Networks focused on combating wildlife crime with varying degrees of formality and organization have been developed across the world. In most cases these networks are known as Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs). These networks can play an important role in facilitating increased collaboration and coordination to combat wildlife crime.

The ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) are a tool to support the establishment of a new WEN, or the strengthening of existing WENs at regional and sub-regional levels. It outlines the key considerations in the development of a new WEN, and provide a self-assessment tool for use by an existing WEN to assist the WEN in evaluating its level of maturity and/or operational performance and identify areas that could be strengthened.

The Guidelines provide a high-level overview of what a well performing WEN would look like across the five categories of “members”, “governance”, “finance”, “support” and “deliverables”.

The Self-Assessment Tool is organized in two parts:

**Guideline 1** Establishing a new WEN outlines a checklist of the key considerations to be taken into account when establishing a new WEN, including associated actions, advice and suggestions on “how to do it”.

**Guideline 2** Strengthening an existing WEN provides an Evaluation Matrix, to allow a WEN to measure its progress, maturity and capacity, and provides suggested actions to further its development.

Accessing the ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)

The Guidelines are available at: https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc/tools.php and are available in English, French and Spanish.
What are the main goals of a well-established WEN?

The main goals of a WEN are to:

- Build cooperation between agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement;
- Facilitate standardized regional approaches;
- Support and encourage coordinated efforts and participation of Member States in operations combating wildlife crime;
- Share experience, skills and information;
- Exchange intelligence and risk data;
- Support capacity building efforts;
- Ensure all actions, products and deliverables of the WEN are aimed at more effectively combating wildlife crime.

Overview of WEN concept

Request for Support

Wildlife Enforcement Networks and Member States are invited to draw upon the ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs). Requests for support should be directed to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat.

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