



TOGETHER AGAINST
WILDLIFE CRIME

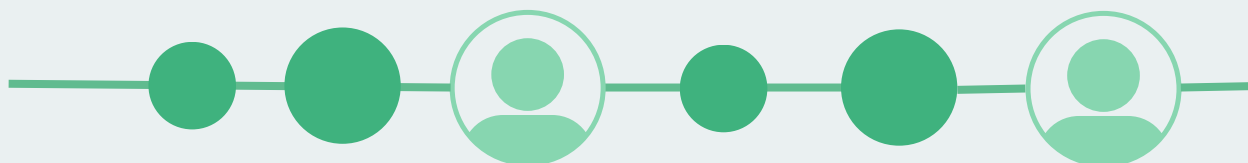


Meeting Report: 4th Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks



Panama Convention Center, Room
America 3

Panama City,
21 – 22 November 2022





The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is a unique partnership of five intergovernmental organizations to help law enforcement bring criminals engaged in wildlife crime to justice.

Through technical assistance, tools, training, and operational support, ICCWC works along the entire criminal justice chain, building the capacity of frontline law enforcement in countries and regions around the world affected by wildlife crime.

The ICCWC partners are the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank Group (WBG) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Further information on ICCWC is available at www.iccwc-wildlifecrime.org

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The report summarizes the main discussions and outcomes of the meeting as expressed by participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of ICCWC or its individual partner organizations.

Suggested citation: International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (2023) Meeting Report: 4th Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks. Geneva, Switzerland.

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This publication was made possible through support provided by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, under the terms of Award No. S-LMAQM-18-CA-2108. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of State.

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Executive summary

On 21 and 22 November 2022, over 100 representatives from regional networks, law enforcement authorities, inter-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations came together at the 4th Global meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs).

Regional networks comprising a variety of national wildlife law enforcement agencies across the criminal justice chain, including police, customs and prosecutors from around the world, came together to share experiences and explore synergies to enhance collaboration to combat wildlife crime in their respective regions and between regions. Network representatives discussed how to further strengthen their operational effectiveness, analyzed regional and subregional wildlife crime trends and considered how to increase regional and global cooperative efforts to combat wildlife crime. Progress was reviewed based on the outcomes of the 3rd Global Meeting of WENs, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2019. Best practices and lessons learned from existing networks were considered, including new opportunities for promoting the use of tools and services available through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to strengthen law enforcement efforts.

Key outcomes of the meeting encouraged that:

1. WENs use the [ICWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) as well as other tools and services available through ICWC partner agencies, to help strengthen their efforts and to request support from ICWC as needed.
2. WENs, as relevant and appropriate, increase collaboration and engagement with activities and initiatives deployed in their respective regions, including for example those mobilized by the USFWS Law Enforcement Attaché Programme, the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) through the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, the GEF-funded Global Wildlife Program, as well as by Civil Society Organizations.
3. ICWC give greater visibility to information concerning WENs on the ICWC website, including for example by making available network information sheets and the directory of WEN focal points.
4. Cooperation and collaboration between and across networks be further strengthened, including by where appropriate promoting secondments and inter-regional sharing of experiences by inviting representatives from different networks and regions to their respective regional meetings or activities.
5. WENs in coordination with relevant stakeholders continue to provide capacity building across their respective regions to enhance the effectiveness of responses to combat wildlife crime.
6. WENs, ICWC and relevant stakeholders to consider the key trends, priorities and species identified during the meeting and explore opportunities to mobilize targeted activities focusing on them.

The meeting was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), on behalf of ICWC and with generous funding support from the Department for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Bureau of the United States of America. The meeting was held alongside the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19).

Background and objectives of the meeting

The CITES Secretariat, in cooperation with its ICCWC partners and with generous funding support from the Department of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Bureau of the United States of America convened the Fourth Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) on 21 to 22 November 2022, alongside the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19), in Panama City, Panama.

The meeting brought together over 100 representatives from networks, law enforcement authorities, inter-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations from around the world to review progress on combating wildlife crime taking into consideration the outcomes of the [3rd Global Meeting of WENs](#) (Geneva, Switzerland, 2019); provide a platform to discuss and analyze trends in wildlife crime in the various regions and subregions; to further enhance synergies between existing initiatives and regional enforcement bodies; to strengthen cooperation at regional and global levels; and to explore potential activities to be pursued with the aim of further strengthening collective responses to combating wildlife crime across and between regions.

Agenda and meeting materials

Participants were requested to update and complete the information sheet with details on their respective networks prior to the meeting. The completed information sheets were provided to participants as background documents during the meeting.

The meeting agenda is available as Annex 1. The WEN information sheets are available as Annex 2. All relevant information on the meeting has been made available, as received, on the ICCWC website.

Participants

The meeting brought together over 100 participants, including over 34 women, representing eleven (11) existing WENs, prospective WENs, as well as other relevant networks, wildlife law enforcement offices, international organizations, civil society and other relevant organizations. Networks that attended included:

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement;
- Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN);
- China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICEGG);
- Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) / Central Africa WEN;
- European Commission Enforcement Working Group;
- Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HA-WEN);
- Lusaka Agreement Taskforce (LATF);

- Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa Silvestre para Centroamérica y República Dominicana (ROAVIS) / Central America WEN;
- Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG, Southern Africa);
- South America Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN);
- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN);

Interested CITES Parties, international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations were also invited to attend as observers. Participants included delegates from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Maldives, Oman, Panama, Peru, Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam; representatives from ASEANPOL, the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization as well as representatives from the ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Defenders of wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency, Grace Farms Foundation, IFAW, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Justice Commission and the World Wildlife Fund.

Representatives from AFRIPOL, EUROPOL, the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC), North America Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG), Southern Africa WEN; and future members of the West and Central Africa WEN (under development at the time of the meeting) were invited to participate in the meeting but were not able to attend.

Opening Session

Welcoming remarks were provided on behalf of ICCWC by Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General and by Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State. His excellency Milcíades Concepción, Minister of Environment of Panama opened the meeting as host country to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. The opening session also introduced the meeting objectives and included an overview of the outcomes of the 3rd Global Meeting of the WENs.

Session 1:

Outcomes from the 3rd Global meeting of WENs and activities undertaken in this regard: feedback from ICCWC

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat. A brief presentation of the [Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) was provided, including the process to develop the tool, its purposes and target audience. The structure and use of the Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WEN Guidelines) was explained, noting it was divided into three sections as follows:

- Introduction: rationale and use of the guidelines;
- Guideline 1: key considerations in the development of a WEN, and;

- Guideline 2: self-assessment tool to assist existing WENs to evaluate their level of maturity and/or operational performance and identify possible areas that could be strengthened.

ICCWC partners and WEN representatives provided feedback on actions taken since the 3rd Global Meeting that align with its outcomes.

SudWEN highlighted it held its Regional Meeting in 2021 with more than 60 experts from the region including other WENs (CAWEN and ASEAN WG WE) and ICCWC partners. This meeting facilitated the exchange of perspectives on how to implement SudWEN and promote the necessary structure to consolidate the network. The meeting also provided support for the development of Terms of Reference of the Network as its operating baseline. ICCWC has been supporting SudWEN and continues to provide technical assistance and support.

HAWEN is hosted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Eastern Africa (IGAD) and received support from ICCWC to further operationalize the network in 2021 and support was provided to the network and its member States, including through the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytical Toolkit and ICCWC Indicator Framework implementation in Djibouti and Uganda. ICCWC supported the organization of the 4th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting (October 2021) and will support the implementation of the WEN Guidelines and 5th Executive Committee meeting (December 2022).

WCO presented the operational support and activities conducted under ICCWC Thunder-series of Operations and other activities since the 3rd Global meeting of WENs. It underlined that the operational concept focuses on strengthening the cooperation and collaboration within the law enforcement community, especially between police and customs, but also prosecutors to provide a unique criminal justice approach toward the illegal wildlife and timber trade phenomena. Networks and their member countries were encouraged to actively participate.

During the second part of the session, WENs were invited to provide feedback on actions taken that aligned with or contributed to the outcomes of the 3rd Global meeting of WENs:

- HAWEN presented on activities undertaken in the framework of the HAWEN Action Plan, and operationalization of the network (mobilizing human and financial resources, finalization of IGAD/AU Cooperation Agreement, development of a regional Protocol on care and custody of recovered and confiscated live animals, development of a framework for harmonizing TFCA agreement and the planned WEN Guidelines assessment on 7 to 9 December 2022).
- SudWEN indicated that its efforts were focusing on strengthening regional cooperation and establishing support networks through interinstitutional cooperation; working hand-in-hand with CITES and SUDWEN Authorities and promoting the exchange of experiences of network members to work together against wildlife trafficking.

Other initiatives and partners were also invited to provide an update on efforts to increase cooperation with WENs and their member states:

- The United for Wildlife Financial and Transport Taskforces provided a video presentation on the impact of the Taskforces, contributing in 2022 to the arrest of over 300 people and to over 400 law enforcement investigations, among others. It presented also on various initiatives it contributed to including on combating illegal wildlife trade in international maritime trafficking.

- The United for Wildlife Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online presented on the 47 companies who partner with the coalition and how industry and law enforcement collaborate for data analysis and sharing of targeted information of illicit networks operating online, online trafficking trends and sharing of best practices and lessons learned. It also provided an overview of the Online Wildlife Learning, Education & Training (OWLET) tool.

Session 2:

Increased collaboration and communication, both within and between networks (all WENs)

This session, moderated by the World Bank, encouraged networks to highlight key opportunities, challenges and lessons learned to facilitate increased collaboration and communication within the network, and across networks:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (ASEAN WG on CITES and WE) highlighted the challenges faced by the network including language barriers, differences in legal systems and lack of effective communication channels within and with other networks. It stressed these could be overcome by enhancing communication, regular opportunities for capacity building activities for law enforcement, and sharing of information and experience. The Vietnam WEN also shared best practices, challenges and lessons learned from national perspective.
- The China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICE-CG) highlighted its efforts in terms of domestic and international cooperation, and capacity building. Discrepancies in IWT legislation, underutilization of existing instruments for combating wildlife crime, and privacy policies were among the key challenges identified by the network. Enhanced cooperation and communication could be achieved through improvement of legislation regarding wildlife crime as a serious crime; guidance on the boundary between privacy protection and information sharing; the establishment and promotion of secured channels to facilitate intelligence sharing and measures to interpret seizure data; in addition to the need for a cooperation-friendly environment.
- The European Commission Enforcement Working Group presented the efforts made on communication and sharing of information amongst EU member states, including through the EU-Trade in Wildlife Information eXchanges(TWIX), the enhancement of legislation, improvement of analysis of trade data, inspections and criminal investigations. It also shared trends in wildlife trafficking such as difficulties with tackling illegal trade in birds, reptiles and amphibians, eels, elephant ivory and big cats. The network highlighted the increasing needs for specialization within enforcement authorities; for enlarging the network of forensic and conservation experts; for better collaboration with non-European countries and faster communication between EU Member States. Opportunities to enhance collaboration were identified such as targeted joint EU law enforcement seminars.
- The Lusaka Agreement Taskforce (LATF) presented best practices such as the Cross Border Wildlife Security meetings and platforms between Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique,

Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Its key challenges were mainly due to lack of financial resources and differing domestic legislation and mandates. The creation of national specialized law enforcement task forces has proven effective to promote coordination and collaboration with other networks. The network suggested new WENs could be mentored by existing WENs; encourage timely sharing of information and more frequent communication at the regional level; capacity building for law enforcement/specialized units as well as the need to actively participate in and engage in joint projects or activities.

- The [Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa Silvestre para Centroamérica y República Dominicana \(ROAVIS – or Central América WEN\)](#) reported that information sharing and communication between focal points and different authorities was a key challenge. The network highlighted that regional-level meetings and joint operational planning were critical to strengthen cooperation. The sharing of information at regional and international levels had supported the identification of various trafficking networks and should be enhanced. The use of existing tools and services, such as the [mobile application developed by ROAVIS](#), had also been a powerful tool in supporting cooperation at the regional level.
- The [Rhino and Elephant Security Group \(RESG\)](#) highlighted that having a consistent Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in position for long term and having senior country representatives engaged within the network and rotating meeting venues among various countries has been very beneficial to the network. Main challenges included lack of financial resources, Covid-19 restrictions making in person meetings challenging and the lack of common goals. The main lessons learned were that in the absence of face-to-face meetings, interactions and personal relations had been reduced, which in turn also reduced engagement in the network.
- The [South Asia \(SA-WEN\)](#) reported lack of financial resources, turnover in focal points, lack of a centralized database and information sharing protocols, and limited access to forensic laboratories and facilities as main challenges. The opportunities to enhance coordination within the network and with other networks include to publish annual WEN reports, to standardize meetings and promote access to cutting edge technology.

Session 3: Exploring opportunities to further enhance synergies and collaboration

This session was moderated by INTERPOL. It focused on presenting relevant and existing developments and initiatives, as well as opportunities to interact with WENs. It aimed at allowing WENs to engage as well as discuss and identify possible synergies and opportunities for collaboration, where possible. The initiatives presented were not exhaustive and WENs were invited to engage with further developments and initiatives in their respective region as may be appropriate.

The World Bank presented insights from the newly launched guidance note on [national and sub-national law enforcement interagency collaboration to combat wildlife trafficking](#) produced under

the auspices of the Global Wildlife Program's (GWP)¹. The report looks at practical lessons learnt, good practices and recommendations from GWP national projects on addressing the challenges with establishing new or strengthening existing mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration. The WB also provided a brief overview of the upcoming GEF-8 Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program (WCD IP), highlighting the three key IP entry points of human wildlife coexistence, addressing illegal and high-zoonotic risk wildlife trade and wildlife for prosperity. All GEF-eligible countries can express interest through their national GEF Operational Focal Points² by 17th February 2023.

TRAFFIC, on behalf of the [Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online](#), presented how the initiative can support WENs, including through: data analysis and sharing of targeting information of illicit networks operating online, sharing of online trafficking trends, e-learning offers, connecting the private sector and law enforcement as well as sharing best practices and lessons learned.

The U.S. International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme (USFWS) provided a recorded presentation on the mandates of the attachés which are supporting wildlife trafficking investigations in the different countries and regions, fostering transnational collaboration and investigations, advising on the use of assets to combat wildlife trafficking and assisting in capacity building efforts.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), on behalf of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), presented on the IMO Guidelines on the *Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Wildlife on Ships Engaged in International Maritime Traffic*. The guidelines were developed by a multi-stakeholder working group led by the Kenya government with input and review by IMO member states and including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), WWF, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), TRAFFIC and the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce. They are intended to complement international instruments and recommend measures to prevent and suppress smuggling of wildlife on ships engaged in international maritime traffic.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), on behalf of other CSOs represented at the meeting, highlighted some of the benefits from strengthened collaboration between the WENs leveraging multidisciplinary approaches, and including resources and expertise provided by CSOs, their field presence, permanence/continuity, low turnover of staff and contacts and communication/collaboration channels.

Session 4:

Enhancing inter-regional collaboration among WEN Member States

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat. In order to explore how to best enhance collaboration and communication within networks and with key regional initiatives, participants

¹ The Global Wildlife Program covers over 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and focuses on conservation of wildlife and habitats, promoting wildlife-based economies, combating wildlife trafficking and reducing demand

² Full list available here: <https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are/focal-points>

were divided into working groups by region³. Each group was asked to identify 3 to 5 key elements that could be implemented by WENs to enhance inter-regional collaboration among WEN member states. Each group nominated a moderator and a rapporteur who then reported back in plenary.

The Africa group identified as main key elements the need to complement and not compete with overlapping members within WENs; the need for free and direct communication between members, and that communication should be “authorized” within the WEN; the need for long term placement/membership in a WEN to build trust and improve communication; the need to designate focal points who can carry this function; the need for face to face meetings, again to build trust between members; the need for inter-agency capacity building activities, the need to identify trusted partners outside of the WENs and finally, the need for shared common understanding of the goals of the WENs.

The Asia group highlighted three categories to improve collaboration and communication within networks, which were on governance (e.g. establishment of MoU, appointment of focal points and establishing trust between networks), participation (e.g. WEN meetings, secondments, and participation in joint meeting and activities) and information sharing and capacity building (e.g. an EU-TWIX platform for Asia and targeted capacity building based on needs).

The Europe and North America group reported the need for the expansion of members to encompass the whole region, the need for standardized WEN meetings and designated, long term appointed focal points, the need of an online platform to share resources and contacts details, such as the Directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensics testing, and the need to have access to legal frameworks of each country regarding wildlife crime.

The Central and South America group also insisted that the institutionalization and operationalization of the networks, designated and dedicated focal points, together with a common strategic planning and vision could enhance collaboration and communication within and with other WENs.

Session 5: Promoting the use of existing tools and services

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat. It aimed at highlighting various tools and services available through ICCWC partner agencies that could be used by WENs and their member countries to enhance their responses at national, regional and international level.

UNODC highlighted the 2nd edition of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and Indicator Framework, revised in 2022 to improve their structure and content, reflecting the evolving nature of these crimes as well as recommendations stemming from an independent evaluation of the Toolkit. UNODC also presented on various tools that could help member states addressing corruption associated with wildlife crime.

³ Participants broke into four (4) groups by region: Africa, Asia, Europe and North America and Central and South America. ICCWC partners joined each group to support with inputs, translation and note-taking.

The World Bank introduced the [Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Risk Assessment \(ENV Module\)](#). The three-step tool assists countries exposed to environmental crimes to assess their anti-money laundering risks in the natural resource sectors, including wildlife trade by assessing the country vulnerabilities in their systems and legal frameworks, and formalize an action plan. The ENV Module can be run independently or integrated into the broader Anti-Money Laundering National Risk Assessment (AML NRA Toolkit).

INTERPOL highlighted the range of INTERPOL Notices, including their different use and the process to be issued, and encouraged network member states to utilize this services in support of their investigations. It also presented tools and support available to combat wildlife crime linked to the internet.

WCO provided a brief on ENVIRONET, a real-time communication tool for environmental matters, which is used to share best practices, exchange information on seizures and possible on going trafficking, create discussion on specific topics, facilitate assistance by experts from international organization but also cooperation between customs administrations, competent agencies and international organizations. It also presented on [CLICK!](#), the Customs Learning and Knowledge Community, an e-learning training portal gathering CITES and wildlife related courses.

Session 6: Operational support and opportunities for WEN engagement

This session was moderated by the CITES Secretariat and aimed at drawing attention to the operational support available and to offer opportunities for WENs to engage or discuss potential synergies.

INTERPOL highlighted the ICCWC global Thunder-series of Operations and other operational support available through ICCWC. It presented the results from previous global Thunder-series of Operations, which have highlighted that cooperation at national, regional and international level is critical. INTERPOL also highlighted the support available on the field through the Regional Bureaus (NCBs).

WCO presented the support available through the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) which are regional centers for collecting and analyzing (customs) data as well as for disseminating information on trends, modus operandi, routes and significant cases of (customs) fraud.

ASEANAPOL and the Royal Thai Police highlighted the role of ASEANAPOL at the regional level and highlighted the work of the regional body through examples of best practices and case studies from the Royal Thai Police.

Session 7: Enhancing cross-regional collaboration among WENs

This Session was moderated by the World Bank. With the objective to further explore how to enhance collaboration and communication with other networks and regions, participants were divided into working groups⁴, with each group having a representative from each region. Each group was asked to focus on identifying 3 to 5 key elements that could be implemented by WENs to enhance collaboration and communication across networks and regions, considering discussions throughout the meeting. Each group nominated a moderator and a rapporteur to report in plenary.

Group 1 highlighted that institutionalization of WENs and formal cooperation mechanism (MoUs) or other forms of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), together with enhanced communication through meetings, newsletters to share and celebrate success stories, or a dedicated webpage, could enhance collaboration and communication between WENs. Trust and personal relations also form a solid base for strong relations between WENs.

Group 2 underlined the need for a common online platform where a directory of designated WEN focal points would be made available, and the need to share and monitor trends and cases regarding the impact of illegal wildlife trade in different regions and between origin, transit or destinations countries. The need to convene specific task forces, including WENs of different regions, was also put forward.

Group 3 welcomed tools and services available through ICCWC and the broad range of services and initiatives highlighted during the meeting and encouraged other WENs to use such services and platforms as relevant to their specific regions. It stressed the need for institutionalization of WENs and of cooperation frameworks to ensure trust and information sharing and encouraged designation and long-term appointment of focal points. The need for additional capacity building, joint operations and more regular meetings to bring together WENs and promote common goals and a shared vision was also highlighted.

Group 4 also welcomed existing tools and platforms such as ENVIRONET. It also stressed the need for formal cooperation frameworks, a common online platform to share contacts, trends and cases and the need for more recurring meetings, capacity building activities and joint task forces on species specific matters.

⁴ Participants broke into four (4) groups and ICCWC partners joined each group to support with inputs, translation and note-taking.

Session 8:

Identification of key wildlife crime trends and associated matters and engagement in operational activities at global/regional level

At the start of the session Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State provided some remarks and thanked the audience for their work. It was stressed that the threat of wildlife crime remains a priority and that the link with climate and biodiversity could not be ignored. WENs can play an important role in facilitating increased collaboration and enhancing regional and international responses against wildlife crime and should be supported to function optimally.

This session was moderated by INTERPOL and included presentations aimed at providing participants with background information to prepare for the working group session to discuss specific key wildlife crime trends from each region.

UNODC presented the key findings and trends identified in the World Wildlife Crime Report (2020) and highlighted in particular illegal trade in ivory and rhinoceros' horns, pangolins scales, and rosewood. The full report is available [here](#).

The CITES Secretariat presented key species affected by illegal trade whose status and regulation were under discussion at CoP19, including CITES-listed tree species, big cats, rhinoceroses, totoaba, cheetah, pangolins, tortoises and freshwater turtles, marine turtles, eels, among other. It was noted that 52 proposals were put forward for consideration at CoP19 and nearly 600 species were under consideration to modify the regulations that govern their international trade. All documents regarding species affected by wildlife crime discussed at CoP19 can be found [here](#).

The CITES Secretariat and UNODC presented the CITES illegal trade reports and the CITES Illegal Trade Database which are powerful tools to ensure appropriately storage, management and utilization of data, but that will also help inform research, analyses, the decision-making of Parties, and the development of law enforcement responses to wildlife crime.

Following the presentations, participants divided into five (5) working groups.⁵ Each group nominated a moderator and a rapporteur to report to plenary 3 to 5 key wildlife trafficking trends and 3 to 5 key species affected by illegal wildlife trade.

The Africa group highlighted that environmental crime was also a key challenge for its impact on wildlife. Key wildlife trafficking trends were identified as such: illegal harvesting, habitat loss and fragmentation through illegal land use, all forms of trafficking. The main species affected by illegal wildlife trade in the Africa region were identified as such: Rhinoceroses, elephants, and pangolins.

The Asia group reported it was mainly a transit and origin region and that most affected species by illegal wildlife trade included timber, pangolins and marine species.

⁵ Participants divided into groups by region: Africa, Asia, Europe and North America and Central and South America and one for observer organizations. ICCWC partners joined each group to support with inputs, translation and note taking.

The Europe and North America group brought forward that the species most at risk were eels, followed by reptiles, songbirds, cactus and large carnivores.

The Central and South America group reported that corruption and the link between wildlife crime and other forms of transnational crimes (drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking) were the main issues in the region. The species most affected by illegal wildlife trade in their region were identified as such: reptiles, trees, jaguars, sea horses and vicunas.

The Observers Group identified species most affected by illegal wildlife trade such as: bushmeat, sharks and fishery, timber.

Session 9: Outcomes of the meeting and next steps

The outcomes and closing of the meeting were moderated by the CITES Secretariat. Building on presentations and discussions from working groups, moderators provided a brief summary on opportunities to enhance collaboration and communication within and between WENs, on opportunities for engagement with existing efforts/initiatives, operational activities and increasing the use of existing tools/services and on key regional wildlife crime trends identified and activities that could be proposed for consideration by networks or by ICCWC.

Key outcomes of the meeting encouraged that:

1. WENs use the *ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks* as well as other tools and services available through ICCWC partner agencies, to help strengthen their efforts and to request support from ICCWC as needed.
2. WENs, as relevant and appropriate, increase collaboration and engagement with activities and initiatives deployed in their respective regions, including for example those mobilized by the USFWS Law Enforcement Attaché Programme, the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) through the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, the GEF-funded Global Wildlife Program, as well as by Civil Society Organizations.
3. ICCWC give greater visibility to information concerning WENs on the ICCWC website, including for example by making available network information sheets and the directory of WEN focal points.
4. Cooperation and collaboration between and across networks be further strengthened, including by where appropriate promoting secondments and inter-regional sharing of experiences by inviting representatives from different networks and regions to their respective regional meetings or activities.
5. WENs in coordination with relevant stakeholders continue to provide capacity building across their respective regions to enhance the effectiveness of responses to combat wildlife crime.
6. WENs, ICCWC and relevant stakeholders to consider the key trends, priorities and species identified during the meeting and explore opportunities to mobilize targeted activities focusing on them.

Closing and acknowledgements

Concluding remarks were provided by the CITES Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, and by the U.S. State Department's Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Bureau.

The various initiatives and efforts put together by WENs to implement the recommendations from the previous meeting and the Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks were welcomed. WENs and ICCWC partners were encouraged to actively pursue, within their respective mandates and available resources, the key outcomes and next steps emanating from the meeting.

ICCWC thanks all network representatives and participants of the Fourth Global Meeting of the WENs for their active participation and engagement in the meeting, as well as their strong support and commitment to combating wildlife crime.

ICCWC is also grateful to the Department for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Bureau of the United States of America for the funds generously made available to support this event.

Annex 1



4th GLOBAL MEETING OF WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS

Panama Convention Center, Room America 3
Panama City, 21 – 22 November 2022,

AGENDA

21 November 2022	
8.30	Registration
9.00	Welcome and keynote remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary General on behalf of ICCWC- Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State- S.E. Milciades Concepción, Ministro de Ambiente, Panamá Group photo (10 min)
9.20	Objectives of the meeting <p>Presentation on objectives of the meeting and key outcomes of the 3rd Global meeting of the WENs – Clio Di Giovanni - CITES Secretariat (10 min)</p> <p><i>What to expect: introduction of the meeting objectives to set the scene and overview of outcomes of the 3rd Global meeting of WENs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) disseminate <i>Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks</i>, as well as to share information with WENs on ongoing activities, tools and services available through the Consortiumb) WENs to make use of, as appropriate, the <i>WEN Guidelines</i>, once finalized, to strengthen their respective networks and their regional responses to combating wildlife crimec) WENs and existing initiatives to continue to explore ways to strengthen their collaboration to combat wildlife crime with the <i>Financial and Transportation Task Force</i>, the <i>Global Wildlife Programme</i>, the <i>Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online</i>, the <i>U.S. International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme</i>, and the <i>Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) Partnership</i>, amongst othersd) WENs to continue to enhance communication within their respective networks via available channels, to highlight their successes and to make use of available tools, services and platformse) WENs and their Member Countries to encourage increased participation at local, national and regional levels in activities and global operations supported by ICCWC and INTERPOL through its <i>Wildlife Crime Working Group</i> and to explore possible needs based on tools and services available through the ICCWC <i>Menu of Services</i>, andf) ICCWC and the INTERPOL through its <i>Wildlife Crime Working Group</i> to consider targeted activities that could be undertaken in close collaboration with WENs to combat illegal trade in any of the over 20 key species and routes identified as priorities by the different regions during discussions at the WEN meeting, including strengthening efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade linked to the Internet

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<p>9.40</p>	<p>Session 1 – Outcomes from the 3rd Global meeting of WENs and activities undertaken in this regard: feedback from ICCWC. Moderated by: Clio Di Giovanni - CITES Secretariat</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation on ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks: Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat (10 min) <p>Feedback from ICCWC partners: (20 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Implementation of WEN guidelines and targeted ICCWC support to SudWEN and HAWEN – Javier Montano Duran, UNODC 3. Operational support/activities: ICCWC Thunder-series of Operations and other activities since the 3rd Global meeting of WENs - Igor Jakupic, WCO <p><i>What to expect: ICCWC to provide feedback on actions taken that aligns with the outcomes of the 3rd Global meeting of WENs</i></p>
<p>10.10</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>10.30</p>	<p>Session 1 (continued) – Outcomes from the 3rd Global meeting of WENs and activities undertaken in this regard: feedback by WENs and other existing initiatives. Moderated by: Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Feedback from WENs (oral update)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Feedback from HAWEN and SudWEN on implementation of WEN guidelines and next steps (representative from HAWEN and SudWEN) – Marie Sophie Delassade, on behalf of IGAD (recorded presentation) and Cecilia de las Casas Cadillo, SudWEN (10 min) 5. Report by other networks on use of WEN guidelines and any other activities conducted that aligns with outcomes from the 3rd Global meeting of WENs, including where applicable, examples of increased cooperation with existing initiatives*. (3-5 min per network or initiative wishing to contribute in accordance with the topic of this session, 15 min total) <p>Feedback from existing initiatives/partners (oral update)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Increasing cooperation with existing initiatives*: feedback from initiatives (3-5 min per network or initiative, 10 min total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Financial/Transportation Task Forces - Robert Campbell, The Royal Foundation (video message) o United for Wildlife Global Coalition - Xu Ling, TRAFFIC (video message) o Other existing initiatives (if applicable) <p>Q&A (15 min)</p> <p><i>What to expect: various stakeholders (WENs and other existing initiatives) to provide feedback on actions taken that aligns with or contributed to the outcomes of the 3rd Global meeting of WENs.</i></p> <p><i>Note: oral contributions should be done <u>only</u> to report specific actions taken that aligns with or directly contributed to the meeting outcomes. If no specific actions were taken there is no need to report during this session. Further opportunities to contribute will be provided during the meeting (see sessions 2 onwards).</i></p> <p><i>*Existing initiatives highlighted during the 3rd Global meeting of WENs included: United for Wildlife Financial and Transportation Task Force, Global Wildlife Programme, Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, U.S. International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme, and ROUTES Partnership, amongst others</i></p>
<p>11.20</p>	<p>Session 2 – Increased collaboration and communication, both within and between networks (all WENs). Moderated by: Monica Zavagli, World Bank</p> <p>Presentation by network (5m per network, 40 min for first part of session):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (ASEAN WG on CITES and WE) – Ms. Thuy, Vietnam 2. Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) 3. China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICE-CG) - Ji Jing, CCMA

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Commission of Central African Forests / Central Africa WEN (COMIFAC) - Nicole Chantal Tatali, CAR 5. European Commission Enforcement Working Group - Jamie Bouhuys, EU 6. Lusaka Agreement Taskforce (LATF) - Edward Phiri and Arnaud Zonleth Berenger, LATF <p><i>What to expect: During this session, networks will have an opportunity to highlight key opportunities, challenges and lessons learned to facilitate increased collaboration within the network, and across networks. Network 'Information Sheets' will be updated by the different networks and shared prior to the meeting and will provide the general background information on each network. The presentation should include 3 slides focusing on: 1) best practices, key challenges and lessons learned; 2) key communication and collaboration challenges identified within the network and with other networks; 3) opportunities to enhance collaboration within the networks and with other networks identified.</i></p>
12.00	Lunch break - CoP19 side events
14.00	<p>Session 2 (continued) – Increased collaboration and communication within and between networks (all WENs). Moderated by: Monica Zavagli, World Bank</p> <p>Presentation (continued) by network (5m per network, 30 min for second part of session):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. North America Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG) – Bryan Landry, USFWS (recorded presentation) 8. Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa Silvestre para Centroamérica y República Dominicana / Central América WEN (ROAVIS) – Fátima Sánchez, ROAVIS 9. Rhino and Elephant Security Group (RESG) – Renatus Kusamba, RESG 10. South Asia WEN (SA-WEN) - Maheshwar Dhakal, SA-WEN 11. West Africa Network to combat wildlife crime (WAN, not formally established to date) <p>Q&A and discussion (15 min)</p>
14.45	<p>Session 3 – Exploring opportunities to further enhance synergies and collaboration. Moderated by: Belinda Christensen, INTERPOL</p> <p>Presentations (5 min per presentation, 30 min total):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GWP's insights on national and sub-national law enforcement interagency collaboration – Monica Zavagli, World Bank 2. Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online (TRAFFIC/IFAW) - Xu Ling, TRAFFIC 3. U.S. International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme (USFWS) (recorded presentation) - Bryan Landry, USFWS 4. IMO Guidelines on Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) – Brian Gonzales, WWF 5. Opportunities for collaboration with CSOs - Adrian Reuter and Kurt Duchez – WCS on behalf of NGO partners <p>Q&A and discussion (15 min)</p> <p><i>What to expect: presentations on relevant developments and initiatives, followed by discussion on opportunities to interact with WENs, and how WENs could engage as well as a discussion to identify possible synergies and opportunities for collaboration where possible.</i></p>
15.30	Coffee break
16.00	<p>Session 4 – Enhancing inter-regional collaboration among WEN member States. Moderated by: Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Working Groups (45min) to further explore how to enhance collaboration and communication within networks and with key regional initiatives (working group discussions can continue over coffee break if needed).</p> <p><i>What to expect: WENs to break out by WENs or by region (Africa, Asia, Central and South America and Europe and North America) to discuss how to enhance collaboration and communication between network member states, focusing on challenges and lessons learned, gaps and opportunities for increased collaboration identified in session 1-5, as well as any new gaps. In particular, networks are requested to explore how communication received by the focal points is shared with member countries (e.g invitations to</i></p>

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	<p>participate in activities/meetings/operations), and possible procedures to further enhance collaboration effectiveness.</p> <p><i>Note: each working group should nominate a moderator and a rapporteur</i></p>
16.45	<p>Session 4 (continued) – Enhancing inter-regional collaboration among WEN member States. Moderated by: Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Reports from working groups and discussion (5 min per group, 20 min total with 10 mins for further discussion)</p> <p><i>What to expect: Rapporteur from each working group to provide feedback on working group discussions and identify key elements that could be implemented by WENs to enhance inter-regional collaboration among WEN member States.</i></p>
17.15	<p>Session 5 – Promoting the use of existing tools and services. Moderated by Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Presentations (5 min per presentation, 30 min total):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd edition of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and Indicator Framework and UNODC tools on addressing corruption – Javier Montano Duran and Tim Steele (video), UNODC Strengthening capacity to mobilize financial investigations into wildlife crime – Monica Zavagli, World Bank INTERPOL Notices and combating wildlife crime linked to the internet: support available and tools developed – Ilona Kononenko-Rivet, INTERPOL ENVIRONET and new online courses on combating wildlife crime for Customs officers - Igor Jakupic, WCO <p>Q&A and discussion (15 min)</p> <p><i>What to expect: The presentation of tools and services available through ICCWC partner agencies and discussion on how WENs can encourage the use of such tools and services to their member countries.</i></p>
18.00	<p>Summary and closing of first day – Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat</p>
	<p>Reception for meeting participants hosted by the Department of State of the United States of America, in cooperation with ICCWC – in front of America 3</p>

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8.30	Registration
9.00	Recap of Day 1 and outline of day 2 – Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat
9.05	<p>Session 6 – Operational support and opportunities for WEN engagement. Moderated by: Alek Arora, UNODC</p> <p>Presentations (5 min per presentation, 40 min total):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ICCWC global Thunder-series of Operations and other operational support available through ICCWC –David Migwi, INTERPOL WCO Support available through Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices – Igor Jakupic, WCO INTERPOL Regional Bureaus – INTERPOL on behalf of Mrs Chantal Apendeki Cinene ASEANAPOL and Royal Thai Police – Pol.Maj.Gen. Khemmarin Hassiri, Royal Thai Police U.S. International Law Enforcement Attaché Programme – Bryan Landry, USFWS (recorded presentation) <p>Q&A and discussion (15 min)</p>

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	<i>What to expect: presentations on key developments and initiatives and their role and function, followed by discussion on opportunities to interact with WENs, and how WENs could engage as well as a discussion to identify possible synergies and opportunities for collaboration where possible.</i>
10.00	Coffee break
10.30	<p>Session 7 – Enhancing cross-regional collaboration among WENs. Moderated by: Monica Zavagli, World Bank</p> <p>Working Groups (45 min) to further explore how to enhance collaboration and communication with other networks/regions.</p> <p>Reports from working groups and discussion (5 min per group, 20-25 min total with 15 mins for further discussion).</p> <p><i>What to expect: Participants to form 3 or 4 groups (TBC) with each representation from all regions (and networks where possible) to discuss how to enhance collaboration and communication across networks and regions, taking into account discussions during sessions 1-6.</i></p> <p><i>Note: each working group should nominate a moderator and a rapporteur.</i></p>
12.00	Lunch break - CoP19 side events
14.00	<p>Session 8 – Identification of key wildlife crime trends and associated matters and engagement in operational activities at global/regional level. Moderated by: David Migwi, INTERPOL</p> <p>Remarks from Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State (5mins)</p> <p>Presentations (30 min total):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal wildlife trade trends identified in the World Wildlife Crime report – Angela Me, UNODC 2. Species affected by wildlife crime under discussion at CoP19 - Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat 3. CITES illegal trade reports and enhancing data availability - Clio Di Giovanni, CITES Secretariat and Angela Me, UNODC <p>Working groups/discussion (1h):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Networks: Africa; Asia; Central, South America and Caribbean; Europe and North America 2) Observers <p><i>What to expect: Working groups to discuss key wildlife crime matters affecting their respective regions, including identifying 3 species most affected by wildlife crime in their regions, gaps in regional responses to wildlife crime to be addressed, and activities that could be proposed for consideration.</i></p> <p><i>Note: each working group should nominate a moderator and a rapporteur.</i></p>
15.30	Coffee break
16.00	<p>Session 8 (continued) – Identification of key wildlife crime trends and associated matters and engagement in operational activities at global/regional level. Moderated by - David Migwi, INTERPOL</p> <p>Feedback from working groups to plenary and identification of key matters that could be considered networks or by ICCWC in the implementation of its work programme (5 min per group, 20 min total with 10 mins for further discussion).</p> <p><i>What to expect: report to plenary by working groups and identification of priority activities.</i></p>
16.30	<p>Session 9 – Outcomes of the meeting and next steps. Moderated by Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat</p> <p>Summary of discussions, identification of next steps and agreement on outcomes of the meeting, in particular focusing on:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities to enhance collaboration and communication within and between WENs (sessions 1, 2, 3 and 4, summary by Monica Zavagli, World Bank) - Opportunities for engagement with existing efforts/initiatives, operational activities and increasing the use of existing tools/services (sessions 5, 6, 7, summary by Edward van Asch, CITES Secretariat) - Key regional wildlife crime trends identified and activities that could be proposed for consideration by networks or by ICCWC (session 8, David Migwi, INTERPOL). <p><i>What to expect: moderators of different sessions to provide summary and discussion in plenary to agree on outcomes of the meeting and identify next steps.</i></p>
17.00	<p>Concluding remarks and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary General on behalf of ICCWC - Rowena Watson, Division Chief, Combating Wildlife Trafficking, U.S. Department of State, OES/ECW
	CoP19 side events

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Annex 2

Wildlife Enforcement Networks

Information Sheets

ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES AND WE)



Region and countries of the network

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the ASEAN Secretariat

Authorities involved

CITES authorities, customs, police, prosecutors, and other relevant national law enforcement agencies.

Formal
Network

Brief description

ASEAN, as a region with Mega-Biodiversity, has made the issue of wildlife enforcement to combat wildlife trafficking an important agenda item. Wildlife enforcement dialogue in ASEAN started in 2006 when the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) was formally established as part of the ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF). Since 2017, to enhance the effectiveness of regional cooperation, wildlife issues have been addressed by the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES and WE).

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The CITES Management Authority host the secretariat of the NICECG. Each year there is at least one conference of the NICECG, which makes decisions and then the member ministries/authorities will carry out the enforcement work. The members report to the NICECG Conference.

Key activities

In principle, AWG CITES and WE are mandated to establish and implement measures to improve collaboration, cooperation and information exchange between and among law enforcement agencies and CITES management authorities.

Key partners in the region

CITES, UNODC, TRAFFIC South East Asia, SEAFDEC, Interpol, USAID, ACB.

Website and other useful links

Not supplied

Network focal points

Primary focal point: NATIVIDAD BERNARDINO; email: director@bmb.gov.ph

Secondary focal point: NERMAHE HTA; email: nerma_lita@yahoo.com

Other (cc): ESTEVEN TOLEDO; email: entoledo@yahoo.com

CaribWEN



Caribbean region

Antigua, Bahamas, St Lucia, Cayman Island, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Haiti, Barbados, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago. To include Grenada, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Suriname, Turks & Caicos

Authorities involved, Agriculture Department (Forestry & Fisheries), Customs, Police, Military, Airport and Seaport Authority

Formal network

Brief description

Regional organization focused on combating wildlife crimes and to combat illicit trade. It is constituted of contact points in all consenting countries represented into structure, depending on the size of countries activity 2 or 3 contact points may be registered.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

CaribWEN's Secretariat conduct all operating process and correspondences. MOU will determine chairmanship, serving times, and rotating schedules, as well as other roles. Decisions are made in plenary meeting. One country, one vote. Quorum will be at least 60%.

Network focal points

Haiti – Mr Jean Herby NELSON Speaker/Presenter

Jamaica – Mrs Morjorn Wallock

Bahamas – Mrs Desiree Corneille, Lt. Cdr. , Bahamas WEN Speaker/Presenter

Focal points will be up to two representatives in each member state. Information will be published for ease of referencing.

Key partners in the region

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Fish and Wildlife Foundation

WildAid

OCEANA

2022-2023 Proposals include:

Building and maintaining a Website with useful links

CaribWEN email group (existing)

CaribWEN whatsapp group (existing)

CaribWEN webinar/zoom meetings

Possibly one regional in person meeting to formalize MOU

Key activities: *To conduct effort to harmonize legislation in respective countries, support local law enforcement personnel in their tasks by providing technical information, and maintaining a data base of seizures and trends in the region. Will reissue a draft MOU to formalize country's roles and responsibilities and contribute to a more efficient and strategic platform for information sharing between countries.*

China ' s National Interagency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG)

Region and countries of the network

China

*Formal
network*

Key partners in the region

Inter-ministry Conference Mechanism for Anti-Illegal Wildlife Trade, WWF, TRAFFIC, IFAW, WCS, WILD AID, NRDC.

Authorities involved

Departments and Bureaus from Ministry of Public Security, General Administration of China Customs, Market Supervision, Maritime Police, Ministry of Culture and Tourism , Ministry of Transportation, etc.

Website and other useful links

Not available.

Brief description

China ' s National Interagency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG), was established in December 2011, now including 12 Departments member from 9 Ministries or Administrations. By December 2013, provincial CITES enforcement coordination groups had been set up in all the 31 provinces of China.

Network focal points

Ji Jing --programme officer
China CITES Management Authority (Wildlife Conservation Department of National Forestry and Grassland Administration)
Telephone: +86 (10) 8423 8445
Fax: +86 (10) 8423 9680
Email: cites_chinama@163.com

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The CITES Management Authority hosts the secretariat of the NICECG. Each year there is at least one conference of the NICECG, which makes decisions and then the member ministries/authorities will carry out the enforcement work. The members report to the NICECG Conference.

Key activities

Joint enforcement operations at national level and local level. Training courses, workshops, wildlife/CITES public awareness raising campaigns.

COMIFAC WORKING GROUP ON PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SGTAPFS)



Region and countries of the network

Central Africa with eleven (11) countries:
Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tomé and Principe

Authorities involved

Forests and Wildlife administrations, Customs, INTERPOL, Police, Defense, Justice, Indigenous People and Local communities network, Civil Society Organization, international organizations (WWF, TRAFFIC, GIZ, WCS, AWF)

*Formal
network*

Brief description

COMIFAC Working Group on Protected Areas and Wildlife (SGTAPFS) was established in 2012 by the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC in order to coordinate the fight against the wildlife crime in the region and to build the capacity of the stakeholders on the law enforcement. This multi-actor platform brings together law enforcement agencies and wildlife and protected area administrations for the eleven countries members of COMIFAC, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, international organizations in charge of biodiversity conservation, and organizations working in the field of wildlife. This platform meets at least twice per year and help to follow up the implementation of the Sub-Regional Action Plan for the Wildlife law enforcement that has been adopted by the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The coordination Unit has three members (the coordinator of the Central Africa Biodiversity Working Group, the Biodiversity Programme Officer of the COMIFAC and the Technical Director of OCFSA). The network report to the Executive Secretariat of the COMIFAC which report to the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC

Key activities

Capacity building of the law enforcement agencies, development of tools for the sustainable wildlife and Protected areas management, coordination of the fight against the wildlife crime, Public awareness on wildlife crime, finance resource mobilization for the biodiversity conservation, AFRICA-TWIX

Key partners in the region

IGOs (OCFSA, ECCAS), NGOs (TRAFFIC, WWF, GIZ, JICA, IUCN, USFS, etc)

Website and other useful links

www.comifac.org

Network focal points

Primary Focal Point: Chouaibou Nchoutpouen, Deputy Executive Secretary and Technical Coordinator of the COMIFAC (cnchoutpouen@comifac.org)

Secondary Focal Point: **Tbc**

Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN)



Region and countries of the network
Horn of Africa/IGAD region: Djibouti,
Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan,
Sudan and Uganda.

Authorities involved

**Wildlife Conservation Authorities (looking at
expanding to other institutions)**

*Formal
network*

Brief description

HAWEN was created in 2017 by IGAD Member States with the objective of creating a regional network to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking in the Horn of Africa. HAWEN is the implementing body of the IGAD's Wildlife Strategy.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

HAWEN Secretariat is sitting under the Sustainable Environment Unit (itself under the Agriculture and Environment Division) of IGAD HQ, Djibouti and is reporting to the Program Manager of the Sustainable Environment Unit.

HAWEN has established an Executive Committee composed only (for now) by wildlife conservation authorities appointed focal points. The HAWEN Secretariat is coordinating the activities with the Executive Committee.

Key activities

- Mobilisation of resources (human and financial) to sustain operationalization of the Secretariat
- Development of a Framework for harmonizing TFCA management (ongoing with CMS Secretariat)
- Organisation of annual Executive Committee meetings for reviewing implementation of HAWEN Action Plan

Key partners in the region

UNODC, Cheetah Conservation Fund, IFAW, TRAFFIC, US FWS

Website and other useful links

<https://www.hawen.org/>

Network focal points

Dr. Eshete Dejen eshete.dejen@igad.int
Marie-Sophie Delassade sophie.delassade@igad.int

Lusaka Agreement Task Force



Region and countries of the network

Member States: Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

Signatories: Ethiopia, South Africa, and Swaziland.

Open for accession to all African countries

Authorities involved

Wildlife Authorities, Forestry Authorities, Customs, CITES MA, Police and Public prosecutions authorities

Formal network

Brief description

LATF is an intergovernmental law enforcement Agency established in 1999 headquartered in Nairobi Kenya. It is the Secretariat and operational arm of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Lusaka Final Act 1994. The Agreement which is listed as a United Nations Environmental Treaty no XXVII.11, Registration no 33409, was adopted in Lusaka, Zambia in 1994 and is open for accession to all African states. LATF is mandated to combat transnational illegal trade in wild fauna and flora mainly through fostering inter-state cooperation and collaboration among agencies.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

Lusaka Agreement Task Force: Secretariat and Operational arm of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement activities directed at illegal trade in wild fauna and flora. Implements activities of the Agreement in collaboration with National Bureau National Bureau: National Implementing Agency of the Agreement

Governing Council: Ministerial policy and decision-making organ of the Lusaka Agreement

Key partners in the region

LATF has signed memoranda of understanding with CITES Secretariat, WCO, ICPO INTERPOL Secretariat, UNODC, Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA), COMIFAC secretariat, OCFSA, The Anti-smuggling Bureau of the General Administration China Customs ASB_GACC

Website and other useful links

<https://lusakaagreement.org>

Key activities

To deliver specific support to Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes involving species of wild fauna and flora.:

Gather, analyze, and disseminate intelligence about wildlife security to member states and partners.

Investigating into violations of national laws;

Promoting trans-national and multi-regional wildlife law enforcement mechanisms as well as international cooperation among enforcement agencies ;

Implement capacity development initiatives in member states such as provision of specialized enforcement training and equipment, promoting inter agency collaboration through inter agency workshops, holding of cross border wildlife security meetings

Network focal points

Edward Phiri

Director

Email: edward@lusakaagreement.org

Arnaud Zonleleth

Field Officer

Email: zonlelethab@gmail.com



**Red de Observancia y
Aplicación de la Normativa de
Vida Silvestre de Centroamérica
y República Dominicana.
ROAVIS**

**Central American and
Dominican Republic Wildlife
Enforcement Network (CAWEN)**

Region and countries of the network
Centroamérica y República Dominicana.
Central American and Dominican Republic.

Authorities involved

Fiscales Ambientales, Procuradores, Ministerio Público, Ministerio de Ambiente, Autoridad CITES y de Protección Sanitaria, Fuerzas de Seguridad Fronteriza, Policía de investigación, Aduanas, Jueces, oficiales de Pesquería.

*Formal
network*

Brief description

ROAVIS, es una Red de Observancia y de Aplicación de la Normativa de la Vida Silvestre de Centroamérica y República Dominicana, reconocida como un foro regional para la cooperación, intercambio de las experiencias y el fortalecimiento de las instituciones que aplican la Ley.

Network focal points

Punto focal Primario y secretaria ROAVIS. Fátima Sánchez Marciaga.
Correo Fatima.Sanchez@procuraduria.gob.pa
Ministerio Público de Panamá. Fiscal Superior de Ambiente de la Procuraduría General de la Nación.
Otros (cc) Christina Kish. Correo: christina_kish@ios.doi.gov
Fátima Vanegas Z. Corre: fatima.vanegas@cooperacion-doi.org

Key activities

- Planificación y comunicación entre los gobiernos e intercambio de información sobre el tráfico de Vida Silvestre.
- Planificación y ejecución de operaciones nacionales, binacionales y tri-nacionales.
- Entrenamiento e intercambio de experiencias entre diversas autoridades para el control del comercio de especies.
- Capacitación a Jueces, Fiscales, Procuradores, policías, Aduanas.
- Education y Divulgación sobre la importancia y beneficios de la protección de la vida Silvestre.

Key partners in the region

Departamento del Interior de los Estados Unidos (Programa de Asistencia Técnica Internacional).
Colaboradores: Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos.
Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre. EEUU
OEA. Organización de Los Estados Americanos.
Convención sobre Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (CITES)

Consortio Internacional para combatir los Delitos Contra La Vida Silvestre

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

La Red es coordinada regionalmente por un (a) Secretario (a), nombrado cada dos años por los puntos focales de cada país. Tiene como responsabilidad coordinar y articular las actividades de la Red y definir la planificación y la búsqueda de fondos para la implementación de las actividades. Así como representarla en foros y reuniones internacionales. Los Puntos Focales son los titulares de las fiscalías o procuradurías ambientales de los países miembros, su rol es coordinar la dirección funcional entre las autoridades nacionales de aplicación de la ley y organizarlas actividades para combatir el tráfico de especies.

Website and other useful links

www.facebook.com/Roavis
www.roavis.net
app móvil vida Silvestre www.vidasilvestre.net
info@roavis.net

South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)



- South Asia region
- SAWEN Member Countries are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Formal network

Authorities involved: Law enforcement authorities including Forest and Wildlife agencies, Police, Army, Other Security Agencies, and Customs.

Brief description: South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) is an intergovernmental wildlife law enforcement support body launched in 2011 with aim to combat wildlife crime in South Asia through regional cooperation and collaboration having eight member countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It focuses on policy harmonization; institutional capacity strengthening through knowledge and intelligence sharing; and collaboration with regional and international partners to enhance wildlife law enforcement in the member countries. SAWEN operates its activities from the Secretariat based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Key activities

Aligning with the objectives, SAWEN organizes, supports and coordinates to carry out the capacity building activities, regional meeting of law enforcement officials, documentation, cooperation and collaboration with similar agencies. We recently organized General Meeting of SAWEN from 02 to 03 November 2022 in Maldives. SAWEN is organizing capacity building activities including wildlife crime prosecution and investigation training in Nepal in September

Website and other useful links

<https://www.sawen.org/>

Key partners in the region

INTERPOL, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), UNODC, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) Nepal, TRAFFIC, WWF Nepal, the World Bank, Zoological Society of London,

Network focal points

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EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group



Region and countries of the network

Europe; European Union and its 27 Member States in alphabetical order: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. In addition, other European countries are regularly invited to attend the meetings as observers.

Authorities involved

CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities, Customs, Police, Environmental Inspectorates, Nature Conservation Agencies, Wildlife inspectorates, Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, World Customs Organization and the CITES Secretariat are invited regularly.

Formal network

Brief description

The Enforcement Group is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the provisions laid down in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and meets generally twice a year.

The enforcement group examines any technical questions relating to the enforcement of these regulations. The Group also plays an important role in the implementation of EU Action Plans against Wildlife Trafficking and acts as a forum to share knowledge and good practices.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

The results of the discussions from the meetings of the Enforcement group are reported to the EU CITES Management Committee that supports the EU Commission in the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade regulations.

Key partners in the region

TRAFFIC Europe, relevant agencies and organizations such as Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, WCO, UNODC, neighboring countries like Switzerland, Norway, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Key activities

Its task is to monitor enforcement policy and practice in the EU Member States and make recommendations to improve the enforcement of wildlife trade legislation. It also catalyses the exchange of information, experience, and expertise on wildlife trade control related topics between the Member States (trends in illegal trade, significant seizures and investigations), including sharing of intelligence information and establishing and maintaining databases. Reports of the findings of investigations/operations carried out by the member States are shared during the meetings, being accessible to all CITES Authorities of the Member States, the Commission, and other partners through restricted access.

In addition, subgroups have been established to handle identified important topics such as illegal trade in birds, reptiles, ivory, timber, or eels but also questions related to forensic and marking. Dedicated sessions can address issues like engagement with relevant business or transport sectors, cooperation with specifically important third countries.

Website and other useful links

Information is exchanged on a specific access restricted portal managed by the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/eg_en.htm: In addition, EU TWIX (<http://www.eu-twix.org/>) which is a tool to facilitate information exchange on illegal wildlife trade in the European Union can be used to distribute information quickly between registered users. The EU-TWIX website and database are only accessible for officials of law enforcement authorities (e.g., customs, police and other governmental agencies such as environmental inspection services, national crime units, etc. involved in wildlife trade controls) and CITES Management Authorities of the 27 EU Members States.

Network focal points

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SudWEN

Region and countries of the network

Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Guyana, Paraguay, Perú, Surinam y Uruguay.

Formal network

Authorities involved

Policía (federal, estatal y local); Fiscalía, Autoridades Nacionales CITES y Aduanas

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

El borrador de los los TdR incluye una estructura liderada por una Presidencia que trabajará conjuntamente con la Coordinación General. La Coordinación General desempeñará sus responsabilidades en constante comunicación con los Puntos Focales designados de los países miembros de la red.

Key activities

Una primera reunión regional de SudWEN celebrada en noviembre y diciembre de 2021 reunió a 60 representantes de 11 países sudamericanos.

La reunión sirvió para intercambiar experiencias e identificar necesidades para promover el intercambio de perspectivas sobre la estructura necesaria para consolidar SudWEN. Los términos de referencia redactados durante la reunión de SudWEN están siendo revisados por los gobiernos participantes, con el fin de ser adoptados y firmados en 2022.

Brief description

La Red Sudamericana de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa sobre la Vida Silvestre (SudWEN) se estableció en septiembre de 2014 a través de la Declaración de Sao Paulo, con el objetivo de aumentar los esfuerzos de lucha contra el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre en América del Sur.

SudWEN se inspira en las experiencias de WENs en otras regiones del mundo, con la intención de fomentar la colaboración regional en materia de delitos contra la vida silvestre. A pesar de la cooperación transfronteriza existente para combatir el tráfico ilícito de especies silvestres, SudWEN no entró en funcionamiento formalmente tras su creación.

Desde 2020, la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC), en nombre del ICCWC, está apoyando la revitalización de SudWEN, trabajando estrechamente con los puntos focales designados de los países para consolidar una red eficaz de organismos encargados de la aplicación de la ley en materia de fauna y flora silvestres que busca fortalecer, promover y coordinar la cooperación regional para combatir el tráfico ilegal de especies silvestres que amenaza la flora y la fauna silvestres de la región sudamericana.

El borrador de los términos de referencia (TdR) de la Red fue redactado en la reunión regional (Dic. 2021) y esta en proceso de revisión con miras a ser consensuado a finales de 2022.

Perú expuso su interés en Presidir SudWEN y ninguna objeción fue planteada por el resto de los miembros de la red. Se están realizando las coordinaciones para formalizar la estructura de la red y la Coordinación General. Perú liderará las sesiones de trabajo para la finalización de los TdR y ocupará la Presidencia a partir del momento que los TdR sean adoptados.

Key partners in the region

Consortio Internacional para Combatir los Delitos contra la Vida Silvestre (ICCWC) - Secretaría de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres (CITES), Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC), INTERPOL, el Banco Mundial y la Organización Mundial de Aduanas (OMA).

Website and other useful links

SudWEN no tiene una página web

Network focal points

Presidencia: Embajador Paul Duclós, Director-General para Asuntos Multilaterales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Perú

Coordinador General: Información por confirmar.



TOGETHER AGAINST
WILDLIFE CRIME



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



WORLD BANK GROUP



International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime