The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

INTERPOL, as the world’s largest international police organization, facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and transnational organized crime.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization comprised of 179 Customs administrations that provides leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations to secure and facilitate legitimate trade, realize revenues, protect society and build capacity.

Contributors to ICCWC

The following donors have generously provided funds to support the work and operation of ICCWC:

- European Union
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- The World Bank

Find out more at the ICCWC web portal: www.cites.org/eng/prog/ICCWC.php
What is ICCWC?

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is the collaborative effort of five intergovernmental organizations working to bring coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and the sub-regional and regional enforcement networks that act in defence of natural resources.

Recent years have seen a spike in the scale of wildlife crime and a change in the nature of this illicit activity. Wildlife crime is becoming increasingly transnational and organized, with illegal traders making use of sophisticated mechanisms to illicitly trade in wildlife and forest products. Wildlife crime has become a serious threat to the security, political stability, economy, natural resources and cultural heritage of many countries and regions. It is increasingly recognized as a serious crime, against which States must deploy the same techniques used to combat other serious crimes.

In response, in 2010, the five organizations united under the ICCWC banner to deliver a globally coordinated and comprehensive approach to combating wildlife and forest crime.

ICCWC Strategy

ICCWC’s mission is to usher in a new era where the perpetrators of serious wildlife and forest crime face a formidable and coordinated response.

ICCWC promotes, supports and delivers activity under five focus areas:

1. Strengthening cooperation and coordination in combating wildlife and forest crime
2. Facilitating analysis of national responses to wildlife and forest crime
3. Building capacity to prevent and respond to wildlife and forest crime
4. Raising awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime
5. Improving use of knowledge and innovation to inform contemporary approaches to wildlife and forest crime.

ICCWC in Action

A diverse range of activities have been delivered by ICCWC since its 2010 launch.

ICCWC coordinates global, regional and national events on critical issues related to wildlife and forest crime. Events have included a Ministerial roundtable on transnational organized wildlife crime, a seminar for heads of police and Customs on tiger crime, and the first global meeting of wildlife enforcement networks.

ICCWC develops and delivers training events, particularly to increase the use of specialized investigation techniques in combating wildlife crime. Examples include workshops on controlled deliveries, specialized training for wildlife law enforcement officers from Africa and Asia ahead of a global operation to combat wildlife crime, training on forensic investigation, and the first international training on rhinoceros DNA sampling. ICCWC has also developed best practice guidelines for ivory sampling and laboratory analysis to help increase the use of forensic technology to combat wildlife crime.

ICCWC provides investigative assistance to support national law enforcement efforts. For example, Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WISTs) can be dispatched at the request of countries that are affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that have made large-scale seizures, to assist, guide and facilitate appropriate follow-up actions.

Reflecting its capacity-building focus, ICCWC developed the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to help governments review the effectiveness of their responses to wildlife and forest crime and identify their technical assistance needs. ICCWC is supporting the implementation of the Toolkit in a number of countries.

The Toolkit evaluates the following matters relevant to wildlife and forest crime:

1. Legislation
2. Law enforcement measures
3. Prosecutorial and judicial capacities
4. Factors that drive offences and the effectiveness of preventative interventions
5. The availability and analysis of data and other relevant information.

The Toolkit promotes, supports and delivers activity under five focus areas:

1. Strengthening cooperation and coordination in combating wildlife and forest crime
2. Facilitating analysis of national responses to wildlife and forest crime
3. Building capacity to prevent and respond to wildlife and forest crime
4. Raising awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime
5. Improving use of knowledge and innovation to inform contemporary approaches to wildlife and forest crime.