



GUIDANCE NOTE

Strengthening National-Level Donor and Development Partner Coordination to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade



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ABOUT THE GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Global Wildlife Program (GWP) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the World Bank. It is a global partnership to combat illegal wildlife trade and promote wildlife-based economies. Through an investment of \$365 million in GEF financing and over \$2 billion in co-financing, the GWP brings together efforts in 38 countries. GWP national projects across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, along with a global coordination project, create a collaborative program that facilitates action on the ground, connections across borders, and the sharing of experiences, lessons, and best practices.

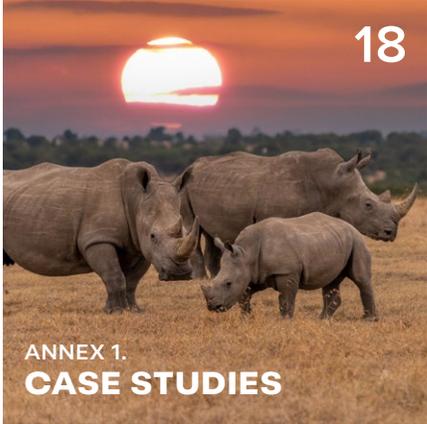
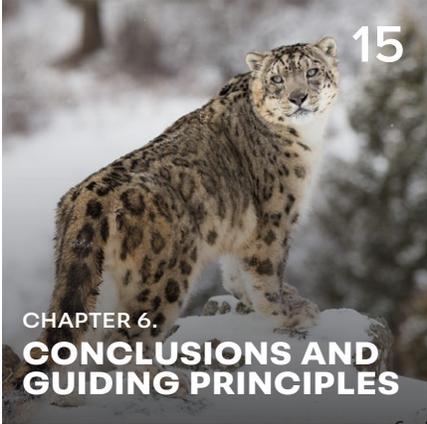
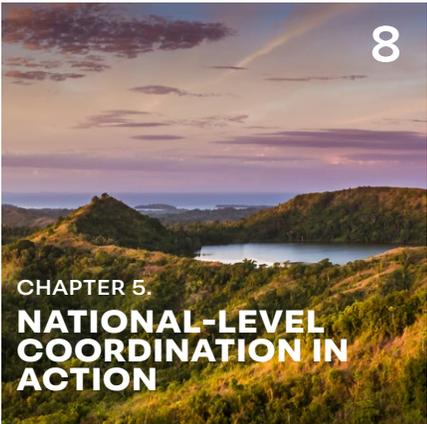
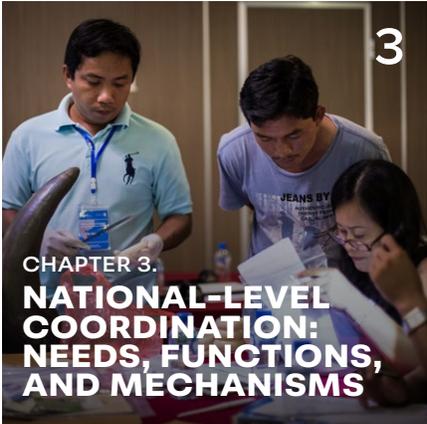
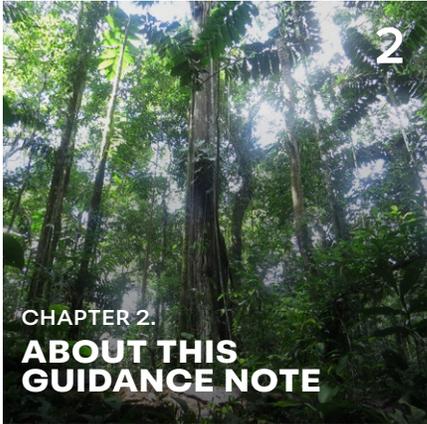
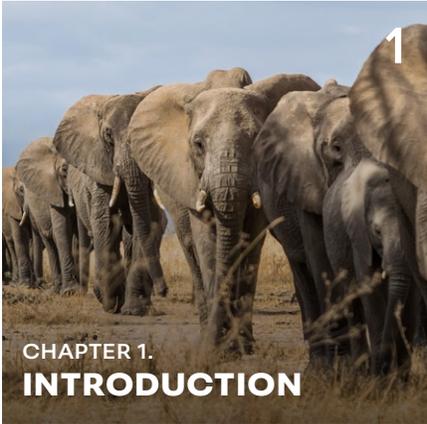
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Coordination among donors is important to ensure aligned and effective support to countries affected by illegal wildlife trade (IWT). Among other things, coordination helps avoid duplication of effort, supports identification of synergies and alignment of effort to shared priorities, and can lead to the development of joint initiatives. At the global level, the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) knowledge platform supports donor coordination, including through global analyses of international funding to tackle IWT¹. These analyses outline the growing scale of donor investment and priority countries and intervention areas for support, as well as donor-prepared case studies² on lessons learned through investment in combating IWT. The GWP convenes an IWT global donor coordination group, an informal forum for donors to share information and discuss future funding priorities that has met quarterly since 2016.

There is also a need for effective donor coordination to combat IWT at the national level and, as relevant, transboundary and regional levels. A 2021 rapid survey of donors and development partners on strengthening coordination in Asia³ pointed to varied challenges—including a lack of alignment of external programming with national priorities and limited connections between stakeholders—that stronger national-level coordination could resolve. The results highlighted the need to identify and share good practices in national-level coordination to tackle IWT.

1 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-wildlife-program/operations>

2 <http://apparentlydigital.com/WildLife/casestudies.html>

3 The survey was conducted by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development, and World Wildlife Fund in November–December 2021. Partners identified developing guidance on national-level donor coordination as one of the short-term actions in response to the survey results, with the World Bank the chosen partner to complete this action.



ABOUT THIS GUIDANCE NOTE

The objective of this guidance note is to share experiences and case studies on strengthening national-level donor and development partner coordination⁴ to combat IWT. Little information currently exists on what coordination mechanisms are used globally and what has been learned from their operation. This guidance note seeks to close this knowledge gap.

The guidance note aims to showcase the diversity of mechanisms along the coordination continuum that have been helping strengthen national-level donor and development partner coordination to combat IWT. It does not attempt to assess mechanisms' effectiveness, but rather to tease out guiding principles and suggestions for advancing national-level coordination efforts.

Development of the note included (1) conducting research (a literature review and stakeholder virtual consultations and feedback); (2) collecting and analyzing data (identifying 17 coordination mechanisms in 12 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean); (3) profiling the coordination mechanisms in case studies and examining and comparing the different aspects of the mechanisms; and (4) deriving from the data guiding principles and stakeholder suggestions for advancing national-level coordination to ensure that donor funding has the greatest impact. The consultations were conducted during February–April 2023 with 32 stakeholders—donor agencies, foundations, embassies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and national governments involved in combating IWT and related threats. Written contributions from key stakeholders helped crystallize and refine important issues and recommendations.

⁴ In this guidance note, national-level coordination is defined as efforts by donors, development partners, and governments to share information, harmonize external assistance, and align this with national priorities in beneficiary countries. Donors and development partners include all stakeholders providing and receiving financial, technical, and other forms of assistance to counter IWT in those countries.



NATIONAL-LEVEL COORDINATION: NEEDS, FUNCTIONS, AND MECHANISMS

Across the expanse of counter-IWT programming, coordination at the country level is recognized as an advantage for all stakeholders. The specific goals of coordination, the different partners to be engaged, and the best mechanisms to achieve it vary.

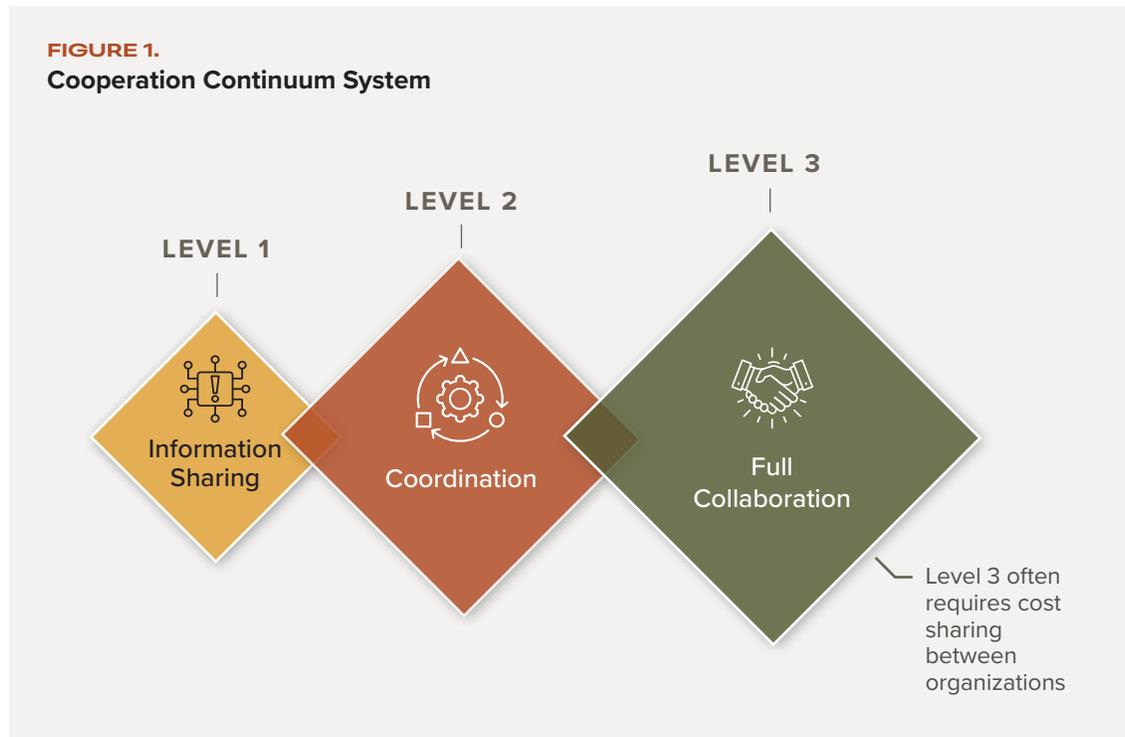
TABLE 1.
Functions of National-Level Coordination

- ▶ Avoid duplication and overlap among donors and development partners.
- ▶ Align donor and development partner efforts with national strategies and government priorities.
- ▶ Deliver clear and harmonized collective messaging and technical support to government counterparts.
- ▶ Improve targeting of donor and development partner programming in a given national context.
- ▶ Ensure more efficient use of donor, development partner, and government funding and resources.
- ▶ Enhance effectiveness and amplify impact of donor and development partner funding and activities.

Such deliberations are inherent in concerted efforts to define the overall “function” of national-level coordination. Table 1 presents a range of potential functions of donor and development partner coordination.

When considering the potential functions, it is important to note that coordination activity can be motivated by differing levels of ambition. Figure 1 shows a progressive three-level “cooperation continuum” of ambition. At the most basic level (level 1) sits “information sharing”—a useful function that, in some cases, may be all that is required. The next higher level (level 2) of ambition involves “coordination”—harmonizing donor investment and development partner activity, to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts. Full “collaboration” is the highest (level 3). It comprises preemptive

joint efforts to achieve more proactive integration of counter-IWT activity and align it with government priorities and workplans. Level 3 often requires cost sharing between organizations.



Clearly defining the desired function and level of ambition of national-level coordination in any given context is key to determining the appropriate coordination mechanism. Options range from ad hoc to more formal, established initiatives. Table 2 presents several types of national-level coordination mechanisms and references featured throughout this guidance note.

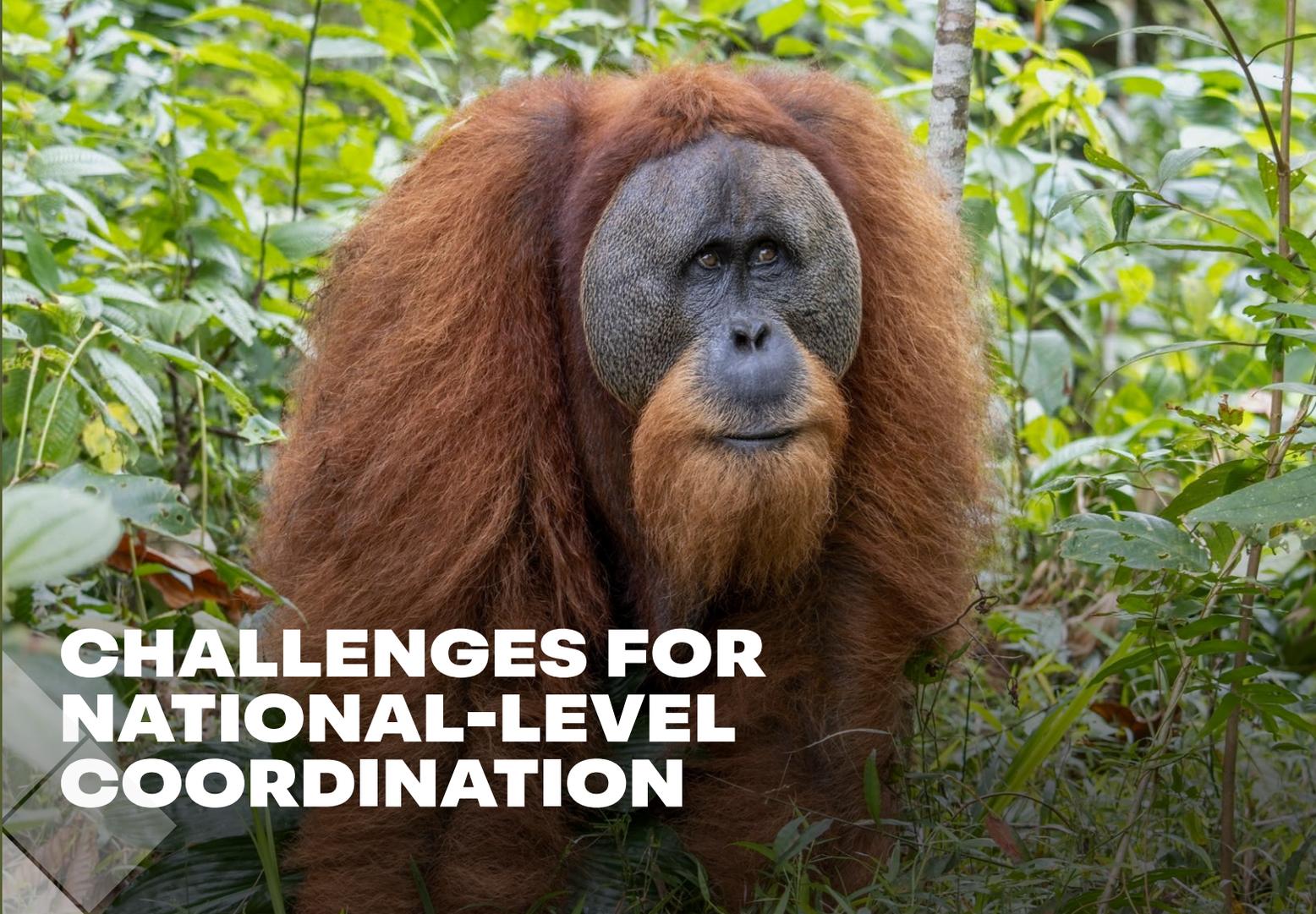
Clarity on the function and ambition of coordination efforts is crucial not only to making decisions about the most appropriate type of coordination mechanism but also ensuring the most appropriate membership and level of participation. For example, coordination to ensure consistent external messaging to government counterparts is likely to involve primarily nongovernmental actors. By contrast, coordination activity with the principal goal of aligning planned activity with government priorities is likely to require both governmental and nongovernmental participation.

Considerations relating to function and ambition will also determine the most suitable leadership of national-level coordination activity, whether by host government agency, donor, or development partner. They will similarly influence the optimal frequency of engagement, whether a one-off intervention or organized ongoing arrangements. Finally, such considerations will determine whether a country's coordination activity is targeted at the national or subnational level.

TABLE 2.
Types of Coordination Mechanisms

TYPE OF MECHANISM	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES*
Bulletin or newsletter	Information sharing through a regular digital or physical publication, to support wider efforts to avoid duplication and overlap.	Vietnam–Box 1
One-off coordination event	Ad hoc in-person or virtual meeting held when a need for coordination is identified, to avoid duplication and overlap, ensure alignment with national strategies, and support other functions, presented in Table 1.	Kenya–Box 2 Nigeria–Box 3
Joint implementation of an activity or campaign	An overarching campaign or project co-delivered by development partners that agree to work toward the same objectives in a coordinated manner, for example, in different geographic locations within a country.	Cambodia–Case Study 1
Compilation of activity database	Joint population and regular updating of spreadsheets to provide an accurate picture of ongoing activity in a country, to avoid or resolve duplication.	Lao PDR–Case Study 7
Annual coordination initiative	Annual in-person or virtual meeting where coordination is assessed to be required only once per year, in support of any of the coordination functions presented in Table 1.	Lao PDR–Case Study 8 Uganda–Case Study 14
Informal coordination meetings multiple times per year	Regular informal meetings that take place multiple times per year but are outside the framework of a formal working group of inducted members.	Nigeria–Case Study 9
Formal working group that meets multiple times per year	A dedicated working group or taskforce where members recognize the need for regular contact to achieve coordination functions presented in Table 1. Governance, financing, and membership arrangements may differ depending on objectives and national context.	Cameroon–Case Studies 2–3 DRC–Case Study 4 Indonesia–Case Study 5 Lao PDR–Case Study 7 Peru–Case Study 10 Tanzania–Case Study 11 Thailand–Case Study 12 Uganda–Case Study 13 Vietnam–Case Studies 15–17
Registered membership-based organization	A single organizational entity with a mandate to facilitate coordination in line with functions presented in Table 1, whether registered as a private company or NGO.	Kenya–Case Study 6

* Boxes 1-3 in page 10; Case studies in Table 4 and Annex 1.



CHALLENGES FOR NATIONAL-LEVEL COORDINATION

While numerous national-level coordination initiatives are underway in many countries (Chapter 3), several challenges have impeded progress and momentum in some contexts.

Donor agencies consulted for this note reported that a lack of widespread inter-donor communication is a recurring challenge, reflecting limited forward-looking coordination of the design of nationally focused investments. Disparate work processes, priorities, and funding cycles reportedly can also impact coordination efforts.

In some instances, donors delegate coordination to grantees, even though project design is finalized, and fail to allocate resources for such tasks. This can unintentionally limit options for coordination among grantees and impede efforts to align activities and calendars and leverage opportunities to jointly train participants. Some development partners noted a lack of tangible coordination incentives—which could hamper communication and collaboration efforts in the competitive grant-financing environment.

Key to the success of these efforts is host governments' articulation of national priorities on tackling IWT. Lack of this central point of reference can restrict the effectiveness of coordination among donors and development partners. Table 3 presents this and other reported challenges, from competition for grants and unsustainable financing, to gaps in membership and disparate work processes.

TABLE 3.
Challenges for National-Level Coordination

<p>Breadth and number of stakeholders</p>	<p>IWT is a complex programming area involving stakeholders from multiple fields (for example, conservation, law, criminology) and sectors, each with distinct objectives, priorities, and resources.</p>
<p>Competition</p>	<p>Many development partners depend on grants for survival, and there is fierce competition for them. A perceived need to maintain competitive advantage over a certain tool, information, or partnership can limit cooperation.</p>
<p>Lack of trust</p>	<p>In a sensitive programming environment, sharing information is frequently hindered by a lack of trust or confidence in development partners across the system.</p>
<p>Funding of short-term projects</p>	<p>In many cases, funding is trending toward shorter projects, exacerbating competition, forcing development partners to work piecemeal, and denying the operational security that encourages collaboration.</p>
<p>Lack of alignment of incentive structures</p>	<p>Incentive structures are rarely set up to support coordination among development partners, with little competitive advantage to be gained when funding is restricted, and outputs are predetermined.</p>
<p>Unsustainable financing</p>	<p>Once established, resources are often required to maintain stand-alone coordination platforms. Sustainability can be an issue in these cases, where coordination wanes as project funding ends.</p>
<p>Gaps in participation and membership</p>	<p>Effective coordination forums rely on involvement of the right individuals; a membership of junior over senior staff can limit effectiveness.</p>
<p>Practical and logistical barriers</p>	<p>Wide-ranging disparities exist in donor processes and resulting implementation requirements. Differences in per diems, financial year, and bilateral funding conditions constrict coordinated planning and implementation.</p>



NATIONAL-LEVEL COORDINATION IN ACTION

National-level donor and development partner coordination of counter-IWT initiatives varies significantly from country to country. In several countries, coordination is well-established and thus can provide informative, practical examples. This guidance note offers 17 case studies of national-level coordination in action in 12 countries across the globe (Figure 2).

The case studies (Annex) for the countries in Figure 2 detail the “what,” “who,” and “how” of each mechanism and describe the coordination principles at work. Table 4 summarizes each initiative’s mechanism type, leadership, membership, scope, governance, and frequency.

The majority of coordination initiatives identified are formal working groups, steering groups, or taskforces in nine of the 12 countries studied: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Vietnam. The remaining mechanisms include a registered membership-based organization in Kenya, informal monthly coordination meetings in Nigeria, and the joint implementation of a national campaign in Cambodia.

Boxes 1–3 present additional examples of one-off coordination efforts and more focused information-sharing initiatives.

FIGURE 2.

National-Level Coordination Mechanisms Cited

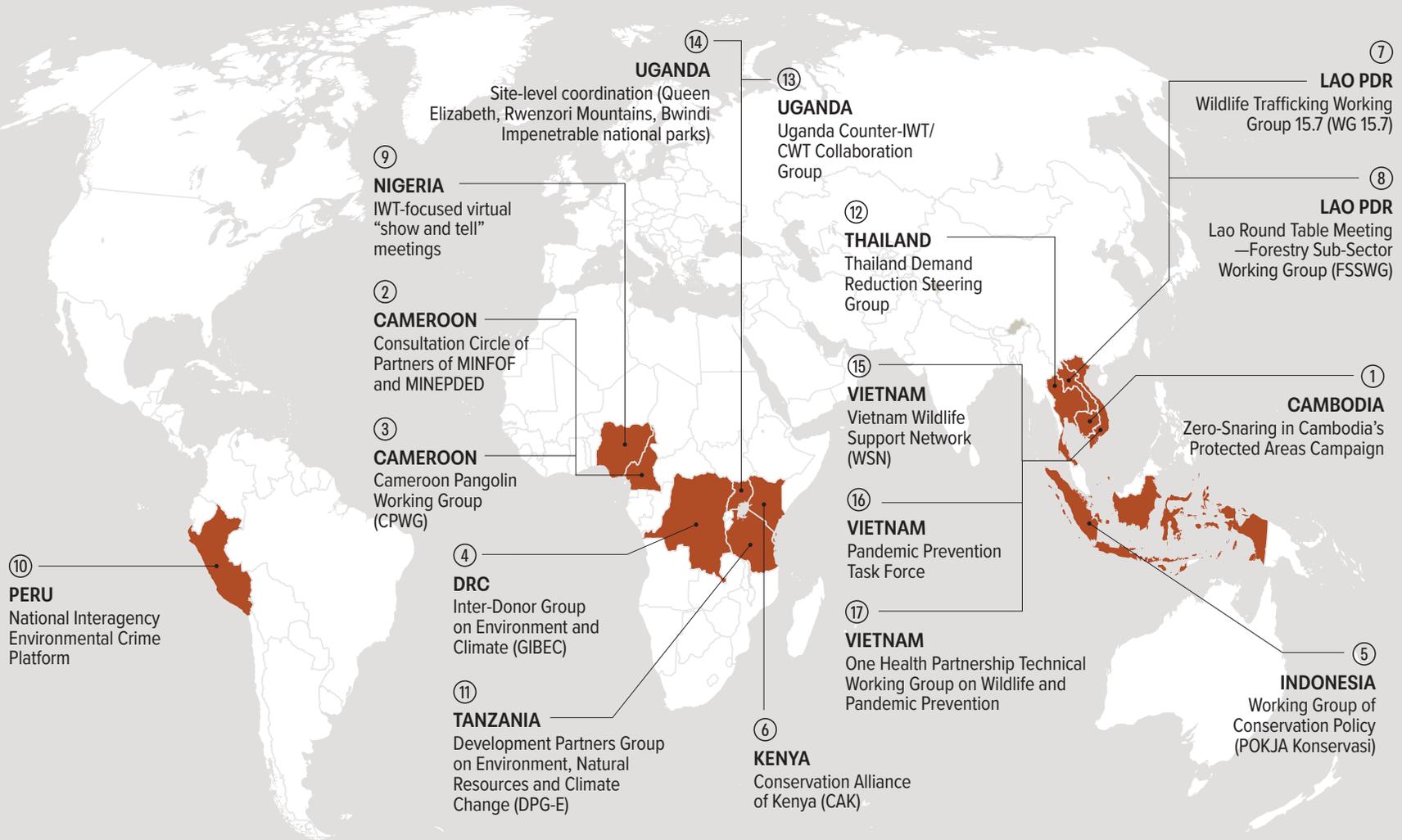


TABLE 4.

Summary of National-Level Coordination Mechanisms Identified

*Full details on each case study are provided in the Annex

CASE STUDY	COUNTRY	MECHANISM TYPE	LEADERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	SCOPE	GOVERNANCE	FREQUENCY OF CONTACT
1 Zero-Snaring in Cambodia's Protected Areas Campaign	Cambodia	Campaign coalition	Government led	Government, NGOs, donors, private sector actors, religious leaders, communities, other key stakeholders	Illegal wildlife snaring; curbing wild-meat consumption	Established under the Ministry of Environment, with NGO partners leading delivery in each province	Ongoing delivery (Phase 1 completed; now in Phase 2)
2 Consultation Circle of Partners of MINFOF and MINEPDED	Cameroon	Working group	Government led	Government, international organizations, donors, NGOs	Wildlife, forestry, environment	Hosting rotating among members	Every two months
3 Cameroon Pangolin Working Group (CPWG)	Cameroon	Working group	NGO led	Government, NGOs, donors, academia	Species specific: illegal trade in pangolins	Defined TOR; Council of Members elects a Management Committee; meetings chaired by an NGO (TRAFFIC)	Bi-annually with additional ad-hoc sessions
4 Inter-Donor Group on Environment and Climate (GIBEC)	DRC	Working group	Donor led	Donors, UN agencies	Environment and climate	Defined TOR; rotating lead organization elected by members	Monthly
5 Working Group of Conservation Policy (POKJA Konservasi)	Indonesia	Working group	NGO led	NGOs, academia, research institutions, donors	Biodiversity and ecosystems, environmental conservation policy	Nonbinding membership system coordinated by a lead NGO (the Indonesian Communication Forum on Community Forestry)	In line with evolving needs/policy issues
6 Conservation Alliance of Kenya (CAK)	Kenya	Specific organizational entity	NGO led	NGOs	Environment and natural resources	Umbrella body to give a united voice for environment and natural resource management organizations	Entity in continuous existence
7 Wildlife Trafficking Working Group 15.7 (WG 15.7)	Lao PDR	Working group	Embassy led (UK, US, EU)	Embassies, international organizations, donors, NGOs	3 groups: CWT and law enforcement, conservation, One Health	Hosting and sponsoring rotate informally across embassies	Quarterly
8 Lao Round Table Meeting –Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group (FSSWG)	Lao PDR	Working group	Government led	Government, embassies, international organizations, donors, NGOs	Wildlife issues discussed under the umbrella “forestry”	Co-chaired by Government of Lao PDR and a development partner	Annually

CASE STUDY	COUNTRY	MECHANISM TYPE	LEADERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	SCOPE	GOVERNANCE	FREQUENCY OF CONTACT
9 IWT-focused virtual “show and tell” meetings	Nigeria	Coordination call	NGO led	NGOs, international organizations, embassies	IWT	Calls chaired and run by a single NGO (EIA)	Monthly
10 National Interagency Environmental Crime Platform	Peru	Working group	NGO led	Government, international organizations, NGOs, academia	Environmental crime	Meeting hosted by UNODC	Variable (quarterly or biannually)
11 Development Partners Group on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change (DPG-E)	Tanzania	Working group	Bi-/multilateral agency led	Government, bi-/multilateral partners (NGOs/private sector ad hoc)	3 subgroups: wildlife, forestry, climate change	Defined TOR; rotating co-chairs; secretariat competitively selected and member funded	Monthly
12 Thailand Demand Reduction Steering Group	Thailand	Working group	Government led	Government, donors, international organizations, NGOs	Wildlife demand reduction	Meetings chaired by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Quarterly
13 Case Study 13: Uganda Counter-IWT/CWT Collaboration Group	Uganda	Working group	NGO led	NGOs	IWT	Rotating chairperson and secretary positions	Quarterly
14 Site-level coordination (Queen Elizabeth, Rwenzori Mountains, Bwindi Impenetrable national parks)	Uganda	Site-level meeting	Government led	Government, NGOs, international organizations	Wildlife conservation	Meetings hosted by Uganda Wildlife Authority	Annually
15 Vietnam Wildlife Support Network (WSN)	Vietnam	Working group	NGO led	Embassies, international organizations, NGOs	Wildlife conservation	Defined TOR; rotating host quarterly and rotating coordinating organization annually	Quarterly
16 Pandemic Prevention Task Force	Vietnam	Taskforce	NGO and international organization led	NGOs, international organizations, embassies	Wildlife and pandemic prevention	Defined TOR; co-chaired by Government of Vietnam and a development partner on a rotating basis	Quarterly
17 One Health Partnership Technical Working Group on Wildlife and Pandemic Prevention	Vietnam	Working group	Government led	Government, NGOs, international organizations, embassies	Wildlife and pandemic prevention	Secretariat comprised of NGOs and international organizations	Variable (multiple/ year)



BOX 1.
Vietnam: Sharing Information

Diverse coordination initiatives to counter IWT exist in Vietnam. The Wildlife Partnership Forum was established in 2013 to strengthen partnerships and synergies among stakeholders working to protect wildlife in the country. With support from the GEF-financed Global Wildlife Program’s Vietnam project executed by the Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and supported by the World Bank, the forum strengthened its knowledge exchange, and the weekly Biodiversity Newsletter was introduced to increase information sharing. The newsletter, with more than 1,000 subscribers, provides updates on numerous biodiversity issues, including IWT trends and the status of enforcement and conservation operations. It also covers various initiatives launched by a range of actors, to help key stakeholders avoid duplication and overlap and encourage complementarity and mutual support to achieve higher-impact results.



BOX 2.
Kenya: A Donor Roundtable on Coordination

In January 2023, Kenya’s Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) organized a Donor Roundtable Meeting, attended by Kenya-based donors and development partners. The ODPP shared its Matrix on Specific Areas of Collaboration, outlining priorities for 2023–24 by department and division and identifying locations where collaboration is sought. While the coordination event extended beyond IWT (and conservation), the ODPP Wildlife Division’s priorities included implementing the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Coast Inter-Agency Corruption Risk Mitigation Plan; building capacity for forestry and fisheries issues; revising the IWT rapid reference guide for investigators and prosecutors; sensitizing criminal justice actors; and reforming relevant wildlife legislation.



BOX 3.
Nigeria: A Coordination Roundtable on IWT

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime led a coordination roundtable in Nigeria March 21–22, 2023. The meeting was organized around the project Counter Wildlife Trafficking in West and Central Africa, supported by the US Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). Participants—including INL-funded initiatives stakeholders and other key international stakeholders—discussed their existing and potential synergies and collaboration to support Nigeria and yield the maximum impact in the fight against wildlife crime.

The 20 meeting members from 13 organizations developed a matrix of each organization’s work supporting Nigeria’s National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime. The exercise helped identify overlapping work and opportunities for collaboration, and the group agreed on 25 follow-up action points.

Summary of Findings

The main takeaway from the case studies is that no one-size-fits-all model for coordination exists. Instead, coordination initiatives need to be adapted to the national context, draw on appropriate existing mechanisms where possible, and remain sufficiently flexible to evolve over time.

The evolution and expansion of national-level coordination mechanisms are natural and necessary—whether to accommodate shifting membership, address a changing slate of issues, or integrate with emerging cross-boundary and international coordination activity. Coordination at these levels in addition to the national level is needed. This can provide opportunities to enhance national-based work by sharing lessons learned, building networks, implementing joint campaigns, and harmonizing policies.

The coordination mechanism examples also show that the geographic and thematic scope targeted by a coordination activity can vary. Table 4 highlights coordination initiatives focused not only at the national level, but also on (1) particular species that are trafficked within a country context and internationally (for example, the country-level mechanism in Cameroon to protect pangolins, native to Africa as well as Asia); (2) particular thematic areas within IWT programming (including the demand reduction initiative in Thailand); and (3) specific protected areas (such as the site-level coordination meetings about wildlife conservation in three national parks in Uganda).

Membership and Leadership

Most identified coordination mechanisms include a mix of stakeholders as members, such as governments, donors, embassies, international organizations, NGOs, and academia. A few mechanisms limit membership to a particular stakeholder group. For example, members of a working group in Uganda are exclusively NGOs, working toward cooperation, advocacy, resource mobilization, and information sharing for counter-IWT activities. The NGOs' missions align with the goals of the working group.

Leadership of the coordination mechanisms is mostly equally by NGOs and governments, with only a few led by donors. Many mechanisms have co-chairs or rotating chairs.

Stakeholders interviewed identified leadership and membership together as the most crucial driver of effective coordination. In addition to the nature of the operating context, the respective roles, strengths, and characteristics of each set of stakeholders in any given country are significant. Regardless of the makeup of stakeholders, interviewees cited measures such as rotating meeting chairpersons and agenda setting as important to encouraging ownership and buy-in of all members and creating open, safe spaces conducive to coordination. They also pointed to capable and proactive convening as key to achieving expected results.

Government Involvement

Whether national governments are directly involved in national-level coordination mechanisms differs across the examples, in line with the desired coordination function. For example, in cases where a primary function is to present a unified position and harmonized support to government counterparts, members of coordination efforts are likely to be mainly donors and development partners. In contrast, coordination initiatives aimed at aligning planning with national strategies are likely to feature government actors.

For all cases, interviewees stressed the importance of a consistent, central position by government on its IWT priorities. Notably, the respondents considered coordination more effective when there were defined national strategies on which coordination efforts are based. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties Decisions (and CITES Standing Committee recommendations on compliance and enforcement) can similarly offer a central position with which partners can align their support. Interviewees reported that government involvement is vital in terms of national ownership and to secure sustainability. The identification of appropriate governance and financing arrangements was also reported as critical in preventing efforts from fading as individual projects end.

Is a New Coordination Mechanism Needed?

The multitude of examples captured in this note reflect the need to consider whether a new mechanism needs to be created. This is likely to depend on the desired objective of coordination and the nature of existing coordination structures. Examples in many countries in Africa and Asia show how IWT can be addressed within wider coordination structures, often those focused on conservation more broadly or more inclusive One Health approaches. Reported advantages of integrating IWT into existing coordination mechanisms include cost efficiencies, the avoidance of duplication, and the achievement of more sustainable governance.

As such, interviewees described the importance of conducting mapping activity before establishing any new mechanism. Ongoing mapping of efforts was also noted as relevant, with respondents citing detailed, ongoing mapping of wider counter-IWT programming as being productive in diverse countries.

The main takeaway from the case studies is that no one-size-fits-all model for coordination exists. Instead, coordination initiatives need to be adapted to the national context, draw on appropriate existing mechanisms where possible, and remain sufficiently flexible to evolve over time.





CONCLUSIONS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

National-level coordination is a crucial component of the wide-ranging global efforts to combat IWT. Governance of coordination mechanisms should be defined flexibly, as no universal model exists, and over-prescriptiveness could be counterproductive. The mechanisms cited in this guidance note offer options that can be tailored to different national contexts and integrated into existing platforms as IWT issues and priorities shift.

Table 5 lists guiding principles that can help strengthen or design customized coordination mechanisms at the national level. The principles are drawn from the examples and experiences described in the country case studies. From clearly defining purpose and expected outcomes to creating sustainable governance, the guiding principles all support the goal of maximizing impact.

While these principles guide the overall development and sustainability of coordination mechanisms, suggestions from interviews offer further guidance on improving donor and development partner coordination. For example, coordinating stakeholder efforts during the design stage, before a project begins, could help align the project better with national plans and prevent design overlaps. To enhance dialogue during design and inform project development/selection, the interviewees suggested conducting mapping of past and current activity at the national level. They also suggested incentivizing grantees to improve coordination activity and clearly assigning responsibility for coordination.

These suggestions, the principles and the experiences of the multiple parties involved in the 17 case studies listed offer guidance to support stronger IWT collaboration at national level among donors and development partners.

TABLE 5.**Guiding Principles for National-Level Donor and Development Partner Coordination Mechanisms**

Mechanism choice	There is no one-size-fits-all coordination mechanism. A mechanism should be chosen based on the objective, available budget, and capacity to enact it. Mapping activity can identify options for integrating counter-IWT into existing coordination initiatives. This builds links with related areas, such as the One Health platforms ⁵ .
Alignment with government priorities	Coordination processes should support the priorities of national governments. This includes national strategies to counter IWT and, where relevant, Decisions and recommendations of CITES governing bodies (among other multilateral environmental agreements). Alignment with government positions ensures local ownership, coordination mechanism coherence, and sustainability.
Neutrality and inclusivity	Membership should be considered carefully, with relevant actors included per the desired mechanism function. Neutral, open spaces that are not linked with any one organization and rotating meeting chairing and agenda setting can encourage members' buy-in and ownership of the platform.
Clarity of purpose	A clear purpose and capable leadership are required to ensure that dialogue translates into action with impact. Expected outcomes should be clearly communicated, with options to move up the “cooperation continuum” toward full collaboration considered as relevant.
Geographic focus	Geographic focus should be defined in line with the desired coordination function. Coordination efforts can encompass the entire country or target a specific area within the country.
Sustainable governance	Sustainable governance mechanisms should be identified such that coordination efforts are able to endure over the long term. Financing arrangements, where required, should be built on a sustainable long-term footing.
Links to international coordination	Links to transboundary, regional, and international coordination mechanisms should be considered where national coordination efforts cover internationally trafficked species, with engagement supported between these mechanisms as needed.
Communication and trust	Holding in-person or virtual meetings to establish trust is crucial for donors and development partners as well as governments. Activity updates and future plans should be communicated regularly—through a virtual call, for example, or an online or print newsletter or other vehicle—and knowledge and best practices should be shared continually.

5. Many countries have established national-level One-Health platforms. One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach — working at different levels — with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.



ANNEX 1 **CASE STUDIES**

This annex presents case studies of national-level coordination referenced throughout this guidance note. Each case study describes the coordination initiative (“What”), the stakeholders (“Who”), and the coordination activity’s organization (“How”).



COUNTRY	CAMBODIA
CASE STUDY 1	Zero-Snaring in Cambodia’s Protected Areas Campaign
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Joint implementation of an activity or campaign</i>

- WHAT** The Zero-Snaring in Cambodia’s Protected Areas Campaign was launched by the Ministry of Environment of the Royal Cambodian Government in 2022 with the formation of a coalition of government ministries and development partners. The group is dedicated to undertaking multistakeholder public advocacy on the country’s crisis of snaring and wild meat consumption. Upon joining the Zero-Snaring campaign, all partners committed to working together on shared solutions to the crisis. This commitment supports the campaign’s overarching goals of strengthening anti-snaring laws, raising public awareness, and changing behavior among key stakeholders across the country.
- WHO** The campaign was established under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, with support from a group of external partners including the World Wide Fund for Nature (the secretariat); US Agency for International Development, Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International, NatureLife Cambodia, Fauna and Flora International, and Wild Earth Allies.
- HOW** The implementation of the Zero-Snaring campaign is led by each partner in different provinces. During Phase 1, the campaign engaged approximately 3 million people in person and online, including local communities adjacent to the protected areas, with a focus on raising awareness of the consequences of snaring, trading, and consuming wildlife. In October 2022, campaign partners participated in a high-level national technical workshop in Phnom Penh on the snaring crisis, to gather inputs to inform a forthcoming national action plan. In March 2023, Phase 2 of the zero-snaring campaign was launched, expanding campaign activities to other parts of the country.



COUNTRY	CAMEROON
CASE STUDY 2	Consultation Circle of Partners of Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

- WHAT** The Consultation Circle of Partners of MINFOF and MINEPDED (Cercle de Concertation des Partenaires du MINFOF et MINEPDED–CCPM) is an informal body of development partners supporting the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in Cameroon. It was founded to facilitate regular consultation between MINFOF’s and MINEPDED’s financial and technical partners to optimize and coordinate their support to the ministries. CCPM, in turn, is a partner in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (PBFC), launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development as a non-binding partnership registered with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, bringing together 97 partners.
- WHO** CCPM members comprise NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, donors, and government, including PBFC, KfW Development Bank, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), British High Commission, US Embassy, European Commission, German Embassy, French Embassy, UN Development Programme, African Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Bank, International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Wide Fund for Nature, Wildlife Conservation Society, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry, TRAFFIC, African Wildlife Foundation, Last Great Ape Organization, Agence Française de Développement, and Palladium.
- HOW** Meetings are held every two months, with organization of meetings rotating among members. Recent activity includes the presentation of a coordinated position on the review of Cameroonian Law No. 94/01 of January 20, 1994. This is the foundational legislation on forest and wildlife protection and management in Cameroon (currently at the level of the presidency), including stronger criminalization of and penalties for IWT offenses.

Photo Credit: Gregoire Dubois



COUNTRY	CAMEROON
CASE STUDY 3	Cameroon Pangolin Working Group
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

- WHAT** The Cameroon Pangolin Working Group (CPWG) is a collaborative platform offering a species-specific form of national-level coordination. It aims to ensure that knowledge, expertise, experience, information, and research on pangolins in Cameroon is shared and used by all stakeholders to inform research, advocacy, monitoring, and reporting of illegal trade and lobby for improved policies on pangolin conservation. CPWG was launched by the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in February 2019 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- WHO** CPWG members include representatives of government, NGOs, donor agencies, diplomatic missions, and academia. The group is currently led by an NGO. Research and training institutions—including the University Yaoundé, University Yaoundé II, University of Dschang, Garoua Wildlife School, and University of Stirling (UK)—have offered expertise to support the work of CPWG.
- HOW** CPWG has a Council of Members that elects a Management Committee which acts as the executive organ of the working group. CPWG meets at least bi-annually in ordinary sessions with additional extraordinary sessions at the request of at least 2/3 of its members. The sessions are used for exchanging information on conservation, funding, and communications activities. The Cameroon national workshop on pangolin protection, for example, held in August 2019 and chaired by MINFOF, gathered 21 experts from technical and financial partners, including the US Embassy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, TRAFFIC, Last Great Ape Organization, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London, Congo Basin Institute, Central Africa Bushmeat Action Group, and the Centre for Indigenous Resources Management and Development. Research and analysis, such as pangolin market surveys conducted by TRAFFIC, have been shared with CPWG to improve collective understanding of trends in IWT affecting pangolins across Cameroon.



COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

CASE STUDY 4 **Inter-Donor Group on Environment and Climate (Groupe inter-bailleurs Environnement et Climat–GIBEC)**

MECHANISM TYPE *Working group*

- WHAT** The Inter-Donor Group on Environment and Climate (Groupe inter-bailleurs Environnement et Climat–GIBEC) facilitates information sharing and consultation between donors and technical partners working on environment and climate issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The overall objective is to ensure that these donors and technical partners harmonize efforts to support the Congolese government and implement key environment/climate programs. Specific objectives include to (1) “support the Congolese government through the harmonization, alignment and coordination of programming . . . at national, sub-regional and international levels”; (2) “promote the development of synergies across sectoral programming”; and (3) “develop and share common messaging across Congolese and international partners.”
- WHO** GIBEC is composed of bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as UN agencies working in the environment and climate sector. It is led on a rotating basis by an elected organization, which coordinates group activities.
- HOW** The lead organization is elected by members and has a two-year mandate, renewable once. This organization is responsible for convening monthly GIBEC meetings, representing GIBEC at the national and subregional levels, mapping donor activities in the country, and overseeing the technical secretariat. The technical secretariat facilitates information sharing between GIBEC and relevant government bodies. Annual workplans are developed for GIBEC to support the government in developing relevant national strategies; sharing information on key sectorial interventions; and facilitating dialogue with the government on the financing, implementation, and monitoring of primary activities. GIBEC sub-working groups focus on forests, conservation, water, climate, and the environment.



COUNTRY	INDONESIA
CASE STUDY 5	Working Group of Conservation Policy (POKJA Konservasi)
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

- WHAT** The Working Group of Conservation Policy (Kelompok Kerja Kebijakan Konservasi, or POKJA Konservasi) is an informal working group formed in 2005 following a National Park Partnership workshop held in Wisma Kinasih, Bogor. POKJA Konservasi aims to support the government in strengthening conservation policies in Indonesia, feeding into the revision of relevant legislation and facilitating consultation across a wide range of stakeholders. Among POKJA Konservasi’s six policy objectives is to provide policy recommendations to support government and law enforcement in relation to IWT.
- WHO** Members of POKJA Konservasi include individuals and organizations, spanning representatives of national and international NGOs, research institutions, and (formerly) donor agencies and academia. Today, organizations that play a leading role in POKJA Konservasi activity include the Indonesian Communication Forum on Community Forestry (Forum Komunikasi Kehutanan Masyarakat), Yayasan Pusat Informasi Lingkungan Indonesia (PILI-Green Network), Indonesian Center for Environmental Law, Wildlife Conservation Society, Yayasan KEHATI, and Yayasan World Wide Fund for Nature Indonesia, among numerous others.
- HOW** As an Indonesian NGO, the Forest Community Communication Forum acts as POKJA coordinator. Because POKJA is a nonbinding membership system, members can participate in accordance with their own needs, interests, and commitments. Frequency of contact can vary and activity takes place dynamically, in line with evolving needs and policy issues. POKJA Konservasi works closely with the government, including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, National Forestry Council, and Indonesian Parliament. Among recent activities, POKJA Konservasi actively supports the current revision of Conservation Law No. 5, 1990, building momentum through a petition for its revision after the worst smuggling case of bottled yellow-crested cockatoos was identified in 2015. Since then, the law has been included as a National Priority Legislation Program by Commission IV, with POKJA Konservasi providing input to the draft bill via a policy brief series.

Photo Credit: Gregoire Dubois



COUNTRY	KENYA
CASE STUDY 6	Conservation Alliance of Kenya
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Registered membership-based organization</i>

- WHAT** The Conservation Alliance of Kenya (CAK) was established in 2016 to act as “an umbrella body with a united voice for environment and natural resources management organizations.” CAK seeks to foster effective partnerships with county and national government and advance conservation action through member collaboration and stakeholder engagement.
- WHO** CAK is a limited liability membership registered and incorporated under Kenya’s Companies Act. As of March 2023, it had 74 members, including community conservancies (such as Laikipia Nature Conservancy), national NGOs (such as Colobus Conservation, which works to protect the Angolan Colobus monkey and its habitat in southeastern Kenya), and international NGOs operating in Kenya (such as the African Wildlife Foundation). CAK’s members also include tour operators and organizations with a broader remit (such as the Young Muslim Association) whose work nonetheless touches on conservation. Some members also function as local coordinators, including the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust, which joins stakeholders working on conservation and development issues across the Amboseli ecosystem.
- HOW** CAK’s member benefits include networking, sharing information and best practices, government engagement, and influence and voice in relation to lobbying. To realize these benefits, the alliance distributes newsletters, email updates, and information on regulations and legislation; combines membership resources to coordinate lobbying efforts; employs a collaborative engagement framework for communicating with the government and monitoring resulting activity implementation; and builds capacity to improve conservation outcomes.

Photo Credit: Gregoire Dubois



COUNTRY LAO PDR

CASE STUDY 7 **Wildlife Trafficking Working Group 15.7**

MECHANISM TYPE *Working group*

- WHAT** Wildlife Trafficking Working Group 15.7 (WG 15.7) is an informal group of development partners in Lao PDR that share information on wildlife and timber trafficking. Established in 2015 by the US Embassy and EU Delegation, WG 15.7 provides technical support to Lao authorities in their efforts to fight IWT, in the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 15.7 and UN Resolution 69/314, and attempts to harmonize that support.
- WHO** WG 15.7 is run jointly by the US, EU, and UK embassies in Laos. The 28 members of WG 15.7 include embassies, international organizations, donor agencies, and NGOs.
- HOW** WG 15.7 holds quarterly meetings, with hosting/sponsoring rotating informally. The group’s efforts support the coordination of conferences, reinforce project activities, align support for wildlife conservation in Laos, and work to keep wildlife high on the political agenda. Positive outcomes have resulted from members’ work to present to the Lao government coordinated inputs on key issues. Examples include providing coordinated advice on draft legislation to strengthen CITES-compliance; coordinated support and fundraising support to the Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife on its relocation; and coordinating World Wildlife Day event planning. In parallel, a recent US embassy-led initiative saw the co-creation of a single spreadsheet mapping training and equipment donations in Laos, circulated across WG 15.7 in November 2022. Illustrating the extent of development partner activity to tackle IWT in a single country, the spreadsheet detailed 61 current and scheduled training initiatives and 16 current and scheduled donations of equipment since 2022 alone.



COUNTRY LAO PDR

CASE STUDY 8 Lao Round Table Process Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group

MECHANISM TYPE Working group

- WHAT** The Lao Round Table Process is the primary national framework for policy dialogue between the Government of Lao PDR and development partners. It convenes key actors to “ensure funds, time and knowledge bring maximum impact in development across the country.” In 2018, WG 15.7 successfully established wildlife issues—including IWT—under the Lao Round Table Process. Specifically, wildlife issues were integrated into the Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development, part of the Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group (FSSWG).
- WHO** The Round Table Process connects the Lao government, national development agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector. As a subsector working group, the FSSWG is cochaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the development partner Japan International Cooperation Agency. The group comprises government agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, NGOs, and other bodies.
- HOW** The integration of wildlife issues under the FSSWG has allowed a more formal means for donors and development partners working to counter IWT—including WG 15.7—to engage with the Lao government. The Round Table Process as a whole every five years convenes a High-Level Round Table Meeting, an inclusive forum to support the design and implementation of the country’s national development plans. Annual Round Table Implementation Meetings assess progress over the past year and set joint priorities for the coming year. Each of the 10 sector working groups is the coordination platform for a thematic area of development. The working groups serve as discussion forums for building consensus on development priorities and making development cooperation more effective, as set out in the 2015 Vientiane Declaration. Subsector working groups provide additional platforms for coordination related to specific priorities within the sectors.



COUNTRY	NIGERIA
CASE STUDY 9	IWT-focused virtual “show and tell” meetings
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Informal coordination meetings</i>

- WHAT** Since January 2020, IWT-focused virtual “show and tell” meetings have been held monthly and chaired and managed by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), with Nigerian partners Africa Nature Investors Foundation and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime country office. The meetings enable development partners to coordinate their efforts and pool resources for maximum efficiency, and collaborate on events, outputs, and investigations.
- WHO** The virtual meetings are attended by various NGOs (including Born Free, Focused Conservation Solutions, and the Wildlife Conservation Society) with complementary projects that confront IWT in Nigeria, foreign missions (including the British High Commission Abuja and US Embassy in Nigeria) that support these projects, and UN and intergovernmental organizations (such as the CITES Secretariat).
- HOW** “Show and tell” meetings are informal, have no set agenda, and last one hour. Each organization is invited to summarize its activities over the past month and plans for the coming months. Over time, the monthly virtual meetings have become a valuable forum for coordination and communication. They have helped identify duplication and opportunities for collaboration, sharing skills and resources and aligning objectives. Beyond this, a few development partners (namely the Environmental Investigation Agency, the Wildlife Justice Commission, and Focused Conservation Solutions) working in similar specific areas hold more in-depth meetings to avoid duplication and ensure that their project activities are complementary.



COUNTRY	PERU
CASE STUDY 10	National Interagency Environmental Crime Platform
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

WHAT The National Interagency Environmental Crime Platform supports broad-level participation and development of joint work plans to maximize technical expertise, tool delivery and to enhance capacities of national authorities.

WHO The platform’s core structure consists of 14 governmental bodies, including ministries (such as the Ministerio Público Fiscalía de la Nación), national agencies (such as the Policía Nacional del Perú), and regional governments (such as the Gobierno Regional de Loreto). Alongside government, NGOs (such as the Wildlife Conservation Society, Environmental Investigation Agency, and Oceana), universities (such as the National Agrarian University), and international organizations (such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime—UNODC) participate in the platform. In collaboration, they seek input from decision makers and technical experts across member institutions.

HOW The National Interagency Environmental Crime Platform is organized and facilitated by UNODC, which plans to establish similar structures in six other Latin American countries. The platform serves as a democratic forum in which all members have equal voice, providing open spaces for debate and information sharing. Initially focused on forest crime, the platform has broadened its scope to include IWT and includes technical working groups covering specific environmental crime aspects such as corruption. Unlike an operational entity, the platform works collectively to identify needs and capacity gaps among key agencies, as well as the need for specific analytical tools. Recent activities include the joint development of technical assistance workplans and toolkits, such as the Rapid Reference Guide on Investigations of Forest Crime and raining.

Photo Credit: Eduardo Rivero



COUNTRY	TANZANIA
CASE STUDY 11	Development Partners Group on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

WHAT The Development Partners Group on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change (DPG-E) was established in 2004 to build a coordinated development partner response to the Government of Tanzania’s Joint Assistance Strategy for Tanzania, within the overarching framework of the National Development Plan. DPG-E provides a coordination platform for development partners to achieve three objectives, to:

- Conduct a structured policy dialogue with the Government of Tanzania and other stakeholders in related policy areas.
- Ensure coordination and harmonization of development partner projects and programs.
- Promote joint advocacy and communication.

DPG-E operations are divided into three subgroups: Wildlife, Forest, and Climate Change. The wildlife subgroup’s objectives are to promote dialogue on policy issues related to wildlife conservation, including tourism, wildlife trade, anti-poaching, and capacity building; and engage with the government to plan key national and international events.

WHO DPG-E is part of a wider mechanism—the Development Partners Group Tanzania⁶—comprising 17 thematic working groups and 17 bilateral and five multilateral agencies. It is open to any bilateral or multilateral partner that provides development assistance to the government in relevant areas; private sector and NGO representatives are invited on an ad-hoc basis.

HOW DPG-E was established according to specific terms of reference. The group is run by two cochairs, and a competitively selected secretariat is funded by members. Selected focal area coordinators support areas that need closer coordination. Monthly DPG-E meetings address policy, harmonization, and alignment issues. Group members follow up by liaising with multiple ministries and stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector.

⁶ <https://tzdpg.or.tz/about/>

Photo Credit: Gregoire Dubois



COUNTRY THAILAND

CASE STUDY Thailand Demand Reduction Steering Group
12

MECHANISM TYPE Working group

- WHAT** The Thailand Demand Reduction Steering Group (DRSG), formed in August 2020, coordinates Thai demand reduction campaigns, funded by the GEF-funded, UN Development Programme (UNDP)-supported Global Wildlife Program project in Thailand. When GEF funding ended in December 2021, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) assumed secretariat support to the DRSG. In March 2022, USAID and Thailand’s Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation launched an expanded DRSG, to strengthen coordination of the growing number of demand reduction campaigns. Members agreed on four priority objectives, to (1) support Thailand’s national commitments to CITES Resolution Conf. 17.4 and associated draft guidance; (2) coordinate or collaborate on campaign planning, implementation, and/or evaluation; (3) promote and support Thailand’s national and regional leadership in the use of Social Behaviour Change Communications for demand reduction; and 4) exemplify the regional demand reduction coordination group that Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) could adopt.
- WHO** DRSG members include donors (such as USAID), international organizations (such as CITES Secretariat, UNDP, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature), international NGOs (such as the World Wide Fund for Nature, TRAFFIC, and Freeland), and national NGOs involved in activities to reduce demand for elephant ivory, tiger, pangolin, and/or rhino products. In March 2022, DRSG membership was expanded to local NGOs and other organizations involved in activities covering all species, regardless of funding source.
- HOW** DRSG meetings are held quarterly. In June 2022, partners from outside Thailand participated for the first time and shared experiences from other ASEAN countries. In November 2022 and January 2023 meetings, members collaborated on a Draft Road Map for Regional Demand Reduction Coordination and refined it for presentation at the May 2023 ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Law Enforcement meeting. The proposed regional coordination mechanism will be run by a management group and secretariat and have defined terms of reference agreed to by all members, as well as a multiyear strategic plan, and an annual action plan.



COUNTRY	UGANDA
CASE STUDY 13	Uganda Counter-Illegal Wildlife Trade/Counter Wildlife Trafficking Collaboration Group
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

WHAT Established in 2018, the Uganda Counter-IWT/CWT Collaboration Group comprises nongovernmental stakeholders implementing counter-IWT actions in Uganda. Four development partners operating in Uganda envisioned the group of like-minded organizations that could standardize messaging, prevent duplication, and help implement national policies and programs to combat wildlife trafficking. The group has three objectives, to:

- Facilitate cooperation among parties with an interest in countering IWT in Uganda.
- Provide opportunities to support internal advocacy among counter-IWT development partners.
- Provide an avenue to seek greater resource mobilization, support, and information sharing on counter-IWT issues.

WHO The Uganda Counter-IWT/CWT Collaboration Group was set up by the Wildlife Conservation Society, African Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resource Conservation Network, and Uganda Conservation Foundation. The group was later joined by WildAid, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Focused Conservation Solutions, the Basel Institute on Governance, and Space for Giants.

HOW The collaboration group’s quarterly meetings rotate among chairpersons and secretaries appointed from participating organizations. Beyond the collaboration group, three other development partners (Basel Institute on Governance, Space for Giants, and the Royal United Services Institute) are coordinating national counter-IWT efforts, funded by the UK’s IWT Challenge Fund. At the request of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, these three organizations are working to eliminate activity overlap and duplication by holding monthly virtual coordination meetings about programming on intersecting aspects of counter-IWT activity in Uganda

Photo Credit: Sam Balye, Unsplash



COUNTRY UGANDA

CASE STUDY Uganda Wildlife Authority
14

MECHANISM TYPE Annual site-level coordination initiative

- WHAT** In Uganda, a form of site-level coordination, led by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), takes place via annual meetings in locations such as Queen Elizabeth National Park, Rwenzori Mountains National Park, and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- WHO** Meetings are attended by UWA officers based at the parks and headquarters. All relevant external stakeholders are invited to attend at their own cost.
- HOW** The Government of Uganda’s General Management Plan for each park is used as the framework for coordination meetings. In Uganda, preparation of a General Management Plan for Protected Areas is a statutory requirement. The plans are designed “to guide management in making decisions for the sustainability of the Protected Area” to “enhance the achievement of conservation and management objectives . . . for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations.” Plans are prepared through a multidisciplinary and consultative approach with multi-stakeholder participation sought through calls for written input, local and national-level consultations and workshops. Implementation of each 10-year plan—including in relation to counter-IWT actions—is subsequently supported through the annual meetings with the external stakeholders in each location.

Photo Credit: Max Christian, Unsplash



COUNTRY VIETNAM

CASE STUDY Vietnam Wildlife Support Network
15

MECHANISM TYPE Working group

- WHAT** The Vietnam Wildlife Support Network (WSN) connects donors, local and international NGOs, international organizations, and other development professionals to coordinate, collaborate, and share information on wildlife issues in Vietnam. Network members and other stakeholders employ the WSN’s four objectives—coordination, collaboration, advocacy, and knowledge management—to multiply the impact of their work to combat the country’s IWT.
- WHO** The WSN comprises members of foreign embassies in Vietnam, international organizations, and NGOs. Membership is open to any donor agency, local or international NGO, international organization, or other development professional engaged in wildlife issues in Vietnam. The network does not include representation from the Government of Vietnam, although government counterparts may be invited to attend specific meetings as relevant.
- HOW** The WSN has dedicated terms of reference (TOR) and meets quarterly, with rotating hosting and chairing responsibilities. When joining the network, each member agrees to commit the time of a senior representative to actively participate in meetings. A survey in December 2022 found that 43 percent of members wanted to update the TOR to accommodate longer-term coordination activity and new membership criteria. Communications and records management processes through the use of shared folders are in place. Positive outcomes to date include the presentation of a joint position statement to the Vietnamese government contributing to Directive 29, issued by the Prime Minister of Vietnam in July 2020. The purpose is to address crucial IWT issues as part of the country’s efforts to prevent future pandemics and halt biodiversity loss.

Photo Credit: GWP Vietnam Project



COUNTRY	VIETNAM
CASE STUDY 16-17	Pandemic Prevention Task Force and One Health Partnership Technical Working Group on Wildlife and Pandemic Prevention
MECHANISM TYPE	<i>Working group</i>

- WHAT** The Pandemic Prevention Task Force (PPTF) was established in 2020 as a group of donors and development partners working to share technical expertise with the Government of Vietnam on phasing out commercial trade and consumption of high zoonotic risk wild mammals and birds and high zoonotic risk trade practices to prevent future pandemics. The PPTF engages with the government through the One Health Partnership Technical Working Group (TWG) on Wildlife and Pandemic Prevention. The working group supports the country’s efforts by managing the human-animal-ecosystem interface, with a focus on restricting commercial wildlife trade and consumption. Among other objectives, the PPTF and TWG work to “strengthen law enforcement agencies’ capacity . . . to close down illegal wildlife trade operations and sites of illegal wildlife sales and consumption, including illicit advertising of wildlife on social media and e-commerce platforms.”
- WHO** Membership of the PPTF spans embassies (including the Australian, EU, French, South African, UK, and US embassies), national and international NGOs, and international organizations. The TWG comprises the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and Ministry of Health, as well as 27 donors, development partners, international organizations, and embassies.
- HOW** The PPTF secretariat comprises the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Wildlife Conservation Society, TRAFFIC, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH. The TWG secretariat is cochaired on a rotating basis by a representative of the Government of Vietnam and a development partner (currently the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the FAO). Both the PPTF and TWG cover three technical areas, represented by a scientific, legislation, and communication working group. The TWG’s quarterly meetings include a senior representative and technical staff from each member. PPTF meetings are also held regularly, as are meetings of individual PPTF working groups.



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