



MEDIA ADVISORY and INVITATION

WHAT: Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime

WHEN: 10:20-12:30 (BKK) 14 February, 2012

WHERE: [Plaza Athénée Hotel](#), Thanon Witthayu (Wireless Rd), Bangkok Thailand +662.650.8800

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Tiger Seminar targets criminal trafficking in nearly-extinct species

World's remaining wild tiger range countries to agree on police and customs enforcement measures

Bangkok (Thailand), 1 February 2012 – The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) will host the “**Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime**” 13-14 February 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Seminar will bring together the top Police and Customs Officers from countries that still have tigers living in the wild. The Seminar objective is for participants to agree on a robust set of law enforcement-based solutions to protect tigers and other rare and highly threatened species.

Media are invited to attend the Seminar from 10:20-12:30 (Bangkok) on 14 February 2012. This will include a crisis briefing expert panel on tiger and wildlife crime in Asia, followed by media Q & A and interviews.

Environmental crime is a serious international problem with a detrimental impact on the global economy and security. Criminals violate national and international laws through increasingly sophisticated techniques and highly organised networks. Their activities directly affect human health, and threaten the environment and global biodiversity.

Compelled by the need to urgently respond to the burgeoning threat of environmental crime, five inter-governmental organisations have recently formed the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime or [ICCWC](#) (read I-Quick). These organisations are: the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species ([CITES](#)), [INTERPOL](#), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)), the [World Bank](#) and the World Customs Organisation ([WCO](#)). The consortium seeks to scale up wildlife law enforcement effectiveness, through intelligence-led interdiction and advanced investigative methods.

The “**Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime**” is one of the Consortium’s first activities. It will bring together 26 delegates from 13 tiger range countries as well as senior representatives from ICCWC members and key partner organisations operating in the field of tiger conservation and wildlife crime. The Tiger Seminar is organised by [INTERPOL](#), in cooperation with [UNODC](#) and the [WCO](#), and with the technical and financial support from the [CITES](#) Secretariat and the [World Bank](#).

The Seminar is a follow-up to the November 2010 St. Petersburg Summit on Tiger Conservation, during which Heads of Governments of 13 tiger range countries committed to increase their cooperation to eradicate poaching, smuggling, and the illegal trade in tigers and tiger parts. Addressing illegal trade is an essential part of the *Global Tiger Recovery Program*, a comprehensive 12-year strategy endorsed by all 13 countries to double the population of wild tigers by 2022, the next Year of the Tiger.

The Bangkok Tiger Seminar aims to enhance national and international cooperation between Police and Customs agencies, and develop a coordinated response to combat tiger crime. The Seminar will raise awareness among Police and Customs authorities of the impact that have on wild tigers. Attendees will share expertise and develop enforcement strategies to tackle tiger crime. The Seminar will also recognise INTERPOL’s [Project Predator](#), which aims to develop the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and form National Environmental Security Task Forces.