



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/042

Geneva, 8 August 2019

CONCERNING:

Wildlife crime linked to the Internet

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.93, paragraph d), on *Combating wildlife cybercrime*, directing the Secretariat to:
 - d) *engage with INTERPOL on efforts to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet, and invite INTERPOL to consider establishing capacity, at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore, to support the efforts of Parties to combat such crimes, and to develop guidelines for Parties on how to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet more effectively*
2. The Secretariat is pleased to inform Parties that INTERPOL has established such capacity at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore. Parties requiring investigative support, criminal intelligence analysis support, or advice and guidance on how to address wildlife crime linked to the Internet, are encouraged to reach out to INTERPOL. Further details on the type of support available is provided in Annex 1 to this Notification.
3. National agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement are encouraged to get in touch with their INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)¹ to request support for the investigation of wildlife crime linked to the Internet from the INTERPOL IGCI in Singapore. This communication with the NCB should be copied to the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, using the following email address: environmentalcrime@interpol.int
4. The Secretariat also take this opportunity to inform Parties that INTERPOL is finalizing the development of *Guidelines on how to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet*, as anticipated by Decision 17.93, paragraph d). These guidelines include matters such as the basic concepts of online crime investigations, open source investigations, and the gathering, requesting and preservation of evidence, and will provide a practical tool to law enforcement officers on how to investigate cases of wildlife crime linked to the Internet.

¹ <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/Member-countries>

Annex

INTERPOL support to member countries to address wildlife crime linked to the Internet**1 ACCESS TO SUPPORT FROM INTERPOL**

INTERPOL have a unique centralized information system to process requests from member countries. This information system can be accessed as described below.

1.1 Requests from national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement to INTERPOL

Access to support requires communication between national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement and their INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) . The authority requesting support should communicate to the NCB that support is required from INTERPOL concerning the investigation of wildlife crime linked to the Internet, outlining the nature of the support required. This communication with the NCB should be copied to the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, using the following email address: environmentalcrime@interpol.int

All criminal data to be entered and processed in the INTERPOL Information System (IIS) must come from an official source. In the case of member countries, the source must be the INTERPOL NCB of each country, or a government agency approved to engage directly with INTERPOL by the NCB. This process ensures the provenance of the data in the entire system.

NCBs have direct access to all INTERPOL databases and the access level required to add data to the IIS on behalf of their country.

Once the information is officially recorded in the IIS, INTERPOL's Global Wildlife Enforcement Team officers can proceed to process and analyze the information received and provide support to member countries as required.

Where acknowledgment and authorization has been received from the NCB, direct contact can be established between the relevant national agency requiring support, and INTERPOL's Global Wildlife Enforcement Team.

1.2 Intelligence from INTERPOL to member countries

As inter-governmental organization with 194-member countries, INTERPOL is uniquely placed with broad access to criminal data from different countries and therefore able to proactively produce and provide analytical reports to support member countries, especially about threats and criminal trends.

In such cases INTERPOL sends all intelligence produced to the NCB, who then identify the national law enforcement unit best placed to receive the information and respond as required. Alternatively, where authorization was received from the NCB, the required information will be communicated directly to the requesting agency, with a copy to the NCB.

After acknowledgment and authorization from the NCB, the following direct contact can be undertaken to facilitate swift interaction between INTERPOL's support teams and national law enforcement agencies.

2 DIRECT INTERPOL SUPPORT

INTERPOL can provide support to national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement concerning its general capabilities, which is available to all INTERPOL member states, such as INTERPOL Notices, diffusions, databases, forensic support, trainings, and all other services and police capabilities.

More specifically, the INTERPOL's Global Wildlife Enforcement Team can provide support to national agencies in addressing wildlife crime linked to the Internet, through five core capabilities:

2.1 Information and intelligence sharing

The aim of sharing analytical reports which identify trends and threats is to disrupt cyber threats, identify potential attribution and notify countries involved.

INTERPOL also receives information from external sources such as civil society and other non-law enforcement agencies that could be disseminated through the NCB's channel with the goal to directly contact the appropriate law enforcement body. In such cases, INTERPOL will note that the information was received from external sources, INTERPOL is not the source of the data and INTERPOL has not independently verified the information contained within.

2.2 Tailored support and mentoring on best practices

Wildlife crime linked to the Internet provides a varied range of typologies and modus operandi to be considered when conducting the investigation. INTERPOL's criminal analysts can provide support as well as mentoring on best practices regarding intelligence processing and modern investigation techniques and ways to move forward, considering the specificities of each case, particularly where the platforms used by the sellers, buyers, individuals or companies involved are in different countries, demanding international cooperation.

2.3 Operational Support

Investigative Support Teams (ISTs) can be deployed by INTERPOL upon request to provide in-country support to investigations. This could also include support to enable coordination meetings between member states to facilitate regional or global investigations jointly undertaken by national law enforcement agencies in different countries.

2.4 Tailored capacity building according to member countries needs

INTERPOL can assist member countries in identifying areas where investigation skills or intelligence processing and management regarding online crime investigations can be further strengthened.

2.5 Global network

Upon receipt of a valid request for support from any national law enforcement agency via the NCB, INTERPOL can as may be needed facilitate support through a network of experts available throughout the 194 INTERPOL member states. INTERPOL's Global Wildlife Enforcement Team can facilitate opportunities for international cooperation.

APPENDIX 1 – Flowchart
 (English only / seulement en anglais / únicamente en inglés)

