



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/075

Geneva, 19 October 2022

CONCERNING:

Wildlife crime linked to the Internet

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 18.81 on *Combating wildlife crime linked to the Internet*, encouraging Parties to, as may be needed, draw upon the capacity established at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore, for advice and assistance in their efforts to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet.
2. Parties are herewith informed that this capacity was relocated to the INTERPOL General Secretariat (IPSG) in Lyon, France.
3. National agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement requiring investigative support, criminal intelligence analysis support, or advice and guidance on how to address wildlife crime linked to the Internet, are encouraged to get in touch with their INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)¹. The NCB will assist to establish contact with the IPSG in Lyon for support to be provided. Communication with the NCB should be copied to the IPSG using the following email address: environmentalcrime@interpol.int.
4. Further details on the type of support available is provided in Annex 1 to this Notification.
5. This Notification replaces Notification No. 2019/042 of 8 August 2019.

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

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 its 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 the INTERPOL General Secretariat 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 Environmental Security Programme (ENS) 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 Environmental Security Programme.

1.2 Intelligence from INTERPOL to member countries

As inter-governmental organization with 195-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 Environmental Security Programme 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

Operational Support Teams (OSTs) 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 195 INTERPOL member states. INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme can facilitate opportunities for international cooperation.