegal trafficking in wildlife through specific Targets under Goal 15,³ which state:

15.7 *Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.*

15.c *Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.*

11. Recently the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member States at the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 29 September 2015, reached consensus to officially add the "trafficking of wildlife and timber" to the list of regional priority transnational crime threats to ASEAN.⁴ As a result, wildlife and forest crime will now be considered as important as other crimes needing collective regional action including drug and precursor trafficking, human trafficking and arms smuggling.
12. The Secretariat also continued to raise awareness about the important role of CITES and the need for a strong and collective law enforcement response to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife, at various events that took place since SC65. These included, amongst others, a high-level discussion on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking that was moderated by the Secretary-General of CITES (New York, September 2014),⁵ the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Cairo, March 2015),⁶ a high-level stakeholder dialogue on illegal wildlife trade held on World Wildlife Day (New York, March 2015),⁷ a UN General Assembly informal plenary meeting to celebrate World Wildlife Day (New York, March 2015),⁸ the African Elephant Summit and the Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (Kasane, March 2015),⁹ an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum on Combating Wildlife Trafficking (Kota Kinabalu, March 2015),¹⁰ an ICCWC high-level event at the 13th UN Crime Congress (Doha, April 2015),¹¹ an International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna in Africa (Brazzaville, April 2015),¹² the XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, September 2015),¹³ and an event jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the CITES Secretariat, the World Bank, and Wildlife Conservation Society, at

¹ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/pr/2015/IWT-events_2015.pdf

² https://cites.org/eng/unqa_resolution_wildlife_trafficking_150730

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html#goal15>

⁴ <http://www.asean.org/news/asean-statement-communicues/item/joint-statement-of-the-tenth-asean-ministerial-meeting-on-transnational-crime-10th-ammtc-consultation>

⁵ https://cites.org/eng/unqa_side-event_26092014

⁶ <http://www.nepad.org/economicandcorporategovernance/news/3613/15th-session-african-ministers-environment-ends-cairo-egypt>

⁷ https://cites.org/eng/cites_sq_wwd_ny_2015

⁸ https://cites.org/eng/cites_sq_unqa_wwd2015

⁹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417231/kasane-statement-150325.pdf

¹⁰

https://cites.org/eng/ASEAN_member_States_discuss_enhancing_regional_cooperation_to_combat_poaching_and_illegal_trade_in_wildlife

¹¹ https://cites.org/eng/iccwc_crime_congress_2015

¹² <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/congo---wildlife-conference-27-30-april-2015.html>

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5xeQzIIWNI&feature=youtu.be>

which leaders from UN member States and international organizations pledged their support to tackling the growing problem of illegal wildlife trafficking (New York, September 2015).¹⁴

Transport sector

13. The Secretariat further strengthened its cooperation with the transport industry to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife. On 8 June 2015, the Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Air Transport Association (IATA),¹⁵ to cooperate on reducing illegal trafficking in wildlife and their products, as well as on ensuring the safe and secure transport of legally traded wildlife. The CITES Secretary-General also addressed the 71st IATA Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit¹⁶ held in Miami, United States of America, on the same day. On 29 September 2015, the CITES Secretary-General addressed the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) Global Sustainable Aviation Summit 2015, held in Geneva, Switzerland.¹⁷ ATAG represents the entire air transport industry and the Summit provided an excellent opportunity to address air transport leaders on the “Air transport’s role in reducing illegal trafficking in wildlife”. Additional to the above, the CITES Secretary-General represents the Secretariat as member of a Transport Task Force that was established by The Royal Foundation, under the patronage of HRH the Duke of Cambridge.

Global Environment Facility

14. In 2011, the CITES Secretariat drew to the attention of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council the immediate threats posed by illegal trafficking in wildlife and asked the GEF to make funding available to combat it.¹⁸ Subsequently, the importance of Parties gaining access to GEF funding to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife was highlighted at CoP16, following which CITES priorities were relayed directly to the GEF Chief Executive Officer by the Secretariat. In June 2015, the 48th Council meeting of the GEF approved a new USD 90 million global wildlife programme.¹⁹ This programme, aimed at promoting wildlife conservation, wildlife crime prevention and sustainable development in order to reduce the impacts of poaching and illegal trafficking on protected species, marked a significant development in providing increased access to GEF funding to support effective CITES implementation and to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife. The Secretariat currently serves as a member of the GEF programme steering committee and participated in the first meeting of this committee in New York, United States of America, in October 2015.

Corruption

15. Corruption is present in the environment and natural resource sectors just as it is in other policy sectors, and it is sometimes an integral component of the devastating economic, social and environmental impacts of illegal trafficking in wildlife. Effective application of CITES depends largely on control over the issuance, inspection and acceptance of CITES documentation, and although the vast majority of officials responsible for CITES implementation and enforcement are committed to their task and working diligently each day to ensure that international trade is legal, sustainable and traceable, reports of corrupt activities that undermine the effective implementation of the Convention are of increasing concern.
16. A number of CITES-listed species are high-value items targeted by organized crime groups, and this makes the officers responsible for regulating trade in specimens of these species potentially vulnerable to corruption. As recognized in the preamble to the [United Nations Convention Against Corruption](#) (UNCAC), corruption is particularly linked to organized crime and economic crime, both of which occur in the context of wildlife crime.
17. It is becoming increasingly important for Parties to ensure that adequate measures are in place to prevent, identify and address corruption. In September 2015, the Secretariat received formal confirmation from INTERPOL that the former wildlife director and head of the CITES Management Authority of Guinea was

¹⁴ https://cites.org/eng/un_system_and_intl_orgs_applaud_sust_dev_commitments_by_govs_to_battle_illegal_wildlife_trade_27092015

¹⁵ https://cites.org/eng/iata_cites_mou

¹⁶ https://cites.org/eng/news/sq/71st_iata_annual_general_meeting_address_cites_sg

¹⁷ https://cites.org/eng/news/sq/ATAG_global_sustainable_aviation_summit_2015_remarks_29092015

¹⁸ https://cites.org/eng/news/sq/2011/20111108_GEF.php

¹⁹ https://cites.org/eng/gef_wildlife_prog_2015

arrested for his suspected role in corrupt and fraudulent actions in the issuance of CITES export permits.²⁰ Concerns regarding illegal trade in CITES-listed species involving Guinea have been dealt with in a thorough manner by the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.²¹ It should be noted that, while on mission in Guinea in 2011 to investigate concerns regarding illegal trade involving Guinea, the CITES Secretariat brought suspected irregular activities to the attention of the head of the anti-corruption unit and other authorities in Guinea. Although this arrest is very encouraging and commendable, it also raises concerns about the urgency and vigor with which some countries are tackling the issue of corruption. To effectively combat corruption, the promotion of good governance and swift action to identify and act against corrupt officials are vital.

18. On 3 November 2015, the Secretary-General of CITES and the Executive Director of UNODC participated in a UNODC special high-level event on corruption and illegal trafficking in wildlife, held on the margins of the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCAC,²² in Saint Petersburg, Russia. This event presented an important opportunity to specifically focus on the often close connection between combating illegal trafficking of wildlife and corruption. The Secretary-General of CITES and the Executive Director of UNODC on the same day also released a joint statement, drawing attention to corruption as an enabler of wildlife and forest crime, and to the importance of combating it.²³
19. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement* under *Regarding compliance, control and cooperation*, the Conference of the Parties recommends that:
 - c) *Parties that are not yet signatories to, or have not yet ratified, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption consider doing so.*
20. Article 7 of UNCAC requires States Parties to endeavor to adopt, maintain and strengthen civil service systems that promote adequate remuneration and education and training programmes which would enable civil servants to meet the requirements for proper performance of their public functions.
21. Article 12 of UNCAC recognizes the need to prevent the misuse of procedures regulating private entities, including procedures regarding licences granted by public authorities for commercial activities. Such procedures and other administrative services such as the registration of captive breeding or artificial propagation or trading operations, compliance monitoring and export endorsement, can be vulnerable to bribery, influence, abuse of functions, illicit enrichment, laundering the proceeds of crime and concealment.
22. Guidance provided to Parties under the CITES National Legislation Project encourages them to consider holding government officials responsible for violations of the Convention under relevant national law. In particular, it is suggested that Parties consider making it an offence for an enforcement officer to accept any unauthorized personal payment or other form of personal compensation. Parties are also encouraged to provide incentives in their legislation for individuals to come forward with information about suspected crimes.
23. In 2012, the Secretariat contributed to a UNODC publication on the environmental impacts of corruption entitled *Corruption, Environment and the United Nations Convention against Corruption*.²⁴ This publication pointed out, amongst other things, how corruption facilitates environmental crimes, including illegal trafficking in protected wildlife, forestry and fisheries specimens.
24. To address corruption, adequate laws and regulations for combating it are essential. Further to this, consideration should be given to the vetting of staff; the implementation of codes of conduct; mandatory income or asset disclosure; the establishment of integrity focal points; streamlining of administrative services, and the those who refuse to engage in corrupt practices should be recognized and rewarded. Electronic permitting and other information technologies could also increasingly be used to make it more difficult to engage in corruption and to improve detection of corrupt practices. Most importantly, it is crucial

²⁰ https://cites.org/eng/quinea_arrest_20150903

²¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/notif/2013/E-Notif-2013-017.pdf>

²²

https://cites.org/eng/news/sq/cites_sq_presentation_at_the_6th_session_of_the_conference_of_the_parties_to_the_un_convention_against_corruption_03112015

²³ https://cites.org/eng/joint_statement_unodc_cites_on_corruption_wildlife_03112015

²⁴ <https://www.unodc.org/indonesia/2012/04/uncac/story.html>

to ensure that prompt and strict actions are taken to identify and act against any officials who behave in a corrupt manner.

25. 'Integrity policies' are usually part of a country's national legislation or policy. CITES authorities should ideally also be covered by relevant integrity (or an anti-corruption) policies and procedures within their national structures. The Standing Committee might want to consider requesting ICCWC to develop guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies, and assist Parties to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens.

INTERPOL Notices

26. In November 2014, the 83rd session of the INTERPOL General Assembly adopted a Resolution on the *INTERPOL response to emerging threats in Environmental Security*. This Resolution urges INTERPOL member countries to raise awareness of environmental crime, its causes and impact, among law enforcement authorities. The Resolution further urges countries to fully utilize INTERPOL's operational tools and services in their efforts to target environmental crime.
27. In paragraphs 30 to 32 of document *CoP16 Doc. 29 (Rev. 1)*, the Secretariat drew attention to the INTERPOL notice system.²⁵ These notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in INTERPOL member countries to share critical crime-related information. The Secretariat believes that there is still much room for increased use by Parties of this excellent tool available through INTERPOL. It is however encouraging to note that some Parties are increasingly drawing upon INTERPOL notices to address cases of illegal trafficking in wildlife, and that these efforts have, on a number of occasions, resulted in excellent successes. These included the arrest of one of Nepal's most wanted criminals who was involved in illegal trafficking of wildlife, and the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice,²⁶ the arrest of a Kenyan national suspected of leading an international ivory smuggling syndicate, and the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice,²⁷ and the conviction of three crew members of a vessel subject to an INTERPOL Purple Notice for illegal fishing.²⁸
28. In November 2014, INTERPOL announced Operation 'INFRA-Terra' (International Fugitive Round Up and Arrest).²⁹ The initial phase of this ICCWC-supported operation targeted fugitives wanted for environmental crime, in particular wildlife crime. The fact that a number of these fugitives were the subjects of INTERPOL notices played a key role in tracing, identifying and arresting them. The Secretariat strongly believes that the increased use of INTERPOL notices could significantly contribute to international efforts to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife, and encourages Parties to increasingly draw upon this important tool.

Enforcement Authorities Forum

29. The restricted access area on the CITES website entitled the Enforcement Authorities Forum (EAF), was the primary means that the Secretariat used to reach out to the law enforcement community. The Secretariat posted alerts, manuals, handbooks, enforcement-related messages, and other materials on the EAF.
30. To encourage increased information sharing, communication and cooperation amongst authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement, the CITES Secretariat however worked closely with the World Customs Organization (WCO), one of its ICCWC partners, to integrate the EAF with the WCO's ENVIRONET.³⁰ ENVIRONET is a secure global communication tool for information exchange and cooperation, managed and coordinated by the WCO Secretariat. It is accessible to all authorities responsible for wildlife and other environmental law enforcement, including customs, police and wildlife authorities, as well as other enforcement authorities bearing similar responsibilities.
31. The integration of the EAF with ENVIRONET provides access to the ENVIRONET library which contains comprehensive information on CITES and other relevant enforcement matters. The Secretariat believes

²⁵ <http://www.interpol.int/INTERPOL-expertise/Notices>

²⁶ <http://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-media/News/2015/N2015-014/>

²⁷ <http://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-media/News/2014/N2014-248/>

²⁸ <http://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-media/News/2015/N2015-160/>

²⁹ https://cites.org/eng/interpol_operation

³⁰ <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/instruments-and-tools/~~/media/28A0305B4CC9427E8B07CF72276A60B8.ashx>

that ENVIRONET offers a more user-friendly, comprehensive and secure platform for users, and that this integration contributes to avoiding unnecessary duplication of information on different platforms.

32. EAF was discontinued on the CITES website on 30 June 2015, and all active users of the EAF have been migrated to ENVIRONET with new login details. The Secretariat communicated the integration of the EAF with ENVIRONET to Parties through Notification to the Parties [No. 2015/039](#) of 25 June 2015.
33. ENVIRONET is a restricted forum, accessible to governmental authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement only. Any new users are invited to contact the CITES Secretariat to request access to it, following the guidelines provided in Notification to the Parties No. 2015/039.

Alerts

34. Since SC65, the Secretariat has issued one CITES Alert on the following subject:
 - Alert No. 49 of January 2015 - Theft of elephant ivory in Uganda
35. This alert is available to the law enforcement community through ENVIRONET, and the Secretariat also requested INTERPOL to make it available through its restricted access website.³¹

Directory of enforcement focal points

36. To facilitate increased collaboration and timely communication between agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement in different countries and regions, a number of national focal points on specific wildlife enforcement issues have been identified. The CITES Secretariat has created a specific web page for easy reference to these focal points and with the latest information as provided to the CITES Secretariat.³² The Secretariat communicated information about the directory of enforcement focal points to Parties through Notification to the Parties [No. 2015/040](#) of 3 July 2015, and encourages Parties to draw upon this resource.

Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation

37. In February 2015, the Secretary-General announced his decision to award Certificates of Commendation to the South African Police Service, the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa and Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife for their exemplary collective activities during Operation Whisper, an undercover operation in South Africa that led to the arrest and successful prosecution of members of two organized crime groups involved in rhinoceros poaching and the illegal international trade in rhinoceros horn, and led to the initiation of asset forfeiture proceedings.³³ The certificates were subsequently presented by the Secretary-General at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland.

World Wildlife Day

38. On 20 December 2013, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 3 March as World Wildlife Day. The theme for the second World Wildlife Day celebrated on 3 March 2015 was "It's time to get serious about wildlife crime".³⁴ On this day, the CITES Secretary-General participated in a high-level stakeholder dialogue on illegal wildlife trade³⁵ hosted by the Permanent Missions of Gabon, Germany and Thailand at the Wildlife Conservation Society Central Park Zoo in New York, United States of America. The CITES Secretary-General also delivered an intervention at an informal plenary meeting³⁶ convened by the United Nations General Assembly on 4 March 2015 to celebrate World Wildlife Day. Numerous other events took place across the globe, and together Parties, UN agencies, international and national organizations of all persuasions joined a collective effort in support of the "It's time to get serious about wildlife crime" theme.

³¹ <http://www.interpol.int/Forms/EnvironmentalCrimeRestrictedAccess>

³² https://cites.org/eng/resources/enforcement_focal_points

³³ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2015-009.pdf>

³⁴ https://cites.org/eng/wwd_2015

³⁵ https://cites.org/eng/cites_sq_wwd_ny_2015

³⁶ https://cites.org/eng/cites_sq_unqa_wwd2015

The benefits of these collective efforts resulted in millions of people being reached through national events, social media and others, which included reaching over 150 million people through Twitter alone.³⁷

Final remarks

39. It is encouraging to note that there is currently a global collective effort underway across governments, the UN, international and national organizations, the private sector, local communities and others, to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife. However, despite this, the threat posed by illegal trafficking in wildlife continues to be a reality and a lot of urgent work still needs to be done. Firm and strengthened action needs to be taken across the entire illegal wildlife trafficking chain, on both the supply and demand sides, and further scaled up efforts at the national, regional, and global levels to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife are required.
40. The adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with specific targets on ending poaching and trafficking in wildlife is a powerful expression of political determination to end these highly destructive crimes. It is now well recognized that illegal trafficking in wildlife is a serious crime, and the importance of treating it as such has been recognized by the UN General Assembly and others.
41. Further to the above, there is increased recognition of the need to do more to address corruption. The fact that a number of CITES-listed species are high-value items targeted by organized crime groups, makes the issue of corruption very relevant in the context of CITES. It is becoming increasingly important for Parties to step up efforts to ensure that adequate measures are in place to prevent, identify and address corruption.
42. There is a need for Parties to further strengthen the implementation of commitments under binding legal instruments such as CITES, UNCAC, and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Commitments made in various other fora must also be fully implemented. Collectively these commitments must filter through to the front lines, ensuring that customs, police and wildlife authorities are adequately trained, resourced and equipped, to deal with the multifaceted challenges posed by illegal trafficking in wildlife.

Recommendations

43. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - a) request ICCWC, subject to external funding, to develop guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies, and assist Parties to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens;
 - b) encourage all Parties to increasingly draw upon INTERPOL notices as a tool to bring those involved in illegal trafficking in wildlife to justice;
 - c) request all Parties to encourage authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement to join the ENVIRONET restricted forum; and
 - d) encourage all Parties affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that have made a large-scale seizure of such specimens, to reach out to the Secretariat to request the deployment of a WIST, should expert support be needed.

³⁷ <http://www.wildlifeday.org/>