

**Regional workshop for range States of African Rosewood**

**Douala, Cameroon, 2 to 6 September 2024**



**Task Force on Illegal Trade in specimens of  
CITES listed tree species**

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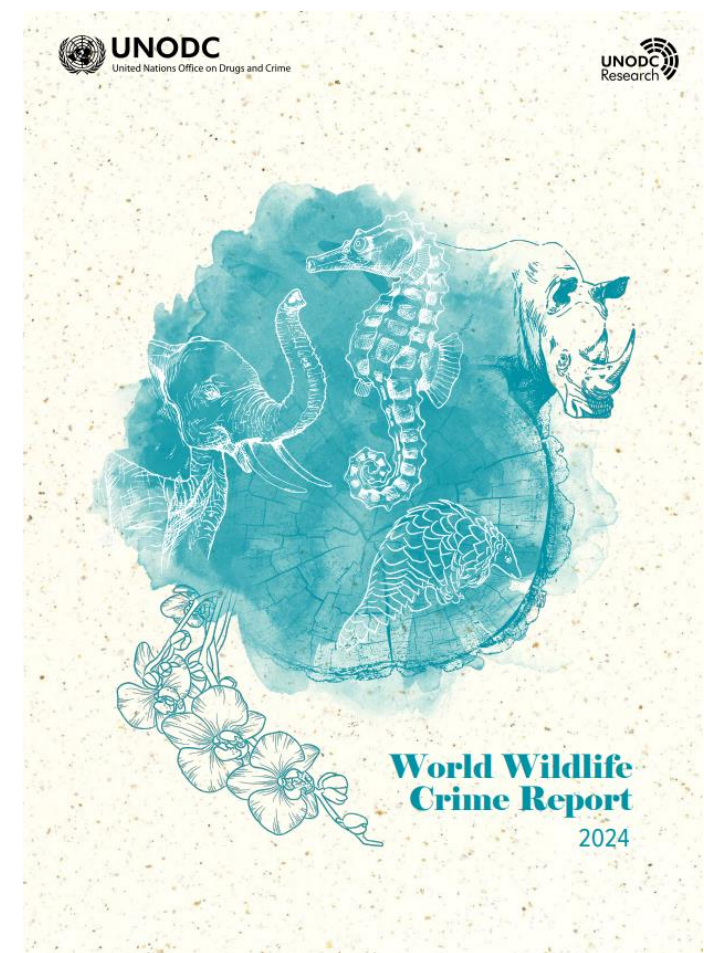
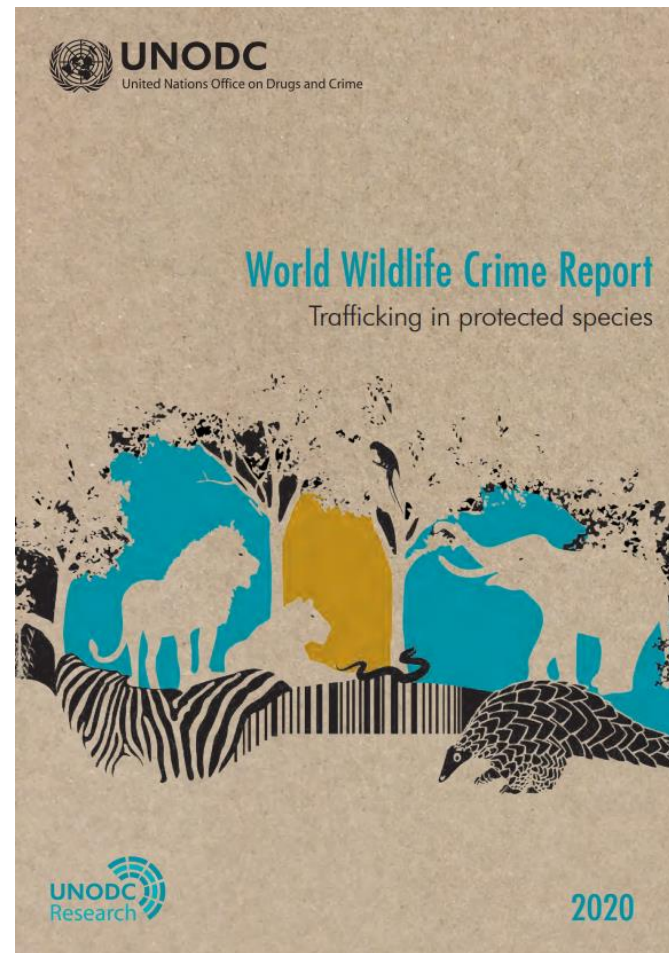
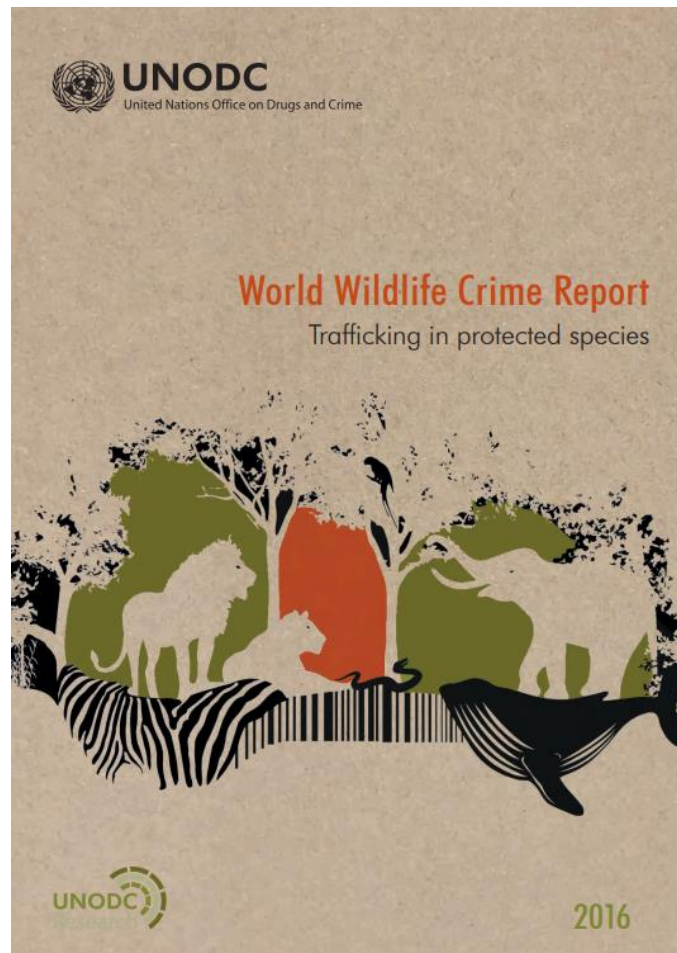
**CITES Secretariat**

# Outline

- Background – illegal trade in CITES listed tree species
- Outcome of the Task Force on illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species
- CoP19 Decisions on implementation of the Task Force recommendations and reporting on the implementation (Notification to the Parties No. 2024/079)
- Capacity building provided by CITES and its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCW)
- Annual Illegal Trade Reporting and CITES Illegal Trade Database



# UNODC World Wildlife Crime Reports



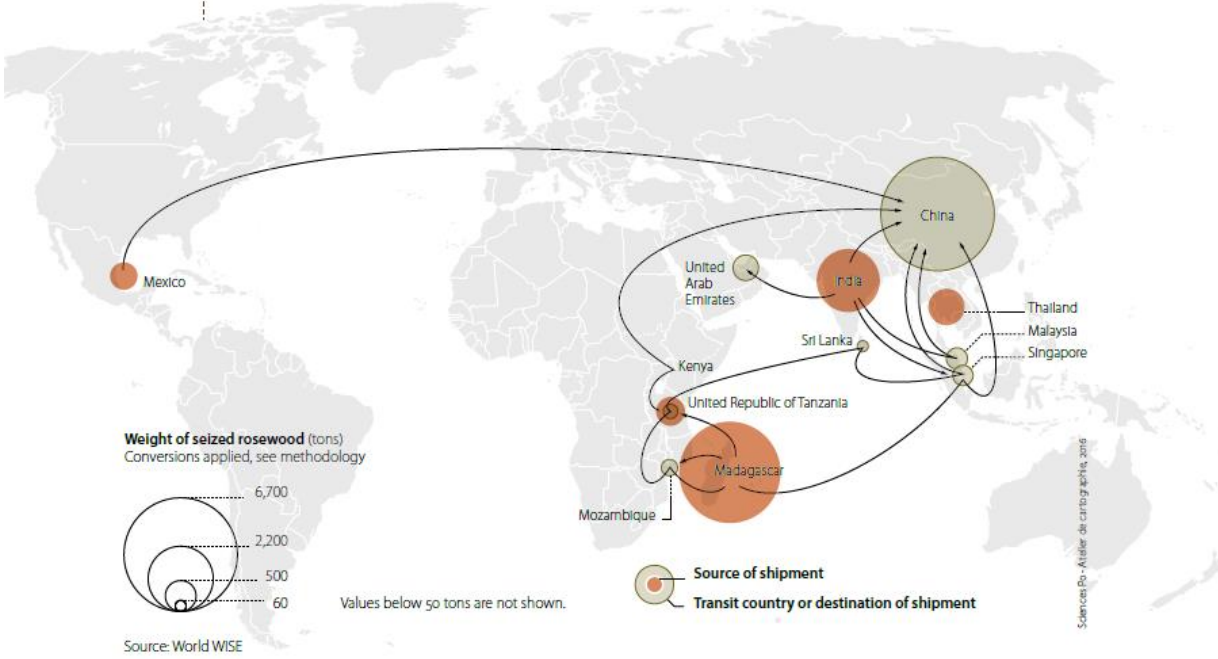
[World Wildlife Report \(unodc.org\)](https://www.unodc.org)

# Flows of rosewood and timber seizures

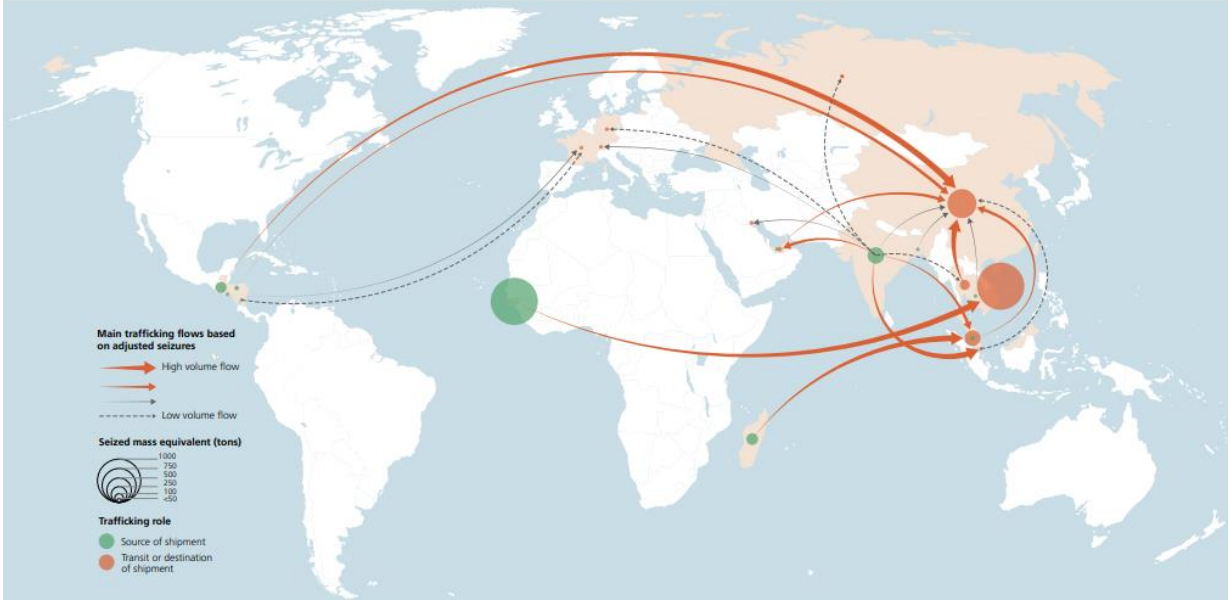


## ROSEWOOD TIMBER

Map 1 Main flows of rosewood logs and timber seizures (tons), 2005-2015

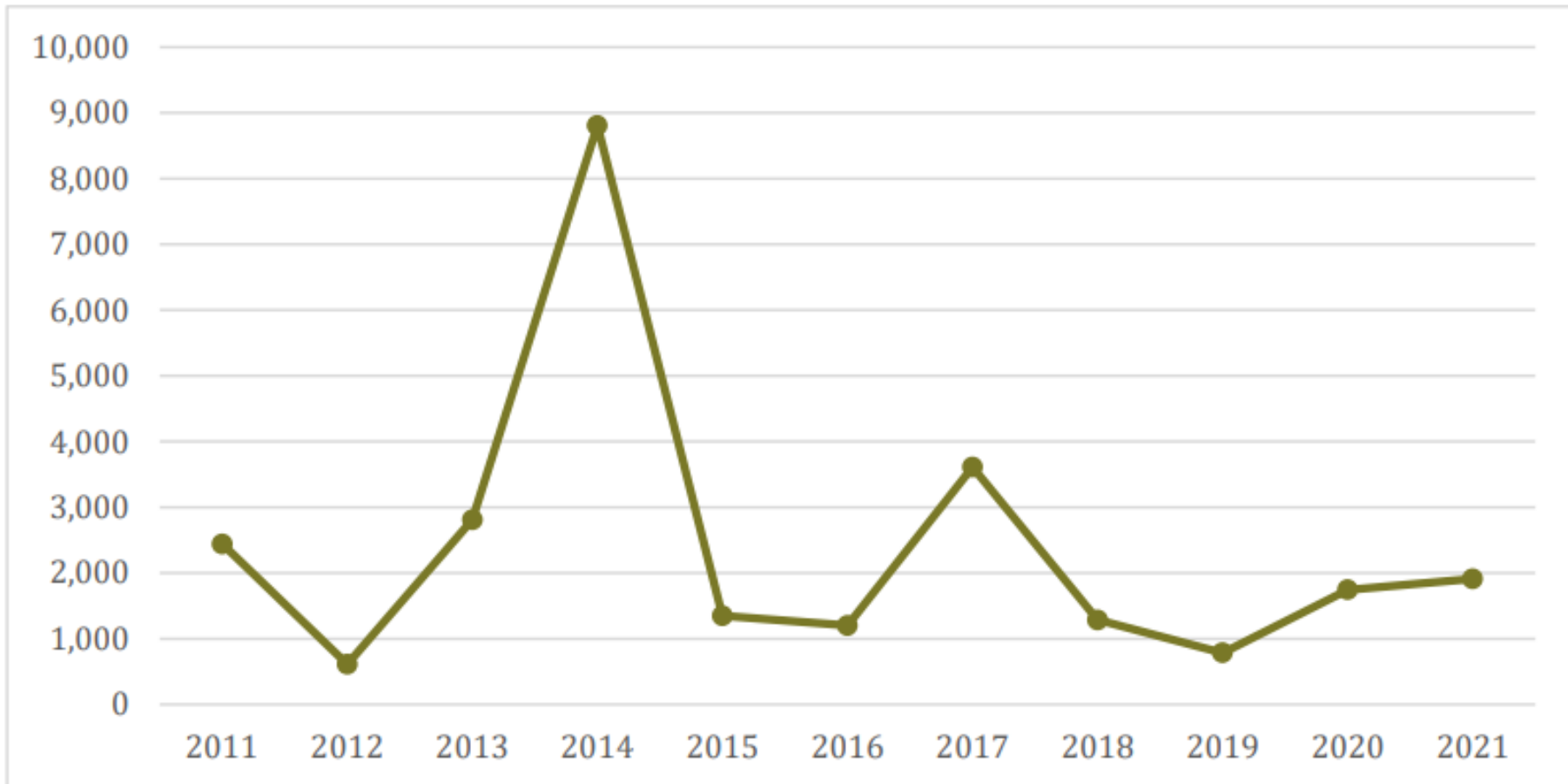


Map 1 Trafficking flow map - Rosewood (2015-2018)\*



# Rosewood seized 2011 - 2021

Figure CS3.1. Weight in tons of rosewood seized 2011–2021



Source: CITES Illegal Trade Database and World WISE (WWCR3 analytical dataset)

# Threat assessment on illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa (2019, CoP18)



CoP18 Doc. 34  
Annex 4



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**West and Central Africa**

**Wildlife Crime Threat Assessment**



# Illegal timber trade is matters of global concern

- The illegal timber trade is lucrative, well-organized, transnational, and involves corruption and financial crimes.
- It poses a severe threat to the conservation of species and may have effect on climate, governance, economic and social advancement, and security.
- This illegal must be tackled as other serious transnational organized crime.



# CITES response to combat illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species

- In February 2022, the CITES Secretariat convened a Task Force online meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species.
- The meeting brought together CITES, Customs, police, and other authorities from 34 countries, as well as representatives from ICCWC organizations, other IGOs, regional enforcement networks and NGOs
- The Task Force identified measures and activities to prevent and combat this illegal trade, including:
  - improving legality and traceability and strengthen the implementation of CITES provisions;
  - strengthen international and regional cooperation;
  - improving detection and identification of illegal consignments; and
  - addressing corruption and financial crimes linked to the forestry sector
- At CoP19, Decisions 19.89 to 19.91 related to the outcome of the Task Force meeting were adopted





# CITES Tree Task Force Implementation: Key Actions and Reporting Deadlines

- **Decision 19.89** directs Parties to as relevant to them, fully implement measures and activities outlined in the ***Outcome document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species*** and **report on the implementation to the Secretariat**.
- **Notification No. 2024/079 (4 July 2024)** invites Parties to submit information on the implementation of Task Force outcomes.
- Emphasis on **mobile and tablet applications** for tree species identification.
- Deadline for submission response to Notification 2024/079: **30 September 2024**.
- The **outcome document of the Task Force** is available on CITES website [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) on the ***Enforcement*** webpage under *Documents and Notifications*, and in the Annex to Notification 2024/079.



# Outcome 1

## - Improve Legality and Traceability

**Objective:** *Strengthen the implementation of CITES provisions regarding trade in listed tree species.*

### Key Actions:

- **Range States:**
  - Implement **Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19)** for Legal Acquisition Findings before issuing CITES export permits.
  - Conduct **field verifications** to ensure legal origin before harvesting.
  - Enforce **strict controls** across the supply chain—from harvest to export.
  - Use **satellite imaging** to monitor logging activities.
  - Ensure exports comply with **Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)** on Non-Detriment Findings.
  - Improve **coordination and communication** between regulatory bodies.
- **Importing Parties:**
  - Strengthen verification of CITES documents by applying **due diligence** as per **Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19)** on Compliance and Enforcement.
- **All Parties:**
  - Enhance **CITES permits** with additional security features (e.g., QR codes).
  - Explore **eCITES framework** for automating permit processes.
  - Ensure effective legislation for **seizure and confiscation** of illegal specimens.



## Outcome 2

# - Strengthen Regional and International Collaboration

*Objective: Foster stronger cooperation to combat illegal trade.*

### Key Actions:

- Develop **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** and bilateral agreements for information exchange.
- Utilize **INTERPOL Notices** for sharing information on illegal trade and offenders.
- Engage in **controlled deliveries** and collaborate with INTERPOL and WCO.
- **Share detailed information on seizures** with relevant **Parties** (origin, transit, destination).
- Report seizures of CITES-listed tree species in the **CITES annual illegal trade report** in accordance with the reporting deadline set in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on National reports;
- Parties to participate in **global law enforcement operations** targeting environmental crimes.



## Outcome 3

# - Detection and Identification of Illegal Consignments

*Objective: Enhance detection and identification of illegal timber shipments*

### Key Actions:

- Establish **effective border controls** and conduct **risk assessments** for CITES-listed tree species.
- Implement **physical inspection best practices** (e.g., advanced inspection of documents).
- **Capacitate and train frontline officers** in **timber identification** techniques.
- **Mobilize forensic science**



## Outcome 4

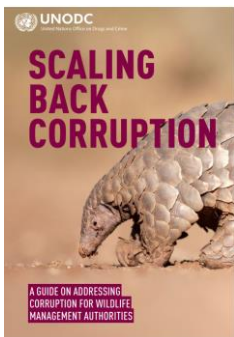
# - Addressing Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows

***Objective: Mitigate corruption and investigate illicit financial flows linked to illegal trade.***

**Key Actions:**

- Fully implement **Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19)** to combat corruption.
- Develop and enforce **anti-corruption policies** (e.g., whistleblower protection).
- Create **multi-agency units** with vetted staff to address high-value wildlife crimes such as illegal timber trade.
- Implement legislation to combat **money laundering** and facilitate **asset forfeiture**.
- Incorporate **financial investigations** into wildlife crime investigations.
- Utilize resources from **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** and **Egmont Centre of FIU Excellence and Leadership (ECOFEL)**.





**TOGETHER AGAINST  
WILDLIFE CRIME**

## International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

<https://iccwc-wildlifecrime.org>

- ICCWC website contains tools and services provided by ICCWC Partners: CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank, World Customs Organization
- Ongoing cooperation with ICCWC Partners to support Parties to implement Decisions related to the outcome of the Task Force.



# Trainings on physical inspection of timber shipments

## Decision 19.90

*b) directs the Secretariat, subject to external funding, in cooperation with the UNODC / WCO Container Control Programme, work to undertake activities to provide training by experienced CITES enforcement officials on physical inspection of timber shipments in regions significantly affected by illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species; and*

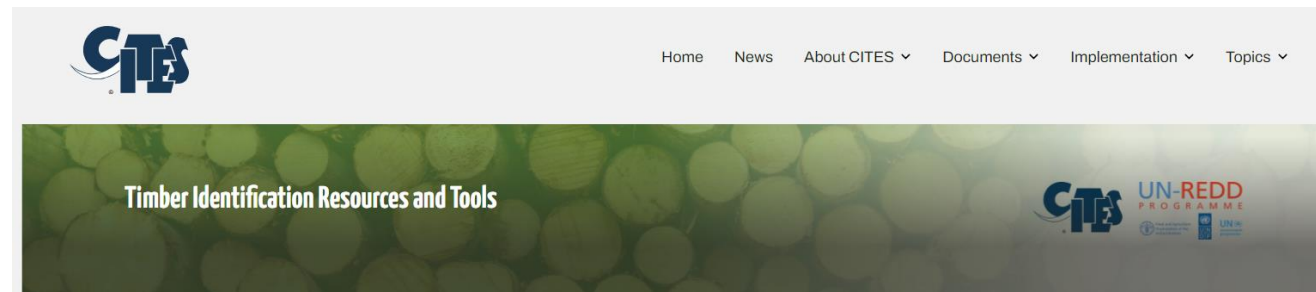
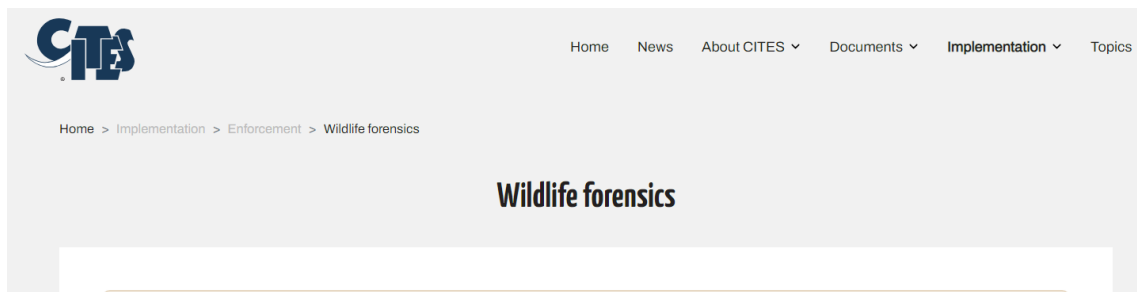
*c) where not yet done, encourage and support the undertaking of risk assessments to develop national risk indicators specific to this illegal trade.*

# Trainings on physical inspection of timber shipments

- **Vienna, 08-17 May 2023:** UNODC, on behalf of the CITES Secretaria, organized an eight-day training session, combining theory and practical exercises for Customs, CITES Focal Points, Forestry Agencies and Investigators. Representatives from **12 countries**, including **Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo** attended the training. The focus of the exercise was on CITES and its functioning, Customs risk assessment, CITES-listed timber, physical inspection and wood identification.
- **Dakar, 08-13 October 2023:** UNODC, on behalf of the CITES Secretaria, organized a five-day combined theoretical training and practical session for Customs and the Wildlife Service. Representatives from **7 countries**, including the **Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal** attended the training.
- **Upcoming training** on physical inspection of timber shipments in **2024 for Eastern Africa** (dates and place TBC)



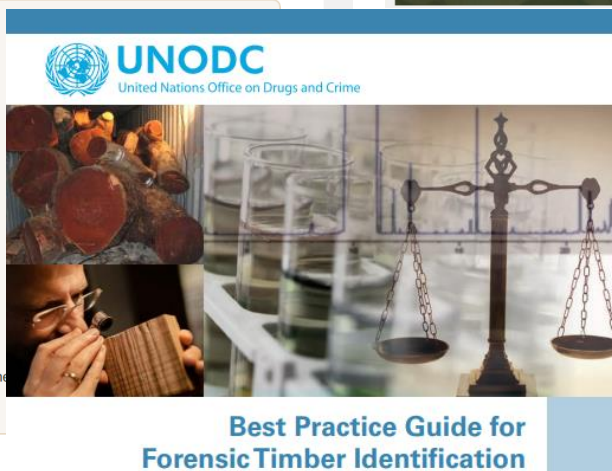
# Tools and resources on CITES webpages



**i** It is essential that forensic applications be used to the fullest extent possible to combat illegal trade in wildlife, as is emphasized in a number of CITES Resolutions and Decisions. In tackling illegal trade in wildlife, investigative questions may relate to both the identification of perpetrators involved, and the identification of the wildlife specimens found. The former is the subject of traditional forensic analyses, such as human DNA profiling or ballistics, while the latter is the subject of wildlife forensics. Although these categorizations are not entirely fixed within the forensic community, they are generally considered as the best rule of thumb. In the case of CITES implementation and enforcement, the investigative questions to address in relation to the identification of animals and plants, or their parts and derivatives, can generally be categorized into five groups, concerning:

1. the species involved;
2. the geographic origin of a specimen;
3. the wild or captive/cultivated source of a specimen;
4. the individual origin of a specimen;
5. the age of a specimen.

Within these five categories of investigative questions, there are a wide range of specific enforcement methods, using generic wildlife forensic methods, others that require a much more specialist approach.



- Directory of Laboratories that Conduct Wildlife Forensic Testing



# Annual Illegal Trade Reports

## CITES Illegal Trade Database



# CITES National Reports

National reporting in CITES falls under the following categories:

- **Annual legal trade report**
- **Annual illegal trade report**
- **Implementation report** (former biennial report) on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention
  - Objective 1.7 includes information on how Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade
- **Special reports**



# Who is responsible to prepare and submit the Annual Illegal Trade Report?

- **Resolution Conf. 11.17** (Rev. CoP19) on *National Reports* urges all Parties to submit an Annual illegal Trade Report (seizure data) to the CITES Secretariat by **31 October** covering data for the year before.
- **Resolution Conf. 18.6** on *Designation and role of Management Authorities* urges **Management Authorities** and **enforcement authorities** to **cooperate closely in the fight against illegal trafficking in wildlife**.
- **Management Authorities** to:
  - **establish mechanisms for coordination and communication** between government agencies with a role in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention
  - **coordinate the preparation of the annual illegal trade reports by gathering seizure data from:**
    - Customs
    - Police
    - Wildlife enforcement authority or any other relevant authorities

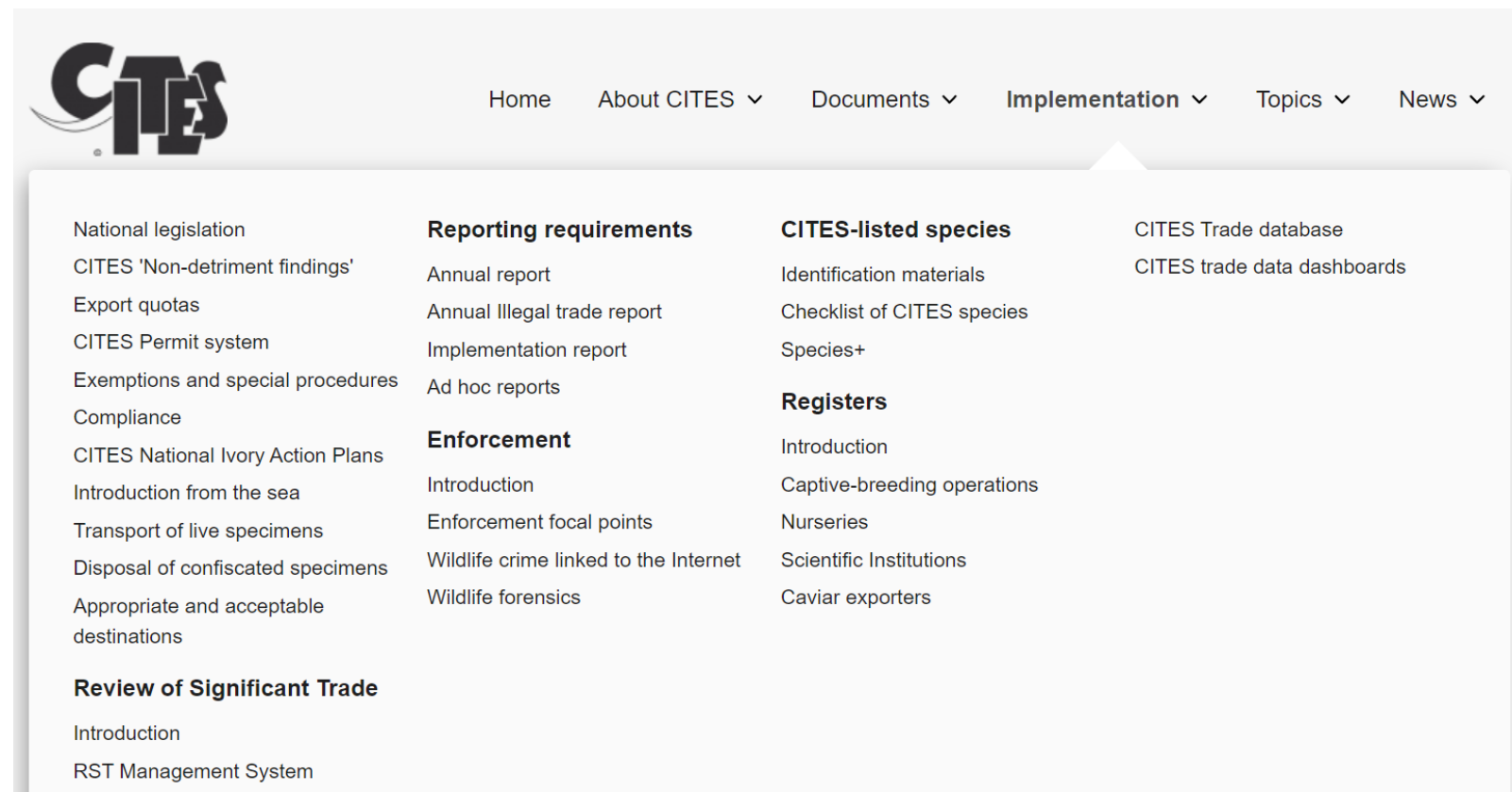


# Submitted Annual Illegal Trade Reports from 2016 to 2023

Country / País / Pays	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Benin / Benin / Bénin</i>								
<i>Burkina Faso / Burkina Faso / Burkina Faso</i>								
<i>Burundi / Burundi / Burundi</i>								
<i>Cameroon / Camerún / Cameroun</i>								
<i>Central African Republic / República Centroafricana / République centrafricaine</i>	X							
<i>Chad / Chad / Tchad</i>								
<i>Côte d'Ivoire / Côte d'Ivoire / Côte d'Ivoire</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Gabon / Gabón / Gabon</i>								
<i>Gambia / Gambia / Gambie</i>								
<i>Ghana / Ghana / Ghana</i>								
<i>Guinea-Bissau / Guinea-Bissau / Guinée-Bissau</i>								
<i>Liberia / Liberia / Libéria</i>								
<i>Madagascar / Madagascar / Madagascar</i>	X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Mali / Malí / Mali</i>								
<i>Niger / Níger / Niger</i>						X	X	X
<i>Nigeria / Nigeria / Nigéria</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Senegal / Senegal / Sénégal</i>								
<i>Sierra Leone / Sierra Leona / Sierra Leone</i>								
<i>Togo / Togo / Togo</i>								
<i>Uganda / Uganda / Ouganda</i>					X	X		

# Where to find information about the annual illegal trade reports?

CITES website: [cites.org/Implementation/Reporting requirements/Annual illegal trade report](https://cites.org/Implementation/Reporting%20requirements/Annual%20illegal%20trade%20report)



The image shows a screenshot of the CITES website's navigation menu. The CITES logo is in the top left. The navigation bar includes links for Home, About CITES, Documents, Implementation, Topics, and News. The 'Implementation' menu is expanded, showing a grid of sub-links organized into several categories: National legislation, Reporting requirements, CITES-listed species, Registers, Enforcement, and Review of Significant Trade.

Category	Sub-link	
National legislation	CITES 'Non-detriment findings'	
	Export quotas	
	CITES Permit system	
	Exemptions and special procedures	
	Compliance	
	CITES National Ivory Action Plans	
	Introduction from the sea	
	Transport of live specimens	
	Disposal of confiscated specimens	
	Appropriate and acceptable destinations	
	Reporting requirements	Annual report
		Annual Illegal trade report
Implementation report		
Ad hoc reports		
CITES-listed species	Identification materials	
	Checklist of CITES species	
	Species+	
	CITES Trade database	
Registers	CITES trade data dashboards	
Enforcement	Introduction	
	Captive-breeding operations	
	Nurseries	
Review of Significant Trade	Scientific Institutions	
	Caviar exporters	



# Template and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual illegal trade reports are available on the Annual Illegal Trade Report webpage

Notification to the Parties No. 2023/039 (29 March 2023)

- [Annex 2: Guidelines](#) for the preparation and submission of annual illegal trade reports

## Resolutions

- Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports*
- Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*
- Resolution Conf. 18.6 on *Designation and role of Management Authorities*
- Decisions 18.75 – 18.76 on *Annual illegal trade reports*

## Template Guidelines

## How to prepare and submit an annual illegal trade report?

Each annual illegal trade report should **cover the period 1 January to 31 December**, of the year preceding the year in which it is submitted. The first annual illegal trade report for example, was due on 31 October 2017, covering data from 2016. The annual deadline for the submission of the illegal trade report is **31 October**.

Parties are encouraged to use the *standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report*, and the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, agreed by the Standing Committee, when preparing their reports. The annual illegal trade report should be submitted in electronic format (ideally using the standard format in Excel). Submission of PDF files should be avoided as these cannot be easily converted.

Reports should be sent to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, at [reporting@cites.org](mailto:reporting@cites.org), copy to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)

## How will the data be used?

Unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party, the data collected in the CITES annual illegal trade report will be shared with the members of the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)* to allow data to be used in ICWC global research and analysis on wildlife and forest crime.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 16 in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, the Secretariat will, subject to available resources:

- analyse, in collaboration with ICWC partners, the annual reports on illegal wildlife trade;
- share with Parties information relating to the analysis to support further enforcement activities; and
- submit a report at each meeting of the Standing Committee and the Conference of Parties based on the analysis and other relevant information available through ICWC partners.



# Recording CITES illegal trade data

**National reference number**

**Quantity of item seized**

**Location of incident** (e.g port of entry, airport, city/town or specific border crossing)

**Detection agency** (police, customs or wildlife agency)

**Method of detection** (e.g scanning images, risk assessment, random check, sniffer dog, third-Party information, physical inspection, other)

**Reason for seizure** (e.g No CITES permit; Mis-declared; Illegal crossing (passage outside designated points))

**Mode of transport** (e.g air; mail; maritime; rail; road)

**Method of concealment**

**Alleged country of origin/transit/destination**

**Estimated value in country** (if available)

**Nationality of offenders** (if available)

**Law under which the charges were brought** (desirable)

**Sanction** (desirable)

**Disposal of confiscated specimens** (desirable)





# CITES Illegal Trade Database

- Contains data on individual wildlife seizures made globally
- Seizure data reported by CITES Parties through their Annual Illegal Trade Reports
- Maintained by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on behalf of the CITES Secretariat
- How to get access to the CITES Illegal Trade Database dissemination platform, see [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/124](#)
- Link to CITES Illegal Trade Database: <http://citesdata.un.org/>,

Welcome to the CITES Illegal Trade Database.

 **United Nations** | 

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## CITES Illegal Trade Database

The CITES Illegal Trade Database contains data on individual wildlife seizures at the global level, as reported by CITES Parties through the annual illegal trade reports (AITR) since 2016. The AITR is an annual data collection that gathers information on individual wildlife seizure events, including the amounts seized, trafficking routes, taxon information, and mode of transport, amongst many other characteristics, for each reported event.

Database is available exclusively to governmental representatives of CITES Parties, including



# CITES Illegal Trade Database - added value for Parties

- Enable Parties and ICCWC partner to directly access data recorded in the database.
- Better understand the role of the Party in global and regional wildlife trafficking.
- Identify sources, transit and destination countries.
- Identify trends in wildlife trafficking at the regional and global level.
- Support research, analyses, decision-making.
- Helps develop of appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime.
- The value of the CITES Illegal Trade Database is becoming increasingly evident as more data is recorded in it.



# Conclusion

- Implement measures and activities recommended in the Outcome document of *the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species*
- Report the implementation of the Task Force recommendations to the Secretariat **by 30 September 2024** (see Notification to the Parties No. 2024/079). Highlight any challenges with the implementation.
- Submit the *CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report* by **31 October**.
- Make use of existing tools and resources provided by CITES and its ICCWC partners.
- Cooperate, cooperate, cooperate.....





Thank you for your attention!

<https://cites.org>