



*INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME
(ICCWC)*

Third Global Meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks



MEETING REPORT

August 2019



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Background

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in cooperation with its partners from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and with generous funding support from the United States of America convened the Third Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) on 21 to 22 August 2019, alongside the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18), in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting followed the first¹ and second² global meetings held respectively in the margins of CITES CoP16 (Bangkok, 2013) and CITES CoP17 (Johannesburg, 2016) and brought together network representatives, law enforcement officers, international organizations and civil society organizations from around the world.

Objectives of the meeting

The meeting was convened with three key objectives:

1. Engage in targeted discussions to refine the draft Guidelines for establishing and strengthening WENs (hereinafter referred to as *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*), including the self-assessment tool under development.
2. Provide a platform to enhance synergies between existing initiatives and regional enforcement bodies, strengthen cooperation at regional and global levels and explore potential activities to be pursued with the aim of further strengthening responses to wildlife crime.
3. Review progress since the Second Global Meeting of WENs, highlight successes, and explore the tools available to WENs to further enhance their responses to combatting wildlife crime.

Agenda and meeting materials

Participants were requested to complete a questionnaire with details on their respective networks prior to the meeting. Information provided via the questionnaire responses were developed into a network information sheet and provided to participants as background documents during the meeting. The meeting agenda is available as Annex 1. The WEN information sheets are available as Annex 2. The media release³, as well as presentations delivered during the meeting are available on the CITES webpage⁴.

Participants

The meeting brought together a total of 114 participants⁵, including representatives from twelve existing WENs, participants from prospective WENs, as well as other relevant networks, wildlife law enforcement officers, international organizations, civil society and other relevant partners.

Participants included representatives from the following networks and regional enforcement bodies:

¹ <https://bit.ly/2qIGXqU>

² <https://bit.ly/2PPTgWT>

³ <https://bit.ly/2PS82g8>

⁴ https://cites.org/eng/prog/icwc.php/Action/report_third_global_meeting_WENs

⁵ To promote gender balance, organizations were encouraged to nominate female representatives to attend. Overall there were 48 females (43%) and 66 males (57%) in attendance.

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement;
- Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN);
- China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICEGG);
- Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) / Central Africa WEN;
- European Commission Enforcement Working Group;
- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL)⁶;
- Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HA-WEN);
- Latin American Environmental Prosecutors Network / South America Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN);
- Lusaka Agreement Taskforce (LATF);
- North America Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG);
- Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa Silvestre para Centroamérica y República Dominicana (ROAVIS) / Central America WEN;
- Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG, Southern Africa);
- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN);
- World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO) of Central Africa and West Africa⁶;

Representatives from the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC), Southern Africa WEN, ASEANAPOL and AFRIPOL were invited to participate in the meeting but were not able to attend.

Interested countries, international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations were also invited to attend as observers.

Opening Session

Welcome and keynote remarks were provided on behalf of ICCWC by Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General and by Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State. During the opening session, cross-border and international cooperation, communication, and coordination were highlighted as crucial elements to combating wildlife trafficking at the national, regional and global level. The important role of wildlife law enforcement networks and cooperation mechanisms to strengthen collective efforts to combat wildlife trafficking were also emphasized.

Session 1: Introduction to the Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks

An overview was provided on the development of the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*, the self-assessment tool and the steps taken to develop the guidelines. It was noted the guidelines had been developed following a request by WENs and Parties at the Second Global Meeting of the WENs. Prior to their development, ICCWC conducted a feasibility study that explored the need and use for such guidelines, as well as key issues that could be included. The feasibility study clearly indicated a need to develop such guidance, as well as the suggested framework for the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*.

⁶ This agency is a regional enforcement body.

The guidelines were subsequently developed and revised based on several consultations that involved WENs, experts from wildlife law enforcement agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as academic and research institutions. The guidelines have been designed for use by Parties in a region who are considering the establishment of a new WEN, or to strengthen existing WENs. It was highlighted that the Third Global Meeting of the WENs would provide additional invaluable input to refine the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks* and ensure they are fit for purpose.

The structure and use of the draft *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks* was explained, noting it was divided into three sections as follows:

- Introduction: rationale and use of the guidelines;
- Guideline 1: key considerations in the development of a WEN, and;
- Guideline 2: self-assessment tool to assist existing WENs to evaluate their level of maturity and/or operational performance and identify possible areas that could be strengthened.

It was noted the Consortium will pilot the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks* in SudWEN in 2020 as part of a broader project supported by the U.S. Department of State to strengthen WENs globally. WENs were encouraged to, once finalized, use the Guidelines as appropriate to strengthen their respective networks and their regional responses to combating wildlife crime.

Sessions 2 and 3: Refining the Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks

These sessions were led and moderated by the consultants engaged to develop the draft guidelines. These sessions were designed to review and test specific sections of the draft *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks* and self-assessment tool following on from the expert consultation in July 2019.

The first part of the session involved four working groups focusing on the guidelines to ensure they are a practical and fit for purpose tool for WENs and WEN Member Countries. Discussions focused on what the key products, outputs and deliverables of WENs should be, as well as on their jurisdictional coverage, membership, functions, administrative support options, overall goals and objectives.

During the second part of the session, participants were asked to share and discuss success stories from within their networks, with the specific aim of ensuring that the key elements that led to the success were captured and could be incorporated into the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*.

At the conclusion of the working groups, the respective working group leads gave feedback on the key processes which had enabled the success of their respective networks, which included *inter alia*:

- National intra-and inter-agency collaboration, as well as inter-regional / inter-WEN cooperation;
- Development of regional strategies to guide WENs;
- Capacity building initiatives targeting knowledge gaps, including strengthening of law enforcement agencies capacity to identify specimens;
- Trust building and professional relationships with colleagues (intra-and inter-agency) which had been developed through face to face meetings and personal contact;
- Regular meetings, with clear roles, responsibilities and mandates;
- Proactive information sharing, and;
- Accessible forensics networks and knowing who to call upon after a seizure.

Targeted consultations and contextualized piloting of the guidelines were also conducted across the two days directly with participants and networks, in a one on one setting, to ensure the guidelines are practical, focused, and oriented to the expected end users.

Session 4: Progress and actions taken since the Second Global Meeting of WENs

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat. A brief introduction was given on the key outcomes of the Second Global Meeting of WENs, which included:

1. Communication across existing networks: networks should consider current communication technologies and develop specific regional communication strategies to improve communication within their respective regions.
2. Encourage use of available and existing platforms and tools to obtain reliable information.
3. ICCWC to identify targeted operations that could be coordinated by networks and include capacity building and post-operational evaluation as appropriate.
4. Networks to raise awareness of their successes more actively.

Networks were provided an opportunity to highlight key actions taken since the Second Global Meeting of WENs to enhance and strengthen cooperation and communication within their networks and with other networks. Representatives from ASEAN-WG on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement, COMIFAC, HAWEN, ROAVIS, SAWEN, SudWEN highlighted several actions taken:

- ROAVIS has created a regional forum for cooperation, the exchange of experiences and the strengthening of the institutions that apply the law.
- SudWEN developed a database to share information on criminals; the development of a resource kit for prosecutors and its ongoing inter-agency cooperation between CITES Management Authorities, police and prosecutors on disposal of specimens.
- COMIFAC conducted capacity building activities for law enforcement officers at the main entry and exit points of COMIFAC Member Countries and reinforced the importance of information exchange mechanisms, highlighting tangible results (including a seizure of 28 elephant tusks in Bangkok in late 2017 which resulted in the arrest of 7 officials in Congo (3 nationalities) after it was posted on Africa-TWIX).
- The ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement conducted awareness raising programs, produced training materials on combating wildlife crime and illicit trade in wild fauna and flora, and has established and implements measures to improve collaboration, cooperation and information exchange between and among law enforcement agencies and CITES Management Authorities. It also adopted the new *ASEAN Guidelines for Detecting and Preventing Wildlife Trafficking* developed in cooperation with USAID (October 2019) as a means of standardizing operations across the ASEAN region. It further established a publicly accessible website which has a range of resources available. The network noted that it is also partnering in the “Boots on the Ground” campaign, working with Police to build capacity across a number of areas.
- SAWEN has focused on policy harmonization; institutional capacity strengthening through knowledge and intelligence sharing; and collaboration with regional and international partners to enhance wildlife law enforcement in the Member Countries. It also participated across the Thunder series operations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Tiger Forum, organized trainings at local level in Nepal, enhanced coordination among prosecutors, extended cooperation among Parties through South-South initiatives and provided technical support to members.
- HAWEN has worked on improving information sharing and law enforcement efforts and has welcomed the TWIX communication program into its region, despite experiencing some complexity in its roll out across its members.

During a separate session, INTERPOL highlighted support provided by ICCWC since the Second Global Meeting of WENs as part of outcome three above, in particular through the Thunder-series⁷ operations coordinated by INTERPOL and WCO.

Session 5: Enhancing links and synergies between existing initiatives

This session was moderated by European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL). Representatives from the Financial and Transportation Taskforces, the Global Wildlife Programme, the Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme provided presentations on their respective initiatives, with the objective of enhancing links and synergies between these initiatives and WENs, and vice versa.

United for Wildlife presented on the Financial and Transportation Taskforces. The Transport Taskforce was created as a way to work with the transport industry to identify the roles it can play in addressing illegal wildlife trade, as well as looking at the ways that the sector can break the chain between suppliers and consumers of illicit products. The Financial Taskforce was created noting that financial institutions have a crucial role to play in the fight against illegal wildlife trade, using financial intelligence to support law enforcement efforts to pursue the illicit trade's greatest beneficiaries, while meeting their legal obligations to actively monitor for and investigate suspicious activity within the financial sector. It was noted that WENs, and their national agencies are encouraged to engage with the Taskforces and draw upon its resources to combat illegal wildlife trade.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank presented on the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) and noted that through global and country projects, the GWP aims to improve law enforcement efficacy, by supporting legislative improvements, development of judiciary and prosecution capabilities; enhancing intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation, as well as encouraging increased intelligence sharing and the implementation of anti-money laundering tools. The GWP encouraged WENs, and their national agencies to engage in and with GWP projects in their respective regions and draw upon the resources available to build capacity in the fight against wildlife crime.

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and TRAFFIC presented on the Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online (the Coalition) and noted that wildlife crime linked to the internet is increasingly common and highlighted the work of the Coalition to bring together e-commerce platforms and companies from across the world to reduce illicit online wildlife trafficking by 80% by 2020. It was noted that the Coalition can assist WENs and their Member Countries, and WENs were encouraged to reach out to the Coalition in support of their efforts to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet.

The USFWS presented its International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme which strategically places USFWS law enforcement agents in the U.S. Embassies of different countries⁸ to assist governments to investigate wildlife criminals. The attachés facilitate the sharing of criminal intelligence and support targeted investigations in different countries and regions. WENs and their national agencies were encouraged to liaise with the attachés in their region.

⁷ Operation Thunderbird (2017) <https://bit.ly/2WGhhBo> ; Operation Thunderstorm (2018) <https://bit.ly/2WLCMRq> ; Operation Thunderball (2019) <https://bit.ly/2WJ9Vgp>

⁸ 12 attachés to be placed by 2020 in: Beijing, Bangkok, Brasilia, Dar es Salaam, Hanoi, Libreville, Lima, London, Mexico City, Nairobi, Pretoria and Stuttgart.

Session 6: Promoting the use of existing tools and services

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat. Presentations were provided by the CITES Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC; INTERPOL; the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group and the World Bank on key tools and services available through ICCWC and its partner agencies, as well as how WENs can encourage their Member Countries to use such tools and services.

The *ICCWC Menu of Services*, provides an indicative list of training courses, tools and services available through ICCWC, based on the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020. WENs and their Member Countries were encouraged to review the tools, services and support available, and draw upon these tools and services or request additional support from ICCWC as appropriate. More information can be found at: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>.

INTERPOL highlighted the range of services available to Member Countries and their national agencies through INTERPOL National Central Bureaus, including INTERPOL databases, Notices and Alerts. INTERPOL also highlighted the Operations and activities it supports in cooperation with World Customs Organization under the auspices of ICCWC. WENs were encouraged to make use of these services, as well as coordinate and encourage the participation of their Member Countries in ICCWC-supported operations and activities.

The World Bank presented on the ICCWC Anti Money-Laundering Training Programme and the national risk assessments on illicit financial flows related to environmental crime. It also presented on the planned activities in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe supported through the ICCWC Strategic Programme. WENs and their member agencies were encouraged to liaise with the World Bank as appropriate if they needed support on this matter.

Sessions 7 and 8: Identification of key wildlife crime trends and activities at global/regional level

These sessions were moderated by representatives from the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG). The work and key operational activities conducted by the WCWG in cooperation with several partners and WENs were highlighted.

The session then focused on identifying key wildlife crime trends, associated matters and possible engagement in operational activities at global and regional level. Participants were divided into regional working groups to discuss key wildlife crime matters affecting their respective regions, including identifying key species most affected by wildlife crime, gaps in regional responses to wildlife crime to be addressed, and main communication challenges at regional and international level. Civil society organizations also formed a working group and were invited to make recommendations on priority species and actions to consider.

Africa: The representatives from the various African sub-regions (Central, East, Southern and West) identified unique themes that were of interest and of concern across their sub-regions, and priority species included elephant, pangolin, African grey parrot, rhinoceros, rosewood, lion, cheetah and marine turtles. The group considered that all routes of air, maritime and terrestrial/transit paths pose a major concern in Africa, and highlighted priority attention should be placed on Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South-Africa and Togo, among others. The main gaps and challenges in the different subregions included, amongst other: lack of information and databases; insecure communication channels; knowledge gaps and minimal capacity building opportunities (particularly at ports); lack of resources including human resources; conflicting or unclear mandates for authorities and governance challenges.

Asia: priority species included pangolin (coming from both Asia and Africa), turtles (all types) and ivory. This group noted that there are multiple destinations and routes used by traffickers, with routes evolving frequently. The group identified main gaps and challenges preventing the implementation of action plans against wildlife crimes including poor cooperation between States and enforcement agencies at all levels; lack of capacity in key areas; governance challenges and not always knowing who the lead and relevant enforcement agency/ies are in neighboring countries, as well as difficulty in connecting and communicating with them.

Europe and North America: priority species included eel (trafficking in both directions), birds, reptiles and ornamental species (seeds, succulents, orchid and cactus among other). Key challenges were communication amongst and within agencies.

South America and the Caribbean: a series of priorities were identified, including sharks, sea cucumber, *Dalbergia spp.*, jaguars, iguanas, queen conch, swallowtail butterflies, turtles, monkeys, parrot eggs, and grouper. The regions' challenges particularly concern: human resources; language constraints; lack of expertise in customs; loss of knowledge holders without adequate succession planning (retirement of experts); lack of follow up between countries and ongoing challenge to distinguish between those species that can be traded legally and those where trade is prohibited. The proposed solutions to address the above-mentioned challenges included focusing on transferring expertise and strengthening cooperation (in particular with Europe and North America and across the trade chain).

Civil Society: priority species included endemic species which are not yet in the CITES Appendices, exotic birds (parrots), reptiles, elephants, rhinoceros, pangolins, big cats in general and cheetahs, jaguar, and lions in particular. The group did not define specific routes for traffickers as they highlighted these constantly change. Key gaps and challenges identified included: connectivity between WENs; minimal funds to reinforce collaboration; lack of effective operational planning; and law enforcements restriction of sharing information with civil society. A global TWIX model to enhance the sharing of information of law enforcement efforts was also suggested.

The species, trends and gaps identified will be brought to the attention of the INTERPOL WCWG when it meets in Singapore in November 2019, which may result in targeted activities and operations that could be supported through the ICCWC Strategic Programme.

Session 9: Key outcomes of the meeting and next steps

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat. The key outcomes of the meeting were presented by the moderators of the different sessions and were agreed as follows:

- a) ICCWC to disseminate the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*, once finalized, as well as to share information with WENs on ongoing activities, tools and services available through the Consortium;
- b) WENs to make use of, as appropriate, the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks*, once finalized, to strengthen their respective networks and their regional responses to combating wildlife crime;
- c) WENs and existing initiatives to continue to explore ways to strengthen their collaboration to combat wildlife crime with the Financial and Transportation Task Force, the Global Wildlife Programme, the Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, the U.S. International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme, and the Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) Partnership, amongst others;

- d) WENs to continue to enhance communication within their respective networks via available channels, to highlight their successes and to make use of available tools, services and platforms;
- e) WENs and their Member Countries to encourage increased participation at local, national and regional levels in activities and global operations supported by ICCWC and the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group and to explore possible needs based on tools and services available through the ICCWC Menu of Services, and;
- f) ICCWC and the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group to consider targeted activities that could be undertaken in close collaboration with WENs to combat illegal trade in any of the over 20 key species and routes identified as priorities by the different regions during discussions at the WEN meeting, including strengthening efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade linked to the Internet.

Concluding remarks

Closing remarks were provided by Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and by a representative from the CITES Secretariat on behalf of Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General.

It was stressed that cross-border and international cooperation, communication, and coordination are essential to combating wildlife trafficking globally, due to the transboundary nature of this crime type. It was also highlighted that the meeting served as a further opportunity to strengthen the network of dedicated officials, committed countries and organizations, and regional WENs in support of our shared goals and responsibilities to end wildlife crime. The continued need for WENs, wildlife law enforcement organizations and a broad range of stakeholders from around the world to work together to combat wildlife crime was also reinforced.

The development of the *Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks* and support provided by ICCWC was welcomed and WENs and ICCWC were encouraged to actively pursue, within their respective mandates and available resources, the key outcomes and next steps emanating from the meeting.

Acknowledgements

ICCWC would like to thank all network representatives and participants of the Third Global Meeting of the WENs for their active participation and engagement in the meeting, as well as their strong support and commitment to combating wildlife and forest crime.

ICCWC is also grateful to the United States of America Department of State for the funds generously made available to support this event.

3rd GLOBAL MEETING OF WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS

21 – 22 August 2019, Room K

Palexpo, Centre de Congrès, Route François-Peyrot 30,
CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

AGENDA

21 August 2019

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Welcome and keynote remarks** (Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General on behalf of ICCWC and Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, U.S. Department of State)

9.20 **Objectives of the meeting** and Group photo (Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat)

9.40 **Session 1** – Moderated by: Grant Pink and Matt Schramm

Introduction to the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening WENs* and self-assessment tool

Q&A and discussion

What to expect: A brief on the development of the Guidelines for establishing and strengthening WENs: what they are, results of feasibility study, how they were developed, results of external consultation and key areas for discussion.

10.00 Coffee break

10.20 **Session 2** – Moderated by: Grant Pink and Matt Schramm

Working groups: refining the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening WENs* and self-assessment tool

What to expect: Working group discussions to enhance the guidelines and self-assessment tool. Participants will review and provide feedback on the different parts/sections of the guidelines, review the self-assessment tool and make recommendations for further enhancement.

Key points discussed in the different group will be presented to plenary.

Note: The guidelines were circulated for expert consultation in July 2019 and a revised working draft was shared with meeting participants for discussion at the present meeting.

12.00 Lunch break - CoP18 side events

14.00 **Session 2** – Continued

15.15 Coffee break

15.40	<p>Session 3 – Moderated by: Grant Pink and Matt Schramm</p> <p>Reports from working groups and discussion</p> <p><i>What to expect: reporting from working groups on their deliberations, following by plenary discussion and agreement on key points.</i></p>
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16.45	Summary and closing of first day (Grant Pink; Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat)
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17.00	<i>CoP18 side events</i>
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17.15 – 18.45	Reception for meeting participants hosted by the Department of State of the United States of America, in cooperation with ICCWC (hosted in Hall 4)

22 August 2019

8.30	<i>Registration</i>
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09.00	Recap of Day 1 and outline of day 2 (Grant Pink; Tim O'Connell, CITES Secretariat)
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09.10	<p>Session 4 – Moderated by: Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Progress on the following outcomes of 2nd Global meeting of WENs and actions taken to implement them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing cooperation and communication (all WENs) 2. Operational support/activities (Henri Fournel, INTERPOL) <p>Q&A and discussion</p> <p><i>What to expect:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>General discussion: networks (by region) will be provided an opportunity to highlight key actions taken since the 2nd Global meeting of WENs to enhance and strengthen cooperation and communication within their networks and with other networks. Should highlight what worked well and what didn't (3 minutes per oral intervention per network).</i> 2. <i>ICCWC will highlight support available (ICCWC Menu of Services and operational support through the Thunder-series of Operations and upcoming operations)</i>
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10.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
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10.20	<p>Session 5 – Moderated by: Andreas Mausolf, EUROPOL</p> <p>Enhancing links and synergies between existing initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial and Transportation Task Forces (Naomi Doak, the Royal Foundation) - Global Wildlife Programme (Elisson Wright, World Bank) - Global coalition to end wildlife trafficking online (Tania McCrea-Steele, IFAW, Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC) - International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme (Lizz Darling, USFWS) <p>Q&A and discussion</p> <p><i>What to expect: Presentations on existing initiatives and their role and function, followed by discussion on opportunities for these initiatives to interact with WENs, and how WENs could engage with such initiatives</i></p>

11.20	<p>Session 6 – Moderated by: Tim O’Connell, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Promoting the use of existing tools and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICCWC Menu of Services (Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat) - INTERPOL tools and services and INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (Henri Fournel, INTERPOL) - ICCWC Anti Money-Laundering Training Programme (Elisson Wright, World Bank) <p>Q&A and discussion</p> <p><i>What to expect: The presentation of tools and services available through ICCWC partner agencies and discussion on how WENs can encourage the use of such tools and services to their member countries</i></p>
12.00	<p><i>Lunch break – CoP18 side events</i></p>
14.00	<p>Session 7 – Moderated by Bryan Landry, INTERPOL WCWG</p> <p>Working groups/discussion: Identification of key wildlife crime trends and associated matters and engagement in operational activities at global/regional level</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Networks: Africa; Asia; Central, South America and Caribbean; Europe, and; North America 2) Observers <p><i>What to expect: Working groups to discuss key wildlife crime matters affecting their respective regions, including identifying three species most affected by wildlife crime in their regions, gaps in regional responses to wildlife crime to be addressed, and main communication challenges at regional and international level.</i></p>
15.15	<p>Coffee break</p>
15.40	<p>Session 8 – Moderated by Bryan Landry, INTERPOL WCWG</p> <p>Feedback from working groups to plenary and identification of key matters that could be considered by the INTERPOL WCWG as part of its activities and by ICCWC in the implementation of its work programme.</p> <p><i>What to expect: report to plenary by working groups and identification of priority activities.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Proposed activities would, as appropriate, be brought forward for discussion during the INTERPOL WCWG meeting (November 2019, Singapore).</i></p>
16.15	<p>Session 9 – Moderated by Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Outcomes of the meeting and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network guidelines and next steps (Grant Pink/Matt Schramm: Sessions 1-3) - Enhancing cooperation with existing initiatives and increasing use of existing tools/services (Nominated WEN representative: S. 4-6) - Strengthening cooperation between networks and activities that could be proposed to the INTERPOL WCWG and/or ICCWC for consideration (Bryan Landry, INTERPOL WCWG: S. 7-8). <p><i>What to expect: A summary of discussions, identification of next steps and agreement on outcomes of the meeting.</i></p>
16.45	<p>Concluding remarks and closing (Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, U.S. Department of State and Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General on behalf of ICCWC)</p>
17.00	<p><i>CoP18 side events</i></p>



ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES AND WE)

Region and countries of the network

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat

Authorities involved

CITES authorities, customs, police, prosecutors, and other relevant national law enforcement agencies.

*Formal
network*

Brief description

ASEAN, as a region with Mega-Biodiversity, has made the issue of wildlife enforcement to combat wildlife trafficking an important agenda item. Wildlife enforcement dialogue in ASEAN started in 2006 when the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) was formally established as part of the ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF). Since 2017, to enhance the effectiveness of regional cooperation, wildlife issues have been addressed by the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES and WE).

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The network meets annually, chaired by member country rotated annually. The network reports to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry.

Key activities

In principle, AWG CITES and WE is mandated to establish and implement measures to improve collaboration, cooperation and information exchange between and among law enforcement agencies and CITES management authorities.

Key partners in the region

CITES, UNODC, TRAFFIC South East Asia, SEAFDEC, Interpol, USAID, ACB.

Website and other useful links

Not supplied.

Network focal points

Primary focal point: Mr. Dian Sukmajaya, dian.sukmajaya@asean.org
Secondary focal point: Mr. Dato' Wan Mazlan Wan Mahmood, wmazlan@kats.gov.my
Other (cc): Mr. Kamarul Ikram Abdul Halim, ikram@kats.gov.my



Subgroup on Protected Areas and Wildlife (SGTAPFS) of the COMIFAC (Central African Forests Commission)

Region and countries of the network
Central Africa

Authorities involved

Administrations in charge of wildlife and protected areas, Police, Customs, Justice, Gendarmerie, Indigenous and Local communities Networks.

Formal network

Brief description

[Subgroup on Protected Areas and Wildlife (SGTAPFS) was established in 2012 by the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC in order to coordinate the combat against the wildlife crime in the region and to build the capacity of the stakeholders on wildlife crime. This multi-actor platform brings together law enforcement agencies and wildlife and protected area administrations for the ten countries members of COMIFAC (Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Principe), representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, international organizations in charge of biodiversity conservation, and organizations working in the field of wildlife. Non-governmental organizations and civil society. Member's countries meet at least twice per year. This platform has a Sub-Regional Action Plan for the Wildlife law enforcement that has been adopted by the Council

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The coordination Unit has three members (the coordinator of the Central Africa Biodiversity Working Group, the Biodiversity Programme Officer of the COMIFAC and the Technical Director of OCFSA). The network report to the Executive Secretariat of the COMIFAC which report to the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC

Key activities

Capacity building of the law enforcement agencies, development of tools for the sustainable wildlife and Protected areas management, coordination of the combat against the wildlife crime, Public awareness on wildlife crime, finance resource mobilization for the biodiversity conservation, lobbying.

Key partners in the region

IGOs (OCFSA, ECCAS), NGOs (TRAFFIC, WWF, GIZ, JICA, IUCN, USFS).

Website and other useful links

www.comifac.org

Network focal points

As per WEN focal points contact contained on CITES webpage



EU Enforcement Group on CITES

Region and countries of the network

Europe; European Union and its 28 Member States. In addition, Switzerland and EU candidate countries are regularly invited to attend the meetings as observers.

Authorities involved

CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities, Customs, Police, Environmental Inspectorates, Nature Conservation Agencies, Wildlife inspectorates, Euro-pol, Eurojust, Interpol, World Customs Organization and the CITES Secretariat are invited regularly.

Formal network established according to Art. 14 para 3 Regulation EC No. 338/97

Brief description

The Enforcement Group is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the provisions laid down in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006. The enforcement group shall examine any technical question relating to the enforcement of these regulations raised by the chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of the members of the group or the committee. Formal meetings of the group take place twice a year. The Group will also play an important role in the implementation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

Decisions are taken at the meetings of the Enforcement group which meets twice a year. The decisions are reported to EU CITES Management Committee, established under Art. 18 Regulation EC No. 338/97 to support the EU Commission in the implementation of the Wildlife Trade regulations.

Key activities

Its task is to monitor enforcement policy and practice in the EU Member States and make recommendations to improve the enforcement of wildlife trade legislation. It also catalyses the exchange of information, experience and expertise on wildlife trade control related topics between the Member

Key activities (continued)

States (trends in illegal trade, significant seizures and investigations), including sharing of intelligence information and establishing and maintaining databases. Reports of the findings of investigations/operations carried out by the member States are shared during the meetings, being accessible to all CITES Authorities of the member States, the Commission and other partners through restricted access.

In addition subgroups have been established to handle identified important topics such as illegal trade in birds, reptiles, ivory, timber or eels but also questions related to forensic and marking. Dedicated sessions can address issues like engagement with relevant business sectors or transport sector, cooperation with specifically important third countries.

Key partners in the region

TRAFFIC Europe, relevant agencies and organizations such as Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, WCO, UNODC, neighboring countries like Switzerland, Norway, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Website and other useful links

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/eg_en.htm

Information is exchanged on a specific access restricted portal managed by the European Commission.

In addition EU TWIX (<http://www.eu-twix.org/>) which is a tool to facilitate information exchange on illegal wildlife trade in the European Union can be used to distribute information quickly between registered users. The EU-TWIX website and database are only accessible for officials of law enforcement authorities (e.g. Customs, Police and other governmental agencies such as environmental inspection services, national crime units, etc. involved in wildlife trade controls) and CITES Management Authorities of the 28 EU Members States.

Network focal points

Primary focal point: Matthias Leonhard Maier, European Commission
Email: Matthias-Leonhard.Maier@ec.europa.eu

Secondary focal point: Franz Böhmer, German CITES Management Authority
email: franz.boehmer@bfn.de



Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN)

Region and countries of the network

Region is the Horn of Africa and the countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

Authorities involved

Police, customs, market supervision, sea guard police, tourism supervision, quarantine inspection, transportation ministry

Formal network

Brief description

The Network has technical level and Ministerial level Forums. Ministers in charge of Wildlife Conservation as Policy Organs, Executive Committee composed of experts from wildlife conservation, customs, police, Interpol, judiciary, NGOs active in wildlife conservation, etc are involved.

In addition, the network has national focal points and implementing structures at national and local levels, civil societies and NGOs.

The network brings different actors in wildlife conservation and wildlife law enforcement at regional, national and local levels. Its functions are regional wildlife governance, information sharing, law enforcement cooperation, capacity building and training, public outreach and education, external cooperation with other WENs, partners, the AU, and IOs.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The structure or decision making process includes National Committees, Regional Executive Committee, Regional Sector Ministerial Committee, IGAD Council of Ministers and IGAD Summit.

Key activities

HAWEN is not an operational law enforcement agency. It facilitate cooperation among national and regional operational agencies. It is a kind of Law enforcement coordination office, which also provides capacity building and a platform for information sharing with existing tools such as TWIX/FIST/WEMS/ CMORE/ WILD).

Key partners in the region

Key partners include a strong public/private element, IUCN-NL, AWF/Born Free/CCF/DECAN/ Freeland/HoAREC/IFAW/LATF/TRAFFIC/WCS and Partners supporting the HAWEN through project activities/alignment. Coordination through the HAWEN creates economies of scale and regional impact. HAWEN solicits Partner support for countries with less capacity/less donor attention.

Website and other useful links

Not supplied.

Network focal points

As per WEN focal points contact contained on CITES webpage



North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG)

Region and countries of the network

Canada, United States, Mexico

Authorities involved

Agencies responsible for enforcement of federal wildlife laws in each country. (United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Environment and Climate Change Canada; Procuraduria Federal de Protección al Ambiente - México)

*Semi-Formal
network*

Brief description

This network brings together the main federal agencies in each country to identify and work on common operations, information sharing and joint training.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The network is informal and consensus-driven. It comprises and reports to the three heads of law enforcement. Some training activities are funded by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, which also hosts the NAWEG website.

Key activities

- Annual high level meeting to identify opportunities for joint collaboration.
- Intelligence sharing (formal meetings, formal networks)
- Joint capacity building (for example, computer investigations, species identification)
- Joint investigations

Key partners in the region

- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Fisheries enforcement agencies in each country
- INTERPOL National Central Bureaus
- State / provincial / territorial wildlife enforcement agencies

Website and other useful links

www.cec.org/NAWEG/about-naweg

Network focal points

As per WEN focal points contact contained on CITES webpage

China's National Interagency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICEGG)

Region and countries of the network
China

Authorities involved

Police, customs, market supervision, sea guard police, tourism supervision, quarantine inspection, transportation ministry

Formal network

Brief Description

China's National Interagency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICEGG), was established in December 2011, now including 12 Departments member from 9 Ministries or Administrations. By December 2013, provincial CITES enforcement coordination groups had been set up in all the 31 provinces of China.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The CITES Management Authority host the secretariat of the NICEGG. Each year there is at least one conference of the NICEGG, which makes decisions and then the member ministries/authorities will carry out the enforcement work. The members report to the NICEGG Conference.

Key activities

Joint enforcement operations at national level and local level. Training courses, workshops, wildlife/CITES public awareness raising campaigns.

Key partners in the region

Inter-ministry Conference Mechanism for Anti-Illegal Wildlife Trade, WWF, TRAFFIC, IFAW, WCS, WILD AID, NRDC.

Website and other useful links

Not supplied.

Network focal points

As per contact contained on CITES webpage



SADC Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG)

Region and countries of the network

South and East Africa (SADC countries including Kenya at present)

Formal network

Authorities involved

INTERPOL Southern African sub-region; government and Provincial Nature Conservation / Wildlife Authorities in each country.

Brief description

The SADC RESG is an Advisory Group composed of government representatives and invited NGOs, which convene and co-ordinate to enhance regional efforts to improve the security, viability and promote the increase of rhino and elephant populations in Southern Africa

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

Established under the SADC umbrella at the time of the SADC Regional Rhino Program and later amalgamating with the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Working Group to expand areas of concern to include serious environmental crime matters. The group should report through INTERPOL and SADC structures but this has become intermittent.

Key activities

- To develop guidelines, strategies and database for the effective and efficient protection of African rhino and elephant population.
- To assist the various conservation agencies, communities and private land-owners to minimize rhino and elephant poaching and the illegal trade in rhino horn and ivory.
- To provide advice, training and co-ordination.
- To enhance cooperation with and use and value of INTERPOL for dealing with wildlife crime

Key partners in the region

Partners mentioned above and also TRAFFIC East and Southern Africa, IUCN AfRSG and AfESG

Website and other useful links

Not supplied.

Network focal points

Renatus Kusamba renatus.kusamba@tanzaniaparks.go.tz and rtkusamba@hotmail.com
Rod Potter rodpotter@vodamail.co.za
Mike Melanzi MMelanzi@environment.gov.za
INTERPOL Regional Bureau, Harare, Zimbabwe



Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN)

Region and countries of the network

Centroamérica y República Dominicana
– Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, y República Dominicana

Authorities involved

Fiscales Ambientales, Procuradores, Ministerio Público, Ministerio del Ambiente, Autoridad CITES y de Protección Sanitaria, Fuerzas de Seguridad Fronteriza, Policía de investigación, Aduanas, Jueces/Cortes, oficiales de Pesquería.

Formal network

Brief description

ROAVIS, es una Red de Observancia y de Aplicación de la Normativa de la Vida Silvestre de Centroamérica y República Dominicana, reconocida como un foro regional para la cooperación, intercambio de las experiencias y el fortalecimiento de las instituciones que aplican la Ley.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

La Red es coordinada regionalmente por un Secretario(a), el que es nombrado cada dos años por los puntos focales de cada país. Tiene como responsabilidad coordinar y articular las actividades de la Red y definir la planificación y la búsqueda de fondos para la implementación de las actividades. Así como representarla en foros y reuniones internacionales.

Los Puntos Focales son los titulares de las fiscalías o procuradurías ambientales de los países miembros, su rol es coordinar la dirección funcional entre las autoridades nacionales de aplicación de la ley y organizarlas actividades para combatir el tráfico de especies.

Key activities

- Planificación y comunicación entre los gobiernos e intercambio de información sobre el tráfico de Vida Silvestre.
- Planificación y ejecución de operaciones nacionales, binacionales y trinacionales.
- Entrenamiento e intercambio de experiencias entre diversas autoridades para el control del comercio de especies.
- Capacitación a Jueces, Fiscales, Procuradores, policías, Aduanas.
- Educación y Divulgación sobre la importancia y beneficios de la protección de la vida Silvestre.

Key partners in the region

Departamento del Interior de los Estados Unidos (Programa de Asistencia Técnica Internacional)
Colaboradores: Departamento de Justicia EEUU
Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre EEUU
OEA-Organización de los Estados Americanos
Convención Sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (CITES)
Consorcio Internacional para combatir los Delitos Contra la Vida Silvestre

Website and other useful links

www.facebook.com/Roavis
www.roavis.net
App móvil Vida Silvestre – www.vidasilvestre.net
info@roavis.net

Network focal points

Punto focal primario: Lorena Alfonsina Fernández
lorenaalfonsinafernandez@yahoo.com
Otro (cc): Christina Kish christina_kish@ios.doi.gov
Fatima Vanegas Zuniga fatima.vanegas@cooperacion-doi.org



South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

Region and countries of the network

South Asia region, SAWEN Member Countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Authorities involved

Police, customs, market supervision, sea guard police, tourism supervision, quarantine inspection, transportation ministry

Formal organization

Brief description

South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) is a legitimate intergovernmental wildlife law enforcement support body launched in 2011 with aim to combat wildlife crime in South Asia through regional cooperation and collaboration having eight member countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It focuses on policy harmonization; institutional capacity strengthening through knowledge and intelligence sharing; and collaboration with regional and international partners to enhance wildlife law enforcement in the member countries. SAWEN operates its activities from the Secretariat based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

General Assembly is the apex body for policy level decision. Executive Committee composed of at least all the focal persons has the mandate to provide policy level and executive level strategic direction to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will be headed by the Secretary General and has the support team for operation of the activities. The Secretariat performs activities in cooperation with focal persons and in collaboration with other similar, donor/ partner organizations.

Key activities

Aligning with the objectives, SAWEN organizes, supports and coordinates to carry out the capacity building activities, regional meeting of law enforcement officials, documentation, cooperation and collaboration with similar agencies. SAWEN will be organizing a side event during CITES CoP 18 on 22 August 2019 -which will be third in a row since CITES CoP 16 in Thailand

Key activities (continued)

Recently SAWEN and Global Tiger Forum (GTF)- an intergovernmental international organization of tiger range countries- inked a MoU for collaborative activities. Training to customs officials, investigation agency officials and armed police force officials of Nepal; follow up regional workshop related to wildlife prosecution by inviting SAWEN member countries prosecutors and judges; workshop inviting Bhutan, India and Nepal officials to discuss on

Key partners in the region

INTERPOL, GTF, UNODC, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) Nepal, WWF Nepal, the World Bank.

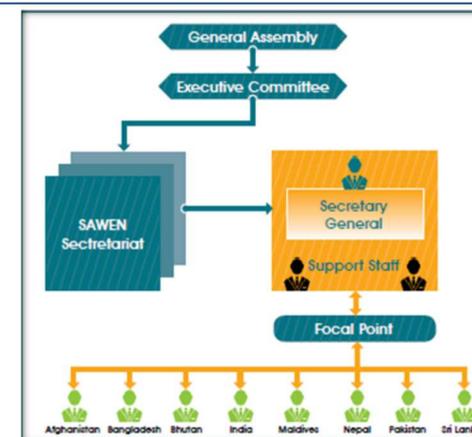
Website and other useful links

www.sawen.org

Network focal points

As per WEN focal points contact contained on CITES webpage

Other Network information— Structure



SUDWEN – Rede Sudamericana para la erradicación del tráfico de especies silvestres, conservación y protección de la biodiversidad en América del Sur.

Region and countries of the network

Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú y Venezuela (los otros países no están incluidos en el documento de creación de la SUDWEN, pero hay arreglos para incluirlos tan pronto como SUDWEN comience a trabajar).

Authorities involved

Policía (federal, estatal y local), finanzas federales y estatales (aduanas), judicatura (federal y estatal), servicio de fiscalía (federal y estatal), IBAMA e ICMBIO (autoridades CITES).

*Semi-Formal
network*

Brief description

SUDWEN nació después de una reunión facilitada por Freeland y el Consulado de los Estados Unidos en Sao Paulo. Esa reunión tuvo lugar en la sede del Ministerio Público de São Paulo, entre el 9 y el 12 de septiembre de 2014. Después de 4 días de discusiones y exposiciones se formalizó la participación de los países descritos anteriormente (adjunto), cuyos representantes estuvieron presentes, así como representantes de la Fiscalía y Finanzas (tanto estatales como federales).

En los días 7 y 8 de mayo de 2019 se celebró una nueva reunión (Taller - Legislación y tráfico de vida silvestre), facilitada por Freeland y el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos. Esta reunión tuvo lugar en la sede del Ministerio Público de São Paulo. Después de los dos días de discusiones y exposiciones, se formalizó la carta de São Paulo (adjunta), que contiene entendimientos procesales, para facilitar la acción de la policía, así como para armonizar la acción del Ministerio Público y el Poder Judicial, especialmente para superar las dificultades de hacer cumplir la legislación que se opone a sanciones muy leves. Participantes: AJUFE - Asociación de Jueces Federales de Brasil, ABRAMPA - Asociación Brasileña de Miembros del Servicio de Fiscalía, USDOJ - Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos, USFS - Servicio Forestal Americano, REDEMPA - Red Latinoamericana de Fiscales Ambientales, Jueces Federales y fiscales estatales, fiscales federales, policías civiles federales y estatales, analistas ambientales de IBAMA e ICMBio - Instituto Chico Mendes para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

Como SUDWEN no existe realmente, en la práctica no existe una estructura formal. Ella está representada por mí y por el Presidente de REDEMPA, ya que este sitio alberga a SUDWEN. Todavía existe la base de datos disponible en el centro de inteligencia de la Fiscalía de São Paulo.

Key activities

Como se informó, SUDWEN no ha tomado ninguna acción práctica.

Key partners in the region

<https://www.freeland.org.br/> ; <http://www.mpsp.mp.br> ; <http://www.mpf.mp.br/> ; <https://abrampa.org.br> ; <https://www.ajufe.org.br/> ; <http://www.icmbio.gov.br> ; <https://www.ibama.gov.br/> ; <https://receita.economia.gov.br/> ; <https://portal.fazenda.sp.gov.br/> ; <http://www.pf.gov.br/> ; <https://www.policiacivil.sp.gov.br> ; <http://www3.policiamilitar.sp.gov.br> ; <http://portal.cfmv.gov.br/>

Website and other useful links

<https://www.redempambiental.org/rede-latinoamericana-de-ministerio-publico-ambiental>

Network focal points

As per WEN focal points contact contained on CITES webpage