

Kasane conference on the illegal wildlife trade, 25 march 2015

Self-assessment of progress on commitments in the London declaration

Reporting country/ organisation: United Kingdom

Eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products

- I. Support, and where appropriate undertake, effectively targeted actions to eradicate demand and supply for illegal wildlife products.**
- II. Endorse the action of Governments which have destroyed seized wildlife products being traded illegally.**
- III. Renounce, as part of any Government procurement or related activity, the use of products from species threatened with extinction.**
- IV. Take measures to ensure that the private sector acts responsibly, to source legally any wildlife products used within their sectors; and urge the private sector to adopt zero tolerance policies on corporate gifting or accepting of species threatened with extinction or products made from them.**
- V. Recognising the authority of the CITES Conference of the Parties, support the existing provisions of CITES prohibiting commercial international trade in elephant ivory until the CITES Conference of the Parties determines, informed by scientific analysis, that the survival of elephants in the wild is no longer threatened by poaching.**
- VI. Welcome the action already underway and urge those Governments that allow trade in legally acquired endangered wildlife products to implement measures, including labelling and wider traceability measures, to ensure that this trade does not allow any illegal wildlife products to enter these markets.**
- VII. Minimise speculation in endangered wildlife products by opposing the use of misleading, exaggerated or inaccurate information, where this could stimulate poaching, trafficking or demand.**

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE FEBRUARY 2014

The UK is committed to eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products, both within the UK, and through working with our international partners, around the world.

The FCO's overseas network has been engaging key demand and source countries and other international partners in the run up to the Botswana IWT conference in Kasane on 25 March 2015 as follow up to the London Conference of February 2014.

The FCO has specifically been lobbying new partners to attend the Botswana Conference, as well as encouraging progress on the Elephant Protection Initiative which was launched in the margins of the London Conference.

The UK has clear domestic regulations in place to combat any illegal trade in wildlife products. The UK has a National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), which works to support wildlife crime enforcement by providing a centralised capacity for intelligence collection and analysis, and the delivery of professional practice.

Border Force plays a leading role for the UK in respect of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), delivering risk based anti-smuggling controls at the border in line with agreed national priorities and taking account of latest available intelligence.

Increasing the number of disruption activities and detections of illegal trade in CITES priority species is one of the UK's six wildlife crime priorities.

The UK has also taken specific actions in relation to products from species that are facing particular pressure from the illegal wildlife trade:

- The UK applies a stricter approach to the trade in raw ivory than that required under CITES, prohibiting all trade in raw ivory, including unworked antiques.
 - The UK has taken the lead in introducing stricter re-export conditions for rhino horn, which have been adopted across the EU. This ensures that no export or re-export permits are issued for rhino horn, whether worked or unworked, except in cases where it is clear such permits will be used legitimately, such as for research or in the case of relocation. We are calling for similar action globally.
 - The database of Rhino Horn DNA held within the UK, launched 9th April 2013, has been put together as a preventive measure in order to deter any form of trade in any stolen museum specimens or the illegal killing of any zoo animals. This approach forms part of a wider attempt to impact upon organised crime groups from across the UK and Europe involved in illegal rhino horn trade.
 - A new standalone classification for those wildlife offences which fall within the scope of the Counting Rules framework for police recorded crime was introduced in April 2014. This includes CITES related offences arising under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997.
- No meaningful ivory stock pile exists, or stockpile of any other illegal wildlife products exists in the UK. Ivory seized in the UK is destroyed on a regular basis unless it is needed for training, educational or research purposes.
 - The UK fully supports any action countries take to destroy stockpiles of seized illegal wildlife products, as this removes them permanently from the market. Putting stockpiles of ivory beyond economic use is one of the aims of the Elephant Protection Initiative, and the UK has committed to match-fund the first tranche of private sector funding raised to support this initiative, up to around £1 million. The UK is also supporting a project which will help develop an ivory stockpile inventory system in Malawi. FCO Posts have been actively lobbying target countries on the illegal wildlife trade in African range states, particularly the member states of the Elephant Protection Initiative.

- In the UK, there is a requirement in public procurement rules that suppliers comply with all legal obligations, which include the CITES implementing regulations. Furthermore, the UK Government is currently developing Guidance on Sustainable Procurement and this will include specific provisions on illegal wildlife products.
- The UK engages with the private sector on this issue. The UK Department for Environment, food and Rural Affairs (Defra) holds 2-3 meetings a year with stakeholders, called the CITES Sustainable Users Group, to discuss a wide range of issues of relevance to CITES, including procurement and to deal with areas of concern as appropriate.
- A UK prepared EU paper on the illegal live trade in Asian elephants led to an agreement that the CITES Secretariat will review the implementation of a regulation which deals with the trade in elephant specimens. The Secretariat will look specifically at whether Parties have sufficient measures in place to prevent illegal trade in live elephants in light of concern that elephants are being taken from the wild and being illegally traded across national borders for use domestically.
- The UK fully recognises the need to make sure that action taken to reduce demand is based on accurate information, and a good understanding of what actions are likely to result in success. Defra recently awarded funding for a project aimed at improving understanding of the most effective interventions to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products. This insight will inform Governments and Non – Governmental Organisations to ensure future policy interventions on demand reduction are as targeted and effective as possible.

As part of the UK's ongoing commitment to eradicating the market for IWT products, the UK is financially supporting projects which address the rising demand for illegal wildlife products in destination countries.

- In 2012, the UK donated \$500,000 to the Global Tiger Initiative Multi Donor Trust Fund. Of this amount \$150,000 was allocated to demand reduction for tigers.
- The UK's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund is funding:
 - Two demand reduction projects based in Vietnam, one developing a model based approach behaviour change campaign, and one aimed at informing children about illegal wildlife products;
 - A demand reduction project in China, which aims to use social media and work with corporate leaders.

Additionally, some FCO Posts in source countries are funding projects to help eradicate the market for IWT products. For example:

- The British High Commission in Kampala has supported a project supply solar panels for ranger stations and geo-location cameras to aid prosecution of poachers.
- The British High Commission in Lilongwe is funding a public awareness campaign to highlight IWT legislation and the impact on Malawians through a "Stop Wildlife Crime" campaign which featured as a finalist in the Chartered Institute of Marketing's Social Marketing Initiative of the year.

FUTURE ACTION PLANNED

- The UK is encouraging EU Member State follow suit and go further than the CITES requirements by applying prohibiting trade in raw ivory in line with the UK's position.
- Stricter measures will be introduced throughout the EU in relation to the importation of hunting trophies of some Annex B species – elephant, rhino and lion. These measures will come into force when the new Regulation amending the detailed rules concerning the implementation of CITES in the EU is published.

Ensuring Effective Legal Frameworks and Deterrents

- VIII. Address the problem of the illegal wildlife trade by adopting or amending legislation, as necessary, to criminalise poaching and wildlife trafficking, and related crimes including by ensuring such criminal offences are “serious crimes” within the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.**
- IX. Address the serious problem of corruption and money-laundering facilitating wildlife trafficking and related offences by adopting or amending legislation, as necessary, criminalising corruption and bribery facilitating poaching, wildlife trafficking, and related offences.**
- X. Strengthen the legal framework and facilitate law enforcement to combat the illegal wildlife trade and assist prosecution and the imposition of penalties that are an effective deterrent.**
- XI. Strengthen the ability to achieve successful prosecutions and deterrent sanctions by raising awareness in the judicial sector about the seriousness, impact and potential profits of wildlife crime.**
- XII. Adopt a zero tolerance policy on corruption associated with the illegal wildlife trade.**

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE FEBRUARY 2014

The UK views the Illegal Wildlife Trade as serious crime and has in place the appropriate legislation to prosecute offenders accordingly.

- The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (COTES) Regulations give UK police the statutory powers to enforce the EU regulations which control the trade in endangered species within the EU. A 2005 amendment to COTES increased the maximum penalties that apply for offences related to commercial activity involved in certain types of endangered species allowing sentences of up to 5 years.
- The UK Government remains committed to taking forward the review of COTES, and associated legislation. We have been working closely with the UK CITES Management Authority and numerous enforcement bodies to develop proposals to be included in the new Statutory Instrument (SI) and have shared our emerging thinking with key stakeholders representing both environmental and trade interests.

- The proposed changes will seek to include improvements and updates that better reflect the requirements of amended EU regulations, correct anomalies in the current domestic law, look at the designations of ports of entry and exit to be used when bringing CITES specimens into or out of the UK and also update enforcement requirements to reflect the evolution of the illegal wildlife trade and enforcement trends.

The UK Government issued a full public consultation on proposals in February 2015. Subject to the results of the Consultation, the new Statutory Instrument on COTES will come into force in October 2015.

- The UK is working to modernise and simplify the current body of legislation relating to wildlife crime and has tasked the UK Law Commission to consider the scope for reform and consolidation of wildlife law as part of its 11th programme of law reform. The Law Commission's final report is due later in 2015.
- Recognising that IWT is a global problem, the UK is working with partners around the world to ensure effective deterrents. Through the Illegal Wildlife Challenge Fund, the UK is funding:
 - a project in Vietnam aimed at strengthening enforcement and prosecution of wildlife trafficking crimes and help disrupt and dismantle the criminal networks driving the illegal trade;
 - a project working with eight African countries which aims to address the disparity between arrests and convictions in the prosecution of IWT-related crimes through the establishment of a wildlife forensic network;
 - A project in Malawi which will produce a legislation handbook on Acts relevant to wildlife crime as an aid to prosecutors and judiciary, and establish a national database on wildlife crime to ensure accurate reporting and facilitate intelligence gathering;
 - A project in Belize and Guatemala which aims to improve enforcement and improve intelligence and prosecution of wildlife traffickers.

Strengthening law enforcement

- XIII. Invest in capacity building to strengthen law enforcement to protect key populations of species threatened by poaching.**
- XIV. Establish and maintain national cross-agency mechanisms to develop, resource and implement co-ordinated national and local action plans and strategies.**
- XV. Provide the necessary conditions for, and further support, including through international co-operation to share expertise, the use of the full range of investigative techniques and tools already deployed against other forms of domestic and transnational organised crime.**
- XVI. Strengthen cross-border and regional co-operation, through better co-ordination, and through full support for regional wildlife law enforcement networks.**

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE FEBRUARY 2014

Border Force is a law enforcement command within the Home Office. Part of Border Force's remit is to carry out customs controls for goods entering the UK making them front line actors in the fight against the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

- In November 2014, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) established the Wildlife Community Panel in order to look at developing effective enforcement across all the regional CPS Wildlife prosecutors. In February 2015 the panel considered CITES issues that affect Court hearings.
- By May 2015 all UK regions will have regional enforcement Groups involving the respective Police Forces. This will be a vehicle to assist drive effective collaboration between Forces and Government Agencies, including collaboration on CITES related issues with an NWCU Investigative Support Officer sitting on each Group.
- A new standalone classification for those wildlife offences which fall within the scope of the Counting Rules framework for police recorded crime was introduced in April 2014. This includes CITES related offences arising under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997. As a result, since April 2014 incidents of wildlife crime in respect of those offences have been recorded and published as a separate item in the quarterly crime statistics
- Border Force will offer for adoption for controlled delivery all Ivory, rhino horn and pangolin seizures made in the UK. Project Waylay, working Kenya, South Africa, and Tanzania, is aimed at increasing cooperation between national and international authorities. The resulting seizures and prosecutions will contribute to the suppression of the illegal trade of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.
- Border Force have just completed writing the World Customs Organisation (WCO) container control programme CITES module, which aims at assisting Governments in establishing effective container selections and controls to prevent drug trafficking and other illicit cross-border activities. In October 2014, Border Force officials oversaw the delivery of the first successful event to a global group of students.
- In March 2015, Border Force delivered two training events in Madagascar in support of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust's Darwin funded programme to protect the ploughshare tortoise. The first will be to the wide airport law enforcement (regulatory bodies) community in Madagascar. The second will be an introduction to CITES enforcement for Malagasy Customs.
- Border Force takes an active interest in Operation Cobra. Officials attended the de-brief of Operation Cobra 2 and the preplanning for Operation Cobra 3 in September 2014 in Thailand. Border Force presented this to EU Member States at the Environmental Working Group (EWG) who are considering whether they too will participate. The Cobra 3 planning meeting at Europol in January 2015 included a joint presentation from Border Force and the

National Wildlife Crime unit as to how they would look to operate during the Cobra operation.

- After seizing of twelve critically endangered San Salvador rock iguanas at Heathrow in February 2014, Border Force returned these to their native island of San Salvador. Following this the UK team delivered training in CITES issues to Police, Customs and Defence force staff.
- Operation GAPIN is a successful international enforcement initiative co-ordinated by the World Customs Organisation. The operation has resulted in the seizure of more than 22 tonnes and 13,000 pieces of protected wildlife. The UK is committed to supporting Operation GAPIN 3 aimed at offering training sub Saharan African countries, in partnership with other EU member states. Funding is in place and the Operation is now in the planning phase. This follows on from its two successful predecessors.
- The UK has donated £95,000 for ASEAN-WEN Regional Forensics co-ordinator (TRACE) in order to provide the ability for members of the ASEAN WEN to undertake coordinated wildlife forensic analysis for CITES enforcement operations and to deter further wildlife crime in the ASEAN region.
- The UK has funded an ICCWC Co-ordinator post within the CITES Secretariat in the value of £87,000 as commitment to the UK's continued funding and active engagement and leadership in CITES.
- The UK has donated £30,000 towards the development of an anti-money laundering and asset recovery manual, using expertise developed in the fight against other areas of organised crime, for use by enforcement agencies, as part of ICCWC.
- The UK has donated £60,000 towards training workshops for enforcement agencies on operating controlled deliveries co-ordinated by the CITES Secretariat, working with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation, as part of ICCWC.
- Border Force is part of the Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WIST), on behalf of the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), which is a partnership of the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, World Bank and WCO) which was deployed to Madagascar in January 2015. The team conducted a review of the Malagasy law enforcement efforts to date, and provided the support to develop and implement effective law enforcement responses to combat illegal exports of Malagasy rosewood and ebony from the country.
- In Kenya, the UK Ministry of Defence has so far conducted one rotation of training of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), in patrolling and field craft to support these organisations' anti-poaching work. Medical training of KWS was also conducted in summer 2014.
- Through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, the UK is supporting a range of projects around the world focused on enforcement:

- In Kenya we are supporting two pilot projects: one testing new technologies and their potential role in fighting poaching, and piloting a “Rhino Impact Bond” which aims to provide long-term financing to support site-level protection and management at globally-important rhino sites;
- In Ethiopia we are supporting a project aimed at strengthening border enforcement, through knowledge sharing and capacity building;
- In Malawi we are supporting work to up-skill Malawian officials ;
- In Indonesia we are supporting a project which aims to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies and to enhance national and regional collaborations between Indonesia and other Southeast Asian nations;
- In Mali we are supporting a project aiming to develop long-term law enforcement capacity to protect Mali elephants;
- In the Kyrgyz Republic we are supporting a new anti-poaching programme which aims to train, inspire and better appreciate the efforts of state rangers, and encourage support and collaboration from local communities;
- In Mongolia we are supporting a project which will provide training and capacity building for the Border Agency and Mongolian State Policy, including through creating and updating an IWT database and creating a multi-agency task force;
- In China we are supporting a project which aims to strengthen enforcement capacity to combat illegal wildlife trafficking.

Border Force now publishes seizure information publically on a quarterly basis to aid transparency in its work.

FUTURE ACTION PLANNED

- The UK Defence Attaché in Kenya is working to make KWS training routine and to continue the medical training (once per year), with potential to also involve Kenya Forest Service and Mount Kenya Trust in both.
- Challenge Fund Projects: Tackling illegal wildlife trade in Mongolia through improved law enforcement; African Wildlife Forensics Network – capacity and coordination for law enforcement.
- On COBRA 3, Border Force is participating in this operation and will be delivering a risk based enforcement operation to tackle the UK's priorities. This will be delivered in partnership with the National Wildlife Crime Unit and local Constabularies. It will have three main operational objectives:
 - to deliver operational results;
 - to create a legacy through operational training to leave a better trained enforcement capability in the UK post operation;
 - to evidence the benefits and best practice of partnership working.

The operation will take place both at the border but also in land with police led activity targeting known offenders.

Border Force is partnering with RSPCA International to deliver bespoke training on CITES enforcement for Malawi Customs. Dates have still to be confirmed but funding is in place.

Sustainable livelihoods and economic development

- XVII. Recognise the negative impact of illegal wildlife trade on sustainable livelihoods and economic development.**
- XVIII. Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty.**
- XIX. Initiate or strengthen collaborative partnerships among local, regional, national and international development and conservation agencies to enhance support for community led wildlife conservation.**
- XX. Work with, and include local communities in, establishing monitoring and law enforcement networks in areas surrounding wildlife.**

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE FEBRUARY 2014

The UK recognises that the Illegal Wildlife Trade is a major barrier to sustainable, inclusive and balanced economic development. We furthermore recognise that sustainable livelihoods will be best achieved with the engagement of those communities surrounding protected areas the creating alternative sustainable livelihoods is one of the main prerequisites in tackling the illegal wildlife trade. Through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, the UK is funding a number of projects aimed at addressing this issue:

- In Uganda we are supporting a project aimed at building capacity for pro-poor responses to wildlife crime in Uganda, by providing evidence that improves understanding of the interactions between wildlife crime and, by supporting Uganda to implement measures that tackle the drivers of wildlife crime while improving the livelihoods of poor people, and generating lessons that can be rolled out from this pilot case to elsewhere.
- In Mozambique, the UK is supporting a project based in Sabie Game Park, a private reserve running along the boundary with Kruger National Park and with the five neighbouring villages which aims to develop alternative wildlife-based sources of income, enhancing community governance structures and increasing awareness of new legislation.
- In Belize and Guatemala the UK is supporting a project which will also aim to improve livelihoods in rural communities along wildlife trafficking routes

The Way Forward

- XXI. Welcome the resources provided to date to support action to prevent and combat the illegal wildlife trade, including implementation of existing action plans and declarations. Urge all donors to provide resources, support and technical assistance, as appropriate, for the implementation of the political commitments contained in this Declaration.**
- XXII. Recognise and appreciate the ongoing support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address the poaching crisis in Africa and the associated illegal wildlife trade.**
- XXIII. Welcome the establishment within the UN of the 'Group of Friends' against illegal wildlife trafficking.**

XXIV. Will undertake further assessment, initially over the next twelve months, building on existing assessments and collaborative work, of the markets and dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade, and the progress made in combating it.

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE FEBRUARY 2014

- The UK Government has designed a package of activity worth £10 million to support action around the world aimed at eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products, ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents, strengthening law enforcement and promoting sustainable livelihoods and economic development. Part of the funding is being allocated through the UK's competitive Illegal Wildlife Challenge Fund: projects supported have been covered the above themes in more detail.
- DFID, on behalf of the UK, provides funding to address IWT via its contribution to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – around £5 million. The GEF programme will address both supply and demand aspects of poaching to build monitoring and enforcement capacity, and use social media, education, and awareness-raising to staunch the demand for these products and pressure Governments to improve enforcement of existing laws.
- The UK is contributing to the cost of UNODC research on Assessing the markets and dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade with the aim to help generate the systematic assessments that the international community needs to inform responses.