

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November -1 December 2017

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Enforcement

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME (ICCWC):
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement*, paragraph 8.b), the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to:
 - b) *submit a report on activities that have been conducted under the auspices of ICCWC at each Standing Committee meeting and each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consult with the Standing Committee on the development of the ICCWC Programme of Work to ensure CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed;*
3. At the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Secretariat reported that ICCWC, the collaborative effort between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), had come of age and that the Consortium was delivering much needed front-line support to States.¹ The Consortium, which is chaired by the Secretariat, has since CoP17 convened regional and global meetings and Task Forces for wildlife law enforcement officers, coordinated global operations and targeted investigations, enhanced the capacity of institutions along the law enforcement chain to ensure wildlife criminals are brought to justice and implemented crucial tools and services in support of Parties efforts to combat wildlife crime.
4. The Consortium continues to pursue a broad range of well-targeted activities to build law enforcement capacity and to improve geographic and cross-sectoral cooperation to combat wildlife crime through implementing its Strategic Programme. The ICCWC Strategic Programme for 2016-2020,² is a comprehensive strategy designed to strengthen national criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime. It sets out a range of practical activities in six key areas through which the Consortium is uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to combatting illegal trade in wildlife by bringing together the diverse technical expertise, regional networks and on-the-ground experience of its five partner organizations.
5. To ensure that the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme aligns with the CITES mandate, including the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) paragraph 8.b), the Secretariat embedded the relevant Decisions and Resolutions adopted at CoP17 into the work plan developed by ICCWC partners

¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/WorkingDocs/E-CoP17-14-02.pdf>

² https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/ICCWC_Strategic_Programme_2016-2020_final.pdf

to implement the Strategic Programme. Delivery of the Consortium's Strategic Programme is overseen by its Senior Experts Group (SEG), in which each of the five partner organizations is represented. The SEG identifies priorities for the implementation of activities under the Strategic Programme, takes decisions on initiatives to support, and oversees overall effectiveness of delivery. In addition, ICCWC is in the process of developing a further platform to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Programme. Once such platform is established, the Secretariat will seek to identify the most appropriate way to consult with the Standing Committee to ensure Parties needs are adequately addressed.

6. The dedicated web portal on ICCWC,³ maintained in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) paragraph 8 c), was updated in January and June 2017 and is available in English, French and Spanish on the CITES website. It provides up to date information on the Consortium's activities as well as tools and services available through its partner organizations.
7. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.52, paragraphs a) to d) on *The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* directed to Parties as follows:
 - a) *make full use of the 'International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime' to measure and monitor the effectiveness of their own law-enforcement responses to wildlife and forest crime;*
 - b) *draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the auspices of ICCWC, rooted in the best data and case studies available, and backed by in-depth analysis, to inform their decision making and in support of the development appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime;*
 - c) *provide funding support to ICCWC for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, to ensure that it continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community; and*
 - d) *provide continued external financial support to the Secretariat, to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer.*
8. The present document is structured based on the focus areas of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. It provides an update to Parties on the significant activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since CoP17, and highlights how the implementation of Decision 17.52 has progressed to date. The Secretariat also reports in more details on some activities in other documents prepared for the present meeting, as it relates to the different agenda items to be discussed.

Focus Area 1: Provide institutional support and strengthen cooperation and coordination

9. To ensure ICCWC's strategy is fully in line with key priorities and issues of concern to the member States of each ICCWC partner organization, the executive heads, their delegates, and SEG members of all five ICCWC partner organizations met on 23 September 2016, alongside CoP17, to review the Consortium's progress to date and to discuss the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme up to 2020.⁴
10. The CITES Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, and with generous funding support from the United States of America, convened the Second Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)⁵, alongside CoP17, on 28-29 September 2016. The meeting brought together over 90 representatives from enforcement networks, wildlife law enforcement agencies, international and other relevant organizations from around the world. It focused on sharing experiences and considered measures to further strengthen WENs, promote their operational effectiveness, and enhance their cooperation and interaction. The report of the meeting, as well as resource materials (including network information sheets, the directory of network focal points, and key issues discussed during the meeting), are available on a dedicated page for WENs on the ICCWC portal.⁶ At the time of writing, the Consortium is exploring the possibility of developing guidelines for establishing new WENs and strengthening existing WENs based on recommendations from the meeting, as

³ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php>

⁴ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Global_consortium_strengthens_efforts_to_tackle_wildlife_crime_24092016

⁵ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/Wildlife_enforcement_networks_meet_to_further_strengthen_collaboration_to_combat_industrial_scale_crime_03102016

⁶ https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Action/report_second_global_meeting_WENs

well as the possibility of providing further support to WENs. The Secretariat will also continue to update the directory of WEN focal points on a biannual basis.

11. At the Second Global Meeting of the WENs and the 27th meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG), also held in the margins of CoP17, participants agreed that a global operation to tackle illegal trade in wildlife and timber would significantly contribute to enhancing the capacity of enforcement officers across the world to respond to wildlife crime and to combatting wildlife crime. This global operation took place from 30 January to 19 February 2017 and was initiated by the INTERPOL WCWG and coordinated by ICCWC, in close cooperation with Environment Canada, the United Kingdom (UK) Border Force and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The operation, codenamed Thunderbird,⁷ involved police, customs, border agencies, environment, wildlife and forestry officials from 45 countries and territories. Information and intelligence was shared ahead of the operation to assist in identifying specific targets and areas for action. These included wildlife and forest crime hotspots and bottlenecks where checkpoints could be established, in addition to operations at airports and national borders. Operation Thunderbird resulted in 390 investigations, of which there have been 88 completed prosecutions thus far. Countries identified the involvement of at least 898 suspects and reported 1,400 seizures of illicit products worth an estimated USD 5.1 million. The information and intelligence resulting from the operation was analysed by INTERPOL and the product of this analysis will inform future national, regional and international enforcement efforts.
12. The CITES Secretariat, in close cooperation with ICCWC and with the support from the United States of America, convened a meeting of the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force in Singapore on 25-27 April 2017.⁸ The CITES Secretary-General provided an opening statement to the meeting,⁹ which included over 50 representatives from 15 countries across Africa, Asia, North America and South America, and from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The meeting's aim was to develop strategies to strengthen CITES implementation and law enforcement responses to combat illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and their parts and derivatives. The meeting focused on information and intelligence sharing, and the strengthening of front-line cooperation and coordination. Further details on this activity as well as the recommendations of the Task Force can be found in the document on *Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)* prepared for the present meeting.
13. Recognizing that wildlife trafficking is also affecting the Caribbean region, CITES Parties from the Caribbean expressed the need to enhance cooperation in the region to combat wildlife crime and strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement. With support from the USFWS, ICCWC convened a regional workshop in the Bahamas on 20–22 July 2016 to discuss the potential development of a network to combat wildlife crime in the Caribbean.¹⁰ The meeting was opened by a message from the CITES Secretary-General,¹¹ and included over 55 participants from 11 countries in the region, along with national and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It facilitated a better understanding of wildlife crime in the Caribbean and enabled participants to consider the feasibility of establishing a regional wildlife enforcement network (WEN). Participants agreed on the importance of enhanced cooperation at the national and regional level to combat trafficking of terrestrial, freshwater and marine species, and recommended the creation of a Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) that could facilitate information sharing, provide a platform for capacity building, and lead to greater enforcement action. The meeting report is available to the present meeting as an information document.
14. A regional follow-up meeting was convened by the Consortium in the Caribbean, with the designated national focal points in the region to identify a structure for the network. This meeting was convened in Barbados on 10-11 May 2017. At the time of writing, a Memorandum of Understanding is being developed, and in the absence of a formal agreement, member States have established an interim informal channel of communication. The Secretariat would like to thank the United States of America for the generous funds provided, which enabled the Consortium to organize, and the Secretariat to participate in, both regional meetings in the Caribbean. UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, continues to work closely with member States in

⁷ <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-022>

⁸ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/cites-task-force-agrees-on-strategies-to-combat-illegal-trade-in-tortoises-and-freshwater-turtles_28042017

⁹ https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/cites-sg-welcome-remarks-at-meeting-cites-tortoises-and-freshwater-turtles-task-force-singapore_25042017

¹⁰ In document CoP17 Doc. 14.2, the Secretariat reported that ICCWC was at the time of writing, working closely with the USFWS to develop a regional meeting in the Caribbean to discuss the potential establishment of a Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN). See paragraph 18 of CoP17 Doc. 14.2 on ICCWC available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/WorkingDocs/E-CoP17-14-02.pdf>

¹¹ https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/Caribbean_Regional_Wildlife_Enforcement_Workshop_210716

the region and the USFWS to further progress this work, as well as to identify capacity building needs to initiate activities in support of the efforts of countries in the region.

15. ICCWC partners also continue to work closely with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Global Wildlife Programme (GWP)¹² managed by the World Bank to ensure effective coordination and collaboration between ongoing initiatives and to explore potential synergies to synchronize and leverage the support of ICCWC to promote effective wildlife law enforcement in the different GWP national projects. The GWP is a USD131 million programme with 20 projects in 19 countries, facilitated by either the World Bank or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As part of the GWP, a number of ICCWC proposals on enforcement matters are currently under discussion. GWP funds can also be used to support the implementation of ICCWC tools and services, as well as a broad range of activities referred to throughout the present document. It is crucial that the GWP, ICCWC and the Secretariat continue to coordinate their efforts closely to ensure that there is no overlap in effort and that funding assists Parties to the fullest extent possible to meet their obligations under CITES.

Focus Area 2: Facilitate analysis of national capacity to strengthen law enforcement responses and help guide investment

16. At the time of writing, the implementation of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*¹³ has been completed in Bangladesh, Botswana, Gabon, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. In addition, the Toolkit is currently at different phases of implementation in Angola, Bahamas, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guyana, Madagascar, Senegal and Togo.¹⁴
17. Where Toolkit implementation has been completed, activities to support the recommendations identified in the Toolkit implementation report are in some cases ongoing. However, one of the gaps identified by the Consortium to date has been that ICCWC was often, due to the limited availability of funds, not in a position to provide the necessary support to requests from Parties for assistance with the implementation of specific recommendations resulting from the Toolkit implementation. Funds generously made available by donors for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme will now enable ICCWC partners to more actively support Parties to implement the recommendations emanating from the Toolkit implementation. In addition, the Secretariat continues to encourage Parties that have implemented the Toolkit to liaise with relevant Parties, donors or international and national organizations as may be appropriate to request support and facilitate the implementation of the recommendations. Similarly, Parties, donors and relevant international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives, programmes and activities in the different countries concerned are encouraged to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with the recommendations of the Toolkit.
18. Examples of activities delivered by ICCWC to support recommendations and actions identified through the implementation of the Toolkit have been provided in previous documents on ICCWC prepared for SC and CoP meetings. A summary is also included in an information document on ICCWC prepared for the present meeting. The Secretariat wishes to briefly highlight more recent activities in this regard. To support the implementation of specific recommendations and activities identified in the action plan that were developed following the Toolkit implementation in Viet Nam, ICCWC jointly developed a project to convene a Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE)¹⁵ meeting for customs, followed by a Regional Investigative Analytic Case Meeting (RIACM)¹⁶ in Viet Nam in October 2017. The meetings, to be convened thanks to generous funds from the Government of France, will aim to connect African and Asian investigators and will be hosted back-to-back over a period of five days with a one-day overlap to allow for participants from both meetings to engage in discussions related to both strategic and tactical wildlife crime responses. In addition, on 21 July 2017, the Secretariat joined UNODC in Maputo for the presentation of the ICCWC Toolkit implementation report to the Government of Mozambique. At the time of writing, a workplan was being

¹² <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/global-wildlife-program>

¹³ https://cites.org/common/resources/pub/ICCWC_Toolkit_v2_english.pdf

¹⁴ Additional details on the status of the implementation in the different countries can be found on the following link: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/icwc.php/Action>

¹⁵ A WIRE is a meeting convened by UNODC designed in response to the need for intensified cooperation in the investigation of transnational criminal networks. It offer a specialized platform to convene one category of officials at a time, with a view to build bridges among like-minded professionals from different countries.

¹⁶ A RIACM is a meeting convened by INTERPOL to support investigations and operational analytical work., in particular to follow-up on transnational investigations linking organized criminal networks through information exchange and the development of operational plans to target these networks.

prepared to support the implementation of priority recommendations from the Toolkit report identified during working group discussions held during the meeting. ICCWC would like to thank Germany for the generous funding it provided to ICCWC to implement a number of recommendations of the Toolkit report in Mozambique.

19. The *ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime*¹⁷ which complements the ICCWC Toolkit is intended to provide a standardized approach to measure the effectiveness of national law enforcement responses. It also enables a Party to independently monitor performance over time to identify any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses. The Indicator Framework consists of 50 performance measures that cover the major components of a law enforcement response to illegal trafficking in wildlife. To support the implementation of Decision 17.52 paragraph a), the ICCWC Indicator Framework is now included as an integral part of the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. The implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework is, at the time of writing, scheduled to take place in Kenya in November 2017. In addition, at the time of writing, ICCWC is working closely with the World Bank and UNDP to encourage Parties to include the ICCWC Indicator Framework (or the ICCWC Toolkit as may be appropriate) in their respective GWP national proposals.
20. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind Parties of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) paragraph 13 i), and continues to welcome formal requests from Parties for support from ICCWC to implement the Toolkit and the Indicator Framework. The Secretariat would welcome feedback from Parties that have implemented the ICCWC Toolkit or Indicator Framework, in the interest of ensuring that Parties' needs are addressed and to further enhance available ICCWC tools and services.

Focus Area 3: Develop or enhance criminal justice and preventive capacity across institutions

21. At CoP17, ICCWC launched its *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme*,¹⁸ designed to help investigators, prosecutors and others in the criminal justice system overcome the investigative, legal and procedural challenges related to wildlife crime and money laundering cases. To progress the implementation of Decision 17.83 paragraph b) on *Enforcement matters*, the Consortium is planning to deliver on-the-ground training targeted to relevant regional and national contexts in key countries. From 12-16 June 2017, the World Bank delivered a pilot training on financial investigations in Kenya, in which 31 participants from relevant agencies, including the Financial Intelligence Unit, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Ports Authority, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, the Anti-Corruption Agency and the judiciary participated. Based on experiences from this pilot training, the training programme is being further tailored and improved. At the time of writing, a second training was being planned before the end of 2017 in the United Republic of Tanzania. Both trainings have been made possible with funds generously provided to ICCWC by the GWP and the World Bank through the Country Management Unit of Kenya and the UK Department for International Development. It is envisaged that through the ICCWC Strategic Programme, further funding will be available for the implementation of the ICCWC AML training programme in a limited number of countries. Parties that are interested to benefit from this training programme are invited to submit a formal request for support from ICCWC to the Secretariat. The Consortium will also be actively reaching out to identified Parties to offer such support.
22. The activities outlined in paragraph 21 above also support the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*, which in paragraph 10 recommends that ICCWC continues to incorporate anti-corruption efforts into its activities, including those related to anti-money laundering and asset seizure and recovery.
23. Resolution Conf. 17.6 serves as a baseline for CITES Parties to take action to combat corruption associated to illegal wildlife trade. A crucial tool in such endeavours is the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Secretariat has been exploring potential synergies and cooperation with UNODC and UNCAC to this effect¹⁹. In addition, at the time of writing, the Consortium is exploring the implementation of several activities to assist Parties to take action to combat corruption, including in support of Decision 17.83 paragraph a), that requests ICCWC to develop guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies, and assist Parties to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens. As further elaborated upon in the document on *Enforcement matters* prepared for the present meeting, the important role of CITES and ICCWC in combating corruption related to illegal trade in wildlife

¹⁷ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/iccwc/E-ICCWC-Ind-FW-Assessment_guidelines_and_template_clickable-final.pdf

¹⁸ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

¹⁹ Further details are included in the document on *Enforcement matters* prepared for the present meeting

was also highlighted in the *High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products*, adopted as an annex of the G20 Leaders Declaration, *Shaping an interconnected world*, released on 8 July after a meeting of the G20 in Hamburg, Germany.²⁰

24. The CITES Secretariat was at the time of writing in discussions with the Government of Madagascar and ICCWC partners to deploy to Madagascar a targeted Wildlife Incident Support Team (WIST) consisting of one data analyst and one investigator, in support of the implementation of Decision 17.294. The Secretariat reports in more details on this in the document on *Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles (Testudines spp.)*, prepared for the present meeting.

Focus Area 4: Increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime

25. ICCWC hosted the first Global Partnerships Coordination Forum²¹ alongside CoP17 on 25 September 2016. Moderated by the World Bank on behalf of ICCWC, it included a high-level panel discussion with representatives from the African Union Commission, the CITES Secretariat, UNODC, UNDP and WCO, to explore different perspectives on how law enforcement, development, environmental and social approaches can contribute to combating illegal wildlife trade. The Forum included a dialogue with CITES Parties to identify any gaps that may exist in current approaches to combating wildlife crime. The Chair's Summary of the global partnerships coordination forum was made available as document CoP17 Inf. 89.²²
26. On 26 September 2016, ICCWC hosted a side event alongside CoP17 to profile the first-ever *World Wildlife Crime Report*,²³ launched in May 2016 at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). The report highlights that illicit wildlife trafficking affects countries across the globe, and that poaching and illegal trade of thousands of different species not only present real environmental dangers, but ultimately undermines the rule of law. The report was developed by UNODC based on data provided by ICCWC partner organizations. It is rooted in the best data and case studies available, and backed by in-depth analysis. Parties are again encouraged to draw upon this report in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.52, paragraph b). Efforts are under way by ICCWC partners in support of developing similar reports in the future.
27. To increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime, ICCWC partners both collectively and individually participated in and organized side events on 3 March 2017, UN World Wildlife Day, at the UN Headquarters in New York and in Geneva, where, among others, the results of Operation Thunderbird (see para. 11 above) were publicised. ICCWC partners also participated in a number of high level events and conferences since CoP17 to raise the profile of wildlife crime and to secure political support for combating it, such as the Hanoi Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (17-18 November 2016),²⁴ and a Technical Advisory Committee Meeting on the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade and Illegal Exploitation in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa (18-20 April 2017).

Focus Area 5: Expand the use of knowledge, technology and innovation

28. A number of activities related to this focus area were at the time of writing under discussion. These include the compilation of an electronic directory of laboratories in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.83 paragraph c), and the commissioning of a threat assessment report on illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.97, both reported upon in the document on *Enforcement matters* prepared for the present meeting. Another activity under discussion is the establishment of capacities and the development of guidelines to support the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife cybercrime in accordance with the provisions of Decision 17.93, as reported upon in the document on *Combating wildlife cybercrime* prepared for the present meeting.

Focus Area 6: Cross-cutting: Ensure the effective operation, coordination and evaluation of ICCWC

29. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.52 paragraphs c) and d), encouraging Parties to provide financial support to ICCWC, to enable the Consortium to implement its Strategic Programme 2016-2020 and to ensure that ICCWC continues to provide coordinated global support to the law-

²⁰ https://cites.org/eng/CITES_welcomes_G20_leaders_Declaration_on_combating_corruption_related_to_illegal_trade_in_wildlife_100717

²¹ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/CoP17_hosts_first_ever_wildlife_crime_partnerships_forum_26092016

²² <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/E-CoP17-Inf-89.pdf>

²³ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

²⁴ https://cites.org/eng/Intervention_CITES_Secretary-General_at_Hanoi_Conference_on_Illegal_Wildlife_Trade_17112016

enforcement community in its fight against wildlife crime. Parties were also encouraged to provide continued support to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer at the CITES Secretariat.

30. The Consortium continues its endeavours to secure funding for the full implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020, for which the estimated budget is approximately USD 30 million. The Consortium is deeply grateful to the Parties that, to date, responded positively to paragraphs c) and d) of Decision 17.52, with the first funding having been received from France and the Principality of Monaco.²⁵ At the time of writing, deliberations are at an advanced stage on further significant funding pledged by Germany, the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland towards the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Secretariat will provide an oral update in this regard, at the present meeting. The generous contributions to ICCWC to date as well as pledges of contributions towards the Strategic Programme are expected to amount to approximately USD 20 million. This funding support will enable the Consortium to implement a significant portion of its Strategic Programme.
31. As reported at CoP17, the Secretariat at a minimum requires continued financial support to maintain the position of the ICCWC Support Officer to continue its coordinating role within ICCWC, and support the multiple activities being delivered through the Consortium. The Secretariat would like to express its deep appreciation to the United Kingdom for the funding it provided to maintain this post up to March 2017, and to Switzerland and the United States of America for their generous contributions to the Secretariat, which enabled the Secretariat to extend the post until March 2018. Funding under the Strategic Programme is expected to provide further support for this post after this date.

Final remarks

32. ICCWC is delivering an increasing number of well-targeted activities in response to growing demand from Parties requesting support from the Consortium. The Consortium can only deliver on its Strategic Programme and live up to growing expectations through financial support from the donor community for ICCWC activities and for the necessary support staff to implement them. Active engagement from recipient States is equally important. For this reason, the Consortium sincerely thanks the European Union, France, the Principality of Monaco, Germany and the United Kingdom for its strong support to the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020, as well as to Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for their support to the ICCWC Support Officer post at the CITES Secretariat up to March 2018, as well as towards a number of specific activities as highlighted in the present document. The growing number of activities to build law-enforcement capacity and to enhance the capacity of Parties to combat wildlife crime would not have been possible without this strong support.
33. Significant and commendable steps to combat wildlife crime have been taken at national, regional and international levels in recent years, and there is today a global collective effort underway to address wildlife crime. Despite this however, there remains an urgent need to remain vigilant and sustain and further enhance strong and well-coordinated law enforcement action to combat wildlife crime. ICCWC will continue to relentlessly pursue the implementation of its Strategic Programme to build long-term capacity among authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement, by providing them with the tools, services and technical support they need to combat wildlife crime.

Recommendations

34. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) note this document; and
 - b) welcome the generous support of donors for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020 in accordance with Decisions 17.52 c) and d).

²⁵ https://cites.org/eng/news/pr/New_Funds_France_Monaco_boost_global_alliances_frontline_efforts_combat_wildlife_crime_26062017