

# The Buckingham Palace Declaration

On the 15th of March 2016, the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce member organizations signed up to recommendations developed collaboratively over the last 12 months, with the historic first ever signing of a declaration at Buckingham Palace. ATA actively supports The Buckingham Palace Declaration and has joined the action plan.

## The declaration

After 12 months of meetings in London, Geneva, and Dubai and thousands of hours of work by legal, conservation, transport, and customs experts, the Buckingham Palace Declaration has been agreed as an action plan to strengthen defenses against trafficking.

The Buckingham Palace Declaration is a landmark agreement committing to take real steps to shut down the routes exploited by traffickers of the illegal wildlife trade moving their products. The declaration takes steps to remove the vulnerabilities in transportation and customs to tackle the criminals currently exploiting them. The declaration will be signed by the taskforce members to represent their agreement to eleven commitments.

## The commitments

The commitments aim to help support the Private Sector in fighting the illegal wildlife trade and focus on:

- Securing information sharing systems for the transport industry to receive credible information about high risk routes and methods of transportation
- Developing a secure system for passing information about suspected illegal wildlife trade from the transport sector to relevant customs and law enforcement authorities
- Notifying relevant law enforcement authorities of cargoes suspected of containing illegal wildlife and their products and, where able, refuse to accept or ship such cargoes

The Duke of Cambridge commended the signatories and explained what a difference this will make: "By implementing these commitments the signatories can secure a game changer in the race against extinction. I thank them for their commitment and I invite any other company in the industry to sign up to the Buckingham Palace declaration and play their part in the fight against the poaching crisis."

## What's next?

United for Wildlife will now turn its attention to the implementation of the commitments. ATA will keep you posted through Social Media and newsletters if there is news.