

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Strategic matters

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) on *Compliance and enforcement*, the Conference of the Parties:

DIRECTS the Secretariat to pursue closer international liaison between the Convention's institutions, national enforcement agencies, and existing intergovernmental bodies, particularly the World Customs Organization, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and ICPO-INTERPOL.
3. The Secretariat has reported previously to the Conference of the Parties on its efforts to engender closer communication, collaboration and cooperation between the international, intergovernmental bodies that have a mandate from their member States to engage in or support wildlife law enforcement.
4. In November 2009, specialist staff from ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the CITES Secretariat came together at UNODC headquarters in Vienna, Austria, under the chairmanship of the CITES Secretariat, to begin a process that resulted in the creation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).
5. ICCWC is a collaborative effort by the five intergovernmental organizations to bring coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the subregional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defence of natural resources.
6. The Consortium was formally launched in November 2010 during the International Tiger Forum, hosted in Saint Petersburg by H.E. Vladimir Putin, then Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, when the final signatures were placed on a Letter of Understanding between the heads of each of the partner agencies¹.
7. The Secretariat reported the launch of ICCWC at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011) and a copy of the Letter of Understanding was included in Annex 1 of document SC61 Doc. 30, while an information note about the Consortium was provided in Annex 2.
8. It has been agreed that the Chairmanship of the Consortium should rest with the Secretary-General of CITES. The activities of ICCWC are coordinated by a Senior Experts Group, which is also currently chaired by the CITES Secretariat. As Chair of ICCWC, the CITES Secretariat has been active in seeking to mobilise funds and in-kind support for ICCWC, including for projects to be managed by the partners.
9. Since its launch, a number of activities have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC, as highlighted below:
 - i) Its members have individually and jointly provided input to a range of relevant events such as: a national multi-agency law enforcement workshop in Viet Nam; the launch of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement

¹ See <http://www.cites.org/eng/proq/iccwc.php>.

Network; and the first Technical Committee meeting of the Agreement of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats;

- ii) The first *International workshop on establishing a network of controlled delivery units for forest and wildlife law enforcement* was led by WCO for ICCWC from 7 to 9 December 2011, in Shanghai, China. This workshop brought together 50 representatives from Customs, police, prosecution and specialized agencies from 18 countries in Africa and Asia. Substantial financial support for the workshop was obtained through a World Bank grant from funds provided by bilateral donors to the PROFOR (Program on Forests) trust fund. UNODC also provided funds and all ICCWC partners made significant contributions in kind²;
 - iii) In compliance with Decision 15.48 on *Asian big cats*, a seminar on tiger crime for heads of police and Customs was held on 14 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, through financial support from the European Commission and the World Bank. This seminar was led by ICPO-INTERPOL for ICCWC and was attended by representatives of 13 tiger range States and all five ICCWC partners³. The final report of the seminar was made available to all CITES Parties⁴, and was individually sent to the ministers responsible for police, Customs and environment in tiger range States, accompanied by a letter from the Chair of ICCWC encouraging them to take note of the outcomes of the seminar and to continue their efforts to safeguard this species;
 - iv) Whilst the primary goal of ICCWC is building long-term capacity amongst enforcement authorities, the Consortium also delivered a real-time response to incidents of significant elephant poaching in Cameroon in February 2012⁵; and
 - v) The *ICCWC wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit*, which countries can use to review their current response to such crimes, was developed and launched⁶.
10. More detailed information with regard to the activities listed in paragraph 9 above can be found in documents SC61 Doc. 30 and SC62 Doc. 14.7.
 11. The *ICCWC wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit* mentioned in paragraph 9.v) above was commissioned by UNODC in collaboration with its ICCWC partners. It is primarily designed to assist government officials working in wildlife and forestry administration, Customs and other relevant enforcement agencies, and the judiciary to: conduct a comprehensive analysis of their existing measures to protect and monitor wildlife and forest products, and of their capacity to respond to unlawful exploitation of those resources; and to identify areas for improvement. The toolkit, which was launched in July 2012 at a SC62 side event⁷, is currently available in English, French and Spanish.
 12. On the occasion of the launch of the toolkit, ICCWC also announced that it had secured USD 600,000 for 2012 to strengthen national enforcement capacities to fight wildlife crime through the World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF). At the time of writing (October 2012), several other ICCWC projects were at different stages of negotiation and the Secretariat will provide an oral update at the present meeting.
 13. The DGF funds will primarily be used to pilot the ICCWC toolkit in a number of countries. This will involve the undertaking of a series of national analysis in cooperation with the government of the pilot country, utilizing the *ICCWC wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit*. The analysis will be carried out with the assistance of experienced consultants and government's representatives, supported by UNODC and ICCWC staff. The report resulting from each national analysis will identify weaknesses and needs in the national response to wildlife and forest offences. These reports will then be used to draft specific work plans for national capacity building and technical assistance. The Secretariat requests any Parties that may be interested in receiving support to undertake an analysis using the Toolkit to contact it. It will then liaise with UNODC, which will be taking the lead in implementing this project. The Secretariat anticipates that there may be a substantial demand for such assistance and advises Parties that it may not be possible to respond immediately to all requests.

² See document SC62 Doc. 14.7.

³ See document SC62 Doc. 43.

⁴ See document SC62 Doc. 43, Annex 1.

⁵ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120228_elephant_cameroon.php.

⁶ See http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/pub/Wildlife_Crime_Analytic_Toolkit.pdf.

⁷ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120725_ICCWC_toolkit.php.

14. Further to the above, ICCWC is in the process of developing indicators to assess effective enforcement and, it will make them available to the Parties when they are finalized.
15. The Secretariat is delighted to inform Parties that it has recruited a junior professional staff member for a short-term post to support the work of ICCWC. This has been possible through funds made available by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Final remarks

16. The Secretariat is encouraged by the level of commitment to tackle wildlife crime that has been demonstrated by all ICCWC partners, including from each Executive Head. The Secretariat would like to express its particular appreciation to the former President of the World Bank, Mr Robert Zoellick, for his strong personal commitment to ICCWC. It is also very pleasing to note the warm welcome that has been expressed by Parties and the conservation community to the establishment of ICCWC.
17. Among its many activities, ICCWC will continue to raise awareness of wildlife crime amongst the judiciary, politicians, diplomats, policy-makers and decision-makers; so that they may better understand why this subject deserves to be a high priority for law enforcement and why they should devote further human and financial resources to it.
18. The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted a Resolution on *Crime prevention and criminal justice responses against illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora* during its meeting in Vienna, in April 2011⁸. In this Resolution, the Economic and Social Council expresses concern about the involvement of organized criminal groups in the trafficking of endangered species and recognizes the work being conducted at the international level by ICCWC.
19. The threat posed by wildlife crime was brought to the attention of the United Nations Security Council by the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr Yury Fedotov, in his briefing on *Emerging challenges to international peace and security* in November 2011⁹ and the current UNODC campaign on transnational organized crime also specifically recognizes the role of ICCWC¹⁰.
20. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, has recognized and emphasized the importance of effective international cooperation among international organizations in combating illicit trafficking in wildlife in paragraph 203 of its outcome document, *The Future We Want*¹¹. ICCWC provides the perfect platform for effective cooperation among intergovernmental bodies that have a mandate from their member States to engage in or support wildlife law enforcement. The consortium will usher in a new era where perpetrators of serious wildlife crimes will face a strong and coordinated response.
21. ICCWC is now operational and is taking the fight against wildlife crime to another level, through data sharing, analysis, intelligence, enforcement techniques and resources. The Secretariat is convinced that the Consortium is the most appropriate and effective vehicle for bringing more coordinated support and technical assistance to Parties, and their enforcement agencies, in their efforts to combat the apparently increasing level of crime and the highly organized and sophisticated criminal syndicates behind it.
22. However, ICCWC needs the ongoing support of the donor community to achieve its goals. The recognition of the seriousness of wildlife crime amongst the international community, politicians and policy-makers is clearly necessary. Such recognition must be matched by budgetary allocations and human resources at the national and international levels.

Recommendation

23. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note this report.

⁸ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundrv/2011/20110421_res_UNCCPCJ.php.

⁹ See <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/speeches/security-council-briefing-23-nov-2011.html>.

¹⁰ See http://www.unodc.org/documents/toc/factsheets/TOC12_fs_environment_EN_HIRES.pdf.

¹¹ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120627_rio+20.php and <http://uncsd.iisd.org/quest-articles/cites-from-stockholm-in-%E2%80%98to-rio20-back-to-the-future/>.