

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.52 on *The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* directed to Parties, as follows:

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) *make full use of the 'International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime' to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their own law-enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime;*
 - b) *draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the auspices of ICCWC, rooted in the best data and case studies available, and backed by in-depth analysis, to inform their decision making and in support of the development appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime;*
 - c) *provide funding support to ICCWC for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, to ensure that it continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community; and*
 - d) *provide continued external financial support to the Secretariat, to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer.*
3. Further, in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement*, in paragraph 8 b), the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to:
 - b) *submit a report on activities that have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC at each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consult with the Standing Committee on the development of the ICCWC Programme of Work to ensure CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed;*
 4. As required by the Resolution, the Secretariat at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee (SC69, Geneva, November 2017; and SC70, Sochi, October 2018), reported on the activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC,¹ the collaborative effort between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 2010. This included an update on the front-line support and activities conducted by

¹ See SC69 Doc. 31.2: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/E-SC69-31-02.pdf> and SC70 Doc. 30.2 <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/70/E-SC70-30-02.pdf>

the Consortium in the intersessional period, and regarding Decision 17.52, paragraphs c) and d), the announcement of significant funding² towards the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020.³ These generous contributions enable the Consortium to scale up significantly the level of support that it can provide to Parties, and recognises the central role of ICCWC in building long-term capacity among enforcement authorities dealing with wildlife crime, by providing them with the tools, services and technical support they need to fight organised crime and corruption. The Secretariat and other partners of the Consortium sincerely thank the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, for their strong support to the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, and to Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States for their support to the ICCWC Support Officer post at the CITES Secretariat.

5. To ensure that the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme aligns with CITES priorities and mandate, including the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 8.b), the Secretariat worked closely with its ICCWC partners to ensure the work plan developed includes and responds to relevant Decisions and Resolutions adopted at CoP17. The Secretariat will continue to work in this manner during the upcoming intersessional period, and again collaborate closely with its ICCWC partners to ensure that the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by CoP18 are incorporated into the activities to be conducted by ICCWC in the implementation of its Strategic Programme.
6. The Consortium has, since CoP17, supported the Parties implementing the Convention by convening regional and global meetings for wildlife law enforcement officers, coordinating global operations and targeted investigations, enhancing the capacity of institutions along the law enforcement chain to ensure wildlife criminals are brought to justice, implementing tools strengthening responses to wildlife crime and providing essential support services.
7. The delivery of the Consortium's Strategic Programme is overseen by its Senior Experts Group (SEG), chaired by the Secretariat, and in which each of the five partner organizations is represented. The SEG identifies priorities for the implementation of the Strategic Programme, takes decisions on initiatives to support, and oversees overall effectiveness of delivery. ICCWC will continue to pursue a broad range of well-targeted activities through its Strategic Programme to build law enforcement capacity and improve geographic and cross-sectoral cooperation to combat wildlife crime.
8. The dedicated ICCWC web-portal,⁴ maintained in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 8 c), was updated in January 2017, June 2017, and January 2018. It is available in English, French and Spanish on the CITES website. At the time of writing, a major revision and update of the ICCWC web-portal was ongoing. This will facilitate access to the latest information on the Consortium's activities, as well as tools and services available through its partner organizations. The update is expected to be finalized prior to the present meeting, and the Secretariat will provide an oral update at the present meeting.
9. The present document is structured in accordance with the focus areas of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. It provides information on the implementation of Decision 17.52, and the activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since CoP17. The Secretariat also reports in more details on the ICCWC contribution to CoP17 Decisions and Resolutions in other documents prepared for the present meeting, as it relates to the different agenda items to be discussed.

Focus Area 1: Provide institutional support and strengthen cooperation and coordination

10. A large number of activities were carried out under the auspices of ICCWC between CoP17 and SC69. A meeting of the ICCWC executive heads, their delegates, and SEG members was held (September 2016, alongside CoP17) to ensure the Consortium's strategy is aligned with key priorities and issues of concern to the member States of each ICCWC partner organization, as well as to review progress to date and discuss the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme.⁵ The Second Global Meeting of Wildlife

² https://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/Fight_against_wildlife_crime_gets_a_USD20_million_boost_29112017

³ *The ICCWC Strategic Programme for 2016-2020 is a comprehensive strategy designed to strengthen national criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime. It sets out a range of practical activities in six key areas through which the Consortium is uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to combatting illegal trade in wildlife by bringing together the diverse technical expertise, regional networks and on-the-ground experience of its five partner organizations. See https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC_Strategic_Programme_2016-2020_final.pdf*

⁴ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>

⁵ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Global_consortium_strengthens_efforts_to_tackle_wildlife_crime_24092016

Enforcement Networks (WENs)⁶ was convened in September 2016 and a dedicated page for WENs on the ICCWC web-portal was developed.⁷ Support was provided by ICCWC to Operation Thunderbird from January to February 2017.⁸ The CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force met in April 2017.⁹ ICCWC organized regional workshops in the Bahamas (July 2016)¹⁰ and Barbados (May 2017) to discuss the potential development of a network to combat wildlife crime in the Caribbean (Carib-WEN) and support towards the development of the network. Discussions were also held with the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Global Wildlife Programme (GWP),¹¹ managed by the World Bank, to ensure effective coordination and collaboration between ongoing initiatives and to explore potential synergies to synchronize and leverage the support of ICCWC to promote effective wildlife law enforcement in the different GWP national projects. A detailed report on these activities is included in document SC69 Doc. 31.2.

11. Activities delivered under the auspices of ICCWC between SC69 and SC70 included the convening of the meeting of representatives of Parties involved in the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) (May 2018);¹² the convening of a back-to-back Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meeting for NIAP Parties;¹³ and support to Operation Thunderstorm (May 2018),¹⁴ the second in the 'Thunder' series of operations supported by the Consortium under the ICCWC Strategic Programme. A detailed report on these activities is included in document SC70 Doc. 30.2.
12. UNODC, in close cooperation with ICCWC, convened an Africa-Asia Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 21 November 2018. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen law enforcement responses to combat wildlife crime and enhance Africa-Asia cooperation on the interception, investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime through the identification of risk indicators, the promotion of exchange of information, and financial investigation best practices. The meeting brought together over 100 officers from police, customs, prosecution authorities, and financial investigation units of 20 countries and territories affected by wildlife crime in Africa and Asia.¹⁵ The outcomes of the meeting will support participating member States in their planning of future activities to address wildlife crime, and will be used by ICCWC and its individual partner agencies when planning future targeted activities, such as a WCO-led operation that is scheduled to take place in 2019 with support from ICCWC partners. The Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, is grateful to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its generous contribution to the ICCWC Strategic Programme; and to the European Union and the United States of America, for their generous contribution to the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crimes, which enabled the organization of the meeting.
13. In addition, since SC70, ICCWC has continued to support the development of Carib-WEN as reported in paragraph 10 of the present document. On 6 December 2018, UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), held a side event to raise awareness of the network among Caribbean government stakeholders in the margins of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region. At the time of writing, UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, is

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https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Wildlife_enforcement_networks_meet_to_further_strengthen_collaboration_to_combat_industrial_scale_crime_03102016

7 https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Action/report_second_global_meeting_WENs

8 *The operation involved police, customs, border agencies, environment, wildlife and forestry officials from 45 countries and territories and resulted in over 1,400 seizures and the identification of at least 898 suspects, 390 investigations, over 88 prosecutions. The information and intelligence resulting from the operation was analysed by INTERPOL and the product of this analysis has informed further national, regional and international enforcement efforts. For more information, see <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-022>*

9 *Further details on this activity as well as the recommendations of the Task Force can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 88. See also https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/cites-task-force-agrees-on-strategies-to-combat-illegal-trade-in-tortoises-and-freshwater-turtles_28042017*

10 *In document CoP17 Doc. 14.2, the Secretariat reported that ICCWC was working closely with the USFWS to develop a regional meeting in the Caribbean to discuss the potential establishment of a Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN). See paragraph 18 of CoP17 Doc. 14.2 on ICCWC available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/WorkingDocs/E-CoP17-14-02.pdf>*

11 <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/global-wildlife-program>

12 https://cites.org/eng/news/key-countries-meet-to-further-strengthen-measures-to-tackle-ivory-trafficking_07052018

13 *Further details on this activity as well as the recommended actions concluded and agreed at the meeting can be found in document SC70 Doc. 27.4.*

14 *Operation Thunderstorm targeted the criminals and global networks behind wildlife crime, and involved police, customs, border, wildlife, forestry and environment agencies from 92 countries and territories. It resulted in 1,974 seizures, the identification of over 1,400 suspects and triggered investigations, arrests, and prosecutions worldwide. The information gathered during the operation will also be analysed by INTERPOL, and as appropriate, channelled to relevant authorities and used in ongoing and planned activities of the Consortium. For additional details, see <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-022>*

15 *The meeting included representatives from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong SAR, India, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia*

continuing to work closely with member States in the region and a number of partners to further progress this work, as well as to identify capacity-building needs of countries in the region.

14. At SC70, the Secretariat reported that the Consortium, based on the outcomes agreed at the 2nd Global Meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs),¹⁶ was exploring the possibility of developing guidelines for the establishment of new WENs and strengthening existing WENs. The Consortium has since SC70 secured financial support for the implementation of this activity, and thanks the United States of America for the generous funding support provided, including funds to convene the 3rd Global meeting of the WENs in the margins of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18, Colombo, 2019). The Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the need for such guidelines. To ensure that a comprehensive assessment is conducted, and to facilitate the provision of information, an online questionnaire was developed and all WENs, or similar regional or sub-regional structures with a function of facilitating cooperative activities among States to combat wildlife crime, have been invited to complete the questionnaire and disseminate it to their member States and interested stakeholders in their respective regions. Should the assessment conclude that such guidelines are needed and would be beneficial for WEN member States and assist Parties to combat wildlife crime, the Consortium will commission their development. It is anticipated that any guidelines developed will be ready to be launched at the 3rd Global meeting of the WENs. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on this matter at the present meeting.
15. The Secretariat has also continued to update the directory of WEN focal points available on the CITES website,¹⁷ and encourages WENs to inform the Secretariat when current details need to be updated.

Focus Area 2: Facilitate analysis of national capacity to strengthen law enforcement responses and help guide investment

16. At the time of writing, the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*¹⁸ is completed in 10 countries (Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam). In addition, the Toolkit is currently at different phases of implementation in 15 countries (Angola, Bahamas, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guyana, Namibia, Senegal, Togo and Uganda).¹⁹
17. Where Toolkit implementation is completed, the report and recommendations resulting from the report are presented and launched during a high-level meeting with all relevant government agencies, as well as at a multi-stakeholders meeting. These meetings provide the opportunity to discuss the findings and recommendations with governments and to plan for potential support. Activities to support the implementation of the resulting recommendations are ongoing, where possible. At SC69, the Secretariat reported that one of the gaps identified by the Consortium was that ICCWC in the past, due to the limited availability of funds, was often not in a position to provide the necessary support to requests from Parties for assistance with the implementation of specific recommendations resulting from the Toolkit implementation. Thanks to funds generously made available by donors for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, the Consortium is in the process of scaling up its support to Parties to implement the recommendations resulting from the Toolkit implementation. Information document SC69 Inf. 38²⁰ was prepared for SC69 containing examples of the support provided by ICCWC to a number of key recommendations of the ICCWC Toolkit in Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. An updated information document providing additional details will be prepared for the present meeting.
18. Parties that have implemented the Toolkit are encouraged to mobilize resources and make dedicated efforts to implement the recommendations that result from Toolkit implementation. These Parties are also encouraged to, where needed, liaise with relevant Parties, donors or international and national organizations to request implementation support. Similarly, Parties, donors and relevant international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives, programmes and activities in the different countries concerned are

¹⁶ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/WENs/Report_2nd_Global_WEN_meeting-final.pdf

¹⁷ https://cites.org/eng/resources/enforcement_focal_points

¹⁸ https://cites.org/common/resources/pub/ICCWC_Toolkit_v2_english.pdf

¹⁹ Additional details on the status of the implementation in the different countries can be found on the following link:
<https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Action>

²⁰ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/inf/E-SC69-Inf-38.pdf>

encouraged to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with the recommendations of the Toolkit.

19. The implementation of the *ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime*²¹ is now included as an integral part of the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. As reported at SC70, combining ICCWC Indicator Framework implementation with ICCWC Toolkit implementation facilitates the gathering of baseline data and information that will further support and be used during the Toolkit analysis. The implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework further empowers countries that are implementing the Toolkit, by using a standardized approach, to facilitate measurement and monitoring of the effectiveness of its national law enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime over time. This will enable a better understanding of how the activities conducted as a result of the Toolkit implementation contributed to strengthening national responses to wildlife and forest crime, and facilitate the review of responses over time to ensure that they remain effective, or can be adapted where needed to respond to new or emerging trends.
20. This approach is being actively rolled out, and will contribute to the implementation of Decision 17.52, paragraph a), and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 13 i). A pre-meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework in Uganda was held back-to-back with the initial meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit (April 2018). The workshop for the implementation of the Indicator Framework was conducted on 6-8 November 2018 and determined the baseline upon which Uganda will be able to measure the impact of its future efforts. The implementation also enabled the identification of priority areas that require attention based on the rating that was established for each outcome. At the time of writing, the workshop report is being prepared and will be presented to relevant government agencies in due course. The findings will also direct the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit in Uganda. As recommended in the guidelines for the ICCWC Indicator Framework, a future implementation of the Indicator Framework in the country is envisaged in approximately 24 months and will enable the country to measure the impact of its efforts against the current baseline and to continue to focus available resources and efforts where they are most needed. Another pre-meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework was held in Namibia on 29 November 2018 back-to-back with the initial meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. The workshop for the implementation of the Indicator Framework in Namibia is tentatively scheduled in March 2019. At the time of writing, the Consortium is also in discussions with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya to facilitate the implementation of the Indicator Framework.
21. As reported at SC70, ICCWC through UNODC is working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to arrange a pre-meeting for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework in Angola, which is anticipated to be followed by the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit, as well as the potential implementation in other GWP countries. The Secretariat encourages GWP countries, to the extent possible, to pursue the implementation of ICCWC tools and services such as the ICCWC Toolkit and ICCWC Indicator Framework through their respective national programmes, in support of strengthening national responses to wildlife crime.
22. The ICCWC Indicator Framework also continues to be available as an independent self-assessment tool that will enable a Party to monitor performance over time and to identify any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses to addressing wildlife crime. The Secretariat highlighted at SC70 that it has developed a guide for use by Parties on the steps to be taken to implement the Indicator Framework. This *step by step guide* is available on the ICCWC web-portal.²²
23. As noted above, the implementation of Decision 17.52, paragraph a), has been supported in several countries, with advanced planning underway for additional countries. The Secretariat believes that this matter can be further pursued in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 13 i), and therefore recommends that Decision 17.52 paragraph a) be deleted. The Secretariat continues to welcome feedback from Parties that have implemented the ICCWC Toolkit or Indicator Framework in the interest of ensuring that Parties' needs are addressed and to further enhance available ICCWC tools and services.

Focus Area 3: Develop or enhance criminal justice and preventive capacity across institutions

24. At the time of writing, UNODC is progressing the development of an *Integrity Guide for Wildlife Management Agencies*, in support of the implementation of Decision 17.83, paragraph a). The Secretariat reports in more

²¹ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/E-ICCWC-Ind-FW-Assessment_guidelines_and_template_clickable-final.pdf

²² https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC_IF_Step-by-Step_guide-final.pdf

detail on this in document CoP18 Doc. 32 on *Enforcement matters*. It is expected that the guidelines will be ready to be launched at the present meeting.

25. As reported at SC69 and SC70, the ICCWC *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme*²³ has been successfully piloted by the World Bank in Kenya (June 2017) and the United Republic of Tanzania (November 2017). Based on the lessons learned from these two training interventions, the training programme materials were further developed and refined. Further mobilization of the training programme through the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme is planned, as reported upon in more detail in document CoP18 Doc. 32.
26. In addition, at the time of writing, the Consortium is exploring the implementation of activities to assist Parties to combat corruption as part of the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, and in accordance with Resolution Conf. 17.6 on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*. Principally through the implementation of targeted national anti-corruption programmes in two priority African countries to identify and prioritize corruption risks, design corruption risk mitigation strategies, place medium term mentors to support the implementation of key measures to mitigate corruption linked to wildlife crime, and the production of a *Compendium of Good Practices* that will inform national consultations.
27. At SC70, the Secretariat reported on the development by the WCO of an *Environmental Guide for Frontline Customs Officers*. The Guide includes a section on CITES and wildlife crime, developed in close cooperation with ICCWC partners and funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Guide will be a restricted document for customs officers, and will identify concealment methods used for different trafficked items, and assist customs officers to profile and identify illicit items that cross international borders, including wildlife. It is expected that the guide will be finalized by the end of 2019. In addition, under the auspices of project INAMA,²⁴ the WCO has conducted complementary activities to the ICCWC Strategic Programme.²⁵
28. The Consortium at SC70 launched the *ICCWC Menu of Services* to provide Parties with an indicative list of the training courses, tools and services available through ICCWC. The Menu of Services is currently available on the ICCWC web-portal in English only.²⁶ As soon as translation is completed, the French and Spanish versions will also be on the ICCWC web-portal. Parties are invited to draw upon the *ICCWC Menu of Services*, when requesting support from ICCWC.

Focus Area 4: Increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime

29. To increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime, including in support of the implementation of Decision 17.52, paragraph b), the ICCWC hosted the first Global Partnerships Coordination Forum,²⁷ and various side events alongside CoP17, SC69 and SC70. In addition, ICCWC partners, both collectively and individually, organized, supported or participated in a number of meetings and events at the regional and global levels. These included UN World Wildlife Day 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York²⁸ and in Geneva where the results of Operation Thunderbird were publicized, the Hanoi Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (November 2016);²⁹ a Technical Advisory Committee Meeting on the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade and Illegal Exploitation in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa (April 2017); and the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade (October 2018), where the Consortium organized an exhibition to display the tools and services available through ICCWC.
30. To facilitate a better understanding of how wildlife crime and corruption are linked, and how corruption could be addressed, UNODC, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, and on behalf of ICCWC, supported the organization of side events on wildlife crime and corruption at the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), and at the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Convention

²³ The ICCWC *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme* is designed to help investigators, prosecutors and others in the criminal justice system overcome the investigative, legal and procedural challenges related to wildlife crime and money laundering cases. For more information, see: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

²⁴ Project INAMA is a flagship project of the WCO that aims to strengthen the enforcement capacity of targeted customs administrations in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on the illegal trade in wildlife and in particular on species listed under CITES.

²⁵ <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/may/the-wco-inama-project-supports-african-members>

²⁶ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC_menu_of_services-revApril18.pdf

²⁷ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/CoP17_hosts_first_ever_wildlife_crime_partnerships_forum_26092016

²⁸ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/E-CoP17-Inf-89.pdf>

²⁹ https://www.cites.org/eng/news/item/Unprecedented_show_of_support_for_wildlife_on_UN_World_Wildlife_Day_13032017

²⁹ https://cites.org/eng/Intervention_CITES_Secretary-General_at_Hanoi_Conference_on_Illegal_Wildlife_Trade_17112016

Against Corruption (UNCAC).³⁰ The Secretariat reports in more detail on these activities, which supported the implementation of Decision 17.85, paragraph b), in document CoP18 Doc. 32.

31. Decision 17.52, paragraph b), encourages Parties to draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report³¹ developed by UNODC under the auspices of ICCWC. The findings in this report for the first time provided essential information on wildlife crime that could be considered by Parties in the development of law enforcement responses. The report, backed by in-depth analysis, has been widely used to date and has filled an important gap in the availability of well-grounded information on wildlife crime. At the time of writing, UNODC is developing the second edition of the World Wildlife Crime Report. The annual illegal trade data provided by Parties in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* and data provided by ICCWC partners will make a significant contribution to this report, which similarly to the first World Wildlife Crime Report, will be based on the best data and case studies available, backed by in-depth analysis. The second edition is expected to be co-launched at the Twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in May 2019 as well as at CoP18. Parties are encouraged to draw upon the second edition of the World Wildlife Crime Report when available, in the same manner as was done with the first World Wildlife Crime Report. The Secretariat believes that Decision 17.52, paragraph b), has been implemented, and recommends that it be deleted.

Focus Area 5: Expand the use of knowledge, technology and innovation

32. ICCWC is engaging in an ambitious programme of work under its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, which continues to include a broad portfolio of projects and activities to promote and increase the use of wildlife forensic science to address wildlife and forest crime. At CoP17, the Secretariat reported that the Consortium established an ICCWC Wildlife Forensics Advisory Group in support of its activities on wildlife forensics. Given the increase in activities delivered by the Consortium since the establishment of the ICCWC Wildlife Forensics Advisory Group in August 2016, and upon review of the Consortium's upcoming portfolio of activities on wildlife forensics, the ICCWC SEG concluded that the advisory process should be further streamlined and formalised. It was agreed, therefore, that ICCWC should engage a professional body with global membership to advise the Consortium on wildlife forensic science matters. The Advisory Group was subsequently dissolved and the Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, thanked the members for their valuable guidance, expert advice and excellent contributions to the work of the Consortium. Given the diverse array of wildlife forensic practitioners' disciplines and leading international experts represented in the Society for Wildlife Forensics Science (SWFS),³² as well as its promotion of best practice in this field, ICCWC reached out to SWFS to request the provision of such advisory services to ICCWC. SWFS accepted this invitation, and the Consortium would like to express its appreciation to SWFS for agreeing to fulfil this role.
33. The Secretariat, in the current intersessional period, worked in close cooperation with UNODC under the auspices of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, on the development of an electronic directory of laboratories, in accordance with Decision 17.83, paragraph c). This work builds upon the global review of forensic laboratory capacity commissioned by the Secretariat in cooperation with UNODC, available as Annex 4 to document CoP17 Doc. 25. The Secretariat reports on the electronic directory of laboratories in document CoP18 Doc. 32. The detailed report on this work is available as an Annex to that document.
34. To implement Decision 17.97, paragraph a), on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, the Secretariat commissioned UNODC to assess illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa. This activity was delivered under the auspices of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The resulting report will inform discussions under the agenda item on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, and is available as an Annex to document CoP18 Doc. 34.
35. In addition, through the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme, the Consortium will, in accordance with Decision 17.93, paragraph d), support the establishment of increased capacity to facilitate the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this issue in document CoP18 Doc. 33.1 on *Combating wildlife cybercrime*.

³⁰ Funding was made available through the ICCWC Strategic Programme to support the participation of experts at the side events, co-hosted by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and UNODC at the CCPCJ in Vienna, Austria, on 14 May 2018, and by the Permanent missions of Gabon, Germany, the United Kingdom and UNODC at the UNCAC anniversary event in New York, United States of America, on 23 May 2018.

³¹ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

³² <https://www.wildlifeorensicscience.org/>

Focus Area 6: Cross-cutting: Ensure the effective operation, coordination and evaluation of ICCWC

36. To ensure that ICCWC's strategy and portfolio of activities continue to be fully aligned with the priorities and matters of concern to the member States of each of the ICCWC partner organizations, the ICCWC SEG³³ has continued to hold monthly conference calls and quarterly meetings to review progress and to discuss the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Consortium also convened the first ICCWC Donor Council meeting³⁴ and a first informal European Union-ICCWC Project Steering Committee³⁵ in May 2018. To further streamline efforts and maximize the impact of activities in different countries, the Consortium has continued to, where possible and appropriate, coordinate and align activities and programmes of individual ICCWC partner organizations with the ICCWC Strategic Programme, as well as ICCWC activities with a number of additional partner organizations.
37. Decision 17.52, paragraph c) encouraged Parties to provide financial support to ICCWC to enable the Consortium to implement its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and to ensure that ICCWC continues to provide coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community in its fight against wildlife crime. The Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, reiterates its appreciation to the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, for their generous contributions to the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The contributions to ICCWC to date as well as pledges of contributions towards the Strategic Programme 2016-2020 are expected to amount to approximately USD 21,5 million.
38. At SC70, the Secretariat noted that delays had been experienced with some of the activities envisaged under the ICCWC Strategic Programme, due to technical and administrative procedures underway for the disbursement of funds between partners and the negotiation of the agreements with donors. At the time of writing, approximately USD 2,9 million was received and mobilized and the work plan and timeline for some activities will be revised as appropriate. However, despite such delays, a significant number of activities were implemented and completed, or are currently underway.
39. Under Activity 6.1 of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020, the Consortium envisages an evaluation of the impact of the Programme. The evaluation will assist the Consortium in the development of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2020-2025. This work will take into account the strategic plans and work programmes of the five ICCWC partner organizations, best practices and lessons learned throughout the implementation of the current programme, feedback received from Parties and donors to ICCWC, and priorities envisaged by the SEG.³⁶ The Programme will continue to evolve and consider the shifting global landscape and activities underway by different organizations to combat wildlife crime.
40. Decision 17.52, paragraph d) adopted at CoP17 encourages Parties to provide continued support to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer at the CITES Secretariat. The Secretariat expresses its appreciation to Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for their generous contributions in support of Decision 17.52, paragraph d), which maintained the position of the ICCWC Support Officer between CoP17 and March 2018. The Secretariat would like to express its appreciation to the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the funding towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme which will now enable the Secretariat to maintain the current ICCWC Support Officer post, as well as to recruit an ICCWC Project Coordinator at P3 level, up to the end of 2020. The ICCWC Project Coordinator position was advertised in October 2018,³⁷ and at the time of writing the recruitment is ongoing. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on this matter at the present meeting. To support the ongoing activities of the Consortium until the ICCWC Project Coordinator

³³ *Delivery of the Consortium's Strategic Programme is overseen by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG), in which each of the five partner organizations is represented. The SEG identifies priorities for the implementation of activities under the Strategic Programme, takes decisions on initiatives to support, and oversees overall effectiveness of delivery. For additional information, see paragraphs 5 and 9 of document SC69 Doc. 31.2.*

³⁴ *The meeting provided an opportunity for ICCWC partners to engage with donors to the ICCWC Strategic Programme to brief them on activities conducted and planned, and for donors to share information and suggestions that the Consortium could take into consideration in the development and delivery of activities.*

³⁵ *The objective of the meeting was to discuss the finalization of contracts for the disbursement of funds for the contribution from the EU to the ICCWC Strategic Programme, as well as a number of other matters related to the EU contribution.*

³⁶ *The new Programme will continue to focus on key areas where ICCWC is uniquely placed to make a contribution to effectively combat wildlife crime in a coordinated manner, and will be based on a detailed analysis of activities conducted to date, and a review of priorities, recommendations and requests by the ICCWC SEG and partner agencies, including findings and recommendations resulting from the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework. The revision and updating of the ICCWC Toolkit is, for example, under discussion with the aim to further strengthening it by adding additional potential components that will enhance the tool to assist Parties in, for example, better addressing corruption or implementing activities to strengthen anti-money laundering investigations and facilitate asset forfeiture. The impact of the Strategic Programme will also continue to be evaluated through reports compiled for donors to the ICCWC Strategic Programme.*

³⁷ <https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=104052>

post is filled, the Secretariat advertised in April 2018 a temporary consultancy³⁸ and appointed a consultant from September 2018 to June 2019. The Secretariat will continue to seek additional funds to sustain these positions after 2020 through the new ICCWC Strategic Programme 2020-2025 or similar targeted endeavours.

41. The Consortium is grateful to the Parties that responded positively to paragraphs c) and d) of Decision 17.52. Taking the above into account, the Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.52 c) and d) are deleted, and replaced with draft decision 18.AA as presented in Annex 1 to the present document.

Final remarks

42. The growing number of planned and ongoing activities under the auspices of ICCWC to enhance the capacity of customs, police, wildlife authorities and entire criminal justice systems to respond to wildlife crime in a strong, consistent, collaborative and increasingly effective manner, would not have been possible without strong donor support. The generous and significant funding received from Parties towards the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme recognises the central role of ICCWC in building long-term capacity among enforcement authorities dealing with wildlife crime. The growing demand from Parties requesting such support also demonstrate the value of the Consortium.
43. Through close collaboration, ICCWC partners are working to support authorities in addressing wildlife crime as transnational organized crime, increasingly mobilizing the complementary mandates, unique pool of knowledge and expertise, and extensive national and regional networks of partner agencies to strengthen criminal justice systems across the entire enforcement chain. The Consortium is providing Parties with the tools, services and technical support needed to mobilize the same measures against wildlife crime as those used against other serious domestic and transnational organized crimes, and building capacity to ensure that criminals involved in wildlife crime are investigated, prosecuted and convicted.

Recommendations

44. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
 - a) adopt the proposed draft decision presented in Annex 1 to the present document; and
 - b) delete Decision 17.52, as it has been implemented.

³⁸ <https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=95682>

DRAFT DECISION TO BE CONSIDERED AT CoP18

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)

Directed to Parties

18. AA *Parties are encouraged to continue provide funding support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and any newly developed future Strategic Programme, to ensure that the Consortium continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community.*

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

1. The Secretariat notes that funding towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme will enable the Secretariat to maintain the current ICCWC Support Officer post at P2 level, as well as the ICCWC Project Coordinator post at P3 level, up to the end of 2020. The Secretariat will continue to seek additional funds to sustain these positions after 2020 through the new ICCWC Strategic Programme 2020-2025 or similar endeavours. The tentative budget per annum for a P2 is USD 150,000 (USD 144,218 based on the GA approved salary scale for Geneva, with the remaining amount allocated to travel costs) and for a P3 is USD 180,000 (USD 175,226 for salary and the remaining amount allocated to travel costs).
2. The Secretariat notes in the present document that it is envisaged the Strategic Programme will evolve into a new ICCWC Strategic Programme 2020-2025. No details or tentative budget are available at the time of writing. The Secretariat will update Parties on progress at the 73rd and 74th meetings of the CITES Standing Committee. It is envisaged that extra budgetary funds will be sought for the implementation of the new ICCWC Strategic Programme.