World Customs Organization

Wildlife trafficking

Knowledge Academy

September 2020

CITES CONVENTION

- 1960- World realized the need to protect plant and animal species as an international agreement
- 1975 - CITES Convention entered into force
- Today 183 countries have ratified the convention
- To promote controlled trade that is not detrimental- to the sustainability of wild species
- 45 years from its application, did we make a progress or?
- Political will is crucial and has the greatest potential to reverse the negative trend in wildlife conservation

CITES CONVENTION

- The reasons why we failed so far are different, to name only general ones are at the ‘macro” and “micro” level of each member of the CITES Convention
- Many more reasons, but political ones are the “game-changer”
- Countries have conflicts with the preservation of a tradition and sustainable conservation needs
- Not much time left, there is no other way

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

- Has the negative consequences for conservation and sustainable development
- Wildlife trafficking involves the illegal trade, smuggling, poaching, illegal processing, illegal capture, or collection of endangered species, protected wildlife, derivatives, or products thereof
- Undermines the foundations of any society, and it's reflected on:
  - Environment potentials
  - Economic potentials
  - Social aspects

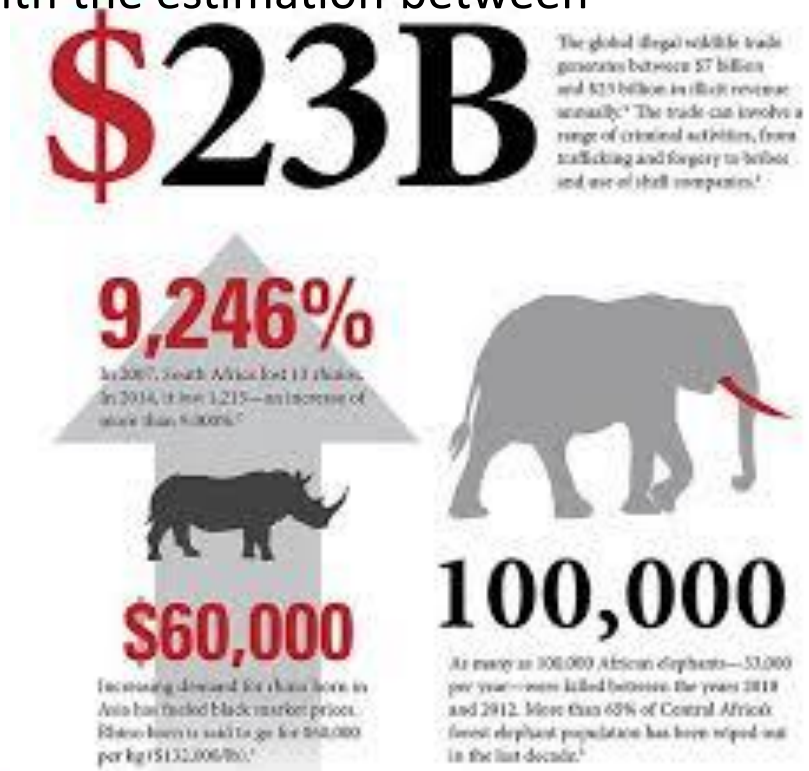
WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

- The scale of wildlife trafficking is unknown, it is just an estimation
- Some international organizations go with the estimation between-

  7 and 23 billion USD annually
- That way this would be 4th-

  on the scale of lucrative crimes
- Wildlife smuggling is not decreasing –

  on the contrary, it is increasing



ICCWC – The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

- Five Inter-governmental organizations working jointly to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defense of natural resources

ICCWC – The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

- The ICCWC partners are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC, the World Bank - WB and the World Customs Organization – WCO

- The ICCWC developed the Strategical Programme 2016-2020

ICCWC

- In the mid- to longer-term, ICCWC is uniquely placed to successfully develop programs to:

  I. enhance awareness of wildlife crime.

  II. provide institutional analysis and support.

  III. build capacity of national institutions, sub-regional and regional enforcement organizations, taking into consideration the whole range of investigative and prosecutorial techniques.

  IV. foster coordinated enforcement actions.

  V. mainstream wildlife crime across relevant national agencies.

  VI. understand and address drivers of wildlife crime.

The WCO Environment Programme

- The WCO recognized the needs of its members, and in March 2012 launched an environmental program to contribute to the fight against environmental crime
- The purpose of the EP is to identify the needs of WCO member countries, which are reflected in strengthening the role of customs services and its officials in the fight against illegal wildlife trade
- Supporting and capacities the Customs Administrations to raise their response to the Illegal Wildlife Trade and to be more efficient in detection, interception, and processing the illegal activities in transboundary movement of shipments, luggage, and passengers

The WCO Environment Programme

- The backbone of the Environment Programme and the area of work is based on two main projects, which will be described, but in essence, both Programmes are focusing on:

  I. Enhance training capacity.

  II. Improve risk management and case selection.

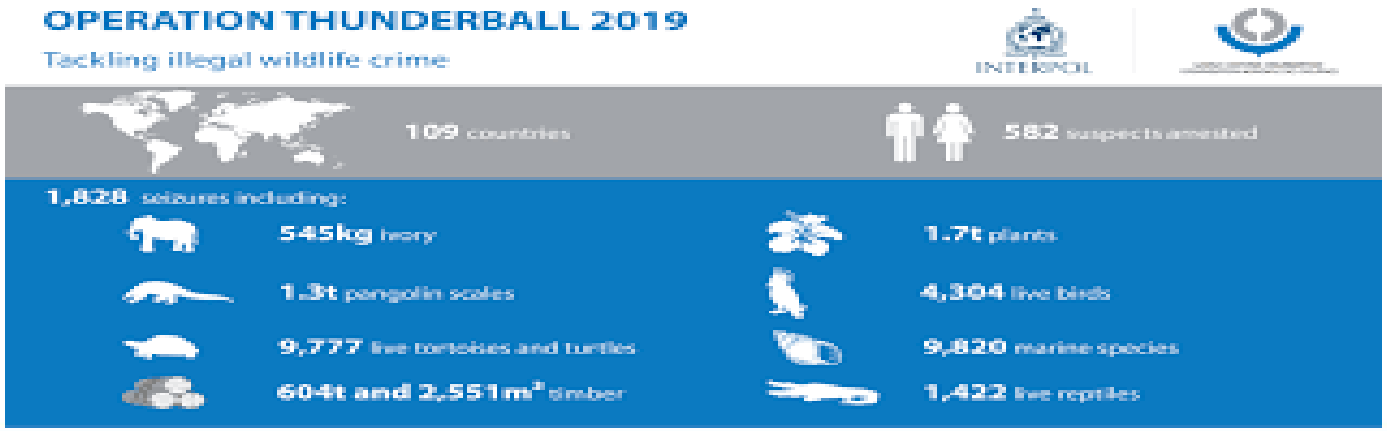
  III. Strengthen interagency cooperation.

  IV. Support with the drafting and implementation of Memorandum of Understanding.

  V. Recognizing ITW a as serious transnational crime.

The WCO Environment Programme

- ICCWC European Union and The United Kingdom (EU – UK) Project
- Main activities are in the area of operational potentials that Customs has and information exchange capacity building, where the program has been designed to support the WCO-INTERPOL THUNDER serious operations, which represents a yearly enforcement operation in the area of the Illegal Wildlife Trade



The WCO Environment Programme

- INAMA Project - has two separate components and is funded by the United States (US) Department of State and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and it is in his third edition, as INAMA III
- aims to mitigate this global scourge by strengthening the enforcement capacities of targeted Customs administrations
- INAMA III has the objectives in the field of IWT and within 13 selected beneficiary administrations in sub-Saharan Africa, South American, and Asian countries.

World Customs Organization

Thank you

Igor JAKUPIC
Programme officer
Environment Programme
igor.jakupic@wcoomd.org