



# Understanding the size and shape of illicit trade in wildlife

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# Contents of Presentation

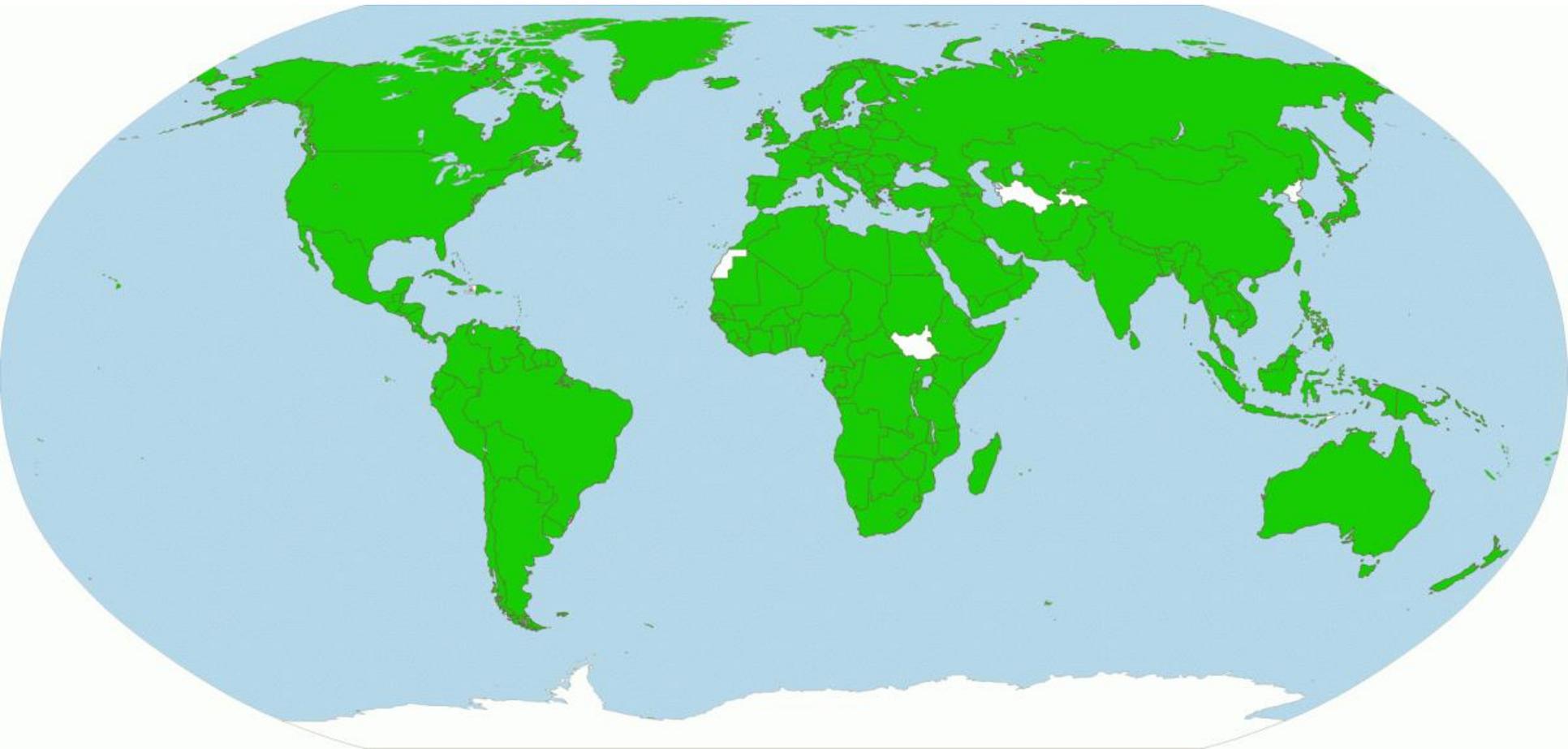
- CITES background and objectives.
- The importance of legal trade.
- The scale, impact and serious nature of wildlife crime.
- The global response to address wildlife crime.

# What is CITES?

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species  
of Wild Fauna and Flora*

Agreed in 1973, entered into force in 1975

Currently 183 Parties to CITES



**Regulating international  
trade in 36,000  
species of wild animals  
and plants, over  
30,000 of which are plants.**



# How does CITES work?

- 3 Appendices establish different levels of protection

## Appendix I (3%)

International commercial trade is prohibited



## Appendix II + III (97%)

International commercial trade is allowed but controlled



# Legal trade in wildlife

- Seven billion people consuming biodiversity every day.
- Millions of people depend on plants and animals for their livelihoods and survival, most particularly in local and indigenous communities.
- CITES ensures that use of these species is legal, sustainable and traceable, and does not threaten their survival in the wild.
- CITES Parties issue over 850,000 permits per year.

# Legal trade in wildlife

Housing & furniture

Mahogany,  
rosewood, cedar



Pharmaceuticals



Vaccines,  
herbal, research

Cosmetics

Wax, oils



Food



Caviar, fish, wild  
meat, plants

Leather & fashion

Bags, watches,  
fur, fibers



# Legal trade in wildlife

The international community is relying more than ever on CITES as **the** instrument to ensure the legal, sustainable, and traceable international trade in CITES-listed animal and plant species.





# Combating illegal trade in wildlife



# CITES Enforcement

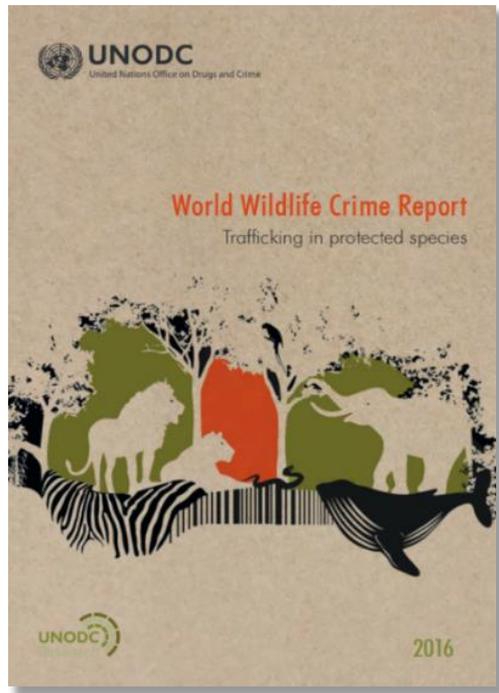
- The effective enforcement of CITES requires, among other things:
  - national **control of legal international trade** in CITES-listed species; and
  - national measures to **stop illegal international trade** in these species
- **Non-compliance** has **serious implications** for the conservation of biological diversity and species extinctions



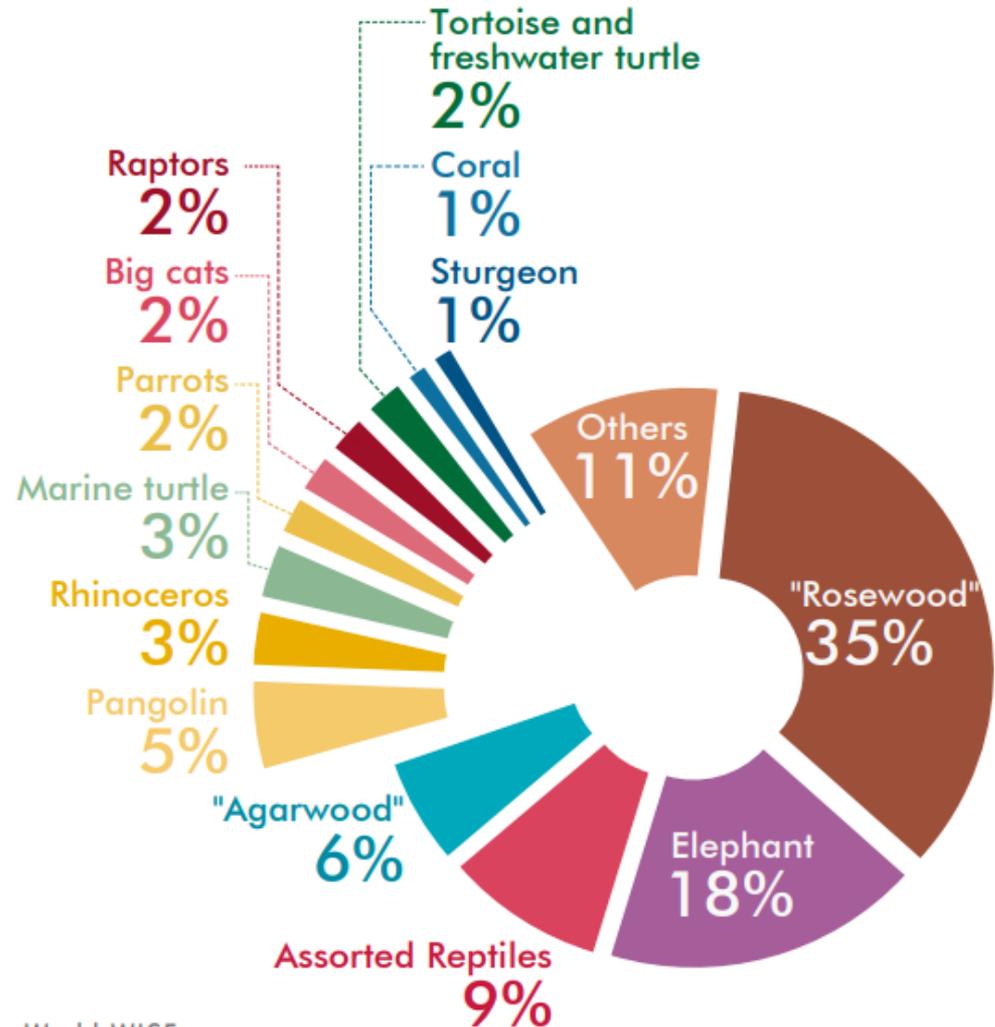
# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- The world has been confronted by illegal wildlife trade for decades.
- There has been a spike in the scale and change in the nature of this illicit activity.
- Today well recognized that it is a serious transnational organized crime.
- A number of CITES-listed species are high-value items, targeted by organized crime groups.
- Wildlife crime often at industrial scale, pushing many species towards extinction.

# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat



The first ever UN *World Wildlife Crime Report* (2016) estimated that over 7,000 species find their way into illegal trade



Share of type of wildlife among total seizures  
(aggregated on the basis of standard value)  
2005-2014

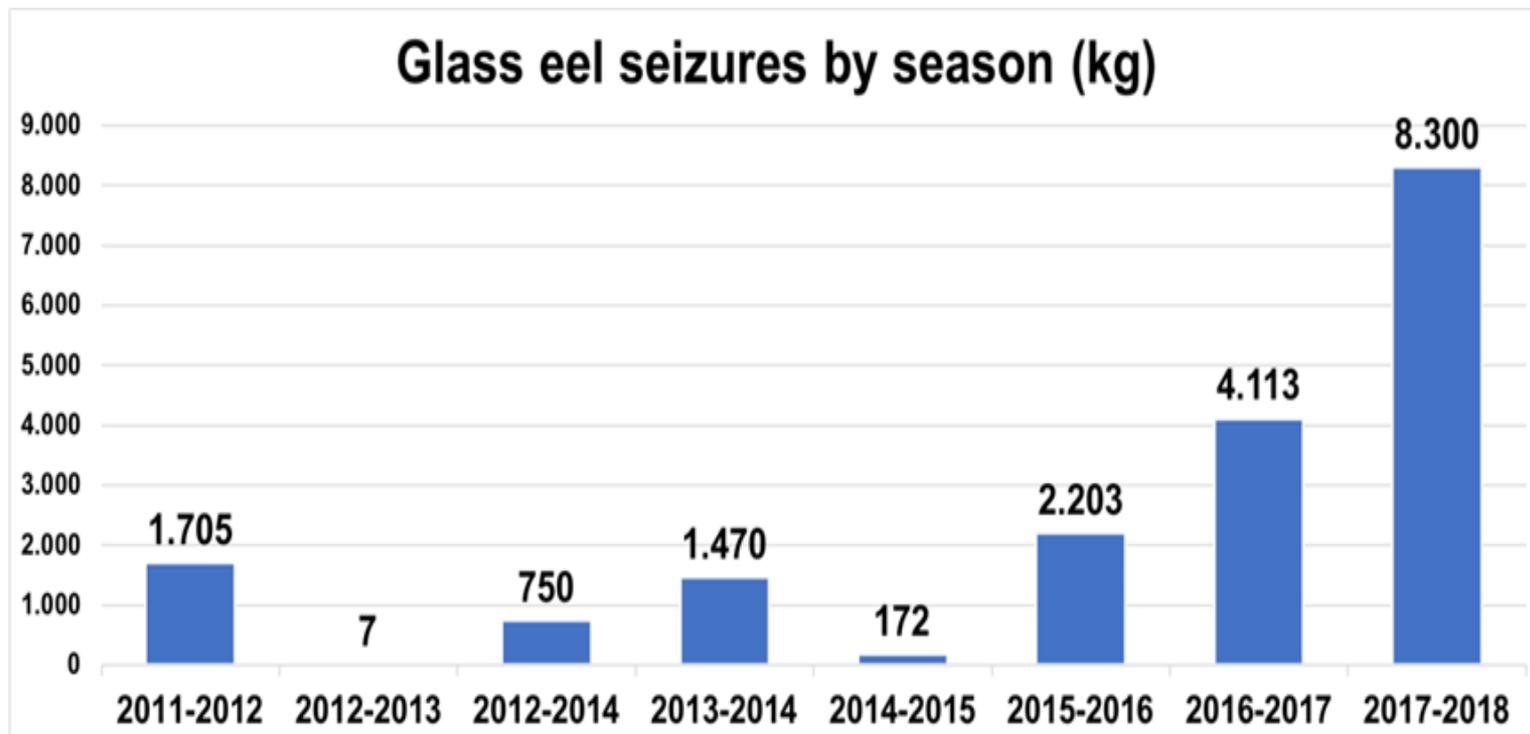
# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- Estimated that the population of African elephants declined by 111,000 in recent years.
- Illegal trade in pangolin specimens continues at alarming rates. Large scale pangolin scale seizures of thousands of kilos at a time are made.
- Seizures of live tigers increased from 62 in the nine year period 2000-2009, to 61 in the period 2010-2012.
- Vaquita, the world's smallest and most endangered porpoise found only in Mexico's Gulf of California, is being wiped out due to bycatch in the illegal harvesting of totoaba.



# Illegal trade in eels

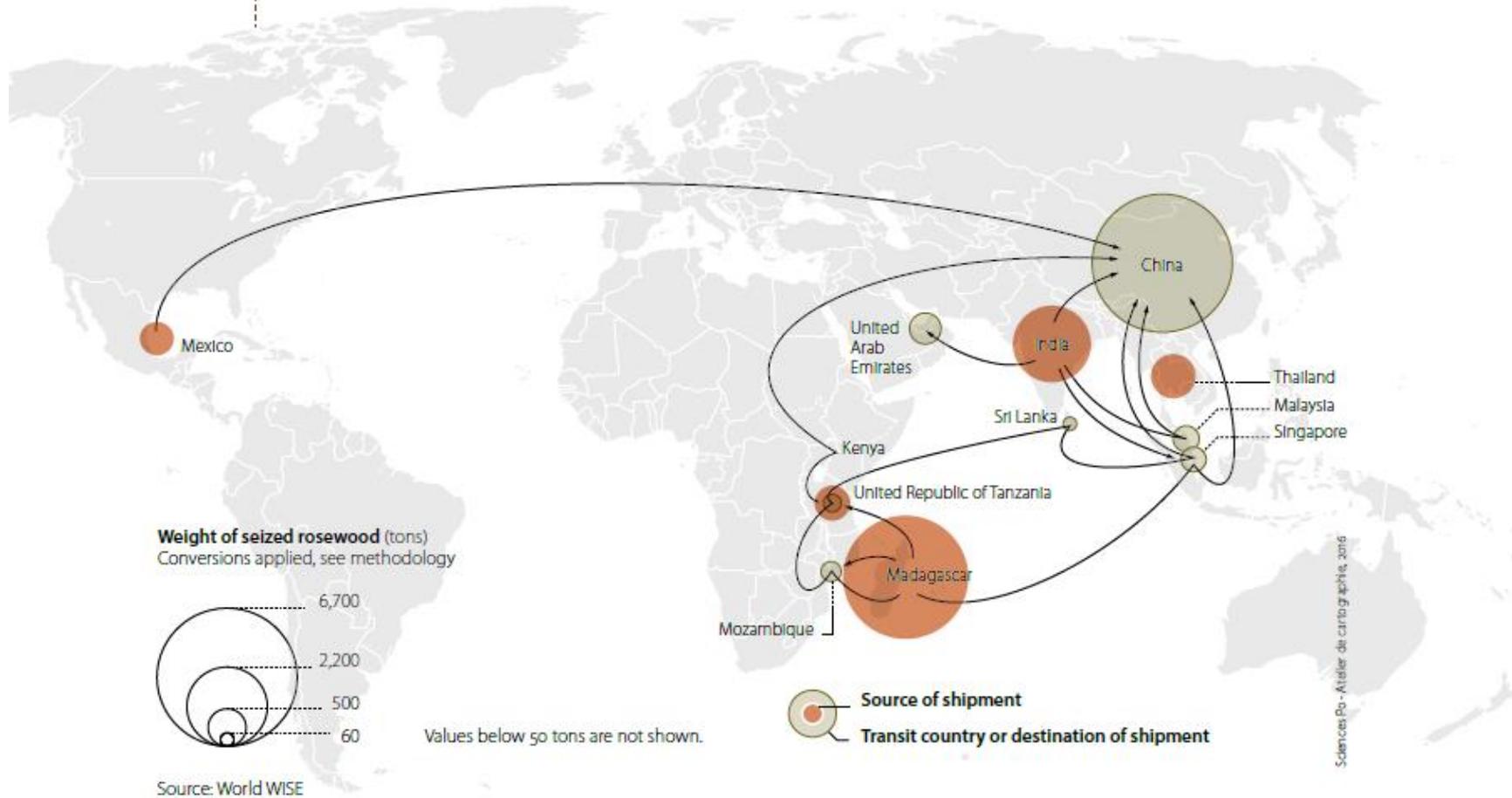
- Increasing levels of seizures of European eels observed.



# Main flows of rosewood and timber seizures

## World Wildlife Crime Report (2016)

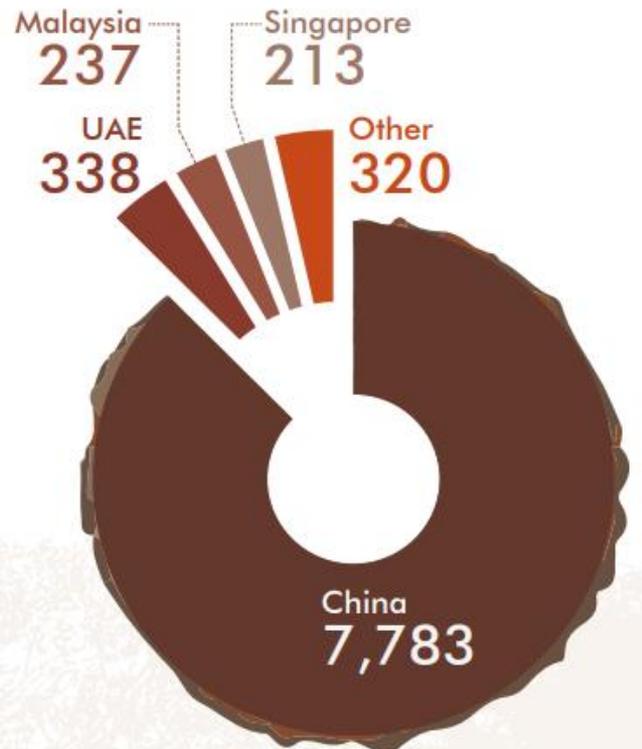
**Map 1** Main flows of rosewood logs and timber seizures (tons), 2005-2015



# Illegal trade in rosewood

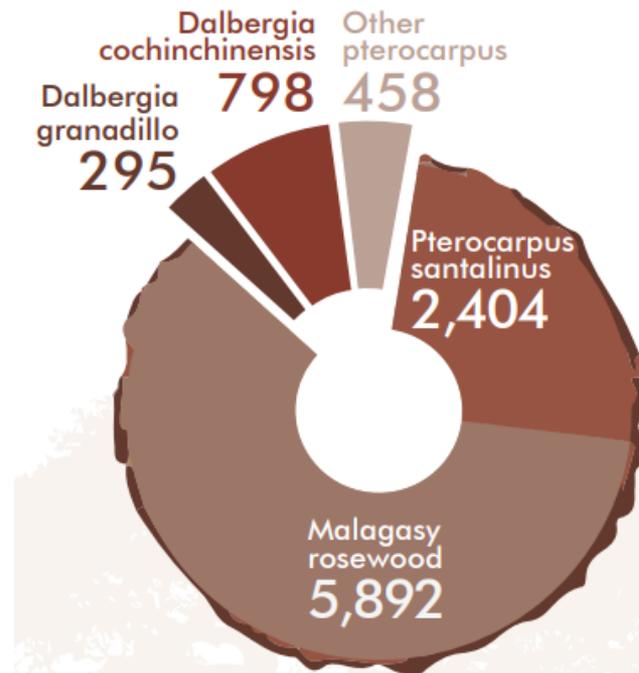
## World Wildlife Crime Report 2016

**Fig. 5** Share of rosewood seizures by country identified as destination (metric tons), aggregated 2007-2015



Source: World WISE

Share of global rosewood seizures by species (metric tons), aggregated 2005-2015



# Transport routes: seized live tortoises and freshwater turtles: 2000-2015

Study prepared for CITES CoP17



# The cost of illegal logging, fishing and wildlife trade

- \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion per year.
- In low-income countries where livelihoods depend on natural capital, governments forego about \$7–\$12 billion in potential fiscal revenues per year.



# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- Illegal trade in wildlife undermines conservation efforts as well as legal, sustainable and traceable trade, and pose a serious risk to wild animal and plant species.
- It weakens and compromises the security of the supply chain engaged in international trade.
- It causes criminal organizations to thrive due to high profit margins generated by such illegal trade.
- Syndicates involved in wildlife crime are also involved in other transnational crimes, posing additional threats.



# CITES Resolutions and Decisions

Resolutions adopted to guide the interpretation and implementation of the Convention:

<https://www.cites.org/eng/res/index.php>

Decisions adopted to provide specific short-term time-bound instructions:

<https://www.cites.org/eng/dec/index.php>



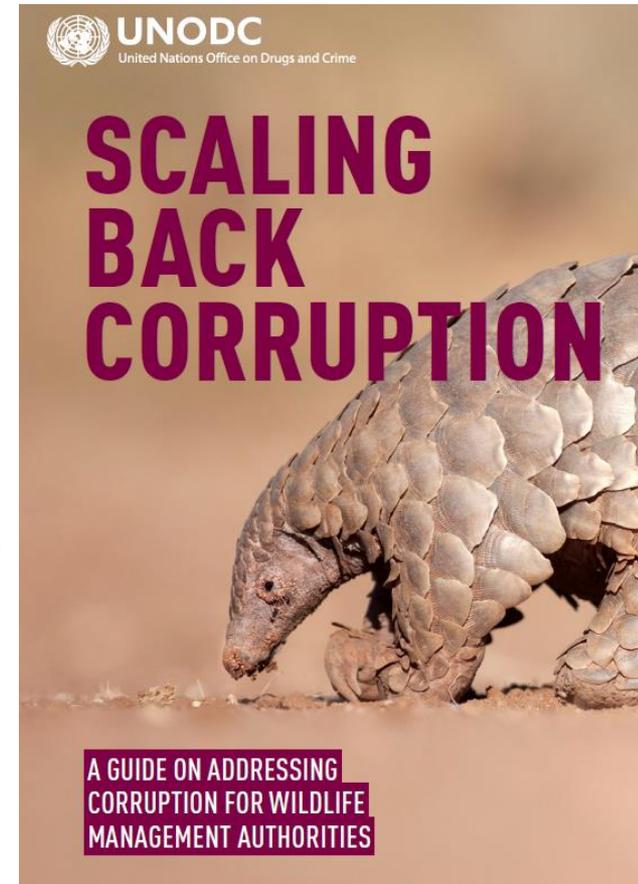
# New Resolution on *Designation and role of Management Authorities* (Res. Conf. 18.6)

- URGES Management Authorities and enforcement authorities to **cooperate closely in the fight against illegal trafficking in wildlife.**
- Management Authorities to:
  - **establish mechanisms for coordination and communication** between government agencies with a role in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention
  - **coordinate the preparation of a annual illegal trade reports**



# How to better respond to corruption

- Resolution 17.6 on [Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention](#).
- In response to CITES CoP Decision UNODC developed a guide to assist authorities to combat corruption associated with wildlife crime.
- Decision 18.77 encourage Parties to actively [pursue and promote the use of the guide](#) to strengthen responses to overcome the risks and challenges posed by corruption.





# Annual illegal trade reports

- Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports* URGES all Parties to submit an **annual illegal trade report** by 31 October each year.
- The **first** annual illegal trade report was **due on 31 October 2017**.
- Each annual illegal trade report should **cover the period 1 January to 31 December** of the year preceding the year in which it is submitted.
- Still a **relatively new process** under CITES, but **already delivering important data** and proving to be a **valuable source of information**.
- Annual illegal trade data:
  - Expected to become a powerful tool to **inform decision making**; and
  - support the development of appropriate **law enforcement responses** to wildlife crime.

# MIKE and ETIS

Detailed analysis is available on the illegal killing of, and trade in, African elephants. This is achieved through the following global monitoring and reporting systems for elephants and trade in elephant specimens recognized under CITES:

- The CITES [Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants \(MIKE\)](#) programme, a site-based system designed to monitor trends in the illegal killing of elephants, build management capacity and provide information to help range States make appropriate management and enforcement decisions.
- The [Elephant Trade Information System \(ETIS\)](#), established to track the trends in the illegal trade in ivory and to provide an information base to support decision-making on management, protection and enforcement needs of elephants.



# Working collectively to address wildlife crime

- We can not do it alone.
- There are many different role players:
  - CITES Authorities
  - Customs
  - Police
  - Prosecutor
  - ...
- Therefore coordination and engaging in partnerships is essential.



## Cooperation and partnerships

**i** The strategic positioning of the Convention with other organizations, instruments and processes is critical to its successful implementation, as reflected in Goal 3 of the CITES Strategic Vision. Cooperation efforts undertaken to implement Goal 3 fall into four clusters, namely:

- Cooperation on biodiversity – the Biodiversity Liaison Group and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Cooperation on enforcement – the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
- Cooperation on the environment – the United Nations Environment Management Group
- Thematic cooperation at a technical level

The CITES Secretariat has a formal relationship with the organizations listed below, but works closely with a wide number of entities on specific issues and projects.



## Resolutions and Decisions

- Resolution Conf. 16.4 on [Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions](#)
- Resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17) on [CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020](#)
- Decision 17.52 on [International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime \(ICCWC\)](#)
- Decision 17.55 to 17.58 on [Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions](#)



## Topics

- [Cooperation on biodiversity – the Biodiversity Liaison Group and other MEAs](#)
- [Cooperation on enforcement – International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime \(ICCWC\)](#)
- [Cooperation on the environment – the United Nations Environment Management Group](#)
- [Thematic cooperation at a technical level](#)
- [Other Resolutions and Decisions](#)

## Cooperation on enforcement – International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

[ICCWC](#) is the collaborative effort by the CITES Secretariat, [INTERPOL](#), the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), the [World Bank](#) and the [World Customs Organization \(WCO\)](#) working to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defence of natural resources. The CITES Secretariat chairs the alliance. Click [here](#) for the Letter of Understanding between ICCWC and the CITES Secretariat.



## Cooperation on the environment – the United Nations Environment Management Group

The [Environment Management Group \(EMG\)](#) is a United Nations system-wide coordination that furthers inter-agency cooperation in support of the implementation of the international environmental and human settlement agenda. It identifies issues on the agenda that warrant joint efforts, and finds ways of engaging its collective capacity in coherent management responses to those issues.

# The change in the scale and nature of wildlife crime has not gone unnoticed

Currently a global collective effort underway across governments, the UN, international and national organizations, the private sector, local communities and others, to combat illegal trafficking in wildlife.



Kasane Conference On  
**The Illegal  
Wildlife Trade**  
25th March 2015

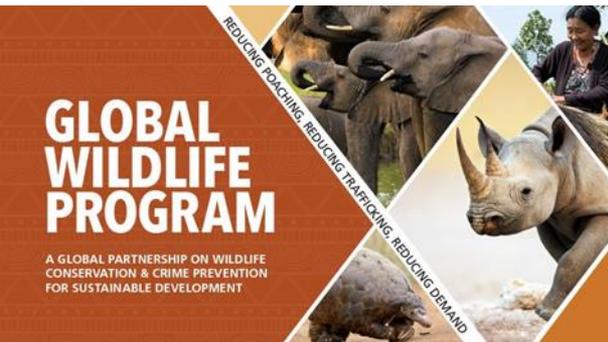
# The change in the scale and nature of wildlife crime has not gone unnoticed

Seventy-first session  
 Agenda item 13  
**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam: draft resolution

### Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife

*The General Assembly,*  
 Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity and its various contributions to sustainable development and human well-being, and recognizing that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the Earth which must be protected for this generation and the generations to come,





THE **I**NTERNATIONAL **C**ONSORTIUM ON **C**OMBATING **W**ILDLIFE **C**RIME PRESENTS



# Strengthening responses to combat wildlife crime



*ICCWC STRATEGIC PROGRAMME 2016-2020 DONORS*



# The ICCWC response



The CITES Secretariat



INTERPOL

INTERPOL

Complementary mandates



UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Unique pool of knowledge and expertise



World Bank

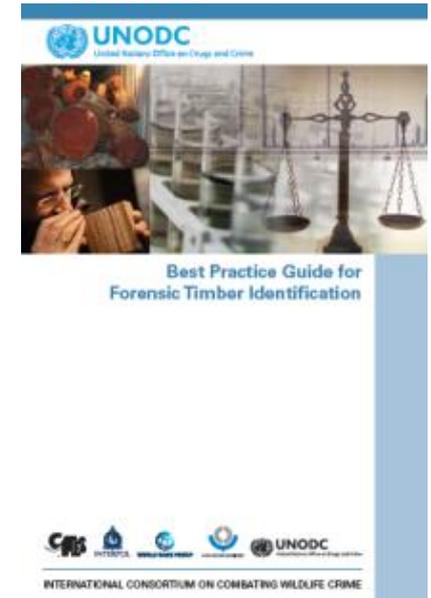
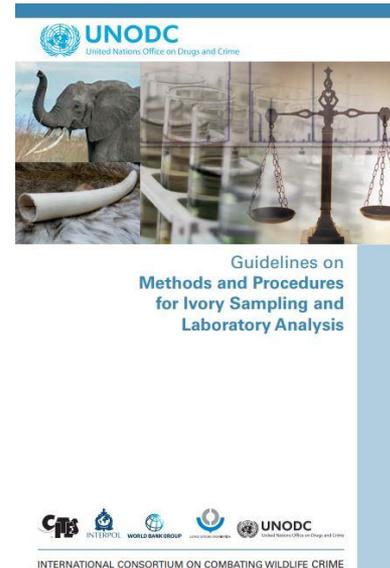
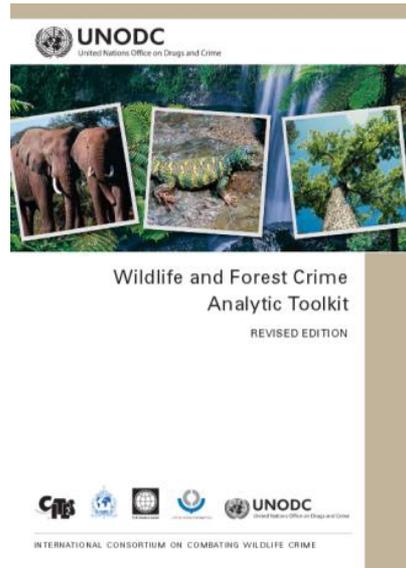
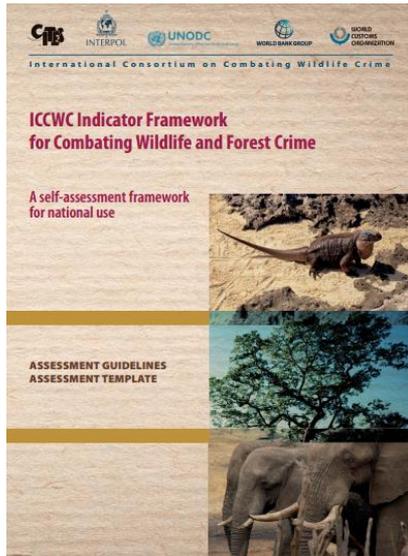
Extensive national and regional networks



World Customs Organization

Joining forces as  
ICCWC

# Building capacity: ICCWC Products available to Parties



# OPERATION THUNDERBALL 2019

Tackling illegal wildlife crime



**109** countries



**582** suspects arrested

**1,828** seizures including:



**545kg** ivory



**1.3t** pangolin scales



**9,777** live tortoises and turtles



**604t and 2,551m<sup>3</sup>** timber



**1.7t** plants



**4,304** live birds



**9,820** marine species



**1,422** live reptiles



# FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICCWC STRATEGIC PROGRAMME



€ 85,000



## CITES Mission to Viet Nam

18-22 September 2017

Focus on CITES CoP17 Decisions on Rhinoceros



Meetings with: wildlife law enforcement, CITES Management Authority & other local authorities



Visit of 2 "carving villages"



### Key priorities to combat rhino horn trafficking



Map out criminal groups



Collaborate in operations and investigations



Forensic sampling



Guidelines to identify worked rhino horns



Implementation of new 2017 penal code



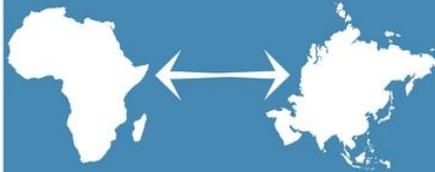
For more see SC69 Sum 4 (Rev. 1)

## WIRE/RIACM in Viet Nam

16-20 October 2017

WIRE-Customs: Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement meeting for Customs officers

RIACM: Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting



Exchange of knowledge & information: Trends, routes, modus operandi, etc.



Next steps:

\* Information and intelligence sharing

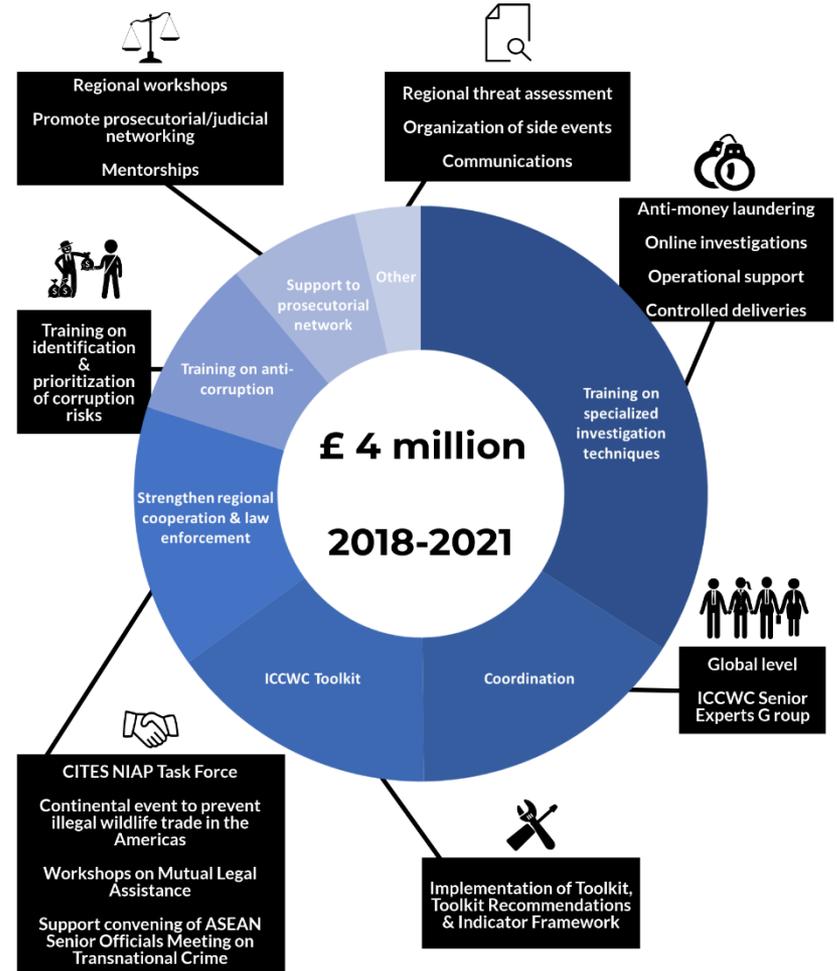
\* Targeted investigations

\* Follow up operation & activities

For more information see: SC69 Doc.31.2  
<https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>



# UK contribution to the ICCWC Strategic Programme



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

# Wildlife Crime: Are we making progress?

CoP18 Report on rhino: The number of rhino poached across Africa dropped below 1,000 in 2018, for the first time in six years.

## Elephants

### Category A Parties \*

- Malaysia
- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- Togo\*\*
- Viet Nam

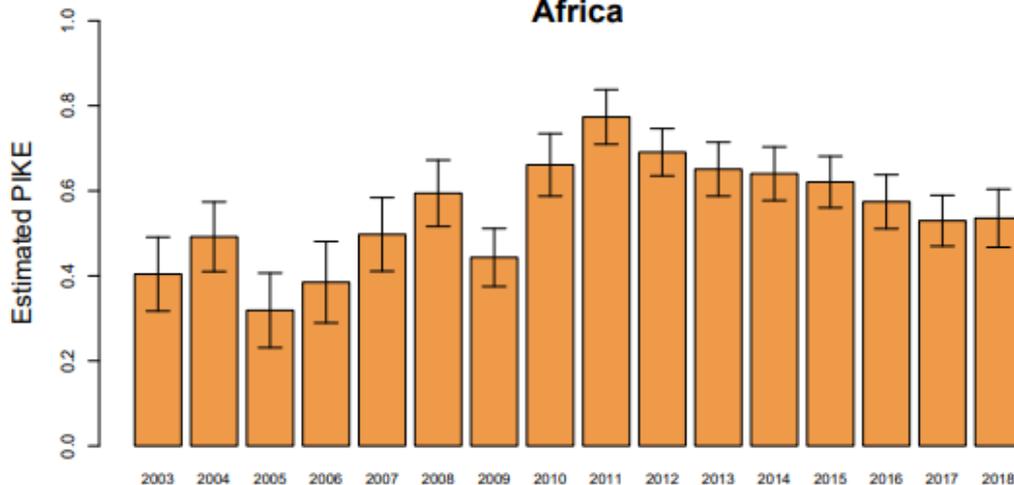
### Category B Parties \*

- China\*\*\* and Hong Kong SAR
- Kenya\*\*\*
- Uganda\*\*\*
- United Republic of Tanzania\*\*\*

### Category C Parties \*

- Angola
- Burundi\*\*\*
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Qatar\*\*
- Singapore\*\*\*
- South Africa\*\*\*
- Turkey\*\*\*
- United Arab Emirates\*\*\*
- Zimbabwe\*\*\*

### Africa



### Progress reports

Parties consist of Parties markedly affected

by trade in ivory

WIS Analysis prepared for CoP18

Parties not participating in NIAP Process



# Thank you



Email: [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)  
Website: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)