



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Combating
Wildlife
and Forest
Crime

**Annual Report
2019**

Global
Programme for
Combating Wildlife
and Forest Crime



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	5
FOREWORD	6
1. OUR WORK	8
A. Our mandate	8
B. What we do & how we work	9
C. Why we do it	11
D. Who we work with	14
E. Where we work	15
2. LOOKING BACK: WHAT HAPPENED IN 2019	16
3. THE CHALLENGES AND OUR RESPONSE	19
A. Understanding the context: assessing national responses to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime	20
B. Using the law to prevent and deter: strengthening national legal frameworks	22
C. Going beyond seizures: strengthening national capacities for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of wildlife and forest crime	23
D. Addressing corruption: strengthening national capacities to mitigate corruption risks linked to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime	28
E. Joining forces across borders: strengthening international and regional cooperation	30
F. Accelerating global momentum: raising awareness and sharing knowledge	33
G. Adopting an innovative approach to address fisheries crime	36
4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE	39
5. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020	42
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	44
Further information	46
Credits	46





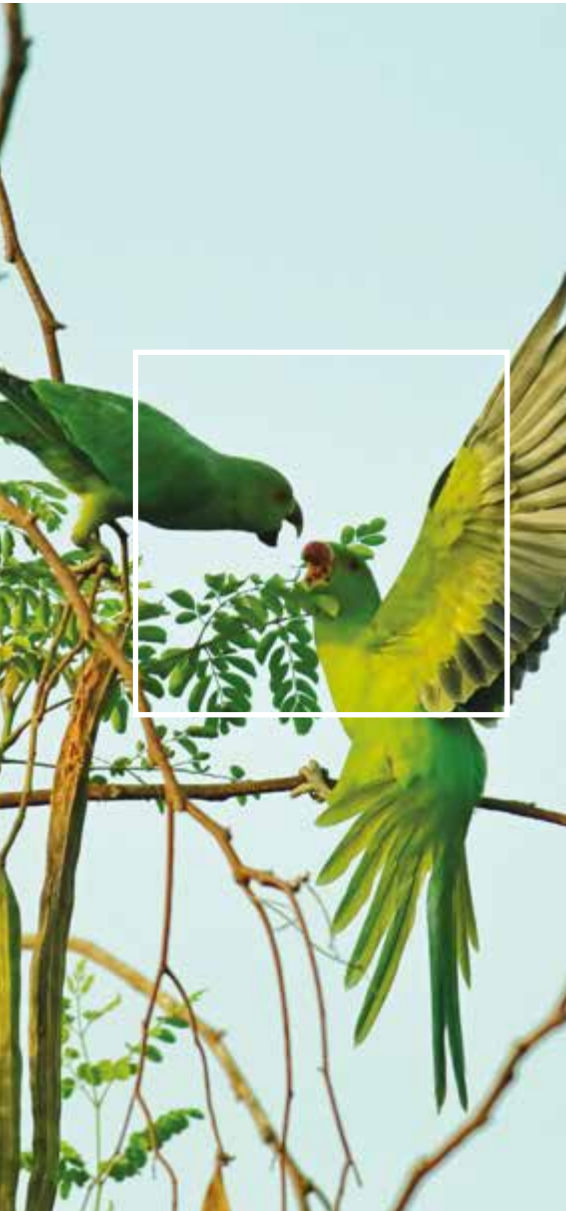
“Wildlife crime is a lucrative form of transnational organized crime that threatens biodiversity and endangered species, impacts security and sustainable development.”

Yury Fedotov,
18 September 2019

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
ECOSOC	→	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	→	Food and Agriculture Organization
GPWLFC	→	Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime
ICCWC	→	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IGO	→	Inter-Governmental Organization
INTERPOL	→	International Police Organization
IUU	→	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
NGO	→	Non-Governmental Organization
RRG	→	Rapid Reference Guide for Investigators and Prosecutors
SDG	→	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	→	United Nations
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
WEN	→	Wildlife Enforcement Network
WIRE	→	Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement





I am proud to present the 2019 Annual Report of the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime.

The need to protect our planet's flora and fauna from the predations of transnational organized crime has become a major priority for the international community in the last decade. There is increasing recognition of the dangers that wildlife, forest and fisheries crime pose not only to the environment and to the climate, but to rule of law and stability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the importance of addressing wildlife, forest and fisheries crime and includes targets that specifically relate to these issues.

The UN Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity¹ released in May 2019 found that we are in danger of losing one million species to extinction if we do not step up our actions. We are losing species at a rate of tens to hundreds of times greater than at any other time in recorded human history. The proportion of species threatened with extinction averages around 25 per cent in most animal and plant groups studied. Wildlife, forest, and fisheries crime figures among the many drivers of biodiversity loss.

As we have seen time and again, as with all forms of organized crime and trafficking, criminals exploit gaps in legislation, law enforcement and criminal justice systems. If we want to get serious about combating these crimes, we must collectively work to close these gaps. Source countries must be supported to protect their natural heritage, effectively enforce the law

and prosecute offenders in partnership with transit and destination countries. Corruption - whose role in facilitating the legal and illegal trade in wildlife, forest and fisheries products is now well documented - must be addressed in parallel. All these efforts must be coordinated for optimal strategic effect.

The UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime is working on the ground to help countries achieve exactly this. The Global Programme works closely with more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the South Pacific, providing direct support to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, wildlife, forest and fisheries authorities and other partners to improve national, regional and international criminal justice and preventive responses. The Global Programme has consolidated its continuum of work to focus "from crime scene to court." With this approach, we seek to ensure that wildlife, forest, and fisheries crimes are no longer low-risk, high-profit activities.

The impact UNODC has had on combating wildlife, forest and fisheries crime has been increasing over the last ten years. In many of the countries where the Global Programme is active, the number of investigations into wildlife trafficking has increased, prosecutorial and investigative capacities have been strengthened, and international and regional cooperation has improved.

I hope you will enjoy reading this Report. You will learn how UNODC assists Member States to make their legislation more robust and how we support investigators and prosecutors around the world in building stronger cases. It will shed light not only on the dynamics of these nefarious crimes, but also on the resolve and commitment of UNODC and its partners to confront the criminal syndicates involved. It will most certainly raise questions and might identify ways in which you can contribute to combating organized crime and safeguarding our world's natural heritage.

*Once a species is lost there is no turning back.
With wildlife crime, we all lose - nature, our planet and ourselves.*

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

¹IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

NB: As this Report is launched, the world is experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. UNODC recognizes that encroachment into natural frontiers, deforestation and wildlife trafficking mean that human-wildlife interactions are now occurring at a scale and a proximity that didn't exist before, enabling the pathogens formerly exclusive to wildlife species to jump to humans. Illegally sourced wildlife traded in a clandestine way escapes any sanitary control and exposes human beings to the transmission of new viruses and other pathogens. The existence of parallel wildlife trade markets -illegal alongside legal- makes the enforcement and security measures against wildlife trafficking ever more relevant to prevent a similar crisis in the future. Preventive measures, including combating wildlife crime, are key to reducing the risk of similar crises in the future.

1. OUR WORK

Wildlife, forest, and fisheries crime² is the illegal exploitation of the world's wild flora and fauna. Once an emerging threat, these crimes have become some of the largest transnational organized criminal activities. UNODC has been actively tackling wildlife crime for more than 10 years and created a dedicated Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in 2014.

UNODC has found that criminal groups use the same routes 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 this illegal business are being used to finance other criminal activities. In some cases, the proceeds finance conflict and contribute to instability. These crimes are also closely interlinked with money-laundering and corruption. Wildlife crime threatens the rule of law, good governance, economic development, and the health and livelihoods of billions of people. Its impact on biodiversity and climate change is only now being recognized.

A. OUR MANDATE

The often-transnational nature of wildlife crime makes these criminal activities highly relevant to the mandates of UNODC, notably in its role as Secretariat to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). UNODC has an important role to play in terms of strengthening the capacity of governments to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate wildlife crime, complementing other international legal frameworks such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted four resolutions on trafficking in wildlife since 2015.³ This demonstrates a continuing and strengthened commitment of the international community to address this issue. UNODC's Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime is mandated to support Member States to end illicit trafficking in wild fauna and flora. General Assembly resolution 73/343, adopted in September 2019, urges Member States to take decisive steps at national, regional, and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate illegal trade in wildlife, on the supply, transit, and demand sides. Resolution 28/3 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May 2019 reiterates the Global Programme's role in this matter and emphasizes the importance of work on technical assistance and capacity building.

²For the remainder of this Report the term "wildlife crime" will be used to refer to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime unless otherwise stated.

³A/RES/69/314, A/RES/70/301, A/RES/71/326 and A/RES/73/343



B. WHAT WE DO & HOW WE WORK

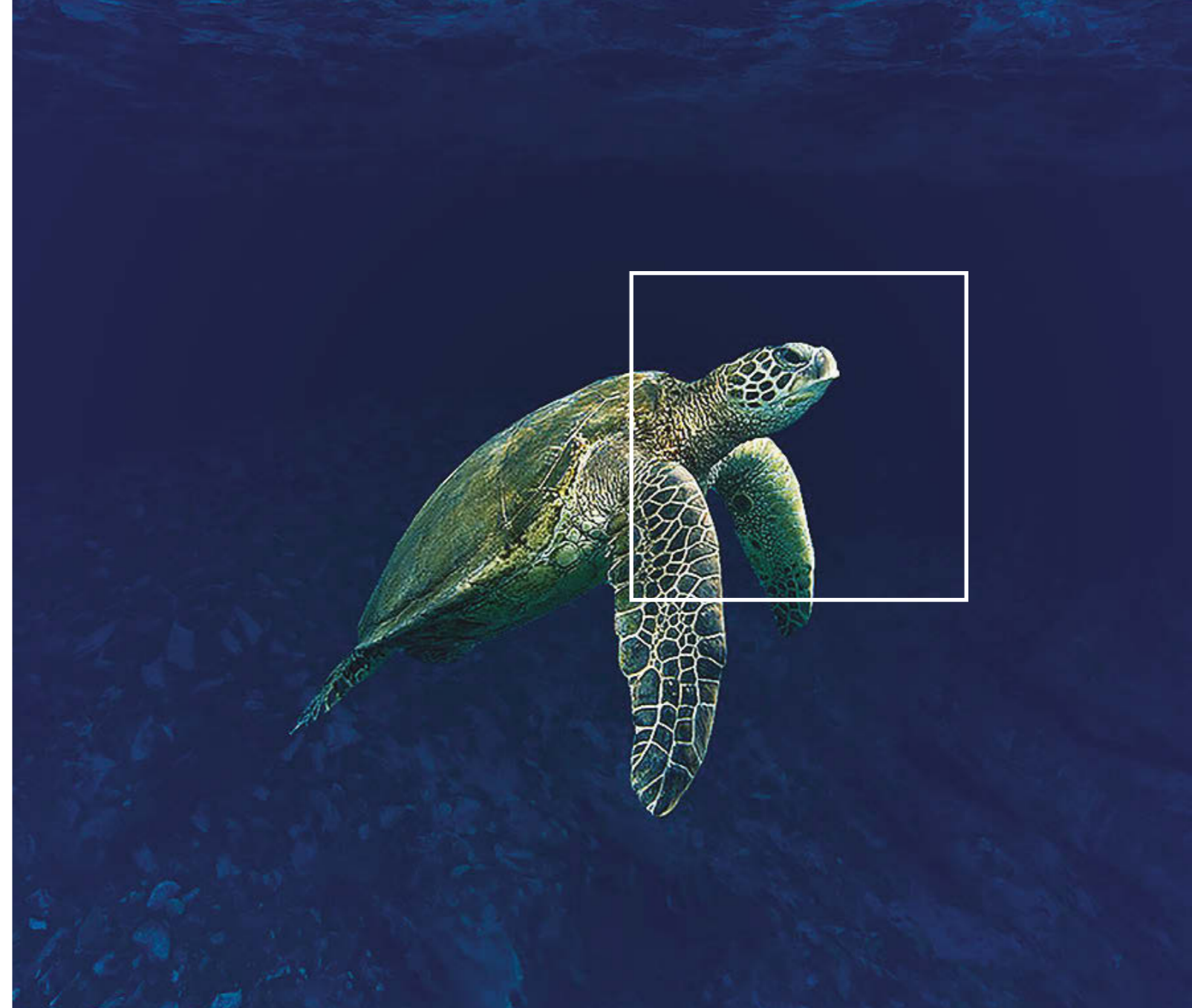
UNODC's tackles wildlife crime with a crime scene to court approach, supporting Member States to more effectively prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate wildlife crime. UNODC provides assistance along the entire criminal justice chain, in addition to supporting Member States to strengthen their preventive responses. UNODC's technical assistance on these issues is coordinated and delivered by the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime 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 instance, the Global Programme has built an important partnership with UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch to help Member States prevent corruption and investigate 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 supports them in their efforts to better respond to wildlife crime. Much of the core training material is based on manuals and tools developed by national authorities themselves, with UNODC's support. UNODC strives to empower counterparts and create sustainability by fostering a strong sense of national ownership through our work.



The six thematic areas of the Global Programme are:

- 1 Assessing national responses to wildlife crime**
On behalf of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), the Global Programme helps Member States assess their preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime through established methodologies such as the ICWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and the ICWC Indicator Framework.
- 2 Strengthening national legal frameworks**
The Global Programme provides legal assistance to Member States to adopt, strengthen and review national legislation with a view to effectively addressing wildlife crime.
- 3 Strengthening national capacities for the 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.
- 4 Strengthening national capacities to address corruption linked to wildlife crime**
As the custodian of UNCAC, UNODC has been instrumental 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.
- 5 Strengthening international and regional 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 cross border cooperation and intelligence sharing, and by supporting the establishment of regional and international networks of practitioners.
- 6 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 products, as well as through advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising events.



C. WHY WE DO IT



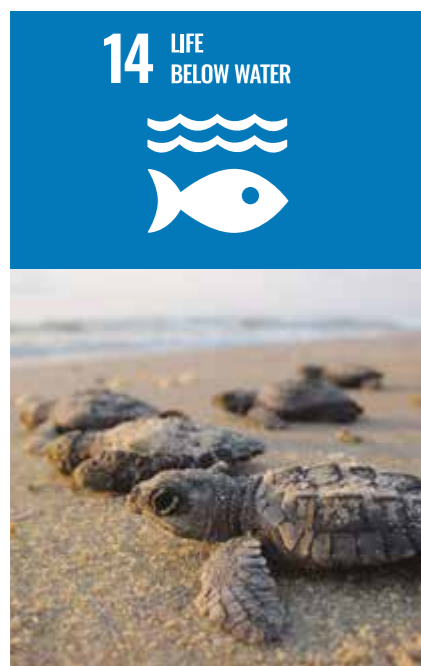
Wildlife crime is serious transnational organized crime and as such, is UNODC's mandate to address. The Global Programme aims to better equip countries to tackle organized crime and corruption linked to wildlife trafficking, to foster peace, justice, and security internationally. With far-reaching impacts for the economy, security, the environment, and human health, UNODC's efforts to address wildlife crime contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A strong rule of law and criminal justice response (SDG 16) must underpin a comprehensive approach to achieving climate action, protecting life below water and on land (SDGs 13, 14, 15). By supporting the implementation of UNTOC and UNCAC, the Global Programme is building the necessary awareness and capacity for States to respond to the interlinked challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, crime, and insecurity.





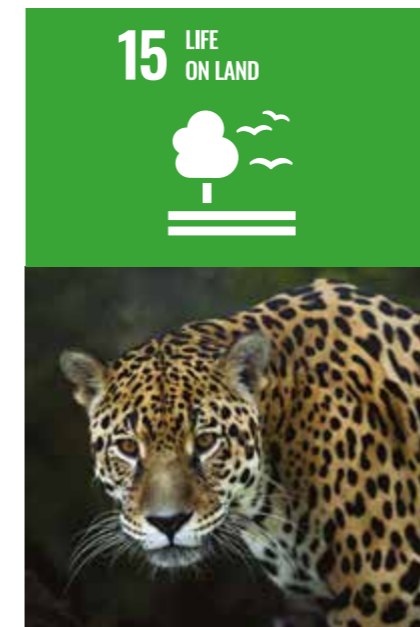
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

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 are several documented cases in which IUU fishing has converged 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 are transnational in nature and serious enough to qualify as transitional 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 species.⁴ In recent resolutions, the UN Security Council has expressed grave concern about the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including of timber and wildlife, by armed groups and criminal networks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.⁵ UNODC's Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime 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 of crime.

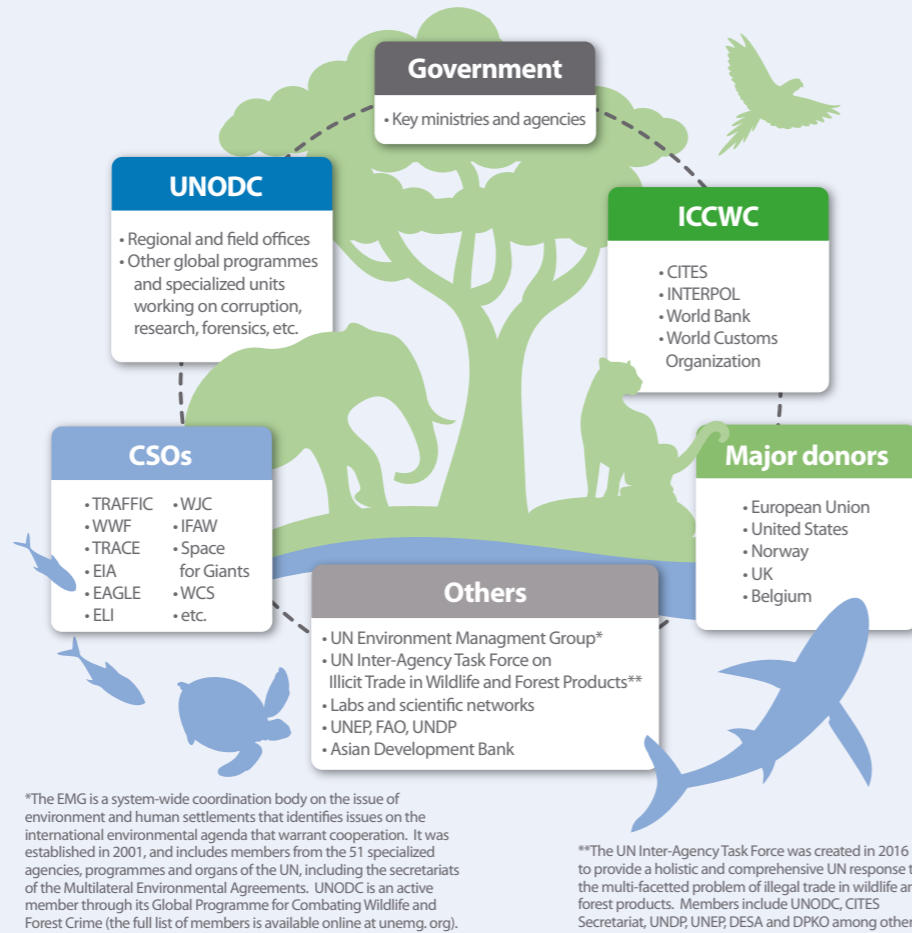
Corruption is one of the main facilitators of wildlife crime as it enables criminals to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes. The regulatory frameworks and controls governing wildlife sectors are highly vulnerable to corruption and economic crime. Significant financial, environmental, 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 economic crimes.

⁴ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/343>

⁵ UN Security Council resolution 2463 (2019) on DRC and UN Security Council resolution 2399 (2018) on CAR.

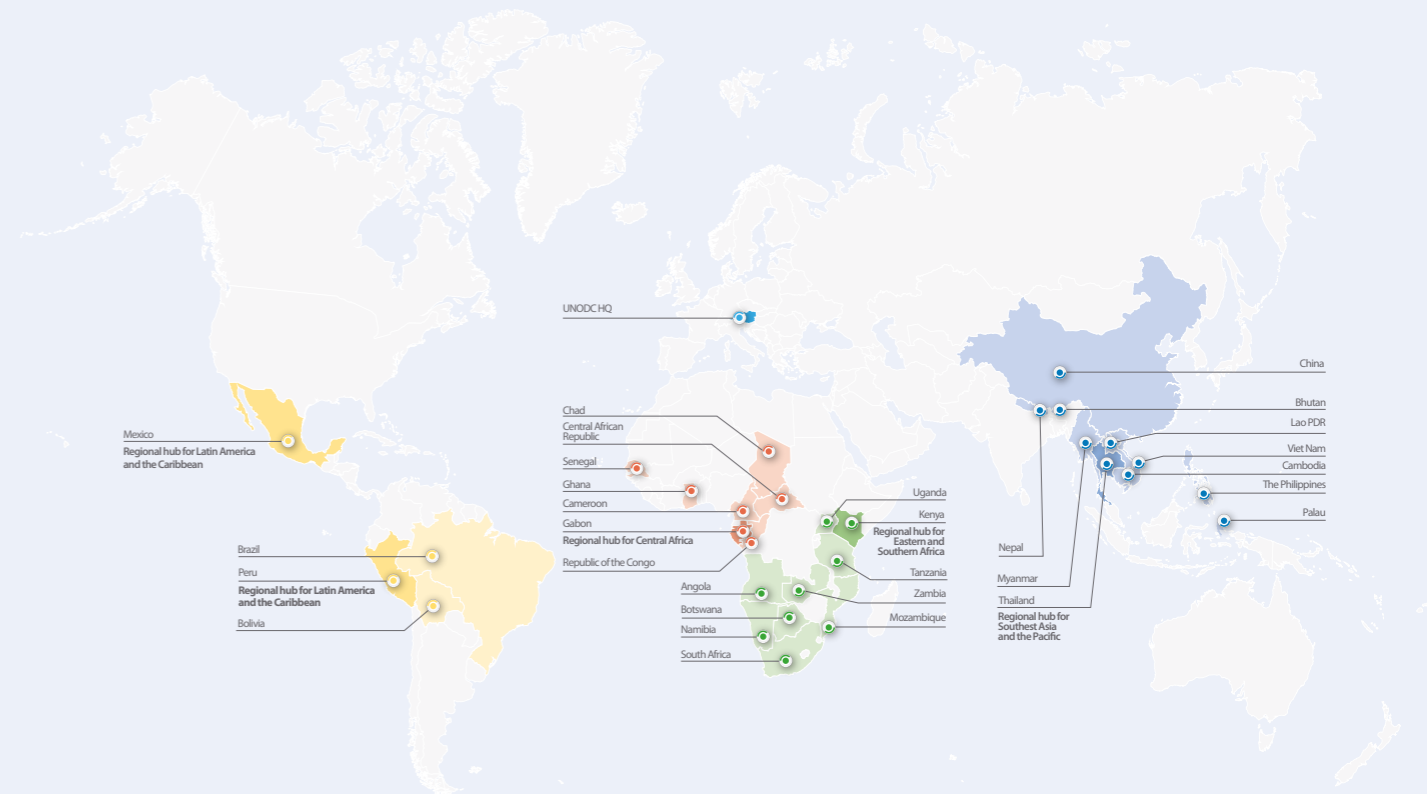
D. WHO WE WORK WITH

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. UNODC is a founding partner of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) (see section 3. A. for further information on ICWC). Additionally, UNODC cooperates with other relevant agencies and regional organizations with the objective of ensuring synergy, leveraging expertise and better utilizing resources.



E. WHERE WE WORK

Wildlife crime is a global crime and, as such, requires a global response. While the Global Programme operates from a total of 12 offices worldwide, our team members provide technical assistance and support to both their primary regions and frequently to interregional initiatives.



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

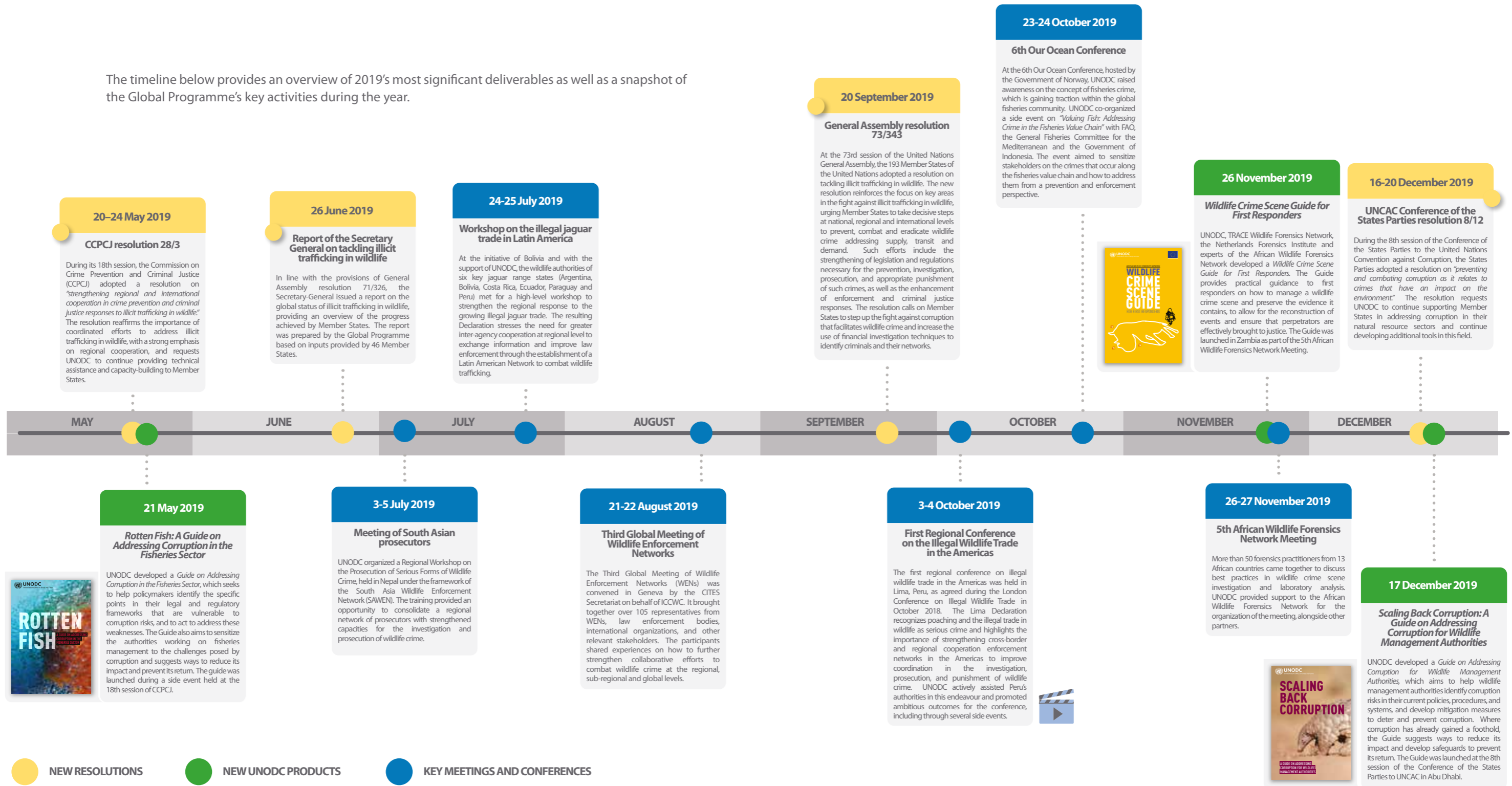
In 2019, the Global Programme provided technical assistance to more than 30 countries, including by conducting assessments and carrying out training workshops, amongst other activities. The table includes countries where the Global Programme provided assistance at national level; countries that sent participants to regional meetings and trainings have not been included.

Eastern and Southern Africa	Central and Western Africa	South, South East Asia and the Pacific	Latin America
Angola Botswana Kenya Mozambique Namibia South Africa Tanzania Uganda Zambia	Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Gabon Ghana Republic of the Congo Senegal	Bhutan Cambodia China Lao PDR Myanmar Nepal Palau Thailand The Philippines Viet Nam	Bolivia Brazil Ecuador Mexico Peru



2. LOOKING BACK: WHAT HAPPENED IN 2019

The timeline below provides an overview of 2019's most significant deliverables as well as a snapshot of the Global Programme's key activities during the year.





3. THE CHALLENGES AND OUR RESPONSE

Seizures are a key element in the combat against all forms of international trafficking and are often regarded by governments as a top 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, concealment techniques and modus operandi used by criminals to smuggle products.

In 2019, there were a record number of seizures of illegal wildlife, forest, and fisheries products, as illustrated in the box below.

Seizures of large quantities of illegal wildlife, forest and fisheries products in 2019:

In March 2019, **9.1 tons of ivory** was seized in Viet Nam.

In April 2019, **25.6 tons of pangolin scales** were seized in Singapore.

In June 2019, **250 kgs of rhino horns** were seized in China.

In October 2019, **12.3 million dried seahorses** were seized by Peruvian authorities.

Seizures, however, are only one element of a successful criminal justice response to organized crime. Alone, they do not stem the poaching, the harvesting and the fishing of wild fauna and flora. When law enforcement authorities stop at seizures, they miss significant opportunities to investigate the criminal networks behind the illegal trafficking. For criminal syndicates to be disrupted and dismantled, seizures need to be followed by criminal investigations, prosecutions, and deterrent sentences.

Strong and effective responses to wildlife crime require addressing all the links in the chain in a comprehensive and coordinated way, as illustrated in the figure. Authorities need to ensure that those tasked with prevention, those who draft and implement legislation, those who plan and carry out seizures, and those who investigate offences or prosecute offenders all work together towards achieving a common objective.

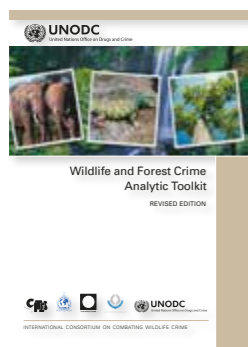


The Global Programme supports Member States to strengthen their responses to wildlife crime “from crime scene to court,” from the interdiction stage all the way to the adjudication stage.

The following pages provide a non-exhaustive overview of the Global Programme’s achievements for 2019 in these areas of work. Although this Report covers all areas of work, only selected activities implemented by the Global Programme in 2019 are mentioned below.



A. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT: Assessing national responses to wildlife and forest crime

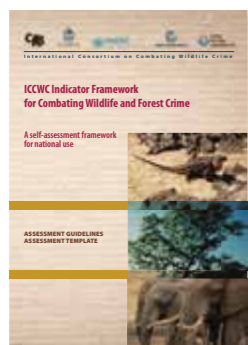


One of the main activities of the Global Programme is to provide support to Member States to assess their criminal justice and preventive responses to wildlife crime, in line with UN General Assembly and CCPCJ-ECOSOC resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife.

This technical assistance is provided through the implementation of the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and the *Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime* of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). The implementation of these tools allows countries to identify their strengths, weaknesses, gaps and key areas to prioritize in order to better address these crimes. The results 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.

In 2019, the Global Programme completed national assessments utilizing the Toolkit in three countries: Lao PDR, Namibia, and Uganda. In addition, the final report of the Toolkit assessment in the Republic of Congo was officially presented to the authorities in October 2019.

The Global Programme also implemented the Indicator Framework in six countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Lao PDR, Namibia, the Philippines, and Thailand. In Thailand and the Philippines, fruitful partnerships were initiated to implement these tools with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), respectively.



About ICCWC

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is a partnership between five inter-governmental organizations working to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional, and international level. The Consortium is comprised of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The Consortium was established in 2010 on the margins of the International Tiger Forum, held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Through the combined experience, technical capacity, communication channels and field networks of the five organizations, ICCWC is uniquely placed to develop integrated programmes to combat wildlife crime. Together, the five partners provide a coordinated response, spanning all stages of the criminal justice chain, from prevention to deterrence.

Since its creation, the Consortium has focused on providing support to governments to better understand the complexity of wildlife crime and develop frameworks to identify the main gaps in their national responses. ICCWC developed the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* in 2012, which provides countries with guidelines on how to undertake a comprehensive assessment of

their preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime. 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 use of the Toolkit enables countries to identify avenues for a more effective response to wildlife crime and paves the way for the development of more robust strategies.

In addition, the Consortium developed the *Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime*, 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 ICCWC 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.

UNODC leads on the implementation of the Toolkit and Indicator Framework on behalf of ICCWC, in close coordination with requesting governments and ICCWC partner organizations.

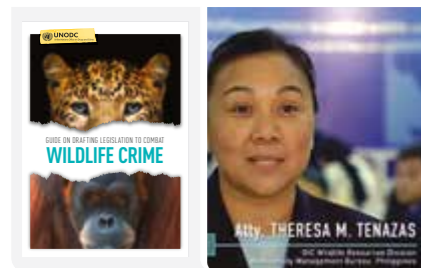
In 2019 the GPWLFC completed:

3 comprehensive national assessments to help countries effectively address wildlife crime.

6 rapid assessments, thereby establishing data collection and analysis systems in 6 countries.



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



Legislative Guide

In 2019, the Global Programme rolled out the *UNODC Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime*, which was launched in October 2018 in the framework of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC. The Guide 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 Guide was used as the basis for a regional workshop organized by the Global Programme in December 2019 in Hanoi, Viet Nam with legislative experts and prosecutors from nine ASEAN countries. Participants engaged in peer-to-peer exchange and shared lessons learned to identify gaps and weaknesses in their national legislations. The meeting resulted in an improved understanding of the need to strengthen legislation on wildlife crime.

Support to Ecuador on fisheries legislation

In 2019, the Global Programme provided legal assistance to the Government of Ecuador for the development of draft regulations complementing the law on fisheries (adopted by the country's Parliament in February 2020) to address the issue of transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector. The assistance is ongoing and is expected to be finalized in 2020.

In 2019 the GPWLFC provided:

Support for the development of **3 new pieces of legislation.**



Support to Bhutan and the Philippines for the review of their wildlife and forest laws

In Bhutan, UNODC provided legal assistance to the Government for the review of the country's Forest and Nature Conservation Bill. As a result of this action, the Government of Bhutan may be able to formally amend the legislation. A draft bill was sent to Parliament and is expected to be discussed in mid-2020.

In the Philippines, UNODC 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 is being finalized and is expected to be submitted to Congress early in 2020.

C. GOING BEYOND SEIZURES: Strengthening national capacities for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of wildlife crime

While UNODC provides assistance and expertise throughout the criminal justice chain, a significant pillar of the Global Programme focuses on building effective criminal justice systems capable of investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating wildlife crime.

In 2019, the specialized trainings delivered by the Global Programme at the national, regional, and global levels reached more than 1,600 criminal justice practitioners. The Global Programme also provided concrete support and mentoring to national authorities for the investigation of 13 criminal cases.

In 2019 the GPWLFC completed:

Trained **1,629 criminal justice professionals**, strengthening their knowledge on combating wildlife crime

Supported the investigation of **13 criminal cases**



Vietnam Wildlife Forensics Training
Picture: Piotr Zarowski



Capacity building activities for criminal justice practitioners

In 2019, the Global Programme trained more than 1,600 criminal justice practitioners. Such trainings aimed to promote good practices and lessons learned to enhance capacities for the enforcement of national legislation; to carry out investigations and prosecutions in a strategic way; and to better cooperate with other jurisdictions, amongst other goals.

The Global Programme also organized workshops to train investigators and prosecutors on 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 Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, prosecutors were trained to improve their courtroom advocacy skills through mock trials and other innovative methodologies.

Rapid Reference Guides (RRGs) for investigators and prosecutors

In 2019, the Global Programme supported several countries in developing practical guides for investigators and prosecutors of wildlife crime. 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, amongst other objectives. The RRGs also foment 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 tools are designed to improve the quality of investigations and prosecutions linked to wildlife crime and related offences. They provide a consistent and methodological approach to investigation and prosecution, all the 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. The RRGs are often incorporated in standard procedures applicable to investigators and prosecutors. Sustainability and national ownership are integrated into the tool, leading to wider levels of compliance.



In 2019, the Global Programme developed new RRGs in three countries:

An RRG for investigators and prosecutors of wildlife crime was developed in Namibia (to be launched early in 2020).

The development of an RRG for investigators and prosecutors of forest crime was initiated in Peru.

An updated third edition of the RRG for investigators and prosecutors of wildlife, forest and fisheries crime was developed in Kenya. This new edition now includes a chapter on marine and fisheries crime.

Thus far, the Global Programme has now supported seven countries to develop RRGs, including Botswana, Mozambique, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania in addition to the above.

Throughout the year, approximately 120 investigators and prosecutors from three 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 2020 in several countries. Training on the use of RRGs is meant to be continuous as investigators and prosecutors in national service rotate.

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, 2017, 2019).

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

For example, in 2019, the Global Programme supported the work of inter-agency platforms in several countries of South East Asia. The Global Programme has been providing advisory support to the authorities of these countries to assess, at regular intervals, the effectiveness of the countries’ response, review investigation and prosecution strategies and discuss the use of special investigative techniques. The “Wildlife law enforcement and judiciary advisory programme” provides tailored assistance to police investigators, prosecutors, and judges (the format varies depending on the country) who meet regularly with UNODC advisors to discuss ongoing cases. As a result of this programme, police in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand have arrested several wildlife traffickers. Similar support has been provided to the authorities of China and Viet Nam on an ad hoc basis.

In 2019, the Global Programme supported these countries in investigating a total of 13 cases, of which three have been effectively prosecuted so far.

Training on wildlife crime scene management organized in Kenya by UNODC from 13–22 January 2019, in partnership with Space for Giants and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).



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 that have been illegally taken or trafficked often need to be identified, while forensic evidence may also be required to establish the presence and actions of a suspect at the crime scene.

In 2019, the Global Programme, working with TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network, trained law enforcement officials in the field of forensics and crime scene management in China, Gabon, Kenya, Lao PDR and Mozambique, amongst other countries. These highly specialized trainings focused on cyber forensics, ivory sampling, DNA extraction and interpretation, and court testimonies of crime scene personnel, amongst other areas. In Kenya, the trainings were based on a manual developed by the Kenya Wildlife Service.



In November 2019, the Global Programme co-organized the 5th African Wildlife Forensics Network meeting in Livingstone, Zambia. More than 50 forensics practitioners from 13 countries came together to discuss best practices in wildlife crime scene investigation and laboratory science. The *Wildlife Crime Scene Guide for First Responders* was launched on this occasion, the product of successful collaboration between experts of the African Wildlife Forensics Network, the Netherlands Forensics Institute, TRACE and UNODC.



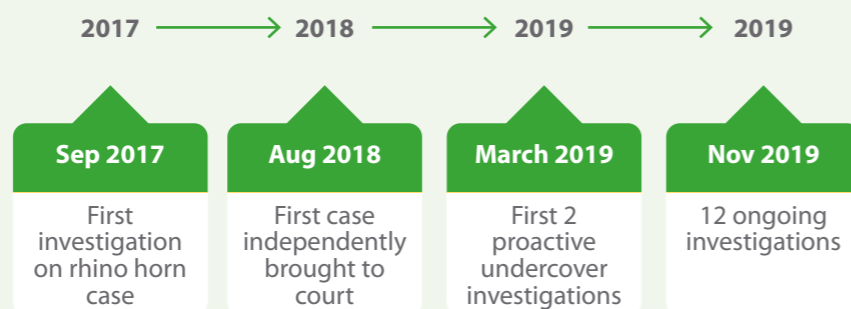
Success story: the black leopard case in Thailand

In March 2019, a court in Thailand issued a verdict against a group of four people responsible for the killing of an endangered species of leopard (commonly known as Asian black leopard) in a Thai protected area. The case attracted significant attention in Thailand as Premchai Karnasuta, a well-known businessman from the construction industry, figured among the defendants. This was one of the first wildlife cases in which forensic evidence was presented in court to corroborate the charges made by the prosecution.⁶ Realizing that wildlife forensic experts are rarely trained nor experienced in providing evidence in court, the Global Programme organized a training seminar for wildlife forensic experts in collaboration with TRACE and TRAFFIC. One of the Thai participants attending the course was called to testify as the key expert in the black leopard case. As a result of the strong forensic evidence presented, the court sentenced all defendants to imprisonment, including the construction magnate. The sentence was increased by the Appeal Court in December 2019.

Dr. Kanita Ouithavon – Chief of Thailand’s wildlife forensic laboratory – claimed that the training course helped her understand which points the defence lawyers would refute in order to undermine the evidence that she presented. As a result of the training, she felt more prepared and confident in providing her statement, and she hopes that more courses will be provided for the rest of her staff and other forensic lab personnel in other countries.

Did You Know?

Between 2017 and 2019, the use of digital forensics, DNA forensics and special investigative techniques in relation to wildlife crime cases has significantly increased in Lao PDR, in part thanks to UNODC’s support.



⁶<https://www.nationthailand.com/national/30365913>



Financial investigations

In its latest resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife (A/RES/73/343), the UN General Assembly called upon Member States to integrate the investigation of financial crimes into wildlife crime investigations and increase the use of financial investigation techniques and public-private collaboration to identify criminals and their networks.

As per this mandate, UNODC engaged with 10 jurisdictions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in 2019 to raise awareness on the need to address financial crimes linked to wildlife crime. UNODC supported four jurisdictions in identifying cases for which financial investigations could be pursued. Through this technical assistance, capacities are built to reconstruct financial records, trace assets and financial flows with a view to identifying key actors in criminal syndicates and their corrupt facilitators.

In 2019 UNODC also supported two countries (Botswana and Namibia) in establishing frameworks for cooperation between law enforcement and private sector financial entities to enhance financial investigations linked to wildlife crime.

In addition to the field work, UNODC has been working to improve the global understanding of financial patterns underpinning wildlife crime. In 2019, UNODC carried out research on the most common financial and payment typologies used by traffickers, with a view to helping investigators better target their efforts in the future.

Laos Controlled Delivery Training
Picture: Piotr Zarovski



D. ADDRESSING CORRUPTION: Strengthening national capacities to mitigate corruption risks linked to wildlife crime

Corruption is one of the principal enablers of wildlife crime. It can be 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 tackle the corruption that enables these crimes.

UN General Assembly resolutions adopted in 2015, 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 by strengthening the capacity to investigate and prosecute such corruption.

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.

Resource guides

UNODC has developed a series of tools on addressing and preventing corruption in the wildlife sectors. Two resource guides were launched in 2019:

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

These new guides aim to help wildlife and fisheries management authorities identify corruption risks in their current policies, procedures, and systems and in the different stages of the wildlife and fisheries supply chains, with due regard to the specificities of each sector. The guides promote a step-by-step approach which is ultimately intended to lead to the development of mitigation strategies to deter and prevent corruption. A third guide in the series, on addressing corruption in the forestry sector, is currently being developed and will be launched in 2020.



Corruption Risk Assessments

In 2019, corruption risk assessments in the wildlife sector were undertaken in Bolivia, Botswana, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. In parallel, fisheries-specific assessments based on the *Rotten Fish Guide* were carried out in Mexico, Namibia and Senegal.

Further to these assessments, mitigation strategies were developed in Botswana, Kenya, Palau, and the United Republic of Tanzania. In 2019, UNODC provided mentoring to Kenya, Botswana, and the United Republic of Tanzania to support the implementation of these strategies and other relevant measures.

On 9 December 2019, on International Anti-Corruption Day, Kenyan authorities launched a series of important anti-corruption initiatives for the country's wildlife sector. These include a Corruption Prevention Policy and a Code of Conduct, developed in close partnership with UNODC, and the results of a Corruption Perception and Experience Survey, which provided the evidence for the development of the policy. The policy includes measures aimed at improving the prevention, detection, reporting of and response to corruption in areas such as procurement, revenue management, licensing, and human resources within the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The Code of Conduct aims to ensure the commitment of all KWS staff to its core values and to promote an environment based on ethics, honesty, integrity, and compliance.

Corruption Risk Assessment Workshop in Dakar, Senegal.



E. JOINING FORCES ACROSS BORDERS: Strengthening international and regional cooperation

In its resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, the UN General Assembly emphasizes the need to enhance transnational and regional cooperation.

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 reluctant to use official channels for real time cross-border cooperation. In 2019, the Global Programme continued assisting Member States to engage in international cooperation initiatives. The networks established with the support of the Global Programme have encouraged officers to share intelligence, including through informal channels.

International cooperation

The Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) initiative was designed in response to the need for intensified cooperation in the investigation of wildlife offences committed by transnational organized criminal networks. WIRE meetings are led by UNODC and offer specialized platforms for customs, police, and prosecution authorities, with a view to building direct connections between counterparts in Asian and African countries and providing opportunities for the exchange of information and intelligence.

During the WIRE meeting held in Nairobi in November 2018, the customs, police, and prosecution authorities of participating countries decided to further their cooperation to enhance post-seizure investigations, facilitate mutual legal assistance and strengthen capacities for cross-border controlled deliveries. The meeting led to concrete outcomes in 2019, thanks to enhanced cross-border exchanges of intelligence.

In addition to the WIRE initiative, the Global Programme promoted international

cooperation in several fora in 2019. In September 2019, the Global Programme organized a specialized training for investigators and prosecutors of crime along the fisheries value chain. The workshop brought together practitioners from 11 countries of Africa, Asia, and the Indian Ocean region, and followed up on a previous training held in Vienna in September 2018.

As trust grows – in part due to success stories like the ones mentioned above – agencies will progressively strengthen their cooperation and establish more official and swift communication procedures. Meanwhile, the Global Programme encourages countries to actively participate in global wildlife law enforcement operations, share information and pursue follow-up investigations to ensure that the entire criminal chain is addressed and that criminals are effectively prosecuted and convicted.

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 countries and their respective law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime more effectively. The main goals of a WEN are to:

- Build cooperation between jurisdictions and between agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement
- Facilitate standardized regional approaches
- Share experience, skills, and information
- Exchange intelligence and risk data
- Support capacity building efforts in the region



Success story: WIRE-related seizures

• **In December 2018, Cambodia's Customs authority seized 3.2 tonnes of ivory** due to the exchange of information with counterparts in Mozambique as well as enhanced risk profiling efforts that were implemented as a result of a previous WIRE meeting (2017). This is the largest ivory seizure performed to date by Cambodia's General Department of Customs and Excise. The post-seizure investigation continued in 2019.

• **In May 2019, Viet Nam Customs seized 5.2 tonnes of pangolin scales in a shipment of cashew nuts**, based on intelligence provided by China during the WIRE meeting held in November 2018. Viet Nam and Nigeria are currently working together on a post-seizure investigation aiming to dismantle the networks behind these crimes.

• **In October 2019, South African authorities arrested a passenger in Johannesburg airport with 16 kgs of rhino horn.** At the same time, another South African passenger flying from Johannesburg to Hong Kong SAR was suspected of carrying additional rhino horns. The South African police officer who attended the WIRE meeting informally communicated this intelligence to their Hong Kong SAR counterpart. A search was conducted upon the suspect's arrival in Hong Kong SAR and an additional 16 kgs of rhino horn were seized in her luggage, with an estimated market value of USD 3.2 million. The suspect was arrested, and an investigation is ongoing.



- Support and encourage coordinated efforts and participation of member states in operations

In 2019, the Global Programme and ICCWC partners actively supported the work of regional cooperation mechanisms in South East Asia and South Asia. The Global Programme also worked to establish and/or reinvigorate WENs in South America and in the Caribbean. As part of these efforts, the Global Programme provided technical support to Bolivia for the organization of the Workshop on the Illegal Jaguar Trade in Latin America (July 2019) and to Peru for the organization of the Lima Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Americas (October 2019). The Declaration adopted at the Lima Conference highlights the importance of regional cooperation in the fight against wildlife crime in the Americas and calls for the strengthening of existing cross-border and regional cooperation enforcement networks.

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

- In June 2019, the Global Programme held a workshop on cross-border cooperation with law enforcement authorities of China and Viet Nam. The training included practical exercises and simulations designed to enhance the capacities of the two neighbouring countries to work together, communicate and coordinate a real time, joint criminal investigation.
- In the area of fisheries crime, UNODC organized several trainings to promote regional cooperation and increase awareness on crimes in the fisheries value chain. Such trainings included the ‘Second Workshop for Investigators and Prosecutors on Crimes in the Fisheries Value Chain’ in Nairobi, Kenya, and the ‘Sub-Regional Workshop on addressing Crime linked to the Fisheries Sector in the Micronesian Region’.
- The Global Programme also delivered training modules on fisheries crime at a regional workshop for West African countries organized by FAO (Ghana, October 2019), and a UNODC workshop for investigative journalists in West Africa (Ghana, November 2019).

Lima Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Americas (October 2019).

In 2019, the Global Programme:

Supported **three cross-border investigations.**

Facilitated **13 regional/international meetings** on wildlife crime for relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.



F. ACCELERATING GLOBAL MOMENTUM: Raising awareness and sharing knowledge

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 2019, UNODC enhanced its advocacy efforts to raise global awareness on wildlife crime, including through innovative partnerships.

Development of university modules on wildlife crime

UNODC engaged with the global academic community to promote the inclusion of topics related to wildlife crime in teaching curricula, with a view to creating a better understanding of these phenomena and to promoting further research by students and scholars worldwide.

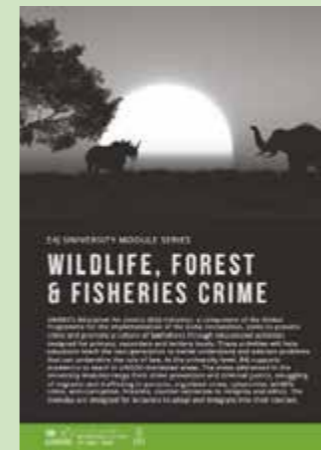
In the framework of the UNODC Education for Justice initiative (E4J)⁷, the Global Programme developed a series of university modules to assist academics teaching on wildlife crime and provide them with resources to introduce these issues to students.

Topics covered in the modules:

Module 1: Illicit Markets for Wildlife, Forest and Fisheries Products

Module 2: International Frameworks for Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Module 3: Criminal Justice Responses to Wildlife Trafficking



The modules are available in English and Spanish for free download on the [E4J website](#). They are designed for academics teaching in the fields of criminology, law, political science, international relations, business, sociology, amongst other disciplines. These modules can be used as stand-alone resources or integrated in existing courses and classroom settings. The contents of the modules were peer-reviewed and validated by an expert group of academics, thereby assuring a high-quality product that is relevant to stakeholders across the globe. To pilot the implementation of the modules and foster ownership by academics from around the world, UNODC convened a workshop with leading academics from Eastern and Southern Africa to adapt the modules to the regional context. These will soon be launched in some academic institutions in the region.

In 2020, UNODC will seek to adapt the modules to the Latin American context and translate them to Portuguese. Furthermore, possibilities of translating the modules into Arabic and Chinese are currently being explored.

⁷ The Education for Justice (E4J) initiative seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through education activities designed for primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The E4J initiative is supported by the State of Qatar.





Sea of Shadows screenings

In September 2019, the Global Programme, together with the UN Environment Programme, organized an exclusive screening of “*Sea of Shadows*”, a riveting and critically-acclaimed National Geographic documentary film produced by Terra Mater Factual Studios and executive producer Leonardo Di Caprio, which follows undercover investigators, environmentalists, journalists and the Mexican Navy in their efforts to rescue the world’s smallest porpoise – the vaquita – from extinction. The screening took place at the Vienna International Centre prior to the commercial release of the film in Austrian cinemas and was attended by more than 100 UN staff and representatives from Permanent Missions in Vienna. It was followed by a questions and answers session with the film’s crew, including the director Richard Ladkani and the Global Programme team. Based on the overwhelmingly positive response, UNODC organized and participated in additional screenings of the movie and panel discussions aimed at the public, the press, and academics from around the world.

Sea of Shadows is an emblematic story, but it is also just the tip of the iceberg – it demonstrates the importance of addressing corruption and the organized criminal groups that traffic in wildlife products. The movie raises awareness on the links between transnational organized crime and wildlife trafficking, with a view to encouraging recognition by the global community that wildlife crime is a serious crime with wide-ranging impacts across economic, social, and environmental spheres.



© Terra Mater Factual Studios



UNIS Vienna



Jack Hutton (Sea Shepherd)
© Terra Mater Factual Studios

Zoohackathon

In November, the Global Programme participated in a Global Coding Event to End Wildlife Trafficking (“Zoohackathon”) organized by the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, the Austrian Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs and the Vienna Schönbrunn Zoo.



U. S. Embassy in Austria

Teams of energetic programmers were given 24 hours to develop innovative tech solutions to assist countries to tackle wildlife trafficking and poaching. They were aided by expert mentors from UNODC, the Vienna Technical University and the Austrian Customs Authority. At the end of the competition, teams pitched their ideas to the panel of experts who selected the two most promising solutions. The top two prizes went to the team “*Un-Smuggle - Helping police and customs authorities identify smuggled wildlife*” and to team “*Syndicate - Using drone imagery to detect poachers*.” The winners from Austria will take part in the Zoohackathon Global Finals in late 2020 against finalists from 14 other participating countries.



G. FISHERIES CRIME: Adopting innovative approaches



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.

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 53% (by value) and 59% (by quantity) of fisheries-based exports worldwide and are therefore particularly impacted by fisheries crime.⁸ Illegal activities extend beyond illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and include corruption and a variety of economic crimes. They undermine global efforts to responsibly manage fisheries resources and the collection of revenue into state budgets. They also have an impact on the approximately 59.6 million people around the world whose livelihood and income is derived directly from the fisheries sector.

UNODC derives its mandate to work on fisheries crime from a series of General Assembly resolutions dating back to 2009 concerning the nexus between international organized crime and IUU fishing⁹ as well as various resolutions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

The Global Programme has been implementing the FishNET project in partnership with the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme and with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) since 2016. Its aim is to support developing countries to 'effectively prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate fisheries crime.' The project has four outcomes:

Over the past three years, the Global Programme has achieved progress in increasing the awareness of Member States on crimes related to the fisheries sector and has supported developing countries to build their capacity to address these crimes. This has been achieved through the development of a strong partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which is the lead agency with a mandate on fighting IUU fishing, as well as through partnerships with Member States that are at the forefront of this issue globally such as Norway and Indonesia.

⁸FAO, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018- Meeting the sustainable development goals (2018)
⁹General Assembly resolution 64/72, 4 December 2009

In 2019, the main deliverables under FishNET included:

Rotten Fish: A Guide to Address Corruption in the Fisheries Sector and rollout

The Guide is a product of joint efforts by the Global Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch (CEB), designed to help policy makers with the challenging task of identifying the specific areas in their legal and regulatory frameworks susceptible to corruption, and to act to address those weaknesses. The Guide was launched at a side event in the margins of the 68th session of the CCPCJ and has since been presented at numerous workshops and conferences on fisheries crime and ocean related issues.

Based on the Guide, a corruption risk assessment and mitigation approach has been rolled out in Mexico, Namibia and Senegal. This process will continue during 2020 in the afore-mentioned countries and is expected to start in other Member States. The Guide has been translated into French and Spanish and an online training module is being finalized.

Technical assistance to the Government of Ecuador on the "Preparatory Project for the Regulation to the Draft Fishing Law"

In 2019, the Global Programme provided legal assistance to the Government of Ecuador for the development of draft regulations complementing the law on fisheries, addressing the issue of transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector. As part of this process, a workshop was held in September 2019 with the aim to collect inputs to strengthen the Draft Regulation to the Organic Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture. The new Law was adopted by the National Assembly in February 2020 and the drafting of the regulations is in its final consultation phase.

Second training workshop for investigators and prosecutors on crimes in the fisheries value chain

In September 2019, the second global training workshop for investigators and prosecutors on crimes in the fisheries value



Second training workshop for investigators and prosecutors on crimes in the fisheries value chain, Nairobi, Kenya

chain was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop, a follow up to one convened in Vienna in September 2018, was attended by 28 prosecutors from 11 countries of Africa, Asia, and the Indian Ocean.

Sub-regional workshop on addressing crime linked to fisheries sector in the Micronesian region

UNODC partnered with the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Palau, supported by the Arnold and Porter law firm, to organize a sub-regional workshop on fisheries crime to facilitate discussion on good practices, common challenges and ways to improve cooperation among the countries in the Micronesian sub-region. The workshop also assessed technical assistance needs to address fisheries crime in the region. Participants included senior officials from Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.

Other national level training activities on fisheries crime were conducted in Palau and Namibia. In addition, the Global Programme participated in training workshops organized by FAO as well as other partners such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean to deliver training modules on fisheries crime and increase awareness on the UNODC approach to tackle crimes in the fisheries value chain. This included the Med4Fish Conference (Marrakech, June 2019), the Our Ocean conference (Oslo, October 2019) and a training for investigative journalists organized by UNODC and the Cell Norbert Zongo for Investigative Journalism in West Africa (Accra, November 2019), amongst others.

Report on 'Crime in the fishery sector and State responses to crime: illegal fishing and trafficking in persons in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand'

This report, a joint effort between the Global Programme and the UNODC Regional Programme for Southeast Asia Human Trafficking team, was drafted in 2019 and is expected to be finalized and distributed to key stakeholders in early 2020. It aims to shed light on the crimes of IUU fishing and human trafficking occurring in the fishing industry as well as the relationship and dynamics between the two by examining the fishing sectors of Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand.

In 2020, the Global Programme will continue to strengthen partnerships with FAO and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to ensure complementarity of approaches and long-term impact of its work in assisting Member States to address crimes in the fisheries value chain.

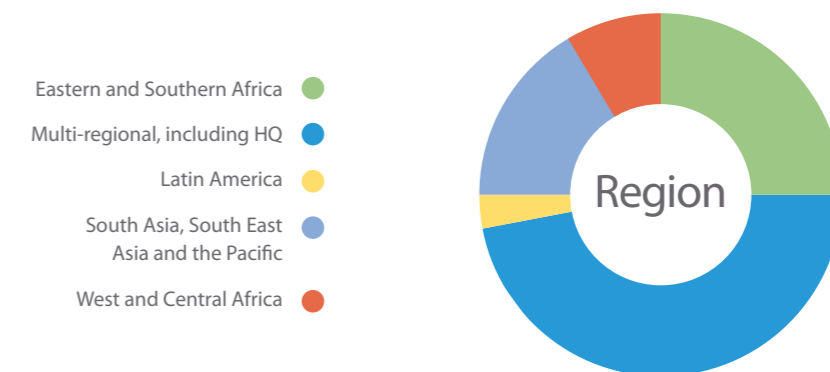


4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

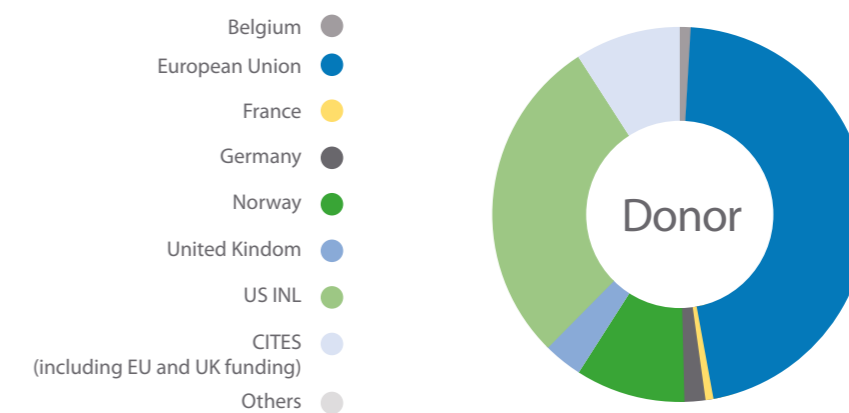
In 2019, the Global Programme spent a total of USD 7.76 million for the implementation of its activities in the seven areas of work described in Section 3 of this Report.

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 - either in specific countries or regions. In 2019, 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.

Expenditure per region (2019)



Expenditure per donor (2019)





5. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

As the world continues to face the unprecedented crisis of species loss and what appears to be emboldened criminal syndicates, 2020 will be an important year to consolidate achievements towards preventing and combating wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. Opportunities must be seized to scale up the fight against organized crime and enable biodiversity to flourish on our planet.

2020 will be an important year for criminal justice and crime prevention. The United Nations will hold the 14th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, where Member States and the world's most prominent experts will meet to set priorities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice for the next five years. Combating wildlife crime will be high 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 serious forms of crime.



2020 has been termed by the United Nations as a biodiversity “super year.” Major global events will place biodiversity at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda. The international community will have a unique opportunity to incorporate criminal justice issues into the biodiversity agenda. The importance of the rule of law for the protection of our planet's ecosystems must be fully recognized. UNODC and the Global Programme will actively seek to convey this message at the events on biodiversity, which will shape the global strategy in this field for the next decade. Doing so will enhance the chances of meeting the ambitious goals and targets on biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation while at the same time addressing major criminal justice challenges linked to the exploitation of natural resources.

The launch of the second edition of the UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report will be another important milestone in 2020. The Report will provide policymakers and stakeholders with an updated analysis of wildlife crime at the global level, based on the latest available data and scientific evidence. It will include a quantitative market assessment and a series of in-depth case studies. The findings of the World Wildlife Crime Report will help Member States adapt and upgrade their collective and individual responses to wildlife crime.

The Global Programme will continue supporting countries in their efforts to bolster cross-border cooperation at the regional and global level. In partnership with the Government of Thailand, UNODC will host the second Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting, a specialized platform for the exchange of information and intelligence between police, customs, prosecution and judicial officers of Africa and Asia. The meeting will aim to boost mutual legal assistance, cross-border operations and joint investigations and will hopefully lead to an increase in seizures, investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications.

In Latin America, the Global Programme will support countries to strengthen their cooperation along the lines of recent regional agreements and ahead of

the second *High Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade*, to be hosted by the Government of Colombia in 2021.

Alongside these key events and activities, UNODC will continue to deliver its comprehensive programme of technical assistance and capacity building to support Member States to tackle wildlife, forest and fisheries crime.

As countries and communities around the world join efforts to tackle the most serious challenges of our time – including climate change, biodiversity loss, and organized crime – the Global Programme's contribution is more relevant than ever and will continue leveraging its unique partnerships and expertise to strengthen the quality technical assistance it provides to countries globally. The continued support and cooperation of Member States, donors and partners at the international, regional, and national levels will be key to sustaining these efforts, while enabling innovative solutions to emerge in response to these pressing challenges.



Afterword

At the time of finalization of this Report, the world has come to the realization that trafficking in wild fauna can significantly impact human health, national security, and economic development. The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call to rethink global approaches to protecting natural resources and ultimately the health of billions of people.

Encroachment into natural frontiers, wildlife trafficking and deforestation mean that human-wildlife interactions are now occurring at a scale and a proximity that didn't exist before, enabling the pathogens formerly exclusive to wildlife species to jump to humans. Wild animals would not pass on these pathogens to humans if we didn't bring them to our cities, markets and shops. Illegally sourced wildlife traded in a clandestine way escapes any sanitary control and exposes human beings to the transmission of new viruses and other pathogens.

The existence of parallel wildlife trade markets -illegal alongside legal- makes the enforcement and security measures against wildlife trafficking ever more relevant to prevent a similar crisis in the future. In 2020, the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime will ramp up its efforts and seek to deploy innovative solutions to tackle illicit wildlife trafficking, which is key to preventing future pandemics stemming from zoonotic-origin pandemics like COVID-19.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime would like to thank the governments with which it works for their partnership and constructive spirit of mutual respect, openness, and cooperation. The work and achievements of the Global Programme are truly the result of joint undertakings with national authorities.

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

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.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to learn more about what UNODC is doing to support states to combat wildlife, forest and fisheries crime, please visit:

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

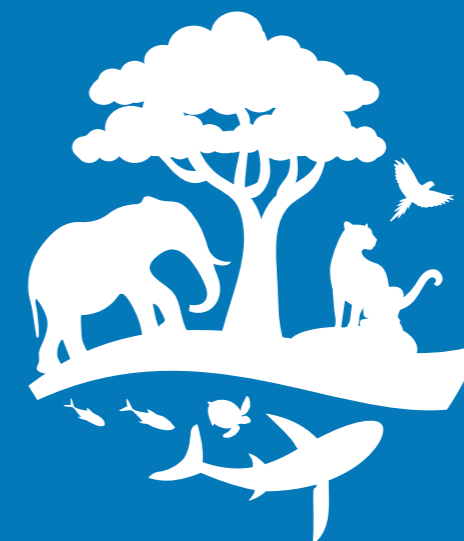
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CREDITS

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Wildlife stock pictures: www.pexels.com



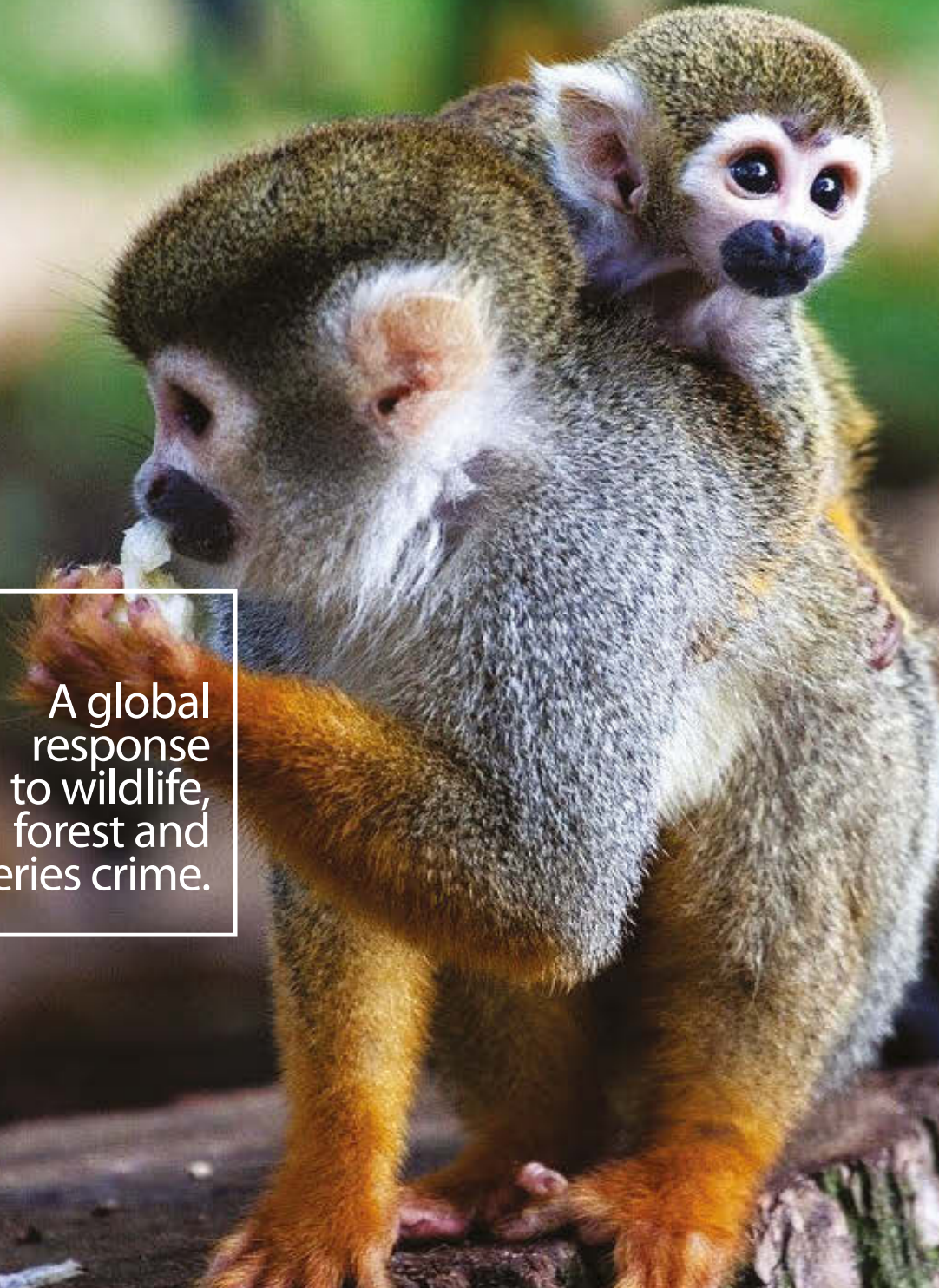


UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Combating
Wildlife
and Forest
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A global
response
to wildlife,
forest and
fisheries crime.



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