



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Combating
Wildlife
and Forest
Crime

Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

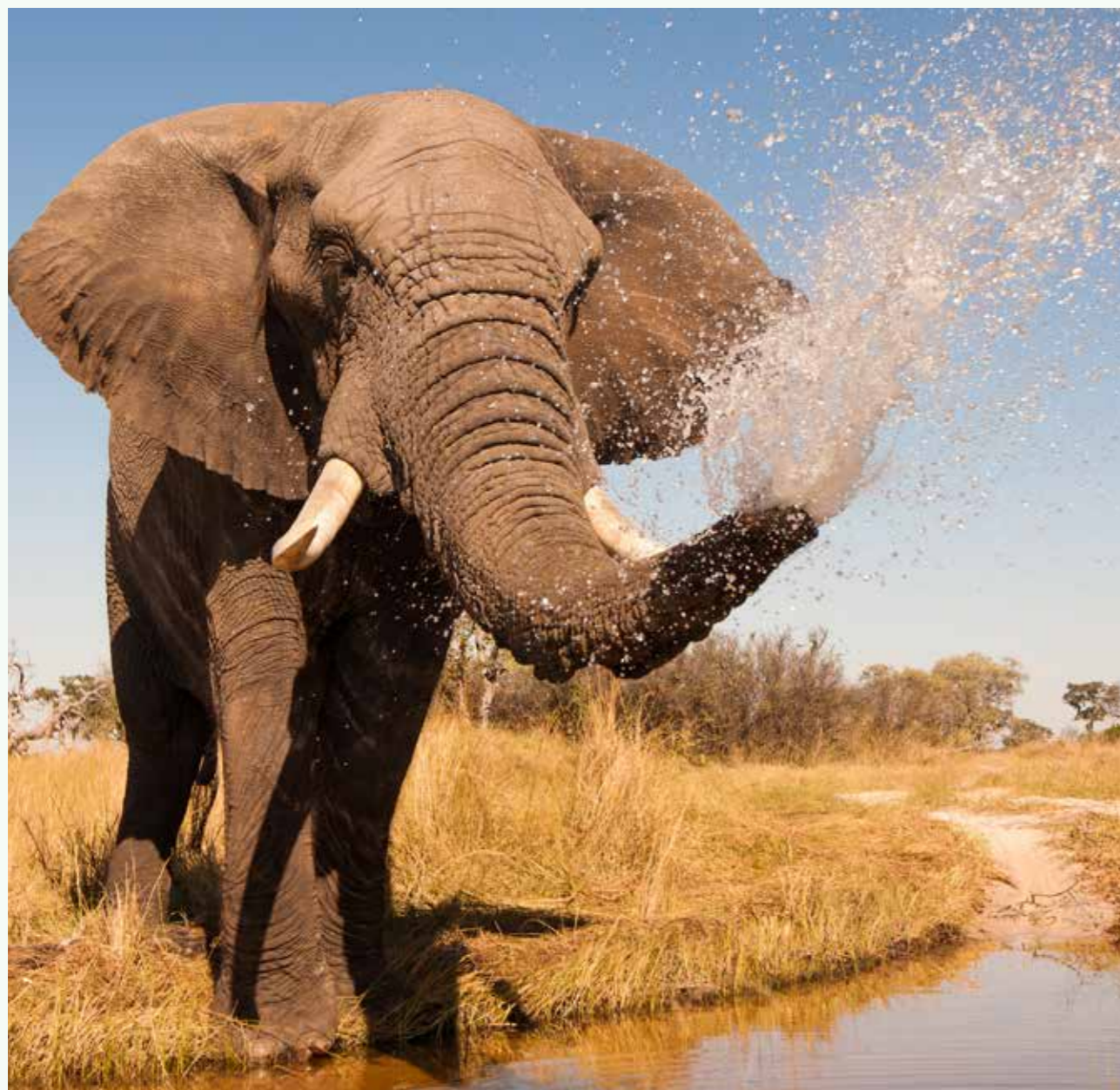
ASEAN	→	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CCPCJ	→	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CEB	→	Corruption and Economic Crime Branch (UNODC)
CITES	→	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	→	Conference of the Parties
CoSP	→	Conference of the States Parties
ECOSOC	→	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EMG	→	Environment Management Group (UN)
FAO	→	Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)
ICCWC	→	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IEBR	→	Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources Viet Nam
INTERPOL	→	International Criminal Police Organization
IUU	→	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
NGO	→	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	→	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RILO-AP	→	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific
RRG	→	Rapid Reference Guide for Investigators and Prosecutors
SDG	→	Sustainable Development Goal
TRACE	→	TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network
UN	→	United Nations
UNEP	→	United Nations Environment Programme
UNCAC	→	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNODC	→	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTOC	→	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
WCO	→	World Customs Organization
WEN	→	Wildlife Enforcement Network
WIRE	→	Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement
WHO	→	World Health Organization

"Our world is at a tipping point. Protecting people and planet represents one of the greatest and most urgent challenges we face. Organized crime poses a major threat to our environment, with organized criminal groups around the world engaging in wildlife trafficking, crimes in the fisheries sector, waste trafficking and illegal mining, among other illicit activities. This exploitation has a serious impact on our ecosystems, on our national security, and on the lives of millions of people who depend on these natural resources for their livelihoods."

Ghada Waly
UNODC Executive Director
at the 64th Session of the Commission on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 2021



FOREWORD



Thank you for turning your attention to our Annual Report covering the activities of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in 2021. Like for many of you, the situation posed by the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt our lives and cause challenges for our work. While criminals continued to take advantage and exploit new vulnerabilities opened by the pandemic and governments' response to it, we too have adapted to meet the needs of Member States in countering these threats.

Over the last 12 months we have continued to depend on virtual connectivity to implement many of our technical assistance and capacity-building activities to strengthen the national criminal justice response of countries to prevent and address crimes that affect the environment. Through our approach, 'from crime scene to court,' our Programme has helped foster new skills in our beneficiaries, developed new products to help criminal justice actors navigate the ever-evolving threats, and connected professional counterparts within countries, across countries and around the world, to facilitate communication and spur action towards a coordinated response to these crimes.

Taking stock of the needs of our beneficiaries as they face these ever-evolving threats, we've responded to requests and recommendations stemming from evaluations to improve our services. For example, while our work to undertake new assessments using the ICCWC Toolkit and implement findings was often delayed due to the inability to undertake in-person field missions, we began the process of updating the Toolkit to ensure that it offers Member States a more complete picture of their strengths and gaps in preventing and addressing wildlife and forest crime. I look forward to launching the Second Edition of the Toolkit in 2022. In another example, recognizing how valuable the Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meetings are, we organized a fully virtual meeting for over 250 criminal justice practitioners from Africa and Asia to support connections amongst and between them, and we coordinated 12 bilateral meetings to support furthering joint investigations and operations. To stay connected to our clients, we created the Wildlife Wednesday series, a set of informal briefings to Member States to discuss the work of our Programme and to serve as a platform for engagement and dialogue between government counterparts and members of our global team.

As you read through the Annual Report 2021, you will notice a change in the terminology and breadth of scope of our support to Member States. The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime now explicitly addresses a variety of crimes that affect the environment. In addition to wildlife and forest crime, and crimes in the

fisheries sector, we have continued to expand, in a natural progression, to provide support on illegal mining, trafficking in precious metals and waste. We have developed, together with relevant UNODC partner programmes, a consolidated UNODC approach to crimes in the fisheries sector. We led the development of a UNODC response framework on illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals, and we are finalizing the preparation of models and case studies to better understand the vulnerabilities to crime in the illegal gold mining and minerals supply chains. In addition to the official launch of the Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE) project, which focuses on the connection between wildlife trafficking and zoonotic disease transmission, we've also started a project on waste trafficking in Southeast Asia (Unwaste).

In parallel to our on-going obligations, we have been closely following the global debates around biodiversity loss and climate change. In following these discussions, we have been surprised at the lack of acknowledgement of the impacts that crime and corruption have on the potential to achieve Agenda 2030. In the coming months, we will continue to raise awareness about the importance of mainstreaming crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader biodiversity and climate agendas.

Building on the workstreams we have implemented around the world, and recognizing the challenges faced by Member States in preventing and addressing these major threats to our shared global commons, in 2022, the Global Programme will begin to phase into a broader Programme covering many crimes that affect the environment. Against this backdrop, we will be holding stakeholder consultations over the next 18 months to arrive at a new Global Programme tailored to the changing dynamics of the criminal exploitation of natural resources.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, and we hope that these pages pique your interest and inspire you to get involved in combating crimes that affect the environment.

Jorge E. Rios
*Chief, UNODC Global Programme
for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime*



1. OUR WORK

Organized criminal groups have long taken advantage of low risk and highly profitable crimes that affect the environment. The UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, in existence since 2014, assists Member States to prevent and respond to crimes that affect the environment such as wildlife and forest crime, crimes in the fisheries sector, illegal mining, and trafficking in precious metals and waste.

Crimes that affect the environment are serious organized crime and as such, UNODC is mandated to address them. Criminal groups engaged in these crimes often make use of the same hubs and routes, engage the same facilitators and follow the same trafficking techniques as they do for other illicit commodities, and they exploit gaps in national law enforcement and criminal justice systems. The enormous profits generated by this crime type have also been used to finance other criminal activities, in some cases, as well as to finance conflict and contribute to instability. Crimes that affect the environment are frequently interlinked with corruption and economic crimes, and the ultimate beneficiaries of these crimes are often not brought to justice. Crimes that affect the environment threaten the rule of law, governance, and national security. They rob local communities of their livelihoods and negatively impact social and economic development.

A. WHY WE DO IT

Wildlife and forest crime contribute to the global extinction crisis and loss of biodiversity. Poaching of keystone species, for example, can have incalculable ecological repercussions. Wildlife crime amplifies climate change by destroying important carbon sinks, altering ecosystems, and disturbing the balance of the oceans. In terms of global public health, the illegal wildlife trade can have potentially devastating impacts by increasing the risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases; the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the detrimental impact zoonoses can have on the global economy and security.

Criminality and unlawful activities linked to the fisheries sector not only threaten the health of our oceans but also, increasingly, have a negative impact on the economies of coastal countries, fuel corruption and create conditions in which further crime - including serious and organized crime - can be perpetrated.

Illegal mining, trafficking in precious metals, and waste trafficking negatively impact peace, stability, security, development, governance, and the rule of law. Illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals are often accompanied by serious human rights abuses¹ and often have severe environmental impacts, including through deforestation, land degradation and pollution. Waste trafficking has severe implications for the environment and human health due to improper waste management. There are economic impacts linked to each of these crime types through the diversion of resources, such as tax revenue, from possible use for sustainable development.²

The current pandemic highlighted the interconnection between nature and the Sustainable Development Goals. A strong rule of law and criminal justice response (SDG 16) must underpin a comprehensive approach to achieving climate action (SDG 13), protecting life below water (SDG 14) and on land (SDG 15), and ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all (SDGs 3). By harnessing the tools available through the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Global Programme builds and strengthens capacity for States to respond to the interlinked challenges we are facing as we work towards achieving Agenda 2030.

¹ See, for instance, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judgment 10 July 2007, Case of Cantoral-Huamani y García-Santa Cruz v. Peru, Series C No. 167, para. 148.

² TRACIT: Mapping the Impact of Illicit Trade on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade, 2019.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Achieving the SDGs

Zoonosis, or zoonotic diseases, are infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. Over the last thirty years, the majority of pathogens that have caused substantial damage to human health and economies have originated from wildlife or livestock, including COVID-19, Ebola, AIDS and SARS. The transmission of zoonotic pathogens is made possible due to increases in the frequency and potential for direct contact between humans and wildlife. The illegal wildlife trade, illegal deforestation, forest degradation and encroachment of wild ecosystems, amongst other factors, can bring wildlife into close contact with people. Protecting fauna and flora is a crucial component in addressing the risk posed by zoonotic diseases. The Global Programme is contributing to SDG-3 by combating wildlife crime to prevent future pandemics of zoonotic origin and protect human health and well-being. Illegal mining and the trafficking of hazardous and other waste also pose risks for human health and well-being. UNODC's efforts to prevent and address these crimes further contributes to the achievement of SDG 3.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Illegality, crime, and corruption are driving deforestation and the loss of multiple species of wild fauna and flora and marine resources, affecting whole ecosystems and contributing to climate change. Policy leaders and scientists have recognized the importance of terrestrial and ocean ecosystems as carbon sinks. The preservation of forests and oceans is therefore key to attaining global climate change mitigation targets, while adaptation and resilience widely depend on our ability to protect wildlife-rich ecosystems on land and at sea. Most scientific studies recognize that slowing the rate of deforestation is one of the most effective and robust options to mitigate climate change. Illegal activities in the forestry sector are among the key causes of deforestation and biodiversity loss, thereby undermining efforts to reduce CO2 emissions. Oceans are another stabilizing force in the fight against climate change since they absorb over one third of all CO2 emissions. In light of the above, efforts to address climate change are likely to fail or fall short unless countries step up and improve criminal justice responses to crimes that affect the environment. UNODC is contributing to SDG 13 by supporting Member States to combat wildlife crime and encouraging them to prioritize and mainstream the fight against crimes that affect the environment in their policies and legislation as one way to deliver on their Nationally Determined Contributions.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

The health of our oceans is undermined by criminality and unlawful activities, which threaten the achievement of SDG 14, specifically target 14.4 to **effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices**. There is an increasing number of documented cases in which IUU fishing has been associated with other crimes including document fraud, corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, forced labour, human trafficking, and other forms of serious crime. Many of these offences, which can occur at every stage of the fisheries value chain, are transnational in nature and serious enough to qualify as transnational organized crime in line with UNTOC. Tackling these crimes requires extensive cooperation between fisheries management authorities, tax authorities, law enforcement agencies, coast guards, prosecutors, and other actors. Due to the global nature of the fisheries sector, collaboration at regional and international level is also key in addressing these crimes. Without addressing the broader criminality in the fisheries value chain, IUU fishing will likely continue. The Global Programme supports Member States to address many of the serious offences committed along the fisheries value chain and is raising awareness on the need to complement the existing fisheries management approach with a criminal justice approach to sustain the health of our oceans. Crime and corruption can also undermine initiatives to tackle pollution and regulate the management of chemicals and waste, which can have negative repercussions for life below water. UNODC's efforts to tackle trafficking of waste further contribute to the achievement of SDG 14.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

15 LIFE ON LAND

We cannot talk about the protection of biodiversity without acknowledging the negative impact caused by trafficking and transnational organized crime. The 2021 UN General Assembly resolution 75/311 on **Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife** reconfirmed the increasing scale of poaching and illegal trade globally and its direct contribution to the extinction of many species.³ The 2021 ECOSOC resolution on **Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment**⁴ reaffirmed deep concern about activities of organized criminal groups that affect the environment and undermine efforts to promote the rule of law and achieve sustainable development. In recent resolutions, the UN Security Council has expressed grave concern about the illegal exploitation of natural resources by armed groups and criminal networks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.⁵ The Global Programme directly contributes to SDG 15, in particular Target 15.7 **on taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products**. Despite global efforts to date, and several successes in responding to these threats, including increased collaboration between States to combat them, criminals continue their illegal operations, taking advantage of gaps in legislation and law enforcement and making use of transportation networks, financial infrastructure and legal businesses.

³ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/311>

⁴ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/24

⁵ UN Security Council resolution 2463 (2019) on DRC and UN Security Council resolution 2399 (2018) on CAR.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The international community recognizes that development and security are intrinsically linked. Goal 16 recognizes that without peace, justice and effective governance, achieving sustainable development is not possible. Effective and accountable justice systems are key to upholding the rule of law and reducing crime and violence. Through its work, the Global Programme seeks to assist Member States to improve the effectiveness of their criminal justice systems and adequately address crimes that affect the environment.

Corruption is one of the main facilitators of crimes that affect the environment, as it enables criminals to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes. The regulatory frameworks and controls governing many environmental sectors are highly vulnerable to corruption and economic crime. Significant financial, environmental, and societal damage will continue if States fail to tackle corruption. To contribute to achieving SDG 16, UNODC supports Member States to strengthen the capacities of their criminal justice systems and prevent and counter the corruption that facilitates crimes that affect the environment. The Global Programme's technical assistance in this field focuses on supporting actors throughout the criminal justice chain, assessing and mitigating corruption risks, and investigating and prosecuting financial crimes linked to crimes that affect the environment..





B. OUR MANDATE

Crimes that affect the environment are often serious, transnational organized crimes, and thus of direct relevance to the mandate of UNODC, notably in its role as Secretariat to the UNTOC and UNCAC. In 2021, Member States further reiterated their commitment to addressing such crimes. ECOSOC resolution 2021/24 details practical actions for Member States and the international community to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment. The resolution requests UNODC to support Member States in this regard, as well as on corruption and money-laundering related to such crimes. The resolution further requests UNODC to expand coordination as well as cooperation with relevant organizations including the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

Since 2015, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted five resolutions on trafficking in wildlife.⁶ This demonstrates a continuing and strengthened commitment of the international community to address this issue. UNODC, through the Global Programme, is mandated to support Member States to address illicit trafficking in wild fauna and flora. General Assembly resolution 75/311, adopted in July 2021, recognizes the important work of UNODC and ICCWC and calls upon the United Nations to continue to support efforts by Member States to fight illicit trafficking in wildlife. Further, it requests UNODC to support Member States to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and to continue to strengthen its research efforts. Resolution 28/3 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May 2019 recognizes the Global Programme's role and emphasizes the importance of its provision of technical assistance and capacity building to Member States. A resolution on combating transnational organized crime and its links to illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining was also adopted in May 2019 by the Commission. Resolution 8/12 adopted during the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2019 requests UNODC to support Member States, in various ways to prevent and counter corruption-related crimes that have an impact on the environment.

⁶ A/RES/69/314, A/RES/70/301, A/RES/71/326, A/RES/73/343 and A/RES/75/311



C. WHAT WE DO & HOW WE WORK

UNODC addresses crimes that affect the environment using a **crime scene to court approach**, supporting Member States to more effectively prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate such crimes. UNODC provides assistance along the entire criminal justice chain, in addition to supporting Member States to strengthen their preventive response. UNODC's technical assistance on these issues is coordinated and delivered by the Global Programme and based on evidence, lessons learned and good practices. The Global Programme liaises closely with UNODC Country and Regional Offices and coordinates internally to leverage other areas of expertise within UNODC to ensure appropriate support for the design and delivery of technical assistance. For example, the Global Programme has strong partnerships with UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch to help Member States prevent corruption and combat economic crime linked to crimes that affect the environment; with UNODC's Organized Crime Branch to develop a series of legislative guides to combat crimes that affect the environment; and with the Research and Trends Analysis Branch to conduct global research and develop wildlife forensic capacity.

The Global Programme works in close coordination with national authorities – ranging from law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, to wildlife, forestry, and fisheries management authorities and any other agencies that may be relevant – and supports them in their efforts to better respond to crimes that affect the environment. Much of the core training material is based on manuals and tools jointly developed by national authorities and UNODC. UNODC strives to empower counterparts and create sustainability by fostering a strong sense of national ownership through its work.



THE SIX THEMATIC AREAS OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME ARE:

Assessing national responses

On behalf of ICCWC, the Global Programme helps Member States assess their preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime through established methodologies such as the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*⁷ and *Indicator Framework*⁸. National assessments are also conducted on other forms of crime that affect the environment.

7 https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Toolkit_e.pdf
8 https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Indicator_Framework_e.pdf

01

Strengthening national legal frameworks

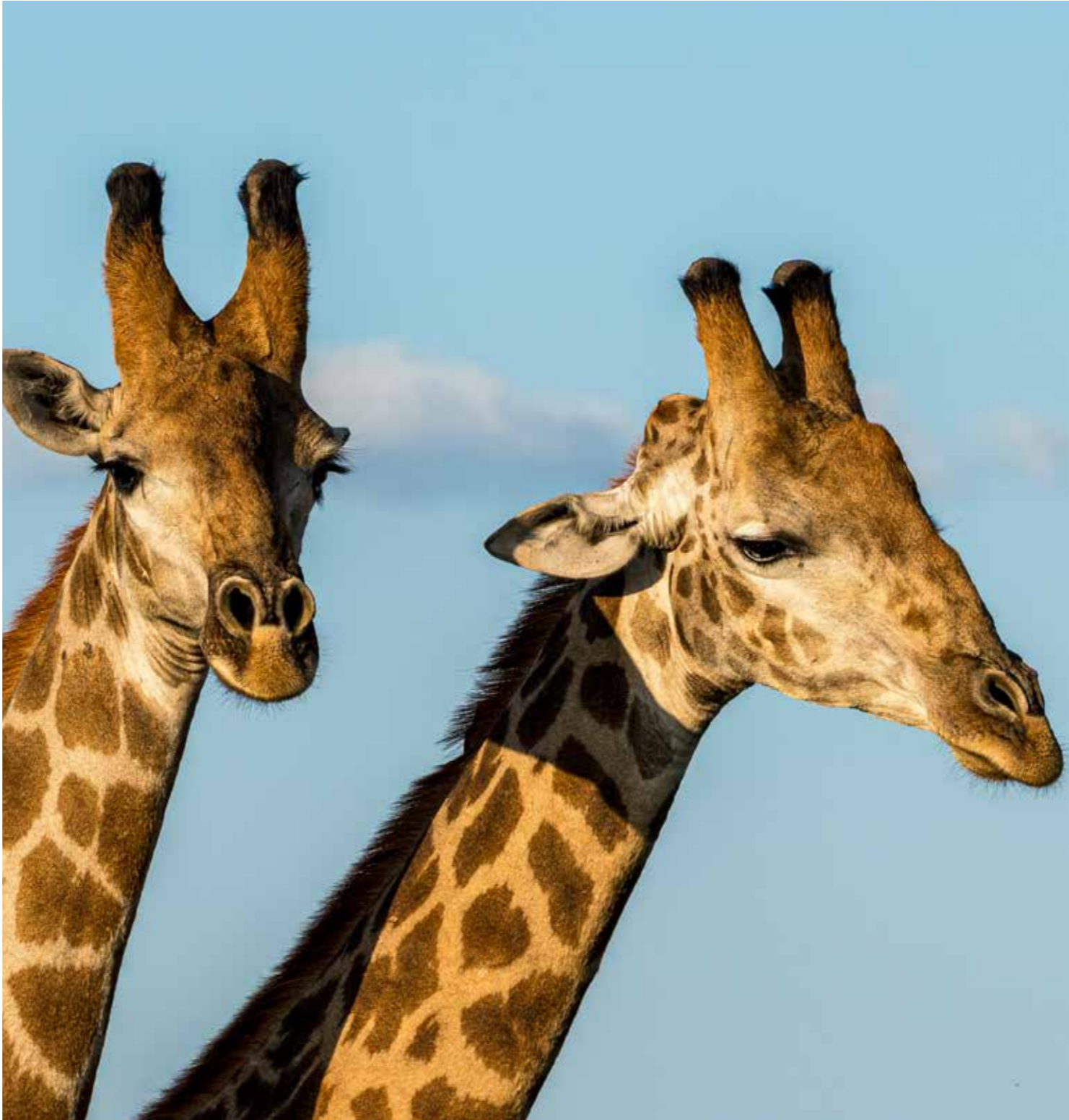
The Global Programme provides assistance to Member States to adopt, strengthen and review national legislation with a view to effectively addressing crimes that affect the environment.

02

Strengthening national capacities for the detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of crimes that affect the environment

The Global Programme provides support to jurisdictions for the strengthening of investigative and prosecutorial capacities by delivering highly specialized trainings, developing practical tools and guidelines, and promoting inter-agency cooperation.

03



Strengthening national capacities to address corruption linked to wildlife crime

As the guardian of UNCAC, UNODC has been instrumental in bridging the gap between the fight against corruption and its link to crimes that affect the environment, by developing resource guides and by helping countries conduct corruption risk assessments and develop mitigation strategies to address and prevent corruption. In addition, and where prevention does not work, UNODC supports Member States to conduct financial investigations related to environmental offences.

04

Strengthening international and regional cooperation

The Global Programme provides support to Member States in the coordination of regional and international cooperation and dialogue initiatives, both formal and informal, with the objective of more effectively combating crimes that affect the environment. This technical assistance is provided by delivering workshops on intelligence sharing and cross border cooperation on legal matters, and by supporting the establishment of regional and international networks of practitioners.

05

Raising awareness and sharing knowledge

The Global Programme strives to create a better understanding of crimes that affect the environment at the national, regional, and global level, including through research and the development of knowledge and educational products, as well as through advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising events.

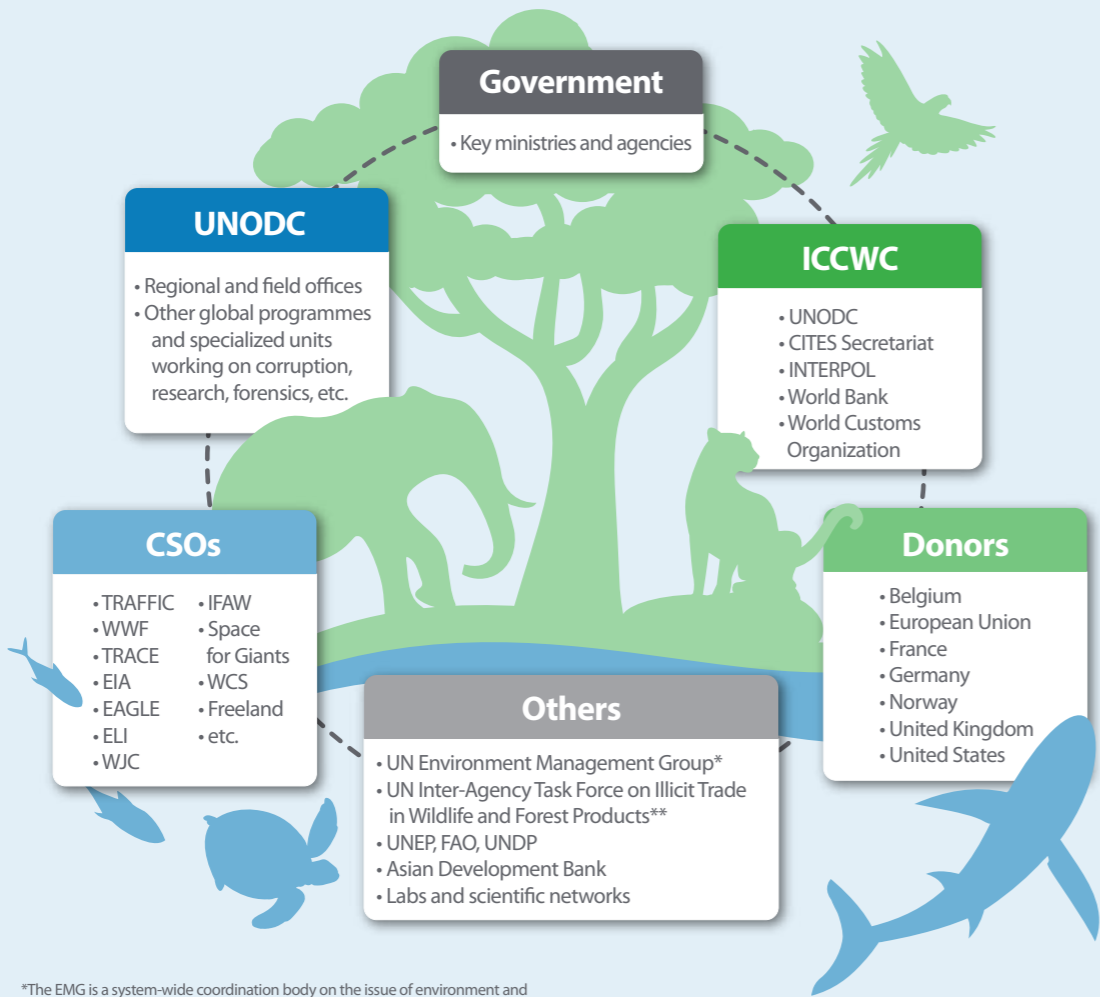
06



D. WHO WE WORK WITH

UNODC works in partnership with Member States, United Nations Agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the conservation community, academia, and the private sector. UNODC leverages its expertise and the range of criminal justice tools and instruments the Office has developed over many years of

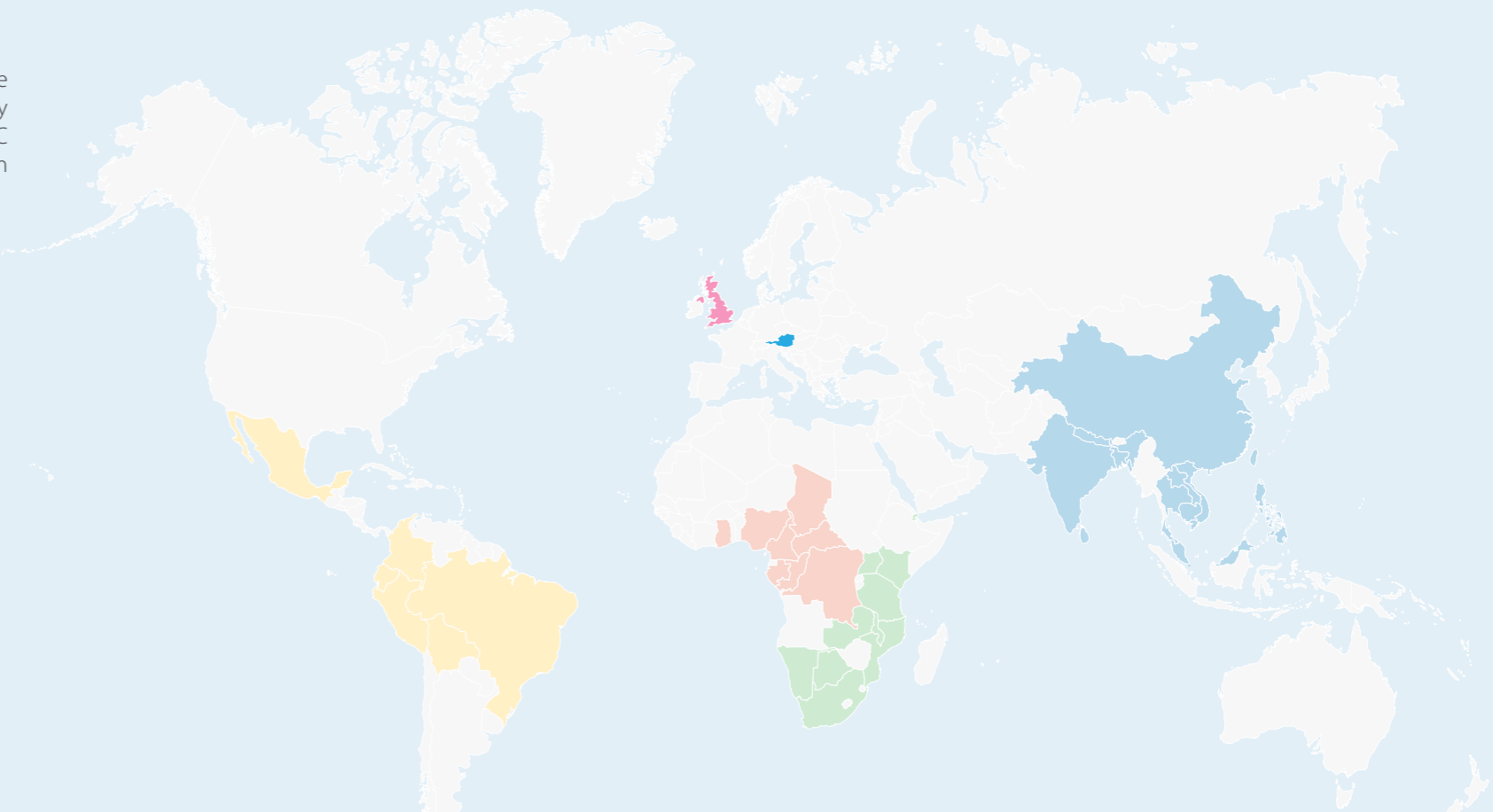
addressing transnational and organized crime. At the same time, UNODC recognizes the valuable roles that others play in addressing crimes that affect the environment. UNODC is a founding member of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).



*The EMG is a system-wide coordination body on the issue of environment and human settlements that identifies issues on the international environmental agenda that warrant cooperation. It was established in 2001, and includes members from the 51 specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the UN, including the secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. UNODC is an active member through its Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (the full list of members is available online at unemg.org).

**The UN Inter-Agency Task Force was created in 2016 to provide a holistic and comprehensive UN response to the multi-faceted problem of illegal trade in wildlife and forest products. Members include UNODC, CITES Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, DESA and DPO among others.

E. WHERE WE WORK



Crimes that affect the environment are often transnational in nature and, as such, require a global response. While the Global Programme operates from a total of 12 offices worldwide, our team provides technical assistance and support to both their primary regions and frequently to interregional initiatives.

In 2021, the Global Programme provided technical assistance to more than 30 countries, including by providing virtual and on-the-ground support to conduct assessments, provide training and mentorship, amongst other activities. Table 1 includes countries where the Global Programme provided assistance at national level; countries that were involved only in webinars or regional meetings have not been included.

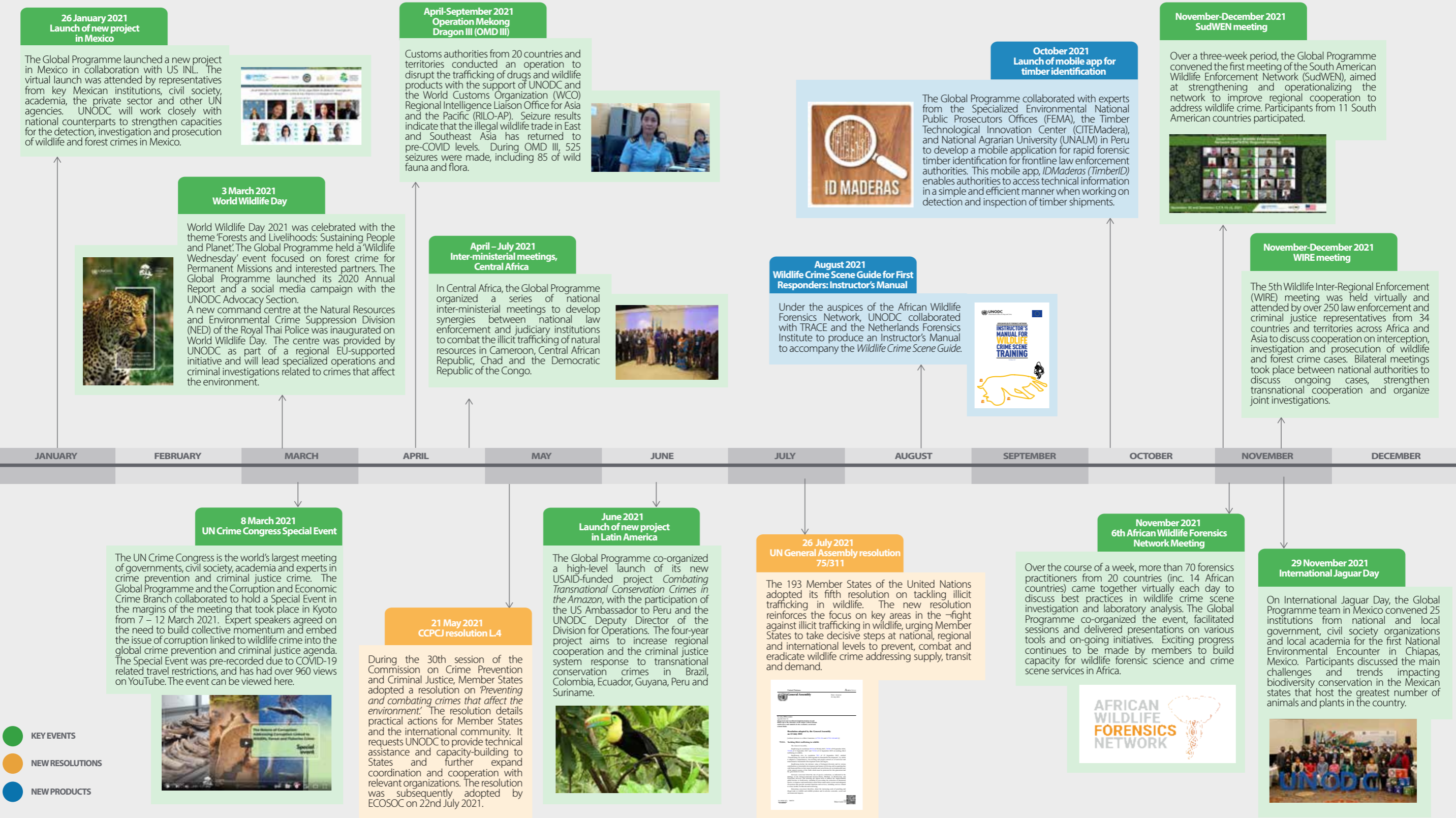
Table 1: List of countries by region:

Eastern and Southern Africa	West and Central Africa	South, South East Asia and the Pacific	Latin America	Europe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BotswanaDjiboutiKenyaMalawiMozambiqueNamibiaSouth AfricaUgandaUnited Republic of TanzaniaZambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CameroonCentral African RepublicChadDemocratic Republic of the CongoGabonGhanaNigeriaRepublic of the Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BangladeshCambodiaChinaFijiHong Kong SAR, ChinaIndiaLao PDRMalaysiaNepalSingaporeSri LankaThailandThe PhilippinesViet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BoliviaBrazilColombiaEcuadorMexicoPeru	<ul style="list-style-type: none">United Kingdom



2. LOOKING BACK: WHAT HAPPENED IN 2021

The timeline below provides an overview of some of 2021's most significant events, and a snapshot of the Global Programme's key activities and deliverables.



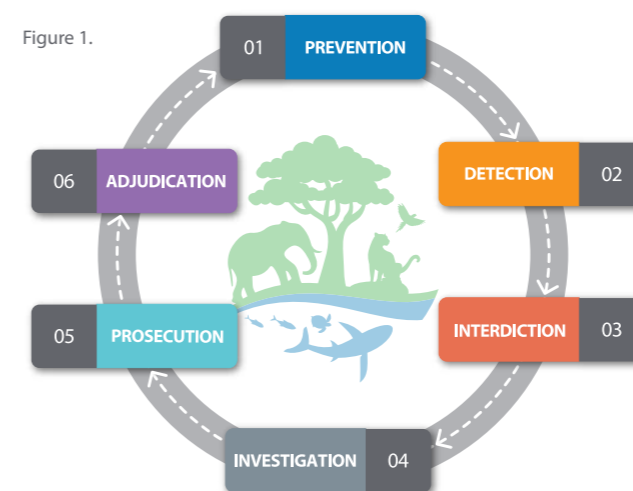
3. THE CHALLENGES AND OUR RESPONSE

Just and effective responses to crimes that affect the environment require comprehensive and coordinated efforts across and between all the actors in the criminal justice chain, as illustrated in Figure 1. Authorities need to ensure that those tasked with prevention, those who draft and implement legislation, those who plan and carry out seizures, and those who investigate offences or prosecute offenders all work together towards achieving a common objective.

The Global Programme supports Member States to strengthen their responses to crimes that affect the environment, through an approach that focuses “from crime scene to court”. The following pages provide a selective, non-exhaustive overview of some of the Global Programme’s achievements for 2021.

potential for future pandemics linked to zoonoses by identifying the pathogen risks associated with the illegal consumption and utilization of wildlife products across Southeast Asia, and subsequently providing mitigation strategies to reduce those risks in the future. Partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and engaging a wide range of government and non-government stakeholders, the project is currently developing standardized approaches to evaluating wildlife utilization risk, and by the second year will share those approaches throughout the ASEAN community. A team of international scientists with broad expertise has been recruited to coordinate and oversee the project and will provide a ‘One Health’ scientific backstop to the project activities.

The Global Programme undertook a study of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the illegal wildlife trade in the Upper Mekong Subregion. Interviews and focus groups were conducted from January to March 2021 with key individuals and groups, traders, community leaders, ethnic groups, NGOs and government agencies. The report provides a snapshot analysis of the trends and dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade at selected border areas and key locations in Myanmar, southern China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The research found that the pandemic played a significant role in reducing illegal wildlife trade activity and consumption in border regions and trade hubs during 2020, particularly as a result of international border closures, increased security, and restrictions on the movement of people. Wildlife traders interviewed in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand reported a decline in demand for wildlife products and derivatives due to widespread market closures, increased law enforcement activity, and a heightened fear among customers that wildlife products could harbor dangerous viruses. The newly-introduced ban on the consumption of wildlife meat in China may also have played a role in the reduction in market demand. At the time of writing of this report, an analysis of seizure results from Operation Mekong Dragon III indicates a return to pre-pandemic levels of wildlife trafficking in the region.



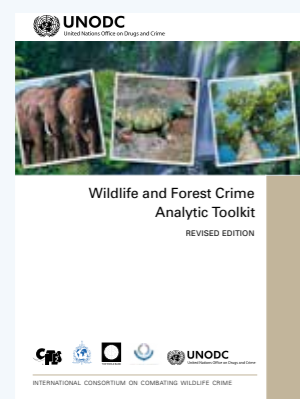
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Over the course of 2021, the Global Programme adapted to the needs of its partners, identifying new enforcement priorities resulting from changing circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the Global Programme provided the Environmental Police Department of Lao PDR with a video conferencing system, office supplies and specialized law enforcement equipment to support the continuation of investigations and cross-border cooperation during periods when travel restrictions were – or may be – imposed due to the pandemic.

The Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE) initiative was successfully launched in August 2021 and the first Project Steering Committee met in December. The project, financed for three years by the European Union’s Foreign Policy Instrument, aims to reduce the



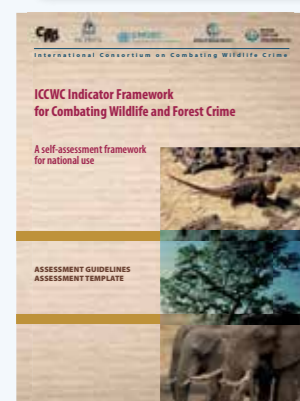
A. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT: ASSESSING NATIONAL RESPONSES TO CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT



Toolkit and Indicator Framework assessments

In order to identify the priority needs of Member States, the Global Programme works with requesting countries to assess their national criminal justice and preventive responses to wildlife crime. This type of technical assistance is provided through the implementation of the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* (the Toolkit) and the *Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime* (the Indicator Framework) of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCC).

The Toolkit is designed to assist government officials from wildlife and forest management authorities, law enforcement, prosecution and other relevant agencies in analysing their national legislation; enforcement, judiciary and prosecution capacities; prevention strategies; as well as their data collection and analysis capacities.



The Consortium later developed the Indicator Framework, which complements the Toolkit and provides a standardized approach to measure and monitor the effectiveness of national law enforcement responses over time. Designed as a self-assessment tool to be implemented by national authorities, the Indicator Framework comprises 50 performance indicators that cover the main components of a desirable law enforcement and criminal justice response to wildlife and forest crime.

The Toolkit and the Indicator Framework are useful tools for undertaking such national assessments. Countries can use them to identify their strengths, weaknesses, gaps and key areas to prioritize in order to better address these crimes. The results of the analyses then feed into the design and development of work plans for national capacity building and technical assistance, while establishing a baseline against which future progress can be measured.

- 2 new Toolkit assessments
- 4 new Indicator Framework assessments
- 13 countries supported to implement recommendations



UNODC leads on the implementation of the Toolkit and Indicator Framework on behalf of ICCWC and in close coordination with requesting governments and ICCWC partner organizations. In 2021, new Toolkit assessments were conducted for Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. New Indicator Framework assessments were completed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Mexico and the United Republic of Tanzania. Preparatory work for Toolkit assessments in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Nigeria continued, as did preliminary work for Indicator Framework assessments in Cameroon, Kenya, Ecuador, Madagascar and Peru. The Global Programme continued to support the implementation of recommendations emerging from previous assessments in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Gabon, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam.

Since the publication of the Toolkit over a decade ago, new challenges have emerged and good practices have been defined in the area of preventing and addressing wildlife crime. Following an independent evaluation of the Toolkit product and process in 2020, the Global Programme spent 2021 working to update the Toolkit to incorporate lessons learned, new research and innovations, to have a fit-for-purpose tool that meets the needs of requesting Member States for the next decade. As part of the update process, the Global Programme convened a 'Friends of the Toolkit' expert group to guide the revision of the Toolkit and updated the Indicator Framework to ensure sufficient reflection of forest-related questions. It is expected that both updated tools will be ready for use by mid-2022.

Minerals

In 2021, the Global Programme initiated the development of a Diagnostic Toolkit to aid in assessing Member States' challenges and needs with regards to illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals. The Diagnostic Toolkit is aimed at conducting rapid assessments of vulnerabilities along the gold supply chain and will be finalized in 2022.

In Central Africa, the Global Programme continued its research into the illegal exploitation and trafficking of mineral resources in border areas between the Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon and Gabon, and as a source of financing of criminal or terrorist networks. The resulting study will be completed by March 2022 and will help inform the planning of potential future activities, providing an evidence-base to identify needs of law enforcement, prosecutors and members of the judiciary.



B. USING THE LAW TO PREVENT AND DETER: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Legislation is the cornerstone of efforts to counter crimes that affect the environment.

In 2021, the Global Programme translated the UNODC Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime into [Portuguese](#) (Brazil) and continued to disseminate [English](#) and [French](#) copies in cooperation with UNODC's Organized Crime Branch. The Guide is a tool for Member States to amend or adopt legislation to better address the challenges posed by wildlife crime. It includes model provisions and guidance, which States can adapt to fit local conditions, constitutional principles, legal culture and structures, as well as existing enforcement arrangements. This practical tool enables countries to draw from existing international agreements and instruments whilst considering national circumstances and policies as well as the composition and structure of national sectors.

The success of this tool led to the development of a series of similar guides for Member States on drafting legislation to combat crimes in the fisheries sector, waste trafficking and minerals trafficking. The development of each of these guides progressed significantly in 2021 and they are due to be published in 2022. The Global Programme collaborates with the UNODC Organized Crime Branch to develop and disseminate these tools, and in the case of the Guide on Combating Crimes in the Fisheries Sector, also collaborates with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



In 2021, the Global Programme expanded its work in South Asia, with a focus on strengthening the legal framework. A series of national consultation workshops were held with relevant agencies in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Discussions focused on how to strengthen the legislation to support investigations and prosecutions of crimes that affect the environment. Participants highlighted challenges and made recommendations for future technical assistance. In Bangladesh, for example, participants identified a need to review the current wildlife and forest related legislation as there are concerns that it is not up to date with current best practice.

The Global Programme supported the strengthening of legal frameworks in other regions. For example, in Bolivia, the Global Programme supported the Agro-environmental Tribunal with an expert review of the proposed agro-environmental procedure code focused on environmental, wildlife and forest crime procedures and prosecutions.



C. GOING BEYOND SEIZURES:

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR THE INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION AND ADJUDICATION OF CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Building effective criminal justice systems capable of investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating wildlife crime is a key component of the Global Programme's support to its partners. In 2021, the Global Programme continued to adapt to the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provide technical assistance to Member States. Trainings delivered by the Global Programme reached more than 2,900 criminal justice practitioners and mentoring provided to national authorities supported the investigation of more than 100 criminal cases.

CASE EXAMPLE: GOING BEYOND SEIZURES

Collaboration between the Enforcement Division of the Thai Customs Department, the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of Huangpu (China) Customs and the Anti-Smuggling and Investigation Department of Viet Nam Customs took place as a follow-up to Operation Mekong Dragon II. In late 2020, the Thai Customs Department intercepted two shipments destined for China that contained logs and processed pieces of Dalbergia, a timber species listed in Appendices I and II of CITES. All three national agencies exchanged information, inspected and verified shipment details, which uncovered substantial smuggling from Viet Nam under falsified declarations and forged CITES permits. Throughout 2021, UNODC facilitated the exchange of information between China, Thailand and Viet Nam through case coordination meetings. The Global Programme provided investigative equipment including endoscopes and GPS tracking devices and provided training on the use of this equipment. This collaboration led to the arrest of four members of organized criminal groups and the seizure of 29 tonnes of protected species. The Customs Departments of each country won an Asia Environmental Enforcement Award in November for their efforts and successful collaboration.



- 2,900+ criminal justice professionals trained
- 100+ investigations supported





Capacity building activities for criminal justice practitioners

In 2021, the Global Programme provided trainings focused on good practices and lessons learned to enhance capacities for enforcing national legislation; undertaking investigations and prosecutions; and cooperating with other jurisdictions. The Global Programme also organized workshops in many beneficiary countries to train investigators and prosecutors on crime scene management, interviewing suspects and witnesses, developing intelligence systems and implementing special investigative techniques such as online investigations, surveillance programmes and undercover operations (e. g. use of informants, covert agents, controlled deliveries). Some specific examples of the types of training and capacity building include:

- » **Long-term mentorship:** In Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand, the Global Programme continued to provide long-term mentorship through its successful Law Enforcement Advisory Programme. Each country has established a Law Enforcement Advisory Team, composed of inter-agency law enforcement officers and prosecutors. UNODC mentors meet with the teams on a regular basis to discuss new and on-going cases. Mentors provide practical guidance, including through facilitating discussions on operations, on how to handle evidence following arrests, and advising on the prosecution process. Tailored trainings are also delivered to these teams as needed; for example, on digital evidence, forensic DNA analysis, crime scene management, national legislation, and recent trafficking trends.
- » **Digital forensics:** In Asia, the Global Programme delivered a range of support on digital forensics to investigate wildlife crime in cooperation with the UNODC Cybercrime Programme. UNODC provided Magnet AXIOM software to relevant national authorities. This software supports the extraction, recovery and analysis of digital evidence. Law enforcement officers in Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, and Viet Nam were trained in the use of this software in 2021. Advanced training courses on investigations of online wildlife trade were delivered to law enforcement officers in Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam following basic training delivered the previous year.
- » **Prosecutor training:** UNODC worked with Bolivia's School of State Prosecutors to develop a training module on environmental crime, to contribute to strengthening Bolivia's capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute such crimes. The training module forms part of the initial training programme for those entering the prosecutorial service and was piloted in May 2021; it was officially handed over to the Attorney General in November 2021. UNODC will continue to support the second edition of the initial training programme in 2022 and develop a train-the-trainer workshop with the School of State Prosecutors. Furthermore, UNODC is developing content for a diploma specialization on crimes that affect the environment for justice system operators which is expected to be finalized in 2022.

» **Mock trials:** Mock trials are another way to deliver valuable practical experience in the judicial process and court room procedures. For example, the Global Programme partnered with the Global Maritime Crime Programme to deliver a simulated trial exercise on crime in the fisheries sector in Ghana. The practical exercise served to raise awareness about these crimes and how important it is to understand the full value chain and ancillary offences that can be used to prosecute cases involving organized crime. The prosecutors and judges taking part in the mock trial gained knowledge on crimes in the fisheries sector in Ghana and how to charge these crimes based on their legislation. The importance of investigating and charging for corruption and financial crimes was stressed with the prosecutors for trial preparation and execution.

The Global Programme team in Central Africa delivered a similar training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in partnership with the National Institute of Judicial Training (INAFORJ), which is working to implement the country's national justice reform policy for 2018-2022. The wildlife crime mock trial included the participation of law enforcement practitioners and judicial actors to strengthen the link between the work of investigators and prosecutors, which remains absent all too often during the course of investigations. The team will be replicating these hands-on trainings in Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo in 2022.

facilitate and encourage the exchange of information between investigators and prosecutors to ensure that those investigating are collecting the information required by the prosecution to build a solid case.

These practical tools are designed to improve the quality of the cases presented in court by improving the investigations and prosecutions linked to wildlife and forest crime and related offences. They can help provide a consistent and methodological approach to investigation and prosecution, while fostering close cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders with a view to ensuring that cases are duly investigated and prosecuted, and that proceeds of crime are recovered.

RRGs are developed by national authorities with support from the Global Programme, and relevant partners, such as the NGO Space for Giants. Sustainability and national ownership are integrated into the tool, leading to wider levels of compliance. In several countries, the RRGs have been incorporated in standard procedures applicable to investigators and prosecutors. To date, the Global Programme has supported 12 countries to develop RRGs, including Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

In Kenya, the RRG approach has been extended to forest and marine crimes and crimes in the fisheries sector. The process of developing new RRGs was initiated in 2021 in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria and Republic of the Congo through a series of inter-ministerial meetings and drafting workshops. In Tanzania, the RRG is currently being amended to include an Annex on marine crimes and crime in the fisheries sector.

Throughout the year, more than 300 investigators and prosecutors from 3 countries were trained (including as future trainers) in the use of RRGs, with a view to improving case analysis, case preparation, evidence collection, joint investigations, charging, pleading, bail management and sentencing, amongst other aspects. Further training sessions are envisaged in 2022. The Global Programme will continue to provide training on the use of RRGs to beneficiaries, as investigators and prosecutors in national service rotate; similarly, RRGs will be updated as legislation is amended, or as jurisprudence is created.

Rapid Reference Guides

Throughout 2021, the Global Programme continued to support countries to develop *Rapid Reference Guides for investigators and prosecutors*. These tools are commonly referred to as "Rapid Reference Guides" (RRGs) or "Points-to-Prove Guides." They lay out the different points and steps required to build strong cases against perpetrators, set out the ancillary powers available to court members and provide guidelines to assist investigators and prosecutors with the drafting of charging documents. The RRGs also

- **Initiated development of RRGs in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Republic of the Congo.**
- **Delivered training in Kenya, Namibia and Uganda on the use of the national RRGs**





Building sustainability in a long-term approach for criminal justice practitioners

The Global Programme's approach to ensuring national authorities maintain the capacity to train their staff has been realized through Training of Trainers (ToT) initiatives. ToT initiatives build local expertise for wider dissemination of RRGs and other tools in beneficiary countries. For example, in Uganda a ToT session on the RRG was convened in November 2021 for 37 practitioners.

During the Uganda ToT, the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Uganda Mr. Charles Elem-Ogwai said "with the training we have received from UNODC, we have been able to improve our prosecutorial capacity across the board. Once we are trained in wildlife crimes, the same skills are necessary [to prosecute] other crimes"

Strengthening national capacity to train and support investigators and prosecutors in wildlife, forest, and fisheries cases also supports case preparation in other criminal matters where similar learned skills are utilized.

Accordingly, the Global Programme is generating the necessary foundation for skilled prosecutions that apply to

all crimes. The RRG has further acted as a springboard for the development of charging policy in general, as well as a consistent approach to sentencing and enhancing a more proactive prosecution approach.

The Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions for Uganda, Ms. Barbara Kawuma, said "UNODC not only offered us technical support and training, but also helped us to come up [with] guidelines to support prosecutors and investigators in the handling of wildlife crimes."

Similar approaches have taken place in other countries, which have been followed by the roll out of various training sessions on national RRGs led by national trainers. For example, in Kenya, three multi-agency RRG trainings were delivered by local experts to 117 practitioners. Further to these three multi-agency trainings, a broader initiative was undertaken, led by a national expert, to sensitize rangers on the RRG throughout the Mount Kenya area: 133 rangers received this training. Sensitizing and training practitioners throughout the justice system from conservation protection and enforcement, to investigation and prosecution, ensures a holistic response to combating crimes that affect the environment.



Engaging the judiciary

The Global Programme engages with the judiciary to raise awareness of crimes that affect the environment as well as increase the rate of prosecutions. For example, in Central Africa, the team delivered trainings to magistrates and judges in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. The trainings covered key points in the fight against wildlife and forest crime in order to strengthen the coordination of local, regional, national and international interventions. The judges gained a better understanding of the relevant legal provisions and inter-agency cooperation mechanisms to tackle this form of crime. In Mozambique, the Global Programme supported the judiciary to develop a bench book (Wildlife Crimes Manual) and subsequently delivered training on its use.

Inter-agency cooperation

Effective inter-agency cooperation is indispensable for combating crimes that affect the environment, as emphasized by the UN General Assembly in its resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife. The Global Programme actively promotes the establishment of national multistakeholder frameworks that bring together law enforcement (mainly police and customs), prosecution and judicial agencies, alongside wildlife, forest, and fisheries authorities.

In Central Africa, the Global Programme organized a series of national interministerial meetings throughout 2021 in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop synergies between national law enforcement and judiciary institutions to combat the illicit trafficking of natural resources. During these meetings, key stakeholders elaborated a set of recommendations to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in the fight against the illicit exploitation of natural resources.



SUCCESS STORY: THE FOREST CRIME PLATFORM (PERU)

In Peru, the Global Programme continued to support the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary technical working group and coordination structure - the Forest Crime Platform - to coordinate action against forest crime at national and regional levels. The Forest Crime Platform brings together an interagency team of technical experts and decision-makers from national justice and forest authorities whose range of functions are directly related to the regulation, prevention, and enforcement efforts to combat forest crime. The Platform also involves members of civil society, academia and international partners. Since its establishment in 2019, 18 technical level meetings of the Platform have been convened (ten meetings in 2021) to build capacity and to develop and implement technical tools (e.g. Rapid Reference Guide, and Forensic Accounting Guide). More than a dozen agencies participate in the Platform meetings, including over 200 specialists in the field of forest management and justice. These engagements have fostered inter-agency cooperation at the national, regional and local levels to jointly respond to forest crime and have fostered new partnerships with other actors engaged in the forest sector. This successful model of inter-agency and inter-disciplinary collaboration has been adapted in Mexico in 2021, where two inter-institutional meetings were convened to develop a technical working group or platform to promote dialogue, exchange information and lessons learned in the context of fighting crimes that affect the environment. This model will be replicated in other countries in 2022.





Wildlife forensics

The forensic investigation of wildlife crime concerns the scientific analysis of evidence recovered from a crime scene, from a seizure, or from the analysis of materials obtained from suspects. Wildlife parts or products often need to be identified to determine whether a crime has been committed. In some countries, wildlife crime is now being treated as serious crime and sentencing guidelines have been introduced; when prosecuting serious crime and recommending a long custodial sentence, robust forensic evidence is required to support the case.

In November 2021, the Global Programme collaborated with the African Wildlife Forensics Network to facilitate a webinar on wildlife forensics involving five countries of Central Africa, namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon. This webinar served to raise awareness of the wildlife forensic process from crime scene to court, as well as services and support available through the Global Programme and the African Wildlife Forensics Network. Senior representatives from police, wildlife departments, and park management authorities participated to learn about the forensic process and identify national support needs in this area. During the webinar, there was active discussion on the need to strengthen crime scene investigation and forensics to combat wildlife crime in the region. The Global Programme will provide further support to countries in this regard in 2022.

In Peru, the Global Programme team has been very active in developing guidance and tools for forensic timber identification. In 2021, the UNODC *Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification* was translated into Spanish to reach a broader audience. The team also developed several tools to contribute to a better understanding, explanation and application of the Guide including a series of video tutorials explaining the scope of the Guide, and various methodologies for timber identification. The Global Programme collaborated with specialists from the Specialized Environmental Prosecutors Offices (FEMA), the Timber Technological Innovation Center (CITEMadera), and National Agrarian University (UNALM) to develop a mobile application for rapid forensic timber identification for frontline law enforcement authorities in Peru. This mobile app enables authorities to access technical information in a simple and efficient manner when working on detection and inspection of timber shipments. A second edition of the app, along with associated training, is planned for 2022.



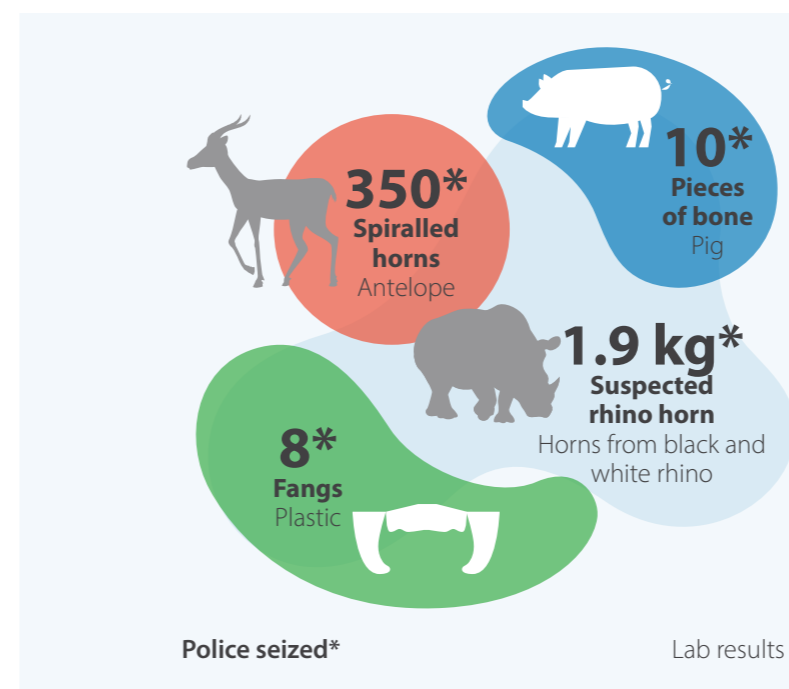
National laboratory support in Gabon and Viet Nam

In 2021, UNODC supported TRACE to place forensic experts at national laboratories in Gabon and Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, for example, a TRACE expert works alongside national staff, providing long-term mentorship at the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) laboratory to undertake wildlife DNA forensic testing in support of wildlife enforcement agencies. Samples relating to 93 wildlife crime cases were analysed in 2021, involving specimens of bear, elephant, leopard, lion, pangolin, rhino, tiger, and turtle. Two case examples are outlined below to provide an idea of the range of cases supported by the lab:

- » In March 2021, IEBR supported the analysis of a particularly large seizure of scales (984 kg) stored in 50 jute sacks. Lab analysis results identified the species as the African tree pangolin. The case was subsequently reported in the news, stating that the police had arrested the suspects involved in what was announced as the largest pangolin smuggling ring ever detected in Viet Nam.
- » In October 2021, police arrested a suspect transporting a range of wildlife products. IEBR lab analysis results verified the inclusion of horns from black and white rhino amongst the seized items.

Support to national wildlife forensics laboratories

Many forensic laboratories, particularly in developing regions, face challenges in accessing certified chemicals, reagents and basic consumables such as sample tubes and filter tips. Lengthy procurement delays are often experienced. This can often lead labs in developing countries to purchase inferior, substitute reagents, or for some forensic tests to be conducted below internationally accepted standards. In turn, this impacts the ability of the lab to support wildlife law enforcement efficiently and effectively. In 2021, the Global Programme coordinated a pilot project in partnership with the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service to support six forensic laboratories through the donation of essential reagents and consumables for DNA analysis of exhibits, to strengthen investigations and prosecutions of wildlife crime in their jurisdictions. The beneficiary laboratories are now reporting the positive impact on investigations supported in 2021. For example, in Zimbabwe, the donation has been used to support investigations of wildlife poisoning, and in Gabon, personnel at the Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN) lab supported the analysis of a pangolin and elephant ivory seizure made in Nigeria.



Portable Enforcement Laboratory for Testing Seizures

UNODC and TRACE established a Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures (PELTS) in Asia in 2018. The PELTS programme provides on-site analysis of seizures in countries lacking local access to wildlife DNA forensic facilities. Staffed by trained individuals, PELTS is deployed to a requesting country to aid with producing evidence in a timely manner. Seized wildlife products can be sampled, DNA is amplified and then couriered to a partner lab in Germany via a controlled chain of custody process for DNA sequencing. The results become rapidly available to the in-country team for analysis and report writing. The process also provides a valuable training opportunity for national authorities on sampling and DNA extraction, as well as on maintaining chain of custody. PELTS was piloted in Asia and a similar service was established in 2020 for Africa, from a base in Uganda. PELTS (Uganda) supported the investigation of 12 wildlife crime cases in 2021. In 2022, PELTS will be launched for Central Africa from a base in Gabon.



Crime scene awareness

The forensic process is highly dependent on the recognition of potential evidence and the actions taken at a crime scene. First responders need to know how to approach and process a crime scene in a way that ensures evidence is admissible in a court of law. Mistakes made at the beginning of a forensic investigation may jeopardize the validity of subsequent analysis and prevent prosecutions from being successful.

In 2021, UNODC, TRACE, and the Netherlands Forensics Institute completed a year-long 'train the trainer' programme at the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, United Republic of Tanzania, providing training

based on the Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation Guide for First Responders and accompanying Instructor's Manual. The new training programme is now embedded within the national training curriculum and will be used to educate new wildlife crime scene first responders in Tanzania. This sustainable institutionalization approach will be replicated at the Garoua Wildlife College in Cameroon in 2022 in partnership with TRACE.

Crime scene management trainings were also delivered in Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam in 2021. The Global Programme collaborated with the NGO Space for Giants to provide crime scene kits to Kenya Wildlife Service and procured an Exhibit Armoury for the Kenya Coast Conservation Area. The Exhibit Armoury will provide safe, secure and temperature-controlled storage for wildlife exhibits related to criminal cases, ensuring wildlife exhibits do not decay before trial. In 2022, the Global Programme will provide wildlife crime scene kits to investigators and first responders in Central African countries and provide training on their use.



TRACE training, Zambia



Partnerships: collaboration with African Parks

In order to strengthen the capacity of park rangers and judicial authorities to detect and investigate wildlife and natural resources-related crimes, UNODC partnered with African Parks, a non-profit conservation organization, to deliver wildlife crime scene management training in a number of national parks across Central Africa: Garamba in the DRC, Odzala-Kokoua in the Republic of the Congo and Zakouma in Chad. Hands-on exercises allowed park rangers, investigators and prosecutors to collect, preserve and analyze data/evidence from a mock crime scene. The trainings helped increase the awareness of the participants of the need for coordination between park rangers and judicial authorities, bridging the gap between crime scene and court.

"Thanks to UNODC for organizing this training for us. Personally, I am very satisfied with the quality of the training This is the best training I received during my career at Zakouma," noted one of the investigators at Zakouma who received the training.

"In the past, there was no direct contact between the judicial authorities and the park rangers at Zakouma National Park. In the offence statements we receive, we often do not get all the required information because we were not directing the investigations. Thanks to this UNODC training, the ties between us have been strengthened and the gray areas have been cleared up," explained one of the prosecutors from Am Timam, Chad, who attended the training at Zakouma.

- 9 countries supported with crime scene management awareness training



D. ADDRESSING CORRUPTION:

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO MITIGATE CORRUPTION RISKS LINKED TO CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Corruption is one of the principal enablers of crimes that affect the environment. To remain in illicit business, criminals must identify ways to avoid getting caught. They thrive on the existence of corruption as it enables them to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes.

The consequences of corruption linked to crimes that affect the environment are particularly damaging. When a seizure of ivory, pangolin scales, rosewood, or shark fins is made, the harm is already done: animals are dead; trees are no longer standing. These crimes cannot be reversed. It is precisely for this reason that preventive measures must be taken to tackle the corruption that enables these crimes.

ECOSOC resolution 2021/24 requests UNODC to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, upon request, for the purposes of supporting their efforts to effectively prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, as well as corruption and money-laundering related to such crimes. This resolution follows a series of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly requesting UNODC to support Member States in preventing and countering any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, including by providing technical assistance to assess and mitigate corruption risks and strengthening the capacity to investigate and prosecute such corruption. The adoption of UNCAC CoSP Resolution 8/12 further supports these requests and contributes to the strengthening of anti-corruption frameworks in the context of crimes that have an impact on the environment.

The Global Programme works in partnership with UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch (CEB) to support Member States' efforts in this area. By strengthening the capacity of their wildlife, forest and fisheries management authorities to mitigate the risks of corruption, Member States can safeguard the integrity and efficiency of these sectors and better protect their natural resources. This initiative not only assists Member States to achieve SDG Target 15.7 on taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and addressing the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, but it also assists in the achievement of SDG Target 16.5 on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms and SDG Target 16.a on strengthening relevant national institutions for capacity building at all levels to fight crime.

In 2021, the Global Programme supported:

- **10 wildlife authorities to prevent corruption linked to wildlife crime**
- **1 fisheries authority to prevent corruption linked to crimes in the fisheries sector**
- **4 forest authorities to prevent corruption linked to forest crime**
- **9 countries with training on financial investigations linked to crimes that affect the environment**



Strengthening frameworks to address corruption risks

Every organization, no matter how well managed, is exposed to corruption risks. If not proactively managed, these risks may be realized, and corruption may spread through the organization. Wildlife, forest and fisheries management authorities often form the first line of response. With a historical mandate for conservation as their primary objective, they are now also challenged by the need to tackle organized crime and associated corruption. Looking for systemic change solutions, the Global Programme and CEB support a corruption risk-based approach for wildlife, forest and fisheries management authorities to strengthen internal mechanisms and systems to prevent corruption from occurring. This approach is a modified version of ISO 31000. It is designed to set achievable goals that significantly reduce the likelihood that specific corruption risks will occur, while at the same time gradually strengthening institutional capacity to identify and prevent future corruption risks.

In 2021, UNODC continued its corruption prevention work related to wildlife crime with authorities in Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. UNODC also conducted a corruption risk assessment and developed mitigation measures to support the fisheries sector in Ghana. UNODC implemented a similar approach for forest management authorities in Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria.

FOCUS: ANTI-CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

The Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria requested UNODC's support in undertaking a series of corruption risk assessments within the country's wildlife and forestry sector. Over the course of 2021, the Global Programme, CEB, and the UNODC Country Office in Nigeria (CONIG) collaborated with national authorities to conduct four corruption risk assessments. These assessments identify corruption risks and corruption risk mitigation strategies for key authorities in the fight against wildlife and forest crime, including Nigeria Customs Service; National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA); Nigeria National Parks Services; and the Forestry Department of the Federal Ministry of Environment. The corruption mitigation plans provide practical strategies to prevent corruption linked to wildlife and forest crime. In 2022, UNODC will continue to support Nigeria in the finalization and implementation of the mitigation strategies.

Financial Investigations

Many forms of corruption linked to crimes that affect the environment leave a paper and money trail that can be reconstructed by investigators and prosecutors, providing them with the necessary proof of criminal activity to prosecute and secure convictions. In many jurisdictions, as the penalties for corruption offences are higher than those for crimes that impact the environment, having robust evidence of such economic crimes can increase the number of successful prosecutions.

UN General Assembly resolution 75/311 and UNCAC CoSP resolution 8/12 encourage Member States to use financial investigation techniques to better address corruption and economic crimes related to wildlife trafficking and crimes that affect the environment respectively.

In recent years, there has been a growing realization that the understanding of the financial flows and the payment mechanisms behind crimes that impact the environment is limited. Likewise, financial investigations related to crimes that have an impact on the environment are infrequent. Despite increasing seizures of wildlife and forest products, illegally traded minerals, illegally obtained fish, as well as increased efforts to ensure criminal investigations, the lack of proper financial investigations can lead to the prosecution of low-level criminals while leaving the main financial beneficiaries of crime unpunished.





In 2021, the Global Programme and CEB continued to provide support through capacity building and case mentoring as well as by providing knowledge products to Member States and law enforcement agencies. Training courses on financial investigations linked to wildlife and forest crime were delivered to relevant national authorities in China, Colombia, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Mozambique and Uganda in partnership with the CEB and in the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in partnership with the UNODC Global Programme for Anti-Money Laundering. Through trainings and mentoring, public officials received guidance on the identification of cases where financial investigations should be undertaken, financial investigation techniques and what kind of opportunities and challenges may present themselves throughout the course of an investigation. In addition, UNODC has supported inter-agency cooperation related to financial investigations in Kenya and Uganda, strengthened States' capacities to effectively request mutual legal assistance, and facilitated the exchange of contacts between national authorities in several States linked to financial investigations of crimes that affect the environment.

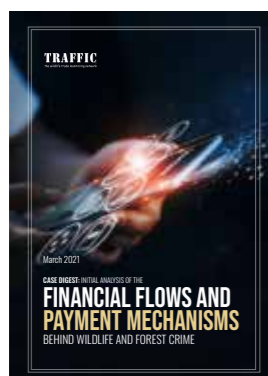
Resource guides

UNODC draws upon its role as the guardian of the UNCAC to build law enforcement and criminal justice institutions' capacities and support communities impacted by crimes that affect the environment. In 2021, UNODC has added to its series of tools on addressing corruption and economic crimes linked to the environment:



Wildlife Crime: Key Actors, Organizational Structures and Business Models

The Global Programme and CEB developed a training tool for investigators and prosecutors tasked with cases linked to wildlife crime. The tool outlines the steps criminals and associated actors need to take in order to move wildlife and/or its products from the original source to the point of end use. It provides a broader view on how financial investigation techniques can be used to expand the suspect pool; to understand how different actors can be linked; and to build knowledge on the structure of organized criminal groups involved in these crimes and their modus operandi.



Case Digest: Initial Analysis of the Financial Flows and Payment Mechanisms behind Wildlife and Forest Crime

The Global Programme, CEB and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch supported the development of the Case Digest, which was published by the NGO TRAFFIC in March 2021. The Case Digest was developed to provide a better understanding of the financial aspects of wildlife and forest crime, which in turn will lead to more effective prosecutions that target those that use corruption or other economic crimes to facilitate wildlife and forest crime, and thereby disrupt organized criminal groups.

E. JOINING FORCES ACROSS BORDERS: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In its resolutions on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, the UN General Assembly emphasizes the need to enhance regional and transnational cooperation. In 2021, the Global Programme continued to promote international cooperation initiatives among Member States, at all levels. International cooperation to tackle crimes that affect the environment is increasing and countries are beginning to deepen their interest in sharing information. Notwithstanding this progress, further cooperation is required to have an impact. Law enforcement authorities are still often reluctant to use official channels for real time cross-border cooperation. The networks established with the support of the Global Programme have encouraged officers to share information and cooperate, including through informal channels. Recent efforts by UNODC to promote cooperation include the following:

Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network

UNODC seconded a Coordination Officer to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat in Djibouti to support the path to sustainability of HAWEN and enhance regional cooperation in the fight against wildlife crime in the Horn of Africa. Throughout 2021, The Coordination Officer supported and facilitated a series of in-person and virtual meetings to implement the HAWEN Action Plan that was adopted by the HAWEN Executive Committee in 2018 and the recommendations of the 3rd Executive Committee meeting held in March 2020, and supported HAWEN and IGAD in convening the 4th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting, in Addis Ababa, Federal Republic of Ethiopia on 27-28 October 2021. During the meeting, the HAWEN Executive Committee approved a series of recommendations, which are currently being implemented by the HAWEN Secretariat in coordination with relevant partners and institutions. One of the recommendations foresees the implementation of the ICCWC WEN Guidelines with HAWEN, which will be supported by UNODC on behalf of ICCWC in 2022.

South American Wildlife Enforcement Network



Throughout 2021, UNODC supported the reinvigoration of the South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN). These efforts included discussions and activities with focal points, ICCWC members, and civil society (IFAW, ELI, and Freeland Brazil). This dialogue culminated at the end of the year in the organization of the [first regional meeting of SudWEN](#). The meeting was convened in a virtual format, in partnership with ICCWC and with financial support from the US Government, and brought together 60 designated representatives from Customs, Police, Prosecutor's Office, and CITES Management Authorities from 11 South American countries. Participants shared best practices and identified common challenges faced in addressing wildlife crime and discussed ways to strengthen and operationalize SudWEN to best support and improve regional cooperation in South America. Participants agreed on a draft Terms of Reference to set the basis for the operationalization of the Network. UNODC will continue to support countries in their efforts to reinvigorate SudWEN in 2022.

NEW PROJECT: COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CONSERVATION CRIMES IN THE AMAZON

UNODC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a four-year regional project on *Combating Transnational Conservation Crimes in the Amazon*, covering Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Ecuador, Peru and Suriname. The project aims to improve regional cooperation and capacity of enforcement and justice system actors to detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute transnational conservation crimes in the Amazon, including wildlife, forest, minerals crimes and crimes in the fisheries sector. The project was launched at a high-level event in June and in-depth planning and stakeholder consultations took place in the second half of 2021 to formalize plans for implementation.





East Africa Association of Prosecutors

The Global Programme supported the convening of the East Africa Association of Prosecutors (EAAP) in September 2021, which brought together 58 prosecutors from 11 countries to discuss ongoing regional challenges. The meeting strengthened prosecution capacity to manage transnational wildlife crime cases, provided prosecutors the opportunity to connect and cooperate, and to further support regional wildlife trafficking strategies.



African Wildlife Forensics Network

The Global Programme co-hosted the 6th annual African Wildlife Forensics Network meeting, which was held virtually from 2 – 4 November 2021 in partnership with TRACE, the South African National Biodiversity Institute and the Netherlands Forensic Institute. More than 60 forensics practitioners from 15 African countries came together to discuss best practices in wildlife crime scene investigation and laboratory analysis. The Global Programme co-organized the event, facilitated sessions and delivered presentations on various tools and on-going initiatives. It is hoped that the next meeting of the network will take place in person in South Africa in 2022.

Economic Community of Central African States

The Global Programme works closely with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Secretariat in Libreville, Gabon, under the framework of the EU-ECCAS Reform and Institutional Capacity Building Support Programme known as PARCIC. UNODC provides assistance to ECCAS Member States to respond to poaching and trafficking of natural resources by supporting law enforcement, legislative and criminal justice reform processes, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures, wildlife forensics and regional cooperation.

Informal Law Enforcement Network on Minerals Related Crimes

The fourth Informal Law Enforcement Network Meeting on Minerals Related Crimes was held in June 2021, organized by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Global Programme. This series of meetings provides an important platform to discuss enforcement opportunities and challenges related to illegal mining and the trafficking of precious metals, as they bring together experts from around the world to share best practices and emerging trends. The 2021 meeting included regional discussions on case studies, the illegal trade in mercury, digital tools to support investigations and a session on conflict finance.

The Peace Weavers project in Central Africa

The lack of economic opportunities, in a context beset by widespread youth unemployment and insufficient social services, can feed insecurity and criminality. Together in partnership with UNESCO, UNODC, through the Global Programme, developed the Tisserands de la Paix/Young Weavers of Peace project.

The project aims to establish a network of 1,800 young 'weavers of peace,' who will be key players in peacebuilding and conflict prevention to counter insecurity, growing crime and illicit trafficking in the cross-border regions of Gabon, Cameroon and Chad. By sensitizing and empowering the youth, they will be potential agents of change and encourage peacebuilding and development through creativity, civic participation and community engagement. Moreover, the project will provide support to social enterprise projects for 160 youth.

Youth are at the heart of this project. The selected participants are from or have settled in the project areas. At the Cameroon-Gabon border, they are from the areas around Abang Minko, Minvoul, Bitam, Meyo-Kye, Oyem. At the Cameroon-Chad border, they are from Figuil, Guider, Kaelé, Yaogoua, Guéré, Pala Leré, Fianga, Katoa and Gounou Gaya.

These areas are located around wildlife parks such as Waza Park, Bouba Ndjida and Sena Oura, where protected species continue to be targeted for the illegal wildlife trade. Over the last 20 years, criminality has considerably reduced the population of elephants and other protected species in these parks; the project works with the youth to prevent them from joining armed groups, gangs and poachers who exploit these protected areas.

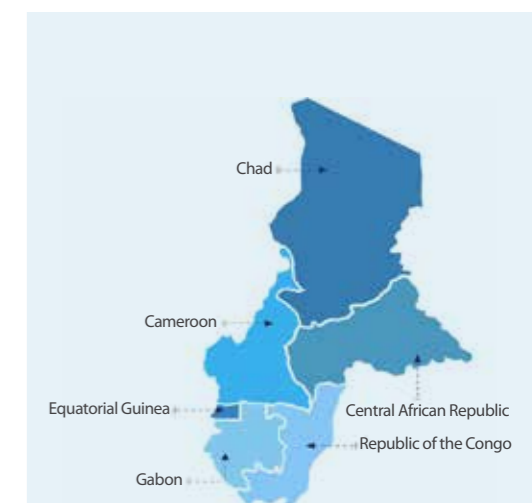
Aged between 18 and 35 and with diverse academic and professional backgrounds - students, farmers, shopkeepers, homemakers and community leaders, to name a few - the peace weavers all speak at least one language of the targeted localities and are willing to share knowledge within their community.

The young weavers of peace have a common objective: to contribute to the promotion of peace and sustainable development in their respective communities. Their daily life and traditions are combined with their duties as peace weavers.

"In my interaction with the peace weavers, I have noticed the young peace weavers' enthusiasm and their will to make their voices heard within their community and be vectors of development. The project has aroused great interest and support of the central and local authorities who are eager to cooperate with the project stakeholders." - Ms. Christine Kotna, UNODC Programme Officer for the Weavers of Peace project.

The project commenced in late 2020, and throughout 2021, a number of results have already been attained. For example, more than two thirds (1203/1800) of the youth participants were selected for the project in Cameroon and Chad, and 300 of them were trained as peace weavers in Chad. UNODC also undertook a training-of-trainers for 35 youth in Cameroon and Chad, and a study on the reasons for youth involvement in illicit activities was finalized.

In the coming months, the selected peace weavers will facilitate the creation of a network to share information and disseminate key messages on the promotion of peace and the prevention of cross-border crime. The social entrepreneurship component will be launched, involving project leaders to create a catalytic effect among unemployed youths to take their future into their own hands.



Operation Mekong Dragon III

Operation Mekong Dragon III, a customs operation that took place between 15 April and 15 September 2021, involved authorities in 20 countries and territories from across Asia and Oceania. Supported by UNODC and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO-AP) of the World Customs Organization (WCO), the operation resulted in 525 seizures including 85 of wild fauna and flora. Seizure results indicate that the illegal wildlife trade in East and Southeast Asia is returning to pre-COVID-19 levels.

The Global Programme and RILO-AP provided support for cross-border information sharing to facilitate cooperation and provided advice to operation participants. Case coordination meetings were held involving relevant national authorities to enhance information exchange and strengthen the collaborative investigation process throughout the operation. Two controlled deliveries were conducted on ivory products involving countries in Southeast Asia, leading to arrests of the traffickers. Mail parcels were identified as the most common method of shipment. The increased use of mail parcels is linked to a surge in illegal online transactions and changes in trafficking patterns during the time of COVID-19. The sources of the confiscated illegal shipments are scattered across countries and regions, reconfirming the global scale of drug and wildlife trafficking operations.

The Global Programme is now supporting authorities in their post-seizure investigations to identify financial transactions related to the cases and methods of money laundering, pursue the confiscation of assets, and prosecute and dismantle the criminal networks involved. UNODC and TRACE are facilitating forensic analysis services to augment follow up investigations.



Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) Meeting

Over 200 law enforcement and criminal justice representatives from 34 countries in Africa and Asia gathered to discuss cooperation on interception, investigation and prosecution of wildlife and forest crime cases from 30 November to 2 December 2021 at the Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting. The WIRE was jointly hosted by the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of General Administration of China Customs and the Global Programme. During the 3-day meeting, criminal justice practitioners came together with the aim of improving communications and coordination to tackle the most serious forms of illegal wildlife trade.

In his opening remarks, Mr. SUN Zhijie, Director General, Anti-Smuggling Bureau, General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, highlighted the need to share responsibilities through common governance, balance between law enforcement and conservation efforts and increased cooperation between countries.

Ms. Miwa Kato, Director of UNODC's Division for Operations, stressed that "there is no alternative to international cooperation, be it formal or informal, if we want to sustainably disrupt criminal networks involved in the trafficking of wild fauna and flora."



Police, prosecutors, wildlife and customs officials participated in four working groups on controlled deliveries, financial investigations, mutual legal assistance, and forensics. Delegates discussed challenges and opportunities, sharing best practices, and worked on case examples. Several (13) bilateral meetings took place between national authorities to discuss ongoing cases, strengthen transnational cooperation and organize joint investigations.

The WIRE meeting also served as a platform to debrief on Operation Mekong Dragon III (OMD III), presenting seizure results indicating that the illegal wildlife trade in East and Southeast Asia is returning to pre-COVID levels.



The 2021 Asia Environment Enforcement Award (AEEA) ceremony took place during the WIRE meeting. Individuals and organizations were awarded for their achievements in combating environmental crime.

Accepting their award in the collaboration category, Mr. Pongtep Buasap, from the Enforcement Division of the Thai Customs Department, said that "together with China and Viet Nam Customs, we have proven that a strong commitment in international cooperation with our counterparts in the end yields positive results. This Award shall set a good example for all law enforcement agencies to cooperate even more closely with one another."

Working Group 1 focused on the use of controlled delivery techniques in wildlife crime cases. 56 wildlife crime practitioners from Customs, Police, prosecutors' offices and wildlife agencies from 28 countries participated. The session began with an introduction to controlled delivery operations, including discussions on legal frameworks that govern these types of operations, the definition according to international conventions, as well as the different types of controlled delivery operations. Examples of successful and unsuccessful controlled deliveries were presented by UNODC, and participants learned about the detailed execution of a controlled delivery, ranging from evidence handling at different stages of the operation, to surveillance techniques and the recommended responses in different scenarios.

Working Group 2 discussed the application and usefulness of financial investigations to advance wildlife crime investigations. The Working Group was attended by 60 participants from 25 countries. The session included presentations on the wildlife crime supply chain, the four flows of wildlife crime (product, money/value, communication and documentation), and forms of formal and informal international cooperation. By means of a practical case study, participants were able to discuss concrete opportunities and challenges in conducting financial investigations. The case study highlighted the need to strengthen and enhance measures to promote international cooperation, which is crucial because financial investigations can be highly complex, including two or more jurisdictions. Participants then discussed a set of strategic recommendations to be put forward to heads of criminal justice institutions.

Working Group 3 focused on the challenges and opportunities related to the prosecution of wildlife crime and mutual legal assistance. It was composed of 69 participants from 29 countries. The session started with presentations on formal and informal cooperation, and on the UNTOC and how it can be used to facilitate such cooperation. Feedback from participants indicated that lengthy and complicated processes, as well as legal concerns (domestic legislation) were considered the main obstacles to international cooperation. Participants broke into sub-working groups to consider a wildlife seizure case study. Discussions were used as a basis for a set of recommendations.

Working Group 4 discussed the challenges and opportunities related to wildlife forensics in response to wildlife crime, specifically the merits of sharing low value intelligence information from seizures analysis. The group was composed of participants from mixed law enforcement and judiciary backgrounds with a total of 35 individuals from 18 countries. The session opened with expert briefings from wildlife forensic practitioners who identified the challenges and capacity needs for wildlife forensics in both Africa and Asia. Participants were engaged throughout the session by a series of polls determining their understanding and use of forensic tools. Sub-working groups considered hypothetical wildlife crime scenarios and responses to maximize the potential for forensic information recovery from wildlife seizures. Concluding discussions were broad but identified the need to develop more effective platforms and mechanisms for the rapid exchange of such data.

The WIRE meeting concluded with a set of recommendations from each Working Group and an agreement to develop a 'Call to Action' to improve inter-regional coordination on different levels. With the overall support of UNODC and its partners, the delegates committed to a series of concrete operational activities to be conducted in the first half of 2022 that would lead to the disruption and prosecution of wildlife crime across Africa and Asia.



Mr. H.E. Noordin, OGW, Director for Public Prosecutions from Kenya



Mr. Park Cheon Jeong, Head of RILO AP (WCO)



Mr. James A. Walsh, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Intl. Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs.



Mr. Giovanni Broussard, Regional Coordinator for the Global Programme in South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific (UNODC)



F. ACCELERATING GLOBAL MOMENTUM: RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

**111
million
views**
#EndWildlifeCrime



Raising awareness and sharing knowledge are key components of a comprehensive global strategy to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment. In 2021, the Global Programme enhanced its advocacy efforts to raise global awareness of crimes that affect the environment, including through social media campaigns, virtual events and innovative partnerships.

Social media campaigns

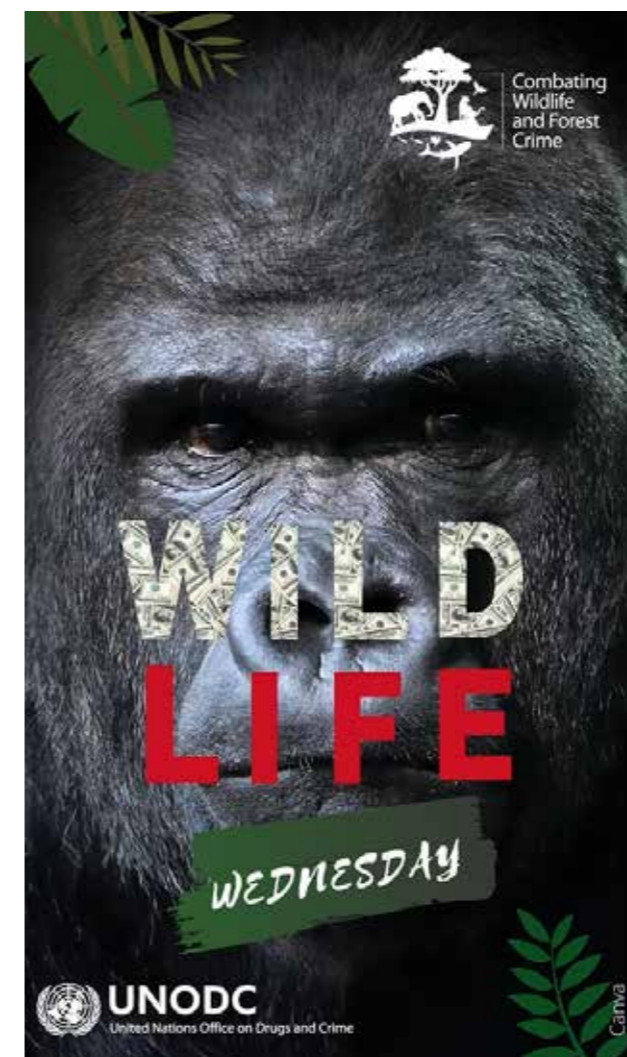
The Global Programme's social media campaign continued to raise awareness of crimes that affect the environment and UNODC's response. New social media packages were developed covering wildlife crime and biodiversity loss; crimes in the fisheries sector; and wildlife crime cases.

In 2021, the campaign resulted in 111 million views on the global Hashtag #EndWildlifeCrime as well as 2.5 million views of wildlife crime content on UNODC HQ social media channels. The newly created Hashtag #CrimesinFisheries was viewed 6 million times. Throughout 2021, 718 posts and tweets were shared, and 11 videos were produced to raise awareness about crimes that affect the environment.

Crimes in the Fisheries Sector

In 2021, the Global Programme's work on crimes in the fisheries sector expanded, gaining momentum as part of the broader ocean and climate change agendas. The work is now funded by multiple donors with projects across Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Global Programme continued to raise awareness of the issue, including through producing two videos to explain crimes in the fisheries sector and UNODC's Value Chain Approach. The Global Programme led the development of the *UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Fisheries Sector*, coordinating internally within UNODC to clarify the concept and develop a unified approach to best serve the needs of UN Member States. The resulting paper summarizes UNODC's approach to crimes in the fisheries sector and its links and differences to IUU fishing, and provides an overview of UNODC's menu of services in this area.

The Global Programme hosted and participated in numerous webinars, workshops and trainings on the issue of crime in the fisheries sector throughout 2021, such as those on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry organized by the Blue Justice Initiative; on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in West Africa; and at a training for investigative journalists from West Africa. The issue of crimes in the fisheries sector was also highlighted in events hosted by the Global Programme on wildlife crime more broadly.

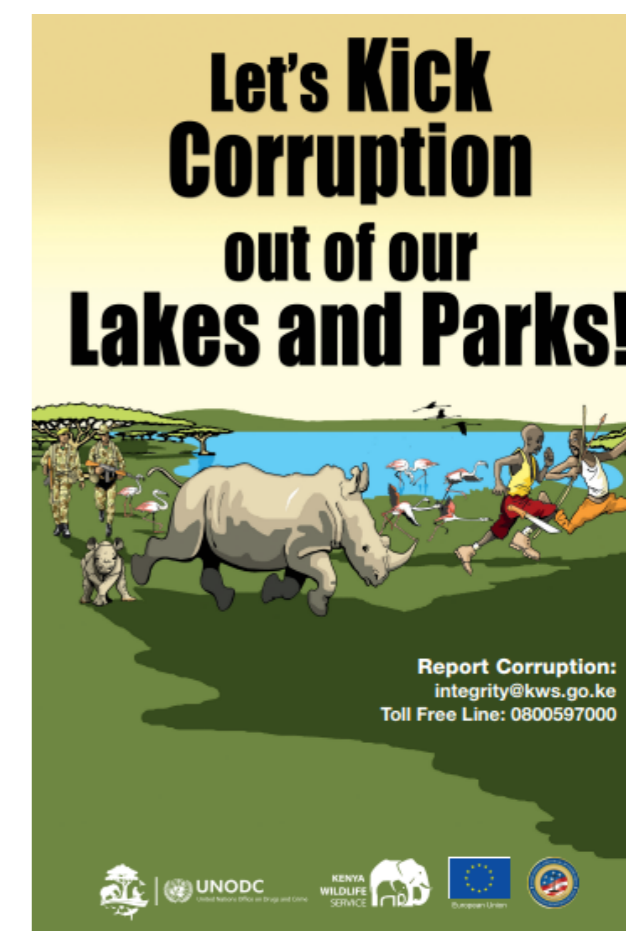


Wildlife Wednesdays

The Global Programme launched a new initiative called 'Wildlife Wednesdays' to provide informal briefings to the Vienna-based Permanent Missions of Member States, to help delegates learn more about crimes that affect the environment and what UNODC is doing to combat them. Fifteen briefings were held on key topics related to the work of the Programme over the course of the year. Each Wildlife Wednesday had a corresponding social media story and these videos had just under 80,000 views. Participating Permanent Missions learned about how and where the Global Programme is engaged, and participated in interactive discussions to share success stories, information about ongoing cases, and various challenges faced by partners and stakeholders.

Anti-Corruption Campaign

In Kenya, the Global Programme developed an anti-corruption advocacy campaign for Kenya Wildlife Service. In 2021, posters and other sensitization material under the theme "kicking corruption out of our parks" were disseminated throughout the country.





Zoohackathon

In November 2021, the Global Programme supported the Zoohackathon in Kinshasa, DRC, organized by Tetra Tech, Kinshasa Digital, USAID and the United States Embassy in Kinshasa. There was a parallel event held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo. Over two days, 27 participants, selected from over 330 applicants, worked together in six teams to create innovative technological solutions to combat wildlife crime, with mentoring from African Parks, the Wildlife Conservation Society and African Wildlife Foundation. The Global Programme helped judge the competition, with the winning team – Dunia – designing an app for raising awareness and reporting possible criminal activity linked to wildlife trafficking and natural resources. What set the winning team apart was their creative use of a game to test users' knowledge of wildlife trafficking, with rewards for successful answers.



Educational modules

Under the banner of the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, the Global Programme continued to engage with academia to produce teaching material for the University Module Series on Wildlife Crime. The Series is designed to assist academics in teaching classes on those topics both in-person and virtually; elements of the Series are available in English, Spanish and Chinese, as well as in Portuguese. In 2021, the Global Programme continued developing two new teaching modules for university lecturers: one on the illegal exploitation of wild flora, and another on community engagement and sustainable livelihoods, both of which are [now available online](#).

UNODC Response Framework on Illegal Mining

On the basis of an increased interest from Member States, in 2020, UNODC developed an internal [Response Framework on Illegal Mining and the Illicit Trafficking in Precious Metals](#). The framework outlines global challenges related to illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals and also provides an overview of UNODC's role and response. The Global Programme coordinates UNODC's work in this area, and based on the response framework, UNODC established an Inter-Divisional Task Team to leverage in-house expertise to address minerals related crimes. This expertise ranges from research and analysis to legislative and policy support, to cooperation and strengthening criminal justice responses. The public version of the Response Framework was developed by the Global Programme in 2021 to raise awareness of these issues and UNODC's response.

Virtual events

The Global Programme convened and participated in numerous online events, webinars and briefings over the course of the year. The virtual format allowed events to reach large international audiences, which contributed to raising awareness on crimes that affect the environment. While there were many such events, a few examples include:

- » At the [European Development Days](#) forum in June 2021, the Global Programme organized a high-level panel discussion on the role of the European Green Deal and its potential to end wildlife trafficking. Reflecting the importance of the topic, the panel included a number of high-level attendees, including EU Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen who delivered opening remarks alongside UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly. HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands moderated the discussion with panellists Koen Doens, the EU Director-General for International Partnerships (INTPA); Emmanuel de Merode, Director of the Virunga National Park; Cristián Samper, President and CEO of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); and Nomsa Betty Kamanga, a young leader from Zambia. These expert panellists debated the role of EU Green Deal and the links between wildlife trafficking, biodiversity, climate, security, health and overall development. With wildlife under intense pressure from human activity and over-exploitation, the panellists offered their insights and perspectives into the destructive relationship between crime and corruption and the environment. The event can be watched [here](#).
- » The Global Programme team in Mexico organized an international seminar on environmental justice in November 2021. The seminar provided a platform to identify and discuss challenges and opportunities to strengthen the fight against organized crime through education. The event was held in a hybrid format and attended by over 3,000 participants from 13 countries.



• Over 8,500 people attended our trainings and events in 2021





The event can be viewed here.

United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Special Event

The UN Crime Congress is the world's largest meeting of governments, civil society, academia and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice crime. The Global Programme and CEB collaborated to hold a Special Event on the margins of the Congress in Kyoto from 7 – 12 March 2021.

Recognizing the need to act now, participants at "The Nature of Corruption" event discussed the importance of addressing corruption linked to wildlife and forest crime and crimes in the fisheries sector as an integral element to achieving Agenda 2030 and addressing the biodiversity and climate crises.

Speakers agreed on the need to build collective momentum and embed the issue of corruption linked to wildlife and forest crime and crimes in the fisheries sector into the global crime prevention and criminal justice agenda. They emphasized that success was possible, and that UNODC and its partners had developed good practices that can and should be shared and replicated.



UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly highlighted the Office's integrated support to Member States in addressing these crime types. "As countries mobilize to recover with integrity from the COVID-19 crisis," she said, "let's seize the opportunity to disrupt the corrupt networks that profit from, and perpetuate, wildlife, forest and fisheries crime." "Bringing the private sector into the strategy to combat the illegal wildlife trade has led to instrumental changes by restricting how criminals operate"

The Special Event was pre-recorded due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, and has had almost

1,000 views on YouTube.



The Chair of the United for Wildlife Taskforce, Lord Hague, told participants. "No longer is this a problem for the conservation community or law enforcement to face alone."

As part of the Special Event, HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands moderated an interactive dialogue between Emmanuel de Merode, Director of the Virunga National Park; Dr. Erustus Kanga, Secretary of Wildlife, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Kenya; and Paula Coelho, Secretary of State for the Environment, Angola, about the main bottlenecks to preventing and addressing crime and corruption in this sphere, and what the COVID-19 pandemic meant in terms of threats and opportunities for addressing these issues. They discussed possible game changers, how to encourage action and by whom, and called on the international community to act quickly to address these threats.

The need for urgent collective action was also the main message of Dr. Jane Goodall, the Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, who said that "It is only through the collective will of governments, organizations and citizens that we can bring illegal wildlife trade to an end. For the sake of the future of our planet and animals, we must."

CCPCJ side events and resolution

During the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), Member States adopted a resolution on Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment. The resolution details practical actions for Member States and the international community. It requests UNODC to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to States and further expand coordination and cooperation with relevant organizations. The resolution was subsequently adopted by ECOSOC on 22nd July 2021. On the margins of the CCPCJ, the Global Programme co-hosted several events addressing crimes that affect the environment:

- » New developments on criminal justice response to forest crime
- » Building upon the Kyoto Declaration: Towards strengthened normative responses to environmental crime
- » All that Glitters is not Gold: Stepping up responses to illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals





UNCAC CoSP side events and report

At its eighth session (2019), the Conference of the State Parties (CoSP) to the UNCAC adopted resolution 8/12, entitled *Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment*. In that resolution, the Conference noted "...with concern the role that corruption can play in crimes that have an impact on the environment, which may constitute a growing source of profits for various criminal activities and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with States parties and relevant international and regional organizations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct scientific-based research on the topics identified in the scope of this resolution...". Together with CEB and the Research and Trends Analysis Branch, the Global Programme published a Conference Room Paper for the 9th CoSP to provide an overview of the relationship between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment, which included an overview of efforts made at the national and international levels to prevent and counter corruption related to such crimes as a way to contribute to the implementation of resolution 8/12.

Also during the 9th session of the CoSP to the UNCAC in December 2021, UNODC collaborated with the Wildlife Justice Commission, and the Governments of Belgium and France to hold a special event on *Tackling corruption linked to environmental crime*. The panellists presented case studies of successfully adjudicated cases, and shared examples of how corruption facilitates different forms of environmental crime. Further points of discussion included entry points for conducting financial investigations, the importance of public-private partnerships and of specialized investigative techniques, and panellists highlighted successful strategies to prevent and address corruption. The findings of the [Conference Room Paper](#) noted above were shared with the audience.

Climate and biodiversity agendas

In November 2021, thousands of thought leaders gathered in Glasgow, Scotland, for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), shining a spotlight on one of the most significant challenges the international community is facing to its shared global commons.

Missing from the discussions, and indeed from some of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports,¹ was any reference to the role of crime prevention and criminal justice in preventing and mitigating climate change. UNODC's mandate areas on organized crime and corruption are critical factors to consider when thinking about how to safeguard adaptation and mitigation efforts being undertaken by governments around the world, but also need to be seen as possible aggravating factors that have a role in

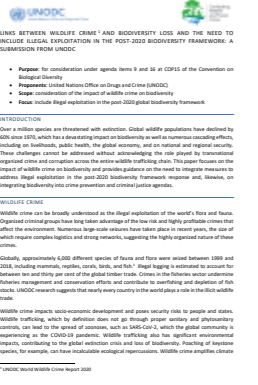
driving climate change. UNODC is in a unique position to support countries to look through this particular lens, given its mandate and extensive experience in developing knowledge products on crime and corruption in the areas of wildlife and forest crime, crime in the fisheries sector, and other crimes that affect the environment.

Crimes that affect the environment amplify climate change by destroying important carbon sinks like forests, altering ecosystems, and disturbing the balance of the oceans. Current efforts to mitigate climate change are undermined by criminality and unlawful activities and are thus likely to fail or fall short unless countries step up and improve criminal justice responses to such crimes. Efforts to address climate change must consider human and environmental security, including crimes that affect the environment and the role of corruption and transnational organized crime.

In 2021, the Global Programme joined the Community of Practice of the UN Climate Security Mechanism, an informal network of 25 UN agencies that provides a forum for information exchange and knowledge co-creation to address climate-related security risks in a more systematic fashion. In September 2021, the Global Programme partnered with the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme to engage the Community of Practice in a discussion about how transnational organized crime is linked to climate security, with a focus on two main angles: a) how crime and corruption act as aggravating factors that contribute to climate change through biodiversity loss,

habitat degradation, loss of carbon sinks, pollution, among others, and b) how crime and corruption can potentially undermine international climate change adaptation initiatives and mitigation efforts. Additionally, in March 2021, the Global Programme participated in and provided expert contributions at an EU roundtable on how to better integrate climate related security risks and environmental security (including the impact and environmental crime) into the EU civilian peacekeeping missions and operations.

The Global Programme also continued its efforts to mainstream crime prevention and criminal justice into biodiversity and nature agendas through engagement with inter-agency mechanisms including the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) and the UN EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity, as well as inter-governmental processes including the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In August 2021, the Global Programme and the Research and Trends Analysis Branch collaborated on a submission to the Open-Ended Working Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The paper outlined the links between wildlife crime and biodiversity loss, providing guidance on the need to integrate measures to address illegal exploitation in the post-2020 biodiversity framework response. UNODC will continue to engage in the process of developing the monitoring approach for this framework, which is due to be finalized and adopted in 2022.



1 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. <https://www.ipcc.ch/srcccl/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/>

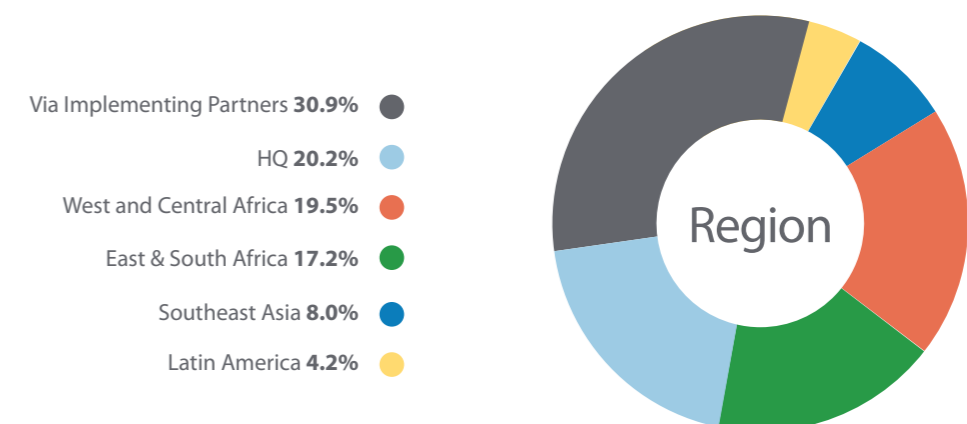
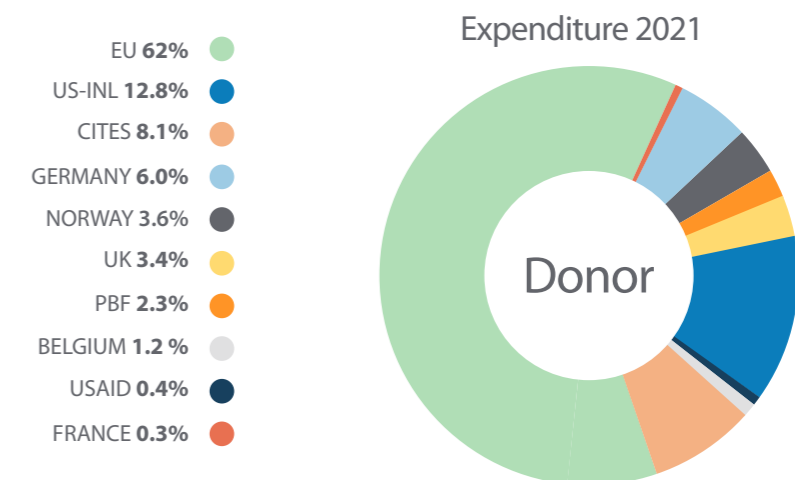




5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

In 2021, the Global Programme disbursed a total of USD 12.4 million towards the implementation of its activities in the areas of work described in Section 3 of this Report.

In 2021, field activities focused on four macro regions: Eastern and Southern Africa; West and Central Africa; Latin America; and South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific. While the Global Programme works with many partners, there are three specialized technical assistance implementing partners that directly contribute to the implementation of grants entrusted to UNODC: the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES); and TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network.



6. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022



In 2022, the Global Programme will continue to implement its *crime scene to court approach*, delivering a comprehensive programme of technical assistance and capacity building to support Member States to tackle crimes that affect the environment. In parallel, the Global Programme will make efforts to connect with non traditional stakeholders. For example, engaging with children and teachers through the publication of a book on wildlife crime and crimes that affect the environment in collaboration with the UNODC GRACE initiative; engaging with youth through the 'peace weavers' project in Central Africa in partnership with UNESCO; and engaging with the private sector through Corporate Social Responsibility programmes and Public Private Partnerships.

Regional and inter-regional cooperation will be enhanced through various initiatives. The third broad Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meeting (WIRE) will be convened to intensify cross-border cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence between police, customs, prosecution and judicial officers of Africa and Asia, among other regions. Operation Mekong Dragon IV will be led by the Global Programme in cooperation with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO-AP) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) to dismantle the organized criminal groups involved in the illicit trade of drugs and protected wildlife species. The Global Programme will continue to support the reinvigoration of the South America Wildlife Enforcement Network as well as the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network.

The team in Central Africa made huge strides in 2021 and it is expected that this progress will continue to accelerate in 2022. Effective training and targeted mentoring of law enforcement officers and criminal justice actors will be rolled out along with the application of best practice guidelines and mock trials covering all stages of criminal proceedings. The Global Programme is also committed to better addressing the drivers and causes of crimes that affect the environment in Central Africa, including organized crime, corruption and illicit financial flows.

New projects were launched in Latin America in 2021 and these will be focused on implementation in 2022. The Global Programme will establish multi-institutional platforms at the national level, provide legislative support and undertake assessments on the preventive and criminal justice responses to crimes that affect the environment.

The Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE) will be implemented in South East Asia in partnership with FAO, UNEP and other stakeholders. A science-based assessment framework will be developed to identify high-risk facilities handling wildlife that pose unacceptably high risks for human health, conservation and the rule of law. Governments will be supported to make interventions to reduce such risks. Another new initiative - Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy - will be implemented through the UNODC Regional Programme in South East Asia. The Global Programme will expand its significantly expand its engagement in the Pacific and South Asia, supporting Member States to prevent and address crimes that affect the environment.



In Nigeria, the first National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime will be launched in early 2022 supported by UNODC through the Country Office and the Global Programme. Considerable progress was made at the national level in 2021 and UNODC will continue its close partnership with the Government of Nigeria to support the implementation of the Strategy to address wildlife crime. It will also support the implementation of the corruption mitigation strategies developed in 2021 and will conduct national analyses using the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework.

In 2022, the Global Programme will continue to consolidate its work in supporting Member States address crimes in the fisheries sector. Now funded through several grants, the Global Programme is planning capacity building activities to combat crimes in the fisheries sector across Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. Dedicated sections on marine and fisheries resources are planned for a number of Rapid Reference Guides. Awareness raising on this important issue in international fora will continue to be a priority, and the Global Programme will be working closely with partners in the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, Container Control Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch to support Member States tackle crimes in the fisheries sector.

2022 will see continued partnership with OECD and WCO to enhance the international response to illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals, including through convening the fifth Informal Law Enforcement Network Meeting on Minerals Related Crimes and the finalization and rollout of the Diagnostic Toolkit aimed at conducting rapid assessments of vulnerabilities along the gold supply chain.

In collaboration with its implementing partner, TRACE, the Global Programme will support Member States to build wildlife forensic capacity and improve access to wildlife forensic services, including through the provision of training and mentorship, donation of laboratory equipment, fostering of regional networks and deployment of Portable Enforcement Labs for Testing Seizures (PELTS).

The Global Programme will continue to develop and disseminate its flagship tools and products to requesting countries. The Global Programme strives to ensure the sustainability and long-term impact of its activities. Through Train the Trainers initiatives, the Global Programme will

continue to ensure that national authorities maintain the capacity to train their own staff, building local expertise for wider dissemination of Rapid Reference Guides and other UNODC tools in beneficiary countries.

A new corruption prevention tool for the forest sector, entitled *Rooting out Corruption: a guide on addressing corruption in the forest sector*, will be published by the Global Programme and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch. The joint delivery of technical assistance will expand to new countries with a focus on supply chain analysis, corruption risk assessments and development of corruption mitigation plans, as well as continued awareness raising.

The successful partnership between the Global Programme and the UNODC Organized Crime Branch will continue to yield results with the publication of three guides designed to assist Member States in drafting legislation to combat waste trafficking, minerals trafficking and crimes in the fisheries sector. The latter is under development in partnership with FAO.

Inter-agency cooperation will be strengthened under ICCWC to align efforts, provide coordinated law enforcement support to Member States and maximize impact on the ground. UNODC's portfolio of technical assistance activities will expand through the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020 and the formal launch of the ICCWC Vision 2030 and related Strategic Action Plans. Revised versions of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework will be published.

ICCWC Vision 2030

Following the celebration of its tenth anniversary in 2021, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) engaged in strategic discussions to develop a new 'Vision 2030' for the Consortium. The ICCWC Vision 2030 will build on the successes and lessons learned from the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020. It will outline how ICCWC will work towards a world free of wildlife crime, following a Theory of Change designed to support and strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice systems to respond to and address wildlife crime. The Vision 2030 will provide a roadmap, to be implemented through two 4-year Strategic Action Plans (2023-2026 and 2027-2030), pursuing the five critical outcomes in the ICCWC Vision 2030:

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
5. Evidence-based actions, knowledge exchange and collaboration drive impact, as a basis for the achievement of the first four outcomes.

UNODC and its ICCWC partners - the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) – will continue to implement a comprehensive programme to support Member States in 2022. The ICCWC Vision 2030 will be finalized and launched in mid 2022.





The Global Programme will actively engage in inter-governmental processes to raise awareness of crimes that affect the environment and secure continued commitment of Member States to take action to address these crimes. For example, the Global Programme will hold events and discussions at the CCPCJ, the UNTOC Working Groups and the UNTOC COP as well as participate in other relevant forums including the UN Biodiversity Conference, IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Our Ocean Conference, CITES COP, the Second High Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade, UN Ocean Conference and the UN Climate Change Conference. The Global Programme will emphasize the importance of the rule of law in protecting our planet's ecosystems and embed the criminal justice approach into conservation and climate change policies through engagement with the CBD Secretariat, the Climate Security Mechanism and in preparation for the Stockholm+50 conference. The Global Programme will actively participate in the UN Environment Management Group to push for crime prevention and criminal justice to be effectively addressed within the broader UN Nature agenda and the COVID-19 response. As chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife and Forest Products, the Global Programme will encourage collective inter-agency efforts in this regard as well.

The Global Programme will prepare the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of CCPCJ resolution 2021/30 on Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment. The report will present information gathered from Member States and UN organizations about their work to address crimes that affect the environment. UNODC will host the CCPCJ Thematic Discussions on crimes that affect the environment in February 2022 and this dialogue will also inform the report.

The Global Programme will further develop its reflections on gender and wildlife and forest crime and crimes in the fisheries sector with a view to better understanding the importance of gender across the entire criminal chain (from offenders and victims to possible solution-makers); improving the inclusiveness of interventions; developing innovative solutions that fully take gender into account; and ultimately promoting better and more effective policy outcomes.

Advocacy and awareness raising activities will be strengthened, in particular through the revision of the Global Programme website, the production of new videos, and the continuation of the 'Wildlife Wednesday' initiative that provides informal briefings to the Permanent Missions of Member States.

Through this broad range of work, the Global Programme will continue to support criminal justice practitioners and national authorities in every aspect of their response to crimes that affect the environment.



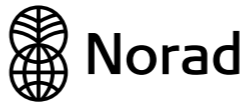
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime would like to thank the governments with which it works for their partnership and ongoing support. The work and achievements of the Global Programme are truly the result of joint undertakings with national authorities. 2021 has been a challenging year and the flexibility and understanding demonstrated by our partners has enabled us to adapt our work to the current constraints.

The Global Programme is grateful to its staff and partners around the world, as well as for its close collaboration with in-house experts of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, the Research and Trends Analysis Branch and the Laboratory and Scientific Section, as well the Advocacy Section, the Organized Crime Branch and the Education for Justice team.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more about what UNODC is doing to support Member States to prevent and address crimes that affect the environment, please visit:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime/index.html>

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For inquiries, please send a message to: unodc-wlfc@un.org

CREDITS

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