



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Wildlife crime and international security: strengthening law enforcement

Monday 26 – Wednesday 28 October 2015 | WP1423

Worth around £6 billion per year, wildlife crime is no longer limited to conservation within source countries, but has become an acute threat to national and transnational security. It poses a threat not only to the existence of a number of species but to vulnerable communities and institutions, driving corruption and undermining efforts to reduce poverty in source and transit countries. A more robust approach to law enforcement of wildlife crime and other such crimes is needed. Building on recommendations for action from the London Declaration and Kasane Statement and looking ahead to the Vietnam Conference, this event will focus on coordinated action in wildlife crime through strengthening law enforcement and legal deterrents.

This event will uniquely bring together multiple stakeholders from the law enforcement community as well as from a range of source, transit and destination countries. In the process, this will help to link together traditional wildlife authorities, with law enforcement, financial anti-crime units, intelligence, and conservation communities. It represents an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the United Kingdom and United States of America, and to build upon dialogue that will seek to identify pathways to tackle the current dynamics of organised wildlife crime which serves as a low risk, high profit activity for transnational criminal enterprises. The event aims to:

- Analyse effective responses to wildlife crime, looking in depth at law enforcement approaches and opportunities to operationalise commitments from the London and Kasane conferences;
- Harness ideas with regard to the implementation and, critically, the coordination of action plans to produce recommendations for action against wildlife crime;
- Examine the medium and long-term policy implications of wildlife crime for source and transit countries and the international community as regards transnational organised crime, conflict and terrorism;
- Build on the work of international organisations (eg the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) to increase long-term capacity among national, cross-border and international wildlife law enforcement agencies through establishing new partnerships and networks for action.

Monday 26 October

1200-1300	Participants arrive and buffet lunch available
1300-1315	Welcome and introduction
1315-1415	1. Keynote speeches
1415-1545	2. Wildlife crime: outlining the threat environment <p>The presence of corruption, organised crime and money laundering are endemic in wildlife crime. They are also some of the key challenges faced by law enforcement bodies internationally and have a negative impact on national economic development. The opening session will offer an overview of major obstacles, objectives and how best to achieve them. Building on outcomes from the London and Kasane conferences, what is realistic and achievable and in what time frame? What are the opportunities afforded by the Vietnam conference and how to maximise them? How does corruption and inefficiency impact upon effective delivery of national and international initiatives?</p>
1545-1630	Photograph followed by tea/coffee
1630-1800	3. Tracking and mapping wildlife crime: private sector initiatives <p>A panel discussion will provide insight into the role of intelligence, technology, and transportation companies in law enforcement approaches to combatting wildlife crime. How to better police and enforce key trafficking zones in Africa and Asia? What is the overlap between international trafficking hotspots and wildlife crime, and what are the security implications? How to encourage governments to authorise the destruction of stockpiles of wildlife products seized at ports, airports and borders? What role can technology (eg geospatial mapping software, traceability systems, and intelligence databases) play in law enforcement initiatives? How to encourage cooperation and intelligence sharing to detect and enforce trade routes and networks? What role can the private sector play in coordinating and strategizing efforts?</p>
1800	Moderator briefing in the Library
1900	Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 27 October

0745-0845	Breakfast
0845-0900	4. Review of day one and look ahead to day two
0945-1115	6. Ensuring effective legal deterrents <p>In order to curb and prevent wildlife crime, it is essential that criminals involved are prosecuted as an effective deterrent. Engaging local governments, law enforcement agencies and communities can provide partners in reducing illicit trade. How can local governments and authorities ensure domestic offences constitute 'serious crimes' within the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)? How to best employ the UNTOC as a tool for international cooperation in cases of transnational poaching and illicit trafficking? How to promote effective practices to criminalise corruption and bribery facilitating poaching, wildlife trafficking and related offences? How to deploy the full range</p>

of existing legislation and law enforcement against other forms of organised crime? What role for training and increased capacity building in raising awareness of the impact and potential profits of wildlife crime?

1115-1145

Tea/coffee

1145-1315

7. Working across borders: partnering for coordinated response

In international relations, it has often been found that the work of regional organisations and international collaboration can leapfrog action in certain areas. In light of this, how can existing relationships and pathways of cooperation be expanded? What does an effective joint response by countries affected by wildlife crime on the ground and others look like? What lessons can be learnt from bilateral and multilateral investigations such as Operation Cobra, and how to improve on these in future strategies? How to best engage, support and share lessons with law enforcement in host countries? What role for other law enforcement agencies in building the right environment? How to map resources in specific countries? What is the role of intelligence in wildlife protection and how to expand and share the intelligence base for policing?

1315-1445

Lunch

1445-1615

8. Combatting corruption and the facilitation of wildlife trafficking

To effectively tackle the socioeconomic impacts of wildlife crime, both the demand and supply for illegal products must be eradicated at all stages of the supply chain. This session will provide insight into corruption and financial and illicit trade routes linked to wildlife crime. What are the key signifiers of financial transactions linked to wildlife trade? How do these differ from patterns of other illicit trade, and what can be learned from this? What role can the banking sector play in identifying and informing authorities of irregularities in financial transactions of their account holders? What need is there for a centralised intelligence platform at unclassified level? How to foster a zero tolerance policy on corruption associated with wildlife crime within local communities? How to maximise international cooperation to prevent corruption (eg extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery)?

1615-1645

Tea/coffee

1645-1815

9. Practical workshops: tools for response

Participants will be pre-selected to take part in one of five breakout groups (to ensure cross-sector and international expertise is present in each) and will aim to answer several key questions with a focus on practical action. This could include:

i. Facilitating intelligence-led criminal investigations

What more is needed to improve investigations to lead to more prosecutions and convictions? Have investigations been inadequate or missing key components?

ii. Enabling cross-sector and inter-agency cooperation mechanisms

How to increase law enforcement involvement in wildlife enforcement networks (WENs)? What lessons can be learnt from international organisations such as ICCWC?

iii. Strengthening financial intelligence

What roles can financial intelligence units and national and international banks play in strengthening intelligence networks on financial crime? What are the challenges and opportunities for collaboration?

iv. Security at ports, airports and borders

What can be learnt from private sector sea and air transport companies about illicit trading routes? What are the opportunities for intelligence sharing and collaboration?

v. Combatting corruption in wildlife crime

How to encourage criminalisation of corruption and bribery relating to wildlife crime? What examples of best practice can be drawn on?

1815 Moderator briefing in the Library

1900 Dinner

Wednesday 28 October

0745-0845 Breakfast and checkout

0845-0900 **10. Review of day one and look ahead to day two**

0900-1000 **11. Workshop report back**

Report back from the workshop groups: 5-7 minutes each followed by roundtable discussion.

1000-1015 **12. eQuestionnaire completion**

1015-1145 **13. Scenarios/simulation exercise**

Group i

How can local, national and international partners work together on a wildlife crime operation?

Group ii

Applying lessons from a different field, eg human trafficking or drugs networks, to wildlife crime

1145-1215 Tea/coffee

1215-1315 **14. Conclusions: actions and commitments**

Report back from the groups, 5-7 minutes each followed by roundtable discussion.

How to achieve a greater collaborative effort between environmental departments, law enforcement agencies and customs with on the ground cooperation between police and rangers? What actions will participants take as a result of the event?

1315 Lunch

1430 Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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