

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment

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Thematic session: Strengthening international cooperation to address crimes that affect the environment, 16 February 2022

- Thank you chair, and good morning to our distinguished panelists and colleagues
- I will focus my intervention on the importance of collaboration and in particular I will speak about our collaboration through ICCWC – the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime.
- Chair, I prepared a 4-minute contribution and with your approval I will conclude my presentation with a short video.

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- We always speak about the importance of cooperation amongst all relevant national agencies with a mandate to combat wildlife crime – and this is what we are also doing at the global level.
- ICCWC was born in 2010 as a partnership to bring coordinated support to member states.
- CITES sets the framework and regulations for wildlife trade and works with countries to better regulate legal trade and combat illegal trade.
- INTERPOL and WCO are what I like to call our operational arms. Our direct line to customs, the first line of defense; and to police, that will generally lead investigations into wildlife criminals.
- UNODC provides support on transnational crimes across the spectrum and brings to the table the additional key players of the criminal justice chain.
- The WB provides extensive technical assistance and supports countries in managing their natural resources more sustainably.
- We work *Together Against Wildlife Crime* building on the respective areas of expertise of partners to maximize the impact of our support on the ground.

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- Together we work across the criminal justice chain and provide coordinated support at national, regional, and international level so that countries are better equipped to deter and detect illegal trade, to detain the criminals involved, and to dismantle it.
- The primary goal of the Consortium is to strengthen criminal justice systems and to combat wildlife crime – noting this issue is interconnected to broader environmental and socioeconomic goals, and we strive to contribute both directly and indirectly to 10 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

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- How do we do this?
- There is limited time to expand, but for example in 2020 alone through the WCO/INTERPOL led Operation Thunder 2020, a total of 103 countries were brought together to combat wildlife

crime. Targeted training was provided in 25 countries and we worked with an additional 34 countries to improve their criminal justice systems.

- I encourage you to see our annual report for more details; the 2021 annual report will be available in coming months.

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- Another key support provided is through the development of key tools and services to enhance long term responses to combat wildlife crime.
- On the slide you see 3 examples:
 - the ICCWC Indicator Framework, designed to monitor and measure the effectiveness of responses,
 - the ICCWC Toolkit, an in-depth national assessment of the country's capacity to combat wildlife crime, and
 - the ICCWC WEN Guidelines, designed to help enhance and strengthen regional enforcement networks.
- There are currently 37 countries that have used or are using these tools to better understand the gaps in their responses and to take concerted action to enhance them.
- There are more available on the ICCWC website, and I would be happy to expand if there are any questions.

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- Since 2016 we have been coordinating our efforts through the ICCWC Strategic Programme – and we are currently finalizing the ICCWC Vision 2030, which builds on all our work and lessons learned so that we can continue to provide targeted support where it is most needed.
- The Vision will be finalized in coming months and we hope to continue to support your efforts.
- All of our work is externally funded, so before I conclude with the video, I would like to thank the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States for their continued support to the ICCWC Strategic Programme.

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- Thank you, Chair and I would be grateful if now the video provided can be shown.