

Corruption and Wildlife Crime

**Special Event on the G20 High Level Principles on
Combatting Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products**

Jointly organized by the German G20 Presidency and UNODC

Vienna, Austria – 12 September 2017

CHAIRS' SUMMARY

The G20 High Level Principles on Combatting Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products were adopted at the G20 Leaders' Summit in June 2017. This special event was organized to inform members of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group of actions already being taken to implement the High Level Principles by Governments, civil society and international organizations, in order to generate further ideas as to how to strengthen the implementation of the principles.

This deliberation comes at a critical time. The necessity to take action against corruption linked to wildlife crime has now been recognized on the international agenda and there is an urgent need to scale up practical “on the ground” responses: Many wildlife species are endangered and extremely limited in number and the surge in the level of wildlife crime and its associated corruption has been extremely rapid. Law enforcement was not well equipped to deal with this phenomenon and to date, cases are rarely prosecuted.

Panel 1 comprised speakers from the CITES Secretariat, the Wildlife Justice Commission, the Czech Environmental Enforcement Agency and the Eagle Network, Uganda. This panel focused on detection, investigations and international cooperation in source, transit and destination countries for illegal wildlife products and highlighted initiatives that have met with significant success in the investigative arena.

Panel 2 was comprised of speakers from OECD, Sri Lankan Customs, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), UNODC and Kenya Wildlife Service. The panel focused on practical steps being taken to prevent corruption linked to wildlife crime and the importance of undertaking corruption risk assessments and developing pragmatic and effective corruption risk mitigation strategies.

“The G20 has an important task. Your voice can bring the different sectors together: finance, transport, anti-corruption, conservation, development, enforcement, etc., to deepen understanding, to develop informed, coherent and effective responses.”
 WWF

P A N E L 1

DETECTION, INVESTIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

KEY ISSUE	KEY MESSAGE
Rapid surge in the level of wildlife crime and its associated corruption within the last decade, law enforcement not well equipped to deal with this phenomenon.	When investigators and prosecutors with adequate skills and resources undertake wildlife investigations, they are able to uncover the corruption that was used to facilitate the crimes. Despite this, the related corrupt acts have rarely, if ever, been prosecuted.

APPROACH: Strengthen capacity of law enforcement, domestically and via technical assistance, to ensure effective prosecution

G 2 0 P R I N C I P L E S

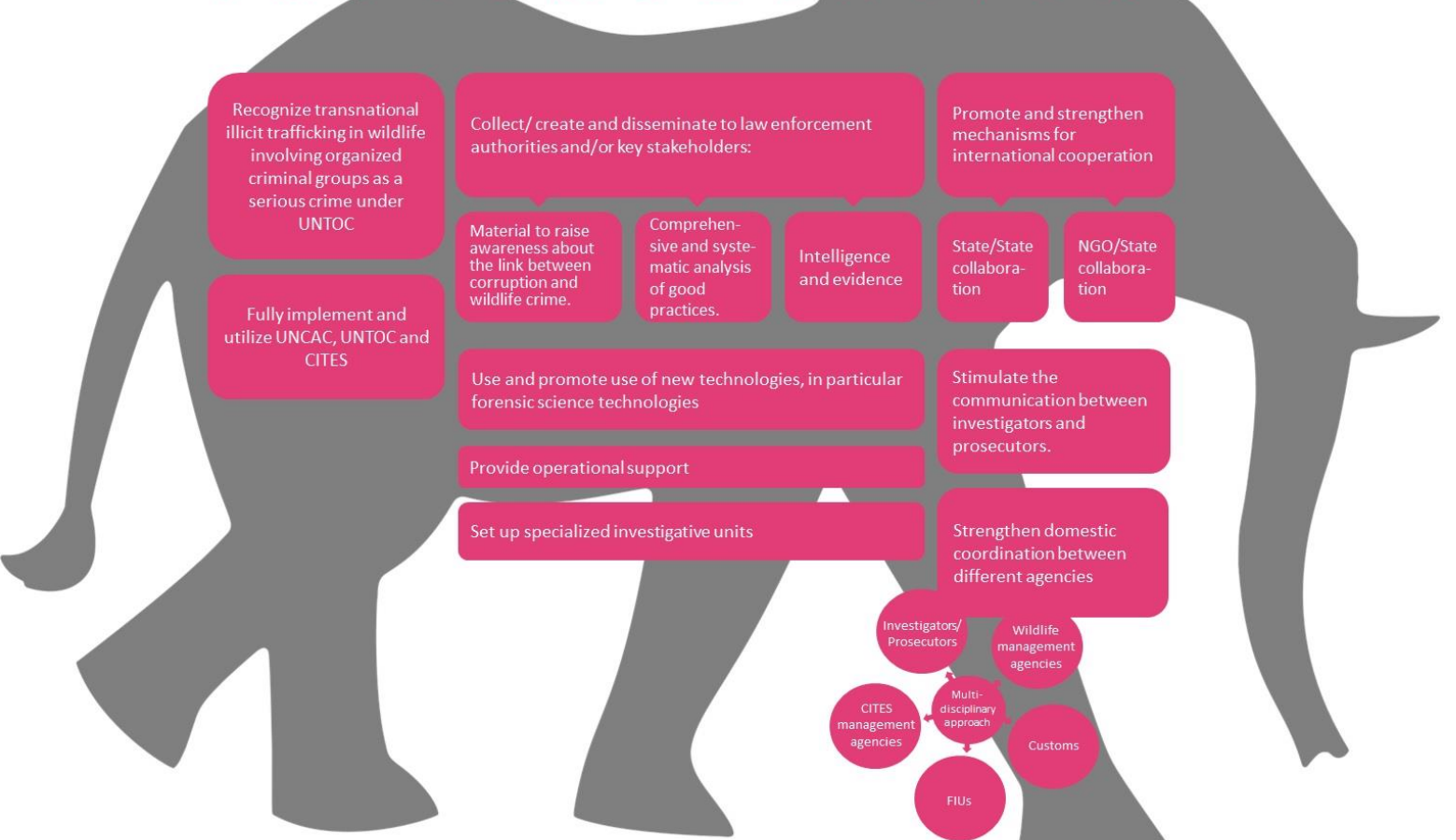
3 e) Fully applying anti-corruption provisions of national and international law to corruption related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products and ensuring corrupt practices associated with illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products on both the supply and demand side are punishable as criminal offences. [...]

3 a) Strengthening the capacity of investigators and prosecutors for corruption offences related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, including through targeted awareness-raising measures and trainings

3 c) Ensuring that investigations and prosecutions of all wildlife crimes, particularly those identified as a result of seizures, extend, as appropriate, to potential corruption linked to the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, including through the tracking of financial flows.

3 d) Facilitating multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction coordination in accordance with countries' legal systems, particularly after large wildlife seizures to determine whether corruption has occurred. [...]

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION



* The recommendations reflect the suggestions made by the speakers in the course of the discussion

PANEL 2

PREVENTING CORRUPTION AND CORRUPTION RISK MANAGEMENT

KEY ISSUE	KEY MESSAGE
Corruption present on all levels and at every link of the value chain, from the point at which the animal was poached to the point at which an illegal wildlife product is sold.	Strategies that include risk management systems, codes of conduct and specialized training programs, coupled with proper funding and exposure to best practices can have visible effect. Small steps, taken at the institutional level, will lead to the resolution of many of the broader problems relating to corruption and wildlife crime.

APPROACH : Develop, disseminate and implement standardized approaches for corruption risk mitigation in the wildlife sector

G20 PRINCIPLES

- a) *Raising awareness*: Raising awareness regarding the existence, causes and costs of corruption related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and raising awareness and changing attitudes on the supply of and the demand for illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products.
- b) *Identifying corruption risks along the entire trade chain*: Undertaking institution- specific corruption risk assessments to identify corruption risks along the entire trade chain and taking action to address weaknesses.
- c) *Risk mitigation*: Building systems and institutional capacity to help understand and mitigate corruption risks related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products in all areas of the public sector (agencies, workplaces, human resources etc.) and in particular in positions in trade hubs where networks of organized crime are most active.
- e) *Private sector*: Engaging the private sector to foster more integrated approaches across the public and private sectors and to encourage the adoption of adequate internal controls, upstream traceability systems in line with international standards, and ethics and compliance measures for businesses, including financial institutions, involved in legal trade.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

