

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)
POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS FROM SIDE EVENTS HELD DURING SC65

This information document has been prepared by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 16.4 on *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime*.



THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME PRESENTS

ICCWC: coordinated action to combat wildlife crime – increasing the use of forensic technology



A side event at the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

7 July 2014

SC65. Inf. 27, Annex 1 – p. 1

Geneva, Switzerland

International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

The value of forensic technology in the fight against wildlife crime

Ben Janse van Rensburg

Chief of Enforcement Support, CITES Secretariat

SC65 SIDE EVENT
Geneva, 7 July 2014



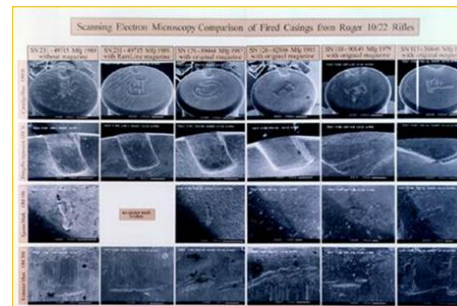
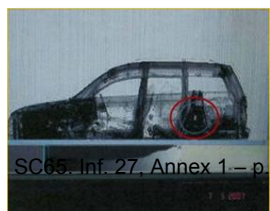
The challenge

- Spike in the scale and change in the nature of wildlife crime seriously affects a number of species
- Increased involvement of organized crime groups
- Changed the dynamics of combating wildlife crime
- Law enforcement authorities face increasingly difficult and complex situations



Wildlife crime is serious crime

- ECOSOC Resolution on *Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora*
- Same tools and techniques used to combat other transnational organized crimes must be deployed against wildlife crime



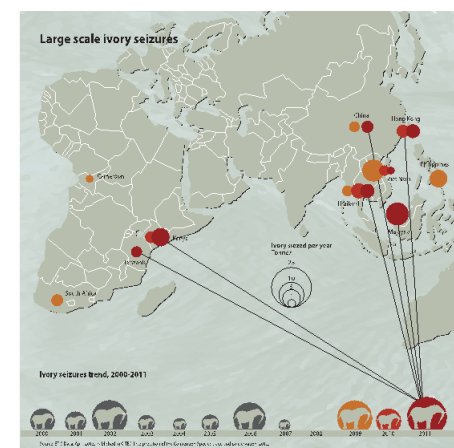
Forensic technology

- Forensic technology is one of these tools
- Forensic science has been used for decades to fight crime
- It is an area of law enforcement where science, technology and crime-solving meet



Forensic technology benefits

- A strong & coordinated enforcement response across source, transit and destination countries is required
- The increased use of forensic technology can
 - ✓ enhance efforts to address the entire crime chain
 - ✓ promote cooperation and coordination
 - ✓ contribute to ongoing investigations
 - ✓ help develop enforcement responses
 - ✓ provide an innovative approach to combating wildlife crime



Forensics and CITES CoP16

- CoP16 adopted a number of strategic and operational decisions on enforcement
- Promote the use of forensic technology to combat wildlife crime



ICCWC actions

- Deployment of Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WISTs)
- Rhino DNA sampling workshop
- Guidelines for forensic methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis
- Partnering with researchers to conduct DNA analysis of ivory from large-scale seizures



Using forensic analysis results

- In support of *ongoing investigations*
- Share with authorities within the *country of seizure*, enhance efforts at ports of entry
- To initiate discussions with the *country of origin* and design of cross-border operations and responses
- Share with *CITES MA of country of origin*, identify priority areas for enforcement action
- Share with *ICCWC partner organizations* to support the design of appropriate law enforcement responses

ICCWC partners will continue to work collectively to...

- Usher in a new era where the perpetrators of serious wildlife crimes face a formidable and coordinated response
- Support law enforcement efforts by building long-term capacity and by providing authorities with the tools and services they need

Donors to ICCWC



European Commission



United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland



Netherlands



United States of America



Sweden



World Bank Development
Grant Facility



Guidelines for forensic laboratory methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis

DNA analysis of large ivory seizures





UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Contents

1. Overview
2. Forensic guidelines
3. DNA analysis of large ivory seizures



Overview

- **10%-** an estimate % of ivory seized from the overall ivory trafficking
- Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) notes that **almost none** of the 34 large-scale seizures made from 2009 through 2011 resulted in successful investigations of the criminals behind the transactions.
- **Less than 5%** of large-scale ivory seizures over the past several years are estimated to have been submitted for forensic analysis
- **Coordinated response required to address the crisis**



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

In 2013, took the lead in the development and coordination of activities on forensic analysis in support of law enforcement operations:

- Forensic guidelines
- DNA analysis of large ivory seizures



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime





GENETIC ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE ORIGIN OF SEIZED IVORY - ICCWC support

CITES Conference of the Parties Decisions encourage the *“increased use of forensic technology to fight wildlife crime”*

Decision 16.83

- *Parties involved in large scale ivory seizure (i.e. 500kg or more) should collect samples from ivory seized within 90 days of the seizure and, if possible from all large seizures from the past 24 months. They should submit the samples for analysis to begin immediately to appropriate forensic- analysis facilities capable of reliably determining the origin of the ivory samples, with the aim of addressing the entire crime chain*



Guidelines for forensic laboratory methods and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis

- The use of standardized forensic methods, procedures and basic requirements for the investigation of ivory seizures
- Support transnational criminal investigations & law enforcement operations
- Whole chain of custody, from crime scene to the court room
- Experts from range of disciplines



Forensic guidelines aim to support:

1. Sample collection and analysis of evidence for criminal investigations, to link persons and items to the crime as well as to identify individual elephants
2. Sample collection and analysis of the raw or worked ivory for identification of the species, age of ivory, geographical origin, estimated number of elephants killed and the date of poaching



Target audience

1. Law enforcement, including police, investigators
2. Wildlife services
3. Forensic scientists
4. Prosecutors and lawyers
5. Judiciary

The process of development of the guidelines

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 2013 | CITES CoP decision 16.85 |
| April 2013 | ICCWC strategic decision to engage- UNODC takes the lead |
| July- October 2013 | Concept note and background materials |
| December 2013 | Expert group meeting in Vienna- experts from a broad range of disciplines from all continents |
| January- May, 2014 | Development and finalization of guidelines |
| June, 2014 | Peer review |
| July- Aug 2014 | Design and publication |



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Forensic guidelines- 4 parts

1. Crime Scene Management

2. Laboratory analysis

3. Interpretation of results and use of data and analysis

4. International Cooperation

The seizure crime scene photo, 2014

SC65. Inf. 27
Annex 1





Part 1. Crime scene management (law enforcement)

How to ensure that:

- The crime scene is thoroughly explored
- The scene is not contaminated
- The evidence gathered is admissible to court
- How to sample ivory seizures for forensic analysis



Part 2. Laboratory analysis

- Ivory samples: raw and worked ivory
- Methods and procedures for identification and analysis of ivory specimens, to determine species, age and geographical origin and to link samples to individual elephants
 - Morphological analysis
 - DNA analysis
 - Isotope analysis

DNA extracted from ivory is matched to the genetic reference map to determine its origin

SC65. Inf. 27
Annex 1



: Source CCB, University of Washington

SC65. Inf. 27, Annex 1 – p. 25



Part 3. Interpretation of results and use of data

- Forensic considerations for prosecutors and judiciary
- Maintenance and demonstration of a secure chain of custody
- Case work documentation, quality assurance

How to:

- Interpret scientific data and properly describe results to law enforcement and judiciary

Part 4. International cooperation

- The importance of international cooperation in the fight against wildlife crime.
- Proactive initiatives and reactive responses

How to ensure that:

- The country can respond to a major seizure of elephant ivory
- If the national capacity is not there, what assistance can be obtained from international partners
- Long-term capacity building plan is developed



Challenges

- Securing the seized ivory to preserve evidence
- Adequate, secure storage facilities
- Extracting, documenting and processing forensic evidence
- Collecting ivory samples for forensic analysis, processing or shipping
- Allocation of resources
- Subsequent investigations and prosecutions
- Further actions- deciding on controlled deliveries or targeted law enforcement.



Next steps

- Publication and wide dissemination of forensic guidelines
- Development of training materials for the use of guidelines
- Training materials, including videos on sampling of ivory for forensic analysis- ICCWC partners, countries
- Stock taking of existing laboratories performing forensic analysis of ivory
- National capacity building in forensics, support in investigations, assistance in review and strengthening of legislation
- Forensic guidelines for analysis of timber species



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

COMBATING
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

SC65. Inf. 27
Annex 1



**Forensic science is the application
of science to a legal question that
is being enforced by an
enforcement agency within a
criminal justice system**

The Togo case study



Togo case study - 700 kg ivory seizure

August 2013- ivory seizure in Lomé of 700kg from the premises of Mr. N'Bouke

Defendant (Mr. N'Bouke and 2 co-defendants) argued that:

- The ivory had come almost exclusively from Chad, with whose former president the defendant had a long relationship.
- The ivory was old and was imported before the global ban on international ivory trade since 1989.

Forensic analysis of ivory proved that:

- The ivory came from a number of sources, including Cameroon and Gabon (DNA analysis, CCB, University of Washington)
- The ivory was from 2010 and earlier years (radioisotope analysis, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California)

Penalty:

Two years imprisonment and a fine of US\$10,300 for each accused.



Cooperation with the Centre for Conservation Biology (CCB) University of Washington

Techniques for extracting and analyzing DNA from ivory

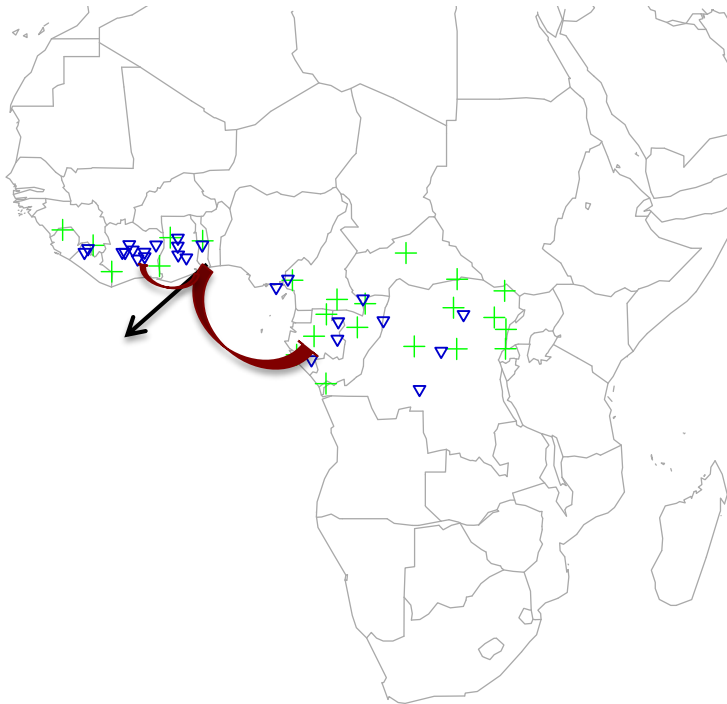
DNA reference map for African elephants that allows the geographic origin of a tusk to be ascertained within a 160-mile radius



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

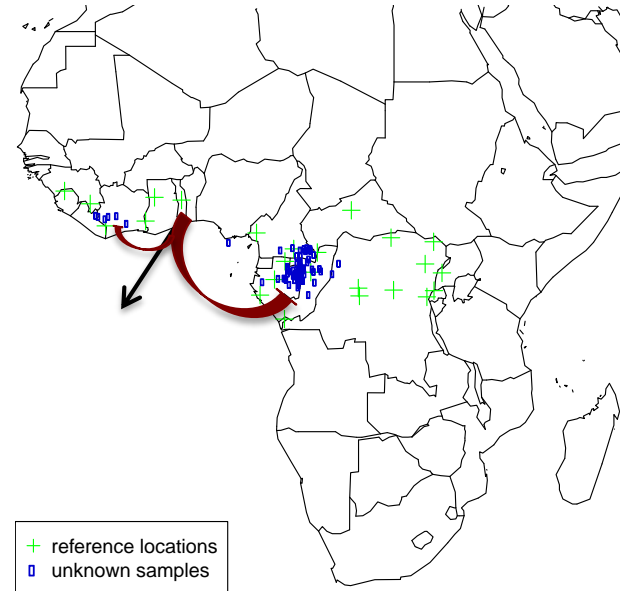
Togo N'Bouke Seizure 2013, 0.7 tons



Shipping location: Togo

Origin: West to Central Africa

Togo Seizure 2014, 3.8 tons



Shipping location: Togo

Origin: northern Gabon/Congo, some West Africa



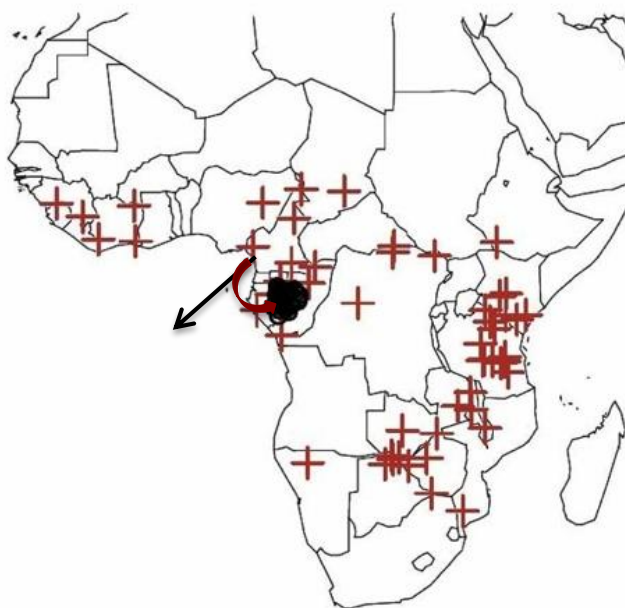
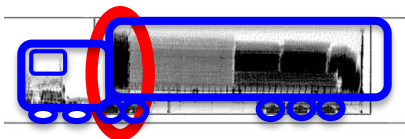
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

SC65, Inf. 27
Annex 1
COMBATING
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

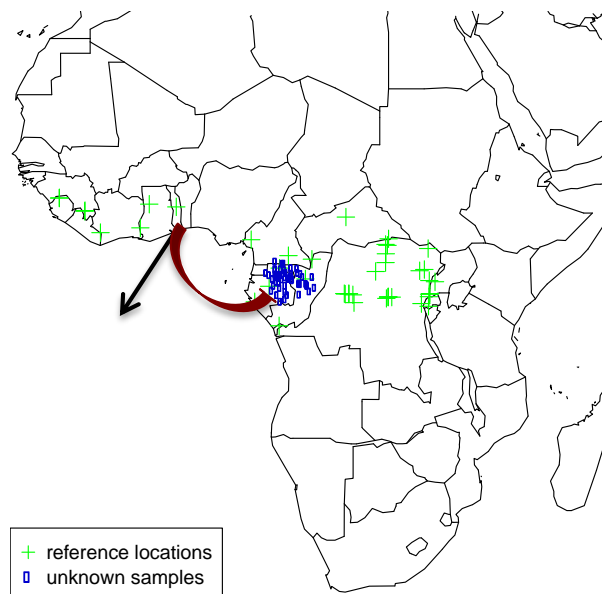


Hong Kong Seizure 2006, 4 tons



Shipping location: Cameroon
Origin: southern Gabon/Congo

Hong Kong Seizure 2013, 2 tons



Shipping location: Togo
Origin: northern Gabon/Congo



Genetically assigning origin of large ivory seizures indicates:

- Most large seizures are from localized areas
- The same source populations keep recurring across seizures
- Origins of recent large seizures should predict future poaching hotspots
- The need to direct a concerted law enforcement effort across hotspots that prevents ivory from entering into transit, where it becomes far more difficult to trace



Value for money and international support of DNA ivory analysis

| Items | Costs |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Cost per 1 ivory sample | \$120 |
| 200 samples per large seizure | \$24,000 |
| Total estimate cost per seizure | \$24,000 |



Way forward

- Scaling up DNA ivory seizure analysis
- Encouraging countries to submit seizure samples for forensic analysis
- Countries no-objection for the seizure results to be available- particularly to the countries where ivory is sourced to
- Supporting the use by countries of forensic results- to deploy law enforcement, to use the results as evidence in court



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

SC65. Inf. 27
Annex 1

COMBATING
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



Thank you for your attention

Volha Kuzmianok
Programme Officer

Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Contact us: wlfcr@unodc.org
Visit our new website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime

International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

Wildlife Incident Support Team Sri Lanka, July 2013

Salvatore Amato
Senior Consultant, INTERPOL

SC65 SIDE EVENT
Geneva, 7 July 2014



Global large-scale ivory seizures **(over 500 kilograms)**

- **2011 set the record for seizures (since global trade in ivory was banned in 1989).**
- **2013 reached new record levels – with 18 seizures accounting for 41.6 tonnes of illicit ivory.**

CITES Decision (CoP 16, Bangkok, March 2013)

- *All countries involved in large scale ivory seizures (over 500 kg) are to collect samples for forensic analysis to determine the origin of the ivory for the purposes of assisting law enforcement to identify the entire crime chain.*



- In May 2012, **359 elephant tusks** were seized at the Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Shipment
 - Worth at least \$1 million USD
 - Sent from Kampala (Uganda) to Mombasa (Kenya), seized in Colombo on route to Dubai (UAE)
 - Weighed 1.5 tonnes



Goal of the IST: to assist national authorities determine the country of origin of the elephants and potentially identify the criminal networks behind large-scale elephant poaching.



IST Team:

- INTERPOL Environmental Security Sub-Directorate
- DNA Unit
- Command and Coordination Centre

Local Authorities:

- Sri Lankan Port Authorities
- Department of Wildlife Conservation
- NCB Colombo

Supported by: ICCWC

Process:

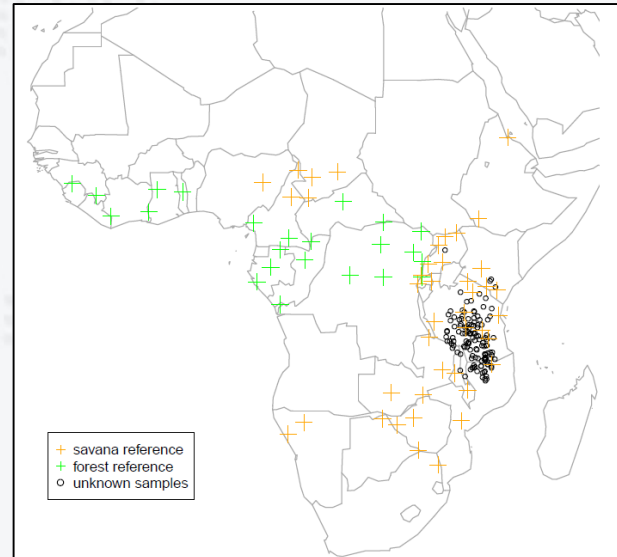
1. DNA Samples of the tusks were taken
2. CITES documentation for the samples was prepared
3. Samples and documentation were sent to
 - the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington in the United States for DNA analysis
 - the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for chemical isotope analysis





Results:

- Origin: Southern Tanzania
- Selous Game Reserve or the Ruaha National Park in Tanzania.
- Corresponds to reports of heavy levels of poaching (including incidents resulting in the death of a ranger and police officer) in Ruaha that year.
- Indicates a clear transport route (shift) for ivory sourced in Tanzania, being routed through Uganda for departure from Kenya to Asia.
- Possible ties to LRA, M23, Hilaire and other militia, believed to be trading in ivory and arms.





*THE **I**NTERNATIONAL **C**ONSORTIUM ON **C**OMBATING **W**ILDLIFE **C**RIME PRESENTS*

*IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE & THE NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY CITES ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION GROUP OF CHINA*

ICCWC: coordinated law enforcement support and Operation COBRA II



A side event at the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

8 July 2014

SC65. Inf. 27, Annex 2 – p. 1

Geneva, Switzerland



ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit

Geneva,
CITES Standing Committee,
July 2014



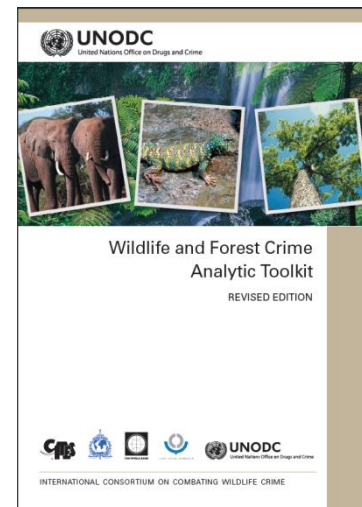
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit

- Technical resource for Member States to undertake a national analysis
- Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of preventive, law enforcement, and criminal justice responses to wildlife and forest crime
- Aimed at evidence-based programmes for technical assistance and capacity building
- Government-led process





Five parts of the Toolkit



LEGISLATION

- International law
- Domestic law
- Wildlife and forest offences
- Related offences
- Regional and specialized initiatives



ENFORCEMENT

- Enforcement agencies
- Human resources
- Intelligence
- Enforcement powers
- Investigation procedures and techniques
- Border control and Customs
- International cooperation in criminal matters
- Technical assistance and aid
- Accountability and integrity



JUDICIARY AND PROSECUTION

- Judiciary
- Prosecution
- International cooperation in criminal matters
- Sentencing and sanctions
- Restitution, compensation and restoration



DRIVERS AND PREVENTION

- Context analysis
- Wildlife and forest management
- Social capacity-building
- Trade and legal markets
- Awareness-raising



DATA AND ANALYSIS

- Data collection
- Databases
- Performance indicators
- Analytic research



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



The process

- Request from CITES Secretariat
- Initial in-country meeting to engage all relevant stakeholders, identify parts of the Toolkit to be analysed
- Implementation mission- 2-3 weeks in country (qualitative, quantitative)
- Report and recommendations
- Design of evidence-based capacity-building technical assistance plan- short/medium/long-term interventions



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Implementation of the Toolkit

- Bangladesh- final report and action plan published
- Peru- final report to be presented in-country
- Gabon- final report to be presented in-country
- Nepal -final report to be presented in-country

Requests received by UNODC for Toolkit analysis :

Angola, Mexico, Tanzania, Vietnam



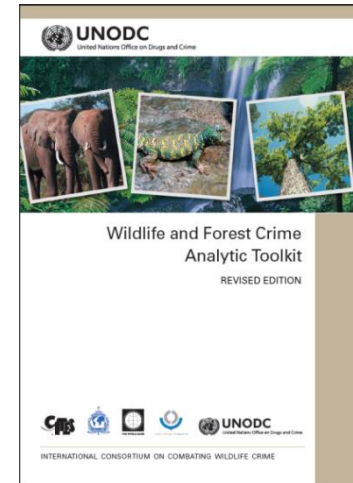
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Common findings

- Lack of inter-agency coordination
- Lack of awareness and understanding of the issue of WLFC
- Front-line staff underequipped
- Weak capacity to investigate and prosecute
- Weak forensic capacity
- WLFC legislation not apt for today's challenges
- Training needs for staff to better understand CITES and ensure an effective implementation of the Convention
- Limited criminal intelligence capacity





Steps after the Toolkit has been delivered

- Short-term, medium and long-term actions and recommendations
- Critical for designing and putting in place Country Strategies
- Guide decisions on the allocation of resources, aligning interventions and for procuring technical assistance
- The findings can be applied to broader law enforcement, criminal justice system responses

Example: Bangladesh- the Toolkit helped guide the government decision on the use of the World Bank loan and other resources



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Global Programme: Activities delivered in 2013 and 2014

- Development of guidelines for forensic analysis and procedures of ivory sampling and analysis;
- Regional Workshop in Botswana on “Recovering the proceeds from wildlife and timber crimes” with over 15 countries involved from Africa and Asia;
- Legislative assessment in Tanzania and review of how current laws are enforced;
- Capacity building training on controlled deliveries and investigative techniques in Cameroon in partnership with WWF and INTERPOL;
- National environmental assessment workshop in Togo;
- Development of container profiling units training programmes on WLFC for ports;
- Assessment of criminal intelligence system in Botswana;
- Criminal justice system assessment of response to timber crime in Lao PDR;
- Support the review of the Penal Code in Vietnam;
- Development of law enforcement training manual for academies;
- Development of the pocket guide for front line officers on WLFC;
- Computer based training modules on WLFC- English and Mekong languages



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

COMBATING
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

SC65. Inf. 27
Annex 2



Together we can do great things!



Jorge E. Rios

Chief of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime

Chief of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime

Contact us: wlfcr@unodc.org

Visit our new website : <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime>

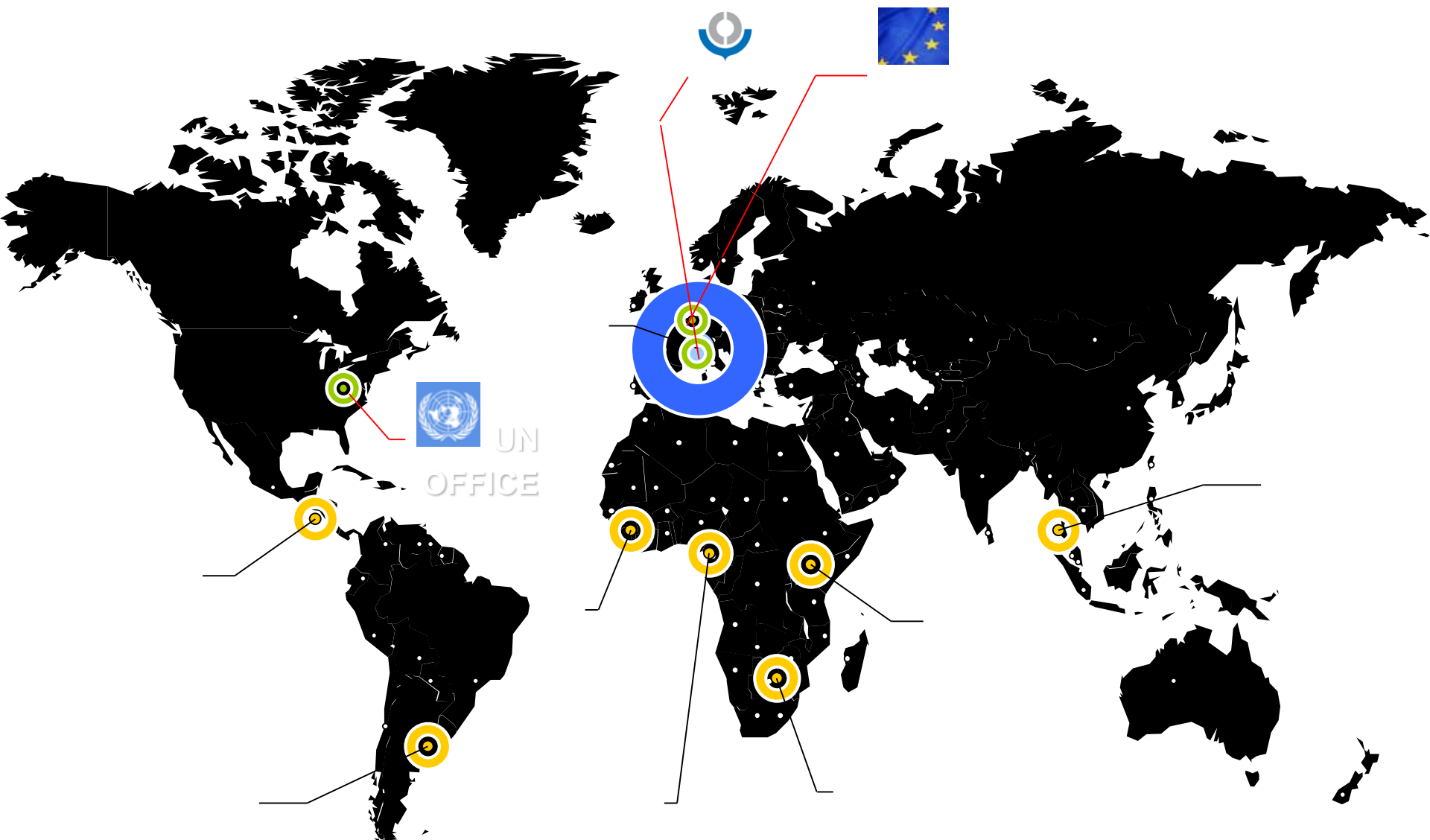
International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

ICCWC Investigative Support Tools and Services

Salvatore Amato
Senior Consultant, INTERPOL

SC65 SIDE EVENT
Geneva, 8 July 2014







Strategic priorities


- Facilitate international law enforcement cooperation
- Provide access to secure global communication systems
- 24/7 support to law enforcement
- Assist in the identification of crimes and criminals
- Provide operational support
- Capacity building to develop crime fighting capacity





INTERPOL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY SUB-DIRECTORATE

SC65. Inf. 27
Annex 2



PROJECT PREDATOR
DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE GOVERNANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ASIAN BIG CATS

defra Environment Canada GTI World Bank IFAW USAID

www.interpol.int



PROJECT WISDOM
Combating poaching and trafficking of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn

defra HUMANITY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL IFAW

www.interpol.int



PROJECT SCALE
INTERPOL initiative to detect, suppress and combat fisheries crime

Norad NORADIAN INSTITUTE OF POLICE SERVICES PEW

www.interpol.int



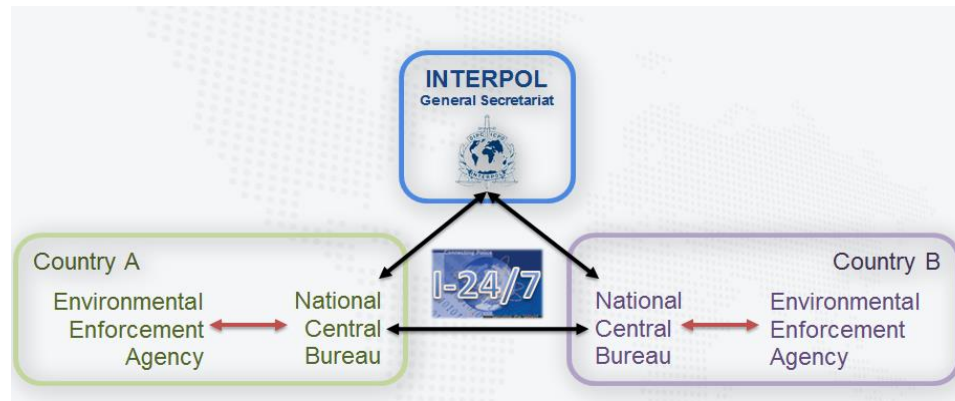
PROJECT LEAF
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FORESTS
Combating illegal logging and organized forest crime

Norad UNEP G.R.I.D. Environmental Knowledge for Change

www.interpol.int

Investigative tools and services

1. Secure global communication network



- Gateway to INTERPOL databases
- Around-the-clock access to crucial data in seconds
- Platform for sharing criminal information among law enforcement entities
- 1/24-7 network can be extended to provide direct access to other national law enforcement agencies
- World Customs Organization also provides a secure communication network: CENCOM



2. Databases:



Nominals



Fingerprints



Stolen Motor Vehicles



Wanted



**Firearms and
ballistics**



Stolen Works of Art



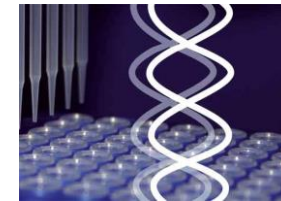
DNA



SC65. Inf. 27, Annex 2 – p. 16
Stolen/Lost Travel Documents



**Child Sexual
Abuse Images**



INTERPOL

Control No.: P-36/03-2013



Weapons seized by Asom Police during the investigation of rhinoceros poaching cases in Asom.



Rhinoceros killed in Mwan National Park, Asom with an AK 47 and a 340 rifle.

CONFIDENTIAL - INTENDED ONLY FOR POLICE AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

66

YU-CHEN Chao Richard

Control No.: A-28014-2013

Requesting Country: SOUTH AFRICA

File No.: 501319227

Date of Publication: 11 April 2013

CIRCULATION TO THE MEDIA (INCLUDING INTERNET) OF THE EXTRACTED VERSION OF THE RED NOTICE AS PUBLISHED ON INTERPOL'S PUBLIC WEB SITE: YES



FUGITIVE WANTED FOR PROSECUTION

1. IDENTITY PARTICULARS



Family Name: YU-CHEN

Family Name in the Original Script or Chinese Telegraphic Code: N/A

Family Name of Birth: N/A

Forename: Chao Richard

Forename in the Original Script or Chinese Telegraphic Code: N/A

Date and Place of Birth: 12 August 1959

Sex: Male

Nationality: N/A

Also Known As / Other Dates of Birth Used: N/A

Marital Status: N/A

Father's Family Name and Forename: N/A

Mother's Maiden Name and Forename: N/A

Occupation: N/A

Language Spoken: N/A

Region/Country Likely to Be Visited: Hong Kong, China

Additional Information: N/A

Identity Documents: South African identity card No. 59081250182 South Africa

DNA Code: N/A

Description:

Build: Medium

Distinguishing Marks and Characteristics: N/A

INTERPOL For official use only



Notices and diffusions



SEARCH, LOCATE AND
ARREST



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION



PROVIDE WARNING – REPEAT
OFFENDORS



MODUS OPERANDI



PROVIDE WARNING-
POTENTIAL THREAT TO
PUBLIC SAFETY

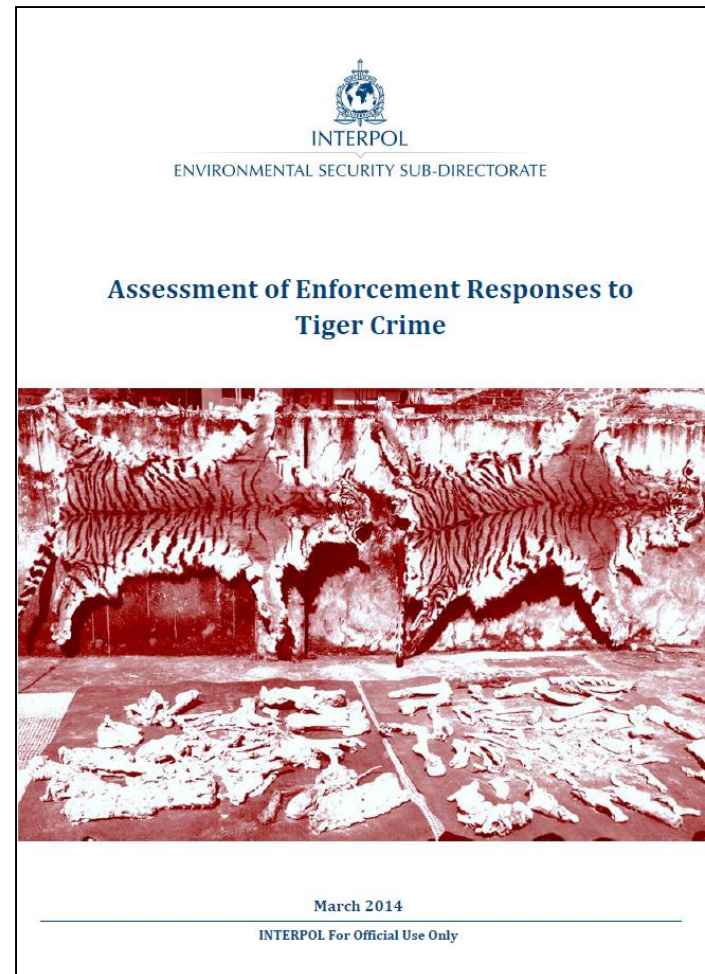
The screenshot shows the Interpol website's search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT INTERPOL, NEWS AND MEDIA, MEMBER COUNTRIES, INTERPOL EXPERTISE, and CRIME AREAS. Below this is a search bar with a 'Keyword' input field and a search button. To the right of the search bar are links for 'WANTED PERSONS', 'MISSING PERSONS', and 'INTERPOL WORLDWIDE'. The main search area has a 'SEARCH' button and a 'Wanted by' dropdown menu. Below the search bar, there's a 'Search result : 203' section. It displays three search results, each with a photo placeholder and a name: 'ABDULRAHMAN HUSSAIN M M H', 'PEREZ EDDY', and 'MANCO TORRES JHON FREDY'. Each result also includes 'Age today' and 'Nationality' information.





3. Operational support

- Information exchange, storage and analysis
- Development of analytical reports
- Development of guides for law enforcement
- Capacity development for law enforcement agencies
- Joint transnational operations and investigations



Incident Response Teams (IRTs) and Investigative Support Teams (ISTs)

- Deployed at request of a member country during a crisis situation – major crime, natural or manmade disasters
- Teams can be deployed within 12 to 24 hours
- Teams deployed for major wildlife incidents:
 - 2012: IRT Uganda
 - 2013: IST Sri Lanka
 - 2013: IST Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi
 - 2014: IRT Togo

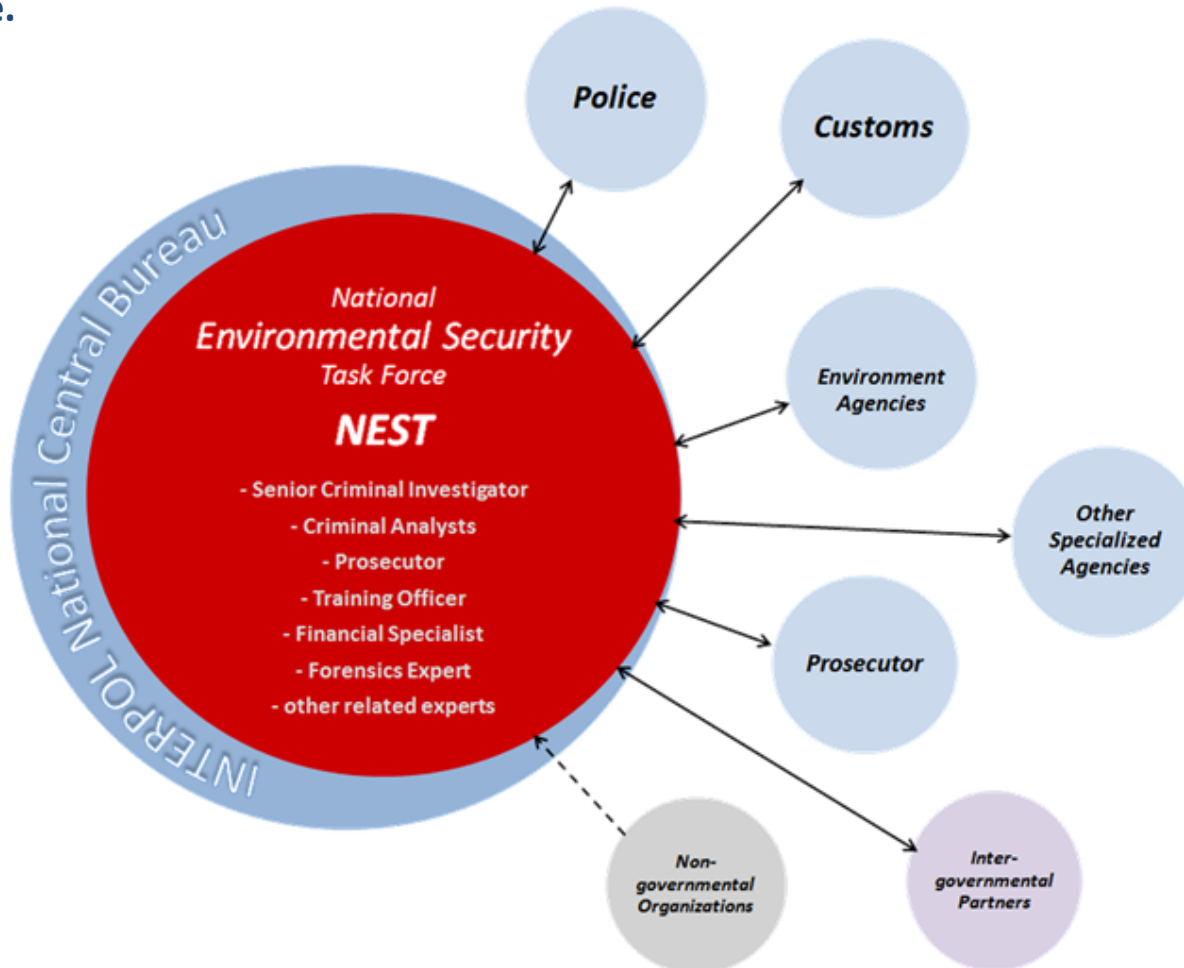


SC65. Inf. 27, Annex 2 – p. 20





INTERPOL encourages a multi-agency approach to addressing wildlife crime and has developed a guide to assist countries in setting up a National Environmental Security Task Force.





Operation COBRA II

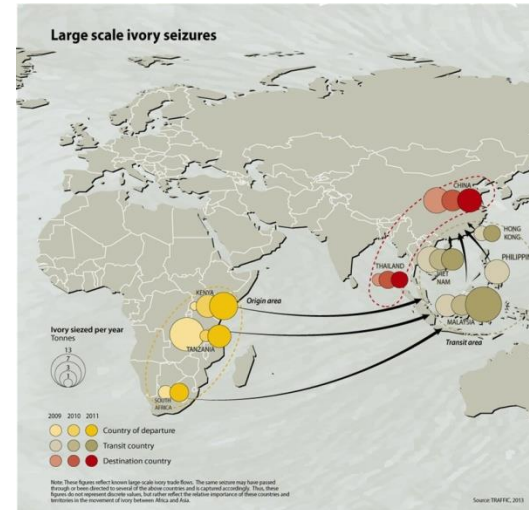
Bonaventure Ebuyi, Director Lusaka Agreement Task Force

Ben Janse van Rensburg, Chief of Enforcement Support, CITES Secretariat

Wan Ziming, Coordinator China's National Inter-agency CITES Enforcement
Coordination Group (NICECG)

At the 65th CITES Standing Committee Meeting , ICCWC Side Event, Switzerland 8th July 2014

Background



The illegal trade in fauna and flora (other than fisheries and timber) has been estimated by different sources to be worth USD7 to USD23 billion dollars annually;

Illegal wildlife trade is by nature transnational and in many cases involves criminal syndicates, money laundering and even other associated crimes; threatening sustainable development, livelihoods, good governance and the rule of law;

Increasing wildlife crime is a matter of grave concern to governments and the **international community has called for immediate government action**

Wildlife Crime Recognized

While more needs to be done, the scale and nature of the **illegal trade in wildlife has been recognized**;



Strong **political momentum has been generated** in recent years, and must translate into a deeper and sustained effort to combat transnational wildlife crimes;

Call for Concrete and decisive action

A **number of high level and multi-agency meetings**/summits/conferences have been held in Africa, Europe, Asia and America and **key declarations** made on this subject:

- China - U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue (May 2012);
- the 20th Asia Pacific Economic Commission (APEC) (Sept. 2012);
- 67th UN General Assembly (Sept. 2012);
- CITES COP 16 in Bangkok (2013);
- Botswana Elephant Summit (Dec. 2013);
- French Government-hosted Summit for Peace and Security in Africa (Dec. 2013), to
- the UN Security Council resolutions (21/34 and 21/36



*All of **these conferences and many others have called for urgent action (to stop poaching and illegal wildlife trade)** and they have acknowledged the importance of international cooperation in order to dismantle illicit network and counter the world transnational organized crime.*

Operation Cobra Initiative

Building on the initiatives in the recent past, participants of DETECT Manager's Special Investigation Group (SIG) training organized by USAID's ARREST program in Bangkok 2012, found it imperative **to implement the world leaders high-level political commitment to combating the illegal wildlife trade;**



Participants from Asia, Africa and America **discussed and supported the recommendation made by China NICECG to undertake inter-regional Operation COBRA** across the source, transit and destination countries of elephants, rhinos, pangolins, big cats, Great Apes, Tibetan antelope, Turtles, Tortoises, snakes, birds and their products as well as derivatives;

Operation Cobra

- Is the **first joint intervention in the world organized by multi-nations and multi-regional wildlife enforcement networks** with the technical assistance from the member organizations of International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC);
- Operation Cobra is **run jointly by many countries and inter-governmental organizations**, and is coordinated by their representatives through an International Coordination Team (ICT)
- It **brings the police, Customs and wildlife agencies** of the relevant range, transit and consumer states to combat the wildlife crime together;
- **Coordinates the multi-national real-time intelligence sharing and investigation** into the significant seizures with the nature of organized crime;

Operation Cobra

- **Cobra I was successfully conducted in 22 countries** in Asia, Africa and North America **from 6th January – 7th February 2013**
- In light of the positive outcome of OP Cobra I, **a follow-up Cobra II was recommended** to focus on upper-levels of transnational organized crime syndicates;
- The operation **Cobra II, run for 4 weeks in 28 countries** in Africa (15) and Asia (13) from 30th Dec. 2013 to 26th Jan. 2014

Operation Cobra II

Organizers

- LATF, China, USA, South Africa, ASEAN-WEN, SA-WEN
- ASEAN-WEN PCU, SA-WEN and LATF secretariats organized their member states and other countries in their domain
- LATF took the overall coordinating role of other organizers in this operation.

Supporters



Activity supported by the
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Canada



The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

And all Participating countries.

ICCWC support to COBRA II

- ICCWC in collaboration with LATF, lead organizer of COBRA II, hosted a 2-day operational training workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2013
- Training targeted
 - The International Coordination Teams (ICTs) established in Bangkok and Nairobi
 - Operation COBRA II national coordinators in countries participating in the operation

Specialized training

- Experts from all 5 ICCWC agencies provided cutting-edge training in
 - innovative and specialized investigation techniques
 - use of tools and services available to law enforcement authorities through ICCWC partners



Training topics

- Operational planning
- Information and intelligence management
- Smuggling trends and techniques
- Implementation of CITES CoP16 Decisions on enforcement
- Anti-money laundering investigations
- Controlled deliveries
- UN Conventions against Transnational Organised Crime and Corruption
- The INTERPOL I-24/7 Global Police Communication System
- The INTERPOL Command and Coordination Centre (CCC)
- INTERPOL databases
- INTERPOL Notices
- Role of INTERPOL Regional Bureaus
- Customs Enforcement Network (CEN)
- The WCO Global RILO network
- CITES Virtual College
- CITES Enforcement Authorities Forum

Operational planning

- ICCWC provided financial support for and participated in an Operation COBRA II operational planning meeting hosted by LATF in Nairobi on 1 Nov 2013



Operational support



WCO Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform (CENcomm)

- secure and encrypted real-time exchange of intelligence and information
- web-based communication system
- permits a closed user group of officers

Operational support

ICCWC provided hands-on operational support during Operation COBRA II

- intelligence exchange
- information sharing
- provision of identification materials etc



ICCWC – A unique pool of expertise



Outcomes

- More than 350 wildlife seizures were made in 28 countries
- Huge wildlife and their products were intercepted, including over 3 metric tons of elephant ivory, 36 rhino horns, over 10,000 turtles, over 1,000 skins of protected species, over 10,000 European Eels and more than 200 metric tons of rosewood logs
- More than 400 criminals including kingpins in Africa and Asia were arrested and prosecuted.

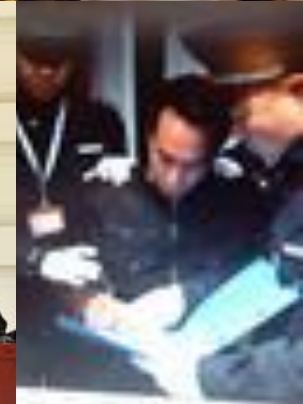


SC65. Inf. 27, Annex 2 – p. 37



Best Practices

1. Repatriate kingpin of organized wildlife crime group from Kenya to China
2. Repatriate thousands of confiscated live turtles from Hong Kong SAR to Indonesia
3. Intelligence-led detection of 110 tons rosewood logs in Tanzania
4. Ivory sampling and DNA profiling in Uganda
5. Destruction of 6.15 tons confiscated ivory in China
6. Analysis of wildlife seizures information by WCO
7. Secondment of Chinese wildlife enforcement officers at LATF
8. Providing training to the Chinese community in Kenya



Challenges

- Around 70 countries were invited, but only 40% participated
- 50% participating countries didn't share any intelligence and seizure information during the operation
- Follow-up investigations are not frequently undertaken in many countries
- Penalization to the wildlife offenders in many countries are pretty slight
- Inter-agency coordination and cooperation in many countries are pretty poor
- Wildlife law enforcement is restricted significantly by lacking of financial resources in most of the participating countries.

Experiences

- To ensure the success of Operation Cobra, the following requirements should be met,
 - To have a practical Global Operational Plan
 - To have a powerful International Coordination Team
 - To have a secured, real time and centralized communication system
 - To have many dedicated national coordinators and departmental liaison officers
 - To have a good inter-agency coordination mechanism
 - To gather reliable intelligence
 - To secure external funding for the ICT