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

_____

CITES

Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat and is submitted in relation to agenda item 31.2 on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime*. It is divided into three parts. A summary of each section is included below. Additional details, maps[1] and tables can be found in following pages.

Part 1. ICCWC flagship products

This section includes key ICCWC flagship products delivered to date, including the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit, the Indicator Framework for Wildlife and Forest Crime, the Guidelines on Methods and Procedures of Ivory Sampling and Analysis and a complementary training video, the Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification, the Wildlife Crime and Money Laundering training program and the World Wildlife Crime Report.

Part 2. Implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit

The ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit assists governments to review the effectiveness of their responses to wildlife and forest crime. ICCWC is supporting its implementation in a number of countries, and to date (November 2017), 22 requests for toolkit implementation have been received by ICCWC from countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Implementation has been successfully completed in nine countries and is at different stages of implementation in 13 countries. The table included in this section presents a map[1] and a summary of progress for each request received.

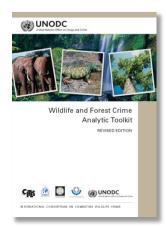**Part 3. ICCWC tools and services in practice**

At the time of writing (November 2017), the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit has been completed in Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. This section highlights examples of key activities implemented by the Consortium in support of the recommendations resulting from ICCWC Toolkit implementation in the different countries. It also highlights recent activities implemented by the Consortium in support of key CITES Decisions on, for example, the implementation of the ICCWC Anti-Money Laundering (AML) training programme or operational support to enhance the capacity of to enhancing the capacity of enforcement officers across the world to respond to wildlife crime.

Further details are available on the ICCWC web portal.

For additional information, see SC69 Doc 31.2.

---

[1]   *Designations do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ICCWC or its individual partner agencies concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*

Part 1.   ICCWC flagship products (for additional information, tools and services, click here)
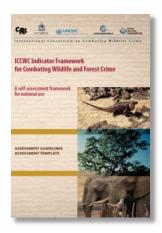
The *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* (2012) provides government officials, Customs, police and other relevant enforcement agencies with a framework to conduct a comprehensive analysis of their response to wildlife and forest crime and identify their technical assistance needs. The country's capabilities are assessed in relation to relevant legislation, law enforcement measures, prosecutorial and judicial capacities, factors that drive offences, the effectiveness of preventive measures, and the availability and use made of data. The Toolkit is available in English, French and Spanish. See the Toolkit Fact Sheet and implementation step by step guide for more details.

The **ICCWC Indicator Framework for Wildlife and Forest Crime** (2016) is a self-assessment tool designed for use by countries at national level to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their law enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime. It can be used in conjunction with or independently from the Toolkit and consists of 50 indicators against which countries can measure their own progress.

It consists of *Assessment Guidelines* that provide an overview of the ICCWC Indicator Framework, and introduce the 50 indicators and the eight enforcement outcomes they are grouped under. It also provides practical guidance on completing an assessment using the ICCWC Indicator Framework and discusses the analysis of results including the more detailed exploration of results using the ICCWC Toolkit. It also includes an *Assessment Template* that provides the full measurement details of all 50 indicators to conduct the national assessment. The Indicator Framework is available in English, French, Portuguese (template only) and Spanish.

In support of the deployment of forensic technology to combat elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory, the Consortium developed the **ICCWC Guidelines on Methods and Procedures of Ivory Sampling and Analysis** (2014). To complement the Guidelines, ICCWC has also developed a **training video on ivory sampling** that is available in English and French, as well as in Arabic and Chinese.

ICCWC has also delivered a **Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification** (2016) which facilitates the use of forensic science to combat illicit trafficking in timber, and covers the whole chain of custody, providing information on best practices and procedures from the crime scene to the court room, to ensure that forensic data are credible and admissible in court.

The **Wildlife Crime and Money Laundering training program** (2016) is a four-day workshop to help Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), investigators, prosecutors and judges to overcome the investigative, legal and procedural challenges related to wildlife crime and money laundering cases. It aims to develop capacity to standardise procedures in detecting illegal transactions and suspicious activities, and to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate money laundering cases related to wildlife trafficking. Individual programme modules are being tailored to the needs of the different practitioners, to help them choose effective strategies, understand complex criminal patterns, reconstruct financial transactions, and apply relevant procedures or statutes.
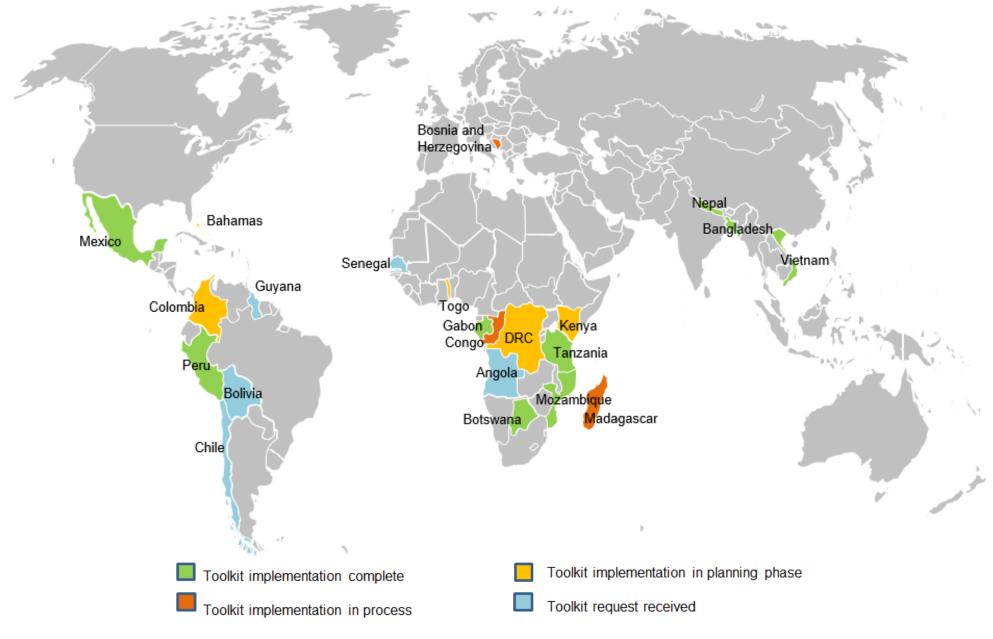
The **World Wildlife Crime Report** takes stock of the present wildlife crime situation with a focus on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, and provides an assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. The report looks at seven large industrial sectors that make use of wild sourced products and are vulnerable to wildlife and forest crime: seafood; pets, zoos and breeding; food, medicine and tonics; art, décor and jewellery; cosmetics and perfume; fashion; and furniture. It includes a quantitative market assessment and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies based on evidence from 164,000 seizures in 120 countries, covering nearly 7,000 species.

Part 2. Table: Implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit *(Prepared by the CITES Secretariat and UNODC, updated as of 20 November 2017)*

PARTY	STEP 1: REQUEST	STEP 2: NOMINATION OF FOCAL POINT	STEP 3: PREPARATORY WORK	STEP 4: INITIAL MEETING	STEP 5: IN-COUNTRY MISSION	STEP 6: REPORT (DRAFT)	STEP 7: ACTION PLAN	STEP 8: PRESENTATION	IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS
Angola	✓	✓							
Bahamas	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bolivia	✓	✓							
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Botswana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chile	✓	✓							
Colombia	✓	✓	✓						
Congo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
DRC	✓	✓	✓						
Gabon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guyana	✓	✓							
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	*IF***					
Madagascar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mozambique	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nepal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Senegal	✓	✓							
Togo	✓	✓	✓	✓					
United Republic of Tanzania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

** Discussions between the country and ICCWC identified that the Toolkit might not be needed. As an alternative, the ICCWC Indicator Framework will be applied in the country.

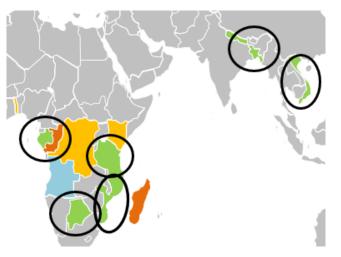**Part 2. Map: Implementation of the ICCWC Wildlife And Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit** *(as of 20 November 2017)*[1]

Toolkit implementation complete

Toolkit implementation in process

Toolkit implementation in planning phase

Toolkit request received

Part 3.   ICCWC tools and services in practice

Examples of the support provided by ICCWC to a number of key recommendations of the ICCWC Toolkit in Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam[1].

Following use of the ICCWC Toolkit in **Bangladesh**, implementation of the recommendations included in-depth training delivered by CITES, INTERPOL and the WCO to strengthen the capacity of enforcement authorities, to implement and enforce CITES provisions. It focused on strengthening the skills of law enforcement officers from across the country to tackle wildlife and forest crime through the use of a broad range of innovative and specialized investigation techniques. It also exposed these officers to a number of tools and services available through ICCWC partner agencies and highlighted the importance of targeted law enforcement responses. In addition, it promoted regional collaboration and inter-departmental coordination among law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh.

The **Botswana** Toolkit Analysis report recommended that consideration be given to building further capacity in forensic services, amongst others. UNODC has since implemented a wildlife forensics capacity building project in partnership with the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network. A detailed review of wildlife forensic capacity was undertaken and a regional workshop was held in Gaborone to discuss the sharing of wildlife forensic services on a regional basis.

The **Gabon** Toolkit Analysis Report identified the need for review of non-deterrent penalties, the establishment of an inter- and multi-agency coordination structure to strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation, and comprehensive training and support for law enforcement officials to address wildlife crime. In response, the Government initiated a review of the penal code in order to strengthen penalties for poaching and wildlife crime. UNODC worked with the Gabonese government to implement a law enforcement mentorship programme to improve national investigative and intelligence capacity. From November 2014 - March 2016, UNODC placed two international mentors (an intelligence analyst and a senior investigator) in Libreville to work with Agence Nationale Des Parcs (ANPN) and other partners to establish a system to develop and operationalise an intelligence and operations structure. UNODC mentors developed a detailed structure and plan to operationalise three cells: operations, intelligence and investigations. The mentors equipped and trained teams of eco guards on operations and intelligence matters. The mentors also identified and selected national specialists to take over this work and the project was formally handed over to ANPN in March 2016.

In **Mexico** the Toolkit assessment identified 56 recommendations, in particular to a) strengthen the legal framework to consider WLFC as an organized crime and reinforce the legal attributions of the Federal Attorney's Office of Environmental Protection (PROFEPA); b) continue training and professionalizing public officials to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate WLFC; c) promote more efficient inter-institutional coordination mechanisms; d) promote the systematization of information to produce data-based investigations and intelligence; and e) develop awareness raising campaigns targeting the population to reduce demand of wildlife products and promote the report of the crime. In response, UNODC and PROFEPA convened a group of public officials from 10 Federal Institutions and developed a list of priorities to enhance inter-institutional coordination and law enforcement actions to prevent and combat wildlife and forest crime in Mexico. These included the promotion of training workshops and the specialization of public officials; the creation of an inter-institutional committee to draft a national plan of action; and the development of awareness raising initiatives to reduce demand. In addition, in April 2017 the Mexican Law against Organized Crime was reformed and environmental crimes were included in the list of crimes to be investigated, prosecuted and sentenced as organized crimes. In 2018, UNODC and PROFEPA will hold a national training workshop on strengthening cooperation, intelligence and investigative capacity in the areas of wildlife and forest crime.

During the presentation of the ICCWC Toolkit implementation report to the Government of **Mozambique** in Maputo in July 2017, a number of activities were identified for immediate support. In early 2018, thanks to generous funding from Germany, the Consortium will initiate a number of activities to support the implementation of priority recommendations.

In **Peru**, following the implementation of the Toolkit, UNODC partnered with the US Department of Justice on the delivery of two-inter-institutional workshops on illegal logging for prosecutors. The first workshop held in March 2016 provided national and local authorities with tools to promote inter-institutional coordination. The second workshop held in May 2017 addressed licensing and trade control of logging and promoted joint work between national and local authorities, and provided international experiences on law enforcement procedures, interdiction and control procedures.

In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, the Toolkit assessment was undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A total of 57 resulting recommendations were incorporated into an Action Plan for implementation. Of these, 30 recommendations were prioritised and incorporated into the UNDP GEF6 programming proposal for 6.3m USD as specific activities under the programme. Additionally, a recommendation to ensure more robust coordination between investigators and prosecutors was prioritised through the training of a pool of 30 trainers and the launching of new Standard Operating Procedures for the investigation and prosecution of wildlife and forest crime along with the Tanzanian Rapid Reference Guide. This has resulted in the training of over 450 investigators and prosecutors in 17 training workshops conducted throughout the country. Furthermore, following a number of recommendations related to the enhancement of criminal intelligence processes, UNODC has engaged an expert consultant to work closely with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority to assist in developing intelligence systems and providing mentoring advice.

In **Viet Nam**, 23 out of the 50 recommendations of the Toolkit report are being contributed to or have been resolved to date by UNODC, ICCWC and a number of partner organizations. In particular, the Toolkit analysis report demonstrated the complexity and widespread challenges in the national response to address wildlife and forest crime. UNODC used the results of the Viet Nam Toolkit report to inform the development of the UNODC work plan for 2016 and 2017 and is also using them to develop the work plan for 2018. The new Penal Code for Viet Nam was approved by the National Assembly in June 2017, and will come into force from 1 January 2018. UNODC provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to review and revise the Environmental Chapter of the Penal Code. New provisions in the Penal Code are resolving 6 of the Toolkit recommendations. In 2016 UNODC conducted several activities which contributed to 5 recommendations outlined in the report: specialist law enforcement training courses for police, border army, customs and forestry officers in Viet Nam (April 2016); advanced anti-smuggling detection and investigation techniques for frontline officers in the border area (July 2016); a training course to build capacity of prosecutors to prepare and present wildlife crime cases in court (June 2016); a training course for selected environmental police officers on criminal intelligence development and use of intelligence software (August 2016). Furthermore, UNODC convened a policy dialogue between Viet Nam and Laos to discuss challenges and solutions to improve the response to trafficking of natural resources across land borders (April 2016). Lastly an inter-regional meeting for police and wildlife investigators from key African and Asian countries to exchange information and intelligence on wildlife crime cases was held (November-December 2016). In 2017, UNODC conducted a series of trainings in Viet Nam which contributed to a further 5 recommendations outlined in the report: a training course for police on online investigation of wildlife crime (April 2017); specialist law enforcement training courses - including on advanced anti-smuggling detection and investigation techniques for frontline officers in border areas (July, September and November 2017); a training for customs officers on risk profiling to enhance detection of illegal wildlife trade (September 217), a training for instructors at the prosecution training academy on financial investigation and anti-money laundering, and the use of special investigation techniques in wildlife crime cases (September 2017). Furthermore, UNODC convened an inter-regional meeting for prosecutors from African and Asian countries to share information and discuss international legal assistance issues in March 2017.

In addition, to support the implementation of specific recommendations and activities identified in the action plan highlighted above for Viet Nam, ICCWC jointly developed a project to convene a Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting for Customs, followed by a Regional Investigative Analytic Case Meeting (RIACM) in Viet Nam during October 2017[2]. The meetings, convened back to back thanks to generous funds from the

---

[2] *A WIRE is a meeting convened by UNODC designed in response to the need for intensified cooperation in the investigation of transnational criminal networks. It offer a specialized platform to convene one category of officials at a time, with a view to build bridges among like-minded professionals from different countries. A RIACM is a meeting convened by INTERPOL to support investigations and operational analytical*

government of France, connected African and Asian investigators to engage in discussions related to both strategic and tactical responses to wildlife crime, and to exchange information and intelligence and initiate joint investigations.

Parties that have implemented the Toolkit are encouraged to liaise with relevant Parties, donors or international and national organizations as may be appropriate to request support and facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Toolkit. Similarly, Parties, donors and relevant international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives, programmes and activities in the different countries concerned are encouraged to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with the recommendations of the Toolkit.

Seizures during Operation Thunderbird

Examples of activities implemented by the Consortium to enhancing the capacity of enforcement officers across the world to respond to wildlife crime:
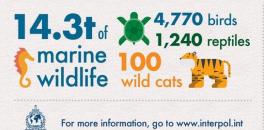
Operation Thunderbird[3] took place from 30 January to 19 February 2017 and was initiated by the INTERPOL WCWG and coordinated by ICCWC, in close cooperation with Environment Canada, the UK Border Force and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Operation Thunderbird, involved police, customs, border agencies, environment, wildlife and forestry officials from 43 countries and territories. Information and intelligence was shared ahead of the operation to assist in identifying specific targets and areas for action. These included wildlife and forest crime hotspots and bottlenecks where checkpoints could be established, in addition to operations at airports and national borders. Operation Thunderbird resulted in 390 investigations, of which there have been 88 completed prosecutions thus far. Countries identified the involvement of at least 898 suspects and reported 1,400 seizures of illicit products worth an estimated USD 5.1 million. The information and intelligence resulting from the operation was analysed by INTERPOL and the product of this analysis will inform future national, regional and international enforcement efforts.

OPERATION THUNDERBIRD 2017

Tackling the illegal trade in wildlife and timber

43 countries and territories involved
900 suspects identified
1300 seizures, worth more than **USD 5.1 million**, including:

14.3t of **marine wildlife**

4,770 birds
1,240 reptiles
100 wild cats

37,130 products such as medicines/ornaments/carvings

25t of various animal parts
2.75t of pangolin scale
2.54t of ivory

60t of wood and timber

For more information, go to www.interpol.int
INTERPOL

© Photos courtesy of participating countries

In June 2017, the World Bank delivered on behalf of ICCWC a pilot training on financial investigations in **Kenya**, in which 31 participants from relevant agencies, including the Financial Intelligence Unit, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Ports Authority, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, the Anti-Corruption Agency and the Judiciary participated. Based on experiences from this pilot implementation of the **ICCWC AML training programme**, the training is being further tailored and improved. A second training was delivered in the **Republic of Tanzania** from 13-17 November 2017. Under the ICCWC Strategic Programme the consortium will mobilize

---

work., in particular to follow-up on transnational investigations linking organized criminal networks through information exchange and the development of operational plans to target these networks.

[3] *https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-022*

around $1.2 million USD for activities focused on AML activities over next 3–4 years building on the experiences from Kenya and Tanzania.

A pre-workshop on the **ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime** was organized in **Kenya** in September 2017 by UNDP and UNODC, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, to lay the foundations for the implementation of the Indicator Framework in December 2017. At the time of writing, ICCWC is exploring the possibilities to support the implementation of the Indicator Framework in a number of countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. ICCWC is also exploring its implementation through synergies with ongoing projects and initiatives such as the Global Wildlife Programme as well as through various projects and activities of its partner agencies, including through a World Bank project under preparation at the time of writing that would facilitate its implementation in an additional in four countries in West Africa.

At the time of writing, the CITES Secretariat was in discussions with the government of **Madagascar** and ICCWC partners to deploy a **targeted Wildlife Incident Support Team (WIST)** consisting of one data analyst and one investigator to Madagascar to provide urgent assistance to combat illegal collection and trade in the Ploughshare tortoise (Astrochelys yniphora) or Angonka in response to Decision 17.294 as well as with strengthening law enforcement action and enhancing international cooperation to address this matter.