



**World Customs  
Organization**

## THUNDER operational concept

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**Global WEN Meeting**

21-22 November 2022

# Operation THUNDER 2022



THUNDER's operational concept is a yearly large-scale INTERPOL-WCO fauna and flora enforcement operation – wildlife crime and forest crimes.



# Key focus



Use the risk management system to identify and intercept illegal wildlife trade (IWT) (including flora) consignments in the international supply chain.

Intercept shipments and affect seizures that will serve as a point of departure for criminal investigations, intelligence gathering and cooperation with Police/Prosecutors where relevant.

Support law enforcement actions in further criminal proceedings related to arrest and ultimately dismantle criminal networks through intelligence-led investigations.

Disrupt criminal networks.

# Other form of crimes



1.

- Abuse and falsification of commercial and Customs documents;

2.

- Submission of false Customs declarations for export, transit, and import

3.

- Illegal money transfers

4.

- Concealment and transport of other illicit good

# Key Objectives



Conduct joint Customs / police profiling, where permitted

Strengthen communication and enforcement capacity to combat wildlife crime at both national and international levels.

Coordinate cross-agency law enforcement efforts to detect and deter wildlife criminal networks, including the engagement of civil society groups as appropriate.

Improve communication, cooperation, and coordination between illegal wildlife exporting countries and wildlife destination countries; and

Conduct investigative follow-up on undertaken inspection with a specific emphasis on identified crime convergence and information gathering campaign.

Identify individuals, criminal networks and criminal organizations involved in the illegal wildlife trade, as well as cyber enabled wildlife crime.

# Preoperational training



## WCO and INTERPOL under the THUNDER preoperational phase organizing training activities:

- I. Building operational plans;
- II. Strengthening cooperation between national agencies as part of the inter-agency collaboration, but also on a regional level utilizing all enforcement networks ICCWC partner has at the disposal;
- III. Technical training on the CITES enforcement and seizure data collection and storage with available tools (WCO Customs Enforcement Network, Interpol seizure template), cooperation and collaboration;

# WCO and INTERPOL



Physical Operation Coordination UNIT (P-OCU).

Facilitate information exchange mechanisms.

Monitor and support participating countries throughout the operation

Assists based on the demand in case development and guidance.

# Post - operational phase



Continuation of the ongoing cases and support per open request.

Follow-up on the national level with all included in the operation for all captured seizures.

Initiate case development.

Analyzing related information and intelligence.

Facilitating operational meetings between partners involved in cases.





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**Thank you**

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