



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE Recent high-level events and initiatives

CITES Secretariat, June 2014

Over the last two to three years the international community has paid increasing attention to illegal wildlife trade in recognition of the significant social, economic, environmental and security consequences stemming from it.

A catalyst for this growing attention was the explicit recognition of the impacts of illicit wildlife trafficking, and of the important role of CITES, by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. A diverse range of high-level events and initiatives acknowledging the threats posed by illegal wildlife trade and calling for enhanced support to combat these crimes have since taken place at global, regional and national levels.

Global and regional entities, national governments and civil society have all contributed towards a collective effort to combat illegal wildlife trade and powerful new alliances, such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)¹, have been forged to provide a more coordinated and formidable response to these serious crimes.

A selection of the high-level events and initiatives that have generated significant international and national momentum around this issue over the past two to three years are outlined below.

GLOBAL

JUN 2012 Rio+20 recognizes the importance of CITES, which ‘stands at the intersection between trade, environment and development’

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized in its outcome document *The Future We Want* the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Alongside recognizing the importance of CITES, paragraph 203 recognizes and emphasizes the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, the need for strengthened action on both supply and demand sides, and for effective international cooperation.

CITES Secretary-General’s report on Rio+20: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120627_RIO%2B20.php

DEC 2012 UN Security Council acknowledges links between wildlife crime and regional security

On 19 December 2012, the United Nations Security Council called for an investigation into the alleged involvement of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group in the poaching of African elephants and smuggling of their ivory. This move reinforced concern about the links between illicit wildlife trafficking and regional security in Central Africa.

CITES welcomes attention: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20121222_UNSC_elephant_LRA.php

UN General Assembly expresses concern at impacts of transnational organized crime, including wildlife crime

The importance of combating wildlife crime was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2012, with the adoption of a Resolution (A/RES/67/189) on *Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity*. The Resolution expresses concern about wildlife crime, recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach to combat transnational organized crime and urges Member States to strengthen international cooperation and law enforcement efforts.

CITES welcomes Resolution: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2012/20121212_GA_resolution.php

¹ For more on ICWC, see: <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/ICWC.php>

MAR 2013 CITES 16th Conference of the Parties – a ‘watershed moment’ for combating wildlife crime

The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16) held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 3 to 14 March 2013, took decisive action by adopting a broad range of Decisions related to combating the increasing illegal wildlife trade. During CoP16, a number of Decisions and Resolutions were adopted, all by consensus, addressing the need to treat wildlife crime as a serious crime, increase cooperation at the national, regional and international levels and across source, transit and range States, make better use of forensics, and utilize specialized investigative techniques that are used to combat other serious crimes against wildlife crime.

CITES Secretary-General guest article summarizing CoP16 outcomes: <http://africasd.iisd.org/guest-articles/cites-cop16-bangkok-2013-a-%E2%80%98watershed-moment%E2%80%99-for-combating-wildlife-crime/>

ICCWC Ministerial roundtable on transnational organized wildlife crime reaffirms commitments at national levels to combat wildlife crime

Building on the growing international recognition of wildlife crime as a transnational organized crime, on 4 March 2013 ICCWC, a partnership between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank and the World Customs Organization, convened a high-level roundtable to discuss and raise political support for transnational organized wildlife crime within the margins of CITES CoP16 in Bangkok, Thailand. During the discussion Ministers and high-level representatives from over 30 countries acknowledged the broad-reaching impacts of transnational organized wildlife and forest crime and reaffirmed the strong commitment of their countries to combat this crime.

CITES Press Release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130305_ministerial.php

CITES Secretary-General Chairperson’s summary: <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/inf/E-CoP16i-54.pdf>

First global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks builds cooperation among regions

On 5 March 2013 ICCWC convened the first global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks (WENs) in Bangkok, Thailand, during CoP16. Representatives from all existing and planned regional enforcement networks were in attendance, allowing for networks from across the globe to share their experiences at combating wildlife crime and discuss ways of further enhancing cooperation.

CITES Press Releases: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130307_wen.php;
http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130715_wen_report.php

Asian Development Bank / ICCWC symposium on combating wildlife crime brings law enforcement chain together

Also during CoP16, on 10 to 12 March 2013 the Asian Development Bank in partnership with ICCWC held a symposium on combating wildlife crime for senior judiciary, prosecutors, police and Customs officers. The conference recognized the need to secure cooperation throughout the law enforcement chain to uphold the rule of law and arrest, investigate and prosecute wildlife criminals. Training in specialized investigation techniques was delivered by ICCWC in support of the symposium.

CITES Press Release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130313_iccwc_training.php

MAY 2013 Marrakech Declaration calls for action to combat illicit wildlife trafficking undermining the basis of Africa’s development

On 30 May 2013 the African Development Bank in partnership with WWF launched the Marrakech Declaration – a joint global call for action from governments and other institutions to combat illicit wildlife trafficking. The 10-point action plan recognizes the work conducted by ICCWC and aims to build on this effort to improve cooperation, law enforcement and criminal justice responses, and reduce demand for illicit products. The launch took place during the Bank’s annual meeting and focused on the significant impacts of wildlife trafficking on Africa’s development.

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-and-wwf-call-for-urgent-action-to-combat-wildlife-crime-11898/>

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/The%20Marrakech%20Declaration%20-%20A%2010-Point%20Action%20Plan%20to%20Combat%20Illicit%20Wildlife%20Trafficking.pdf>

Prince of Wales illegal wildlife trade conference calls for action at highest levels

The British Royal Family is a strong supporter of combating wildlife crime, and on 21 May 2013 the Royal Family in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland convened a conference in London, UK, on illegal wildlife trade. The event, hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales, called for action at the highest levels to stop illegal trade in wildlife and to put the battle against wildlife trafficking at the top of the global agenda.

CITES Secretary-General's intervention: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130521_royal_wildlife_trafficking.php

JUN 2013 G8 Summit recognizes need to combat wildlife trafficking

High-level political support to combat transnational wildlife crime gained further momentum when G8 Leaders recognized the threats of illicit wildlife trade and the need to take action to combat these crimes at a G8 Summit held at Lough Erne, Ireland, on 17 and 18 June 2013. G8 Leaders placed the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife alongside fighting corruption, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking of drugs and people.

CITES welcomes attention: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130621_g8.php

JUL 2013 ECOSOC Resolution urges States to make wildlife crime a serious crime

On 25 July 2013 the UN Economic and Social Committee, through Resolution 2013/40, encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime. The adoption of the Resolution was an important step in ensuring that the full force of the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* can be applied to effectively tackle transnational organized wildlife and forest crime. The Resolution was recommended by the UN Crime Commission and followed significant attention on wildlife crime at the 22nd UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) held in Vienna, Austria, in April 2013.

CITES Secretary-General's and UNODC Executive Director's joint statement:
http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130423_CCPCJ.php

CITES welcomes CCPCJ Resolution: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20130502_ccpcj_resolution.php

CITES Secretary-General's intervention at 22nd CCPCJ: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2013/20130429_ccpcj22.php

SEP 2013 Wildlife crime discussed in margins of UN General Assembly

On 25 September 2013 illicit wildlife trade came to the margins of the UN General Assembly through a high-level panel discussion on *Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking – A multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community*. The event, sponsored by Germany and Gabon and moderated by the CITES Secretary-General, brought high-level representatives from many countries together to discuss the multidimensional nature of wildlife crime and its economic, social and environmental impacts, the challenges it poses and how the UN system can best respond.

CITES Secretary-General Moderator's summary: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2013/20130926_unga_side-event.php

Clinton Global Initiative launches partnership to save Africa's elephants

The Clinton Global Initiative launched a new coalition of conservation organizations and African governments working together to curb elephant poaching and ivory trafficking on 26 September 2013. The \$80 million initiative, launched by Hillary and Chelsea Clinton, drew further attention to the plight of African elephants and the need to enhance front-line enforcement responses.

<http://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/featured-commitments/partnership-save-africas-elephants>

OCT 2013 UN Security Council notes that poaching and wildlife trafficking among factors that fuel crisis in Central African Republic

On 10 October 2013 the UN Security Council paid attention to the deteriorating situation in the Central African Republic, and in Resolution 2021 (2013) condemned the devastation of natural heritage in that country and noted that poaching and trafficking of wildlife were among the factors that have fuelled the crisis in the Central African Republic.

CITES welcomes attention: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20131011_unsc_poaching.php

21 countries unite in CITES Task Force to combat rhinoceros horn trade

On 28 and 29 October 2013 representatives from 21 source, transit and destination countries came together under the banner of the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force in Nairobi, Kenya, to develop concrete strategies and actions to combat rhinoceros poaching and the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn. The Task Force meeting provided practical assistance to countries to implement enforcement-related CITES Decisions along with providing the opportunity for direct and focused interaction to support international cooperation and stronger enforcement actions on the ground.

CITES Press Release: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131031_rhino_task-force.php

DEC 2013 UN General Assembly reaffirms ECOSOC Resolution to make wildlife crime a serious crime

On 18 December 2013 the UN General Assembly reaffirmed the ECOSOC Resolution of July 2013 urging Member States to make wildlife crime a serious crime. Resolution 68/193 on *Strengthening the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity* helped demonstrate that the international community, including the UN at the highest level, recognizes the threat of wildlife crime as a serious organized crime which requires a determined and coordinated response equal to other transnational crimes such as the trafficking of narcotics, humans or arms.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/General_Assembly/A-RES-68-193.pdf

African elephant summit adopts urgent measures to halt illegal ivory trade

A global response to the growing illegal ivory trade and its impact on African elephant populations was discussed in Gaborone, Botswana, on 2 to 4 December 2013 at the African Elephant Summit convened by the Government of Botswana and IUCN. Thirty countries and 27 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations came together at the high-level summit to discuss urgent measures to halt illegal ivory trade, with a set of 14 urgent measures adopted by consensus.

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/who_we_are/ssc_specialist_groups_and_red_list_authorities_directory/mammals/african_elephant/summit/

JAN 2014 UN Security Council endorses sanctions on armed groups in Central Africa financed by poaching and illicit wildlife trade

The UN Security Council adopted two Resolutions, 2134(2014) and 2136(2014) on 28 and 30 January 2014 respectively, on UN sanctions targeting armed groups in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo financed by the illegal exploitation of natural resources including poaching and illicit wildlife trade. The Sanctions further demonstrated the involvement of armed groups and organized criminal networks in serious wildlife crime and the links between illicit wildlife trafficking and regional security in Africa.

CITES welcomes Resolutions: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2014/20140203_un_sanctions.php

28 countries join forces to combat wildlife crime through Operation COBRA II

Law enforcement officers from 28 range, transit and destination States came together to combat wildlife crime in a collective manner during Operation COBRA II, a month-long global operation to combat illegal wildlife trade which concluded on 27 January 2014. ICCWC delivered training in specialized investigation techniques to enforcement officers ahead of the operation and also supported operational planning. The successful operation resulted in a large number of arrests and the seizure of specimens from cheetah, elephant, rhinoceros, pangolin, leopard, rosewood, snake, tiger and turtle, among others.

CITES welcomes operation results: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2014/20140210_operation_cobra_ii.php

ICCWC delivers specialized training ahead of operation:

http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20131104_iccwc_training.php

FEB 2014 **8th session of Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals recognizes that illegal wildlife trade undermines sustainability**

The role of illegal wildlife trade in undermining sustainability was recognized in the margins of the 8th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals at a side event convened by CITES, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organization of American States, held in New York, USA, on 5 February 2014.

CITES Secretary-General's address: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2014/20140212-SG-key-note-address.php>

London Conference on the illegal wildlife trade boosts political momentum

The high-profile London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom and the British Royal Family took place on 12 and 13 February 2014. The event brought high-level representatives from 46 countries and 11 international organizations together in London to inject further high-level political commitment into efforts to tackle wildlife crime. The resulting *London Declaration* adopted by acclamation called for further measures to eradicate markets for illegal wildlife products, ensure effective legal deterrents, strengthen law enforcement and support sustainable livelihoods.

CITES Secretary-General's intervention: http://www.cites.org/news/sg/2014/20140213_intervention-london_conferece.php

CITES welcomes London Declaration: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2014/london-conference-20140214.php>

MAR 2014 **First World Wildlife Day celebrations as world goes 'wild for wildlife'**

On 3 March 2014 countries around the globe celebrated the first World Wildlife Day. On 20 December 2013 the UN General Assembly (through Resolution A/C.2/68/L.48) proclaimed 3 March – the day of the adoption of the CITES Convention – as World Wildlife Day, to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora and the threats that it faces including poaching and illegal trade. Many events were held around the globe on the first World Wildlife Day as the world went 'wild for wildlife' including an event in Geneva attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

UN Secretary-General's message: <http://www.wildlifeday.org/content/un-secretary-general-ban-ki-moon%E2%80%99s-message-world-wildlife-day>

CITES Secretary-General's message: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2014/20140225_wwd.php

World Wildlife Day website: <http://www.wildlifeday.org/>

Tokyo Conference on combating wildlife crime

The Tokyo Conference on combating wildlife crime took place on 3 to 5 March 2014, hosted by UN University in Tokyo, Japan, as an event for the first World Wildlife Day. The conference included a workshop on the Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System (WEMS) database and included a number of ICCWC panelists.

CITES Secretary-General's address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwBb2qqTpGM>

MAY 2014 **23rd UN Crime Commission focuses on collaboration to combat wildlife crime**

Two side events on collaborating to combat wildlife crime were held at the 23rd UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) held in Vienna, Austria, on 12 to 16 May 2014, building on the attention the Commission gave to serious wildlife crime at its previous session. One of the side events was dedicated to showcasing the work of ICCWC to support global cooperation and capacity to combat wildlife crime; the other to highlighting the efforts of the global community more generally.

CITES Secretary-General's address: <http://www.cites.org/eng/Global-Community-United-to-Address-Wildlife-and-Forest-Crime>

5th GEF Assembly side event on illicit wildlife trade

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) recognized the importance of combating illicit wildlife trade through a side event on *Preventing the extinction of known threatened species by addressing poaching and illegal trade* at the 5th GEF Assembly held in Cancún, Mexico, on 26 May 2014. The GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy was also approved at the Assembly. This Strategy recognizes through its

Programme 3 that illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts is an emerging driver of biodiversity loss, broadening financing opportunities for Parties to address wildlife crime as part of their biodiversity conservation measures.

CITES welcomes GEF-6 biodiversity strategy: http://www.cites.org/eng/CITES_welcomes_GEF-6-biodiversity-strategy

Video of side event: <http://www.iisd.ca/videos/gef/council46-preventing-the-extinction-of-known-threatened-species-by-addressing-poaching-and-illegal-trade/>

JUN 2014 UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) focusses high-level attention on wildlife crime

A Ministerial Dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife, chaired by the President of UNEA, is taking place as part of the first UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26 June 2014. This will draw further political attention to the broad environmental, economic and social consequences of wildlife crime, with a focus on its environmental impacts.

<http://www.unep.org/unea/wildlife.asp>

JUL 2014 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

The upcoming 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, being held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 7 to 11 July 2014, will highlight enforcement-related issues with much attention being placed on illegal wildlife trade following on from the Decisions adopted by CoP16. In particular, illegal trade in African elephant ivory will be up for discussion by Parties including a review of actions taken by a number of range, transit and destination States for illegal ivory trade.

CITES SC65 Agenda and documents: <http://www.cites.org/com/sc/65/index.php>

Nov 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress World Leader's Dialogue on illegal wildlife trade

Illegal wildlife trade has been chosen as one of the topics for global Leaders to discuss at the upcoming IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia. A World Leader's Dialogue on *The nature of crime – the extent and impact of illegal wildlife trade* will take place on 17 November 2014, providing the opportunity for the global parks community to explore the causes and effects of illegal wildlife trade, and potential new approaches and investments to combat it.

http://worldparkscongress.org/programme/world_leaders_dialogue.html

MAR 2015 Follow-up to London Conference on illegal trade in wildlife

A follow-up to the high-profile London Conference on illegal trade in wildlife, to be held in Kasane, Botswana, on 3 March 2015, is already in the planning stages. The high-level meeting will be held on World Wildlife Day and will provide an opportunity to review progress towards the actions agreed in the *London Declaration* of February 2014, along with encouraging more countries to commit to the Declaration.

http://www.mewt.gov.bw/news_events.php?id=47

REGIONAL

SEP 2012 APEC Summit Leader's Declaration expresses concern over escalating illicit trafficking

Following in the footsteps of the Rio+20 acknowledgement, on 9 September 2012 the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders *Vladivostok Declaration – Integrate to Grow, Innovate to Prosper* expressed concern over the escalating illicit trafficking in endangered and protected wildlife, along with commitment to increase efforts to combat these crimes. The Statement provided further momentum for increased political support and action to combat wildlife crime at international and national levels.

CITES welcomes Declaration: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120912_APEC_declaration.php

MAR 2013 Ministers adopt anti-poaching plan for Central Africa

On 21 to 23 March 2013 Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) convened an emergency meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and adopted an emergency anti-poaching plan to combat poaching and wildlife trade in Central Africa. The meeting was in response to increased poaching over the course of 2012 and showed the increasing political attention to cooperate on responses to organized wildlife crime.

<http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org/news/eccas-countries-adopt-plan-to-protect-elephants-in-cameroon-chad-and-central-african-republic/>

OCT 2013 APEC Bali Declaration aims to combat wildlife trafficking

Building on the APEC Declaration of 2012, the *Bali Declaration* of 8 October 2013 further showed the political commitment of APEC Leaders to cooperate to combat wildlife crime. The Declaration showed strong support for enhancing international cooperation through existing measures such as wildlife enforcement networks (WENs) and also drew attention to the need to reduce both supply and demand for illegally-traded products, and to raise awareness of wildlife crime.

CITES welcomes Bali Declaration: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20131008_bali_declaration.php

West Asia agrees to strengthen regional cooperation to combat wildlife crime

Countries of eight West Asian countries came together to strengthen regional cooperation and responses to wildlife crime at a workshop hosted by Kuwait on 29 to 31 October 2013. The workshop, organized at the request of CITES Member States of West Asia, agreed on the need for a regional network to combat wildlife crime and to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement in West Asia.

CITES welcomes workshop: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/201311111_west-asia_cooperation.php

Global snow leopard conference recognizes need for strong action to combat illegal trade

Representatives of 12 snow leopard range States met in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 22 and 23 October 2013 with the shared goal of conserving snow leopards and their habitat. Leaders at the forum adopted the *Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards* which recognizes the need to take strong action to combat poaching and illegal trade of snow leopards.

CITES Secretary-General's address: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2013/20131024_snow_leopard.php

DEC 2013 Élysée Summit on Peace in Africa holds roundtable on poaching and wildlife trafficking

A high-level roundtable on *Combating the trafficking and poaching of endangered species* took place at the Élysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa held in Paris, France, on 5 December 2013. The event focused on elephant and rhinoceros poaching in Africa and drew further attention to the widespread consequences of these serious crimes and their impact on regional security in Africa.

http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2013_12_05_table_ronde_braconnage_-_dossier_de_presse_ENG.pdf

APR 2014 EU hosts expert conference to review their approach against wildlife trafficking

The European Union continued to show its strong support for combating wildlife crime through a public review of its current approach to wildlife trafficking concluding with an expert conference in Brussels, Belgium, on 10 April 2014. The conference, attended by over 170 representatives from 27 EU Member States, enforcement and judicial networks, international organizations, civil society and non-EU source, transit and destination countries, discussed measures and actions to be taken by the EU domestically and internationally to strengthen its approach against wildlife trafficking.

CITES Secretary-General's address:

http://www.cites.org/eng/CITES_SG_expert_conference_EU_approach_against_wildlife_trafficking

ASEAN technical workshop on environmental crime

ASEAN Member States recognized the potential threats of transnational organized wildlife crime to the region through an ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) technical workshop on environmental crime held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 22 to 25 April 2014. The workshop allowed for ASEAN Member States to discuss the approach and contribution of SOMTC to tackle environmental crime in the region.

http://www.aecen.org/sites/default/files/draft-somtc-ws-environmentalcrime_proposal_asof-14-march-14.pdf

NATIONAL

MAY 2012 US Senate Committee addresses the global implications of poaching in Africa

On 24 May 2012 the US Senate Committee Foreign Relations Steering Committee paid attention to the escalating illegal killing of African elephants during a hearing on *Ivory and insecurity: the global implications of poaching in Africa*. The CITES Secretary-General was among those called to provide testimony to the hearing.

CITES Secretary-General's address: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2012/20120525_SG_US-Senate_testimony.php

JUN 2012 Ivory crush – Gabon

Gabon crushed its 4.8 tonne ivory stockpile on 27 June 2012. This became the first in a number of recent ivory crushes used as events to send a strong signal to wildlife poachers of national commitments to combat the illegal trade in ivory. Earlier crushes of national ivory stockpiles took place in Zambia (1992, 9.5 tonnes) and Kenya (1989, 12 tonnes; 2011, 5 tonnes).

Nov 2012 US Secretary of State ‘call to action’ to combat illegal wildlife trade

On 8 November 2012 the then United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a ‘call for action’ to combat illegal wildlife trade at an event organized by the US Department of State in Washington, DC. The call recognized the need for increased diplomatic efforts, a global outreach campaign, strengthened and expanded enforcement, and a concerted global response.

CITES welcomes ‘call to action’: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20121111_wildlife_trafficking.php

Jun 2013 Ivory crush – Philippines

The Philippines crushed its 5 tonne ivory stockpile on 21 June 2013.

Jul 2013 US President issues Executive Order on combating wildlife trafficking

Building on the country’s political commitment to combat wildlife crime, on 1 July 2013 the President of the United States of America issued an Executive Order to enhance its domestic and international responses to wildlife trafficking. The Executive Order established a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, to be co-chaired by the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Interior, and the Attorney General, and reporting to the President through the National Security Advisor.

CITES welcomes Executive Order: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130702_us_eo.php

Nov 2013 Ivory crush – United States of America

The United States of America crushed its 6 tonne ivory stockpile on 14 November 2013.

JAN 2014 Ivory crush – China

China crushed its 6 tonne ivory stockpile on 6 January 2014.

FEB 2014 Ivory crush – France

France crushed its 3 tonne ivory stockpile on 6 February 2014.

Viet Nam Prime Minister issues Directive to strengthen responses to wildlife crime

On 20 February 2014 the Prime Minister of Viet Nam issued a Prime Minister's Directive to strengthen responses to wildlife crime including the trafficking of African elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn. The Directive acknowledged the serious threat that illegal trade in wildlife brings to Viet Nam's environment, economy and national security, as well as sending a clear signal to perpetrators that these crimes will not be tolerated in Viet Nam.

CITES welcomes Directive: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2014/20140318_vn_pm.php

Ivory crush – Chad

Chad crushed its 1.1 tonne ivory stockpile on 21 February 2014.

APR 2014 Ivory crush – Belgium

Belgium crushed its 1.5 tonne ivory stockpile on 9 April 2014.

MAY 2014 Tanzania holds national summit to stop wildlife crime

The United Republic of Tanzania drew attention to its national response to combating wildlife crime through the *Tanzanian wildlife summit to stop wildlife crime and advance wildlife conservation – a call to action* which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 9 and 10 May 2014. Among the range of actions discussed at the high-level summit were the establishment of an inter-Ministerial Task Force to coordinate enforcement of wildlife laws and the recruitment of 5,000 more rangers by 2018.

http://www.iccfoundation.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=576:tanzanian-wildlife-summit-to-stop-wildlife-crime-and-advance-wildlife-conservation-a-call-to-action&catid=74:2014&Itemid=379

Ivory crush – Hong Kong

On 15 May 2014, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China, commenced the destruction of the world's largest stockpile of confiscated ivory sending a powerful message that Hong Kong SAR, China, like other countries that have destroyed their national ivory stockpiles, will not tolerate this illegal trade in ivory or the serious impacts it is having on the African elephant and on the livelihoods of rural communities. Over 28 tonnes of ivory will be destroyed through the process.

CITES Secretary-General's address: http://www.cites.org/eng/CITES-secretary-general-remarks-at-first-destruction-confiscated-elephant-ivory-Hong_Kong-China