



PRESS KIT

Round Table:

"Combating poaching
and the trafficking of endangered
species"

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Contextual aspects

Wildlife trafficking

The trafficking of protected species is the 4th largest trafficking problem worldwide after drugs, counterfeiting and the trafficking of human beings. Wildlife (land and sea) related organised crime has become a serious threat not only to biodiversity conservation, the economy and cultural heritage, but also to the security and political stability in many countries.

According to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora, the total value of wildlife trafficking worldwide is estimated to be more than \$14bn per year. The TRAFFIC organisation, a joint IUCN/WWF wildlife trade monitoring programme, estimates that 500 to 600 million live tropical fish, 15 million fur-bearing animals, five million birds, two million reptiles and 30,000 primates are involved in illegal trading each year.

Facts and figures

For example, the World Customs Organisation's "HOPE" operation, which targeted air and ocean freight and passengers, enabled 41 African, Asian and European customs services to seize the following in 9 days (22 - 31 October 2012): 2 rhinoceros horns, 53 pieces of rhinoceros skin, 497 kg of raw ivory, 393 pieces of worked ivory (mainly jewellery), 140 turtles (of which only 49 survived the attempted smuggling), 161 dried seahorses, 25 kg of pangolin scales, 21 reptile-skin bags, 6 lion skins, 1 leopard skin, 150 kg of bush-meat, 40 kg of shark fins, 408 tonnes of teak wood without an export license and 20 orchids.

In **Gabon**, about 11,000 elephants have been illegally killed since 2004. 668 rhinoceros were poached in South Africa in 2012. Last April, an armed militia entered the Sangha Tri-National site (Cameroon - Central African Republic - Congo) designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, and killed 26 elephants in a few days.

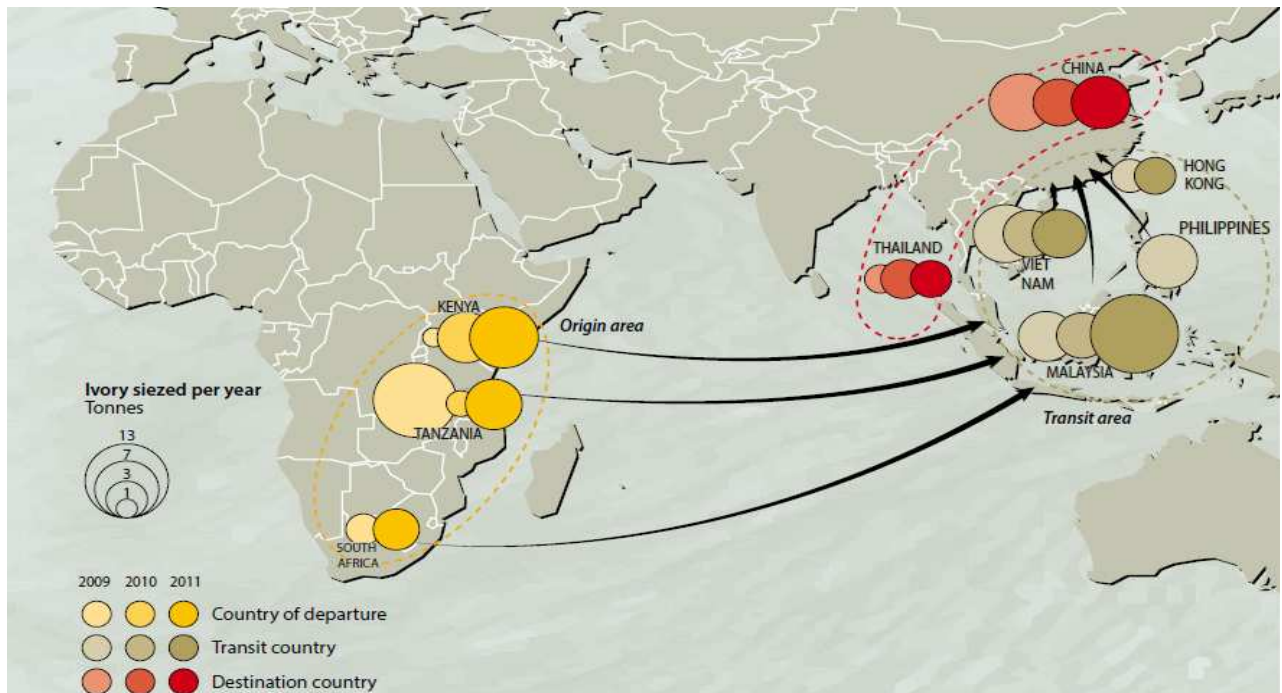
In **Togo**, an ivory trafficker who had been perpetrating crimes for 40 years was arrested this summer after an investigation carried out secretly by conservationists, resulting in the seizure of 725 kg of ivory objects and the arresting of 800 people, which brought to light that several tonnes of illegal ivory had passed through the port of Lomé on the way to Asia.

The ivory illegal trade routes

As indicated in the map below, the **main shipment countries are Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania** (between 2009 and 2011, 16 of the 34 major seizures were sent from Kenya and Tanzania). Ivory then goes through Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam with China and Thailand as destination countries.

Ten other countries have been identified as actively involved in ivory trafficking: Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Taiwan.

The primary points of seizures are the major Asian ports with shipments coming from Dar-es-Salaam, Mombasa and West Africa. The very large illegal shipments from Cameroon, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda are a sign of the involvement of organised crime in these countries.



Illegal ivory routes

Source: Elephants in the Dust - The African Elephant Crisis. A Rapid Response Assessment (PNUE, CITES, UICN, TRAFFIC, 2013)

The victims of poaching

The 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES (CoP16, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 3-14 March 2013, was alerted about **the alarming escalation of the illegal killing of elephants and rhinoceros in Africa and the smuggling of their ivory and horns.**

Other species also suffer from illegal trade pressures: **the Asian big cats (tigers, cheetahs and leopards), the great apes (gorillas, bonobos and chimpanzees), pangolins, tortoises and freshwater turtles, and the Tibetan antelope.**

Facts and figures

(Source: information gathered by our diplomatic network)

According to the latest census data, the number of African elephants is estimated to be between 419,000 and 650,000 but the reliability of this data has decreased as some areas have not been analysed for more than 10 years. In Asia, across the 13 distribution range States, the wild elephant populations represent between 39,500 and 43,500 individuals and there are also about 13,000 domesticated elephants.

In **Mozambique**, rhinoceros have disappeared and about 2,500 elephants disappeared between 2009 and 2012.

In **Tanzania**, the number of elephants decreased from 350,000 to 110,000 between 1960 and 2009 and the number of black rhinoceros decreased from 1000 to 70 over the same period.

In **South Sudan**, there are now only 5,000 elephants compared to 80,000 in 1960.

In **Burundi**, there are no longer any elephants or gorillas but there are still 700 hippos and a population of about 500 chimpanzees and 20 crocodiles.

In **Chad**, there are between 1,200 to 1,500 savannah elephants, in other words a drop of 50,000 specimens since the 1960s.

- ↳ **In Africa, elephants are killed faster than they can reproduce:** the rate of elephants poached (7.4%) across the whole continent is now higher than the natural rate of renewal of the species (5 to 6%).

The proportion of elephants poached varies significantly from one country to another. In the census areas located in Central Africa, 14% of the elephant population was slaughtered in 2011, i.e. the double of what can be compensated for by births. This ratio is significantly higher than in other parts of Africa. Northern Central Africa (including northern Cameroon and DRC) has lost 76% of its elephants over the last 20 years.

2012 was the most deadly year for decades: since 2009, the level of elephant poaching has continuously increased, indicating a change of scale and the involvement of organised crime.

Elephants are poached for their ivory. In 2011, seizures of ivory poached amounted to 39 tonnes.

- ↳ **The illegal trade in rhino horn remains one of the most well organised criminal activities currently facing the CITES.**

Some rhinoceros populations could be seriously affected by high levels of poaching and decline if the number of illegal killings continues to increase at current rates, especially in southern Africa.

In Mozambique and Uganda, populations of black and white rhinos have been decimated to the point of disappearing.

The reasons behind international trafficking

Deforestation, poverty, corruption, impunity, military conflicts but also the exponential rise in demand from Asian consumers: there are many reasons for it.

As might be expected, the poaching rate is directly related to the poverty level (subsistence killings, villagers hired by traffickers, corruption of control services) and the lack of checks and penalties. In many African countries, illegal local markets often operate with impunity.

And while the increase in living standards in China is generating an exponential demand for ivory products, businessmen, tourists, diplomats and peacekeepers of all nationalities also become buyers of ivory objects or elephant tusks. In November 2012, at the partnership meeting on wildlife trafficking in Washington, Hillary Clinton, the United States Secretary of State, said that "While wildlife is killed in Asia and Africa, furs, tusks, bones and horns are sold all over the world (...) even in Europe, Australia, China and the United States".

This is often coupled with military conflicts during which militia and military personnel trade ivory for money, weapons and ammunition, and the involvement of organised crime which has the logistics needed to organise transfers and adapt tactics and routes to avoid checks.

Past and future dates...

4-6 November 2013

IUCN Summit, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

6-8 November 2013

High-level meeting of the Committee for compliance and enforcement of environmental law, in Nairobi, Kenya

2-4 December 2013

Summit on the African Elephant, in Gaborone, Botswana

5 December 2013

Round table on "Combating poaching and trafficking of endangered species," in Paris, France on the sidelines of the Élysee Summit for Peace and Security in Africa

12 December 2013

Meeting of the "Group of Friends of the fight against trafficking of endangered species" in New York, United States

12-13 February 2014

London Summit, in London, United Kingdom

10 April 2014

Conference on wildlife trafficking, European Commission, in Brussels, Belgium



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A growing awareness by African States

Following the round table on the sidelines of the Élysee Summit for Peace and Security in Africa, the states present (list them) will discuss **the adoption of a joint declaration in which they intend to state their deepest concern about the magnitude and devastation caused by the unprecedented growth in poaching and trafficking affecting elephants and the other endangered species throughout Africa.**

The heavily armed gangs that increasingly operate across borders and who fuel trafficking of all kinds as well as political instability, pose a serious a challenge to the security and sovereignty of states.

As an environmental drama, with the prospect of the possible extinction in the short term of several iconic large species of animals, poaching and illegal trafficking jeopardise opportunities for economic and social development, and for the preservation of the environment in ever wider areas.

The various states hereby undertake to take decisive action without delay, and solemnly call on the international community to join in with, and support, this effort.

In this respect, they welcome the large-scale projects presented by several countries during this round table, which demonstrate a broad awareness and a willingness to take action without delay.

The countries having signed the declaration call on the international community to formally give its full support to the Marrakech Declaration (adopted on 30 May 2013) as well as the political and operational conclusions of the Gaborone International Summit (held from 2 to 4 December 2013, which in particular helped to draw up temporary emergency measures in response to the upsurge in elephant poaching in Africa and the illegal ivory trade).

The States confirm their determination to strengthen the CITES, UNODC and Interpol, and intensify their cooperation with these organisations.

The signatory countries call on all major donors to provide their support for African national and regional initiatives. The fight against poaching can indeed only be effective if it is included in the sustainable development policies supported by international institutions and major donors.

On the basis of this declaration, the countries will participate in the high-level London Conference organised on 12 and 13 February 2014 and will work actively towards its success.



A few examples

At the 36th meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on security questions in Central Africa, ministers decided to include poaching as a standing item at all future meetings.

In **Ethiopia**, anti-poaching policy is bearing fruit: the state of biodiversity has been remarkable: 2800 animal species identified, including 139 endemic species and more than 7,000 plants. Only two elephants have been killed in 2013 compared with 40 two years ago.

Two laws were passed in 2007 and 2008:

- Law 541/2007 providing that any trade activity in wild species is prohibited unless a license is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture or the appropriate regional body;
- Law 575/2008 which created the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and provides that the rules for exporting wildlife species must comply with the CITES.

In **Namibia**, the black rhinoceros population is increasing (300 in 1980 compared with 1,700 today). The same applies to elephants (155 in 1980 compared with 600 today) and to lions whose number has increased to 1000.

Namibia has enshrined, in Article 95(i) of its constitution, that "the State shall actively promote and seek the well-being of its citizens by adopting policies aimed at maintaining Namibia's ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity and the use of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of present and future Namibians".

Local communities are involved in particular through the creation of municipal Conservatories.

Other African countries have also made undertakings: **Gabon** (creation of a specialised anti-poaching brigade, joint organisation with Germany of a high-level debate on poaching, participation in the launching of the Clinton Global Initiative against global trade in poaching and trafficking of elephants (three-year project with a budget of \$80m), **Cameroon** (deployment of 600 elite soldiers to block the access routes used by wildlife traffickers), **Chad** (participation of the armed forces in combating poaching).

France's commitments

To provide one of the demanding combating mechanisms in the EU in terms of penalties and coordination, France has made a commitment at national, European and international level and has presented its "Combating ivory trafficking and the poaching of elephants and other protected species" national action plan

Strengthen the national combating system

↳ Increase penalties

To ensure that the amounts involved are more in line with the illegal gains generated by the trafficking of protected species, **the fines imposable for an isolated offense will be increased tenfold** (from €15,000 to €150,000) and **multiplied by five for trafficking by an organised group** (from €150,000 to €750,000).

These provisions are to be included in the "Biodiversity" bill to be presented to Parliament in 2014.

↳ Strengthen investigative resources

The scale and type of trafficking have changed dramatically and are now a major source of funding of organised crime or terrorism. To address this problem more effectively, **the powers of judicial police officers (JPO) will be considerably increased.**

Under the draft law on combating tax evasion and serious economic and financial crime (Article 16 IV), it is planned to extend some special investigative techniques to gang offences: surveillance, infiltration, four-day custody, interception of correspondence through telecommunications, sound systems and image detection technology used in certain places or vehicles and electronic data capture.

↳ Provide special instructions to prosecutors

The Chancery is, within the next few days, to send prosecutors **a dispatch dedicated to combating the trafficking of protected species.** The aim of this new tool will in particular be to professionalise the handling of cases of trafficking through the use of specialised inter-regional jurisdictions (JIRS).

The dispatch will present the reality of trafficking, its polymorphic nature, its impacts on the environment, health and safety and the applicable legal tools.

↳ Adopt a national inter-jurisdictional coordination plan for the implementation of the CITES

This plan is to establish a national and regional mechanism for dialogue and exchanging of information between the main authorities responsible for combating the trafficking of endangered species

↳ Draw up national guidelines for the identification, management and destruction of stocks of seized illegal ivory

These guidelines will establish unique criteria common to all jurisdictions to ensure the traceability and monitoring of the disposing seized illegal ivory. Lawful uses, in compliance with the CITES rules (for educational purposes, for the training of staff responsible for seizing or for scientific research purposes) will be defined and supervised. Any recorded surpluses the detention of which is not justified for the above reasons will be destruction.

Actions at International and European levels

Combating poaching and trafficking calls for a strengthening of international mechanisms. France will suggest various measures to its partners.

↳ Strengthen the United Nations organisation responsible for combating organised crime (UNODC)

This strengthening will involve:

- **the setting up of a "mechanism for monitoring the implementation of commitments" under the Palermo Convention** on combating organised crime. France will ensure that this mechanism includes an explicit reference to poaching and trafficking of protected species;
- **by earmarking a portion of the France's contribution to the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2014** for action against trafficking of protected species.

↳ Strengthen the Interpol services dedicated to environmental safety

In addition to the three police officers provided by Brazil, China and the Netherlands to significantly strengthen the Interpol Environmental safety sub-directorate, the French government will also make an officer available to this structure.

↳ Support the strengthening of the involvement of the United Nations' organisation

France officially supports the proposals made at the event organised on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, on 26 September 2013:

- the "Group of Friends of the fight against trafficking of endangered species", the first meeting of which is to be held in New York on 12 December 2013;
- appointment of a representative or special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General;
- voting on a resolution at United Nations General Assembly;
- organisation of a global high-level conference under the auspices of the UN. Gabon has offered to be the host country.

↳ Take action at European level

On the occasion of the next Council of European Ministers of the Environment on 13 December 2013, France is to present the results of the round table organised on the sidelines of the Elysee Summit and will propose that the European Union contributes to the international mobilisation against poaching and trafficking, from three standpoints in particular:

In terms of customs, it will propose the following to the Commission:

- advance international customs nomenclature consistent with the CITES annexes.
- develop mechanisms for international cooperation to ensure controlled deliveries in combating trafficking of protected species (not intercept goods during transit to identify those who requested them).

In terms of penalties: a review of national policies for repressing trafficking shows that there are significant disparities between Member States. France will suggest to the Commission that there is a need to review a harmonising of the criminal provisions relating to the trafficking of protected species by an organised gang, to allow the applicability of the Palermo Conventions within the EU.

In terms of international cooperation and development: in view of the upsurge in poaching and trafficking of protected species and the need for urgent action to be taken, France will suggest to the Commission that there is a need to strengthen its action in combating poaching and trafficking of endangered species within the European Development Fund.

Support the fight against poaching and trafficking of endangered species within the development policy framework

Having been committed to this policy for several years now, **France has implemented an integrated policy which takes into account all the human, economic, social and environmental aspects in the protection of endangered species.**

As such, it currently funds almost 40 integrated projects in the planning, development and protection of territories in 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, for a total amount of €197m through funding from the French development agency (AFD) and the French global environment fund (FFEM). **Several projects are devoted to combating the poaching of elephants and other endangered species in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

↳ €25m for 2014 - 2015

For 2014-2015, France intends to continue its efforts for the amount of €25m as follows:

- **continuation of the effort undertaken for the amount of €11m**
- within the framework of debt conversion mechanisms, **an additional exceptional effort of €14m in two target countries, Gabon and Mozambique**, taking into account the scale and changing nature of poaching.

If other countries want to commit to such debt conversion agreements, France will examine all proposals conducive to combating the poaching of endangered species.

↳ Involve environmental NGOs

France wants environmental NGOs to be closely involved in this international effort. The French global environment fund (FFEM) has just approved a new financing facility for projects for the national civil society of West Africa and Central Africa (Small-Scale Initiatives Programmes No. 4) for a total amount of €2.5m (for the period 2014-2016); projects that contribute directly or indirectly to combating poaching will be able to be submitted by NGOs in this context as well as to the AFD's NGO "one-stop-shop". Awareness campaigns will be able to be conducted in the consumer countries.

Appendices

Glossary

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora

International trade in wildlife is regulated by the CITES or the Washington Convention of 1975. This Convention aims to ensure that imports, exports, re-exports and the bringing in from the sea of species listed in its annexes, as well as parts and products derived from them, are not detrimental to biodiversity conservation and are based on the sustainable use of wildlife.

For this purpose, the CITES limits international trade to specimens that are only accompanied by **permits** or certificates proving that their removal is lawful and compatible with the survival of the species from which they are taken.

The CITES involves more than 35,000 animal and plant species, about 3% of which are considered to be threatened with extinction, while others may become so unless international trade is strictly regulated.

For further information: <http://www.cites.org/fra/>

UNODC

United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime

As an agency of the United Nations Secretariat, the aims and areas of work of the UNODC were defined in its strategy for the period 2008-2011. Its task is to assist Member States in achieving the objective of security and justice for all by making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism.

The UNODC is in particular guided in its action by a set of international legal instruments. For example, the UN Convention against corruption, the UN Convention against transnational organised crime, the international legal framework for drug control (Single Convention on narcotic drugs, the Convention on psychotropic substances, the Convention against the trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances), and the international legal framework for combating terrorism.

For further information: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/fr/>

Interpol

International Police

As an international organisation created on 7 September 1923, Interpol aims to promote international police cooperation. Its full name is the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO).

For further information: <http://www.interpol.int/fr/>

Europol

European Police Office

This is an intergovernmental criminal police office which facilitates the exchange of information between national police forces on drugs, terrorism, international crime and paedophilia within the European Union. The Convention establishing it was signed and ratified by all the Member States of the European Union.

Europol participates in the fight against crime in Europe by improving cooperation between Europol liaison officers (OLE) seconded to the Office by the Member States and through the simplified transmission of information needed for investigations. It coordinates and centralises investigations against criminal organisations on a European or international scale.

For further information: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

TRAFFIC

The wildlife trade monitoring network

As a network monitoring the trade in wild fauna and flora, TRAFFIC is an international organisation whose role is to ensure that such trade is not a threat to nature conservation. It is a joint programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

TRAFFIC also works in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

For further information: <http://www.traffic.org/>

WCO / OMD

World Customs Organization / Organisation mondiale des douanes

As an intergovernmental organisation, the WCO or OMD is considered to be the spokesman for the international Customs community. The WCO is particularly noted for drawing up international conventions, instruments and tools, on the following topics in particular: classification of goods, customs valuation, rules of origin, customs revenue collection, supply chain security, facilitation of international trade, combating fraud, combating counterfeiting while enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR), promotion of ethical aspects and sustainable strengthening of capacities for implementing of customs reforms and modernising.

The WCO also maintains the international goods nomenclature known as the Harmonised System (HS) and the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

For further information: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en.aspx>

Useful links

Focus on elephants

Brochure published by the IFAW entitled "The Nature of the Crime"

<http://www.ifaw.org/sites/default/files/LA%20NATURE%20DU%20CRIME.pdf>

Presentation of the Gaborone Summit (which Nicolas is participating in)

https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/fr_aes_document_dinformation_oct2_2013.pdf

Des éléphants et des hommes

<http://www.deselephantsetdeshommes.org/>

Brigitte Bardot's Fondation

<http://www.fondationbrigittebardot.fr/>

Focus on apes

The Jane Goodall Institute

http://www.janegoodall.fr/htfr/grands_singes.htm

Lola Ya Bonobo

<http://www.lolayabonobo.org/>

Great apes

<http://www.grands-singes.com/pages/association.html>

Website Sabrina Krief, MNHN researcher

<http://www.sabrina-jm-krief.com/>



**Elysée Summit on Peace and Security in Africa
Roundtable "Combating poaching and the trafficking of endangered species"**

**Paris Declaration
(draft)**

We, Heads of State and ministers, meeting in Paris on 5 December 2013 at the Elysée Summit on Peace and Security in Africa, hereby express our deep concern for the scope of the devastation caused by the unprecedented increase in acts of poaching and trafficking throughout Africa that affect elephants and other endangered species.

The foundations of development and security in Africa are being directly weakened by the consequences of these criminal trafficking.

Faced with heavily armed groups who increasingly operate across borders and contribute to all kinds of trafficking and political instability, our Countries are confronted with a real challenge to their security and sovereignty. Poaching and illegal trafficking are an environmental tragedy, with the possible extinction of several of the world's iconic large animal species in the short term, and jeopardise the possibility for economic and social development and for environmental conservation in ever-growing areas.

We have thus taken the commitment to act resolutely and without delay, and solemnly call upon the international community to join and support this effort.

In this regard, we salute the major projects presented by several countries (*details may be provided*) during our meeting, testifying to a strong increase in awareness and a will to act without delay.

We also salute and support the determined commitment of regional cooperation organisations (ECCAS, etc.), the African Development Bank, and the countries that are the most often targeted by illegal products from poaching.

Lastly, we salute the announcements from France, along with those from other countries in the North and in the South, both for strengthening the fight against trafficking and for supporting African countries that are mobilised in this effort.

Together, we call upon the international community to officially provide its full support to the Marrakech Declaration (adopted on 30 May 2013), as well as to the political and operational conclusions of the International Summit of Gaborone (3-4 December 2013).

Acting effectively requires a combination of resources and a reinforced arsenal of repression, combined with integrated development policies that take into account the human, environmental, economic and social dimensions of the fight against poaching and trafficking.

Thus, we confirm our desire to reinforce CITES, UNODC and Interpol by all possible means and to intensify our cooperation with these organisations, making the fight against poaching and trafficking an urgent priority for our Countries.

We support the project for a resolution to launch the creation of a mechanism as part of UNODC for the effective monitoring of commitments within the context of the International Convention against Organised Crime, of which the trafficking of endangered species is an integral part. An effective fight requires worldwide coordination and legal tools to be successful.

Furthermore, we support the conclusions of the special event organised on 26 September in New York in conjunction with the UNGA, to strengthen the United Nations' involvement, notably the four proposals made on this occasion:

- constitution of a "group of friends of the fight against the trafficking of endangered species" in New York;
- nomination of a special representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to investigate and encourage the fight against the trafficking of endangered species;
- adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- organisation of a high-level world conference under the auspices of the UN.

Lastly, we call upon all the major donors to give their support to African national and regional initiatives. The fight against poaching cannot be effective unless it is included in the sustainable development policies backed by international institutions and major donors.

We hereby confirm our determination to continue to actively work on this subject. Based on this declaration, our countries will play a determined role in the London Conference organised on 12 and 13 February 2014 and will actively work toward its success.

THE MARRAKECH DECLARATION

A 10-POINT ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT ILLICIT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Today in Marrakech, we are launching a new coordinated response to combat illicit wildlife trafficking. This initiative builds on and complements other actions taken through initiatives such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs).¹ It provides an Africa-wide platform to support new as well as existing initiatives.

ILLICIT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Wildlife trafficking is now more organised, more lucrative, more widespread and more dangerous than ever before. Poachers with military weapons and vehicles gun down elephants and rhinos. Increasingly, they are also targeting the park rangers dedicated to protecting threatened species.

The result is a scourge that is wiping out elephants and rhinos, along with other African species. Tens of thousands of elephants across Africa are poached each year. The forest elephant population in the Congo Basin has fallen by more than 60 percent in the last decade. In one African country, rhino poaching has increased by 5,000 per cent since 2007. Illicit wildlife trafficking also greatly threatens many other African species both plant and animal, and several populations of these species are also plummeting.

What's more, it is no longer a local phenomenon. International criminal networks run the trade and some use the profits to buy weapons, to finance civil conflicts and to pay for terrorism.

UNDERMINING THE BASIS OF AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

This is not just an environmental problem. The violence and damage now threatens peace and the rule of law, as well as the revenue many African countries earn from tourism and other wildlife uses; some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities that depend on wildlife for their livelihoods suffer. Illicit wildlife trafficking also involves species that are subject to considerable legal trade, trades which when sustainable and traceable provide critical benefits to local communities.

Wildlife trafficking thwarts governments' efforts to stop other illicit trades, such as arms and drugs. It fuels organ-ised crime and corruption, and compromises regional security.

Put simply, illicit wildlife trafficking is undermining the basis of Africa's development and reversing some of the hard-earned economic and social achievements the continent has made in recent years.

DEMAND FOR ILLEGAL WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

Growing demand for illegal wildlife products drives the surge in illicit wildlife trafficking. The tusks, bones and horns of animals killed in Africa, appear in markets all over the world. Smuggled goods find their way to Asia, North America, Europe and elsewhere. Increased demand has led to skyrocketing prices for illegal animal goods. Worth around \$8 to 10 billion a year, illicit wildlife trafficking now ranks alongside arms, drugs and human trafficking as one of the most highly profitable transnational organised crimes in the world. And it is growing fast.

¹ ICWC is collaboration of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Bank and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Fauna (CITES). There are regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) operating within Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

WE NEED TO ACT NOW

We need strong partnerships to fight the global problem of illicit wildlife trafficking. This is why we are launching today a new, concerted response.

I Building collaboration to combat illicit wildlife trafficking

Wildlife is a precious global resource that we need to protect and preserve. We reassert the common and irreplaceable value of threatened species to our world and we urge countries and their citizens to act urgently to fight illicit wildlife trafficking in Africa and across the globe.

To help build an effective collaboration on wildlife protection in Africa we stress the need to:

- Action 1** Initiate or join bilateral, regional and/or international cooperation agreements to combat illicit wildlife trafficking, particularly between countries which share wildlife trafficking trade routes.
- Action 2** Deepen and operationalise collaboration with international institutions dealing with illicit wildlife trafficking, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, the World Customs Organisation, the World Bank, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Action 3** Promote the notion within and beyond our countries that illicit wildlife trafficking is a serious crime, with significant implications beyond species conservation for national security, rule of law, and other forms of serious organised crime.

I Strengthening law enforcement

Trafficking relies on porous borders, the complicity of officials and strong networks of organised crime, all of which undermine our mutual security. We recognise the threat posed by illicit wildlife trafficking to sovereign nations and to the wellbeing of our populations. We will therefore treat this crime equally and in coordination with efforts to halt other forms of illicit trafficking, corruption and money laundering. To help combat wildlife trafficking in Africa we stress the need to:

- Action 4** Increase financial and human resources for and the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement, trade controls and monitoring to address this problem at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- Action 5** Establish specialised CITES Units within customs to provide expertise and resources, particularly for specimen identification, and bolster the ability of customs to detect and seize illicit wildlife products by increasing the amount of training, resourcing, and the individual time allocation that each customs official has for detection of illicit wildlife products.
- Action 6** Promote the establishment of and actively participate in a National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) or similar multi-agency cooperative as recommended by Interpol. Such a task force would include police, customs, environmental agencies, other specialised agencies, prosecutors, non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental partners.

I Penalising wildlife crime to the full extent of the law

To help curb illicit wildlife trafficking we need to ensure that wildlife criminals are penalised to the full extent of the law, providing an effective deterrent to ongoing criminal involvement. To this end, we stress the need to:

- Action 7** Strengthen the judiciary sector with better awareness, capacity and resources to ensure that prosecutions for illicit wildlife trafficking are conducted effectively, to the full extent of the law and using the strongest penalties available.

- Action 8** When necessary, change or update legislation to ensure that illicit wildlife trafficking of protected species is a criminal offense punishable by at least four years of prison, as recommended by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, so that the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime can be used as a basis for international cooperation and mutual legal assistance.
- Action 9** Ensure that suspects apprehended for wildlife trafficking are treated as serious criminals, including investigation of the suspect with respect to other non-wildlife related offenses, and potential seizure of assets of arrested suspects.
- Action 10** Publicise illicit wildlife trafficking as a serious crime under national law, notably showcasing successful prosecutions that resulted in significant penalties.

I Reducing demand for illicit wildlife products

In the long term, illicit wildlife trafficking can only be effectively tackled if we reduce the demand for illicit wildlife products. Therefore, we stress the need for government-led, well-researched campaigns aimed at reducing demand, using targeted strategies to influence consumer behaviour.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS OURS

We can stop illicit wildlife trafficking and we can act together to protect threatened species. Illicit wildlife trade transcends national borders and it is only by acting in concert that we will defeat it.

It is in our local, national, regional and global interests to act now. Failure to do so will have consequences that extend far beyond environmental concerns — it will exacerbate insecurity and conflict, undermine development, and threaten livelihoods of some of the most vulnerable populations in Africa.

As signatories to this initiative we do not accept these consequences, which is why we make this pledge today.

ILLICIT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS A SERIOUS CRIME It's your turn to take action!

Your life and those you care for are affected by illicit wildlife trafficking, a serious crime that threatens our security, political stability and economic development. World leaders at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 recognised the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit wildlife trafficking. They called for firm and strengthened action on both supply and demand.

I pledge to join the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking by writing an email to combatiwt@afdb.org (Please include your name, organisation and country).





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Agenda item 63 (b)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Letter dated 28 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

“Illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species is a threat to all three pillars of the United Nations — human rights, peace and security, and development.” With this concise characterization, the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson, described the scope of these phenomena when opening a high-level discussion on “Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking — a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community”. The event was jointly organized by Gabon and Germany and took place on 26 September 2013 at United Nations Headquarters.

The meeting discussed the complexity of poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking. It also produced a number of important proposals for possible steps to be taken in the framework of the United Nations. Given the global impact of poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, we believe that the Member States of the United Nations might be interested in the outcome of the meeting.

Therefore, we have the pleasure to transmit to you herewith a summary of the discussion held on 26 September (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63 (b).

We look forward to further deliberations on the proposals made by the high-level representatives in order to tackle poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking.

(Signed) Noel Nelson Messone

(Signed) Peter Wittig



Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Outcome of the high-level discussion on “Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking — a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community”, organized by Gabon and Germany on 26 September 2013 in New York

On 26 September 2013, a high-level discussion on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking was hosted by the Governments of Gabon and Germany at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York as a special side event to the opening of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Several Heads of State and Ministers representing many United Nations Member States followed the invitation of President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon and Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle of Germany to participate. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson, and leading representatives of United Nations agencies as well as regional organizations, relevant civil society organizations and the media also attended the meeting, which was moderated by John Scanlon, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature, James Leape, stressed the recent alarming increase in wildlife trafficking. He characterized it as being more organized, more lucrative, more widespread and more dangerous than ever before.

Participants in the discussion unanimously concurred with the statement made by the Deputy Secretary-General: “Illegal trade in wildlife and endangered species is a threat to all three pillars of the United Nations — human rights, peace and security, and development.”

It was undisputed that poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking should be regarded as a serious crime, driven by organized criminal gangs and rebel militias. This crime was not only a threat to the environment or biodiversity. With its far-reaching consequences, it constituted a real and immediate threat to local people, national economies, and national and regional security, especially in Africa.

There was a clear recognition from everyone that no one agency, country or region acting alone can combat these serious crimes. A collective effort is required, commensurate with the scale and the nature of the threats. A response that includes source, transit and destination States and addresses both demand and supply, as was recognized in the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

The main message of the high-level discussion was the call for intensified global cooperation, under the leadership of the United Nations and based on partnership, in the fight against wildlife crime.

All Member States should make the best use of existing instruments and initiatives in combating wildlife crime, with many placing strong emphasis on CITES and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime conventions against transnational organized crime and corruption, as well as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime.

Beyond that, the following recommendations for possible further action against poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking in the framework of the United Nations were made and widely supported:

- To establish a Group of Friends in New York composed of Permanent Missions to the United Nations
 - To propose the nomination of a Special Representative/Envoy of the Secretary-General
 - To draft a resolution and submit it to the General Assembly
 - To convene a global high-level United Nations conference. Gabon offered to host such a conference.
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