

*ASEAN Regional Forum  
Workshop on Combating  
Wildlife Trafficking*

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# Understanding the Poaching and Trafficking Threat: ASEAN Perspective



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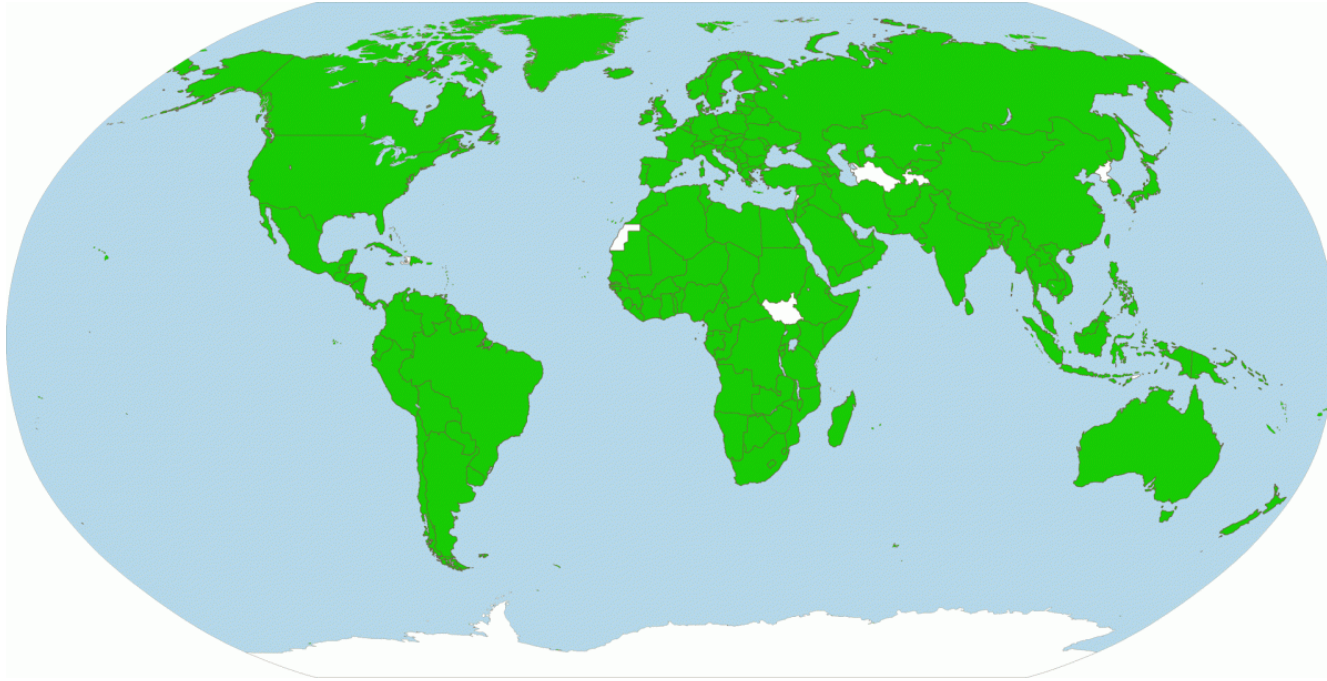
**Chief of Enforcement Support  
CITES Secretariat**



UNEP

# CITES

## What is CITES?



*The **C**onvention on **I**nternational  
**T**rade in **E**ndangered **S**pecies of  
**W**ild **F**auna and **F**lora*





# Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

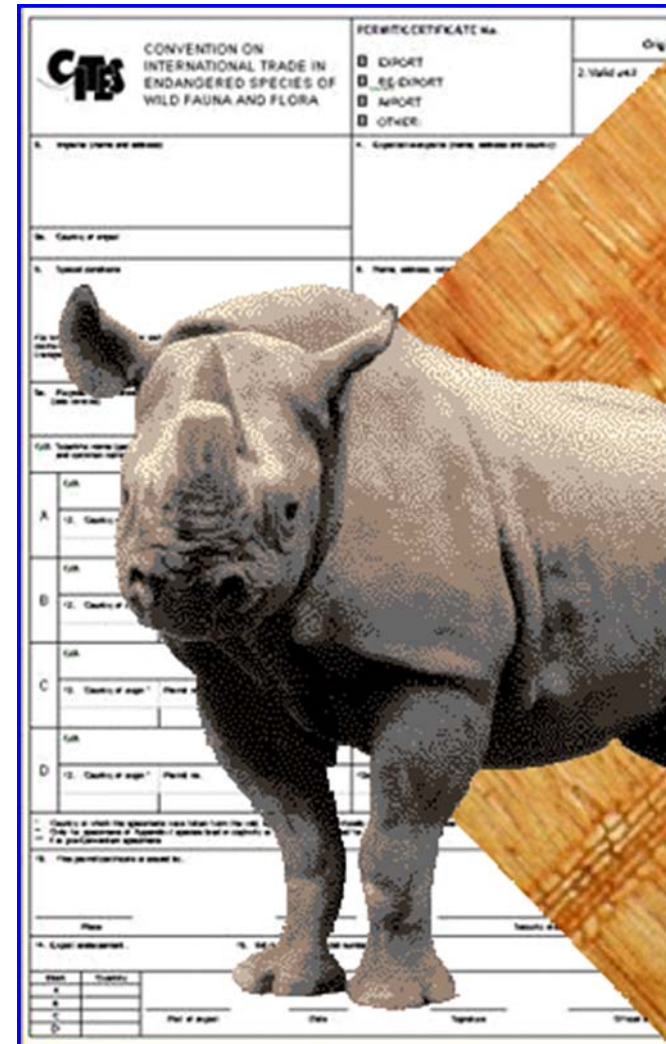


- Multilateral Environmental Agreement
- Adopted in Washington, D.C. on 3 March 1973
- Currently 180 Parties
- 35,000 listed species of animals and plants.



# CITES

CITES establishes an international legal framework together with common procedural mechanisms for the strictest control of international commercial trade in species threatened with extinction, and for an effective regulation of international trade in others.

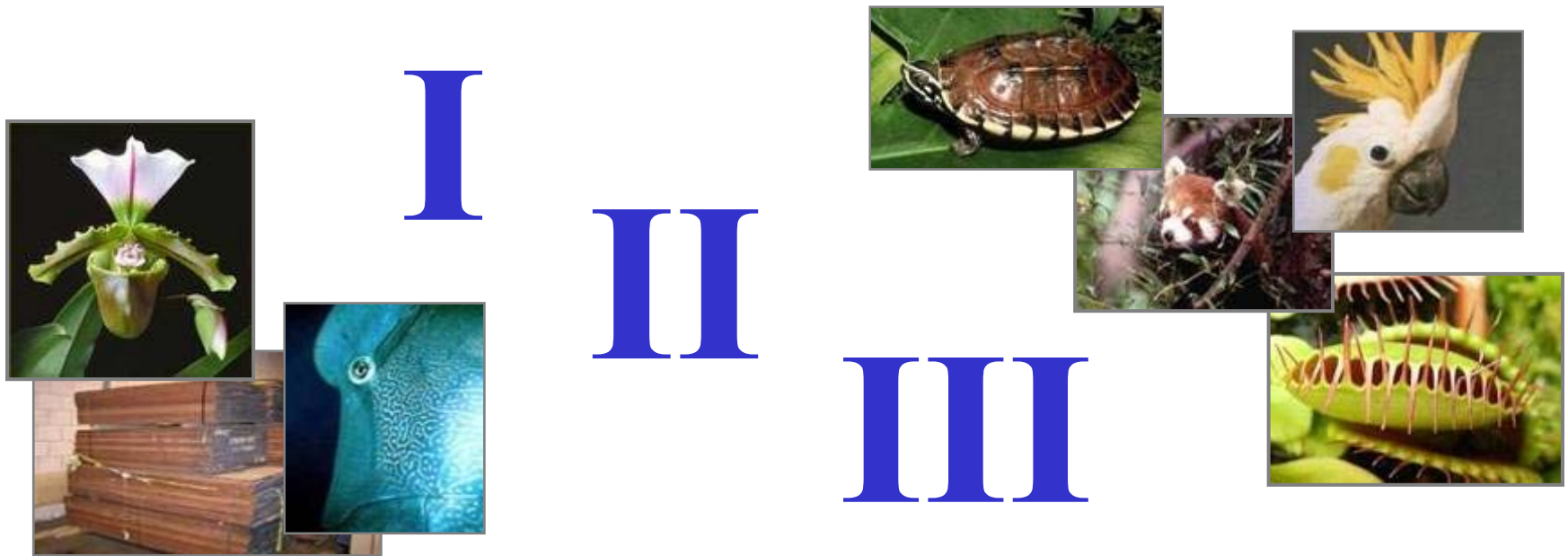


The image shows a CITES permit certificate form for a rhinoceros. The form is titled "CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA" and includes the CITES logo. It contains several sections for information such as "Species (Latin and vernacular)", "Country of origin", "Number of specimens", and "Part of specimen". There are also checkboxes for "Export", "Re-export", "Import", and "Other". A rhinoceros is overlaid on the right side of the form, and a large orange diagonal graphic is on the right side of the image.



# CITES Appendices

The species are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need



*"Species" means any species, subspecies, or geographically separate population thereof*



# CITES Appendices



## Appendix I:

- Species **threatened with extinction**.
- International commercial trade in wild-taken specimens is generally **prohibited**
- 3% of all CITES-listed species

## Appendix II:

- Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for which trade **must be controlled** to avoid their becoming so.
- International commercial **trade is allowed** but **regulated**
- 96 % of CITES-listed species

## Appendix III:

- Species for which a **country is asking Parties to help with its protection**.
- International trade is permitted but regulated.





# Framework for regulation of trade

- CITES uses a system of **permits and certificates** to regulate international trade in species which are listed in one of three Appendices.
- An appropriate permit or certificate **must accompany** any CITES listed specimens exported, re-exported or imported.

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No. \_\_\_\_\_

EXPORT  
 RE-EXPORT  
 IMPORT  
 OTHER

Original  
2 Valid until

1. Species name and address

2. Country of export

3. Special conditions

4. Name, address, national identification and country of destination authority

Signature of the applicant

5. Quantity of specimens (including re-exported specimens)

6. Date

7. Country (preparing unit)

8. Total export/imports

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# Enforcement: Convention Text

## *Article VIII*

### **Measures to Be Taken by the Parties**

The Parties shall **take appropriate measures to enforce** the provisions of the present Convention and to prohibit trade in specimens in violation thereof. These shall include measures:

(a) to **penalize trade** in, or possession of, such specimens, or both; and

(b) to provide for the confiscation or return to the State export of such specimens.



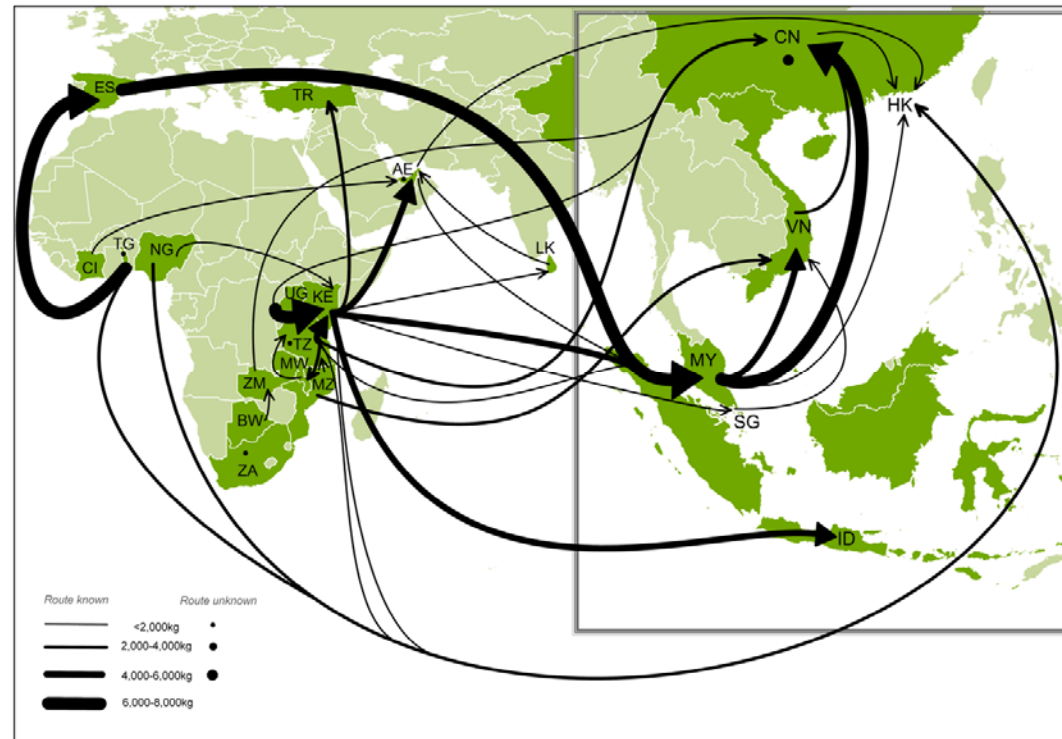


# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- The world has been confronted by illegal wildlife trade for decades.
- The scale and nature of illegal trade in wildlife have changed over recent years.
- Increased involvement of organized crime groups, and on some occasions rebel militia, changed the dynamics of combating wildlife crime.



# Trade routes for large-scale (>500kg) seizures of ivory, 2012 - 2013



- Illegal trade in wildlife is a global threat.
- It equally demands a coordinated global law enforcement response.



# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- It is now well recognized that poaching and illegal trade in wildlife have a significant impact on:
  - entire species and ecosystems,
  - local communities and their livelihood's,
  - national economies, and
  - national and regional security.





# Elephant poaching and ivory smuggling

- Over 25,000 elephants have been poached across Africa in 2011; over 22,000 in 2012; and over 20,000 in 2013.
- In 2011, illegal trade in ivory at its highest level in 16 years.
- Large seizures of hundreds of kilos at a time - an indicator suggesting that organized crime is involved.



# Elephant poaching and ivory smuggling

- Latest figures released by the CITES programme for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE):
  - overall elephant poaching rates at monitored sites remained virtually unchanged in 2014 compared to the previous year.
  - Poaching rates still exceed natural elephant population growth rates, meaning a continued decline in elephant numbers overall is likely.



# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat



- More than 3000 rhinoceroses reported as poached in 11 of the 12 African range States between 2006 and 2013.
- In South Africa alone 1215 rhinoceroses were poached last year.





# Illegal rhino horn trade

- Seizure of horn weighing approximately 21.5kg at Changi Airport in Singapore on 10 January 2014 from Vietnamese national. Investigations revealed that the accused travelled to Mozambique to purchase the rhinoceros horns and bring them back to Viet Nam to sell. To evade checks, the offender allegedly travelled to other African countries before taking a flight from Uganda to Viet Nam via Dubai, Singapore and Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- In December 2014 the Royal Malaysian Custom Department seized 14 rhino horns weighing 22.60 kg, which according to information transited through Kenya and the UAE.



# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

Wildlife crime threatens the survival of some of the world's most charismatic species, as well as many lesser-known species.



# Pangolins

- Illegal trade in pangolin specimens is escalating at an alarming rate.
- Not only affecting Asian pangolin range States, data reflect an increasing number of seizures of illegal consignments of pangolin specimens from Africa.
- April 2013 - Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific of the World Customs Organization reported the discovery of more than 10 tonnes of frozen pangolin on a fishing vessel.
- August 2013 - Seizure of 6200 kg of frozen pangolin that originated from Indonesia, at the Hai Phong port in Viet Nam.





# Asian big cats and pig-nosed turtles

- Asian big cats (SC65 report) - Seizures of live tigers are increasing - 62 in the period 2000-2009, compared to 61 in the period 2010-2012.
- On 12 January 2014, Hong Kong authorities intercepted an illegal shipment of 2711 live and 43 dead CITES Appendix II listed pig-nosed turtles.



# Illegal trade in rosewood

## Madagascar

- More than 4,000 tons of rosewood from Madagascar were seized by authorities in various transit and destination countries in Africa and Asia since November 2013.



## South east Asia

- The illegal logging of rosewood (*D. cochinchinensis*, synonym *D. cambodiana*) and other tree species in south east Asia is of great concern.

## Central America

- Some countries in Central America seriously affected by illegal rosewood trade (particularly *D. retusa* (“cocobolo”) and *D. stevensonii*).



# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

Only a few statistics and examples, but they provide an indication of the scale of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife specimens that face law enforcement authorities around the world.





# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- Large profits are made by criminal groups involved in wildlife crime.
- Well known that rhino horn is currently considered to be more valuable than gold.
- Significant rise in the price paid for other specimens in recent years, e.g. ivory and pangolin.





# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- Illegal trade in wildlife is a serious crime.
- Crucial that all States recognize it as such.
- Through investigations into the activities of those involved in illegal trade in wildlife is a must.
- Crucial for these investigations to translate into successful prosecutions and strong deterrent penalties.



# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- No one country, region or agency can combat illegal trade in wildlife alone.
- To address the threats posed by illegal trade in wildlife, we must further enhance our collaboration and collective efforts across range, transit and destination States, and across entire enforcement chains.





# Wildlife crime: A serious and global threat

- National enforcement agencies must continue to enhance their collaborative efforts.
- Deploy the same techniques against illegal trade in wildlife, as those used against other domestic and transnational organized crimes, such as the trafficking of narcotics, humans or arms.



# Commitments under CITES as the principal legal instrument to combat wildlife crime <sup>26</sup>

- CITES widely recognized as principal legal instrument to combat wildlife crime.
- CITES Parties took powerful decisions at CoP16, to combat wildlife crime.
- SC65 focused on targeted actions to strengthen enforcement and conservation.

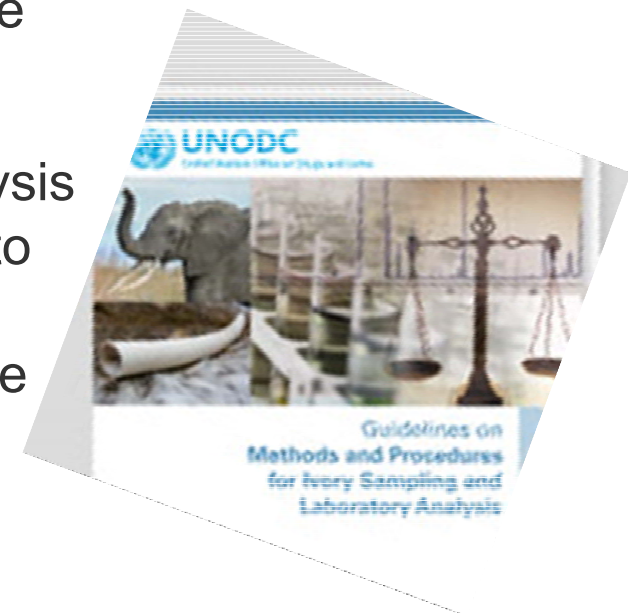


# CoP16 Decisions on elephants

## *Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens*

16.83 Parties involved in large scale ivory seizures (i.e. 500 kg or more) should

- collect samples from the ivory seized within 90 days of the seizure;
- if possible, from all large seizures from the past 24 months.
- They should submit the samples for analysis to appropriate forensic-analysis facilities to determine the origin of the ivory samples, with the aim of addressing the entire crime chain.



# CoP16 Decisions on rhinoceroses

**Decision 16.84** All Parties should:

- a) immediately bring every seizure of illegal rhinoceros specimens made within their territories to the attention of authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination, as applicable, and to the attention of the Secretariat.
- c) iii) prosecute members of organized crime groups implicated in rhinoceros related crimes under a combination of relevant legislation which carry appropriate penalties that will act as effective deterrents, whenever possible.





# CITES decisions and recommendations

- Strategic and operational decisions and recommendations on enforcement matters adopted at CITES CoP16 and SC65 provide a strong basis for Parties to take concrete action to put an end to the current high levels of illegal wildlife trade.



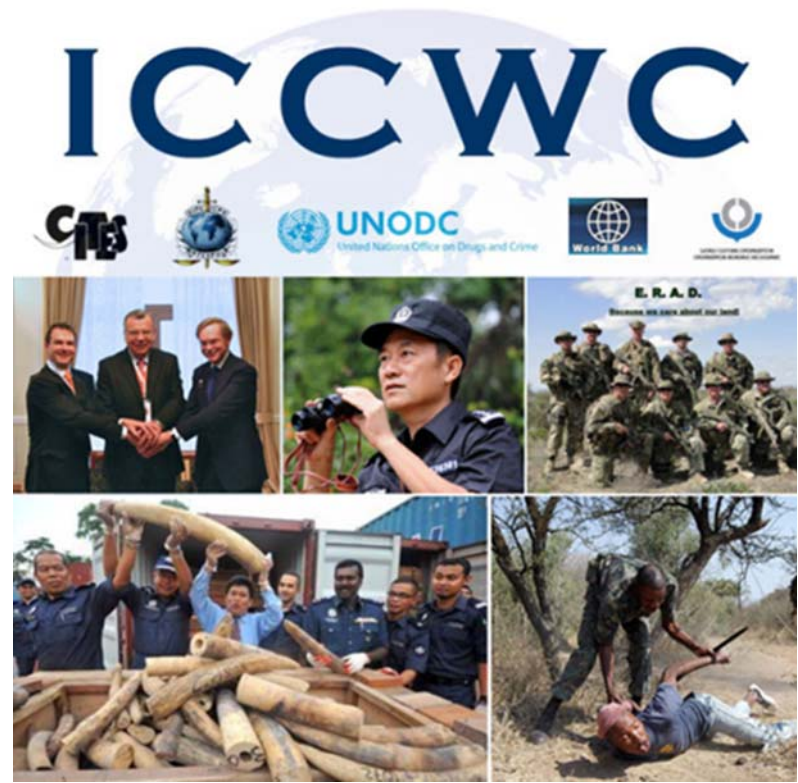
# Commitments under CITES as the principal legal instrument to combat wildlife crime <sup>30</sup>

- The full implementation of CITES decisions and recommendations is crucial, for them to be effective.
- Broad overall implementation is needed.
- All national law enforcement agencies must be fully aware of these decisions and recommendations.
- Of great importance that Parties meet their commitments under CITES.



# International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) - coordinated action to combat wildlife crime

- The extent of the response required is beyond the sole remit of environment or wildlife law enforcement agencies, or of one country or region alone.
- The establishment of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) recognize the need for increased coordination and cooperation and mark a significant development in this regard.



# What is ICCWC?

- Collaborative effort by CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, World Bank, and WCO to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that act in defense of natural resources.

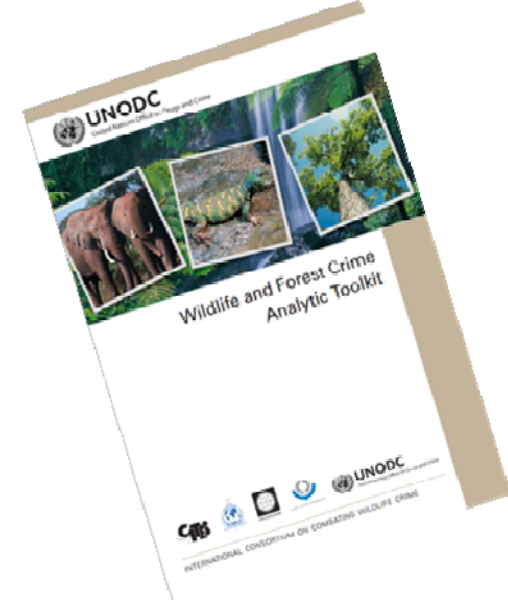
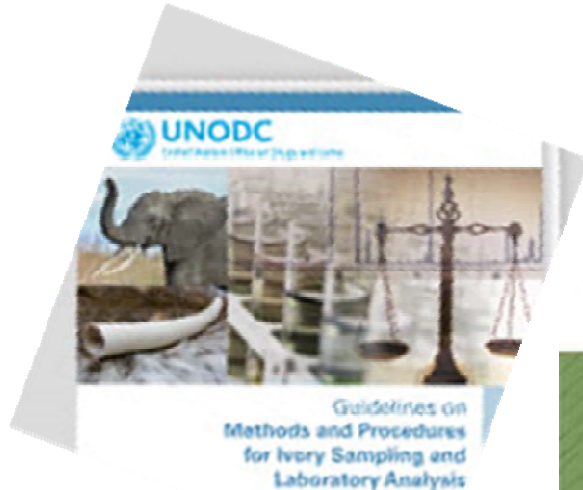


**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime





# ICCWC activities



# Conclusion

- The change in the scale and nature of wildlife crime has not gone unnoticed, and recent high level political attention has focused on the importance of recognizing wildlife crime as a serious organized crime, that accordingly demands a determined and coordinated response.
- A lot has already been done, but further enhanced efforts is needed and there is a lot of urgent work that still needs to be done.
- Increased international cooperation and a well-coordinated law enforcement response, following a multi-disciplinary approach across range, transit and destination countries will be required to put an end to the illegal activities of organized crime groups involved in wildlife crime.
- It is only by persisting in efforts, and by continuing to work together to combat wildlife and forest crime, that we can put an end to the destruction of the world's natural heritage.



# Thank you

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