



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL ASIA

Presentation delivered by UNEP on Thursday, 3rd November 2016 Thierry Lucas and Larisa Semernya

WHO WE ARE

- The UN Environment (UNEP) global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.
- Our mission is "To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."
- UN Environment and Ecosystems: we work with communities, private sector and governments to transition from sectoral, single goal approaches towards holistic and collaborative ecosystem management that can deliver on various objectives ranging from food, water and energy security, to biodiversity conservation and job creation.



CONTEXT: SCALE OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE (IWT)

- Over one million animals taken from the wild in the past decade.
- 220-450 snow leopards killed every year, only 4,000 snow leopards are thought to remain in the mountains of Central Asia.
- 1 markhor (approx 70kg) = 350\$ or 2.450 somoni = 5\$ compared to 1 trophy markhor = over 65.000\$ or 455.000 somoni
- Illegal wildlife trade abuses the poorest populations and weakens government authority by compromising the rule of law
- Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is worth up to US\$ 20 billion annually, and is one of the largest illegal trades in the world, along with trafficking of drugs, arms, and humans.
- Europol Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report: the EU is the foremost destination market in the world.



- Decisive action against IWT will benefit every aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Wildlife and forest crimes are serious and require an equally **serious response**. Since they are **global issues**, they require a **global response**.

CONTEXT: SCALE OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE (IWT)

- Decisive action against IWT will benefit every aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Protecting wild animals and ecosystems would benefit tourism.
- Action against Illegal Wildlife Trade will benefit every aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Mitigating human-wildlife conflict and engaging communities in conservation would increase the social support for wildlife protection and reduce incentives for poaching.
- Zero tolerance approach to wildlife crime and related illicit activities, including corruption, money laundering, organized crime, illicit firearms, drugs and terrorism would create a powerful deterrent.
- Wildlife crimes are serious and require an equally serious response. Since they are global issues, they require a global response.







REPORTED WILDLIFE CRIME - FEB. - JUN. 2015



Map created by Map Created by The GDELT Project

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: RECOGNISING IWT AS A SERIOUS CRIME

The need for global partnership

 Wildlife trafficking is a global problem requiring coherent, integrated, and complementary responses

How should the **Regional Enforcement Strategy to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Central Asia** benefit from a global partnership?

- Existing international organizations with a global reach
- Similar mandates: to combat illegal wildlife trade
- Harmonise activities to achieve greater results

Who are the 'partners' in Central Asia?

 Governments, International Organizations , Civil Society, NGOs

Tackling IWT requires an integrated, complementary, and coherent global response founded on strong partnerships.





EXAMPLE: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AND EU

How UNEP's approaches address potential EU Action Plan implementation challenges

Maintaining political momentum to support international cooperation is vital to strengthening political will at the national level to address IWT.

Cooperation: UNEP (in conjunction with CITES) aims to provide legal advice and technical assistance to countries identified as requiring priority attention w.r.t CITES-related legislation.

Technical assistance: In 2016, UNEP will provide technical assistance to Angola, Somalia, and Tanzania.

Legal training: Support to Asian countries to strengthen IWT legislation and effectively implement CITES is also planned for 2016.

Research: UNEP plans to conduct a regional (Latin America) study on prosecution of environmental crimes.



Countries are at various stages of readiness to examine, formulate, and implement relevant legislation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Regional Enforcement Strategy in Central Asia

GOAL: develop effective mechanisms to stop poaching, and illegal trade and trafficking of snow leopards and other wildlife by adopting comprehensive legislation, strengthening national law-enforcement systems, and enhancing national, regional and international law enforcement collaboration, communication and cooperation. Regional Enforcement Strategy to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Central Asia 2015-2018



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Challenges

• Lack of awareness and sensitisation on the social, security, economic and environmental aspects of IWT

- Lack of prioritisation for IWT
- Weak law enforcement.
- Poor legal frameworks and lack of capacity to enforce
- Insufficient resources dedicated to monitoring and inspection to detect environmental crime

• Lack of capacity and qualification of employees (including frontline staff) of authorized bodies in the field of environment protection, low incentives, lack of accountability, and poor coordination between organizations are the main challenges to implementing effective law enforcement strategies to combat wildlife crime in the region.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Opportunities to Collaborate

- International collaboration to ensure coherent and collaborative approaches to achieve social and behavioral change and to address IWT.
- •Developing and promoting a **common consensus regionally and globally** on the legal aspects of environmental crime.
- Technical support to countries to facilitate information exchange.
- Strengthening environmental rule of law at all levels.
- Strengthening legal frameworks on IWT to enhance enforcement and adjudication capacities in environmental crime.
- Financial support to scale-up capacity to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.



WILD FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN



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neymarjr @gisele, eu e o @institutoneymarjr estamos con também apoiamos a campanha Unidas #WildforLife (Selvagem) que visa mobilizar o mundo pele comércio ilegal de animais selva Hoje, eu estou usando o meu n mudar o jogo para os tigres. E v fazer parte desta campanha? Assine seu nome. Mude o jogo. https://wildfor.life/give-your-nam to-change-the-game

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VestGUE

Wild for Life: Gisele Bündchen e Neymar estrelam campanha da ONU

Dupla mostra apoio à luta contra o comércio ilegal de animais selvagens no mundo

25/05/2016 - 12h21 - Atualizado 12h22

AM GISELE BÜNDCHEN WILD WILDLIFE CRIME JUST GOT PERSONAL. #WILDFORLIFE



Gisele Bündchen (Foto: Reprodução)

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mbaixadora da Boa Vontade do Programa das Nações Unidas para o Meio Ambiente, Gisele Bündchen está à frente da nova campanha #WildforLife, em apoio à luta contra o comércio ilegal de animais selvagens no mundo.



Gisele Bündchen: "salvar a floresta tropical brasileira é dever de todos'



Gisele Bündchen é a modelo mais bem paga do mundo (pelo 14º ano consecutivo)

UNEP's Wild For Life Campaign: <u>https://wildforlife</u>



Assine Voque a partir de R\$ 6.90 por mês

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP - CONCLUSION

•Links between illicit trade in wildlife products / erosion of national institutions / national and transnational security threats / role of armed non-state actors in civil conflict.

•IWT involves wildlife supply countries (poachers, armed non-state actors), international crime groups & demand countries.

• To combat the threat: expand and deepen cooperation in the international community (e.g. better and shared information, enhance design and implementation of national and regional legislation, stricter penalties against illegal traffickers and traders).

•"I urge all consumers, suppliers and governments to treat crimes against wildlife as a threat to our sustainable future. It's time to get serious about wildlife crime" United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon 2015.





GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP — CONCLUSION (2)

• Wildlife crime is a serious and growing problem and now ranks as the fourth largest illegal trade after arms, drugs and human trafficking.

- Wildlife crimes require a concerted and directed response. Being global issues, they also require the response to be global.
- High priority should be placed on global partnership which will contribute to an integrated and coherent global response to illegal wildlife trade including in Central Asia.
- Further, this is an excellent opportunity to join efforts to identify suitable actions to implement that link to both the Regional Enforcement Strategy and UNEP's current and planned work.



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