

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November - 1 December 2017

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Enforcement

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on Compliance and enforcement, paragraph 20. b), the Conference of the Parties instructs the Secretariat to:
  - b) *submit a report on enforcement matters at each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. In Resolution Conf. 17.6 on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*, paragraph 13. a) and b), the Conference of the Parties requests the Secretariat:
  - a) *to continue to report credible allegations of corrupt practices, or the results of its own investigations that lead to credible suspicions of corruption, to the relevant national authorities and intergovernmental entities; and*
  - b) *to include relevant information on such instances, and the outcome of investigations, in its report on enforcement matters to each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, together with details of any anti-corruption activities the Secretariat has undertaken, along with its activities in implementation of Article XIII of the Convention;*
4. In Resolution Conf. 17.6, paragraphs 14 and 15, the Conference of the Parties:
  14. *REQUESTS the Standing Committee to take note of instances of corruption affecting the implementation or enforcement of the Convention and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the Parties concerned and to the Conference of the Parties on ways in which it may be combated more effectively, whilst also considering possible actions that the Committee itself might take under Resolution Conf. 14.3; and*
  15. *REQUESTS the Standing Committee with support from the Secretariat, to ensure close cooperation of CITES with UNCAC and UNTOC.*
5. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.83 to 17.85 on *Enforcement matters*, as follow:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

17.83 *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:*

- a) *request the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to develop guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies, and assist Parties to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens;*
- b) *work with the World Bank and other ICCWC partner organizations to mobilize the “Wildlife crime and anti-money laundering” training programme developed under the auspices of ICCWC, to enhance capacity amongst law-enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges, to detect and investigate illegal transactions and suspicious activities associated with wildlife crime, and to effectively prosecute and adjudicate money-laundering cases associated with wildlife crime;*
- c) *In consultation with identified laboratories, and in collaboration with ICCWC partner organizations and the ICCWC Wildlife Forensics Advisory Group, compile an electronic directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing, that meet the minimum quality assurance standards and that, subject to available resources, are able and willing to carry out wildlife forensic analyses upon request from other countries; and*
- d) *convene a Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, consisting of representatives of Parties affected by illicit trafficking in such specimens, ICCWC partner organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional enforcement networks, other Parties and experts. The Task Force should develop strategies to combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, including measures to promote and further strengthen international cooperation.*

17.84 *The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of Decision 17.83 at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

17.85 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *examine mechanisms to facilitate the efficient international movement of samples for forensic or enforcement purposes, for consideration by the 18th Conference of the Parties; and*
- b) *with support of the Secretariat, explore options to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between CITES and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including through their respective programmes of work and Secretariats, and report at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

6. The present document outlines enforcement related activities and developments that have taken place since CoP17, additional to those described in other documents on enforcement prepared for the present meeting.

Implementation of Decisions 17.83 paragraph a) and 17.84, and Resolution Conf. 17.6 paragraph 13 a) and b)

7. To progress the implementation of Decision 17.83, paragraph a), the Secretariat worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to prepare a joint proposal on the development of anti-corruption guidelines as described in the Decision. This proposal was reviewed and endorsed by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group (SEG)<sup>1</sup> at its meeting in Lyon, France, in February 2017, and was subsequently submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Global Wildlife Program (GWP)<sup>2</sup> managed by the World Bank for consideration. In March 2017, the World Bank confirmed that funding for the implementation of the proposal was approved as part of a GWP coordination grant to ICCWC. UNODC, under the auspices of ICCWC, will lead on the development of the anti-corruption guidelines and, at the time of writing, work was ongoing. The Consortium sincerely thanks the World Bank for the GWP coordination grant made available to ICCWC for this work, which will not only benefit GWP countries,<sup>3</sup> but all Parties. The

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 5 of the document on ICCWC prepared for the present meeting.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 15 of the document on ICCWC prepared for the present meeting.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/global-wildlife-program>

Secretariat will report further to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decision 17.83, paragraph a), at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018).<sup>4</sup>

8. It is also worth noting that activities included in the delivery of the *ICCWC Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme* described in paragraph 12 of the present document, will contribute to the implementation of paragraph 10 Resolution Conf. 17.6, which recommends that ICCWC continues to incorporate anti-corruption efforts into its activities, including those related to anti-money laundering and asset seizure and recovery.
9. At the G20 Leaders Summit held in Hamburg, Germany, from 7-8 July 2017, the G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to address illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, particularly through combating corruption.<sup>5</sup> A comprehensive set of *High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products*<sup>6</sup> was adopted as an annex to the G20 Leaders' Declaration.<sup>7</sup> The high level principles set out concrete steps to combat corruption, including through strengthening legislation, law enforcement and capacity building frameworks, establishing preventive measures such as demand reduction for illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products, risk mitigation, and implementing concrete actions on investigation, prosecution and sanctioning. It makes specific reference to Resolution Conf. 17.6, and the important role of ICCWC in combating corruption related to illegal trade in wildlife. Further, it reaffirms the fundamental legal framework that CITES provides for the regulation of international trade in CITES listed species. On 12 September 2017, the Secretariat participated in a meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in Vienna, Austria. This event underscored the links between wildlife crime and corruption, and aimed to identify concrete ways and means to raise awareness of the *High Level Principles* and to progress its implementation. At the time of writing, an outcome document was being prepared. The Secretariat would like to thank Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, for the generous funding it provided, which enabled the Secretariat to participate in the meeting.
10. A number of CITES-listed species continue to be heavily targeted by organized crime groups because of their high monetary value. This makes the officers responsible for regulating trade in specimens of these species and enforcing the Convention potentially vulnerable to corruption. It remains essential that Parties step up efforts to ensure that measures are in place to prevent, identify and address corruption. This need is also highlighted by a number of incidents that occurred since CoP17. In March 2017, for example, two police officers and a state prosecutor in Thailand were placed on inactive duty to ensure an unhindered investigation into their alleged links with rhinoceros horn smugglers.<sup>8</sup> Also, in the document on *Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)* prepared for the present meeting, the Secretariat elaborates about a case in Mozambique in which at least five Mozambican police officers and two customs officers that worked at Maputo International Airport are facing both disciplinary action and criminal charges in connection with their alleged role in the smuggling of rhinoceros horns that were seized in Malaysia.<sup>9</sup> While these incidents are unfortunate, it is encouraging that, in both these cases, authorities actively responded to the incidents to root out corruption.

#### Implementation of Decisions 17.83, paragraph b) and 17.84

11. At CoP17, ICCWC launched its *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme*.<sup>10</sup> The World Bank, from 12-16 June 2017, delivered a pilot training in Kenya, in which 31 participants from relevant agencies, including the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Ports Authority, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, the Anti-Corruption Agency and the judiciary participated. Based on experiences from this pilot training, the ICCWC training programme is being further tailored and improved. At the time of writing, a second training is being planned to be conducted before the end of 2017 in the United Republic of Tanzania. Both trainings have been made possible through funds generously provided to ICCWC by the GWP and the World Bank through the Country Management Unit of Kenya and the United Kingdom Department for International Development.

---

<sup>4</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Russian\\_Federation\\_host\\_the\\_70th\\_meeting\\_CITES\\_Standing\\_Committee\\_Sochi\\_October\\_2018\\_13072017](https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Russian_Federation_host_the_70th_meeting_CITES_Standing_Committee_Sochi_October_2018_13072017)

<sup>5</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/CITES\\_welcomes\\_G20\\_leaders\\_Declaration\\_on\\_combating\\_corruption\\_related\\_to\\_illegal\\_trade\\_in\\_wildlife\\_100717](https://cites.org/eng/CITES_welcomes_G20_leaders_Declaration_on_combating_corruption_related_to_illegal_trade_in_wildlife_100717)

<sup>6</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/pr/2017/2017-g20-acwg-wildlife-en.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/pr/2017/G20-leaders-declaration.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://m.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1216546/two-cops-prosecutor-suspects-in-rhino-horn-smuggling>

<sup>9</sup> <http://apanews.net/en/news/mozambique-police-customs-officers-nabbed-for-abetting-ivory-smuggling/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

12. It is envisaged that, through the ICCWC Strategic Programme,<sup>11</sup> further funding will be available for the implementation of the ICCWC AML training programme in a limited number of countries. Parties that are interested in benefitting from this training programme are invited to submit a formal request for support from ICCWC to the Secretariat. The Consortium will also be actively reaching out to identified Parties to offer such support.
13. In July 2017, UNODC<sup>12</sup> in partnership with the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) released a research report on *Enhancing the Detection, Investigation and Disruption of Illicit Financial Flows from Wildlife Crime*.<sup>13</sup> The report highlights a number of findings and good practices, and includes a number of recommendations. Although this work was undertaken to support APG jurisdictions, many jurisdictions beyond the APG region also contributed information to it. The Secretariat believes that the findings of this work could be beneficial to all Parties, and encourages Parties to, pursuant to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 13 e) and f), draw upon this report and its findings, to inform their decision making on addressing financial flows from wildlife crime. The research report is available as an information document for the present meeting.

#### Implementation of Decisions 17.83, paragraph c) and 17.84

14. The Secretariat has worked with UNODC to develop a project proposal to seek funding for the implementation of Decision 17.83, paragraph c). This proposal was submitted for consideration in response to a call for proposals issued by the United States of America. If the proposal is considered favourably and the required funding is secured, the work to be conducted under the project will build upon the global review of forensic laboratory capacity commissioned by the Secretariat in cooperation with UNODC, available as Annex 4 to document CoP17 Doc. 25.<sup>14</sup> Implementation of the project will also support the broader work of ICCWC on forensics, identified as a priority area in the Consortium's Strategic Programme 2016-2020. At the time of writing, the Secretariat was waiting for feedback from the donor Party, on whether the project proposal was successful. The Secretariat will report further to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decision 17.83, paragraph c), at its 70th meeting.

#### Implementation of Decisions 17.83, paragraph d) and 17.84

15. In document CoP17 Doc. 25 on *Enforcement matters*, the Secretariat drew attention to a number of reports from Parties regarding large-scale illegal trade in commercially valuable CITES-listed timber species. The *World Wildlife Crime Report*<sup>15</sup> developed by UNODC, with the support of ICCWC, also provides information on illegal timber trade, in particular through a case study and with a focus on rosewood. Since CoP17, information about large-scale illegal timber trade continued to come to the attention of the Secretariat, in particular with regards to CITES-listed timber from Africa. This highlights the continued urgent need for enhanced enforcement efforts to address illegal trade in CITES-listed timber species. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement measures to combat this illegal trade.
16. Decision 17.83, paragraph d), will be implemented under the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020. As reported in the document on the *International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* prepared for the present meeting, significant funding for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme is pending confirmation. Subject to the availability of funding, the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species would be convened during the course of 2018, and the Secretariat will report further to the Standing Committee on this at its 70th meeting.
17. In March 2017, the Secretariat participated in the 3rd Regional Dialogue on Preventing Illegal Logging and Trading of Siamese Rosewood, hosted by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Bangkok, Thailand. The CITES Secretary-General provided opening remarks to the meeting,<sup>16</sup> which included almost 40 representatives from all Siamese rosewood range States (Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam) and China, and from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. All participating countries agreed to give the highest priority to the effective implementation of the CITES

---

<sup>11</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Strategy>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Financial\\_Flow\\_Wildlife\\_Crime.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Financial_Flow_Wildlife_Crime.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/2017/07/follow-the-money/story.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/WorkingDocs/E-CoP17-25-A4.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/UN\\_targets\\_wildlife\\_crime\\_in\\_the\\_lead\\_up\\_to\\_CITES\\_CoP17\\_250516](https://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/UN_targets_wildlife_crime_in_the_lead_up_to_CITES_CoP17_250516)

<sup>16</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/CITES\\_SG\\_remarks\\_3rd\\_Regional\\_Dialogue\\_Preventing\\_Illegal\\_Logging\\_Trading\\_Siamese\\_Rosewood\\_05042017](https://cites.org/eng/news/CITES_SG_remarks_3rd_Regional_Dialogue_Preventing_Illegal_Logging_Trading_Siamese_Rosewood_05042017)

Appendix-II listing of Siamese rosewood and to develop a regional strategy and action plan, which would provide the basis for effective coordination and cooperation among the countries present. The Secretariat would like to thank Hong Kong SAR of China, for the generous funding it provided, which enabled the Secretariat to participate in the meeting. The 4th Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking in Wild Fauna and Flora was hosted by the DNP of the MNRE in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11-15 September 2017. This meeting built upon the previous three dialogues convened from 2014 to 2017, and its focus was widened from Siamese rosewood to also include other CITES listed species affected by illegal trade in wildlife in the region, in particular elephants, pangolins, rhinoceroses and tigers. It was unfortunately not possible for a representative from the Secretariat to attend this meeting, but a video statement by the CITES Secretary-General<sup>17</sup> highlighting key matters related to illegal wildlife trade, as well as the support available through the CITES Tree Species Programme,<sup>18</sup> was provided for the meeting.

18. The Secretariat also participated in the Global Forestry Crime Conference hosted by INTERPOL in Lyon, France, in June 2017.<sup>19</sup> The Conference focused on enhancing the fight against corporate crime in the forestry sector by adapting financial investigations and anti-corruption measures, and brought together some 100 representatives from the timber industry, financial institutions, law enforcement agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Participants discussed, among other things, the need to establish a Working Group on Forestry Crime in order to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement operations targeting organised criminal networks engaged in illegal logging and international trade in illegal timber and related crimes. Currently, INTERPOL has a Forestry-Crime sub-group that reports to the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group. The establishment of a stand-alone Working Group on Forestry Crime will be further discussed at the INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee meeting to be held in Scotland from 27-29 November 2017.

#### Implementation of Decision 17.85, paragraph a)

19. The importance of wildlife forensic science to combat wildlife crime is well recognized, as is reflected in a number of CITES Resolutions, such as for example Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses*, which urges all Parties to collect samples from rhinoceros horn seized within their territories for forensic analysis to link such horns to crime scenes and implicated suspects and to promote successful prosecution, Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* which urges Parties to collect samples from large-scale ivory seizures and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin or age of the ivory, and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17), which recommends that Parties promote and increase the use of wildlife forensic technology in the investigation of wildlife crime offences.
20. It is however also known that Parties currently often experience difficulties in sending samples for forensic or enforcement purposes from one country to another. The work to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.85, paragraph a), is therefore of particular importance to ensure that an effective mechanism is put in place to facilitate the international movement of samples for forensic or enforcement purposes, that will enable Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention.
21. In June 2017, the Secretariat participated in a one-day International Wildlife Forensics Symposium, hosted by the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science (SWFS) in Edinburgh, Scotland.<sup>20</sup> The Symposium brought together enforcement, policy and forensic science professionals, to discuss how forensic science can be better utilised to support law enforcement, including how wildlife forensics can be further developed and applied to support the needs of investigators. Various participants expressed an interest in the work to be conducted by the Standing Committee in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.85, paragraph a), and a number of presenters highlighted the importance of this work.
22. The SWFS<sup>21</sup> subsequently reached out to the Secretariat to express its interest in contributing to this work of the Standing Committee. Given the extensive experience of the SWFS and its members in promoting best

---

<sup>17</sup>[https://cites.org/eng/news/CITES\\_SG\\_remarks\\_4th\\_Regional\\_Dialogue\\_on\\_Combating\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Wild\\_Fauna\\_and\\_Flora\\_Bangkok\\_Thailand\\_11092017](https://cites.org/eng/news/CITES_SG_remarks_4th_Regional_Dialogue_on_Combating_Trafficking_in_Wild_Fauna_and_Flora_Bangkok_Thailand_11092017)

<sup>18</sup>[https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/EU\\_contributes\\_8\\_million\\_Euro\\_support\\_CITES\\_tree\\_species\\_programme\\_protection\\_African\\_elephants\\_1407\\_2017](https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/EU_contributes_8_million_Euro_support_CITES_tree_species_programme_protection_African_elephants_1407_2017)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-082>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.wildlifeforensicscience.org/one-day-symposium/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.wildlifeforensicscience.org/>

practice in wildlife forensic science, the Standing Committee may wish to consider to engage the SWFS and its members in the work to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.85, paragraph a).

#### Implementation of Decision 17.85, paragraph b)

23. The Secretariat initiated discussions with UNODC to explore opportunities to strengthen synergies and collaboration between CITES and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Secretariat and UNODC both concluded that the Seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the UNCAC,<sup>22</sup> held in Vienna, Austria, from 6-10 November 2017, presents an excellent opportunity to progress the implementation of both Decision 17.85, paragraph b), and Resolution Conf. 17.6, paragraph 15.
24. At the time of writing, the Secretariat and UNODC are working on preparations for a joint event at the Seventh session of the COSP to the UNCAC, and the Secretariat will provide an oral update on the activities conducted to the Standing Committee at the present meeting.
25. The Secretariat stands ready to further work with the Standing Committee in implementing the provisions of Decision 17.85, paragraph b).

#### Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

26. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.97 to 17.100 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, of which Decision 17.97, paragraph a), directs the Secretariat to, subject to external funding:
  - a) *in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and with the support of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and relevant stakeholders, commission a threat assessment report on illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa, to identify and collate information regarding trade routes, techniques and trends relating to wildlife trafficking in the two sub-regions, including recommendations on priority measures necessary to address and significantly reduce wildlife crime in the two sub-regions;*
27. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is in discussion with UNODC to progress the implementation of this Decision, and will provide further reporting to the Standing Committee on this at its 70th meeting.
28. One development worth noting in the context of West Africa is that, in March 2017, the General Directors of wildlife management agencies from Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger signed an agreement to strengthen collaboration in wildlife law enforcement at the W-Arly-Pendjari Protected Area Complex (WAP) in West Africa. Activities will be implemented in five protected areas that make up the WAP: Park W (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), Pendjari National Park (Benin) and Arly National Park (Burkina Faso), and will focus on: strengthening patrol staff capacity and performance throughout the area; improving law enforcement management, including communications within and between the protected areas; increasing the contribution of intelligence to wildlife law enforcement; and enhancing community and interagency collaboration and support for wildlife law enforcement operations. The WAP was selected as one of the eight "focal sites" under the CITES Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES) project, where support for wildlife law enforcement capacity building is most needed. Activities will be implemented in partnership with the Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Burkina Faso. The MIKES Project is an initiative of the African Caribbean Pacific Group of States, funded by the European Union.

#### Transport sector and tourism industry

29. Since CoP17, the Secretariat has continued its strong engagement with the transport industry to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife, in particular through the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce in which the Secretariat is represented by the CITES Secretary-General. The CITES Secretary-General will address the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) Global Sustainable Aviation Summit<sup>23</sup>, to be held in Geneva from 3-4 October 2017, during a breakout session on "Aviation's role in tackling illegal trafficking".

---

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/conference-of-the-states-parties.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.ataq.org/events/events-overview.html>

30. The Secretariat also deepened its engagement with the tourism industry sector since CoP17, and the CITES Secretary-General delivered a keynote address at the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) 17th Global Summit, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26-27 April 2017.<sup>24</sup> The CITES Secretary-General emphasized the critical role of the tourism industry in ensuring the survival of wildlife, and highlighted the specific actions that could be taken by the sector to combat illegal trade in wildlife. Following the speech, the Secretariat is in discussions with the WTTC on how the sector can better support CITES and the global efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. An op-ed written by the CITES Secretary-General entitled *The world needs wildlife tourism. But that won't work without wildlife* was published in *The Guardian* on 22 June 2017, and is also available on the CITES website.<sup>25</sup>

#### Secretary-General's certificate of commendation

31. In July 2017, the Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation was awarded to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore.<sup>26</sup> The certificate formally recognizes exemplary enforcement actions, and was awarded to AVA in recognition of the great perseverance it demonstrated in securing successful convictions for illegal timber trade following the seizure of an illegal shipment of 3,235 metric tonnes (29,434 pieces) of CITES-listed rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*) logs, on 14 March 2014. The market value of the logs was estimated to be in excess of USD 50 million. The certificate was presented to AVA by the Secretary-General during a joint session of the 29th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland.<sup>27</sup>

#### Final remarks

32. Since CoP17, a variety of events and activities continued to raise the profile of wildlife crime, secure political support for combating it, improve regional cooperation and reinforce the need for practical action. In November 2016, Viet Nam hosted the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade.<sup>28</sup> This conference was the third international conference of its kind, following the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade hosted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in February 2014,<sup>29</sup> and the Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade hosted by Botswana in March 2015.<sup>30</sup> The Hanoi Conference culminated in the adoption of the Hanoi Statement on Illegal Wildlife Trade,<sup>31</sup> which includes an Annex setting out a number of actions participants to the conference committed to. In February 2017, a joint extraordinary meeting of the South African Development Community's (SADC) Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and of the Organ on Defence, Peace and Security Co-operation held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, adopted the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-poaching Strategy (LEAP).<sup>32</sup> The SADC LEAP Strategy aims at reducing poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, and at enhancing law enforcement capacity in the SADC region by 2021. In order to effectively implement the LEAP Strategy, the Ministers approved the establishment of the Regional Wildlife Crime Prevention and Coordination Unit (WCPCU), that will be supported by National Wildlife Crime Prevention Task Forces comprising of police, wildlife, customs, defence, immigration, intelligence and judiciary officials in each member State. In June 2017, the Permanent Missions of Germany and Gabon to the United Nations, together with the Wildlife Conservation Society, hosted a High Level Event on Illegal Wildlife Trade in New York, United States of America. The CITES Secretary-General provided a video statement for this High Level Event.<sup>33</sup> In June 2017, the Secretary-General also addressed the World Economic Forum meeting in Dalian, China, on *Stemming the Surge in Illegal Trade in Wildlife*,<sup>34</sup> placing

---

<sup>24</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/keynote-address-cites-sg-john-scanlon-world-travel-and-tourism-council-17-global-summit-thailand\\_27042017](https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/keynote-address-cites-sg-john-scanlon-world-travel-and-tourism-council-17-global-summit-thailand_27042017)

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/22/the-world-needs-wildlife-tourism-but-that-wont-work-without-wildlife>

<sup>26</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2017-051.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Persistence\\_pays\\_off\\_Singapore\\_authorities\\_successful\\_prosecutions\\_against\\_wildlife\\_crime\\_recognized\\_CITES\\_SG\\_Certificate\\_Commendation\\_22072017](https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Persistence_pays_off_Singapore_authorities_successful_prosecutions_against_wildlife_crime_recognized_CITES_SG_Certificate_Commendation_22072017)

<sup>28</sup> <http://iwthanoi.vn/hanoi-conference-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/news/sundry/2014/london-wildlife-conference-declaration-140213.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/417231/kasane-statement-150325.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417231/kasane-statement-150325.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> [http://iwthanoi.vn/wp-content/themes/cites/template/statement/Hanoi%20Statement%20on%20Illegal%20Wildlife%20Trade%20\(English\).pdf](http://iwthanoi.vn/wp-content/themes/cites/template/statement/Hanoi%20Statement%20on%20Illegal%20Wildlife%20Trade%20(English).pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/ministers-environment-and-natural-resources-and-organ-defence-peace-and-security-adopt-sadc-law-enforcement-and-anti-poaching-st/>

<sup>33</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES-SG-remarks-High-Level-Event-on-Illegal-Wildlife-Trade-UN-Plaza-New-York\\_06062017](https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES-SG-remarks-High-Level-Event-on-Illegal-Wildlife-Trade-UN-Plaza-New-York_06062017)

<sup>34</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES\\_SG\\_remarks\\_WEF\\_Annual\\_Meeting\\_New\\_Champions\\_China\\_280617](https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES_SG_remarks_WEF_Annual_Meeting_New_Champions_China_280617)

strong emphasis on the use of new technology to combat wildlife crime, and participating in discussions on the possible use of blockchain technology for CITES permits and certificates.

33. Recently, the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, adopted a Resolution on *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife*,<sup>35</sup> which reinforces the focus on key areas in the fight against illicit trafficking in wildlife, including enhanced national legislation, supporting sustainable livelihoods, stronger law enforcement, countering corruption, deploying information technologies and undertaking well-targeted demand reduction efforts. The Resolution places strong emphasis on the role of CITES, the importance of implementing the Decisions and Resolutions adopted at CoP17, and highlights the importance of the work of ICCWC. It further calls upon Parties to ensure that legal domestic markets for wildlife products are not used to mask the trade in illegal wildlife products, and that GEF funding is aligned with CITES implementation.
34. The global collective effort generated in recent years across governments, the UN, international and national organizations, the private sector, local communities and others, to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife, continues. This momentum is critical and it remains essential in the light of the high levels of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife that continues to persist. Equally important is that the commitments made and policies agreed filter through to the front lines, to enable and capacitate customs, police, wildlife authorities and entire criminal justice systems to respond in a strong, consistent and collaborative manner, to wildlife crime.

### Recommendations

35. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
  - a) involve the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science and its members in the implementation of Decision 17.85, paragraph a);
  - b) note the *Resolution on Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife* adopted by the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly; and
  - c) note the *High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products* adopted at the G20 Leaders Summit held in Hamburg, Germany, in the annex to the G20 Leaders' Declaration.

---

<sup>35</sup> [https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/CITES\\_welcomes\\_new\\_powerful\\_UN\\_resolution\\_to\\_tackle\\_wildlife\\_trafficking\\_12092017](https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/CITES_welcomes_new_powerful_UN_resolution_to_tackle_wildlife_trafficking_12092017)