

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Enforcement

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC):  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement*, in paragraph 8 b), the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to:
  - b) *submit a report on activities that have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC at each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consult with the Standing Committee on the development of the ICCWC Programme of Work to ensure CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed;*
3. At the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Secretariat reported that the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), the collaborative effort between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), had come of age and that the Consortium was delivering much needed front-line support to States.<sup>1</sup> At the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69, Geneva, November 2017), the Secretariat provided an update on the activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since CoP17,<sup>2</sup> and announced significant new funding made available by donors towards implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020.<sup>3</sup> These generous contributions enable the Consortium to significantly scale up the level of support that it can provide to Parties, and recognises the central role of ICCWC in building long-term capacity among enforcement authorities dealing with wildlife crime, by providing them with the tools, services and technical support they need to fight organized crime and corruption.
4. The dedicated web-portal on ICCWC,<sup>4</sup> maintained in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 8 c), was updated in January 2018 and is available in English, French and Spanish on the CITES website. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is finalizing a major revision and update of the ICCWC web-portal, to facilitate access to the latest information on the Consortium's activities, as well as tools and services available through its partner organizations.

<sup>1</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/WorkingDocs/E-CoP17-14-02.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/E-SC69-31-02.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cites.org/eng/eng/news/pr/Fight\\_against\\_wildlife\\_crime\\_gets\\_a\\_USD20\\_million\\_boost\\_29112017](https://www.cites.org/eng/eng/news/pr/Fight_against_wildlife_crime_gets_a_USD20_million_boost_29112017)

<sup>4</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>

5. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.52, paragraphs a) to d) on *The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* directed to Parties, as follows:

*Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *make full use of the 'International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime' to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their own law-enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime;*
  - b) *draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the auspices of ICCWC, rooted in the best data and case studies available, and backed by in-depth analysis, to inform their decision making and in support of the development appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime;*
  - c) *provide funding support to ICCWC for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, to ensure that it continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community; and*
  - d) *provide continued external financial support to the Secretariat, to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer.*
6. The present document is structured in accordance with the focus areas of the ICCWC Strategic Programme.<sup>5</sup> It provides an update to Parties on progress with the implementation of Decision 17.52, and the activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since SC69. The implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme directly contributes to the implementation of a number of Decisions and Resolutions related to combating wildlife crime adopted at CoP17, and the Secretariat also reports in more details on this in other documents prepared for the present meeting, as it relates to the different agenda items to be discussed.

#### Focus Area 1: Provide institutional support and strengthen cooperation and coordination

7. The CITES Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development of Mozambique and its partners in ICCWC, and with generous funding provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, convened a meeting of representatives of Parties involved in the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs), in Maputo, Mozambique, from 1 to 4 May 2018.<sup>6</sup> The meeting brought together over 60 representatives from 24 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It provided an important opportunity to review the development and implementation of NIAPs, and to exchange experiences and best practices among NIAP countries. The meeting also served to identify opportunities for long term collaboration among enforcement authorities, cross-border and regional cooperation, joint actions, and resource mobilisation. The meeting on the last day comprised a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meeting, facilitated by INTERPOL. Further details on this activity as well as the recommended actions concluded and agreed at the meeting can be found in document SC70 Doc. 27.4.
8. At SC69, the Secretariat reported on Operation Thunderbird, a global law enforcement operation to combat wildlife crime supported by ICCWC, conducted in 2017.<sup>7</sup> From 1 to 31 May 2018, the Consortium supported Operation Thunderstorm,<sup>8</sup> a month-long law enforcement operation and the second in the 'Thunder' series of operations, initiated by the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group and coordinated by INTERPOL and the WCO on behalf of ICCWC. Operation Thunderstorm targeted the criminals and global networks behind wildlife crime, and involved police, customs, border, wildlife, forestry and environment agencies from 92 countries and territories. Operation Thunderstorm resulted in 1,974 seizures, including over 1.3 tonnes of elephant ivory, 8 tonnes of pangolins scales, 4,000 birds and 27,000 reptiles. It enabled enforcement authorities to identify 1,400 suspects and triggered investigations, arrests, and prosecutions worldwide.<sup>9</sup> As

<sup>5</sup> [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC\\_Strategic\\_Programme\\_2016-2020\\_final.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC_Strategic_Programme_2016-2020_final.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/key-countries-meet-to-further-strengthen-measures-to-tackle-ivory-trafficking\\_07052018](https://cites.org/eng/news/key-countries-meet-to-further-strengthen-measures-to-tackle-ivory-trafficking_07052018)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-022>

<sup>8</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/month-long-trans-continental-operation-hit-wildlife-criminals-hard\\_20062018](https://cites.org/eng/news/month-long-trans-continental-operation-hit-wildlife-criminals-hard_20062018)

<sup>9</sup> Countries which took part in Operation Thunderstorm include: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar,

ongoing investigations resulting from the operation unfold in different countries, further arrests and prosecutions are foreseen. In July 2018 for example, authorities in the United Kingdom executed warrants during follow up work in relation to seizures made during Operation Thunderstorm.<sup>10</sup> The information gathered during the operation will also be analysed by INTERPOL, and as appropriate, channelled to relevant authorities and used in ongoing and planned activities of the Consortium.

9. At SC69, the Secretariat reported that the Consortium is, based on the outcomes agreed at the *Second Global Meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)*<sup>11</sup> convened alongside CoP17, exploring the possibility of developing guidelines for the establishment of new WENs and strengthening existing WENs. To date, funding for the implementation of this activity has not been secured, but the Secretariat is, on behalf of ICCWC, engaged in discussions on this matter with a potential donor Party. The Secretariat will, as appropriate, update Parties on progress in its document on ICCWC to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Sri Lanka, 2019). The Secretariat has continued to update the directory of WEN focal points available on the CITES website,<sup>12</sup> and encourages WENs to inform the Secretariat when current details need to be updated.

#### Focus Area 2: Facilitate analysis of national capacity to strengthen law enforcement responses and help guide investment

10. At the time of writing, the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*<sup>13</sup> is completed in 10 countries (Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam). In addition, the Toolkit is currently at different phases of implementation in 15 countries (Angola, Bahamas, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guyana, Namibia, Senegal, Togo and Uganda).<sup>14</sup>
11. Where Toolkit implementation is completed, activities to support the implementation of the resulting recommendations are, where possible, ongoing. The Consortium is in the process of scaling up the mobilization of funds through the ICCWC Strategic Programme, to significantly enhance its support to Parties to implement the recommendations resulting from the Toolkit implementation. In this regard, the Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC would like to thank Germany for the generous funds it provided for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Toolkit recommendations in African countries. Examples of activities conducted by ICCWC in this regard during the current reporting period, include: the development and launch of a Rapid Reference Guide for prosecutors and investigators in Uganda; convening a pre-meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework, back-to-back with the initial meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit, in Uganda; ; and the development of a Rapid Reference Guide for prosecutors and investigators in Mozambique, including the organization of a workshop to validate the guide.
12. Parties who have implemented the Toolkit are encouraged to mobilize resources and make dedicated efforts to implement the recommendations that result from Toolkit implementation. These Parties are also encouraged to, where needed, liaise with relevant Parties, donors or international and national organizations to request implementation support. 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.
13. At SC69, the Secretariat reported that the implementation of the *ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime*,<sup>15</sup> is now included as an integral part of the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. Combining ICCWC Indicator Framework implementation with ICCWC Toolkit implementation facilitates the gathering of baseline data and information that will further support and be used during the Toolkit analysis. The

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Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Vanuatu, which is not a member country of INTERPOL, also took part in Operation Thunderstorm. Photos (courtesy of INTERPOL and participating countries) are available on the CITES [Flickr](#) page. For additional information, including a [video message](#) from Canada on behalf of the organizing committee, see INTERPOL Press Release: <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2018/N2018-058>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/ukwildlifecrime/status/1019903347350962178>

<sup>11</sup> [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/WENs/Report\\_2nd\\_Global\\_WEN\\_meeting-final.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/WENs/Report_2nd_Global_WEN_meeting-final.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/resources/enforcement\\_focal\\_points](https://cites.org/eng/resources/enforcement_focal_points)

<sup>13</sup> [https://cites.org/common/resources/pub/ICCWC\\_Toolkit\\_v2\\_english.pdf](https://cites.org/common/resources/pub/ICCWC_Toolkit_v2_english.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Additional details on the status of the implementation in the different countries can be found on the following link: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Action>

<sup>15</sup> [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/E-ICCWC-Ind-FW-Assessment\\_guidelines\\_and\\_template\\_clickable-final.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/E-ICCWC-Ind-FW-Assessment_guidelines_and_template_clickable-final.pdf)

implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework further empowers countries that are implementing the Toolkit, by using a standardized approach, that allows to measure and monitor the effectiveness of its national law enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime over time. This will enable a better understanding of how the activities conducted as a result of the Toolkit implementation contributed to strengthening national responses to wildlife and forest crime, and facilitate the review of responses over time to ensure that they remain effective, or can be adapted where needed to respond to new or emerging trends.

14. This approach is being actively rolled out, and will contribute to the implementation of Decision 17.52, paragraph a), and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 13 i). As stated in paragraph 11 above, in Uganda, a pre-meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework was held back-to-back with the initial meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit, in April 2018. Implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework in Uganda is, at the time of writing, scheduled to take place in September 2018.
15. ICCWC through UNODC is working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to arrange a pre-meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework in Angola, which is anticipated to be followed by the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. At the time of writing, the pre-meeting is scheduled to take place in August 2018. Angola is a Global Wildlife Programme (GWP)<sup>16</sup> country supported by UNDP and this activity promotes synergies between ICCWC and the GWP. The Secretariat encourages GWP countries to, to the extent possible, pursue the implementation of ICCWC tools and services such as the ICCWC Toolkit and ICCWC Indicator Framework through their respective national programmes, in support of strengthening national responses to wildlife crime.
16. The ICCWC Indicator framework also continues to be available as an independent self-assessment tool that will enable a Party to monitor performance over time and to identify any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses to addressing wildlife crime. The Secretariat developed a guide for use by Parties on the steps to be taken to implement the *ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime*. This *step by step guide* is available on the ICCWC website.<sup>17</sup>
17. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind Parties of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 13 i), and encourage interested Parties to, if needed, submit to the Secretariat, a formal request for support from ICCWC to implement the Toolkit and the Indicator Framework. The Secretariat further continues to welcome feedback from Parties that have implemented the ICCWC Toolkit or Indicator Framework in the interest of ensuring that Parties' needs are addressed and to further enhance available ICCWC tools and services.

### Focus Area 3: Develop or enhance criminal justice and preventive capacity across institutions

18. At CoP17, ICCWC launched its *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme*,<sup>18</sup> designed to help investigators, prosecutors and others in the criminal justice system overcome the investigative, legal and procedural challenges related to wildlife crime and money laundering cases. The training programme was successfully piloted in Kenya in June 2017, as was reported at SC69, and a further training was conducted in the United Republic of Tanzania in November 2017. Based on the lessons learned from these two training interventions, the training programme materials have been further developed and refined. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC70 Doc. 30.1.
19. The work led by UNODC in support of the implementation of Decision 17.83 paragraph a), that requests 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, is ongoing and good progress has been made to date. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC70 Doc. 30.1.
20. At the time of writing, the WCO is in the process of developing an *Environmental Guide for Frontline Customs Officers*. The Guide includes a section on CITES and wildlife crime, developed in close cooperation with ICCWC partners and funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Guide, expected to be finalized by March 2019, will *inter alia* identify concealment methods used for different trafficked items, and assist customs officers to profile and identify illicit items that cross international borders, including wildlife. In addition, under the auspices of project INAMA,<sup>19</sup> the WCO has conducted complementary activities to the

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/global-wildlife-program>

<sup>17</sup> [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC\\_IF\\_Step-by-Step\\_guide-final.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC_IF_Step-by-Step_guide-final.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

<sup>19</sup> Project INAMA is a flagship project of the WCO that aims to strengthen the enforcement capacity of targeted customs administrations in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on the illegal trade in wildlife and in particular on species listed under CITES.



ICCWC Strategic Programme, and supported a number of Parties in Africa through Train-the-Trainer workshops in May 2018,<sup>20</sup> to include CITES and modules on addressing illegal trade in wildlife, in the national training curricula for customs administrations.

21. The Consortium in the current reporting period developed an *ICCWC Menu of Services* to provide Parties with an indicative list of the training courses, tools and services available through ICCWC. The *ICCWC Menu of Services* is made available to Parties in an information document prepared for the present meeting, and will also be made available on the ICCWC web-portal. The Menu of Services is currently available in English, and, at the time of writing, it is being translated into French and Spanish. Parties are invited to draw upon the *ICCWC Menu of Services*, when requesting support from ICCWC.

#### Focus Area 4: Increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime

22. To facilitate a better understanding of how wildlife crime and corruption are linked, and how corruption could be addressed, UNODC in close collaboration with the Secretariat, and on behalf of ICCWC, supported the organization of side events on wildlife crime and corruption at the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), and the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Funding was made available through the ICCWC Strategic Programme to support the participation of experts at the side events, co-hosted by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and UNODC at the CCPCJ in Vienna, Austria, on 14 May 2018, and by the Permanent missions of Gabon, Germany, the United Kingdom and UNODC at the UNCAC anniversary event in New York, United States of America, on 23 May 2018. The Secretariat reports in more detail on these activities, which supported the implementation of Decision 17.85, paragraph b), in document SC70 Doc. 30.1.
23. Decision 17.52, paragraph b), encourages Parties to draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report<sup>21</sup> developed by the UNODC under the auspices of ICCWC to inform their decision making and support the development of appropriate responses. At the time of writing, UNODC is developing the second edition of the World Wildlife Crime Report. The annual illegal trade data provided by Parties in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* and data provided by ICCWC partners will make an integral contribution to this report, which similarly to the first World Wildlife Crime Report, will be based on the best data and case studies available, backed by in-depth analysis.
24. To further raise awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime, ICCWC partners have since SC69 both collectively and individually participated in a number of meetings and events at the regional and global levels. These include the Global Celebration of UN World Wildlife Day 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America (March 2018),<sup>22</sup> the 37th session of the WCO Enforcement Committee in Brussels, Belgium (March 2018),<sup>23</sup> the 14th meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) working group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement in Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic (March 2018), a workshop on strengthening institutional capacity of South Asia-WEN in Kolkata, India (May 2018), and the partners meeting on the implementation of the African strategy on combatting illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in Nairobi, Kenya (May 2018).

#### Focus Area 5: Expand the use of knowledge, technology and innovation

25. ICCWC is engaging in an ambitious programme of work under its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, which continues to include a broad portfolio of projects and activities to promote and increase the use of wildlife forensic science to address wildlife and forest crime. At CoP17, the Secretariat reported that the Consortium established an ICCWC Wildlife Forensics Advisory Group in support of its activities on wildlife forensics. Given the increase in activities delivered by the Consortium since the establishment of the ICCWC Wildlife Forensics Advisory Group in August 2016, and upon review of the Consortium's upcoming portfolio of activities on wildlife forensics, the ICCWC Senior Expert Group (SEG) concluded that the advisory process should be further streamlined and formalised. It was therefore agreed that ICCWC should engage a professional body with global membership to advise the Consortium on wildlife forensic science matters. The Advisory Group was subsequently dissolved, and the Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, sincerely thanked the members for their valuable guidance, expert advice and excellent contributions to the work of the

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/may/the-wco-inama-project-supports-african-members>

<sup>21</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

<sup>22</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/sq/cites-sq-opening-remarks-world-wildlife-day-2018-global-celebration-un-headquarters-new-york\\_04032018](https://cites.org/eng/news/sq/cites-sq-opening-remarks-world-wildlife-day-2018-global-celebration-un-headquarters-new-york_04032018)

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.cites.org/en/news/sq/cites-sq-keynote-address-37th-session-of-the-enforcement-committee-of-the-wco-brussels-belgium\\_19032018](https://www.cites.org/en/news/sq/cites-sq-keynote-address-37th-session-of-the-enforcement-committee-of-the-wco-brussels-belgium_19032018)

Consortium. Given the diverse array of wildlife forensic practitioners' disciplines and leading international experts represented in the Society for Wildlife Forensics Science (SWFS),<sup>24</sup> as well as its promotion of best practice in this field, ICCWC reached out to SWFS to invite it to provide such advisory services to ICCWC. SWFS accepted this invitation, and the Consortium would like to express its sincere appreciation to SWFS for agreeing to fulfil this role.

26. To implement Decision 17.97, paragraph a), on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, the Secretariat commissioned UNODC to, in collaboration with ICCWC, conduct an assessment of illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa. This activity is supported with funding mobilized through the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and the Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC70 Doc. 30.1.
27. Work on the compilation of an electronic directory of laboratories in accordance with Decision 17.83, paragraph c), as well as work to establish capacity to support the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife cybercrime in accordance with Decision 17.93 is underway. This work is reported upon in more detail in documents SC70 Doc. 30.1 and Doc 30.3.2.

#### Focus Area 6: Cross-cutting: Ensure the effective operation, coordination and evaluation of ICCWC

28. To ensure that ICCWC's strategy is fully in line with the priorities and matters of concern to the member States of each of the ICCWC partner organizations, the ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG)<sup>25</sup> has continued to hold monthly conference calls and to conduct quarterly meetings in person, to review progress and to discuss the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. In addition, the Consortium convened the first ICCWC Donor Council meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 31 May 2018. The Donor Council meeting provided an opportunity for ICCWC partners to engage with current donors to the ICCWC Strategic Programme to brief them on activities conducted and planned, and for donors to share information and suggestions that the Consortium could take into consideration in the development and delivery of activities. To discuss the finalization of contracts for the disbursement of funds and other matters related to the delivery of the ICCWC Strategic Programme with representatives from the European Union (EU), currently the largest donor to the ICCWC Strategic Programme, the SEG on 31 May 2018, also convened a first informal EU-ICCWC Project Steering Committee meeting in Brussels.
29. To further streamline efforts and maximize the impact of activities in different countries, the Consortium is, where possible and appropriate, coordinating individual activities and programmes of ICCWC partner organizations with the ICCWC Strategic Programme.
30. The Secretariat notes that minor delays have been experienced with some of the activities envisaged under the Strategic Programme, due to technical and administrative procedures currently underway for the disbursement of funds between ICCWC partners and the negotiation of the agreements with donors. As reported throughout the document, a significant number of activities have nonetheless been completed or are currently underway, and the remaining activities will commence as soon as the necessary administrative and financial arrangements have been finalized.
31. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.52, paragraphs c) and d), encouraging Parties to provide financial support to ICCWC, to enable the Consortium to implement its Strategic Programme 2016-2020 and to ensure that ICCWC continues to provide coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community in its fight against wildlife crime. Parties were also encouraged to provide continued support to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer at the CITES Secretariat. The Consortium is deeply grateful to the Parties that responded positively to paragraphs c) and d) of Decision 17.52.
32. The Secretariat would like to express its deep appreciation to Switzerland and the United States of America for their generous contributions to the Secretariat in support of Decision 17.52, paragraph d), which has enabled the Secretariat to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer during the current reporting period. Funding towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme will enable the Secretariat to maintain the current ICCWC Support Officer post, as well as to recruit an ICCWC Project Coordinator at P3 level. Funding has been allocated to these posts for the period of 2018-2020 (3 years). At the time of writing, arrangements are underway to advertise the ICCWC Project Coordinator position. The Secretariat would like to express its

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.wildlifeorensicscience.org/>

<sup>25</sup> Delivery of the Consortium's Strategic Programme is overseen by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG), in which each of the five partner organizations is represented. The SEG identifies priorities for the implementation of activities under the Strategic Programme, takes decisions on initiatives to support, and oversees overall effectiveness of delivery. For additional information, see paragraphs 5 and 9 of SC69 Doc. 31.2.

deep appreciation to the European Union and the United Kingdom for the funds towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme that will enable the Secretariat to maintain these posts. To support the ongoing activities of the Consortium until the ICCWC Project Coordinator post is filled, the Secretariat advertised a temporary consultancy post in April 2018.<sup>26</sup> At the time of writing the recruitment of the consultant was ongoing, and the Secretariat will provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting.

33. The generous contributions to ICCWC to date as well as pledges of contributions towards the Strategic Programme are expected to amount to approximately USD 20,7 million. At the time of writing, funding has been received from France, Germany, Monaco and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland towards the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, and arrangements are being finalized to receive the contribution from the European Union. As reported at SC69, the Consortium continues its endeavours to secure funding for the full implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, for which the estimated total budget is approximately USD 30 million.

#### Final remarks

34. Implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme is actively responding and contributing to the implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at CoP17, to address poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
35. ICCWC continues to expand its delivery of well-targeted activities in response to growing demand from Parties requesting support from the Consortium. This is critical, considering that the high levels of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife continues to persist. The Consortium sincerely thanks the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for their strong support to ICCWC. A lot of work still needs to be done, and the growing number of planned and ongoing activities under the auspices of ICCWC to support customs, police, wildlife authorities and entire criminal justice systems to respond in a strong, consistent and collaborative manner to wildlife crime, would not have been possible without this strong support.

#### Recommendations

36. The Standing Committee is invited to note this document.

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<sup>26</sup> <https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=95682>