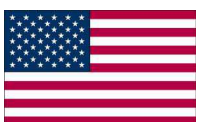




The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

# FIRST GLOBAL MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS

## MEETING REPORT





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### Background

The first global meeting of the wildlife enforcement networks was organized alongside the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 March 2013. The meeting was aimed at enabling existing and proposed Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) to share experiences and to discuss the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination amongst these WENs.

The event, the first of its kind, was hosted by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), a collaborative effort by the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) with the aim of strengthening international cooperation to combat wildlife and forest crime. The Department of State of the United States of America generously made funds available to support this event.

### Participants

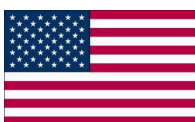
The meeting brought together representatives from all existing networks, including those that have been recently established and those that are still under discussion or consideration.

Participants included representatives from the following networks:

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).
- Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) on behalf of the emerging Central Africa WEN.
- Central America WEN (Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa Silvestre para Centroamérica y República Dominicana (ROAVIS)).
- China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group.
- European Commission Enforcement Working Group.
- Horn of Africa WEN (HA-WEN).
- Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF).
- North America Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG).
- South America WEN.
- South Asia WEN (SA-WEN).

Representatives from Central Asia, West Asia and the Pacific were invited to further discuss the development of potential networks in their respective regions or to consider the need to develop such networks.

Interested countries, international-, intergovernmental- and nongovernmental organizations were also invited to attend as observers. A total of 131 participants attended the event. A full list of participants can be found in Annex I.





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### Opening session

Opening remarks were given by Mr Barend Janse van Rensburg, Chief of Enforcement Support of the CITES Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, and by Ambassador Judith Garber from the US Department of State. The meeting was opened by Dr Theerapat Prayurasiddhi, Deputy Director General, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation of Thailand.

### Plenary Session 1: Successes, challenges and lessons learnt: experiences from the networks

During this session, all existing networks had the opportunity to share experiences on their major successes, challenges and lessons learnt.

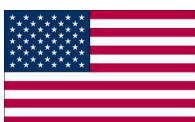
Presentations were made by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations WEN (ASEAN-WEN), the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), Central America WEN (ROAVIS), the China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG), the European Union Enforcement Working Group, the Horn of Africa WEN (HAWEN), the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), the North America Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG), the South America WEN and the South Asia WEN (SA-WEN). A questions and remarks session followed the presentations.

The presentations highlighted that regional networks play an important role in combating illegal wildlife trade. These networks encourage increased bilateral and regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences across borders.

Key gaps identified by the networks include a general lack of inter-agency cooperation at the national and international levels; insufficient human and financial resources at the national level to effectively counter the illegal wildlife trade; communication challenges such as language and communication problems; the difficulty (and sometimes reluctance) from countries to share real-time intelligence; lack of incentives for increased prosecutions; insufficient use of specialized investigation techniques such as controlled deliveries and; underprovided forensic laboratories.

The networks indicated that a significant need exists for specialized training (such as training with regard to the use of controlled deliveries) and technical assistance (DNA/forensics training and sample collection and strengthening of existing facilities), both at national and an international levels; the need for increased political support to combat wildlife crime and to raise awareness amongst senior government officials on wildlife trafficking; the need for improved enforcement standards; the need for direct, fast and secure communication and information exchange; the need for strengthened national legislation which will make provision for stronger sentences and facilitate the use of specialized investigative techniques such as anti-money-laundering legislation and asset forfeiture, and; the need for demand reduction strategies and campaigns to curb the use of illegal wildlife products.

Participants also encouraged networks to encourage their respective national authorities to make use of sniffer dogs, conduct covert operations, and to cooperate amongst each other to





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strengthen their respective networks as well as to cooperate more closely with other networks and regions.

### **Plenary session 2: Supporting the networks**

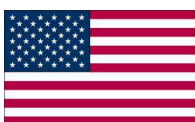
In this session participants were introduced to examples of tools and resources that could be used to support their respective regional structures. Lessons learned and suggestions for improved coordination and cooperation amongst the networks at the national, sub-regional and regional level were also discussed.

The session included an introduction to the ICCWC, the INTERPOL Regional Bureaus, the WCO Global Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO) Network, the United Nations Environment Programme international advisory council for the advancement of justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability and an introduction to the anti-money laundering programmes of the World Bank.

Participants were introduced to the ICCWC and to the tools that are available to countries through ICCWC such as the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit, amongst others. It was highlighted that ICCWC is a collaborative effort by five inter-governmental organizations to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that act in defense of natural resources. United under ICCWC, the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the WCO have a unique pool of thematically relevant technical and programming expertise and this present the opportunity for a novel approach to the multi-faceted challenges posed by wildlife crime.

Presentations highlighted available and existing mechanisms and bodies that can be used to enhance the capacity of networks to deal with wildlife crime such as the RILOs or the Regional Bureaus of INTERPOL. Presentations also highlighted some of the needs identified by WENs during Plenary Session 1, such as the need to increase coordination and exchange of information in a safe and secure manner, particularly when sharing sensitive information and intelligence. Presenters further provided information on available technical assistance and tools that could be used to trace, freeze and confiscate proceeds of illicit trade in wildlife and encouraged such techniques to be used against wildlife traffickers. It was emphasized that international enforcement efforts should address the entire 'enforcement chain' and that source, transit and destination countries should work closely together. It was highlighted that effective enforcement efforts to stop wildlife crime should not just result in seizures, but in increased prosecutions, convictions and strong penalties to stop the flow of contraband.

Representatives from the non governmental organization (NGO) community were invited to share their experiences, lessons learned and suggestions for improvement from their perspective. The presentations, provided by TRAFFIC and Freeland Foundation, highlighted the need for increased international cooperation and high-level political commitment as well as the need for a platform for information sharing, capacity building, financial and technical support, increased communication, public awareness and demand reduction. The need for improved collaboration and cooperation amongst the networks and to share information and resources were also highlighted. It was noted that it was essential that countries provide increased







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financial support to their networks in order for the networks to be sustainable, and that networks should prioritize anti-corruption efforts.

### **Session 3: Examining the need for global coordination**

All existing and proposed networks were invited to examine the need for global coordination amongst WENs, the role different organizations could play in such a process and how a system to improve coordination amongst the networks at a global level could work.

Participants reaffirmed the need for WENs and expressed their support for such networks. It was agreed that a formal structure or mechanism with a formal communication center or body to coordinate the networks was not needed. Rather, participants suggested that a 'network of the wildlife enforcement networks' could be created to promote increased communication amongst networks and to establish cooperation links amongst them at the global level, but also at regional and sub regional level. This could provide the WENs with further opportunities to meet, exchange information, share experiences, and to increasingly interact with each other in order to facilitate better cooperation on wildlife law enforcement matters, particularly amongst source and demand countries.

Participants agreed that such a 'network of the wildlife enforcement networks' should encourage the use of existing tools and services provided by the international community, such as the secure communication channels, services and other tools that are available to them through the ICCWC partners.

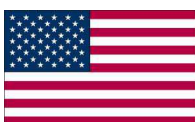
Participants highlighted the clear distinction between information sharing amongst law enforcement officers and the need to use secure communication channels to share intelligence. It was also noted that law enforcement officers often work more effectively together when there are existing professional relationships amongst them.

ICCWC was encouraged by participants to organize further global and bilateral meetings for WENs, to provide them with the opportunity to strengthen relationships and foster increased communication and cooperation. The consortium was also encouraged to facilitate the creation and coordination of the 'network of the wildlife enforcement networks'.

Participants concluded that the 'network of the wildlife enforcement networks' should aim to strengthen the role of WENs and that it should support increased engagement with civil society organizations to facilitate awareness on the magnitude of the problem and to work together with them in demand reduction campaigns.

### **Summary of discussions and Closing**

A summary of the discussions was provided by Ambassador Judith Garber, US Department of State. The meeting was closed by Mr John E. Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES, on behalf of ICCWC.





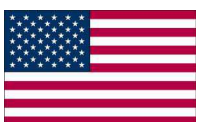
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At the end of the meeting, the CITES Secretary-General awarded the CITES Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation to the representatives of the networks that participated in Operation COBRA from 6 January 2013 to 5 February 2013, in recognition of the efforts of all authorities involved in this operation to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

### Acknowledgements

ICCWC would like to thank all network representatives and participants of the first global meeting of the wildlife enforcement networks for their active participation and engagement in the meeting and for their strong support to combating wildlife and forest crime.

The Department of State of the United States is thanked for the funds generously made available to support this event.

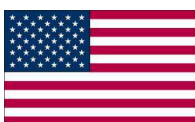




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### ANNEX I: PARTICIPANTS LIST

NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES	COUNTRY	REPRESENTATIVE
Association of Southeast Asian Nations WEN (ASEAN-WEN)	ASEAN-WEN PCU	Manop Laudprasert
	ASEAN-WEN PCU	Chrisgel Ryan Cruz
	Indonesia	Exploitasia Semiawan
	Indonesia	Ardo Risman
	Indonesia	Raffles Brotestes Panjaitan
	Philippines	Alton Durban
	Thailand	Klairoong Ponpoon
	Thailand	Wi Lai
	Thailand	Sawang Tippayanajul
	Viet Nam	Binh Bui My
Viet Nam	Thi Minh Thuong Nguyen	
Central Africa WEN/Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)		Chouaibou Nchoutpouen
Central America WEN/ROAVIS	Costa Rica	Sergio Valdelmar Fallas
	Honduras	Jose Julian Suazo Cervantes
	Nicaragua	Alvaro Andres Duarte
	Nicaragua	Rene Salvador Castellon
China National Inter-agencies CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG)	China	Wan Ziming
	China	Liuying Yang
	China	Meng Xianlin
	China	Shi Ronghong
European Commission Enforcement Working Group	France	Bruno Manin
	Germany	Franz Böhmer
	Ireland	Sanathan Guy
	Italy	Luisa Corbeta
	Portugal	João Loureiro
	United Kingdom	Grant Miller
	United Kingdom	Alison Clarke
Horn of Africa WEN (HAWEN)	Ethiopia	Fetene Hailu Buta
		Moussa Rayale Hassan
	Uganda	Monica Mpairwe
Latin American Environmental Prosecutor's Network/South America WEN	Brazil	Vania Maria Tuglio
	Brazil	Lidia Helena F. Costa Possos





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Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF)	Kenya	Bonaventure Ebayi
	Kenya	Theotimos Rwegasira
	Kenya	Edward Phiri
	Kenya	Elema Halake
	Zambia	Andrew Eldred
	Zambia	Marinah Sibbuku
North America Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG)	Canada	Sheldon Jordan
	United States	Phil Alegranti
South Asia WEN (SA-WEN)	Bhutan	Dorji Sungay
	Nepal	Maheshwar Dhakal
	Nepal	Megh Bahadur Pandey
	Nepal	Mr. Ramesh Prasad Bhushal
	Nepal	Vadda Bahadur Gurung
	Nepal	Braj Kishor Yadav
	Nepal	Bishwa Nath Oli
	Nepal	Ek Narayan Aryal
	Pakistan	Taj Muhammad
Central Asia	Consultant (TRAFFIC)	Alexei Vaxman
West Asia	Consultant (JORDAN)	Mahdi Quatrameez
	Kuwait	Leina Al Awadhi
Oceania/Pacific	Australia	Pamela Radin
	New Zealand	Stuart Williamson
<b>COUNTRIES (OBSERVERS)</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>	
Belarus	Natalya Minchenko	
Cameroon	Francois Kpwang Abesolo	
	Patricio Moreno	
Chile	Cristian Gutierrez Rousseau	
	Oscar Rosas Bahamonde	
Costa Rica	Jose Joaquin Calvo Domingo	
	Randall Arauz	
Democratic Republic of Congo	Cosma Wilungula Balongelwa	
Israel	Rony Malka	
	Sam Wasser	
Mali	Sekou Kanta	
Mexico	Karla Acosta	
Nigeria	Mengi Josephine Taiwo	





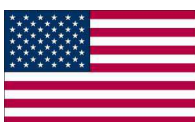


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	Sule Ahmed Oyoyo
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	Gbenga Joshua Kolawole
South Africa	Wandile Mzazi
	Richman Gqirana
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	Ambassador Judith Garber, US Department of State
	Christine Dawson
United States of America	Daniel Gauth
	Jessica Graham
	Aysha Ghadiali
	Alfred Nakatsuma
USAID/RDMA	Danielle Tedesco
	Cynthia Gill
	Sara Carlson

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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	Ioana Botezatu
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	Tiina Kitunen
	Bill Clark
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	Sejung Oh
	Joon Hyung Bae
United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies	Lisa Lee
	Remi Chandran
UN Development Programme (UNDP)	Midori Paxton
	Nik Sekhran
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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Jorge Rios
	Giovanni Broussard





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	Daniel Whitehouse
World Bank	Marilyne Goncalves
World Customs Organization (WCO)	Allen Bruford
	Daniel Moell

### NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/OBSERVERS

China Wildlife Conservation Association	Feng Yin
Conservation International	Li Zhang
EIA	Julian Newman
Freeland Foundation	Steven Galster
	Brian V Gonsalvez
	Erica Kuhle Wissolik
	Bussara Tirakalyanapan
IFAW	Kelvin Alie
International Ranger Federation	Sean Willmoore
IWMC World Conservation Trust	Yvan Lafleur
LAGA	Ofir Drori
National Geographic Society	Bryan Christy
Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit	Claudia McMurray
Southern New Hampshire University	Dr Katharine York
TRAFFIC	Steven Broad
	James Compton
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	Scott Robertson
	Elisabeth Bennet
	Nav Dayanand
WWF	Wendy Elliot
	Masood Arshad
	Carlos Drews

