

Wildlife and timber trafficking increasingly an ASEAN and interregional priority

Representatives from ASEAN Members States will convene in Bangkok from 20-22 June for the *Inter-Regional Conference on Wildlife and Timber Trafficking* co-organised by the Royal Thai Police and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Acknowledging the transnational and interregional scope of wildlife and timber crime, delegations from India, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa will also join the Conference.

The Conference comes on the back of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in October 2015, which officially included the trafficking of wildlife and timber in the list of regional transnational crime priority threats. The outcome of discussions from the Conference will aid ASEAN Member States to better work together, both within and outside the region, to address the transnational and interregional nature of the crimes.

The rapid and continuing emergence of high profile cases of both wildlife and timber trafficking highlight how widespread these crimes have become. Recently, for example, charges of wildlife trafficking were officially laid against those behind Thailand's Tiger Temple, and investigations remain ongoing. The Conference will seek to focus on how to promote better law enforcement at national, regional and interregional levels, and how to measure success in fighting wildlife and timber trafficking.

The conference will be officially opened by the Deputy Commissioner General of the Royal Thai Police, the EU Ambassador to Thailand and the UNODC Regional Representative.

For further information, please contact:

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