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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN → Association of Southeast Asian Nations CCPCJ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice CEB Corruption and Economic Crime Branch CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora DG MARE European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries **ECCAS Economic Community of Central African States** United Nations Economic and Social Council ECOSOC FAO Food and Agriculture Organization **HAWEN** Horn of Africa Wildlife law Enforcement Network ICCWC International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime **INTERPOL** International Police Organization IUU Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing Kenya Wildlife Service KWS OECD Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific RILO-AP RRG Rapid Reference Guide for Investigators and Prosecutors SDG → Sustainable Development Goal South American Wildlife Enforcement Network SudWEN TRACE TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network **United Nations** UN UNEP United Nations Environment Programme UNCAC United Nations Convention against Corruption UNODC → United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNTOC United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime WCO World Customs Organization Wildlife Enforcement Network WEN



World Health Organization

WHO



2020 was meant to be a "super year for nature". Many international conferences and events were set to highlight the importance of nature in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda. UNODC was prepared to continue to deliver a broad array of criminal justice support to Member States and harness the momentum of this renewed focus on the environment.

As January turned to February then March, the world slowly began to recognize that a new reality was unfolding: we were all witnessing, unknowingly at the time, a global wave of SARS-Cov-2 that would ultimately result in what could be ranked as the 6th most deadly pandemic in written history. Pandemics are not new. A review of history describes plagues dating back to 180 A.D; the deadliest, the Black Death (1347-1352) killed hundreds of millions of people. At the time of writing of this Annual Report, COVID-19 has caused the deaths of almost 2.5 million people around the world.

It seems pandemics have several things in common no matter the period in which they occur: the ability to distort and reshape societies in significantly profound ways. Global economic markets have been shocked, gains made on reducing poverty have fallen, the social fabric and emotional psyches of populations have been stressed, and governments have been forced to re-deploy scarce resources to address the human and structural consequences of COVID-19.

My team and I have been repeatedly asked how COVID-19 has affected wildlife trafficking. There is no clear answer; the jury is still out, and we do not yet have the data to draw solid conclusions. What is clear, however, is that we know that criminal syndicates can – and do - change modus operandi on a moment's notice and are keenly able to adapt and exploit control systems which, being governed by regulations, are somewhat slower to change. We have indications of where this is headed if some of the most recent seizures are indicative: the trafficking is still occurring, and stockpiles may be accruing. This leads me to believe that trafficking will continue where it left off- an alarming thought, to be candid.

We also know from our counterparts in many national wildlife management authorities, and law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, that a reduction of income from wildlife-related tourism and other nature- based revenue streams, coupled with the redeployment of resources, has provided ample opportunity for criminals to exploit existing controls. That said, the commitment of many individuals, despite the diminished human and financial resources available and the often- difficult situation at home, has not abated. Rather, the passion and commitment to address wildlife, forest and crimes in the fisheries sector, continues to shine brightly.

Despite the challenges of the last 12 months, I am extremely proud that our Annual Report is full of examples of collective work undertaken by our Member States and our team around the world. Even in midst of a terrible global crisis, efforts to dissuade and reduce the poaching and trafficking of wild fauna and flora have continued.

Although we have been able to adapt to this dynamic environment, particularly in the way in which we deliver sensitive capacity building to already-cautious law enforcement and criminal justice system actors, I would be doing a big disservice if I were not to confess that our ability to provide the highest quality of criminal justice training was not impacted. Some things in the law enforcement field are best conveyed, debated and implemented through in-person exchange. Against the backdrop of restrictions on travel and meetings, we have made use of the emerging virtual platforms to deliver technical assistance to our beneficiaries and extended our networks to provide support wherever and however possible.

In 2020, we have come much closer to understanding just how little it takes for nature to tilt, and the repercussions this has on all of us. COVID-19 is anything but a coincidence. As long as we continue to allow criminals to illegally exploit our biodiversity, degrade our ecosystems all of which lead to altering our climate, this may be but a harbinger of things to come.

UNODC is committed to working with Member States and relevant partners to do its part to ensure that criminal justice considerations are included in many of the evolving discussions around nature. I am extremely proud of our team, our counterparts, and those that make our work possible under trying circumstances. This Report is evidence that we can, despite difficult operating conditions, collectively make a difference to end crimes that impact on our environment.

Jorge Eduardo Rios Chief, UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime





Wildlife, forest and fisheries crime is the illegal exploitation of the world's flora and fauna. Organized criminal groups have long taken advantage of the low risk and highly profitable crimes that affect the environment. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been actively tackling wildlife crime for more than a decade, with a dedicated Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime since 2014.

A. WHY WE DO IT

Wildlife crime is serious organized crime and as such, UNODC is mandated to address it. Criminal groups use the same routes, facilitators, and techniques to traffic wildlife as they do for other illicit commodities, and they exploit gaps in national law enforcement and criminal justice systems. The enormous profits generated by the trafficking of wild fauna and flora are used to finance other criminal activities, and in some cases the proceeds finance conflict and contribute to instability. These crimes are often interlinked with corruption and economic crimes, and can threaten the rule of law, governance and national security. Wildlife crime robs local communities of their livelihoods and negatively impacts social and economic development.

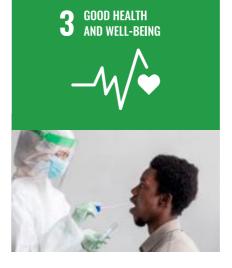
This criminal activity also has significant environmental impacts, contributing to the global extinction crisis and loss of biodiversity. Poaching of keystone species, for example, can have incalculable ecological repercussions. Wildlife crime amplifies climate change by destroying important carbon sinks, altering ecosystems, and disturbing the balance of the oceans.

In 2020, the well-recognized environmental and security risks posed by wildlife crime were joined by an increased collective awareness of the potentially devastating impacts of the wildlife trade on human health, and in turn on the global economy and security. The COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call on the need to rethink global approaches to protecting natural resources, and on the need to address wildlife crime.

Against this background, the Global Programme works with Member States to strengthen criminal justice and preventive responses to address the trafficking of wild fauna and flora. With far-reaching impacts for the economy, security, the environment, and human health, UNODC's effort to address wildlife crime contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The current pandemic further highlighted the interrelation between nature and the **Sustainable Development Goals**. A strong rule of law and criminal justice response (SDG 16) must underpin the comprehensive approach to ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all, achieving climate action, protecting life below water and on land (SDGs 3, 13, 14, 15). By utilizing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Global Programme builds and strengthens capacity for States to respond to the interlinked challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, human health, social and economic development, crime, and security.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Zoonoses, or zoonotic diseases, are infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. Over the last thirty years, the majority of human pathogens that have caused substantial damage to human health and economies that have originated from wildlife or livestock, including COVID-19, Ebola, AIDS and SARS. The transmission of zoonotic pathogens is made possible due to increases in the frequency and potential for direct contact between humans and wildlife. The illegal wildlife trade, illegal deforestation, forest degradation and encroachment into wild ecosystems, amongst other factors, can bring wildlife into close contact with people. Protecting fauna and flora is a crucial component in addressing the risk posed by zoonotic diseases. The Global Programme is contributing to SDG 3 by combating wildlife crime to prevent future pandemics of zoonotic origin and protect human health and well-being.

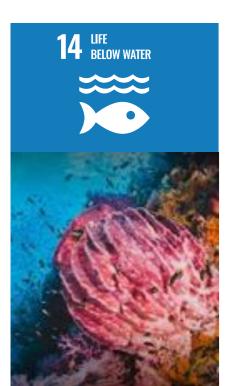






SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

Illegality, crime, and corruption are driving deforestation and the loss of multiple species of wild fauna and flora and marine resources, affecting whole ecosystems and contributing to climate change. Policy leaders and scientists have recognized the importance of terrestrial and ocean ecosystems as carbon sinks. The preservation of forests and oceans is therefore key to attaining global climate change mitigation targets, while adaptation and resilience widely depend on our ability to protect wildlife-rich ecosystems on land and at sea. Most scientific studies recognize that slowing the rate of deforestation is one of the most effective and robust options to mitigate climate change. Illegal activities in the forestry sector are among the key causes of deforestation and biodiversity loss, thereby undermining efforts to reduce CO² emissions. Oceans are another stabilizing force in the fight against climate change since they absorb over one third of all CO² emissions. In light of the above, efforts to address climate change are likely to fail or fall short unless countries step up and improve criminal justice responses to wildlife crime. UNODC is contributing to SDG 13 by supporting Member States to combat wildlife crime and encouraging them to prioritize and mainstream the fight against wildlife crime in their policies and legislation as one way to deliver on their Nationally Determined Contributions.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER

The health of our oceans is undermined by criminality and unlawful activities, which threaten the achievement of SDG 14, specifically target 14.4 to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices. There is an increasing number of documented cases in which IUU fishing has been associated with other crimes including document fraud, corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, forced labour, human trafficking, and other forms of serious crime. Many of these offences, which can occur at every stage of the fisheries value chain, are transnational in nature and serious enough to qualify as transnational organized crime in line with UNTOC. Tackling these crimes requires extensive cooperation between fisheries management authorities, tax authorities, law enforcement agencies, coast guards, prosecutors, and other actors. Due to the global nature of the fisheries sector, collaboration at regional and international level is also key in addressing these crimes. Without addressing the broader criminality in the fisheries value chain, IUU fishing will likely continue. The Global Programme supports Member States to address many of the serious offences committed along the fisheries value chain and is raising awareness on the need to complement the existing fisheries management approach with a criminal justice approach to sustain the health of our oceans.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15 - LIFE ON LAND

We cannot talk about the protection of biodiversity without acknowledging the negative impact caused by trafficking and transnational organized crime. The 2019 UN General Assembly resolution 73/343 on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking reconfirmed the increasing scale of poaching and illegal trade globally and its direct contribution to the extinction of many species². In recent resolutions, the UN Security Council has expressed grave concern about the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including timber and wildlife, by armed groups and criminal networks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic³. The 2020 UNTOC COP resolution 10/6⁴ also expresses concerns about activities of organized criminal groups that affect the environment and undermine efforts to protect the rule of law and achieve sustainable development. The Global Programme directly contributes to SDG 15, in particular Target 15.7 on taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products. Despite global efforts to date, and several successes in responding to these threats, including increased collaboration between States to combat them, criminals continue their illegal operations, taking advantage of gaps in legislation and law enforcement and making use of transportation networks, financial infrastructure and legal businesses.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The international community recognizes that development and security are intrinsically linked. Goal 16 recognizes that without peace, justice and effective governance, achieving sustainable development is not possible. Effective and accountable justice systems are key to upholding the rule of law and reducing crime and violence. Through its work, the Global Programme seeks to assist Member States to improve the effectiveness of their criminal justice systems and adequately address wildlife crime.

Corruption is one of the main facilitators of wildlife crime as it enables criminals to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes. The regulatory frameworks and controls governing wildlife sectors are highly vulnerable to corruption and economic crime. Significant financial, environmental, and societal damage will continue if States fail to tackle corruption. To contribute to achieving SDG 16, UNODC supports Member States to strengthen the capacities of their criminal justice systems and prevent and counter the corruption that facilitates wildlife trafficking. The Global Programme's technical assistance in this field focuses on supporting States to assess and mitigate corruption risks, as well as investigate and prosecute financial crimes.



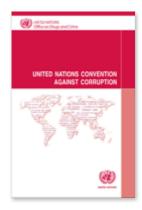


https://undocs. org/en/A/RES/73/343

³ UN Security Council resolution 2463 (2019) on DRC and UN Security Council resolution 2399 (2018) on CAR.

⁴ https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/COP/SESSION_10/Resolutions/Resolution_10_6_-_English.pdf

B. OUR MANDATE





Wildlife crime is serious organized crime and thus of direct relevance to the mandate of UNODC, notably in its role as Secretariat to the UNTOC and UNCAC.

Since 2015, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted four resolutions on trafficking in wildlife⁵. This demonstrates a continuing and strengthened commitment of the international community to address this issue. UNODC, through the Global Programme, is mandated to support Member States to address illicit trafficking in wild fauna and flora. General Assembly resolution 73/343, adopted in September 2019, recognizes the important work of UNODC and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and calls upon the United Nations to continue to support efforts by Member States to fight illicit trafficking in wildlife. Further, it requests UNODC to support Member States to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and to continue to strengthen its research efforts. Resolution 28/3 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May 2019 recognizes the Global Programme's role in this matter and emphasizes the importance of its provision of technical assistance and capacity building to Member States. Resolution 8/12 adopted during the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2019 requests UNODC to support Member States, in various ways to prevent and counter corruption-related crimes that have an impact on the environment.

In 2020, Member States reiterated their commitment to addressing crimes that affect the environment. During the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC, Parties adopted a resolution on 'Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the UNTOC.' The resolution details practical actions for Member States and the international community, and requests UNODC to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to States. The resolution further requests UNODC to further expand coordination as well as cooperation with relevant organizations including ICCWC.

C. WHAT WE DO & HOW WE WORK

UNODC addresses wildlife crime using a *crime scene to court* approach, supporting Member States to more effectively prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate wildlife crime. UNODC provides assistance along the entire criminal justice chain, in addition to supporting Member States to strengthen their preventive response. UNODC's technical assistance on these issues is coordinated and delivered by the Global Programme and based on evidence, lessons learned and good practices. The Global Programme liaises closely with UNODC Country and Regional Offices and coordinates internally to leverage other areas of expertise within UNODC to ensure appropriate support for the design and delivery of technical assistance. For example, the Global Programme has built an important partnership with UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch to help Member States prevent corruption and combat economic crime linked to wildlife crime.

The Global Programme works in close coordination with national authorities – ranging from law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, to wildlife, forestry, and fisheries management authorities and any other agencies that may be relevant – and supports them in their efforts to better respond to wildlife crime. Much of the core training material is based on manuals and tools jointly developed by national authorities and UNODC. UNODC strives to empower counterparts and create sustainability by fostering a strong sense of national ownership through its work.



⁵ A/RES/69/314, A/RES/70/301, A/RES/71/326 and A/RES/73/343

The six thematic areas of the Global Programme are:

01

Assessing national responses to wildlife crime

On behalf of ICCWC, the Global Programme helps Member States assess their preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime through established methodologies such as the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit⁶ and Indicator Framework⁷.

02

Strengthening national legal frameworks

The Global Programme provides assistance to Member States to adopt, strengthen and review national legislation with a view to effectively addressing wildlife crime.

03

Strengthening national capacities for the detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of wildlife crime

The Global Programme provides support to jurisdictions for the strengthening of investigative and prosecutorial capacities by delivering highly specialized trainings, developing practical tools and guidelines, and promoting inter-agency cooperation.

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Strengthening national capacities to address corruption linked to wildlife crime

As the guardian of UNCAC, UNODC has played an integral role in bridging the gap between the fight against corruption and its link to wildlife crime, by developing resource guides and by helping countries conduct corruption risk assessments and develop mitigation strategies to address and prevent corruption. In addition, and when prevention has not worked, UNODC supports Member States to conduct financial investigations related to wildlife crime.

05

04

Strengthening regional and international cooperation

The Global Programme provides support to Member States in the coordination of regional and international cooperation and dialogue initiatives, both formal and informal, with the objective of more effectively combating wildlife crime. This technical assistance is provided by delivering workshops on intelligence sharing and cross border cooperation on legal matters, and by supporting the establishment of regional and international networks of practitioners.



Raising awareness and sharing knowledge

The Global Programme strives to create a better understanding of wildlife crime at the national, regional, and global level, including through research and the development of knowledge and educational products, as well as through advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising events.





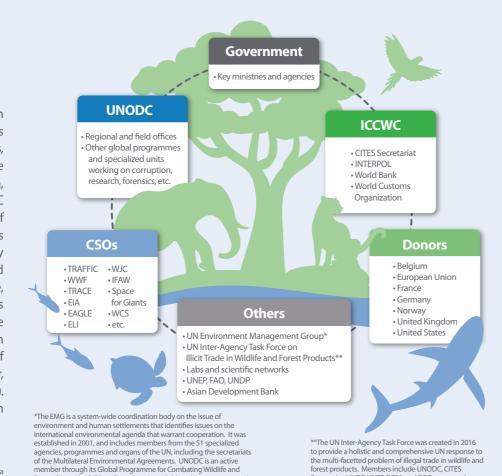
⁶ https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_e.pdf

⁷ https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Indicator_Framework_e.pdf

D. WHO WE **WORK WITH**

UNODC works in partnership with Member States, United Nations Agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the conservation community, academia, and the private sector. UNODC leverages its expertise and the range of criminal justice tools and instruments the Office has developed over many years of addressing transnational and organized crime. At the same time, UNODC recognizes the valuable roles that others play in addressing wildlife crime. The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), of which UNODC is a founding member, celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2020. (See Section 4A for further information on ICCWC.)

Annual Global Programme retreat, which was held in Namibia alongside three national capacity building and technical assistance workshops.



forest products. Members include UNODC, CITES

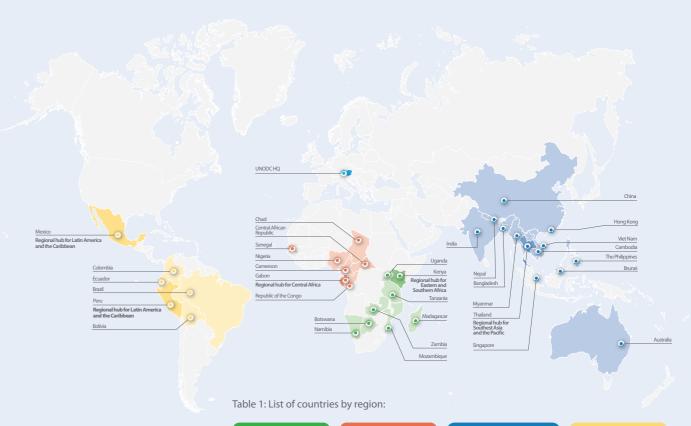
Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, DESA and DPO among others.



Forest Crime (the full list of members is available online at unemg. org

E. WHERE **WE WORK**

Wildlife crime is often transnational in nature and, as such, requires a global response. While the Global Programme operates from a total of 12 offices worldwide, our team provides technical assistance and support to our host regions and frequently to interregional activities.



In 2020, the Global Programme provided technical assistance to more than 30 countries, including by providing virtual and on-the-ground support to conduct assessments, provide training and mentorship, amongst other activities. Table 1 includes countries where the Global Programme provides assistance at national level including for operations; countries that were involved in webinars or regional meetings have not been included.

Eastern and Southern Africa

Botswana Kenya Madagascar Mozambique Namibia United Republic of Tanzania Uganda Zambia

Central and

Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Gabon Nigeria Republic of the Congo Senegal

South, South East Asia and the Pacific

Singapore

Thailand

The Philippines

Viet Nam

Australia Bangladesh Brunei Cambodia China Hong Kong, China India Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Nepal





Latin

America

Bolivia

Brazil

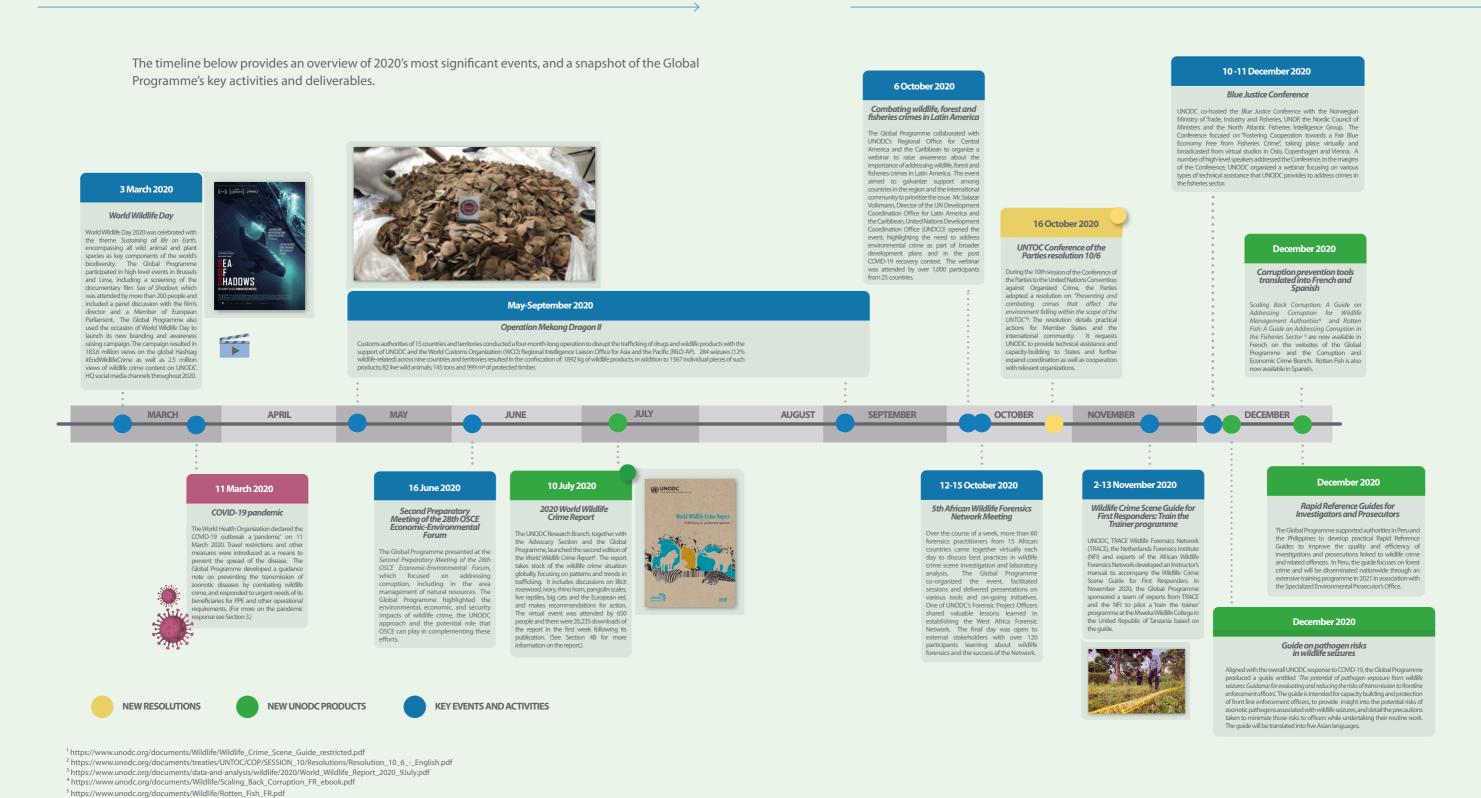
Colombia

Ecuador

Mexico

Peru

2. LOOKING BACK: WHAT HAPPENED IN 2020







⁶ https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wildlife.html



3. COVID-19 AND LINKS TO WILDLIFE CRIME

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19⁸ a pandemic in March 2020, the rapid spread of the disease has severely impacted societies and economies, with negative effects on global health, socioeconomic development and national security. More than 100 million cases of COVID-19 have been recorded worldwide⁹.

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a wake-up call to rethink global approaches to protecting natural resources and ultimately the health of humanity. According to ongoing research, COVID-19 is likely linked to a zoonotic pathogen in wild bats that may have passed to humans, possibly via an intermediary.

The transmission of coronaviruses and other zoonotic pathogens to humans is made possible due to increases in the frequency and potential for direct contact between humans and wildlife. The illegal wildlife trade, illegal deforestation, forest degradation and encroachment into wild ecosystems, amongst other factors, can bring wildlife into close contact with people. When wild animals are illegally taken from their natural habitat and smuggled for sale, for captive breeding or for consumption, existing sanitary controls are evaded. Wildlife trafficking brings significant health risks into our communities, including the potential transmission of new zoonotic diseases. Protecting our fauna and flora and combating wildlife crime are crucial components in addressing the risk posed by zoonotic diseases and preventing a potential future pandemic.



⁸ COVID-19' refers to the coronavirus disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). This is the official terminology defined by the World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1
⁹ 100 million cases were recorded at time of writing in January 2021.



A. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WILDLIFE CRIME

It is impossible to identify clear pan-continental, let alone global, trends on how COVID-19 has impacted wildlife crime to date. Available research has highlighted that challenges across countries and regions differ and are highly context-specific. Some evidence suggests that wildlife trafficking has slowed due to a reduction in demand, a drop in prices, transport restrictions and the closure of borders. Seizures of wildlife products have dropped sharply compared to 2019. However, there are clear indications that the trade has not disappeared and experts are expecting a return to pre-pandemic levels once travel restrictions are lifted.

To face pandemic-related challenges, it is likely that organized criminal groups changed their modus operandi to manage changes in transportation patterns, including a further shift to the internet. Organized criminal groups appear to exploit the fact that government officials and law enforcement authorities are occupied with efforts to combat the pandemic. Corruption thrives in times of crisis, which adds another layer of threat. In addition, criminal justice systems globally have experienced the direct impacts of the pandemic as attention has shifted to the adoption and enforcement of emergency laws.

Meanwhile, existing pressure on our ecosystems and natural resources remains high. Furthermore, increased economic pressure on vulnerable communities increases the risk of their participation in illegal activities related to hunting, poaching, fishing or other exploitation of natural resources to address the rising need for economic opportunities.

B. OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The work of the Global Programme is now more important than ever, to reduce the illicit trade and trafficking in wildlife and thus lessen the risk for the transmission of zoonotic diseases. In response to worldwide travel restrictions, the Global Programme adapted its implementation strategy for 2020. Focus was placed on increasing remote support through the development of online resources and knowledge products.

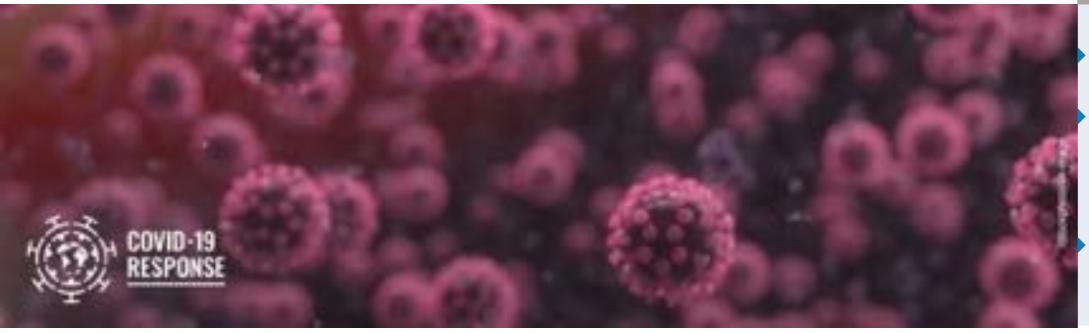
Trainings, mentorship, meetings and workshops were organized virtually. The Global Programme pivoted to provide its traditional support to Member States in a virtual format, and new and innovative projects were designed to respond to COVID-19 and the changing needs of its partners.

Some examples are described below.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Global Programme has been engaging in dialogue with the international community related to COVID-19 and wildlife crime, providing expert guidance and information:







Research was conducted and guidance material developed for partners and for the general public on 'Preventing future pandemics of zoonotic origin by combating wildlife crime: protecting global health, security and economy'.

A guide entitled 'The potential of pathogen exposure from wildlife seizures: Guidance for evaluating and reducing the risks of transmission to frontline enforcement officers' was developed. The guide is intended for front line enforcement officers to provide insight into the potential risks of zoonotic pathogens associated with wildlife seizures, and the precautionary measures that should be taken to minimize risks to officers undertaking their routine work. The guide will be translated into five Asian languages in early 2021.

Communication products, social media campaigns, and webinars were organized to raise awareness about the risks posed by wildlife trafficking to educate the general public on the direct link between both legal and illegal activities pertaining to wildlife and the outbreak of global health emergencies.



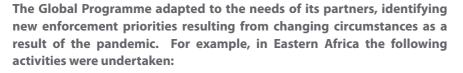




The Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE) initiative was designed in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other stakeholders. A science-based assessment framework will be developed to identify high risk facilities handling wildlife in Southeast Asia that pose risks for human health. Governments will be supported to make interventions to reduce such risks. The project is expected to start in early 2021.

A research project was initiated to evaluate the potential threat of infectious diseases in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade by applying MinION technology to pathogen screening of illegal wildlife products. This work is being conducted in partnership with TRACE, the University of Edinburgh and with laboratories in Malaysia and Zambia to characterize, and thus help mitigate, the risks of zoonotic disease to human and agricultural health. The capacity of partner labs will be strengthened through the provision of equipment and training, including training on safe handling of wildlife products.

Honorable Najib Balala, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya speaking at the handover of equipment to KWS.



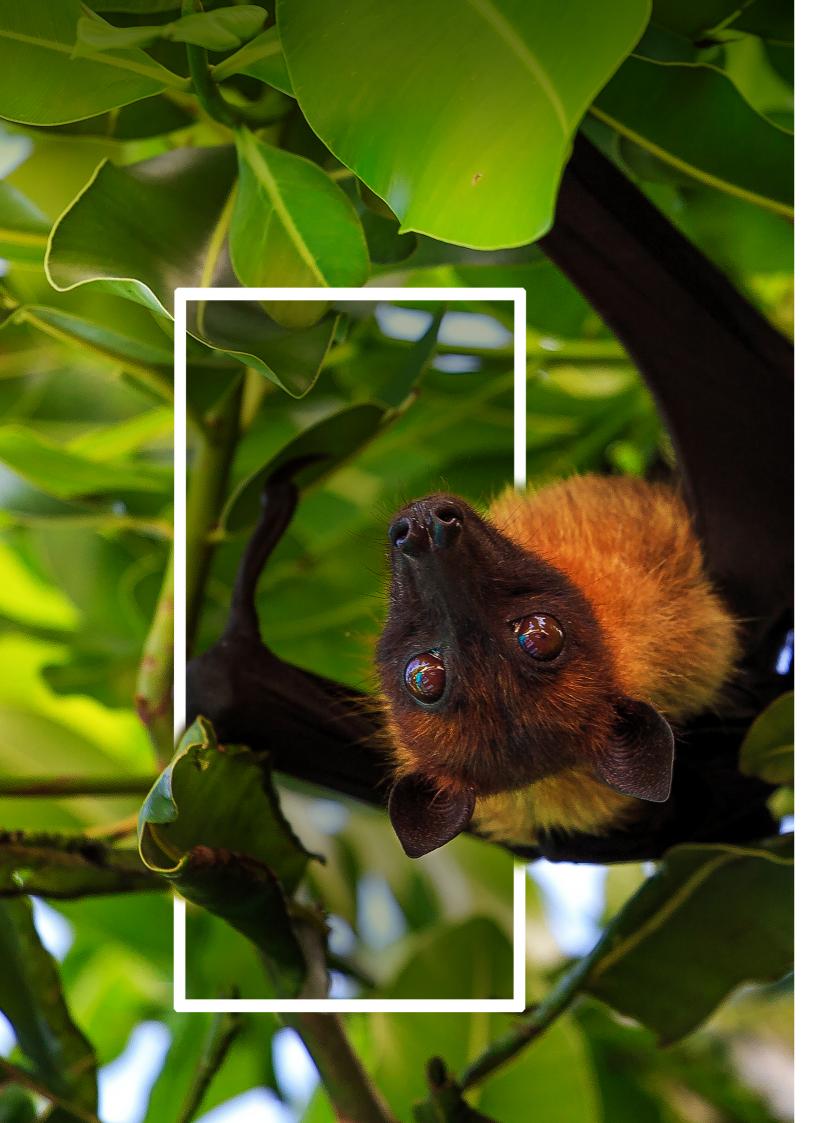


In Uganda, COVID-19-related restrictions caused the court system to close, with an exception for very sensitive cases. The need to digitalize the criminal justice system was identified as an emergency requirement to the adjudication of wildlife crime cases. The Global Programme supported the judiciary, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Network and the Uganda Wildlife Authority, to digitize the Wildlife and Utilities Court to enable (i) online trials from remand, ensuring suspects did not have to be physically moved to court for trial and (ii) virtual court proceedings. Digital link video conference systems were procured to link three prisons with the Bugunda Wildlife and Utility Court. The installation of these systems will be completed in early 2021.

The Global Programme supported the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to manage a surge in poaching, and mitigate the reduction in available funds for operations due to the dramatic decrease in wildlife-related tourism levels as a result of COVID-19, by procuring equipment that can support KWS operations with minimal-to-low maintenance costs. The equipment included 15 motorcycles and 180 tyres and tubes for the KWS patrol fleet. The donated equipment reinforced the work of KWS patrol units in the national parks and reserves, allowing KWS to promptly respond to and prevent poaching and wildlife conflict incidents.

Frontline enforcement officers in Eastern and Southern Africa were supported through the provision of personal protective equipment, thanks to a generous donation of 100,000 masks by Mr. Helmut Essl, an Austrian businessman.





4. THE CHALLENGES AND OUR RESPONSE

When COVID-related travel restrictions were introduced, some experts predicted that wildlife trafficking would be disrupted, with criminal unable to transport illegal wildlife products. Unfortunately, in some regions, there is evidence that criminal groups have been resilient, and in some respects the pandemic has offered new opportunities. Organized criminal groups are changing their modus operandi to adapt to changes in transportation patterns, and while seizures of wildlife products have dropped sharply compared to 2019, it is not safe to assume that trafficking has decreased.

Seizures are a key indicator to understand international trafficking, and are often regarded by governments as a top operational priority. They serve an important purpose because they can provide clues and updated information to law enforcement on the type of commodities that are being trafficked, as well as on routes, actors, facilitators, concealment techniques and modus operandi used by criminals to smuggle products.

Seizures, however, are only one element of a successful criminal justice response to organized crime. Alone, they do not stem the poaching or the illegal harvesting of wild fauna and flora. When law enforcement authorities stop at the point of a seizure, they lose the opportunity to investigate the criminal networks behind the trafficking. In order to disrupt a criminal syndicate, seizures need to be followed by criminal investigations, prosecutions, and adjudication with deterrent sentences.

Strong and effective responses to wildlife crime require comprehensive and coordinated efforts across and between all the actors in the criminal justice chain, as illustrated in Figure 1. 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 following pages provide a selective, non-exhaustive overview of some of the Global Programme's achievements for 2020 in these areas of work.

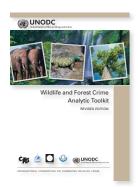


The Global Programme supports Member States to strengthen their responses to wildlife crime, through an approach that focuses from "crime scene to court".



A. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT:

Assessing national responses to wildlife and forest crime





Assessing national criminal justice and preventive responses to wildlife crime is an important component of the Global Programme's support to Member States. This 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).

Published by ICCWC in 2012, the Toolkit is designed to assist government officials from wildlife and forest management authorities, law enforcement, prosecution and other relevant agencies in analysing their national legislation; enforcement, judiciary and prosecution capacities; prevention strategies; as well as their data collection and analysis capacities.

The Consortium later developed the Indicator Framework, which complements the Toolkit and provides a standardized approach to measure and monitor the effectiveness of national law enforcement responses over time. Designed as a self-assessment tool to be implemented by national authorities, the Indicator Framework comprises 50 performance indicators that cover the main components of a desirable law enforcement and criminal justice response to wildlife and forest crime.

The Toolkit and the Indicator Framework are useful tools for completing such national assessments. Countries can use them to identify their strengths, weaknesses, gaps and key areas to prioritize in order to better address these crimes. The results of the analyses then feed into the design and development of work plans for national capacity building and technical assistance, while establishing a baseline against which future progress can be measured.

UNODC leads on the implementation of the Toolkit and Indicator Framework on behalf of ICCWC and in close coordination with requesting governments and ICCWC partner organizations. In 2020, the pandemic forced a postponement of new Toolkit and Indicator Framework assessments, which require in-country visits and face-to face-meetings. Instead, the Global Programme engaged in desk reviews and preparatory work for Toolkit assessments in Brazil, Ecuador, Nigeria and the United Kingdom, and for Indicator Framework assessments in Madagascar and Peru. The Global Programme continued to implement recommendations emerging from previous assessments in Bolivia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Peru, the Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam. In 2020, the Government of Lao PDR endorsed the ICCWC Toolkit report that was prepared in late 2019.

In 2020, the Global Programme commissioned an independent evaluation of the Toolkit and Indicator Framework. The evaluation determined that the tools remain relevant to a broad range of stakeholders, resources are efficiently used to bring an assessment to completion, and there have been positive impacts in terms of the process itself as well as the implementation of action plans resulting from the assessments. The detailed findings and recommendations will be incorporated into future implementation of the Toolkit and Indicator Framework. The Toolkit will undergo revision in 2021 and UNODC and ICCWC partners will continue to strive to improve the process.

10 years of ICCWC

In November 2020, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) celebrated its Tenth Anniversary



Established on 23 November 2010, on the margins of the International Tiger Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, the Consortium works to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional, and international levels. UNODC's partners in the Consortium are the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

To mark the anniversary, ICCWC highlighted a series of high-level achievements that have been collectively delivered over the last decade. A week-long social media campaign entitled "ICCWC - 10 years, 10 achievements" was successful in celebrating this partnership and the ICCWC10 years hashtag had 8 million impressions ¹⁰. UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly recorded a video message for the campaign, confirming UNODC's continued commitment to the ICCWC partnership, as well as its dedication to combating wildlife crime.

The anniversary was an opportunity to take stock of ICCWC's accomplishments and to consider future challenges and opportunities. ICCWC members and partners have engaged in strategic discussions to develop a new 'Vision 2030' for the Consortium.





¹⁰ An 'impression' is the number of times that users have potentially seen social media posts containing a respective hashtad. A single user can have multiple impressions.

UNODC's World Wildlife Crime Report 2020¹¹ was launched on 10 July. The report takes stock of the present wildlife crime situation with a focus on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora and provides a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at global level. The report includes discussions on illicit rosewood, ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, live reptiles, big cats, and the European eel. It includes a quantitative assessment of markets and trends and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies. While the first report in 2016 was UNODC's initial global assessment of the state of wildlife crime, this second edition is an evaluation of patterns and trends. In several cases, these trends have been dramatic.

World Wildlife Crime Report

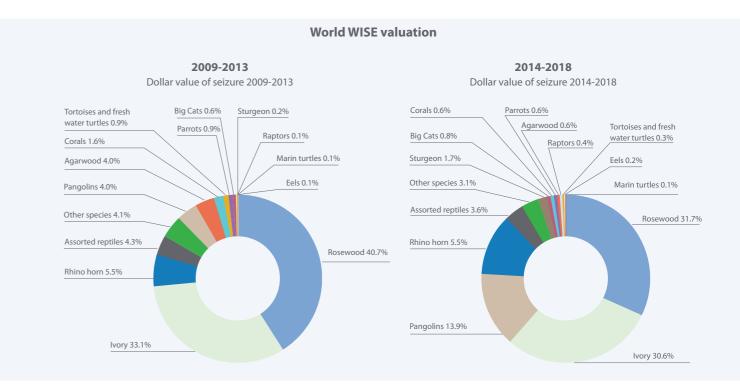
- 650 people viewed the virtual launch of the report
- There were 20,235 report downloads within a week of the launch





The report emphasizes the threat that wildlife trafficking poses to nature and the biodiversity of the planet. When wild animals are poached from their natural habitat, butchered and sold illegally, the potential for transmission of zoonotic diseases is increased. The report notes that pangolins, which were identified as a potential source of coronaviruses, are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world, with seizures of pangolin scales having increased tenfold between 2014 and 2018.

The analysis in the report draws heavily on UNODC's World WISE database, which contains almost 180,000 seizures from 149 countries and territories. The database shows that nearly 6,000 species were seized between 1999-2019, including not only mammals but reptiles, corals, birds, and fish. It also shows that no single species is responsible for more than 5 per cent of the seizures, no single country was identified as the source of more than 9 per cent of the total number of seized shipments, and that suspected traffickers of some 150 nationalities have been identified.



This data underscores the global nature of wildlife crime: these crimes affect all countries through impacts on biodiversity, human health, security and socioeconomic development. Stopping the trafficking in wildlife species is a critical step not just to protect biodiversity and the rule of law, but to help prevent future public health emergencies.

Illicit market for ivory and rhino horn in decline

The report suggests that demand for African ivory and rhino horn is in decline and that the size of the illicit markets for them are smaller than previously suggested. Annual illicit income generated from ivory and rhino horn trafficking between 2016 and 2018 was estimated at US\$400 million and US\$230 million respectively.

Increases in demand for tropical hardwood timber and seizures of tiger products

Demand for tropical hardwood timber, on the other hand, has grown significantly in the past two decades, with illegal African rosewood entering some legal supply chains, such as the international wood furniture trade. Seizures of tiger products have also risen in recent years, as has traffickers' interest in other big cat parts that can be used as substitutes for these products.

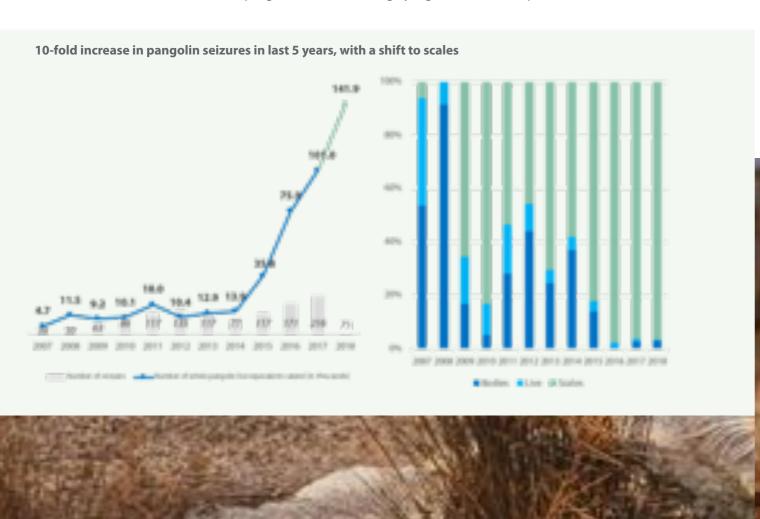




¹¹ https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wildlife.html

Increase in pangolin scale trade

A tenfold increase in seizures of pangolin scales was evident between 2014 and 2018. The reasons for this increase are unclear. All species of pangolins were elevated to CITES Appendix I in 2016, but there was very little legal trade before this time. While the main flow has always been illegal, greater awareness may have produced a higher rate of interdiction as a growing number of customs inspectors learn to recognize pangolin scales. Still, the sharp and consistent increase in seizures of scales year after year, as well as the growth in the size of the largest seizures, strongly suggest an increase in the illicit flow. Attempts to farm pangolins for commercial purposes have failed, and the loss of millions of wild pangolins to illicit markets cannot be sustained. Individual seizures made in recent years have been comprised of the scales of tens of thousands of pangolins, indicative of highly organized criminal operations.



Wildlife crime going digital

The report explains that, like many other markets, trade in wildlife and wildlife products have also expanded into the digital sphere. Sales of certain products, like live reptiles and tiger bone products, have shifted to online platforms and encrypted messaging apps as traffickers have found new ways to connect with potential buyers. The online trade is particularly difficult to address due to lack of transparency, inconsistent regulatory frameworks, and limited law enforcement capacities.

Strengthening criminal justice systems

The report further argues for stronger criminal justice systems, focusing on improving legal frameworks and strengthening the prosecutorial and judicial process. The report illustrates that criminal networks have diversified the natural resources they exploit and traffic and use the same corrupt networks to move different wildlife products, such as African elephant ivory and pangolin scales, together. To combat these challenges, the report frames the need to improve international cooperation, cross-border investigations and suggests that States make greater efforts to consider wildlife crime as a serious crime to harness the tools available in the UNTOC.





B. USING THE LAW TO PREVENT AND DETER: Strengthening national legal frameworks



Legislative Guide

In 2020, the Global Programme continued to disseminate the UNODC *Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime* in cooperation with UNODC's Organized Crime Branch. The Guide, available in both English and French, is a tool for Member States to amend or adopt legislation to better address the challenges posed by wildlife crime. It includes 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 composition and structure of national sectors.

The success of this tool has led to plans for the development of a series of Guides for Member States on drafting legislation to combat crimes in the fisheries sector, timber crime, waste trafficking and minerals trafficking. The Global Programme will collaborate with the UNODC Organized Crime Branch to develop and disseminate these tools.

Support to the Government of Ecuador on fisheries legislation

Upon request from the Government of Ecuador, the Global Programme continued and finalized the provision of legal assistance for the development of draft regulations complementing the new law on fisheries, which was adopted by the country's Parliament in February 2020. The proposed draft regulations, following consultations with key stakeholders, were delivered to the Government of Ecuador in October 2020.

Support to the Governments of Nepal and the Philippines on wildlife and forest laws

A review and analysis of the wildlife legal framework in Nepal was initiated in September 2020, and a draft was shared with the Attorney General's Office for its consideration. In the Philippines, the Global Programme provided legal assistance to the Government for the review of the country's Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, with a focus on its criminal provisions. A draft bill was submitted to the Congress of the Philippines for review.

Legal and institutional review in Central Africa

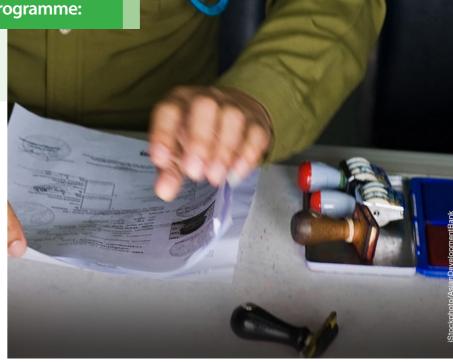
The Global Programme conducted a study on the legal and institutional frameworks of six Central African countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. The study examined the national legal and institutional arrangements existing in each of these six Member States of ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), to highlight the commonalities and differences between national legal frameworks for dealing with wildlife crime and illicit trafficking in natural resources, in accordance with the relevant regional and international conventions.

This analysis allowed UNODC to better understand the degree to which the national legal and institutional mechanisms are capable of addressing crime related to wildlife and trafficking in natural resources, to make recommendations to remedy the identified shortcomings, and to measure the use of provisions under international cooperation mechanisms, such as Mutual Legal Assistance, extradition and joint investigations, among others.

As a result of this study, the Global Programme recommended the inclusion of special criminal investigation techniques (such as controlled deliveries, wiretapping and/or telephone surveillance, the use of informants, undercover operations and confiscation of criminal assets) in the legislation of ECCAS Member States to tackle wildlife and natural resources crimes.

In 2020 the Global Programme:

 Supported 10 countries with legislative review and development







C. GOING BEYOND SEIZURES:

Strengthening national capacities for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of wildlife crime Building effective criminal justice systems capable of investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating wildlife crime is a key component of the Global Programme's support to its partners.

In 2020, adapting to the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Programme continued to provide technical assistance to Member States. Trainings delivered by the Global Programme reached more than 1,500 criminal justice practitioners and mentoring provided to national authorities supported investigations into over 100 criminal cases.



In May 2020, a Chinese citizen was arrested in Jiangmen, China for trafficking 23kg of rhino horn from South Africa. UNODC facilitated a joint investigation between authorities in China and South Africa. The suspect's criminal record in South Africa proved the suspect was a repeat offender, and this criminal record allowed the prosecution service to levy a charge that included aggravating circumstances. Further investigation on the criminal network involved in the trafficking was still ongoing between China and South Africa at the end of 2020.

In June 2020, a court in Vientiane, Lao PDR, issued a sentence of 2 years imprisonment, suspension of a licence and a monetary fine for a Vietnamese businessman found guilty of possession and sale of illegally acquired wildlife. UNODC's Law Enforcement Advisory Programme supported the law enforcement officers and prosecutors involved in this case, through facilitating discussions on operations that led to the seizure, on how to handle evidence following the arrests, and providing guidance on the prosecution process. This is one of a very few convictions for wildlife crime ever issued in Lao PDR.

In 2020 the Global Programme:

Trained 1565 criminal justice professionals, strengthening their knowledge on combating wildlife crime

Supported the investigation of 101 criminal cases



Capacity building activities for criminal justice practitioners

In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Global Programme trained more than 1,500 criminal justice practitioners. The trainings focused on good practices and lessons learned to enhance capacities for enforcing national legislation; executing investigations and prosecutions; and cooperating with other jurisdictions.

The Global Programme also organized workshops to train investigators and prosecutors on crime scene management, interviewing suspects and witnesses, developing intelligence systems and implementing special investigative techniques such as online investigations, surveillance programmes and undercover operations (e. g. informants, covert agents, controlled deliveries). These activities took place in China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. In Bolivia, the Global Programme developed a teaching module on environmental crimes for the State School of Prosecutors to contribute to the strengthening of Bolivia's capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.



Rapid Reference Guides (RRGs) for investigators and prosecutors

Throughout 2020, 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 lay out 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 investigations and prosecutions linked to wildlife 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.

RRGs are developed by national authorities with support from the Global Programme, Space for Giants, and relevant partners. Sustainability and national ownership are integrated into the tool, leading to wider levels of compliance. In several countries, the RRGs have been incorporated in standard procedures applicable to investigators and prosecutors.

In 2020, the Global Programme supported the development of an RRG for the Philippines, which was completed despite the inability to meet in-person with national counterparts. UNODC organized virtual consultations, often with more than 70 participants, including legal experts, investigators and prosecutors from relevant national departments. The RRG will be available as a mobile application on iOS and Android to further facilitate use and ease of access.

The development of RRGs is followed by in-depth, cross country training and dissemination. For example, in December 2020, training sessions were delivered to 90 Kenya Forest Service (KFS) officers on the Third Edition of the Rapid Reference Guide for investigators and prosecutors. The officers enhanced their skills on case preparation, collection of evidence, statement writing and courtroom skills with a focus on forestry and timber cases. These training sessions will be followed by a case progression course for prosecutors and a training for KFS investigators. This step-by-step approach is undertaken to build capacity for all criminal justice practitioners involved in investigating and prosecuting forestry crime, and the interest and ownership of these processes demonstrates the commitment of Kenya and its institutions to addressing forest-related crime.



An RRG was developed for investigators and prosecutors of forest crime in Peru, the first guide of its kind in Latin America. The RRG was developed through an interagency approach and will be disseminated with an extensive training programme in 2021.

To date, the Global Programme has supported eight countries to develop RRGs, including Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania in addition to those mentioned above. An RRG is currently under development in Chad and a further five Central African countries will be supported to develop RRGs, in French, beginning in 2021.

Throughout the year, approximately 191 investigators and prosecutors from countries were trained (including as future trainers) in the use of RRGs, with a view to improving case analysis, case preparation, evidence collection, joint investigations, charging, pleading, bail management and sentencing, amongst other aspects. Further training sessions are envisaged in 2021. The Global Programme will continue to provide training on the use of RRGs to beneficiaries, as investigators and prosecutors in national service rotate; similarly, RRGs will be updated as legislation is amended, or as jurisprudence is created.



In 2020 the Global Programme:

- Developed new RRGs for investigators and prosecutors in Peru and the Philippines
- Delivered training in Kenya and Mozambique on the use of the national RRGs
- Amended the Uganda RRG in line with amendments to the Uganda Wildlife Act







Rapid Reference Guide for the investigation and prosecution of

wildlife crime in the Philippines

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Inter-agency cooperation

Effective inter-agency cooperation is indispensable for combating wildlife crime, as emphasized by the UN General Assembly in several of its resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019).

The Global Programme actively promotes the establishment of national multistakeholder frameworks that bring together law enforcement (mainly police and customs), prosecution and judicial agencies, alongside wildlife, forest, and fisheries authorities.

For example, in Peru, the Global Programme established a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary technical working group and coordination structure - the Forest Crime Platform - to coordinate action against forest crime at national and regional levels. The Forest Crime Platform brings together an interagency team of technical experts and decision-makers from national justice and forest authorities whose range of functions are directly related to the regulation, prevention, and enforcement efforts to combat forest crime. The Platform also involves members of civil society, academia and international partners. Since its establishment in 2019, eight technical level meetings of the Platform have been convened to build capacity and to develop and implement technical tools (e.g. the Rapid Reference Guide, and the Forensic Accounting Guide). More than a dozen agencies participate in the Platform meetings, including over 200 specialists. These engagements have fostered inter-agency cooperation at the national, regional and local levels to jointly respond to forest crime and have fostered new partnerships with other actors engaged in the forest sector. This successful model will be adapted in other countries in the region in 2021.

In Gabon, the Global Programme supported the Government in the organization of a series of workshops to train law enforcement officers and members of the judiciary to respond to wildlife crime. The workshops promoted a harmonized judicial response to natural resource-related crimes and were an opportunity for participants to discuss and propose practical solutions to strengthen information sharing and legal cooperation as well as cooperation between relevant agencies.

Forensics and crime scene management

The forensic investigation of wildlife crime concerns the scientific analysis of evidence recovered from a crime scene, from a seizure, or from the analysis of materials obtained from suspects. Wildlife parts or products often need to be identified to determine whether a crime has been committed.

In some countries, wildlife crime is now being treated as serious crime and strong sentencing guidelines have been introduced; when prosecuting serious crime and recommending a long custodial sentence, strong forensic evidence is required to support the case.

The Global Programme works closely with its implementing partner, TRACE, to support national authorities to improve their forensic capacity and to increase accessibility to wildlife forensic services. Support is provided through the development of guidance material, delivery of training and mentorship, provision of equipment and consumables, fostering networking and cooperation, and developing Quality Management Systems.

Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures

UNODC and TRACE established a Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures (PELTS) in Asia in 2018. The PELTS programme provides on-site analysis of seizures in countries lacking local access to wildlife DNA forensic facilities. Staffed by trained individuals, PELTS is deployed to a requesting country to aid with producing evidence in a timely manner. Seized wildlife products can be sampled, DNA is amplified and then couriered to a partner lab in Germany via a controlled chain of custody process for DNA sequencing. The results become rapidly available to the in-country team for analysis and report writing. The process also provides a valuable training opportunity for national authorities on sampling and DNA extraction, as well as on maintaining chain of custody. PELTS was piloted in Asia and a similar service was established in 2020 for Africa, from a base in Uganda.

In 2020, the PELTS projects in Africa and Asia supported the investigation of 17 cases of wildlife crime. Two cases examples are outlined below:



In March 2020, Cambodian authorities seized a shipment containing animal bones. Identifying the bones was crucial to determining the type of offence committed and the related penalty. UNODC and TRACE deployed PELTS and within 10 days, it was possible to provide an expert statement that the bones were from African lions, a species for which trade is strictly regulated by international conventions. The expert statement became part of the evidence for the prosecution against the Vietnamese citizen found in possession of the bones. This is one of the first times (if not the first) that DNA evidence was used as part of a wildlife prosecution in Cambodia.

The Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority requested support from PELTS to identify a seizure of suspected rhino horn confiscated from a Vietnamese national in Ethiopia. The individual who had been detained claimed the products were not rhino horn, and law enforcement had no capacity to accurately identify the seizure. In January 2020, PELTS was deployed to Ethiopia and identified the horn as being from a white rhino. A report was subsequently produced for prosecution, and the case resulted in a 16-month custodial sentence for the accused.





New project launched: National laboratory support in Viet Nam

In 2020, UNODC and TRACE launched a new partnership to support the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) laboratory in Viet Nam to undertake wildlife DNA forensic testing to support wildlife enforcement agencies. This project is a continuation of work initiated by TRACE under the USAID-funded *Saving Species* project in Viet Nam. Eight wildlife crime cases have been supported in the first few months of the project, involving specimens of bear, elephant, pangolin, tiger, and turtle. One case example is outlined below:



In October 2020, the Yen Bai Police Department requested DNA species identification of animal products confiscated from a vehicle. Two suspects had been arrested and police confiscated two bags of meat, suspected to be tiger; four pieces of bone glue; and one bag containing bones, antlers, shells and opium. One of the bags contained half an animal body with a long tail, while the other bag contained the other half of the body. DNA analysis found that the tissue samples taken from the bags of meat were tiger, the antlers were red deer, the bone matched with Chinese serow, and the shell matched with Giant Asian pond turtle, all of which are protected wildlife species. The laboratory report was provided to the police and will be used to support the case for prosecution.

New project launched: Support to national wildlife DNA laboratories

Many laboratories, particularly in developing regions, face challenges in accessing industry standard reagents (substances used to carry out a lab test) and consumables (basic equipment such as beakers, test tubes etc.). Lengthy procurement delays are often experienced. This can often lead labs in developing countries to purchase inferior, substitute reagents or for some forensic tests to be conducted without appropriate controls. In turn, this impacts the ability of the lab to support wildlife law enforcement efficiently and effectively.

In 2020, the Global Programme launched a pilot project in partnership with the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section to support six laboratories through the donation of a set of forensic-quality reagents and consumables, to strengthen prosecutions of wildlife crime in their jurisdictions. Opportunities for face-to-face wildlife forensic capacity building activities were reduced in 2020 due to the pandemic, and UNODC was able to redirect unspent funds to support labs and enable the continuation of forensic casework. The support to labs is expected to have a positive impact on investigations and prosecutions of wildlife crimes in 2021.

Crime Scene Awareness

The forensic process is highly dependent on the recognition of potential evidence and the actions taken at a crime scene. First responders need to know how to approach and process a crime scene in a way that ensures evidence is admissible in a court of law. Mistakes made at the beginning of a forensic investigation may jeopardize the validity of subsequent analysis and prevent prosecutions from being successful.

In 2020, UNODC, TRACE, the Netherlands Forensics Institute and experts from the African Wildlife Forensics Network developed an *Instructor's manual* to accompany the *Wildlife Crime Scene Guide for First Responders*. The Guide was translated into French to provide guidance to first responders in West and Central Africa. In November 2020, a team of experts initiated a 'train the trainer' programme at the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, United Republic of Tanzania to provide training based on the Guide; phases two and three of the train the trainer programme will be delivered in 2021.



Rhino horn scanners open new lines of investigation

In July 2019, Customs authorities in China intercepted what is believed to be the biggest consignment of rhino horns seized outside of South Africa: approximately 250 kg. In the aftermath of the seizure, Customs authorities did not perform an analysis of the horn to retrieve possible information contained in microchips installed inside the rhino horns in South Africa.

In January 2020, the Global Programme provided China Customs with microchip scanners. China Customs used the scanners to retrieve chip data from 70 of the 178 pieces of rhino horn. The Global Programme facilitated the sharing of this data with South African Police for identification and further investigation. In February 2020, South African Police responded with updates on 22 collaborative cases, including feedback on the identified microchips. This exchange triggered new lines of investigations in South Africa, and coordinated investigations are currently ongoing.





Financial investigations

Many forms of corruption linked to wildlife crime leave a paper and money trail that can be reconstructed by investigators and prosecutors, providing them with the necessary proof of criminal activity to prosecute and secure convictions. In many jurisdictions, as the penalties for corruption offences are higher than those for crimes that impact the environment, having robust evidence of such economic crimes can increase the number of successful prosecutions.

The latest UN General Assembly resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife (A/RES/73/343), as well as UNCAC CoSP resolution 8/12, encourage Member States to use financial investigation techniques to better address corruption and economic crimes related to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime.

In 2020, the Global Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch supported the establishment of inter-agency cooperation units composed of financial and law enforcement authorities and provided capacity building and case mentorship to support financial investigations.

UNODC provided concrete case mentoring support in six countries, including Colombia, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru and Uganda, in relation to 62 financial investigations linked to wildlife crime. Through mentoring, public officials obtained a better understanding of financial investigative techniques and processes to collect and analyse evidence. In addition, case mentoring provided an opportunity to enhance international cooperation by linking relevant authorities. UNODC developed tools, checklists, and guidance documents to assist selected government counterparts to strengthen financial investigation and asset recovery methodologies. The mentoring process has also enabled public officials to better understand the linkages between environmental and financial crimes.

Table1: Cases that included financial investigation mentoring by UNODC in 2020

Country	Number of cases mentored
Colombia	13
Mexico	9
Mozambique	2
Namibia	1
Peru	26
Uganda	11
TOTAL	62

The mentoring process was accompanied by capacity building, to enhance public officials' knowledge of financial investigations linked to wildlife and forest crime. Training and workshops allowed UNODC to support beneficiaries to establish the core principles of financial investigations, strengthen public officials' skills to conduct such investigations, and introduce financial

investigation techniques. Several of the workshops included participants from a variety of countries, which also strengthened ongoing international cooperation efforts. A total of 825 public officials received training on financial investigations linked to environmental crimes during 2020.

Table2: Officers trained 2020

Country	Officers trained
Colombia, Mexico, Peru (including participants from Argentina and Bolivia)	200
Colombia	314
Mexico	199
Peru	80
Thailand	32
TOTAL	825



As a result of the case mentoring work on illicit financial flows related to forest crime in Peru, national authorities and UNODC specialists developed an innovative guide to apply forensic accounting techniques to forest crime cases. The tool was jointly developed by the Peruvian Financial Intelligence Unit, Customs and Tax Authority, the Prosecutor's Office and UNODC. The guide consolidates technical information to promote specialized investigation techniques and standardized processes, as well as practical interagency interventions to respond to organized crime linked to forest crime.

In Thailand, UNODC supported the delivery of a training course on financial investigations for the investigators of the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Division of the Royal Thai Police. The trainers were experienced analysts from the Anti Money Laundering Office of Thailand, who focused on the importance of starting financial investigations at the beginning of the criminal case instead of relying exclusively on the civil case investigation. Following the training course, UNODC supported the deployment of an advisor for financial investigations linked to environmental crime at the Royal Thai Police.







D. ADDRESSING CORRUPTION:

Strengthening national capacities to mitigate corruption risks linked to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime Corruption is one of the principal enablers of wildlife crime. It has been described as the oil that lubricates the engine of wildlife trafficking. To remain in illicit business, criminals must identify ways to avoid getting caught. They thrive on the existence of corruption as it enables them to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes.

The consequences of corruption linked to wildlife crime are particularly damaging. When a seizure of ivory, pangolin scales, rosewood, shark fins or jaguar teeth is made, the harm is already done: animals are dead; trees are no longer standing; and these crimes cannot be reversed. It is precisely for this reason that preventive measures must be taken to reduce or eliminate the corruption that enables these crimes.

UN General Assembly resolutions adopted in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 request UNODC to support Member States in preventing and countering any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, including by providing technical assistance to assess and mitigate corruption risks and strengthening the capacity to investigate and prosecute such corruption. The adoption of UNCAC CoSP Resolution 8/12 further supports this request and contributes to the strengthening of anti-corruption frameworks in the context of crimes that have an impact on the environment.

The Global Programme works in partnership with UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch to address the needs of Member States in this area. By strengthening the capacity of their wildlife, forest and fisheries management authorities to mitigate the risk of corruption, Member States can safeguard the integrity and efficiency of these sectors and better protect their natural resources.

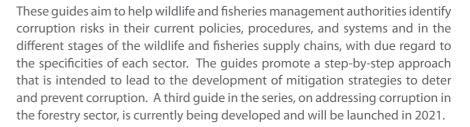
This initiative not only assists Member States to achieve SDG Target 15.7 on taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and addressing the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, but it also assists in the achievement of SDG Target 16.6 on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all of their forms and SDG Target 16.a on strengthening relevant national institutions for capacity building at all levels to fight crime.





UNODC draws upon its role as the guardian of the UNCAC to build law enforcement and criminal justice institutions' capacities and support communities impacted by environmental crime. UNODC has developed a series of tools on addressing and preventing corruption in the wildlife sectors:

- Rotten Fish: A Guide on Addressing Corruption in the Fisheries Sector
- Scaling Back Corruption: A Guide on Addressing Corruption for Wildlife Management Agencies





Faire reculer la corruption :

Guide sur la lutte contre la corruption à l'usage des organes de gestion des espèces sauvages



Poisson pourri:

Un guide pour lutter contre la corruption dans le secteur de la pêche Pescado en descomposición :

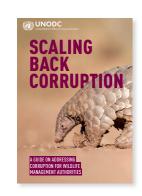
Una guía para abordar la corrupción en el sector pesquero



Strengthening frameworks to address corruption risks

Every organization, no matter how well managed, is exposed to corruption risks. If not proactively managed, these risks may be realized, and corruption may spread through the organization. Wildlife, forest and fisheries management authorities are the first line of response. With a historical mandate for conservation as their primary objective, they are now challenged by organized crime and associated corruption.

Looking for systemic change solutions, the Global Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch support a corruption risk-based approach for wildlife authorities to strengthen internal mechanisms and systems to prevent corruption from occurring. This approach is a modified version of ISO 31000. It is designed to set achievable goals which significantly reduce the likelihood that specific corruption risks will occur, while at the same time gradually strengthening institutional capacity to identify and prevent future corruption risks.











Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), for instance, partnered with UNODC to establish this approach and has seen significant positive changes within the institution. Key outcomes of the corruption-risk based programme have been the development of anti-corruption advocacy material, the KWS Code of Conduct, Corruption Prevention Policy, service-wide survey on perception and experience of corruption, and the Armed Wing's Service Standing Orders and Disciplinary Code, all of which are integrated into KWS daily operations.

"I am proud to see how Kenya has pioneered the initiative for preventing corruption in the illegal wildlife trade in partnership with UNODC. This initiative resulted in strengthened institutional policies and processes that are contributing to enshrining the culture of zero tolerance to corruption. I am very pleased to see how the positive results in Kenya led to the replication of this approach in other countries."

Hon. Najib Balala, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya

In 2020, UNODC continued the corruption prevention work related to wildlife crime with authorities in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, as well as replicating the approach in Latin America through support to authorities in Bolivia. UNODC has also continued the implementation of a corruption risk assessment and development of mitigation strategies supporting fisheries authorities in Myanmar and Senegal, based on *Rotten Fish: A Guide on Addressing Corruption in the Fisheries Sector.* Due to the inability to hold face-to-face meetings, many of these processes took place remotely in 2020, through consultations with national counterparts, preparation of background materials and conduction of virtual meetings.

E. JOINING FORCES ACROSS BORDERS: Strengthening regional and international

cooperation

In its resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, the UN General Assembly emphasizes the need to enhance regional and transnational. In 2020, the Global Programme continued to promote international cooperation initiatives among Member States, at all levels.

International cooperation to tackle wildlife crime is increasing and countries are beginning to deepen their interest in intelligence sharing. Notwithstanding this progress, further strengthened cooperation is required. 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 intelligence, including through informal channels.



In 2020 the Global Programme:

- Supported 8 wildlife authorities to prevent corruption linked to wildlife crime
- Spported 2 fisheries authorities to to prevent corruption linked to crimes in the fisheries sector









Operation Mekong Dragon II

International cooperation

The Global Programme encourages countries to actively participate in global wildlife law enforcement operations, share information and pursue follow-up investigations.

The Global Programme and RILO-AP provided support for cross-border information sharing to facilitate cooperation and provided advice to operation participants. The operation was the initial activity, to be followed by post-seizure investigations, and the Global Programme is supporting governments to take action to identify related financial transactions and methods of money laundering, pursue the confiscation of assets, and prosecute and dismantle the criminal networks involved. UNODC and TRACE are facilitating forensic analysis services to augment follow up investigations.



Operation Mekong Dragon II was a four-month-long customs operation that took place between May and September 2020, involving authorities in 15 countries and territories (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam).

Supported by UNODC and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO-AP) of the World Customs Organization (WCO), the operation resulted in 284 seizures (12% wildlife related) across 9 countries and territories including the confiscation of: 1892 kg of wildlife products, in addition to 1567 individual pieces of such products; 82 live wild animals; 145 tons and 999 m³ of protected timber. The largest number of seizures took place in China and Hong Kong SAR, mirroring legal trade volumes and the movement of shipping containers and parcels. The seizure numbers clearly demonstrate a continuance in the illegal wildlife trade during the pandemic.







Regional cooperation

Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and regional cooperation mechanisms are pivotal to collective efforts to combat wildlife crime. A WEN is a regional mechanism that fosters coordination between national law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime more effectively. The principal goals of a WEN are to:



Build cooperation between jurisdictions and between agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement

Promote inter-regional information/intelligence sharing

Facilitate standardized regional approaches

Share experience, skills, and information

Support capacity building efforts in the region

Support and encourage coordinated efforts and participation of Member States in operations

In 2020, the Global Programme and ICCWC partners actively supported Member States in South America to start defining and setting up the necessary structure to make the South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN) operational. SudWEN was first established in September 2014 through the Sao Paulo Declaration, with the aim of increasing counter wildlife trafficking efforts in the region. Despite existing transboundary cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking, SudWEN did not formally operationalize after its establishment.

Throughout 2020, UNODC engaged with key countries to galvanize support for SudWEN, and worked closely with designated country focal points from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, from Prosecutor's Offices, National Police, Customs and CITES Management Authorities, to establish a platform to support initial activities of the network in preparation of a first regional SudWEN meeting. This meeting was initially scheduled to take place in 2020 but had to be postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of ICCWC, the Global Programme has commenced collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to support the operationalization of the Horn of Africa Wildlife law Enforcement Network (HAWEN) in order to enhance regional cooperation in the fight against wildlife crime in the region. An initial webinar was convened, assembling representatives from Ministries, wildlife authorities, and civil society from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The webinar provided an overview of the main results of the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020, with a focus on species involved and trafficking trends in the Horn of Africa.

Other recent efforts by UNODC to promote cooperation include the following:

- In February 2020, the Global Programme held a workshop for investigators and prosecutors working with wildlife management authorities in nine Eastern African countries, to enhance information exchange and strengthen mutual legal assistance on wildlife crime cases in the region.
- The Third Informal Law Enforcement Network on Minerals Related Crime was held in November 2020, organized by the Global Programme in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and WCO. The virtual event served as an opportunity to further build relationships amongst relevant stakeholders in the sector and provided a platform to discuss law enforcement challenges and concrete cases related to illegal mining and minerals trafficking. The network meeting was attended by 140 participants.
- The Global Programme co-hosted the 5th Annual African Wildlife Forensics Network meeting, which was held virtually from 12 15 October 2020. More than 60 forensics practitioners from 15 African countries came together to discuss best practices in wildlife crime scene investigation and laboratory analysis. The Global Programme co-organized the event, facilitated sessions and delivered presentations on various tools and on-going initiatives. One of UNODC's Forensic Project Officers shared valuable lessons learned in establishing the West Africa Forensic Network. The final day of the workshop was open to external stakeholders, which enabled more than 120 participants to learn about wildlife forensics and the work undertaken by the Network.









F. ACCELERATING **GLOBAL MOMENTUM:** Raising awareness and sharing knowledge

Sustaining all life on Earth

In its resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, the UN General Assembly urges Member States to engage actively in efforts to raise awareness about the problems and risks associated with the supply of and demand for illegal wildlife products. In 2020, the Global Programme enhanced its advocacy efforts to raise global awareness on wildlife crime, including through innovative partnerships.

Social media campaign

On World Wildlife Day 2020, the Global Programme launched a new social crime.

Webinars

On 23 June 2020, the Global Programme held a webinar on law enforcement

America and the Caribbean to organize a webinar to raise awareness about the importance of addressing wildlife, forest and fisheries crimes in Latin America. The event aimed to galvanize support among countries in the region and the international community to prioritize the issue. Mr. Salazar Volkmann, Director of the UN Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) opened the event, highlighting the need to address environmental crime as part of broader development plans and in the post COVID-19 recovery context. The webinar took place on 6 October 2020 and was attended by over 1,000 participants from 25 countries.

media campaign to raise awareness of wildlife crime and UNODC's response. In 2020, the campaign resulted in 183.6 million views on the global Hashtag #EndWildlifeCrime as well as 2.5 million views of wildlife crime content on UNODC HQ social media channels. Throughout 2020, 560 posts and tweets were shared, and 17 videos were produced to raise awareness about wildlife

Adapting to pandemic realities, the Global Programme convened and participated in numerous webinars over the course of the year. The virtual format allowed the events to reach a large international audience, which contributed to raising awareness on the issue. Examples include the following



The Global Programme collaborated with UNODC's Regional Office for Central

Education: Engaging with academics and students

Development of university modules on wildlife crime

Under the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, the Global Programme engages with academia to produce teaching material for its University Module Series on Wildlife Crime. The E4J Module Series on Wildlife Crime is designed to assist academics in teaching classes on those topics in person and virtually; the Series is now available in English, Spanish and Chinese. As a response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Programme released an Annex to the existing modules focusing on the illegal wildlife trade in the context of zoonotic diseases. Furthermore, the Global Programme produced a podcast as part of the E4J Global Podcast Series, focusing on how the illegal wildlife trade may have facilitated the outbreak of COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases.

The Global Programme continued developing teaching modules for university lecturers to complement the existing modules on illicit wildlife markets, international frameworks and criminal justice responses to wildlife trafficking. In 2020, two new modules - on the exploitation of wild flora, and on sustainable livelihoods and community involvement in preventing and combating wildlife, forest and fisheries crime - were under development, and will become available in early 2021. Virtual Validation Workshops were held in 2020 to peer-review both modules.

The Global Programme convened several webinars related to the role of education in combating wildlife crime. For example, during the E4J Global Dialogue Series that took place in December 2020, the Global Programme hosted a side event on community-centred responses to wildlife crime, during which the soon-to-be-published module on sustainable livelihoods and community involvement served as a basis for an interactive online class.

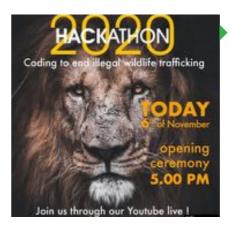
Model United Nations

The Global Programme regularly contributes to Model United Nations (MUN) events. In 2020, MUN Impact organized a virtual debate on wildlife crime, at which the Global Programme was able to raise awareness among high school students about the issues of wildlife crime and UNODC's response.

Zoohackathon

In November 2020, the Global Programme participated in the virtual 'European Hackathon: Tech To Protect Wildlife', organized by the Free Spirit Foundation, the U.S. Embassy in Paris and the U.S. Department of State. The objective of the event was to create awareness and to bring together university students, software professionals and wildlife enthusiasts to find innovative solutions to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking. The Global Programme presented trends and challenges in combating wildlife trafficking and outlined effective responses at the opening of the event, and mentored students throughout the weekend. Over the course of 48 hours, 29 teams from all over Europe worked on pre-identified problem statements, some of which had a regional focus





WILDLIFE CRIME





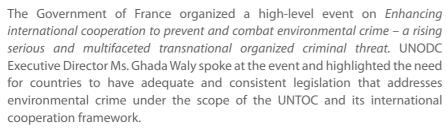
while others were of a global nature. During the competition, teams worked on designing and programming solutions to their chosen challenge. At the end of the competition, teams presented their ideas to the panel of expert judges via video. The top ten ideas were shortlisted before the final winner was announced by the jury. First place was awarded to *Team Bonobros* who created *Animalies*, a tech solution to keep animals safe by combining expert knowledge and machine learning in tracking data anomalies.



UNTOC COP side events and resolution

During the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC (UNTOC COP), Parties adopted a resolution on *Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the UNTOC*. The resolution details practical actions for Member States and the international community. It requests UNODC to provide technical assistance and capacity-building for Member States and to further expand coordination as well as cooperation with relevant organizations, including through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

On the margins of the UNTOC COP, there were a number of events addressing wildlife crime and crimes that affect the environment.



The Global Programme co-hosted a virtual side event with the Research and Trend Analysis Branch entitled *Wildlife Crime in the Spotlight: Recent trends and policy implications.* An overview of the main findings of the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 was presented as well as the implications of these findings for policy makers and the global response. UNODC's approach to prevent corruption risks was explained, and activities to strengthen financial investigative capacity to address wildlife crime were highlighted.

The Global Programme also co-hosted a virtual side event with the Wildlife Justice Commission entitled *The soft underbelly of organized crime,* which attracted 240 participants. Panel members discussed how the cross-cutting nature of wildlife crime can present multiple entry points for law enforcement engaged against organized crime and highlighted the issue of crime convergence.

The Government of the United States of America hosted a virtual side event addressing *Wildlife Trafficking, Wildlife Wet Markets, and COVID-19* and the Born Free Foundation organized a virtual event on *Filling the gaps in international wildlife law - a wildlife crime protocol under the UNTOC.*



Criminality and unlawful activities related to the fisheries sector are threatening not only the health of our oceans but also increasingly having a negative impact on the economies of coastal countries. Developing countries account for approximately 54% (by value) and 60% (by quantity) of fisheries-based exports worldwide and are therefore particularly impacted by illegal activities¹². Illegal activities extend beyond Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and include corruption and a variety of economic crimes. These illegal activities undermine global efforts to responsibly manage fisheries resources and the collection of revenue into state budgets. Such illegal activities also have an impact on the livelihoods of more than 10 percent of the global population who depend on the fisheries sector¹³.

The pandemic has affected all aspects of fish supply chains around the globe: significant and complex impacts on the demand and prices for fish products have been the result of public health responses to contain the spread of COVID-19. During 2020, fish export markets collapsed, fresh fish markets closed, demand for fresh products decreased, and consumers were hard to reach. These results brought with them the hope that, as a side-effect, fish stocks would recover from the tremendous pressure they faced in previous years. Evidence obtained from open source to date, however, shows that the pandemic slowed neither IUU nor crimes in the fisheries sector. To the contrary, it appears that loopholes in governmental monitoring and surveillance systems continue to be exploited. The economic challenges deriving from the pandemic and its impact on key sectors such as tourism, put additional pressure on the coastal communities in developing countries whose livelihoods are dependent on fishing activities.

Impact of COVID-19 on the global momentum to tackle crimes in the fisheries sector and ocean related issues

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the global momentum to address IUU fishing and crimes in the fisheries sector was impacted, through the postponement of major conferences on ocean-related issues that had been planned for 2020. Examples include the UN Ocean Conference (initially planned for June 2020 in Lisbon), the Our Ocean Conference (initially planned for August 2020 in Palau) and the Blue Justice Conference (initially planned for April 2020 in Copenhagen). These events were to have been important platforms to discuss ocean related issues, including crimes in the fisheries sector. These and other similar events were conducted in a virtual/blended format or were postponed to 2021.

On the other hand, alternative means to help keep the momentum on these important issues were harnessed, in particular through the organization of webinars on the topic. The Global Programme hosted and participated in numerous webinars on the issue of crime in the fisheries sector throughout 2020, such as those on fisheries and corruption organized by the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and the International Anti-corruption Academy, and a webinar hosted by UNODC as part of the Blue Justice Webinar series. The issue of crimes in the fisheries sector was







 ¹² FAO. 2020. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action. Rome.https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9229e
 ¹³ FAO. 2020. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action. Rome.https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9229e

highlighted in webinars hosted by the Global Programme on wildlife crime more broadly, such as during a webinar on wildlife crime in Latin America. The virtual format of the webinars allowed a larger audience to be involved in these events, which contributed to raising awareness on the issue.

Activities under the FishNET Project

In 2020, the Global Programme continued the implementation of the FishNET Project in partnership with the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme and with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development cooperation. The project supports developing countries to "effectively prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate fisheries crime".

The project has four intended outcomes:



- 1. Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to address fisheries crime
- 2. Enhance criminal justice and law enforcement response to fisheries crime
- 3. Enhance law enforcement capacity to detect and inspect fisheries crime in containers
- 4. Raise international awareness on the serious nature of organized fisheries crime

From October 2019 to February 2020, an independent mid-term evaluation of the project was conducted for accountability and learning purposes. The results of the evaluation were summarized in a report and shared with key stakeholders of the project. The evaluation found that FishNET remains relevant to global priorities stemming from UN General Assembly and CCPCJ resolutions as well as several Sustainable Development Goals, and has been efficiently implemented, with less timely implementation of some activities due to limited awareness by beneficiary countries and lack of conceptual clarity on the subject of crimes in the fisheries sector. The main recommendations of the evaluation include a) strengthening of internal UNODC coordination on substance matter and promotion of a joint UNODC approach on crimes in the fisheries sector, b) continuation of strengthening of partnerships with international organizations and relevant bodies and c) introduction of long-term planning for all outcomes and supporting of the institutionalization of results to strengthen sustainability.

To follow up on the recommendations of the evaluation, the Global Programme initiated a strategic consultation with all UNODC programmes that address elements related to crimes in the fisheries sector, with the aim of working on a joint internal document to summarize the UNODC approach to this issue, and provide an overview of UNODC's menu of services in this area.

During 2020, the Global Programme continued its coordination with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has the mandate to address IUU fishing. The two organizations held a coordination meeting in February 2020. Other coordination meetings have taken place with key partners in the area of crimes in the fisheries sector, such as the Blue Justice Initiative, INTERPOL, the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) and the FiTI.

In 2020, the main activities on crime in the fisheries sector included:

Corruption Risk Assessments and Development of Mitigation Strategies

The Global Programme, in close partnership with the UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, continued the implementation of a corruption risk assessment and development of mitigation strategies in selected countries. This work is based on the *Rotten Fish: A Guide on Addressing Corruption in the Fisheries Sector.* Due to the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 these processes continued remotely, through consultations with national counterparts, preparation of background materials and conduction of virtual meetings in both Myanmar and Senegal.



Upon request from the Government of Ecuador, the Global Programme supported the development of draft regulations complementing the new law on fisheries, which was adopted by the country's Parliament in February 2020. The proposed draft regulations were delivered to the Government of Ecuador in October 2020.



Blue Justice Conference

On 10-11 December 2020, UNODC co-hosted the Blue Justice Conference with the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, UNDP, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group. The virtual conference focused on *Fostering Cooperation towards a Fair Blue Economy Free from Fisheries Crime*, and was broadcasted from virtual studios in Oslo, Copenhagen and Vienna. A number of high-level speakers addressed the conference: video remarks of the UNODC Executive Director, Ms. Ghada Waly, and the Minister for Production, Foreign Investment and Fisheries of Ecuador, Mr. Iván Ontaneda, were presented through the Vienna studio.

As part of the Blue Justice Conference, the Global Programme co-hosted a webinar, *Tackling Fisheries Crime: UNODC Field Stories.* The webinar described UNODC's approach on crime in the fisheries sector and provided technical assistance examples from three UNODC Global Programmes: the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, the Global Maritime Crime Programme and the Container Control Programme.



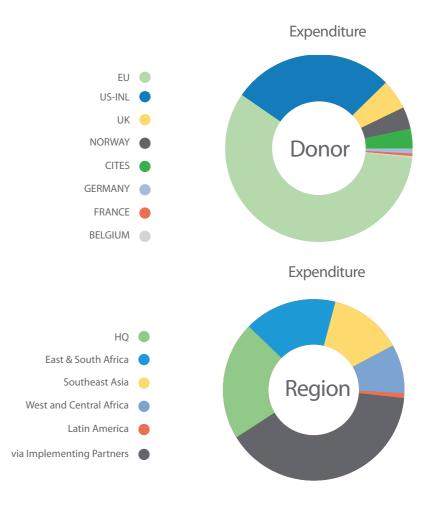




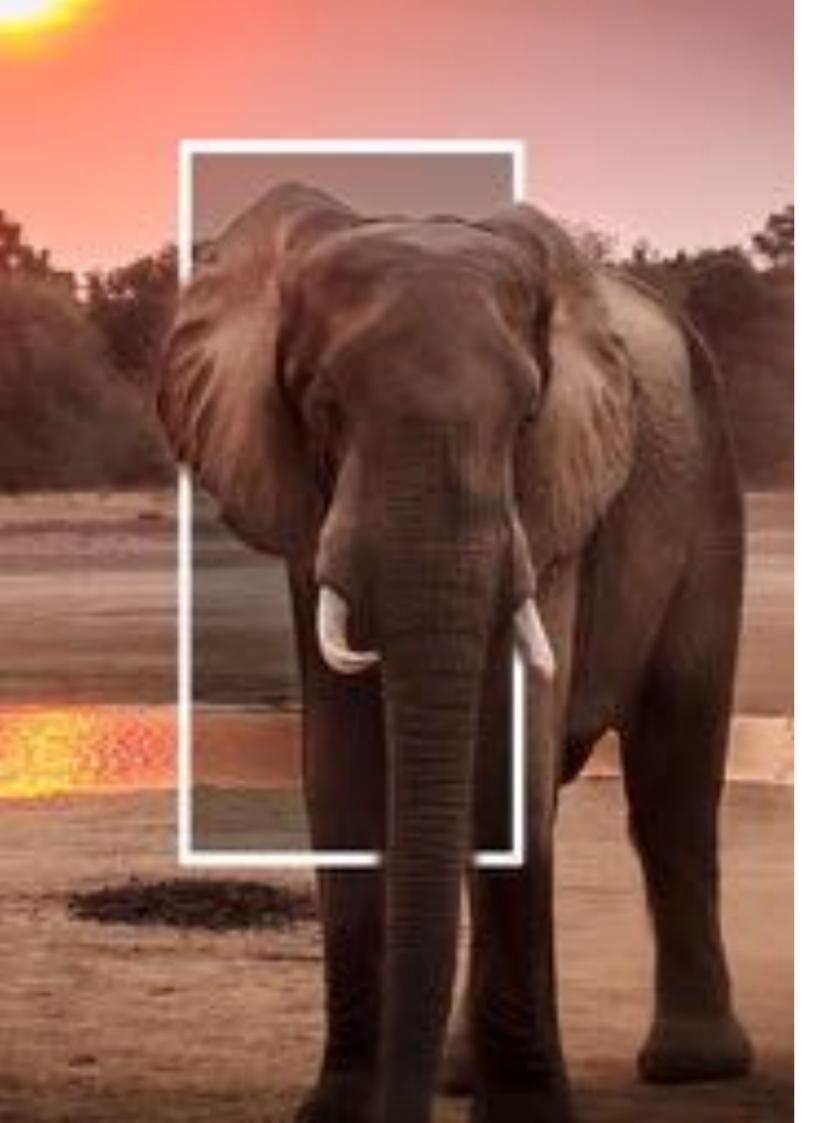
5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

In 2020, the Global Programme disbursed a total of USD 8.64 million towards the implementation of its activities in the areas of work described in Section 4 of this Report.

While part of this annual expenditure corresponds to activities that have a global focus, much of the Global Programme's activities are implemented in the field. In 2020, field activities focused on four macro regions: Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Latin America, and South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific. While the Global Programme works with many partners, there are three specialized technical assistance implementing partners who directly contribute to the implementation of grants entrusted to UNODC: the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora; and TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network.







6. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

Many world leaders, climate and biodiversity experts had expected 2020 to be a so-called 'super year' for nature and biodiversity. Major global events were going to spotlight climate and biodiversity and reinforce the importance of addressing nature at the core of the sustainable development agenda. With the COVID-19 pandemic unfolding rapidly and unexpectedly, the global events that were scheduled were cancelled and postponed.

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to continue to restrict movements and impact the work of the Global Programme in 2021. The Global Programme will continue to deliver its comprehensive programme of technical assistance and capacity building to support Member States to tackle wildlife crime, both in person on the ground and remotely when in-person support is not possible.

While 2020 provided many challenges and opportunities, it also brought to light new ways of working that will be carried into 2021. The Global Programme will continue to harness and deploy innovative approaches to continue to support Member States in preventing and addressing wildlife crime.

In 2021, the Global Programme will strengthen and expand its response to tackle forest crime. The theme of World Wildlife Day 2021 will be 'Forests and livelihoods: sustaining people and planet,' to shed light on the communities who rely on forests, and the value of these ecosystems for both wildlife and all of humanity. Covering nearly a third of the plant's land surface, the world depends on forests for survival. Forests are essential for human life, livelihoods and well-being. They provide habitats for animals, prevent soil erosion, offer watershed protection and act as carbon sinks to mitigate climate change. Yet despite their vital role in our daily lives, forests are under significant threat by criminal activities, climate change, biodiversity loss, encroachment and even the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Putting particular emphasis on preventing and addressing forest crime, ICCWC will revise its Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and Indicator Framework to incorporate dedicated sections and questions relevant to forest crime. The Global Programme will engage with timber identification experts to review recent developments and map out gaps and challenges in our collective response. The Global Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch will publish a new corruption prevention tool for the forest sector entitled Rooting out Corruption: a guide on addressing corruption in the forest sector. In Peru, the Criminal Justice Responses to Forest Crime project will continue to support national authorities and disseminate tools developed to combat forest crime with extensive training sessions.



The United Nations will hold the 14th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, postponed from 2020. It will be another important milestone in 2021, as the Congress is the world's largest and most diverse gathering of policy-makers, practitioners, academia, intergovernmental organizations and civil society in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. It will set priorities for the next five years and combating wildlife crime is expected to figure on the agenda. Member States will seek to raise the level of collective ambition and lay more robust foundations to address these problems alongside other forms of serious crime. The Global Programme, in partnership with the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch and the Research and Trends Analysis Branch, will organize a special event, The Nature of Corruption, to highlight the need to address corruption linked to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. Bringing together a collection of influential thinkers, policy-makers and experts to discuss this topic, this event aims to raise awareness and move the needle with regards to prioritizing this issue on the broader Nature agenda of the international community.

In June 2021, the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) focused on corruption will take place in New York. The UNGASS will provide an opportunity to shape the global anti-corruption agenda for the next decade by advancing bold and innovative approaches, leveraging best practices and developing new standards and mechanisms. Further, in December 2021, the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties will take place, and the Global

Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch will organize an event to highlight the connections between wildlife, forest and fisheries crime and corruption.

The Global Programme will support countries with their COVID-19 recovery and efforts to prevent another pandemic. The *Safety across Asia For the global Environment* (SAFE) initiative is expected to be be launched in partnership with FAO, UNEP and other stakeholders. A science-based assessment framework will be developed to identify high risk facilities handling wildlife that pose potential risks for human health, conservation and the rule of law. Governments will be supported to make interventions to reduce such risks.

Regional and inter-regional cooperation will be enhanced through various initiatives. UNODC, together with ICCWC partners, will continue to support the reinvigoration of the Horn of Africa Wildlife law Enforcement Network (HAWEN) and the South America Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN).

The broader issue of environmental crime will be a focus for the Global Programme in 2021. A new project titled *Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy* will be launched under the Regional Programme for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. It will address trafficking in waste between the EU and Southeast Asia by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member State partnerships, in support of ongoing efforts towards a circular economy transition in line with the relevant policy frameworks in the EU and partner countries.

In Latin America, the Global Programme will expand and consolidate its support to Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru by conducting comprehensive national assessments of the preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime to establish a solid evidence base for the design of technical, normative and analytical assistance interventions. In Mexico, the Global Programme will implement a new project to strengthen the capacity of authorities to detect, investigate and prosecute wildlife and forest crimes, and will develop a Forensic Accounting Guide to support parallel financial investigations on wildlife crime.

The Global Programme will launch the *Peace Weavers: Youth peace-builders in the cross-border regions of Cameroon, Chad and Gabon* project in collaboration with UNESCO under the UN Peacebuilding Fund. This project is the first of its kind, as it not only targets 'forgotten' borders but it also involves a component focusing on sustainable livelihoods, aiming to provide youth with economic opportunities to offer them an alternative to engaging in wildlife and forest crime. Selected youth will be provided tools and training to prevent natural resources crime, and to build cross-border partnerships to help foster peace.

The Global Programme will again prepare the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/343 on *Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife*. The report will present information gathered from Member States and UN organizations about their work to



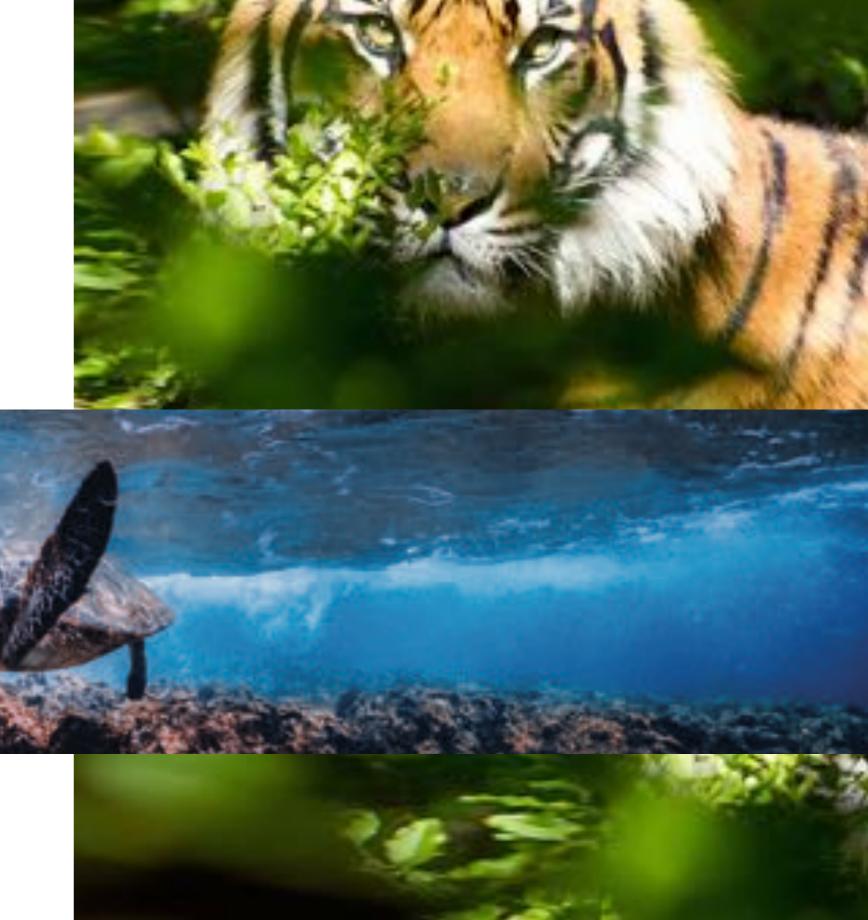


address wildlife trafficking, including how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced wildlife crime and how countries and organizations have adapted to respond. The results will inform the drafting of the next General Assembly resolution on the subject.

The successful partnership between the Global Programme and CEB will continue in 2021, with the joint delivery of technical assistance with a focus on supply chain analysis, corruption risk assessments and development of corruption mitigation plans, and awareness raising. The Global Programme, in close collaboration with the UNODC Organized Crime Branch and FAO, will develop a legislative guide to address crimes in the fisheries sector. It will also continue to strengthen its partnerships with FAO and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, to ensure complementarity of approaches. The Global Programme will also continue to lead internal UNODC coordination on a consolidated UNODC approach onon crimes in the fisheries sector.

Advocacy and awareness raising activities will be strengthened, in particular through the 'Wildlife Wednesday' initiative that will provide informal briefings to the Permanent Missions of Member States. Wildlife Wednesdays will also have corresponding social media stories on the work of the Global Programme and key topics in wildlife crime.

The Global Programme will continue to work to support criminal justice practitioners and national authorities in every aspect of their response to wildlife crime. The team will adapt and remain flexible in the face of changing global circumstances to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of its partners to address wildlife crime.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime 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. 2020 was a challenging year and the flexibility and understanding demonstrated by our partners has enabled us to adapt our work to the current constraints.

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. The Global Programme would also like to thank Mr. Helmut Essl for his generous contribution of Personal Protective Equipment to our beneficiaries in Eastern Africa.

















CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more about what UNODC is doing to support Member States to combat wildlife, forest and fisheries crime, and other environmental crimes please visit:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime/index.html

Follow us on Twitter: @UNODC_WLFC

For inquiries, please send a message to: unodc-wlfc@un. org

CREDITS

The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime acknowledges the contributions of team members from across the world for their efforts to support Member States to prevent and address wildlife, forest and fisheries crime and for their contributions to the stories in this report. Special thanks to Sinead Brophy and Jenna Dawson-Faber for coordinating the drafting of the report, and to Indra Eleonora Espinosa Garcia from the Public Information Unit at the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico for the design of this report.

Wildlife stock pictures: www.pexels.com / freepick.com

