

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

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

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC) SIDE EVENT:  
STRENGTHENING RESPONSES TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME

This document is submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 30.2 on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime* (ICCWC), and includes the presentations delivered during the ICCWC side event on Strengthening responses to combat wildlife crime of 1 October 2018.



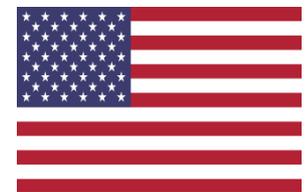
THE **I**NTERNATIONAL **C**ONSORTIUM ON **C**OMBATING **W**ILDLIFE **C**RIME PRESENTS



# SC70 side event: **Strengthening responses to combat wildlife crime,** 1 October 2018



*ICCWC STRATEGIC PROGRAMME 2016-2020 DONORS*



# #SeriousAboutWildlifeCrime



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jILZhvx\\_zf](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jILZhvx_zf)





*THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME PRESENTS*



# Front-line Support



# Operation Thunderstorm



INTERPOL



## OPERATION THUNDERBIRD 2017

Tackling the illegal trade in wildlife and timber

49 countries and territories involved

898 suspects identified

1400 seizures, worth more than USD 5.1 million, including:

17.8t of marine wildlife  
+13 big cats  
5,200 birds  
2,800 reptiles

22,000 products such as medicines/ornaments/carvings

25t of various animal parts  
+3000 pieces of ivory  
300t of wood and timber

For more information, go to [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int)

INTERPOL

# What If?

- Risk analysis
- Difficulty in Europe regarding lack of internal "borders"
- Regional intelligence collection in advance.
- Online platforms engagement
- Media Strategy
  - simultaneous releases.
- Map up/clean up/waterdown  
Protect Wild/Thunder /Eagle  
Mongoose

What time of year?

- different time each year
- send invitation well in advance
- not December/late March  
Lunar New Year  
MAY

- Civil Society / Transport Sector partners
- packages eg Buckingham Palace Deal
- reachout to transport companies
- training industry (transport)

- Open themes <sup>Share contacts -responsibility</sup>
- Roll Up
- Logo /personalisable
- weekly reporting  
↳ have a feel for what is going on
- Working Together
  - Collaboration
  - Trans/National Investigation
  - Intelligence Sharing
- India US UK South Africa  
Malaysia NZ Thailand Canada  
WCO CITES INTERPOL

- Reptile Group - Jun - Sept Op.
- Umbrella - each decides what they can do
- Community...
  - inform /innovate
- All inclusive
  - Reptiles
  - Internet Crime
- Specific targets /intelligence sharing before... = more collab.
- Preparation time → organise cross border

# Operation THUNDERSTORM 2018 - Participants



**Participating Countries:** Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Belgrade, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican, Ecuador, Estonian, Ethiopian, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherland, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.















INTERPOL

93  
COUNTRIES

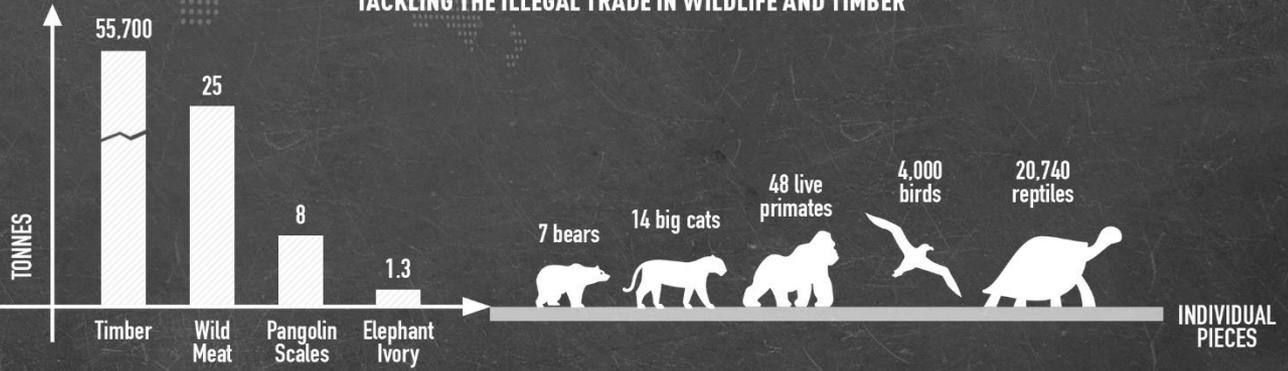


# OPERATION THUNDERSTORM

TACKLING THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE AND TIMBER

1,400  
SUSPECTS  
IDENTIFIED

1,974  
SEIZURES



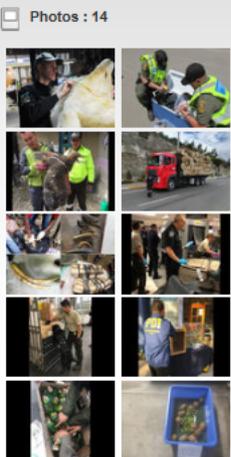
INDIVIDUAL  
PIECES

**Wildlife crime: global seizures and arrests in transcontinental operation**

LYON, France – An international operation against the illegal trade in wildlife and timber has seen hundreds of seizures worldwide as well as suspects arrested.

Codenamed Thunderstorm and targeting the people and networks behind global wildlife crime, the operation involved police, customs, border, environment, wildlife and forestry agencies from 92 countries and resulted in millions of dollars-worth of seizures.

The month-long (1-31 May) operation has so far brought 1,974 seizures and the identification of some 1,400 suspects, triggering arrests and investigations worldwide. Further arrests and prosecutions are foreseen as ongoing investigations unfold.



THE TIMES OF INDIA  
GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good Governance Centre Uttar Pradesh Delhi Gujarat Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra West

# “OPERATION THUNDERBIRD” result in huge seizures

TNN | Mar 3, 2017, 11:56 IST



NEW DELHI: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) seized a total of 2, 524 live species of scheduled animals, 19.2 kg of elephant ivory, 1 tiger skin, 9 carcasses of wild animals, 1 organ pipe coral, 1 jar snake venom, 8 leopard skins and 1 Indian Mujtac skin.

In a major success in the fight against wildlife crime WCCB, coordinated “OPERATION

THUNDER BIRD” in India, from January 30-February 19, 2017. Operation Thunderbird is the code-name for INTERPOL’s multi-national and multi-species enforcement operation.

The operation brought about a unanimous approach by the state enforcement

...r tonnes by  
...f Congo.  
...tles to Asia  
...ected

World Customs Organization  
Organisation Mondiale des Douanes

ABOUT US MEDIA ONLINE SERVICES

You are here: World Customs Organization • Media • Newsroom • 2018 • June • Wildlife crime: global seizures and arrests in transcontinental operation

NEWSROOM

2018

- September
- August
- July
- June
- May
- April
- March

## Wildlife crime: global seizures and arrests in transcontinental operation

20 June 2018

An international operation against the illegal trade in wildlife and timber has seen hundreds of seizures worldwide as well as suspects arrested.

Codenamed Thunderstorm and targeting the people and networks behind global wildlife crime, the operation involved police, Customs, border, environment, wildlife and forestry agencies from 93 countries and resulted in millions of dollars-worth of seizures.

The month-long (1-31 May) operation has so far brought 1,974 seizures and the identification of some 1,400 suspects, triggering arrests and investigations worldwide. Further arrests and prosecutions are foreseen as ongoing investigations unfold.

Total worldwide seizures reported to date include:

## Press release Border Force seizes banned ivory in anti-wildlife crime operation

Border Force has seized almost 7 kilos of banned ivory as part of an international operation against the illegal trade in wildlife and timber.

Published 21 June 2018  
From: [Border Force](#)



As part of the 6 week global [Operation Thunderstorm](#), Border Force officers made 276 seizures containing tens of thousands of products banned under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in

# Thank You



Sheldon Jordan  
Director General,  
Wildlife Enforcement

Environment and Climate  
Change Canada

# WCO ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE (IWT)



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

## CITES SC 70

# RISK MANAGEMENT AIMED AT SUPPORTING FRONT LINE CUSTOMS OFFICERS



*Roux Raath*  
*WCO Environment Programme*

# WCO

## **Mission:**

The WCO provides leadership, guidance and support to customs administrations to secure and facilitate legitimate trade, realize revenues, protect society and build capacity

*(182 members control / process 98 % international trade)*



# ICCW

Unique partnership brings unique solutions to combatting IWT across the entire illicit supply chain

close to 200 customs administrations

close to 200 police forces

However, we can strengthen institutions, but need to increase the rate at which we identify and interdict illicit consignments (IWT)

This happens nearly entirely at international borders – markets where consumed far from sources



# ENABLING: RISK MANAGEMENT

## Size of International Trade?

- TEUs (2016)
- 701,420,047.25 million



## Air pax

- 4 billion
- 7.8 billion by 2036 (AP grow & China replace USA)



# BALANCING ACT

Trade increased exponentially, but not the number of customs officers controlling flow goods at borders

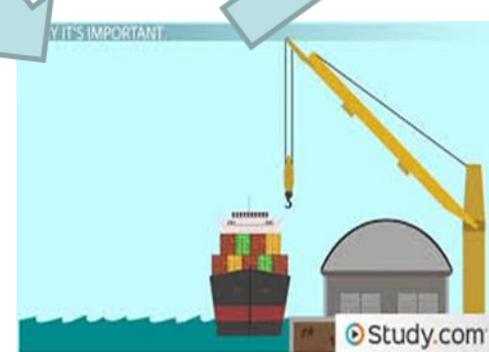
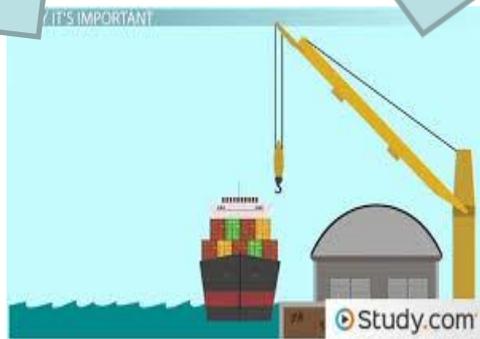


9/11 – 2001

- Difficulty in balancing requirements with flow of legitimate trade
- Can close borders but 100% examinations are not feasible – impact on global economy cannot be measured



# ENABLING: RISK MANAGEMENT



# WHICH ONE POSES IWT RISK?



# RM PRINCIPLES

- Customs encouraged to introduce risk-based control procedures
- Customs must address risk as early as possible in supply chain
- Increased automation and the submission of more comprehensive information and data earlier in the supply chain
- Data sets (i.e. commercial and non-commercial/enforcement)
- Dedicated resources



# CHALLENGES – Strategic Level

## 1. Legislative – confidentiality clauses in tax legislation

- ❖ Police / Customs Joint Task Teams
- ❖ C2C & C2 other law enforcement

## 2. IWT a focus area?

- ❖ Revenue
- ❖ Non-fiscal enforcement = improved overall compliance and revenue
- ❖ Understanding of importance of IWT to economy and stability of a country



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Understand the immense control customs has over the supply chain and what it can do wrt IWT

Build **partnerships** with customs:



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Strategic level – ambassador for IWT

Tactical level – share SAR, relevant information, data

Make CUSTOMS your partner in combatting IWT



RM is not an event – it's a process  
Thank-you





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# Combating corruption



# Integrity Guide for Wildlife Management and Enforcement Agencies

Tim Steele, UNODC





## The starting point.....

- We will come up with a better title....
- This brief presentation will give:
  - An introduction as to the problem to be addressed
  - An overview of the content of the guide
  - The estimated timeline to complete the guide



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# Use of illegal trade data to shape responses





**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**COMBATING**  
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME  
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



# West and Central Africa Wildlife Crime Threat Assessment

## Preliminary findings

1 October 2018



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**COMBATING**  
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



# Illegal Trade Report 2016



- Due Oct 2017, most of the 62 submissions were in by Feb 2018
- Missing a few key countries, but more than half the world population covered
- About 20,000 seizures including key destination markets



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**COMBATING**

WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



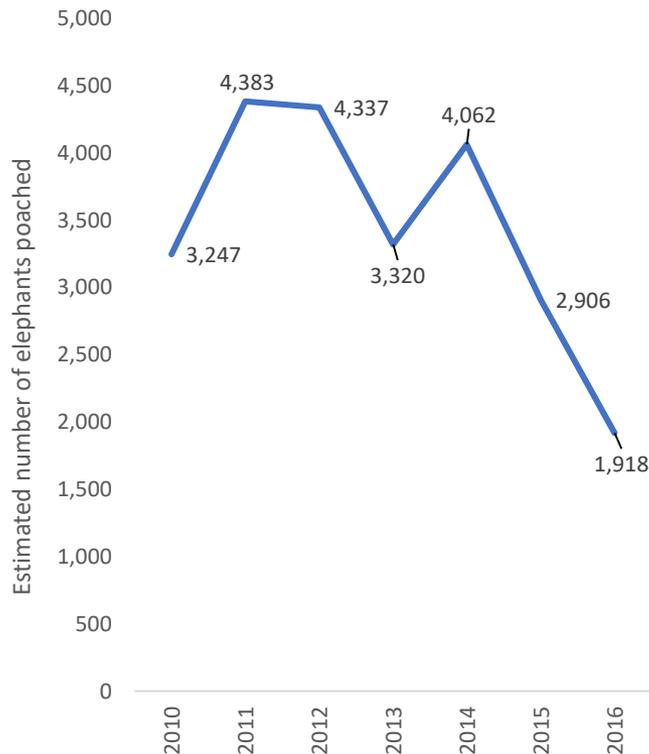
# West and Central Africa Threat Assessment

- Opens with an overview of the vulnerabilities of the region.
- World WISE review of the role of the region in global markets.
- Species markets studies based on fieldwork conducted by seven consultants in eight countries:
  - Ivory
  - Pangolin scales
  - Rosewood logs
  - Others
- Seven country case studies on wildlife response capacity
- Closes with a discussion of impact and implications.



# Ivory

Estimated number of elephants poached in Central Africa

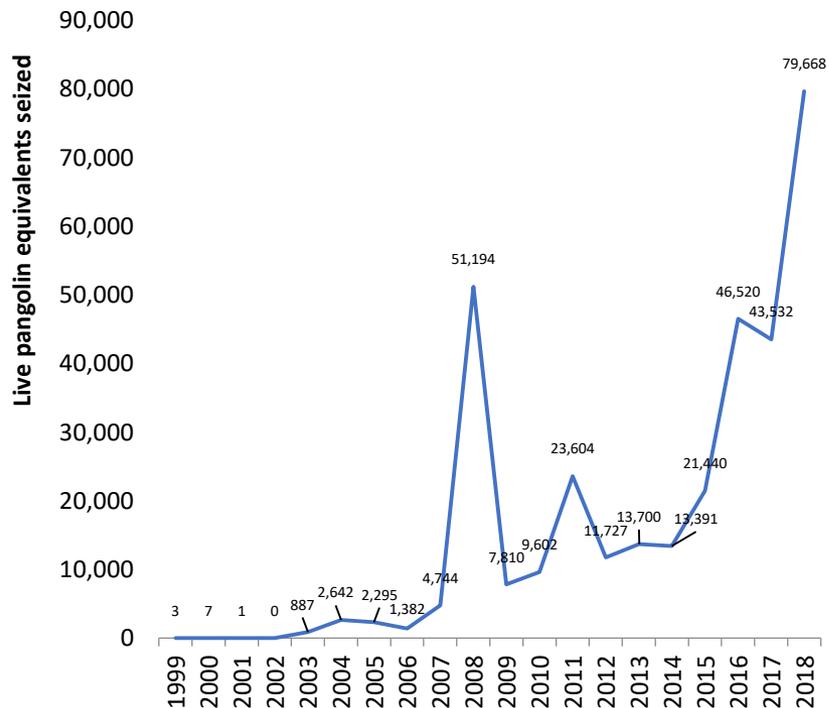


- Central Africa (TRIDOM) was previously flagged by DNA analysis as one of two major sources of trafficked ivory
- Models using two different techniques (PIKE and population based) show declining poaching across the continent and in the region
- Model factoring in declining tusk weight shows sharply declining ivory supply
- Field research in East and Southern Africa show declining prices, as do assessments in Asia
- Declining supply + declining prices = declining demand
- Possible militant involvement in Eastern Burkina Faso



# Pangolin scales

**Live pangolin equivalents seized globally, 1999 to July 2018**

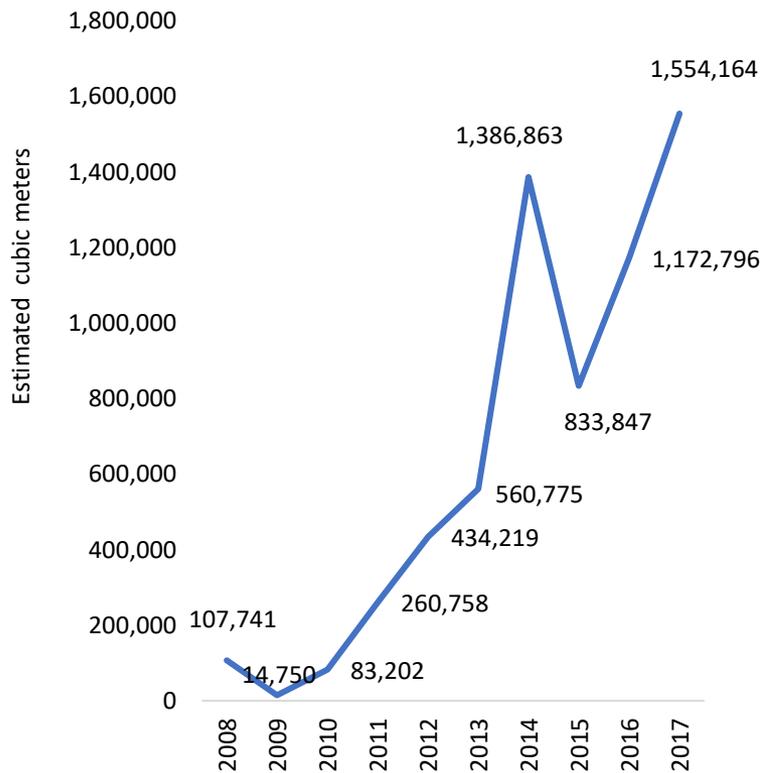


- Pangolins appear to be harvested in many regions, although most of the largest seizures come from Nigeria, Cameroon, and Uganda.
- Unlike ivory, low barriers to entering market
- Close to 50 pangolin hunters interviewed in three countries (Cameroon, Uganda, DRC).
- Most are non-specialists capitalising on widespread demand, catching 0.5 to 2 pangolins on each hunting trip.
- Local business people who commute to big cities consolidate the loads and sell to known buyers.
- Nigerian and Asian traffickers prominent



# Rosewood

**Estimated West African exports of rosewood to Asia**



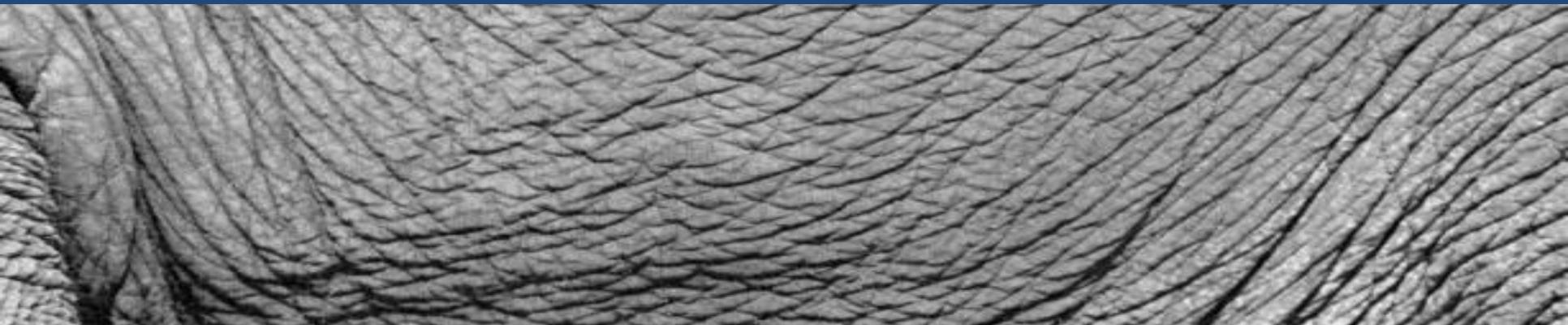
- Clear disparities between export and import data
- Main exporters are Nigeria and Gambia
- Nigerian exports appear to involve some imported wood, including from Cameroon
- Gambian exports appear to be mainly Senegalese wood, from Casamance, where violence has been associated with the trade
- Nigerian and Gambian traders found outside their home countries sourcing wood



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**THANK YOU**



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