Global cooperation to combat wildlife crime

“Ways forward to tackle illegal wildlife trade – The revised EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking (APAWT)” – 28 June 2023

Edward van Asch, ICCWC Coordinator, CITES Secretariat
OUR APPROACH | TOGETHER AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

**DISMANTLE**
Creating a strong legal framework to enable sentencing and convictions which are critical to dismantling organized crime groups.

**DETER**
Awareness-raising of wildlife crime consequences and sharing knowledge with law enforcement, policy makers, government and civil society to combat this organized and transnational threat.

**DETAIN**
Cross-border cooperation, global intelligence-led operations, seizures and detentions of criminals involved in wildlife crime.

**DETECT**
Gathering evidence, using forensic science, investigating illicit flow of money and building capacity to detect and address wildlife crime on social media and the internet.
Assessment Tools, guidelines and reports, and support based on needs identified

Preventing corruption

Then...

No one looking at this issue

Now...

3 corruption prevention tools

25 authorities in 17 countries

Tangible results

Impact

Kenya Wildlife Service scores on Anti-Corruption Performance Indicator

➢ 2020: 49%
➢ 2021: 88%
➢ 2022: 100%
Strengthening prosecutions

Then...

- Few successful prosecutions

Now...

- Mentorship and training
- Practical tools and guidelines
- Strengthened prosecutions

Impact
- Increase in prosecutions
- Uganda prosecutions and wildlife court
Enhanced law enforcement cooperation

Then...

Investigation of isolated criminal cases

Now...

Regional and global operations

30 transnational investigations (125 countries)

Strengthened LE cooperation (police, customs other LEAs)

Impact

➢ Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) & Regional Investigative Case Meetings (RIACM)
➢ 6 Global & multiple regional Operations
➢ High-value targets identified and transnational criminal networks disrupted
Operation THUNDER 2022
Tackling wildlife crime

2,200 seizures of wildlife and forestry products, including:
- 780 kg and 516 pieces elephant ivory, and 27 elephant body parts
- 34 primates, 136 primate body parts
- 4,337 and 2,813 kg marine products, including corals, eels and sea cucumbers
- 47,28 m³ rosewood and 17,163 pieces / almost 47,000 m³ and 6,764 pieces other timber
- 1,190 turtles and tortoises, 1,304 units and 8 kg body parts
- 119 big cats and other felines
- 9 pangolins, 389 kg pangolin scales and derivatives
- 750 birds, more than 450 bird parts
- 1,795 reptiles and almost 500 kg reptile parts and derivative products
- 710 cacti
- 3.5 tonnes plants and 5 tonnes plant derivatives
Thunder 2022: on-going investigations

OCT 2022
Seizure of 34.25 kg of rhino horn at Singapore Airport (Lao PDR as final destination)

NOV-DEC 2022
- Scoping mission to Lao PDR
- OST to South Africa
  Analytical Report

JAN-FEB 2023
Further investigation and Court Conviction in Singapore

RIACM in March 2023 (Singapore) and further investigation of larger criminal network
Seizure of 7 tonnes of ivory

Vietnamese authorities reported the largest seizure of wildlife products in years

Thunder 2022: on-going investigations
Enhancing analytical capabilities

Then...
- Countries’ requests mostly on “how to extract the data”

Now...
- “How to use the data” – evolution of the countries’ requests

Impact
- High-value targets identified and trans-national criminal networks disrupted
- Over 200 INTERPOL Red and 55 Purple Notices issued (including those linking wildlife crime with fraud/financial crime)
The ICCWC Vision outlines the next phase of ICCWC’s work and is our long-term vision of a world free of wildlife crime.
2021 - 2022 Biannual Report

See: https://iccwc-wildlifecrime.org/
THANK YOU