

UK Commitment to Action on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT)

February 2014



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The UK Government is committed to ending the illegal wildlife trade. We will work with our international partners and take action here in the UK, to achieve this goal. We will focus on improving enforcement, reducing demand for products and supporting sustainable livelihoods and economic development in the communities affected. We will review our progress in a year's time.

The trade in illegal wildlife products has serious consequences for our environment, threatening the future survival of many species. It is also a serious criminal industry worth billions of pounds every year, driving corruption and insecurity and undermining efforts to cut poverty and develop sustainable economic opportunities.

Reflecting the breadth of issues involved, a range of UK Government Departments have a part to play in fighting this trade. The global nature of the illegal wildlife trade means that the UK government must collaborate with a wide range of other Governments and organisations.

Working with our International Partners to Tackle the Global Trade

The UK Government and UK law enforcement agencies will:

1. Add significant new impetus to global efforts to tackle IWT through **securing high level political commitment to action at the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (February 2014)**. We will urge Governments to tackle this illegal trade from the perspectives of criminal justice, international and regional security, social and economic development, as well as environment and natural resources.
2. **Provide financial support through a £10 million fund** to support efforts by the UK and other countries to tackle the illegal trade in wildlife products. Funding will be awarded to support action in developing countries, including on:
 - Reducing the opportunity and incentive to poach by improving economic opportunities and promoting security and good governance;
 - Providing training and access to better equipment and practical support to agencies in their efforts to address the illegal trade; and,

- Reducing demand for illegal wildlife and animal products such as elephant ivory, rhino horn, and tiger parts, by raising awareness of the impacts and economic losses caused by wildlife crime.

The fund will be available to Governments, charities and NGOs, and will help to deliver the outcomes of the London Conference.

3. Continue **funding and active engagement and leadership in the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES)**. This includes UK funding:
 - i. To support the work of the **International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)**¹ through:
 - a) **Funding an ICCWC co-ordinator post**, based within the CITES Secretariat;
 - b) **Supporting training workshops for enforcement agencies** on operating controlled deliveries co-ordinated by the CITES Secretariat, working with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation, as part of ICCWC;
 - c) **Development of an anti-money laundering and asset recovery manual**, using expertise developed in the fight against other areas of organised crime, for use by enforcement agencies, to be developed by the CITES Secretariat working with the World Bank as part of ICCWC.
 - ii. For a **Regional Wildlife Forensics Coordinator** in the Association of South-East Asian Nations' Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).
4. Re-align existing grant programmes (including the Darwin² Initiative) **to increase their support for tackling IWT**;

¹ The International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) brings together key international enforcement organisations (Interpol, World Customs Organisation (WCO) UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the CITES Secretariat

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-5-million-to-protect-the-world-s-most-threatened-wildlife-and-poorest-communities>

5. **Work with law enforcement agencies internationally to share information**, for instance by the provision of UK policing operational support to INTERPOL's PROJECT PREDATOR and Border Force participation in the EU TWIX NETWORK. Future requests to provide practical assistance and training will be considered;
6. **Link action on IWT to existing efforts to tackle other forms of organised crime**, through the "Serious and Organised Crime Strategy"³, focusing on specific action to tackle cross-border organised crime in source and transit countries;
7. **Enhance bilateral engagement of key countries** on the importance of understanding natural resource crime in their development priorities;
8. **Support our partners in their fight against poaching**. For example, in December 2013 the British Army worked with Kenyan anti-poaching groups, providing training in patrolling and field skills to members of the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenyan Forestry Service (KFS), and Mount Kenya Trust (MKT).
9. **Increase the active role for UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Posts** in support of demand reduction actions in target countries.

Action within the UK

The UK Government and UK law enforcement agencies will:

10. **Take a national strategic approach to domestic action** on IWT through:
 - a) Linking action on IWT to existing efforts to tackle other forms of organised crime, through the "**Serious and Organised Crime Strategy**";
 - b) **The UK Tasking and Co-ordinating Group**, which determines the UK's national wildlife crime priorities;

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-organised-crime-strategy>

- c) **Funding the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)** until 2016: the NWCU is a specialist Police unit which regularly assesses wildlife crime and assists wildlife law enforcers;
 - d) **Police Wildlife Crime Co-ordinators**, who coordinate police activity to tackle IWT in individual police forces;
 - e) **The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW)**, which brings together the statutory, Government, enforcement and voluntary organisations committed to tackling wildlife crime.
11. **Review and update the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations**, to ensure their effectiveness, including a consideration of penalties and civil sanctions changes in trade practices and enforcement techniques and designations of CITES ports of entry and exit to the UK.
 12. Continue to implement the **UK's robust cross-agency law enforcement activity and intelligence sharing** both at the UK border and inland.
 13. **Improve capacity for UK forensic analysis**, through funding to support investigations and preventative work and funding the UK Rhino Horn Database.
 14. **Working to raise awareness and reduce demand in the UK**, for example through the 'If They're Gone...' campaign - <https://www.facebook.com/IfTheyreGone>.

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