GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022
In 2022, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime was renamed the Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment to better reflect its broader scope of work, which includes addressing illegal mining, trafficking in minerals, metals and waste. The Global Programme now forms part of UNODC’s new Border Management Branch and is headed by Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta.

This Annual Report outlines the key highlights and achievements of the Global Programme in 2022, a year in which much of its long term investment, support and mentorship showed tangible results. You will read about some of the impact of the programme - how seizures and operations supported by UNODC led to follow up and joint investigations; workshops provided platforms for the sharing of information between countries on active cases and beyond; and nascent wildlife DNA laboratories started conducting casework and supporting investigations and prosecutions with robust evidence.

The Programme conducted Toolkit and Indicator Framework assessments in collaboration with its partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), providing national and international stakeholders with an evidence-base from which to design strategies and later measure their success. Practical tools were developed and rolled out including the expanding series of tailored Rapid Reference Guides for Investigators and Prosecutors of Wildlife Crime. National, regional and international cooperation was fostered through support for Wildlife Enforcement Networks as well as the organization of platforms for cooperation including Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meetings and national level inter-agency platforms.

Of considerable impact in 2022 was how the Global Programme connected with non-traditional stakeholders. For example, engaging with children and teachers through the publication of a book on wildlife crime and crimes that affect the environment in collaboration with the UNODC GRACE initiative; working with academia to develop content for the university education modules on the Pacific; engaging with youth through the ‘peace weavers’ project in Central Africa in partnership with UNESCO; and engaging with the private sector.

A variety of international fora were leveraged as platforms to raise awareness about the importance of mainstreaming crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader biodiversity, pollution and climate agendas as a means to address the triple planetary crises.

I am proud of this work and see this topic as a critical area of UNODC’s support to Member States going forward. Thank you for your interest and support for these vital efforts to protect our natural resources.

Alan Cole,
Chief, Border Management Branch
2022 AT A GLANCE

- 100+ investigations supported
- 15 authorities supported with corruption risk management
- 40+ beneficiary countries
- 4000+ criminal justice officials trained
- 1,770 youth trained as Peace Weavers
- 16,000+ people attended our activities and events
- 50+ bilateral meetings under WIRE platform
- 78 seizures under OMD IV
- 24 countries and territories collaborate in regional operation (OMD IV)
- 12 countries supported to implement ICCWC Toolkit recommendations
- 18 countries collaborated through Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)
- 6 new Indicator Framework assessments
- 750 youth trained in social entrepreneurship
- 25 million views on new hashtag #endENVcrime
- 18,000+ people attended our activities and events
CHALLENGES AND OUR RESPONSE

Just and effective responses to crimes that affect the environment require comprehensive and coordinated efforts across and between all the actors in the criminal justice chain. Authorities need to ensure that those tasked with prevention, those who draft and implement legislation, those who plan and carry out seizures, and those who investigate offences or prosecute offenders all work together towards achieving a common objective.

The Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment (the Global Programme) supports Member States to strengthen their responses to crimes that affect the environment, through an approach that focuses on crime prevention and criminal justice. The following pages provide a selected overview of some of the Global Programme’s highlights and key achievements in 2022.

Acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation, including acts that cause the pollution or degradation of air, water and soil, as well as any other acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation

Acts involving the movement or dumping of waste, within and across national borders, including illegal trafficking of waste, illegal movement of waste, and illegal waste dumping

Trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora, within and across national borders, including trade or possession of prohibited or controlled species of animals

Acts that result in the depletion of natural resources, including illegal logging; illegal hunting; illegal fishing or gathering of wild fauna and flora; illegal mining; and other acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources

Crimes that affect the environment can be divided into four areas:  
1. Acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation, including acts that cause the pollution or degradation of air, water and soil, as well as any other acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation. 
2. Acts involving the movement or dumping of waste, within and across national borders, including illegal trafficking of waste, illegal movement of waste, and illegal waste dumping. 
3. Trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora, within and across national borders, including trade or possession of prohibited or controlled species of animals. 
4. Acts that result in the depletion of natural resources, including illegal logging; illegal hunting; illegal fishing or gathering of wild fauna and flora; illegal mining; and other acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources.

In 2022, the Global Programme worked in the following thematic areas:

- Wildlife crime
- Forest crime
- Crimes in the fisheries sector
- Illegal mining and illicit trafficking in precious metals
- Waste trafficking

UNODC’s approach to various crimes that affect the environment is outlined in a series of papers:

- UNODC APPROACH TO CRIMES IN THE FOREST SECTOR
- UNODC APPROACH TO CRIMES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR
- UNODC APPROACH TO CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

**Toolkits and Indicator Framework assessments**

In order to identify the priority needs of Member States, the Global Programme works with requesting countries to assess their national criminal justice and preventive responses to wildlife crime. This type of technical assistance is provided through the implementation of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit (the Toolkit) and the Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (the Indicator Framework) of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Indicator Framework workshops conducted in: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Malawi, Galapagos, Ecuador (mainland), Paraguay
- Toolkit missions conducted: Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Philippines
- Countries supported to implement Toolkit recommendations: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Gabon, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam.
In 2022, UNODC updated the Toolkit to incorporate new challenges, research and innovations and to reflect lessons learned following a decade of implementation. The Indicator Framework has also been revised and will be launched in 2023.

» 6 new Indicator Framework assessments
» 4 new Toolkit missions undertaken
» 12 countries supported to implement Toolkit recommendations

The Toolkit analysis includes a set of recommendations and the development of an action plan for national capacity building. ICCWC then supports national authorities to implement these action plans. For example, since the Toolkit report was finalized for Lao PDR in November 2020, ICCWC has followed up on 26 out of 39 recommendations (66%) and more are programmed for follow up in 2023.

The ICCWC Indicator Framework is one of the most important activities that we have carried out within the context of facing wildlife trafficking, because for the first time we have sat with all the stakeholders that are involved when such a crime happens.

Danny Rueda, Director of the Galapagos National Park, Ecuador

Indicator Framework workshop, Galapagos
Nigeria’s National Strategy

In recent years, Nigeria has evolved into a primary transit hub for trafficking in illicit wildlife and forest products, particularly for the global illegal pangolin trade, sourced primarily from Central Africa. In a bid to address these challenges, the Government of Nigeria, with the support of UNODC and the Government of Germany, developed its first ever comprehensive strategic document – the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026. The National Strategy was launched in a high-level high visibility event in Abuja, Nigeria on Monday 11 April 2022 and reflects Nigeria’s aspirations for “a Nigeria free of wildlife crime”. Following the launch of the Strategy, UNODC continued support to the Government of Nigeria in the operationalization of the Strategy.

Minerals study

In Central Africa, the Global Programme finalized its research into the illegal exploitation and trafficking of mineral resources in border areas between the Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon and Gabon, as a source of financing of criminal or terrorist networks. The study was shared with relevant stakeholders in the region and has already helped to inform the planning of future activities, providing an evidence-base to identify needs of law enforcement, prosecutors and members of the judiciary. For example, the findings informed the technical assistance delivered by the Global Programme and UNODC’s Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) in the fight against the trafficking of gold and other precious metals through airports in Central Africa.

Value chain analyses

Two value chain analyses of the fisheries sector were conducted in Kenya and Sao Tome and Principe. These analyses identify the value chain stages, agencies involved, and possible entry points for different types of crimes. The process identifies the numerous points along the chain at which different types of criminal offences typically occur. It also highlights potential entry points for law enforcement interventions in identifying, investigating and prosecuting crime throughout the sector. These analyses were conducted through consultations with key stakeholders and two multi-agency workshops in each of the countries. During these workshops, key agencies engaged in different stages of the fisheries value chain discussed the roles of their agencies, key control mechanisms in place, and vulnerabilities to crime in each of the stages.
Rapid assessments in the Pacific

Rapid assessments of the criminal justice response to wildlife and forest crime in Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were completed and endorsed by national authorities. These are the first such assessments to have been conducted in the region and the reports are valuable resources for criminal justice actors, law enforcement, civil society agencies, academia and individuals who have an interest in this area. The Global Programme also trained law enforcement officers and representatives from police, border agencies, wildlife, fisheries and forestry agencies and financial intelligence units on conducting open-source investigations on wildlife and forest crime and intelligence analysis. As a result, national authorities agreed on the need to improve coordination and legislative provisions to prevent and deter wildlife crime.

Needs assessments in South Africa

In 2022, the Global Programme launched a new project in South Africa to provide technical support, capacity building and expertise to national authorities and prosecutors in South Africa through the development of training curriculums, and provision of mentorship and special trainings. The project team started with scoping and assessments of training needs and materials followed by a workshop for key stakeholders, which served to confirm assessment findings, raise awareness of the new initiative and develop a project roadmap, paving the way for further success in 2023.

New legislative guides

UNODC added to its series of legislative guides to combat crimes that affect the environment with the publication of new guides on waste trafficking and illegal mining and trafficking in metals and minerals. These are tools for Member States to amend or adopt legislation to better address the challenges posed by crimes that affect the environment. They include model provisions and guidance which States can adapt to fit local conditions, constitutional principles, legal culture and structures, as well as existing enforcement arrangements. This practical tool enables countries to draw from existing international agreements and instruments whilst considering national circumstances and policies as well as the practicalities required by the various sectors involved.

The Global Programme collaborates with the UNODC Organized Crime Branch to develop and disseminate these guides. The dissemination process involves tailored regional and national level workshops. For example, in November 2022, UNODC convened experts from anglophone countries in West Africa (Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone) in Lagos, presenting the UNODC legislative guides and how these could be used in practice, based on organized crime case-focused sessions including case studies and mock exercises. Participants also exchanged on their existing legislation, identifying legislative loopholes as well as opportunities in updating legislation related to natural resources.
Crimes that affect the environment are constantly evolving and there is a need for countries such as Ghana to ensure that our legislation can keep up with the challenges posed to our natural resources. This workshop helped me to better understand how legislation can be strengthened to serve as a deterrent to those crimes and how we can make use of instruments such as the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

Abena Ayensu, Director of the Legal Department at the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana

Legislative reviews

Poaching, illegal wildlife trafficking, and other wildlife-related criminal activities are responsible for the steady decline in certain species populations, the disruption of the natural balance of ecosystems and the weakening of criminal justice systems. UNODC assists Member States to review and strengthen their legal frameworks, to provide prosecutors and judges with strong laws to combat wildlife crime, in order to protect biodiversity and create a more sustainable trade. For example, the Wildlife Act in Central African Republic (CAR) provides a necessary legal framework for prosecutors and judges to combat wildlife crime. It includes several categories of offenses such as poaching, illegal hunting, illegal import, export and re-export, corruption, and money-laundering. Criminal sanctions can vary between fines and/or up to five years of imprisonment, which meets the definition of a serious crime as outlined in UNTOC. In 2022, UNODC provided support in the drafting of a decree for implementation of the Wildlife Act, including necessary provisions to guarantee its implementation. UNODC advised that the legal framework of CAR could benefit from the establishment of a criminal law policy on environmental crime, which could guide prosecutors and legal practitioners in their decision on sentencing. A similar expert review was completed by UNODC in Bolivia on its environmental crime law. In Lao PDR, UNODC supported a series of public consultations on the draft law on Wildlife and Aquatic Resources across the different provinces. The law is being revised to address gaps and ambiguities, in accordance with existing legislation such as the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedures Law, as well as to comply with CITES requirements. Each consultation workshop involved provincial assembly members, prosecutors, judges, forestry officials, Forest Inspection officials, National Forest Reservation Officials, Customs Officials and Police Officers. UNODC compiled comprehensive comments and recommendations to the law, which is due to be reviewed by the National Assembly in early 2023.
Inter-agency platforms

In Peru and Mexico, UNODC continued to foster the inter-agency and inter-disciplinary platforms for coordination established in previous years. These platforms promote dialogue, information exchange and lessons learned in the context of fighting crimes that affect the environment. They are platforms for the development of best practice knowledge tools, provision of trainings and technical assistance seminars with national, regional and international experts, to improve dialogue, information exchange and joint work to strengthen law enforcement responses on prevention, detection, investigation and prosecutions of crimes that affect the environment.

Addressing corruption: strengthening national capacities to mitigate corruption risks linked to crimes that affect the environment

Environmental degradation, including the destruction and illegal exploitation of terrestrial and marine flora and fauna, can be fuelled by corruption. It threatens effective regulation of legitimate markets, hampers crime prevention and undercuts the efforts of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute those crimes. It further enables criminals to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes. It also deprives governments of revenue streams, and communities of their natural resources and livelihoods that are essential for sustainable wellbeing.

The Global Programme works in partnership with UNODC’s Corruption and Economic Crime Branch to support Member States to address corruption and to conduct financial investigations to better understand the underlying financial flows and organizational structures.

Strengthening frameworks to address corruption risks

Notwithstanding the fact that the vast majority of public servants perform their duties honestly, all organizations and government institutions face the risk of corruption. Corruption risk management can be used as a systematic tool for public organizations to identify a realistic set of potential areas or scenarios within their operations that may be vulnerable to corruption and to devise efficient, cost-effective strategies to mitigate corruption risks.

In 2022, UNODC continued its corruption risk management work related to wildlife crime with authorities in Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda. UNODC also conducted a corruption risk assessment and developed mitigation measures to support the fisheries sector in Ghana, Kenya and Sao Tome and Principe. UNODC implemented a similar approach for forest management authorities in Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria.

15 authorities in 9 countries supported with corruption risk management:

» 8 wildlife authorities supported
» 4 forest authorities supported
» 3 fisheries authorities supported
Corruption prevention in Kenya Wildlife Service

Since 2015, UNODC has worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to manage corruption risks. This work has resulted in institutional and structural changes and strengthened accountability and transparency measures within KWS, resulting in fewer opportunities for corrupt acts to take place and take root. KWS reported that UNODC support has greatly contributed to reduced poaching: in 2021, no rhinos were poached in the areas managed by KWS. UNODC support has also contributed to the strengthening of management and operational systems. KWS received a score of 100 per cent in the 2022 Anti-Corruption Performance Indicator, managed by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), compared to 88% in 2021 and 49% the year before.

Enabling law enforcement agencies to gather solid evidence, identify key players in the illicit networks, and bring them to justice is a key component of the Global Programme’s support to its partners.

GOING BEYOND SEIZURES: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR INVESTIGATION

Building investigative capacity

The Global Programme aims to build investigative capacity in all target countries through training, workshops, mentorship, provision of equipment and the development of tailored tools and guidance.

SUCCESS

Demonstration to law enforcement and judicial officials in the Philippines on the handling and use of endoscopes for parcel examination and controlled delivery

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4,000+ criminal justice professionals trained
- 100+ investigations supported
Wildlife Crime Scene Awareness

In 2022, UNODC and TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network (a UNODC implementing partner) launched a programme on wildlife crime scene investigation and evidence management at the Garoua Wildlife School in northern Cameroon. This programme follows a “train the trainer” model to help park rangers develop their proficiencies as instructors to train their peers and design content for their training courses. The three-phased programme concluded with 13 trained national instructors who delivered wildlife crime scene management training to 50 personnel over the course of two weeks in December 2022.

» 15 successful prosecutions in Tanzania as a result of training
» 13 national instructors trained as trainers in Cameroon

For me this project is the cherry on the cake. I am born again as a park ranger because my conception of wildlife crime scene analysis is not the same as it was one year ago. I will have the possibility to share this knowledge with all the other eco-guards of Cameroon, people involved in conservation, and we will all be at the same level. We will win the fight against wildlife crime.

Soulemame Ntieche
Park ranger and newly trained instructor in wildlife crime scene awareness in Cameroon

The training module will be incorporated into the school’s curriculum, with the aim to institutionalize the training in Cameroon and harmonize knowledge and skills in tackling wildlife and forest crimes.

This approach was first piloted at the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, Tanzania where the impact is now being seen. Officers trained in 2021 have reported that, based on the methods taught during the training, 15 separate convictions using DNA evidence have been realised. These convictions have been for offences involving the poaching of elephant, buffalo, and giraffe. It is estimated that a further 200-300 people will be trained on wildlife crime scene awareness in 2023 in Mweka.

Wildlife crime scene awareness training, Cameroon
Wildlife Forensics

Global wildlife forensics capacity for wildlife law enforcement is going from strength to strength. We are now starting to see the impact of wildlife crime scene and lab training on prosecutions. More and more countries are improving their capacity and conducting casework with the aim to strengthen investigations and prosecutions to end wildlife crime.

This initiative also has a successful element of south-south cooperation. For example, two staff from the Government Chemist Laboratory in Tanzania visited the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) forensic lab for a one-week lab exchange visit in 2022. The two staff obtained hands-on training covering: 1) DNA extraction from difficult samples such as bone, horn, and scales, 2) sequence editing analyses and interpretation, 3) wildlife laboratory processes.

The major value of this work is that cases that UWA could not prosecute due to a lack of evidence are now being prosecuted. Another value of this work is that it exonerates individuals arrested on suspicion of illegal possession of bush meat because they were caught in the wrong place (illegal entry into a protected area) but carrying meat from cattle; I have analyzed one such case so far. The main impact of the Uganda lab is that in combination with punitive wildlife legislation, there is increased deterrence to illegal harvesting and trafficking of wildlife within Uganda.

Dr. Patrick Chiyo,
Lab Manager, Uganda

Lab analysis in Uganda

The Uganda Wildlife Act was revised in 2019 to include punitive measures for perpetrators of wildlife crime. Consequently, the burden of proof for wildlife crime is high, requiring in some cases DNA analysis of exhibits. Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) identified a real and pressing need for DNA analysis services as many cases involving wildlife products, particularly bush meat, could not be prosecuted due to an inability to definitively identify the specimens.

UNODC and TRACE established a micro-lab with significant buy in from UWA, which assigned two personnel to receive training and mentorship from the Ugandan lab manager, Dr. Patrick Chiyo. In 2022, the lab became operational and the team analyzed specimens related to 20 cases and produced court reports. In November, Dr. Chiyo testified as an expert witness in court; the sentence is expected in early 2023.

SUCCESS

Lab analysis in Viet Nam

In 2022, UNODC and TRACE continued to support Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) laboratory in Viet Nam to undertake wildlife DNA forensic testing in support of wildlife enforcement agencies. Samples relating to 79 wildlife crime cases were analysed, involving specimens of bear, elephant, leopard, lion, pangolin, rhino, tiger, and turtle. The forensic laboratory underwent an assessment of compliance and is now the only laboratory fully assessed to be compliant with Society for Wildlife Forensic Science (SWFS) International Standards & Guidelines outside of the United States of America, passing with a score of 97%. Further to the high passing score, the laboratory is now striving to even further improve its compliance by tackling additional validation components of their work.

GOING BEYOND SEIZURES: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR INVESTIGATION
UNODC and TRACE continued to deploy the Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures (PELTS) to assist countries without their own wildlife laboratory or analysis capabilities. Turtle shells, pangolin scales, lion bones and ivory were analysed in Africa and Asia. Some of the analyses related to cases that could not progress to prosecution due to the lack of DNA evidence, while others related to the analysis of stockpiles. A total of five ivory seizures were analysed to enable the formal identification of the species of origin to support law enforcement and enable compliance with international (CITES) regulations. The PELTS process includes opportunities for the training of local officials on how to sample specimens and to improve understanding of the process involved in DNA analysis.

Tiger DNA registration
UNODC supported the DNA registration of all captive tigers in Lao PDR as part of a broader regional DNA registration process, which aims to provide traceability of individual tigers and prevent cubs from being illegally traded across countries.

Timber Identification
UNODC worked with forestry specialists at the National Agrarian University of Peru on the development and update of the TimberID Mobile Application (iDMaderas App). The update involved inclusion of new timber species identification data to improve detection/identification capacities and improved the knowledge of national authorities on cases of timber trafficking and forensic timber identification.

Capacity building in South Asia
In South Asia, the Global Programme trained 94 law enforcement and criminal justice officials from Bangladesh, India and Nepal on Open Source Investigations of Online Wildlife Trade and Crime Scene Management. For several of the participants, it was their first ever opportunity to be a part of such practical trainings on wildlife crime.
Seizures made following training

In October and November 2022, airport law enforcement authorities in West and Central Africa made seizures of gold and other precious metals shortly after receiving UNODC training on the subject. UNODC’s Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the Global Programme delivered a joint programme of training courses to provide law enforcement officials with a better understanding of national and international legislation regarding the illegal gold trade, as well as smuggling practices, modus operandi and the concealment methods used by traffickers: in luggage, on people, by small non-commercial aircraft, by freight or in express and postal packages. The training programme also strengthened inter-agency collaboration at national, regional and international levels, allowing a rapid exchange of information on the smuggling of gold and precious metals by air and thus giving the authorities the possibility to respond quickly. The trainings have already resulted in seizures by airport law enforcement authorities of gold, diamonds and other precious metals including copper, pink salt, cobalt and quartz at airports benefiting from the programme.

Financial investigations in Uganda

In 2017, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and police forces seized 1.5 tons of ivory, one of the biggest seizures of ivory in Uganda’s history. The case likely involved a large network of wildlife criminals, and although investigations were undertaken, no financial investigation was launched, and the suspects remained free. In 2022, one of the main suspects was arrested by the United States government for another ivory trafficking case. As a result of this arrest, UNODC, in collaboration with UWA and other national counterparts, convened relevant agencies to commence a financial investigation on the 2017 ivory seizure.

Financial investigations are critical to dismantle criminal networks, allowing investigators to trace payments and other transactions made by suspected traffickers, as well as investigate the sources of funds used to purchase ivory. To support the inter-agency financial investigation, UNODC facilitated coordination meetings and the establishment of a wildlife crime desk within the Uganda Police Force and the Criminal Investigation Department. The results of the inter-agency financial investigation helped to identify patterns of financial flows and over 50 illicit assets across the Eastern African region. It also contributed to better understanding of the organized criminal networks operating worldwide through the identification of high-profile criminals who are involved in major wildlife and forest crime cases.
Throughout 2022, the Global Programme continued to support countries to develop Rapid Reference Guides for investigators and prosecutors. These tools are commonly referred to as “Rapid Reference Guides” (RRGs) or “Points-to-Prove Guides.” They outline the different points and steps required to build strong cases against perpetrators, set out the ancillary powers available to court members and provide guidelines to assist investigators and prosecutors with the drafting of charging documents. The RRGs also facilitate and encourage the exchange of information between investigators and prosecutors to ensure that those investigating are collecting the information required by the prosecution to build a solid case.

These practical tools are designed to improve the quality of the cases presented in court by improving the investigations and prosecutions linked to wildlife and forest crime and related offences. They can help provide a consistent and methodological approach to investigation and prosecution, while fostering close cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders with a view to ensuring that cases are duly investigated and prosecuted, and that proceeds of crime are recovered. The Global Programme provides training on the use of RRGs to beneficiaries, and RRGs are updated as legislation is amended, or as jurisprudence is created.

Mozambican judges from all regions of the country have benefited from these initiatives in 2022. The Mozambican Investigative Police (SERNIC) have requested similar support from UNODC.

Bench Book for Judges on Wildlife Crimes

As a result of a two-year collaboration with the judiciary and prosecutors, UNODC and the Mozambique Judiciary officially launched the Bench Book for Judges on Wildlife Crimes in Maputo in August 2022. The document is endorsed by the government and provides a useful overview of legal procedure to support judges in their sentencing and improve their judicial decisions on crimes that affect the environment. The launch was followed by a series of training and sensitization activities based on the material.

Mozambican judges from all regions of the country have benefited from these initiatives in 2022. The Mozambican Investigative Police (SERNIC) have requested similar support from UNODC.

Sensitizing prosecutors and judges in Peru

The Global Programme collaborated with the Academy of the Magistracy and the National Commission for Environmental Management of the Judiciary in Peru to bring together more than 30 judges and prosecutors for a workshop on criminal justice responses to forest crimes. A field activity was incorporated into the programme to strengthen theoretical and practical knowledge. Judges and prosecutors were encouraged to exchange experiences.

13 countries supported to develop RRGs (Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Republic of Congo, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania)

6 new RRGs finalized in 2022 (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Republic of Congo)
Prosecution support in East Africa

UNODC assists legal practitioners in providing a proportionate and deterrent criminal justice response to crimes that affect the environment. Based on requests from national authorities, UNODC has developed legal tools to support prosecutors in their daily work, from the decision to charge to the provision of sentencing. In 2022, the UNODC team in Nairobi consolidated and updated its work on the Rapid Reference Guides as well as working on the development of prosecutorial guidelines, sentencing policy guidelines, and disclosure policy documents in Kenya, and the decision to charge in Uganda. In previous years, the development of Rapid Reference Guides helped increase the rate of prosecution by almost 70% in 18 months of implementation in Kenya. The development of sentencing policy guidelines in Kenya will help consolidate these successful results by providing judges and prosecutors with a guided approach towards sentencing, an objective and logical approach towards a conclusion on sentence, and based on factors such as culpability and harm, consistency in approach can be improved. For instance, offense-specific guidance focusing on aggravating and mitigating factors in wildlife offenses will help guide judges in adjusting sentences based on the circumstances of each case. To ensure ownership over these documents, UNODC works in collaboration with the Office of Director of Public Prosecution and follows a lengthy validation process to integrate feedback from national legal practitioners who are familiar with the inner workings of criminal justice systems.

SUCCESS

JOINING FORCES ACROSS BORDERS:
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International cooperation to tackle crimes that affect the environment is increasing and countries are beginning to deepen their interest in sharing information. Notwithstanding this progress, further cooperation is required to have an impact. Law enforcement authorities are still often reluctant to use official channels for real time cross-border cooperation. The networks established with the support of the Global Programme have encouraged officers to share information and cooperate, including through informal channels. Some recent efforts are having real impact.

Operation Mekong Dragon IV

The fourth phase of Operation Mekong Dragon (OMD IV) accomplished impressive results made possible through the active participation of 24 countries and territories. Together, these entities contributed to a total of 1,362 case seizures, consisting of 1,267 drug cases and 78 cases related to wildlife and timber. Importantly, this marked a substantial 57% increase in case numbers compared to the previous year, highlighting the operation’s enhanced effectiveness and expanded reach.

UNODC played a pivotal role in facilitating the fourth phase of OMD IV which took place from 15 April – 15 September 2022. Collaborating closely with the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices Asia Pacific (WCO RILO A/P), China and Viet Nam Customs, UNODC formed and integral part of the OMD IV Operational Coordination Unit (OCU).

Key highlights included the interception and seizure of highly trafficked species such ivory, pangolin, tiger, black teaffish, and red coral. Notably, rare timber was also seized during the operation, with a single operation in Honk Kong, China, resulting in the confiscation of 6,540 kgs of Pterocarpus santalinus (red sandalwood). In another noteworthy seizure, Malaysia Customs seized 4,559 kgs of ivory, 112 kgs of pangolin scales, 308 kgs of tiger parts and 27 kgs of rhinoceros horn in a single case.

Building on these achievements, the Global Programme is currently providing extensive support to authorities involved in post seizure investigations. This collaborative effort aims to dismantle the intricate criminal networks responsible for these illegal activities.

SUCCESS

HIGHLIGHTS

- 24 countries and territories, including 24 Customs administrations and 3 specialized drugs and wildlife law enforcement authorities joined OMD IV.
- 1,362 case seizures in total, including 1,267 drugs case and 78 wildlife and timber cases
- 57% increase in case numbers compared to 2021

Seizure and follow up investigation supported by UNODC

In July 2022, information passed from China Customs, with UNODC’s support, to Thai Customs, which resulted in a seizure of over 12 tons of red sandalwood by Thai Customs. GPS trackers and remote surveillance were applied during the investigation, and the post seizure investigation was further facilitated by UNODC, targeting another 3 shipments by the same import company.
Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting

The sixth WIRE Meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand, successfully aimed to deliver impactful results in enhancing joint operations and combating anti-money laundering and financial crime. With the participation of 90 professionals, including police, prosecutors, wildlife and forest officers and customs officials from 32 countries, the meeting marked a significant milestone by exploring potential for joint investigations targeting syndicates of mutual interest across regions. As a result of these deliberations, it is anticipated that the countries involved with diligently pursue the lines of investigations identified during the meeting. With the support from UNODC, progress will continue to be made in 2023, to ensure sustained efforts in combating wildlife and forest crimes.

More than 50 bilateral meetings were held in the margins of WIRE, where national authorities engaged in closed sessions to exchange insight on recent and previous cases. The discussions also explored potential for joint investigations targeting syndicates of mutual interest across regions.
African Wildlife Forensics Network

Established by UNODC and TRACE in 2016, the African Wildlife Forensics Network (AWFN) is a collective of primarily African wildlife crime scene and forensic laboratory practitioners, together with wider wildlife law enforcement stakeholders. The Network continues to grow, providing a platform for training, collaboration and sharing of information to avoid duplication of efforts. Successes in 2022 include:

- Six laboratory exchanges involving four African countries for knowledge transfer among members
- Laboratory training conducted to support the ongoing professional development of AWFN members
- Ongoing revision of the Wildlife Crime Scene Guide for First Responders
- Expansion of gap analysis of resources and services to include West and Central Africa
- First in-person annual meeting since COVID outbreak, including members from 13 African countries

Wildlife Enforcement Networks

Regional and inter-regional cooperation is essential to combating wildlife trafficking effectively. A Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) is a regional, intergovernmental law-enforcement network designed to combat illegal wildlife trade. In 2022, UNODC continued to support the reinvigoration of the South American WEN (SudWEN) by guiding the review process of the Network’s Terms of Reference, including through their review at the country level as well as providing secretariat support to the Vienna-based working level review sessions in hybrid format. UNODC led efforts to identify a member country interested in becoming the
International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

GUIDELINE

ESTABLISHING A NEW WEN

STRENGTHENING AN EXISTING WEN

1

2

THE COMPLETE SET OF GUIDELINES:

ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)

A self-assessment tool for regional use

First Chair of the Network. Peru formally indicated their interest and will take on the role after the adoption of the ToRs. UNODC has been supporting designated authorities to prepare them for their new responsibilities, and promoting the ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks.

In 2022, UNODC also supported the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN). Its Executive Committee met to assess the WEN Guidelines. UNODC and CITES supported HAWEN to implement Guideline 2 of the ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks, which involves an assessment tool for measuring the progress, maturity, and increased capacity of a WEN with suggested actions to further that development. The process helped the HAWEN identify gaps in responses and possible priorities for actions that were then included in its revised Action Plan, such as the need to expand its membership to additional national institutions involved in combating wildlife crime, creating more awareness about HAWEN's role in the region and ensuring sustainable funding for its Secretariat.

Regional Consultation in South Asia

In December 2022, UNODC convened a South Asia Regional Consultation on Addressing Wildlife Crime in New Delhi, India. 43 criminal justice and law enforcement officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated. The Consultation aimed at sharing good practices and lessons learned, which could be adapted and implemented in countries in the region, and to identify areas of synergies for joint responses to cross-border trafficking.

Informal Law Enforcement Network on Minerals Related Crimes

In 2022, the Informal Law Enforcement Network on Minerals Related Crimes, convened by the OECD, UNODC and WCO met on two occasions to exchange on concrete cases as well as best practices for investigations and prosecutions related to crimes in the minerals sector. The network brings together different branches of law enforcement from governments across the world including national police, customs officials, tax authorities, and financial intelligence units as well as representatives from international organisations, civil society organizations, private sector and academia.

SAFE Project

In 2022, the focus of the Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE) project was to develop a risk assessment framework for facilities and locations that pose risks of passing severe zoonotic diseases from wild animals to humans, to help commercial and non-commercial facilities handling wild animals better understand and address the risks they encounter in their daily operations. Having now engaged Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Sabah (Malaysia) into the project, UNODC is posed to roll out the approach and help reduce wildlife disease spill over risks.

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**Unwaste project**

In 2022, the project “Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy” worked towards the improvement of knowledge and understanding of waste flows between Europe and Southeast Asia through data collection and analysis and consultation with relevant experts. Some of the resulting information was presented in quarterly bulletins - the Unwaste Trendspotting Alert. Two bulletins were published in 2022, one focusing on waste flows from the EU to ASEAN, specifically to four focus countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam) and another on electronic waste.

- **265 people engaged**
- **4 countries supported**
- **4 webinars held**
- **3 national consultations**
- **2 bulletins published**
- **1 inter-regional study tour**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Additionally, Unwaste supported inter-agency coordination and actively engaged with multiple government agencies from four countries in Southeast Asia, facilitated dialogues at national level and organized consultations to discuss achievements, challenges and policy developments. To facilitate intra and inter-regional dialogues, Unwaste organized a study tour in Brussels, Belgium and Genoa, Italy where officials from four countries in Southeast Asia met with relevant EU stakeholders, with Customs operatives and discussed the challenges and constraints related to waste trafficking, suggested collective measures to tackle illicit waste flows, and initiated discussions aimed at building a transparent partnership among all parties.

Through its webinar series highlighting initiatives to tackle waste trafficking in the region, and global events (side event at the Convention of the Parties of the Basel Convention, see International Forums section), Unwaste showed different global and regional waste–related initiatives and contributed to raise awareness on the need to tackle illegal trade in waste and to cooperate between regions to reduce waste crimes.
ACCELERATING GLOBAL MOMENTUM: RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Raising awareness and sharing knowledge are key components of a comprehensive global strategy to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment. In 2022, the Global Programme enhanced its advocacy efforts to raise global awareness of crimes that affect the environment, including through campaigns, events, products and partnerships.

Wildlife Wednesdays

The Global Programme continued its ‘Wildlife Wednesday’ initiative, providing eight informal briefings on key topics related to the work of the Programme. Participating Permanent Missions learned about how and where the Global Programme is engaged, and participated in interactive discussions to share success stories, information about ongoing cases, and various challenges faced by partners and stakeholders.

Jaguar Parade

UNODC joined a multitude of partners in supporting the Jaguar Parade open-air art exhibition of decorated jaguar statues to raise funds and awareness about the urgent need to conserve jaguars and their habitats. The jaguar statues were positioned in key public places across New York, bringing the environmental cause to the forefront of the public’s attention. At the end of the exhibition period, the statues were auctioned and 100% of net proceeds donated to jaguar conservation efforts.

Social media campaigns on crimes that affect the environment

» 1,103 posts and tweets
» 20 new videos/social media clips
» Hashtags viewed 133 million times
» New hashtag: #endENVcrime seen 25 million times
» Content seen 1.8 million times

Education

Tertiary level

Expanding on the Global Programme’s work to develop content for academia to use in their curricula, some of UNODC’s educational champions have developed particular courses for their students, often using material developed through the Education for Justice initiative, while putting their own knowledge and insights together. For example, Dr. Samantha de Vries, a lecturer at Simon Fraser University in Canada, developed an undergraduate course entitled Crimes against the Environment: An introduction to International Wildlife Criminology for the summer semester of 2022. Two of the Global Programme team guest lectured during week 7 of the course, with a focus on wildlife crime in Southeast Asia, and shared some of the work UNODC is doing in the region while tying it back to the importance of continued research and action in this area.

From January-June 2022, Dr. Ines Arroyo Quiroz of the Regional Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (CRIM-UNAM) coordinated a regional set of seminars on green criminology for three universities in Mexico that were attended by over 300 people, both students and practitioners. Dr. Arroyo invited Global Programme colleagues to share their work and research on wildlife crime and the educational modules developed under the UNODC University Module Series for a week in February. Together with the HQ-based team, Global Programme colleagues from Mexico and Peru joined to discuss the programme in Mexico.

UNODC has been working with the University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP) on the training of judges and prosecutors on forest crimes, utilizing their facilities in the field for technical workshops. The joint work also enabled justice operators to receive field level experience with specialists and put into practice what they learned in the workshops. Coordination was also held with faculty members to include crimes that affect the environment as a component in UNAP’s curriculum. The initiative aims to promote young professionals a broad vision of what is required to address the challenges of crimes that affect the environment.
Engaging Youth

Peace Weavers

Great successes were achieved under the Tisserands de la Paix/Young Weavers of Peace project in 2022. Implemented by UNESCO and UNODC, the project trained 1,770 young people as key players in peacebuilding and conflict prevention to counter insecurity, growing crime and illicit trafficking in the cross-border regions of Cameroon, Chad and Gabon. By sensitizing and empowering the youth, they have become agents of change and encourage peacebuilding and development through creativity, civic participation and community engagement.

The selected participants are from or have settled in areas at the Cameroon-Gabon border and the Cameroon-Chad border, located around wildlife parks where protected species continue to be targeted for the illegal wildlife trade. Over the last 20 years, criminality has considerably reduced the population of elephants and other protected species in these parks. The project works with the youth to prevent them from joining armed groups, gangs and poachers who exploit these protected areas. Aged between 18 and 35 and with diverse academic and professional backgrounds - students, farmers, shopkeepers, homemakers and community leaders, to name a few - the peace weavers all speak at least one language of the targeted localities and are willing to share knowledge within their community. The young weavers of peace have a common objective: to contribute to the promotion of peace and sustainable development in their respective communities. Their daily life and traditions are combined with their duties as peace weavers. In 2022, the 1,770 peace weavers created a network to share information and disseminate key messages on the promotion of peace and the prevention of cross-border crime. The network sensitized more than 250,000 people within their communities through engagement at markets, churches, cultural activities, schools, educational institutions, and visits to local villages.

A social entrepreneurship component was launched with training for 750 youth, including the establishment of 16 community based social enterprises involving project leaders to create a catalytic effect among unemployed youths to take their future into their own hands.
The Global Programme team has been involved in a variety of activities with Austrian partners, as host country to UNODC Headquarters. On World Wildlife Day, 3 March, the Natural History Museum in Vienna hosted a press conference, bringing together experts from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, the Vienna zoo and UNODC to raise awareness of the impacts of wildlife crime. The event raised awareness through Austrian newspaper outlets.

The Vienna zoo organized its Annual Conservation Days, where UNODC had an information booth to raise awareness of the impacts of wildlife trafficking and to answer questions about UNODC’s work and mandate to protect wild fauna and flora. A mock wildlife crime scene was set up, which was of particular interest to the young visitors.

Vienna museum and zoo

UNODC launched Animals in Danger: Vita and Scooter on a mission, a children’s book that focuses on wildlife crime, climate change and plastic pollution, during a special event at the Natural History Museum Vienna, where 30 students from the Vienna International School met HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands to engage in discussions and activities related to wildlife crime. A joint effort between the Environment Team and the GRACE initiative, the book targets children aged 8-11, their parents and teachers. Building on the E4J Zorb character Scooter and focusing on the importance of teamwork, the book is meant to empower children to act against these challenges with ethics and integrity. The book is available in eight languages.

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Knowledge on wildlife crime in the Pacific region is sparse and poorly synthesised. The regional Pacific Island University Modules are an informative and unique source of case studies and regionally relevant information for educators and practitioners. The modules add a highly relevant novel resource to combating wildlife crime across the Pacific, and they will further aid in safeguarding their unique island and marine environments.

— Dr Phill Cassey, Lead, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Adelaide

**UNODC University Module Series on Wildlife Crime**

**Website**

**Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards**

The Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards publicly recognize and celebrate excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions or teams combating transboundary environmental crime. UNODC, UNDP, UNEP, the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL and WCO collaborate to select the winners. The 7th annual awards ceremony was coordinated by UNODC, and held in Bangkok in November 2022.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2 new modules developed on: illegal exploitation of wild flora; and sustainable livelihoods and community engagement
- Regionalization of 5 modules for the Pacific Islands (finalized in early 2023)

**New publication!**

To further raise awareness of crimes in the fisheries sector, the Global Programme published *Stretching the Fishnet*, a technical report outlining the different stages of the fisheries value chain from “pre-hook-to-plate”. Crimes along each of the stages are described and the report outlines conclusions, policy considerations, and a set of recommendations for Member States.
ACCELERATING GLOBAL MOMENTUM: RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

International fora

UNODC continued to engage in international fora and use these as opportunities to raise awareness of crimes that affect the environment.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

» Expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment
» Launch of Animals in Danger

UN Ocean Conference

» Side event with FAO and WJC on mainstreaming criminal justice into the broader ocean agenda

11th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime

» Launch of legislation guide on illegal mining and trafficking in metals and minerals

CITES COP19

» Launch of ICCWC Vision 2030
» UNODC side events on wildlife forensics and SAFE project
» ICCWC side events on ICCWC tools and services
» Global WEN meeting

Convention on Biological Diversity COP15

» Adoption of Global Biodiversity Framework; UNODC engaged in process of its development

ACCELERATING GLOBAL MOMENTUM: RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP27

In November 2022, UNODC participated in the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) through various events and activities. UNODC Executive Director Ms. Ghada Waly participated in seven side events, raising awareness firstly of the importance of ecosystem-based climate mitigation and the need to address crimes affecting the environment to increase ecosystems’ capacity to withstand climate change; and secondly, of the importance of addressing illegal trafficking of waste and sound waste management practices to promote the circular economy as a climate mitigation strategy. The events were co-organized with a wide range of partners including the African Development Bank, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Economic Community of Central African States, the European Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, UNESCO, World Wildlife Fund, World Trade Organization, United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, as well as various other governmental agencies.

The Global Programme collaborated with the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to produce a new discussion paper on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate Change, which was launched during a COP27 side event. The report discusses the relationship between environmental crime, biodiversity loss, and climate change. It explores illegal activity in marine and terrestrial ecosystems and trafficking in waste to understand their impact on the environment. An additional report on the links between the illegal wildlife trade and climate change was also launched.

» Launch of Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate Change
» Launch of Illegal Wildlife Trade and Climate Change
» 5 side events to raise awareness of the nexus between crimes that affect the environment and climate change

HIGHLIGHTS

To protect our planet and its inhabitants and support nature’s ability to mitigate climate change, commitments are important, but not enough. We must scale up action to combat crimes that affect the environment. Now more than ever before, we need to transform our relationship with nature and protect ecosystems from criminal exploitation.

UNODC Executive Director
Ghada Waly, COP27
In 2022, the Global Programme disbursed a total of USD 14 million towards the implementation of its activities in the areas of work described in Section 3 of this Report.

In 2022, field activities focused on four macro regions: Eastern and Southern Africa; West and Central Africa; Latin America; and South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. While the Global Programme works with many partners, there are three specialized technical assistance implementing partners that directly contribute to the implementation of grants entrusted to UNODC: the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES); and TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network.
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

In 2023, the Global Programme will continue to implement its crime prevention and criminal justice approach, delivering a comprehensive programme of technical assistance and capacity building to support Member States to tackle crimes that affect the environment.

In East Africa, the Global Programme will continue to work with counterparts from border control, investigators, and prosecution to deal with crimes related to wildlife, the fishery sector and more prominently the forestry sector. This work contributes to strengthening criminal justice responses by providing Member States with capacity to address the most serious forms of crimes that affect the environment as forms of organized crime and to promote consistent and proportionate criminal sanctions. The Global Programme will also support existing networks and bodies operating under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) as well as the East African Community (EAC). Building on the recent CCPCJ and UNTOC COP resolutions, the Global Programme team will engage with UNEP as the key strategic partner, to tackle illegal mining and waste trafficking in Eastern Africa.

The Global Programme will hold a series of activities to strengthen the criminal justice system in South Africa, as part of regional interventions to address wildlife trafficking and other crimes that affect the environment in Southern Africa. Specifically, UNODC will provide advice, training and technical assistance to support capacity-building of investigators, prosecutors and other national stakeholders in South Africa.

In West and Central Africa, the Global Programme will continue to provide focused technical capacity building from crime scene to court on the entire spectrum of crimes that affect the environment. UNODC will work directly with law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and wildlife, forest, and fisheries authorities to improve the criminal justice and preventive responses to environmental crimes. Through specialized training involving law enforcement and judicial authorities and the creation of inter-agency working groups, UNODC will continue to help strengthen the link between the work of investigators and prosecutors, which often remains absent during the course of wildlife crime investigations. Targeted mentoring and the roll-out of country-specific tools such as the Rapid Reference Guides will assist investigators and prosecutors to conduct proceedings against criminals, helping to trigger more successful court cases at a national level, as well as promoting legal assistance amongst countries to ensure cooperation in the fight against transnational organized criminal groups behind environmental crimes.

In Latin American countries, the Global Programme will work to strengthen national capacities through specialized training on crimes that affect the environment including for example on wildlife crime scene awareness and wildlife forensics. Technical assistance will be provided to promote regional cooperation through bilateral and regional activities such as workshops and trainings and fostering SudWEN.

In Asia-Pacific, the Global Programme will continue to support Member States with the legislative review process, notably in Lao PDR, and continue to build capacity for law enforcement and customs officers across the region by focusing on specialized investigative techniques and case mentoring.
Further, Rapid Reference Guides are planned to be developed for both the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and a corruption risk assessment is planned for the Environment and Conservation Division of the Solomon Islands. UNODC will continue to facilitate law enforcement operations, such as Operation Mekong Dragon V and an operation in Fiji, as well as support the follow-up investigations to seizures made during the operational phases. Regional coordination, including through the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime, will be supported to prioritize operational goals, and additional champions will be sought to keep the issues of wildlife and forest crime high on the regional agenda. Continuing work on crimes in the fisheries sector in Indonesia and Viet Nam is planned, as is ongoing implementation for the Unwaste project. The roll-out of the Pacific content for the Edu4U educational modules, and the distribution of Animals in Danger throughout the region, will help raise awareness and focus on prevention by engaging and empowering youth.

In 2023, the SAFE project moves into its data collection phase where our field teams, working alongside mandated government counterpart staff, will undertake assessments of the commercial wildlife sector to identify potential pathogen risks in their operations and any indicators of illegal activity. Once this data is collected it will be compiled to identify specific trends of risk across different wildlife facilities and / or different countries within the project, with an aim of developing, through broad stakeholder participation, mitigation strategies that reduce the perceived risk as part of regional policy discussions on reducing zoonotic spill over.

Given the demonstrable need for scientific testing of seized wildlife products, the Global Programme will continue its support of wildlife forensic activities in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia (subject to funding). The focus will be to increase the professionalism of laboratory staff, laboratory operations, and the scientific testimony provided by laboratory staff by supporting certification qualifications, proficiency testing and laboratory quality assessments.

The Global Programme will continue to work under the framework of ICCWC, to implement its ambitious Vision 2030 programme. Additional ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework assessments will be conducted, for example in Colombia, Fiji, Nigeria, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and others.

Through engagement in inter-governmental processes, the Global Programme will raise awareness of crimes that affect the environment and secure continued commitment of Member States to take action to address these crimes, emphasizing the importance of the rule of law in protecting our planet’s ecosystems. A criminal justice approach must be embedded into conservation and climate change policies and the Global Programme will communicate this message through active participation in the UN Environment Management Group and as chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife and Forest Products.

Through this broad range of work, the Global Programme will continue to support criminal justice practitioners and national authorities in every aspect of their response to crimes that affect the environment.
The Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment would like to thank the governments with which it works for their partnership and ongoing support. The work and achievements of the Global Programme are truly the result of joint undertakings with national authorities.

The Global Programme is grateful to its staff and partners around the world, as well as for its close collaboration with in-house experts of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, the Research and Trends Analysis Branch and the Laboratory and Scientific Section, as well as the Organized Crime Branch and the Education for Justice team.

None of this important work would be possible without the trust and steadfast support of key donors, and the Global Programme takes this opportunity to sincerely thank the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Acknowledgements
FURTHER INFORMATION

To learn more about what UNODC is doing to support Member States to combat crimes that affect the environment please visit:


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CREDITS

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