



GLOBAL WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT

Strengthening Law Enforcement Cooperation Against Wildlife Crime





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental crime is a transnational organized crime which has diversified to become one of the world's largest crime sectors.

As with all forms of crime, collaboration is the backbone to fighting this multifaceted, global threat.

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the work INTERPOL has done against global wildlife crime, including operational, tactical and analytical activities undertaken in cooperation with our 194 member countries and strategic partners.

With the black market for illegal wildlife products worth up to USD 20 billion per year, poaching and the illegal wildlife trade continue to grow and are pushing many species to the brink of extinction.

Transnational organized criminal groups exploit wildlife across the globe, threatening protected wildlife species, affecting vulnerable communities, undermining national economies and jeopardizing food security.

These criminals act along the entire supply chain, exploiting institutional and legislative weaknesses. Corruption, fraud, legal loopholes, weak controls, porous borders and inefficient customs procedures undermine the rule of law and good governance.

Wildlife crime is often perpetrated in connection with other crimes such as tax evasion, fraud, money laundering and firearms trafficking. Document fraud in particular is widely utilized to illegally obtain international permits regulated by international conventions. In addition, wildlife trafficking networks - across land, sea and air - are also commonly used to smuggle other illicit commodities, such as drugs and weapons. These links to other crime types further damage the environment as well as social and economic stability, increasing the urgent need for law enforcement action

INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme (ENS) is working to prevent and deter environmental crimes through enhanced law enforcement cooperation. Its mission is to assist member countries enforce national and international laws and treaties effectively, and help law enforcement implement national, regional and global environmental policy.

In 2008, INTERPOL launched Project Wisdom to improve wildlife law enforcement in Africa, specifically targeting the illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

In 2010, INTERPOL launched Project Predator to support and enhance the governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of Asian big cats.

More recently, INTERPOL has developed a transcontinental approach to target and disrupt criminals associated with protected wildlife and associated crimes in wider supply chains, with a particular focus on the criminal links between Africa and Asia.

To enhance synergies and in response to the growing wildlife crime threat, ENS has merged its various activities under Global Wildlife Enforcement. It aims to facilitate global law enforcement cooperation, to disrupt and dismantle transnational organized criminal networks involved in the illegal wildlife trade.

INTERPOL also assists member countries in raising awareness of abuses of national and international regulations and enhances their investigative and analytical capabilities leading to decisive enforcement action. This is achieved through training activities, multiagency cooperation, the provision of criminal intelligence analysis and systematic intelligence sharing between countries. Specific outcomes include the seizure of wildlife products, intelligence led investigations, arrests that lead to prosecutions, stiffer fines and prison sentences, to ultimately disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal networks.

The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG) provides an international platform for additional cooperation between member countries. Under the guidance of its board, the WCWG organizes annual meetings for operational-level representatives from wildlife and anti-smuggling authorities, customs and national police, to work on agreed activities throughout the year.

This holistic, multi-sector approach is strengthened through partnerships and collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, public and private sectors, which are encouraged to enter into dialogue with national enforcement authorities and combine their efforts to tackle transnational wildlife crime. A good example of such partnerships is INTERPOL participation in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

THE ISSUE

Wildlife crime is an umbrella term used by INTERPOL to describe criminal activity resulting in the illegal exploitation of wild flora and fauna, covering the entire supply chain, from poaching and transportation to processing and selling. It also refers to criminal offenses that facilitate such illicit activities, including document fraud, corruption, and money laundering.



The illegal trade in wildlife is worth up to USD 20 billion annually



Environmental crime ranks among the top five most lucrative illicit trades in the world



Approximately 35,000 African elephants are killed each year



In 2015, approximately 1,300 rhinoceros were poached in Africa



More than 100,000 pangolins were seized from illegal trade globally between 2007 and 2013



The population of Asian tigers has decreased by more than 95% in the last century

THREAT CONVERGENCE

Evidence is emerging of other criminal and administrative abuses, including customs regulations, government documentation and permit fraud, and bribery.

WILDLIFE CRIMES REQUIRE AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE

Criminals exploit the apparent lack of communication between law enforcement agencies, both within and between countries. This communication gap allows criminals to avoid detection and to export and sell wildlife products into lucrative markets. The use of such sophisticated criminal modus operandi can only be countered by multi-agency international cooperation and full supply chain traceability.

CORRUPTION

Wildlife crime creates huge criminal profits and generates significant money laundering problems. The financial flows behind wildlife crime require greater investigative focus. Currently, while a large proportion of wildlife crime cases involves an aspect of money laundering, investigations rarely result in charges or prosecutions.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Wildlife Crime creates huge criminal profits and generates significant money laundering problems. The financial flows behind wildlife crime require greater investigative focus. Currently a large proportion of wildlife crime cases involve an aspect of money laundering, however investigations rarely result in charges of prosecutions.

MILITANT GROUPS

There have been cases identified of illegal wildlife crime activities being linked to funding non-state armed and militant groups. Ivory for instance, provides a portion of income raised by militia groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and is likely a primary source of income to the Lord's Resistance Army. Likewise in Asia, information suggests that militant groups in India are involved in the poaching and smuggling of rhino horns. While in Latin America, several wildlife protected species such as reptiles, exotic birds, wild cats and other animal products are targeted for the international black market, including e-commerce sites

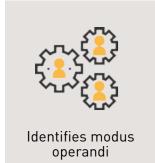
OPERATION PAWS II

Operation Paws II sought to enhance communication and intelligence sharing between countries regionally and globally, including via cyber investigations, intelligence and DNA analysis, and joint enforcement activities involving police, customs and wildlife agencies.

The operation took place between April and May 2015 and involved law enforcement authorities from 17 Asian countries.

During the operation, more than 13 tonnes of pangolin products were seized, representing 1,000 animals at an estimated street value exceeding USD 2 million. In Singapore alone, authorities seized almost 1,800 pieces of elephant ivory, four pieces of rhino horn and 22 pieces of big cat teeth, worth approximately USD 5.2 million in total.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE: THE KEY FACTS







Identifies illicit wildlife trafficking routes



Encompasses the entire wildlife sector and supply chain



Supports and facilitates communication between member countries



Issues INTERPOL notices



Leads capacity building events targeting wildlife crime for local authorities



Provides specialized and analytical investigative support to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal networks

MODUS OPERANDI

INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme has identified a range of different methods used to carry out illegal wildlife activities. These activities are constantly evolving as wildlife criminals become increasingly sophisticated. Wildlife investigators must be prepared and capable of adapting to the various techniques used by criminal groups to circumvent authorities.

Some of these methods include:

- Falsified international permits
- Bribes to illegally obtain international permits
- Bribes to evade customs controls and procedures
- Concealing wildlife products with legal environmental products such as legally sourced logs, fish and shells prior to export
- Concealing wildlife products using materials which prevent detection, including rice, tea and iron beams, and
- Processing wildlife products into items such as jewelry, in the source country prior to export.

GLOBAL WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT

The Global Wildlife Enforcement team operates globally to disrupt and deter transnational organized crime. Building on Project Predator and Project Wisdom, it enhances the capacity of local authorities and encompasses all protected wildlife species. ENS assists member countries with expertise and technical support for investigations, assistance with data collection, criminal intelligence analysis and the use of forensic tools and techniques.

INTERPOL has developed a strong institutionalized network of law enforcement officials investigating wildlife crime, acting as the foundation for joint investigation initiatives.

In this respect, ENS provides member countries with advanced, intelligence-led investigation techniques and engages with the whole criminal justice system. Continued engagement with member countries has seen improved information exchange and coordination amongst relevant authorities.

As part of its activities, ENS seeks to bridge and consolidate law enforcement action between source, transit and destination countries to combat the illicit wildlife trade. This approach is essential for a comprehensive assessment of the entire supply chain, as well as current smuggling trends and routes, and for targeting and disrupting key criminal networks.



INVESTIGATIVE AND ANALYTICAL SUPPORT

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TASKFORCE (NEST)

A NEST is an established multi-disciplinary law enforcement taskforce. It is made up of experts from different national agencies such as the police, customs, environmental authorities, financial crime units, anti-corruption units, other specialized agencies, and the prosecutor's office.

NESTs can effectively unite the national law enforcement agencies responsible for enforcing environmental laws. By bringing these agencies together, a NEST can ensure communication, cooperation and collaboration at all levels to facilitate stronger, more coordinated and more effective multi-agency actions against environmental crime. This multi-agency approach means that the taskforce can utilize the different mandates of each agency to combat environmental crimes from all angles — from on-theground illegal poaching to investigations into financial and tax affairs.

Through the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), the taskforce also functions at the international level, facilitating information exchange and tactical support between national agencies in different countries.

REGIONAL INVESTIGATIVE AND ANALYTICAL CASE MEETINGS (RIACM)

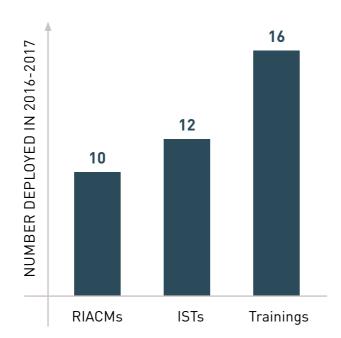
RIACMs allow investigators from member countries to meet face-to-face to review case files and share intelligence and analysis to further their investigation. These meetings help identify criminal networks or their company structures and lead to opportunities for further exchange of police information and evidence under international crime cooperation procedures. RIACMs can be arranged at the request of member countries and can be supported by INTERPOL law enforcement officers with expertise in relevant crime areas as needed.

INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TEAM (IST)

At the request of a member country, a team of specialized law enforcement experts can be deployed to support local law enforcement authorities in their investigations. Available expertise includes digital forensics, species identification techniques, language and technical support in interviewing suspects, database queries, follow-up criminal intelligence analysis, identification of transnational crime components and advice on how to issue INTERPOL Notices.

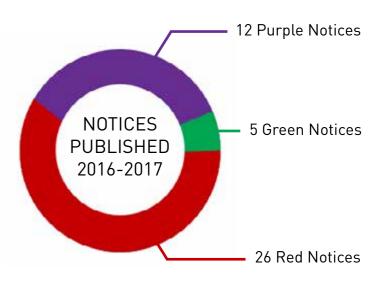
CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

The ENS team conducts extensive training and capacity building activities for law enforcement agencies, with the aim of improving the ability of countries to undertake targeted law enforcement operations. It has conducted regional and national level training activities across Africa and Asia, resulting in improved law enforcement capacity to combat wildlife crime in key countries.



NOTICES

INTERPOL Notices are international requests for cooperation or specific alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information. The Global Wildlife Enforcement team often uses Red Notices, which seek the location and the arrest of persons wanted internationally; Blue Notices, which are used to collect information on an individual or locate him/her; Purple Notices, which are typically published to seek or provide information on a modus operandi; and Green Notices, which provide warnings and intelligence on persons suspected of committing criminal offences and who are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.



ANALYTICAL SUPPORT

At the request of a member country, INTERPOL analysts study data related to criminals, crime suspects, incidents, issues and trends. By collecting and assessing this data, analysts identify relationships or connections between different crimes in different places. The analysis is then used to provide insights that can drive or support law enforcement investigations, operations and strategy, as well as influence government policy and decisions. The Global Wildlife Enforcement team provides both operational and strategic analytical support to wildlife crime-related projects, investigations and operations.

OPERATION WORTHY II

Operation Worthy II was initiated to enhance coordinated law enforcement responses to wildlife crime through cross-border, multi-agency collaboration, systematic intelligence exchange and analysis, and advanced investigative techniques.

It took place from January to October 2015 and involved law enforcement authorities across 11 African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

National coordination meetings were held in the pre-operational phase to enable police, wildlife and customs agencies to set their priorities for action in the field. During the operation, Investigative Support Teams (ISTs) were deployed to Kenya, Tanzania, Singapore and Thailand.

The operation resulted in 376 arrests, the seizure of 4.5 tonnes of elephant ivory and rhino horn and the investigation of 25 criminal groups involved in the illicit trade. Other wildlife products were also seized including 2,029 pangolin scales, 173 live tortoises, 55 kg of sea cucumber, warthog teeth, big cat products, pangolin and python skins and impala carcasses, as well as 532 rounds of ammunition, 5 firearms and 2 home-made rifles.

REGIONAL THREATS

The map below shows a broad sample of regional threats identified by INTERPOL member countries during RIACMs, ISTs and NESTs. While not an exhaustive list, the image below captures the global and interconnected nature of wildlife crime, demonstrating why an international multiagency response is necessary.

EUROPE

Europe serves as a major destination and transit region for wildlife trafficking, as well as a source region for illegal wildlife products, with recent seizures of wildlife products throughout Europe highlighting the need for greater efforts and stricter enforcement measures. Currently, only 10 to 15 per cent of illicit wildlife products transiting through Europe are seized.

MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East has been identified as a key transit region for wildlife trafficking, as well as a source region for illegal wildlife products, in particular exotic bird species.

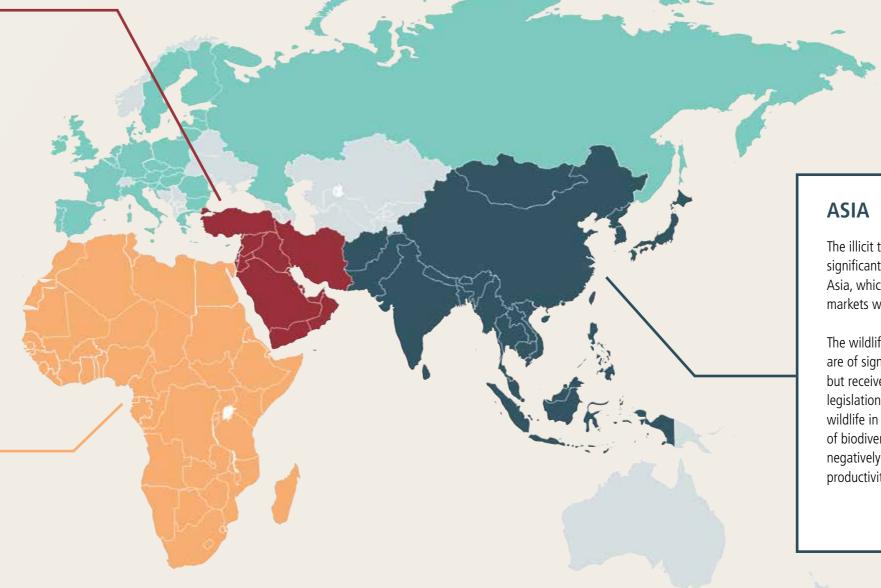
AFRICA

Driven by unprecedented levels of consumer demand, the recent surge in the poaching of protected wildlife species and the smuggling of wildlife products has reached exceptional heights. Current poaching levels continue to pose an immediate risk to the survival of Africa's wildlife.

The smuggling routes employed by the criminal networks trafficking wildlife products are complex and dynamic, exploiting weaknesses in border controls and law enforcement capacity constraints.

The illicit trade in wildlife products is a significant and ever increasing problem in Asia, which is made up of many distinct markets with their own drivers and dynamics.

The wildlife crimes occurring in this region are of significant international importance but receive lenient penalties under local legislation. The continued exploitation of wildlife in Asia will lead to an eventual loss of biodiversity in vital ecosystems and will negatively impact the region's long-term productivity and stability.



WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE: APPROACH

The Wildlife Enforcement Response team comprises criminal intelligence officers, analysts, and other technical experts with backgrounds in environmental law and policy and seconded law enforcement officials. The team operates from the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore, as well as INTERPOL Regional Bureaus in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. This allows access to INTERPOL technology and tools relevant to addressing wildlife crime, as well as other INTERPOL crime experts so as to effectively address threat convergences.

OPERATION THUNDERBIRD

Conducted in January and February 2017, Operation Thunderbird targeted the illegal trade in wildlife and timber, resulting in the identification of nearly 900 suspects and 1,300 seizures of illicit products worth an estimated USD 5.1 million.

The operation involved police, customs, border agencies, environment, wildlife and forestry officials from 49 countries and territories, and resulted in a range of seizures including:

- More than 300 tonnes of wood and timber
- More than 5,200 birds
- More than 2,800 reptiles including at least 2000 turtles and tortoises
- 13 wild cats (including six carcasses)
- More than 3.9 tonnes of pangolin scales
- More than 50 kg of raw and processed ivory
- 25 tonnes of various animal parts, including meat, horns and feathers
- More than 22,000 derivatives and processed products such as medicines/ornaments/carvings

Intelligence was gathered and shared ahead of the operation to assist in identifying specific targets and areas for action. These included wildlife and forest crime hotspots and bottlenecks where checkpoints could be established, in addition to operations at airports and national borders.

Operation Thunderbird was organized at meetings held alongside the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17).

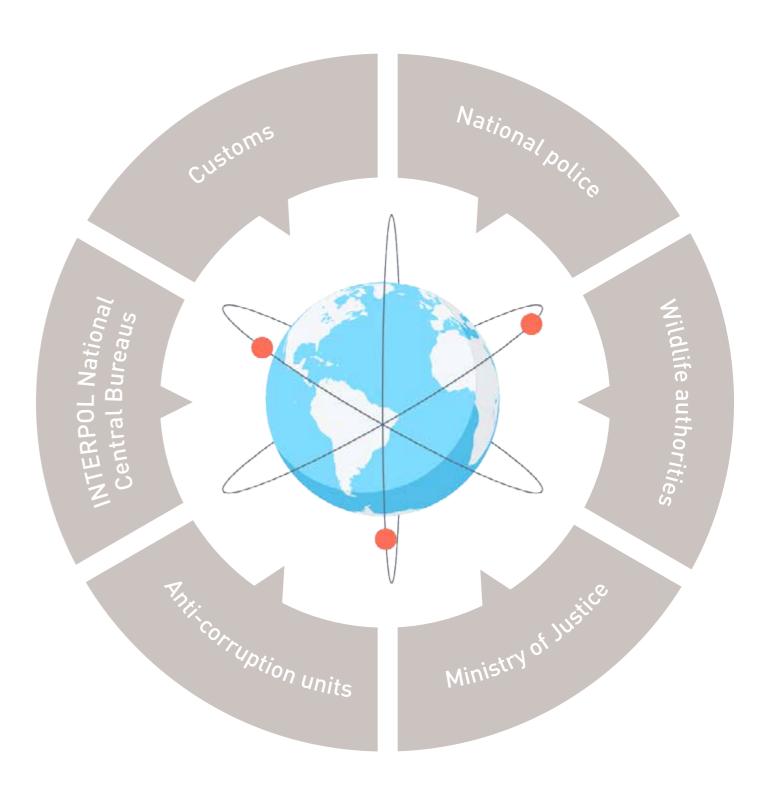
It was led by INTERPOL, in close cooperation with ICCWC partners - the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank - the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the UK Border Force and Environment Canada.





MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH

Effectively addressing the mounting challenges posed by wildlife crime requires a multi-agency approach. As the world's largest international police organization, INTERPOL is ideally and uniquely placed to develop a multi-agency response to wildlife crime.



WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE: IMPACT

INTERPOL recognizes the importance of measuring and assessing the impact of its work against wildlife crime to determine whether the support it provides to its member countries is efficient, sustainable and responsive to their changing needs and priorities. INTERPOL assists national law enforcement authorities in ongoing investigations by providing case-specific investigative and technical support at the request of a member country.



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING HAS SURGED IN RECENT YEARS, GENERATING BILLIONS IN ILLICIT PROFITS. SIMPLY PUT, CRIMINALS ARE HELPING THEMSELVES TO THE ENVIRONMENT'S PRECIOUS RESOURCES WITHOUT A CARE FOR THE COST TO OUR PLANET.

- JÜRGEN STOCK, INTERPOL SECRETARY GENERAL MARCH 2017

TIGER TRAFFICKING: INFORMATION ANALYSIS LED TO MAPPING OF TIGER TRAFFICKING NETWORKS IN SOUTH ASIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

CASE ONE: DATA SHARING

INTERPOL supported operations from 2011-2015, enabling data sharing on tiger criminals and networks

In March 2015, INTERPOL coordinated an INTERPOL RIACM with India and Nepal

For the first time, joint analysis of information was undertaken to clearly map out 8 criminal groups smuggling tiger parts from India to Nepal

Investigation of country-selected priority targets led to a number of arrests and better understanding of the networks

CASE TWO: PUBLICATION OF REPORTS

2015 INTERPOL published two reports on tiger smuggling in the Sunderbans region between India and Bangladesh

The reports
highlighted the
involvement
of specific
Bangladeshi
pirate groups

APRIL 2016 Information

shared during
an INTERPOL
RIACM helped
identify
and locate
the pirates
involved

of Bangladesh
implemented
a strong
enforcement
policy against
pirates, leading
to the surrender
of 12 pirate

2016-2017

The Government

groups

AUGUST 2017

The Government of Bangladesh declared the Sunderbans to be pirate free

Local reports
indicated a
significant decline
in tiger poaching
and smuggling in
the region

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE: IMPACT

The cases below identify a specific point in the investigative process whereby INTERPOL support to investigating authorities resulted in a successful operational outcome.

IVORY TRAFFICKING: INTERPOL RIACM LED TO THE ARREST OF KEY SUSPECTS

INTERPOL organized 6 consecutive RIACMs from July 2015 to June 2017 on the illegal ivory trade in East Africa Two individuals long involved in wildlife trafficking were suspected of attempting to export 781 elephant tusks, valued at USD 5.8 million, from Tanzania to Malawi

Tanzania issued INTERPOL Red Notices on 9 May 2016 and 23 June 2017 for each individual suspect INTERPOL provided investigative support and facilitated cooperation between Tanzania and Malawi

The whereabouts of the suspects were identified during Operation Usalama IV, led by the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO)

In October 2017, the Malawi Police, in cooperation with Tanzanian authorities and supported by a team deployed by INTERPOL arrested one of the suspects in Malawi. Further intelligence led to the arrest of the second suspect a few hours later.

ILLEGAL TURTLE/TORTOISE TRADE: INTERPOL RIACM LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF KEY TARGETS

May 2017

An INTERPOL RIACM
was held in Singapore to
support an investigation
into turtle and tortoise
rafficking networks in Asia

Identification of priority targets and mapping of key smuggling routes

September 2017

shared via
NTERPOL helped
Bangladesh
identify a safe
house used to
store turtles and
arrest 5 turtle

October 2017

Malaysia
issued an
NTERPOL Red
Notice against
a priority

November 2017

India arrested
priority target
as part of an
investigation
supported by

RHINO HORN TRAFFICKING: INTERPOL SUPPORTED INVESTIGATIONS LEADING TO DETERRENT CONVICTIONS IN SWAZILAND

from South
Africa, security
officers at
King Mswati III
International
Airport seized 26
kg of rhino horn
Two suspects
were arrested

from wildlife
enforcement
agencies in
Swaziland
identified three
South African
game reserves
as the origin of

request from authorities in Swaziland INTERPOL issued Greet Notices on th the ongoing investigation INTERPOL organized two RIACMs to support Swaziland and South Africa in

The two suspects received lengthy sentences and heavy fines

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE: IMPACT

INTERPOL RED NOTICE LED TO EXTRADITION OF KEY SUSPECT TO BOTSWANA

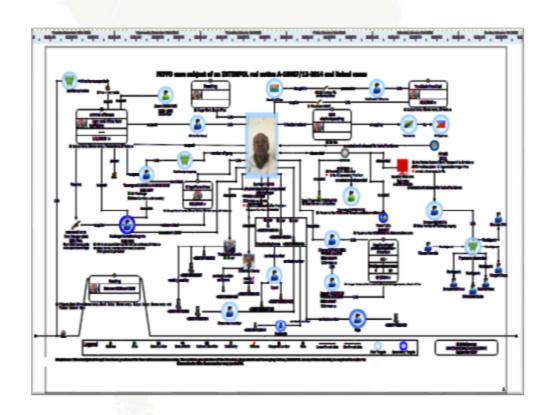
Cooperation across borders

Dumisani Moyo is a Zimbabwean citizen. He was suspected of smuggling arms to poaching gangs, brokering deals with wildlife traders in Southern Africa and a mediator between traders in Africa and buyers in Asia. According to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (Zimparks), Mr Moyo was a cross-border poaching kingpin.

In 2012, he was arrested for illegally possessing rhino horns without a permit, under the Botswana Wildlife Law. He was bailed and subsequently absconded from Botswana. In December 2014, at the request of the Botswanan government, INTERPOL issued a Red Notice, with a view to locating, arresting and extraditing him back to Botswana for prosecution.

In response to the Red Notice, INTERPOL member countries provided intelligence on offenses committed by the suspect and his associates under other jurisdictions between 2010 and 2017, established smuggling routes and modus operandi.

With the support of INTERPOL, Zimbabwean authorities located and arrested the suspect in 2017. He was extradited to Botswana in December 2017, where he remains in custody.



INTERPOL SUPPORT



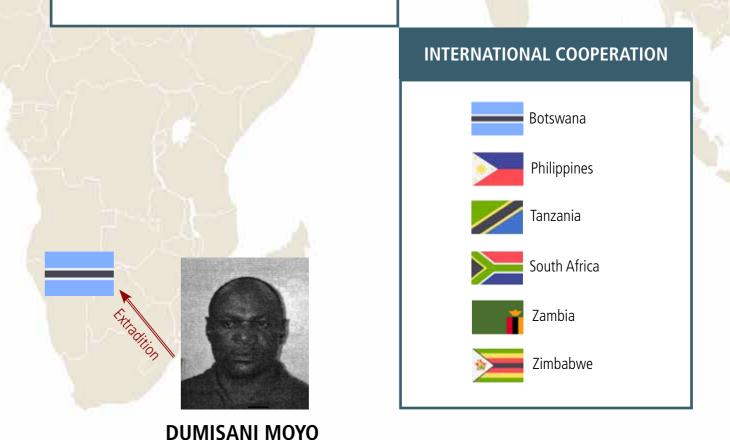
INTERPOL ISSUED A RED NOTICE AT THE REQUEST OF BOTSWANA

INTERPOL ILLICIT ARMS RECORDS AND TRACING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IARMS)

CRIMINAL ANALYSIS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

Ivory

Firearms



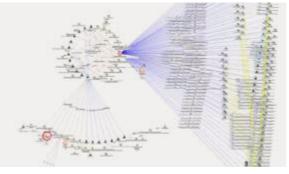
Anonymous companies

A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO WILDLIFE CRIME



Using INTERPOL broad and versatile networks to enhance international cooperation

Promoting INTERPOL policing capabilities and providing consultations to member countries in investigative and analytical matters





Enhancing intelligence exchange through INTERPOL I-24/7 secure communications system and alerting member countries on modus operandi

Assisting member countries with regional and international cross-border operations and investigations





Enhancing awareness at the strategic, operational and tactical levels

THE INTERPOL NETWORK

With 194 member countries, INTERPOL enables police in different countries to work together by facilitating police cooperation. The INTERPOL General Secretariat is based in Lyon, France, supported by the Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore, seven regional bureaus, and Special Representative Offices at the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations. In addition, each member country has its own INTERPOL office, the National Central Bureau (NCB), staffed by highly trained law enforcement officials, linking national police with our global network.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT

INTERPOL recognizes the importance of strong partnerships in developing a coordinated response to wildlife crimes. Partners include governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC)

ICCWC is the collaborative effort of five intergovernmental organizations working to support national wildlife law enforcement agencies. ICCWC stimulates a coordinated law enforcement response to environmental crime, helping to deliver on-the-ground action and ensure transnational criminal networks are identified and disrupted.

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

WILDLIFE CRIME WORKING GROUP

Since 1992, the Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG) has supported the INTERPOL Global Wildlife Enforcement team. The WCWG brings together senior officials and decisions makers from all INTERPOL member countries to provide strategic advice on relevant issues and to harness global support. The working group acts as a forum in which law enforcement officials meet to discuss new strategies, share experiences and expertise as well as initiate and lead projects to detect and address organized wildlife crime.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

- European Commission
- Environment Canada
- International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Snow Leopard Trust
- The Wildcat Foundation
- United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Department of State



