

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Enforcement matters

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 18.13, on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)* directed to Parties, as follows:

Parties are encouraged to continue provide funding support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and any newly developed future Strategic Programme, to ensure that the Consortium continues to take a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law-enforcement community.

3. Further, in paragraph 9 b) and c) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, 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;

c) maintain the dedicated portal on ICCWC, in the official languages of the Convention, on the CITES website to enable Parties to identify the opportunities and support available through ICCWC;

4. Since CoP18, a broad range of activities continued to be delivered under the auspices of 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). The Consortium in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic moved swiftly to adapt its workplans as needed to ensure it could continue to support Parties' efforts to combat wildlife crime and strengthen their criminal justice systems, and that the implementation of the [ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020](#) could continue uninterrupted and to the fullest extent possible.
5. Further, the dedicated [ICCWC web-portal](#), maintained in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 9 c), was revised and updated in October 2020 and further updates have been conducted throughout 2021. Available in English, French and Spanish on the CITES website, the new

ICCWC web-portal provides access to the latest information on the Consortium's activities, as well as tools and services available through its partner organizations. A further update is envisaged in 2022.

6. The Consortium continues to play a critical role in assisting Parties globally to combat wildlife crime using a coordinated and cohesive approach and providing Parties with the tools, services and technical support needed to bring the criminals involved in wildlife crime to justice. Examples include hands-on support to frontline officers responsible for wildlife law enforcement, the coordination of global operations and intelligence driven investigations, comprehensive analysis of national responses to wildlife crime to identify gaps and ensure that they are addressed in a targeted manner by directing resources to where they are most needed, providing technical support to enhance the capacity of institutions across the entire criminal justice system, and developing and deploying a variety of flagship [tools and services](#).
7. With in-person capacity-building opportunities and meetings limited by the COVID-19 pandemic and new protection protocols in place, in 2020, where possible, ICCWC shifted its activities online to provide continued support to Parties. This carried forward in 2021 with the convening of online or hybrid meetings and the provision of targeted support, including aligning ICCWC response to emerging challenges identified during the pandemic. Largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some activities inevitably had to be delayed or postponed. The ICCWC Strategic Programme and related subgrants have therefore been extended until 2023.
8. To showcase how the work of the Consortium in partnership with Parties and other stakeholders has helped to globally enhance the capacity of criminal justice systems, the Consortium launched its first annual report, the [ICCWC Annual Report 2020](#), which showcases ICCWC's collective resolve to enhance capacity and bring coordinated support to national agencies, subregional and regional networks from around the globe to combat wildlife crime. The report provides examples of how ICCWC assessments and support have led to positive changes in penal codes or how technical assistance contributed to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals involved in wildlife crime. The report is available on the [ICCWC webpage](#) and as an information document.
9. The work delivered by ICCWC since its inception would not have been possible without strong support from [various donors](#). The implementation of the [ICCWC Strategic Programme](#) has been funded by the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Contributions from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, Norway, and the United States of America to the Secretariat also contributed to the work of ICCWC. On behalf of all Consortium partners, the Secretariat thanks these Parties for their generous support.
10. The present document is structured in accordance with the focus areas of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. As required by Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18), it provides an update to Parties on the activities conducted under the auspices of ICCWC since CoP18 and on developments related to Decision 18.13. ICCWC activities have continued to both directly and indirectly contribute to the implementation of several Decisions and Resolutions related to combating wildlife crime adopted at CoP18. The Secretariat also reports in more details on this in other documents prepared for the present meeting.

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

11. The [ICCWC Annual Report 2020](#) highlights key activities conducted in support of this focus area in 2020. In particular, INTERPOL and WCO convened [Operation Thunder 2020](#), the fourth in the series of joint customs and police operations supported by ICCWC under the 'Thunder' series ([Thunderbird](#) in 2017, [Thunderstorm](#) in 2018 and [Thunderball](#) in 2019). These global operations led to the apprehension of more than 3,500 suspects. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions imposed across the world, Operation Thunder 2020 resulted in law enforcement activities to address wildlife crime across 103 countries. Law enforcement and customs officers seized over 2,000 protected wildlife species and apprehended 699 offenders. Several of the 185 active [INTERPOL Red Notices](#) related to wildlife crime are a result of information gained during the operation.
12. In October 2021, INTERPOL and WCO coordinated [Operation Thunder 2021](#), the fifth in the Thunder-series of operations supported by ICCWC. The Operation involved officers from customs, police, financial intelligence units and wildlife and forestry enforcement agencies in 118 countries. Similar to operations in previous years, Operation Thunder 2021 resulted in a significant number of seizures and arrests. Further arrests and prosecutions are also foreseen globally as investigations continue to unfold.
13. The ICCWC Annual Report 2020 also highlights a variety of other activities that were conducted, such as a regional workshop on *Strengthening of International Cooperation in Wildlife Criminal Matters in Eastern*

Africa held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2020. In August and September 2020, ICCWC supported the East African Association of Prosecutors in convening their 9th Annual General Meeting and provided a forum for discussion on enhancing international cooperation to address wildlife crime.

14. In November 2021, UNODC convened a Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting. The meeting built on the outcomes of a WIRE hosted by UNODC in cooperation with ICCWC partners in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2018. The 2021 WIRE focused on giving priority to post-seizure investigations, addressing legal discrepancies in conducting controlled deliveries, the improved use of Mutual Legal Assistance in wildlife crime cases and the use of financial investigations. It also supported operational planning, as well as follow-up on a number of wildlife seizures made in Asia during the pandemic. In 2021, UNODC also supported an online Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), particularly the Working Group on Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife and Timber, to enhance law enforcement cooperation in the region. The meeting provided an opportunity to plan joint activities to disrupt the illegal wildlife and timber trade.
15. The CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme and convened in accordance with Decision 18.79 was at the time of writing scheduled to be conducted online in February 2022. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC74 Doc. 33.2 on the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*.
16. To implement Decision 18.93, paragraphs b), c) and e), and to strengthen responses to wildlife crime in West and Central Africa, the Secretariat developed a suite of activities and, in November 2021, sent letters to the Parties in the two subregions inviting expressions of interest to receive capacity-building support, based on the activities developed. Targeted activities are envisaged to commence in 2022 and will be supported through the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this matter in document SC74 Doc. 35.2 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa: Report of the Secretariat*.
17. ICCWC also supported wildlife enforcement networks at regional and subregional levels to facilitate increased collaboration and coordination between national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement from different countries. The Secretariat in cooperation with ICCWC partners convened the [3rd Global meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) (WENs) in the margins of CoP18 (August 2019).¹ The meeting provided a platform for further enhancing synergies between existing initiatives and regional enforcement bodies; strengthening cooperation at regional and global levels; and exploring potential activities to be pursued with the aim of further strengthening responses to wildlife crime. The meeting also engaged in targeted discussions to refine the [ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#). The Guidelines were discussed in detail during the meeting to ensure they were tailored and fit-for-purpose and were subsequently finalized taking into consideration the discussions held during the meeting. The Guidelines are available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on the ICCWC webpage. They outline the key considerations to be taken into account in the development of a new WEN and also provide a self-assessment tool for use by existing WENs to assist them in evaluating their level of maturity and operational performance and identify areas that could be further strengthened. Following the launch of the Guidelines in May 2020, ICCWC has been providing targeted support to enhance regional cooperation in [South America \(Sud-WEN\)](#) and in the Horn of Africa (HAWEN). This work is ongoing.
18. The Secretariat also continued to update the directory of [WEN focal points](#) available on the CITES Secretariat website and encourages WENs to inform the Secretariat when further updates are needed.

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

19. To date ICCWC has received 37 requests for the implementation of the [ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit](#). The Toolkit process has been completed in 15 countries (Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Congo, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam) and is at different stages of implementation in 10 countries [Bhutan,

¹ This followed the [2nd global meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) which was held alongside the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa (September 2016). The [1st global meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks](#) was held alongside the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Bangkok, Thailand (March 2013).

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Paraguay].²

20. Where Toolkit implementation is completed, the report and recommendations resulting from its implementation are presented and launched during a high-level meeting with all relevant government agencies, as well as at a multi-stakeholders meeting. These meetings provide the opportunity to discuss the findings and recommendations with Governments and to plan for implementation and potential support. Activities to support the implementation of the resulting recommendations are ongoing in several countries, where possible. As highlighted in document [CoP18 Doc. 15.5](#) on ICCWC, the Consortium has through the ICCWC Strategic Programme been able to scale up its support to Parties to implement the recommendations resulting from the Toolkit implementation. The [ICCWC Annual Report 2020](#) highlights some examples of support provided by the Consortium.
21. Parties who have implemented the Toolkit are encouraged to continue to mobilize resources and make dedicated efforts to implement the recommendations that result from Toolkit implementation. These Parties are also encouraged to, where needed, liaise with ICCWC partners, donors, international and national organizations to request implementation support. 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.
22. Implementation of the [ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime](#) is now included as an integral part of the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit. The ICCWC Indicator Framework also continues to be available as an independent self-assessment tool that will enable a Party to monitor performance over time and to identify any changes in the effectiveness of its law enforcement responses to addressing wildlife crime. The Secretariat and UNODC recently updated the *step by step guides* for these tools to provide a general outline of the implementation process. Parties are encouraged to consult the *step by step guides*, available on the ICCWC web portal.³
23. To date, the ICCWC Indicator Framework has been successfully implemented in 13 countries [Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Namibia, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania). Implementation is at the time of writing also ongoing or planned for Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Paraguay and Peru.
24. At the time of writing, UNODC is in the process of revising and updating the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework based on findings from an evaluation of these tools conducted in 2020, as further elaborated upon in paragraph 39 below. To date, a series of meetings and bilateral consultations have been conducted by UNODC through an Expert Group of 'Friends of the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit'. The Secretariat will provide a further update on this matter at CoP19.

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

25. The [ICCWC Annual Report 2020](#) highlights key activities conducted in support of this focus area. Further, in 2021, under the auspices of ICCWC, UNODC provided classroom and on-the-job training opportunities, and prosecution mentoring, focusing on going beyond the seizure to promote successful prosecution of wildlife crime, targeting in particular specialized teams of prosecutors in Malaysia and Viet Nam. The Consortium was able to deliver additional training courses than those initially envisaged, due to costs savings against some of the trainings conducted online or in a hybrid format. It should be noted however that although additional trainings were possible and online events often facilitated engagement by a larger number of participants, feedback from Parties and partners suggest that careful consideration should be given regarding trainings conducted online. While online delivery facilitated efforts to progress the work during the pandemic, in-person interventions for some types of training would have been preferable and would likely have been more effective. Worth noting is that in many cases, training provided responded directly to the needs identified in the Toolkit and Indicator Framework implementation reports.

² 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>

³ ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework step by step guide: https://cites.org/sites/default/files/EN_Toolkit%20Indicator%20Framework.pdf. ICCWC Indicator Framework step by step guide: https://cites.org/sites/default/files/EN_ICCWC%20Indicator%20framework%20step-by-step%20guide.pdf

26. Since CoP18, the World Bank also further developed and refined the ICCWC *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme*⁴ based on lessons learned. The implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme has allowed the World Bank to support Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe in carrying out an assessment of money laundering risks, including risks related to environmental crimes; and at the time of writing similar projects are ongoing in the Central Africa Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Maldives, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Zambia. The World Bank also supported the implementation of technical assistance activities such as drafting legislation, financial sector compliance and supervision, and prosecutorial training, in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, and further work is planned to be conducted in Cameroon in 2022.
27. In close collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and relevant customs experts, the WCO developed and finalized a new online training course for customs on CITES implementation and enforcement, and addressing wildlife crime. The course, which was launched on the WCO CLiKC (Customs Learning and Knowledge Community) platform in November 2021 includes six modules that relate to CITES, including on CITES Appendices, permits, specimen identification, safe handling, and legal vs. illegal trade. The modules are currently available in English and are, at the time of writing, being translated into French and Spanish. The online training course for customs is a restricted access course available to customs officers only. It is envisaged that this course will replace the online *Introduction to CITES for customs* course currently available in the [CITES Virtual College](#). The Secretariat initiated work to update and enhance the Virtual College, as reported upon in more detail in paragraph 34 below.
28. The [ICCWC Annual Report 2020](#) also highlights the work of the Consortium to combat corruption associated with wildlife crime. At the time of writing, UNODC, on behalf of ICCWC, has continued to deliver training and support to selected institutions on identification and mitigation of corruption risks as part of the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this in document SC74 Doc. 33.1 on *Enforcement matters: Report of the Secretariat*.

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

29. On behalf of ICCWC and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Global Wildlife Program (GWP), the World Bank convened a [Wildlife Forum](#) in January 2020. As outlined in the ICCWC Annual Report 2020, the Wildlife Forum included governmental partners involved in combating illegal trade in wildlife, as well as donor representatives and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) working on illegal wildlife trade related matters. It provided an opportunity for ICCWC to learn more about the activities and priorities of these different stakeholders and to explore possible synergies with initiatives and activities being delivered by a broad range of entities to combat wildlife crime. The information originating from the Forum is considered in the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme and was also drawn upon to shape the development of the ICCWC Vision 2030, elaborated upon in paragraph 40 below. Additional similar forums are envisaged to be convened in future.
30. The World Wildlife Crime reports ([Second edition, 2020](#) and [First edition, 2016](#)) produced by UNODC in cooperation with ICCWC partners take stock of the global wildlife crime situation and provide a detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the problem. It includes quantitative market assessments and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies for key species found in illegal trade. The second World Wildlife Crime Report, [launched in July 2020](#), includes illicit trade case studies on [rosewood](#), [ivory](#), [rhino horn](#), [pangolin scales](#), [live reptiles](#), [big cats](#) and [eels](#). In addition, value chains and [illicit financial flows](#) from the illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn is presented. These reports are available on the ICCWC web portal, and the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 have also been made available as an information document. Parties are encouraged to draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 to inform their decision making and in support of the development of appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime.
31. In support of increased awareness to combat wildlife crime, the Secretariat at CoP18 displayed an exhibition on ICCWC, highlighting support provided by the Consortium and the range of tools and services available to Parties. In the margins of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC COP) held in October 2020, UNODC convened an ICCWC side event to discuss wildlife crime trends and the resulting policy implications, based on the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020. UNODC also organized an ICCWC exhibition at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and

⁴ The ICCWC *Wildlife crime and anti-money-laundering (AML) training programme* is 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. For more information, see: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.php/Tools>

Criminal Justice in March 2021 and at the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), held in May 2021.

32. Since CoP18, the Consortium conducted a range of communications activities. This included the development of the *ICCWC Communications and Visibility Strategy* for 2021-2022, the commencement of its implementation, and the publication of the ICCWC Annual Report 2020 mentioned earlier. Further, across the three working languages of the Convention, a range of materials was developed and updated in support of making Parties aware of the tools and services available to them to strengthen their responses to wildlife crime. In November 2020, the Consortium also celebrated its first decade of action since it was established in November 2010.⁵ ICCWC celebrated its 10th anniversary under the theme "[10 years, 10 achievements](#)". The anniversary campaign recognized Parties for their efforts to address wildlife crime more effectively and recognised the work of ICCWC. An ICCWC Twitter account was also created (@ICCWC_WFC) and, at the time of writing a number of additional activities identified in the *ICCWC Communications and Visibility Strategy* are underway.

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

33. As detailed in the ICCWC Annual Report 2020, the Consortium continued to deliver activities to promote and support the use of forensic applications in the fight against wildlife crime. This included amongst others the establishment of a Portable Enforcement Laboratory for Testing Seizures (PELTS) to service requesting African countries as well as support for the delivery of training based on the UNODC [Wildlife Crime Scene Guide for First Responders](#), implemented by the [TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network](#). The Secretariat also wishes to bring to the attention of Parties that the [Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification](#), previously only available in English and Chinese, is now available in [Spanish](#). At the time of writing, the Secretariat is also working with UNODC to finalize updating the [Guidelines on methods and procedures for ivory sampling and laboratory analysis](#), which will be made available to Parties in English and French. Parties are encouraged to draw upon these tools in their efforts to combat illegal trade in ivory and timber. In addition, UNODC is supporting a research project to evaluate the potential threat of infectious diseases in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade by applying MinION technology to pathogen screening of illegal wildlife products. This innovative work is conducted in partnership with TRACE, the University of Edinburgh and with laboratories in Malaysia and Zambia to characterize, and thus help mitigate, the risks of zoonotic disease to human and agricultural health.
34. To enhance online training tools and materials, the Secretariat is, at the time of writing, undertaking work to enhance and update the CITES Virtual College. This includes undertaking a comprehensive mapping of all enforcement-related materials in parallel and coordination with other ongoing work to update the Virtual College. This work, co-funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme, is expected to culminate in a new CITES Virtual College that is user-friendly and easy to navigate and provides up-to-date materials and resources.
35. Further, as reported at CoP18, the WCO was working on an Environmental Guide for frontline customs officers, designed as a user-friendly tool that will provide customs officers with pertinent on-the-spot guidance when confronted by incidents that relate to environmental matters. The guide provides a straightforward way for the frontline officers on actions in legal trade, but also how to deal with shipments if irregularities are discovered during the customs clearance process. It is not limited to CITES-listed species and wildlife crime, and also includes chapters on waste and other environmental matters. The guide, which contains a chapter on CITES and illegal wildlife trade funded through the ICCWC Strategic Programme, was completed and launched in December 2021⁶. The Guide is available in English and French and the possibility to translate it into additional languages is being explored.
36. In addition, through the ICCWC Strategic Programme, the Consortium has also supported a range of activities to increase capacity to facilitate the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet. The Secretariat reports in more detail on this matter in document SC74 Doc. 33.4 on *Wildlife crime linked to the Internet*.

⁵ The Consortium was formally established in November 2010 upon the signing of a [Letter of Understanding](#), and has been supporting Parties through various [national, regional and global initiatives](#) throughout the last decade.

⁶ <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2021/december/the-wco-environment-programme-publishes-a-guide-on-multilateral-environmental-agreements.aspx>

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

37. Delivery of the Consortium's activities continues to be overseen by its Senior Experts Group (SEG) and supported by its Technical Experts Group (TEG), in which each of the five partner organizations are represented. The SEG identifies priorities for the implementation of activities; takes decisions on initiatives to support; oversees overall effectiveness of delivery; evaluates progress and takes corrective action as appropriate. The TEG was established at a January 2020 ICCWC Strategic Planning Meeting and is tasked with coordinating and implementing the daily work and activities of the Consortium. Regular calls continue to take place on a monthly basis to monitor project implementation and adapt based on lessons learned. The ICCWC TEG meets monthly and the ICCWC SEG every quarter.
38. To further streamline efforts and maximize the impact of activities in different countries, where possible and appropriate, the Consortium continues to coordinate and align activities and programmes of individual ICCWC partner organizations with the ICCWC Strategic Programme. The Consortium also works to increasingly coordinate ICCWC activities with other stakeholders active in the field of addressing wildlife crime. For example, this includes the initiation of regular country-specific coordination calls involving all the different stakeholders implementing activities in target countries. Through the World Bank, the Consortium also maintains engagement with the GEF funded GWP 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.
39. In addition to the above, to ensure that ICCWC activities have the desired impact and result in the expected outcomes of the programme, the ICCWC SEG in 2021 conducted an internal evaluation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme. Also in 2020, UNODC conducted an evaluation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework. The evaluations provided a number of lessons learned that are being taken into consideration by the Consortium to strengthen its collaborative approach and in the development of the ICCWC Vision 2030 described in paragraph 40 below. It is also envisaged that an external evaluation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme will be commissioned once the Programme has concluded.
40. Building on the successes and lessons learned to date, ICCWC is in the process of developing the ICCWC Vision 2030, which will guide the work of the Consortium in the decade to come. The ICCWC Vision 2030 builds on the strengths identified in the internal evaluation and focuses on the key areas where the Consortium can support efforts to further strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife crime, following a theory of change to contribute *towards a world free of wildlife crime*. The ICCWC Vision 2030 will be implemented through two four-year Strategic Action Plans (2023-2026 and 2027-2030) that outline the approaches that ICCWC will take to achieve the five outcomes identified in the Vision⁷ and indicate the types of activities that ICCWC could deliver against each approach.
41. The ICCWC Vision 2030 is being developed taking into account the over 70 responses to Notification to the Parties No. [2021/14](#) of 29 January 2021 issued to consult with Parties and other stakeholders on the development of ICCWC's future programme of work. In September and October 2021, in close collaboration with ICCWC partners, the Secretariat conducted further targeted consultations and, as directed in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 9 b), consulted with the CITES Standing Committee on the development of the ICCWC programme of work to ensure CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed. The advanced drafts of the ICCWC Vision 2030 and Strategic Action Plan 2023-2026 were shared with the Standing Committee through its Chair for comment. The Secretariat on behalf of ICCWC partners thanks Standing Committee Members, Parties and other stakeholders that provided feedback to the documents and is, at the time of writing, processing all feedback received to finalize the ICCWC Vision 2030 and accompanying action plan.
42. Decision 18.13 adopted at CoP18 encourage Parties to continue provide funding support to ICCWC for the implementation of its Strategic Programme 2016-2020, and any newly developed future Strategic Programme. On behalf of ICCWC, the Secretariat, reiterates its thanks to the European Union, France, Germany, Monaco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for their contributions towards the ICCWC Strategic Programme. Parties that wish to contribute towards the ICCWC Vision 2030 are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat. The Secretariat also thanks the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of

⁷ *The Vision's Theory of Change identifies five critical ICCWC outcomes: 1. Reduced opportunity for wildlife crime; 2. Increased deterrence of wildlife crime; 3. Increased detection of wildlife crime; 4. Increased disruption and detention of criminals; and 5. Evidence-based actions, knowledge exchange and collaboration, as a basis for the achievement of the first four outcomes and to drive ICCWC's impact. The five outcomes generate 13 sub-outcomes on which ICCWC will focus its interventions.*

America for funds through the ICCWC Strategic Programme which maintained the positions of the ICCWC Coordinator and ICCWC Support Officer at the CITES Secretariat. Additional contributions from Hong Kong SAR of China, Norway and the United States of America to the Secretariat have also been mobilized to extend these positions up to early 2023 when funding towards this purpose will be depleted. The Secretariat will continue to seek additional funds to sustain these positions after CoP19 through the ICCWC Vision 2030, or through bilateral contributions to ICCWC as appropriate.

Final remarks

43. The number of Parties that request and benefit from ICCWC support continues to grow, and this is testimony of the importance and value of the tools, services, support and capacity-building provided by the Consortium. Through generous donor support the Consortium is able to work closely with Parties to enhance the capacity of customs, police, wildlife authorities and entire criminal justice systems to respond to wildlife crime in an increasingly strong, consistent, collaborative and effective manner.
44. There has been a considerable effort by the global community in recent years to address wildlife crime. Despite this much more needs to be done. The Consortium will continue to work in close collaboration with Parties to provide them with the tools, services and technical support needed to combat wildlife crime and to build capacity to ensure that criminals involved are brought to justice.

Recommendations

45. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) note the broad range of activities reported upon and support available to Parties through ICCWC;
 - b) encourage Parties to draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 developed by the UNODC in cooperation with ICCWC partners, to inform their decision-making and in support of the development of appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime;
 - c) encourage Parties that have implemented the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to actively pursue mobilizing resources and to make dedicated efforts to implement the resulting recommendations, requesting support from ICCWC where needed;
 - d) encourage donors, international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives in countries that implemented the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with the recommendations of the Toolkit and support their implementation; and
 - e) take note of the progress made with the development of the ICCWC Vision 2030 and accompanying 2023-2026 Strategic Action Plan and encourage Parties to continue their support to ICCWC in the context of Decision 18.13.