

EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking

One year after - Overview of actions and initiatives taken by the EU Member States and the European Commission

The European Commission adopted in February 2016 a Communication on an EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking¹. This EU Action Plan was endorsed by the EU Member States through Conclusions adopted by Council of the European Union in June 2016², and by the European Parliament through a Resolution adopted in November 2016³. In its Communication, the Commission indicated that the Commission services and the European External Action Service (EEAS) will establish a scoreboard to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan. In its conclusions, the Council of the European Union invited the Commission and the Member States to ensure the regular monitoring of the implementation of this Action Plan.

A large number of actions and initiatives have been taken by the EU Member States and the European Commission since the inception of the Action Plan. At the occasion of a Conference organised by the Commission on 8 February 2017 to take stock of progress made and identify next steps for the implementation of this Action Plan, the Commission services, the EEAS and Member States reported on the measures taken so far to implement the Action Plan. The attached is a compilation of these measures. It will serve as a basis for the future scoreboard on the implementation of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:87:FIN>

² <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10512-2016-INIT/en/pdf>

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0454+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Main achievements relevant to the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (EU WAP)

Relevant EU WAP Objective and Action	
Objective 1.1 Reduce the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products	
Action 1. Increase support for awareness-raising and targeted demand reduction campaigns in the EU and worldwide	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission has collected and shared amongst Member States examples of awareness raising and demand reduction actions carried out by Member States - The EU has provided funding for various projects against wildlife trafficking which encompass actions targeted at demand reduction in destination countries on the Asian continent (notably funding to UNODC in a number of Asian countries and a specific project in China)
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	
	Belgium: In 2016 all brochures of the CITES authorities concerning CITES rules on birds of prey, parrots, reptiles, caviar and tourist souvenirs were updated and re-launched to all known organizations and associations.
	Denmark: In 2016, there was strong focus on information and cooperation with the Danish companies engaged in bigger scale trade in CITES specimens.
	France: The French Development Agency (AFD) provides funding to a project aiming to reduce demand for rhino horn in Vietnam, implemented by WWF Vietnam and TRAFFIC. A brochure about CITES is regularly updated and made available to the public by the Ministry of Environment. The brochures are available in French and English on the ministry website. Customs (DGDDI) also have their leaflets available via the internet, also in French and English. A national census of professionals who benefit from ivory trade was also carried out.
	Germany: Implementation of demand reduction measures and campaigns in China, Vietnam and African Range states with a focus on ivory and rhino horn.
	Hungary: The Hungarian CITES Management Authority organised an awareness raising event on the World Biodiversity in May 2016. It was held in Szeged Zoo which is one of Hungary's main rescue centres for confiscated live animals. The event targeted the younger generations, explaining the need for the protection of species and sustainable use of wildlife products through various games.
	Italy: The Italian zoos that are licensed according to the provisions of Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 and legislative decree n. 73/2005, make awareness-raising campaigns on the illegal trade of wildlife species in cooperation with the Italian CITES Management Authority; furthermore, the zoo of Rome (Bioparco di Roma) hosts the first Italian museum dedicated to the illegal trade of wildlife species and to the enforcement of CITES, where specimens confiscated by the Forestry Corps form part of an exhibition for the public. Moreover, the Arma dei Carabinieri has launched an awareness-raising campaign on CITES and has distributed a calendar containing information on the Convention to its 7500 territorial offices, following a similar former initiative of the Forestry Corps.
	Latvia: Implementation of training seminars, plus the update of awareness raising and educational material. Several exhibitions focusing on illegal trade in endangered species have been developed.
	Portugal: In 2016 all our training and awareness actions have been updated and take in consideration the aims and objectives of the EU Action Plan. Also, the Portuguese Enforcement Group includes in its action plan for 2017-2018, the selected national priorities from the EU Action Plan.

Relevant EU WAP Objective and Action	
	<p>Sweden: In 2015 Sweden funded the production of "CITES and Timber" handbook of the most common CITES-listed species of wood in international trade as well as information on CITES and other relevant international legislation. In 2016, Sweden funded the revision of the guide to include species listed at CoP 17. Both a Spanish and Swedish version of the guide were funded in 2016.</p> <p>To facilitate supervision and increase understanding of species protection, both among the public and businesses, information material, including nine brochures regarding regulation, as well as an Eel campaign, and a guidance document for supervising authorities on Eels, have been produced in cooperation between national and regional authorities.</p>
	<p>United Kingdom: The UK funds practical action around the world to reduce demand, strengthen enforcement and develop sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by international wildlife trafficking. This includes support for 34 projects, with a value of just under £10 million, through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. In November 2016 the UK announced an additional £13 million in funding to tackle IWT through a variety of projects.</p> <p>The UK government commissioned and funded a research project, involving WWF-UK, TRAFFIC and the Natural Sciences and Business School at Imperial College London, to identify insights into what could be effective in changing illegal wildlife product consumer behaviour.</p>
Objective 1.1 Reduce the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products	
Action 2. Further limit trade in ivory within and from the EU	
<i>Implementation Activity at EU level</i>	
	<p>The Commission, in cooperation with EU Member States, is developing guidelines designed to make sure that trade in legal old ivory within or from the EU does not contribute to international ivory trafficking. Intra-EU trade and (re)export of ivory is currently banned under EU law provisions which are stricter than CITES rules. As an exemption to this ban, trade is only allowed for old elephant ivory items acquired before elephant ivory became subject to CITES controls (for re-export of ivory from the EU) or before international ivory trade became prohibited under CITES (for intra EU trade). In view of the increase in the volume of re-export of such old ivory items to Asia, and in line with the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking, the Commission is working on interpretative guidelines related to EU law, which would suspend the re-export of raw ivory from the EU and tighten the control over other legal transactions involving ivory.</p>
<i>Implementation Activity at MS level</i>	
	<p>Belgium: Since 2015 Belgium issues only CITES documents (certificates and any re-export permits) for marked ivory.</p>
	<p>Bulgaria: No raw ivory was re-exported in 2016. EU certificate only for worked ivory were issued.</p>
	<p>Czech Republic: Based on the decision of the Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic, the issuance of CITES permits and re-export certificates for raw pre-Convention ivory has been suspended since 2014. The EU certificates were issued by regional Management Authorities following internal guidelines (in line with the current draft EU guidelines) and only after consultation with the Ministry of Environment.</p>
	<p>France: France has not issued (re-)export documents for raw ivory since January 2015. The Ministry of Environment has suspended the issuance of certificates that would allow the sale of raw ivory since May 2007. A decree was published in August 2016, which prohibits all trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn in France with a few exceptions.</p>
	<p>Hungary: The Hungarian CITES Management Authority has paid special attention to the export, import and intra-EU trade of ivory products (both raw and worked specimens). During official controls, the regional nature conservation authorities checked antique shops and the documents of their ivory products on sale. For example, a seizure of ivory items took place on 5 December 2016 in an antique shop in Budapest, where 26 ivory items were seized. The estimated value of the items is approximately 8300 Euro. There is also an ongoing confiscation proceeding regarding 4 raw ivory tusks, which were offered for sale without valid EU-certificate in an antique shop. As for raw pre-convention ivory, the Hungarian Management Authority did not issue any CITES import permits or (re)export certificates in 2016.</p>

Relevant EU WAP Objective and Action	
	Italy: The implementation in Italy of this action requires a law to be voted and adopted by the Parliament; therefore, the Italian CITES Management Authority is reviewing the national legislation in order to propose amendments that would provide the legal basis for national restrictive measures that would prohibit (or strongly limit) the trade of specimen of particular species: pre-Convention ivory is among these specimen. The amendments must be submitted to the Parliament.
	Portugal: Since 2010 Portugal only issues certificates and re-export permits for ivory based on criteria that need to be met by an applicant before the documents are issued at least as strict as in the suggested Commission guidelines.
	Sweden: Since 2011, Sweden does not issue any re-export permits or intra EU trade certificates for raw ivory. The criteria that needs to be met by an applicant before intra EU trade certificates are issued are as strict as in the suggested Commission guidelines.
	Slovakia: The Slovak CITES Management Authority, after the consultation with the CITES Scientific Authority, has decided to suspend the issuance of CITES certificates for re-export of raw pre-Convention ivory from the Slovak Republic
	United Kingdom: The UK does not issue export and re-export documents for raw ivory, and have announced plans to take further measures to restrict the sale of worked ivory within the UK.
Objective 1.1 Reduce the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products	
Action 3. Reduce or ban unsustainable imports into the EU of endangered species by proposing their listing in CITES Appendices (e.g. rare reptile species)	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	- The EU submitted jointly with range states concerned proposals for listing a range of species for which the EU is a major market (in particular reptiles) which were all adopted by CITES CoP 17. The adopted resolutions now have to be implemented at EU level through amendments to the Wildlife Trade Regulations (Annexes have been adopted, Revision of the Implementing Regulations under way)
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	
Objective 1.2 Ensure that rural communities in source countries are engaged in and benefit from wildlife conservation	
Action 4. Strengthen engagement of rural communities in the management and conservation of wildlife	
Action 5. Support the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities living in and adjacent to wildlife habitats	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	The EU has been providing important financial support to a large number of African national parks which host emblematic wildlife species, such as the Garamba, Virunga, Zakouma, Parc W or Odzala national Parks. As part of these programmes, the conservation activities within the park boundaries are directly complemented by development of alternative livelihoods and other economic activities in the periphery. A particular focus was put on sustainable agriculture and conservation in Democratic Republic of Congo, but also on the ecosystem services, like in Virunga N.P., where water provided by the park allows for a sustainable production of hydroelectricity. For the period 2014-2020, the biggest financial support will be given to the following National Parks: Virunga (43 Mions EUR), Garamba (27 Mions EUR), Yangambi reserve (23 Mions EUR), Zakouma (15 Mions EUR), WAPO complex (20 Mions EUR).
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	
	Austria: Support for the CoP17 side-event “Common Ground Common Future” (to establish a platform for rural communities to articulate their interests and to incentivize their commitment to sustainable trade and combatting illegal trade)

Relevant EU WAP Objective and Action	
	Austria and Germany: Support of the regional Beyond Enforcement workshops (IUCN) on the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in combating illegal wildlife trade in Central Africa (Limbe, Cameroun) and South East Asia (Hanoi).
	Austria: Taking rural community issues into consideration on relevant CoP17 working documents and listing proposals
	France: The French Development Agency (AFD) provided funding for two projects related to anti-poaching/human-wildlife conflict in 2016, which involve local communities: 1) to Gabon (10 M EUR) 2) to Mozambique (6 M EUR)
	United Kingdom: See Action 1
Objective 1.3 Increase business sector engagement in efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and encourage sustainable sourcing of wildlife products	
Action 6. Raise awareness of business sectors trading in wildlife products within/from the EU or facilitating such trade	
Action 7. Support private sector initiatives to curb the illegal wildlife trade and encourage sustainable sourcing of wildlife products in/from the EU	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	- The Commission works regularly with the various business sectors which can play a role in addressing wildlife trafficking. The Commission organised notably a dedicated conference on 8 February 2017 with the aim to further strengthen cooperation with the business sector at EU level, with a specific focus on the transport sector and the exotic pet industry.
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	
	Belgium: At the beginning of 2017 Belgium gave a presentation to the transport sector (custom agents) to inform them on the CITES legislation with regard to transport of live animals.
	France: The ministry of Environment (MEEM) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) contribute to sensitizing the French business operators.
	Spain: Meetings with companies and associations to explain the EU Action Plan and asking for their collaboration and engagement in efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.
	United Kingdom: The UK CITES Management Authority meets regularly with business representatives to discuss issues relating to the wildlife trade and to encourage sustainable sourcing of wildlife products.
Objective 1.4 Tackle corruption associated with wildlife trafficking	
Action 8. Support initiatives to fight the corruption associated with wildlife trafficking at national, regional and international levels	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	The EU submitted a proposal for a dedicated resolution on the links between corruption and wildlife trafficking which was adopted by CITES CoP 17. Work now needs to focus on its implementation. The EU has also supported the inclusion on the agenda of the G20 (under its anti-corruption work stream) of the links between wildlife trafficking and corruption and will contribute to the ongoing work.
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	

Main achievements relevant to the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (EU WAP)

Relevant EU WAP Objective and Action	
Objective 2.1 Ensure more even implementation of EU rules on the wildlife trade and develop a more strategic approach to checks and the enforcement of rules against wildlife trafficking at EU level	
Action 9. Develop strategies to improve compliance with EU wildlife legislation at national level	
Action 10. Improve rate of detection of illegal activities	
Action 11. Step up efforts to ensure implementation of the EU roadmap towards eliminating the illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (also relevant under Priority 1)	
Action 12. Define and assess priority risks regularly	
Action 13. Improve cooperation among Member States on cases of cross-border wildlife trafficking	
Action 14. Review the EU policy and legislative framework on environmental crime in line with the European Agenda on Security	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission has started to work on an assessment of implementation gaps in the Member States with regard to the implementation of the EU Wildlife trade regulation - EU-wide priorities for the enforcement of the EU wildlife trade framework have been established by the EU wildlife trade enforcement group and dedicated Working Groups with enforcement agencies from Member States and Europol were formed on priority issues, in order to develop more strategic enforcement approach, consider joint actions and share best practices - On hunting trophies, the EU, which already has a very strict policy on the import of hunting trophies of CITES-listed species, successfully proposed at CITES CoP17 the adoption of new international provisions on trade in hunting trophies. As a result, a CITES Resolution was adopted to ensure that trade in hunting trophies is only authorised if there are sufficient guarantees that it comes from sustainable and legal hunting activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission provided financial support for the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (first meeting hosted by CMS). This Task Force, hosted by the Convention of Migratory Species, comprises eight Mediterranean EU Member States and other Mediterranean countries and agreed on an ambitious Programme of Work until 2020 at its first meeting in Egypt in July 2016. - Within the Commission, a dedicated inter-service group (with all relevant Commission services, including DG HOME, JUST, DEVCO, TAXUD, TRADE, SG, MARE, as well as the EEAS) is tasked to facilitate the cooperation between different services on the implementation of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In line with the EU Agenda on Security and in the context of the fight against organised crime, the Commission has started reviewing policy and legislation on environmental crime, which includes reviewing how national rules transposing the Environmental Crime Directive are applied in practice. A first step of this review was a workshop organised on 20 October 2016. The workshop focused on whether and how the Environmental Crime Directive contributes to the fight against organised environmental crime and examined two specific environmental crimes which have a strong organised crime dimension i.e. wildlife trafficking and waste crime. This expertise gathering process will be pursued in 2017.
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	
	<p>Austria: Two experts (animals and plants) work on a longer-term consultancy basis to assist members of the Scientific Authorities during on-site controls to ensure e.g. legality of captive-bred specimens, and to hold training units for SAs for the effective identification of wild versus captive bred specimens</p>

	<p>Bulgaria: Enforcement priorities are focused on the illegal trade and smuggling routes for Grey parrots. The Bulgarian CITES Management Authority together with Customs have seized several shipments of parrots with falsified or no documents. The seized birds were provided to the World Parrot Trust for reintroduction in Africa. Illegal trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora is a subject of increased customs controls. In order to fight effectively against the attempts of illegal trafficking in endangered species, risk profiles have been set out for different species and products thereof based on the information from the EU-TWIX (EU-Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange) and EU Risk Information Forms (RIF), for example.</p>
	<p>Bulgaria: Regular checks on traders and holders such as pet shops, breeders and nurseries were carried out in 2016. The checks fall among the responsibilities of the Regional Inspectorates on Environment. The existing registration system for CITES-listed animals kept in captivity also helps the earlier detection of possible illegalities.</p>
	<p>Bulgaria: Republic of Bulgaria regularly participates in international operations involving cross-border cooperation between EU Member States.</p>
	<p>Estonia: In 2016 the e-commerce monitoring was carried out, which mapped the internet trade of CITES specimens in Estonia. Customs mobile groups report regularly when during controls of traders inland any suspicions arise.</p>
	<p>Estonia: Risk information regularly exchanged between Member States via different channels (EU-TWIX, RIF etc.). Estonia also participated in a seminar organized by Poland where Baltic Sea countries exchanged practices, and in the conference on environmental crime organized by the Slovak EU presidency in Nov 2016.</p>
	<p>Estonia: Risk profiles for importation/exportation are in place and regularly updated. Risk information is obtained from CITES Management Authority, other enforcement agencies, customs authorities from other countries, risk analyses. Intelligence department of customs authority semiannually defines enforcement priorities, risk areas, trade routes and smuggling methods for importation and exportation.</p>
	<p>France: A national "ivory" operation was organized on the initiative of the Ministry of Environment in September 2016 involving ONCFS, OCLAESP and the Customs (DGDDI).</p>
	<p>France: France is a Party to the Convention on Migratory Species. France also participates in the international task force on the illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean (first meeting held in July 2016 in Cairo). France also participates in the group of focal points to the Bern Convention for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (third meeting held in April in Tirana).</p>
	<p>France: In 2016, 1058 judicial proceedings were initiated as a result of the work of ONCFS. The professional fishing of glass eels is regulated by a decree revised each year, the decree from October 2016 (as well as other relevant decree of 18 December 2013) clarifies that the catch of fish has to be declared within 24 hours in some cases and within 48 hours in other cases. The October 2016 decree also defines regulations towards sellers/retailers to inform the authorities of their fish purchases with 24 hours.</p>
	<p>France: The National Gendarmerie cooperated with the Europol coordinated Operation Lake targeting glass eel trade, which included regular cooperation with other Member States, especially Spain. France also participates in the Interpol Fisheries Crime Working Group.</p>
	<p>Germany: Eliminate the illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds via project "EDGAR" (monitoring of illegal killing, trapping and trading of birds of prey in Germany), a socio-economic study on bird poaching in Egypt as well as a CMS-JPO on bird poaching.</p>
	<p>Hungary: On 5 December 2016, a specific procedural order was adopted by the Hungarian National Tax and Customs Administration on the customs procedure with regard to the trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, including their import, (re)export, intra-EU trade, and reporting requirements about illegal activities. This procedural order was developed together with the Hungarian CITES Management Authority and is expected to streamline and improve the work of customs authorities in the field of wildlife trade controls. Regarding internal controls, breeders, traders and pet shops are regularly checked by the competent nature conservation authorities. The CITES Management Authority set priorities and selected 7 priority species for making these checks in 2016.</p>

	Hungary: The HELICON LIFE Project, launched in January 2012, successfully reduced bird poisoning, illegal killing, and trapping. The flagship species of the project was the Eastern imperial eagle (<i>Aquila heliaca</i>) and also other birds of prey. The project finished at the end of 2016, and its results will be extended to other countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Serbia) within the Pannon Biogeographical Region by the new Pannon Eagle Life project.
	Italy: Italian Customs and Enforcement authorities have increased the controls.
	Latvia: During 2016 the number of CITES related enforcement checks almost doubled in comparison to 2015. Enforcement efforts have targeted national priority areas for CITES enforcement, including online trade and trade in black caviar, however more attention has also been paid to places where exotic species are kept in captivity as well as to control pet shops.
	Latvia: Eliminating the illegal killing of birds has been set as a priority and methods of improved information exchange between the relevant authorities and the public sector are being explored (see Action 15).
	Portugal: According the Portuguese Action Plan for 2014-2016, which will continue for the period 2017-2018, and in addition to the checks at border-crossing points required under Regulation (EC) No 338/97, Portuguese Management Authority promotes regular checks on traders and holders such as pet shops, breeders and nurseries.
	Portugal: Eliminate the illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds is also an action included in the Portuguese Action Plan since 2010, with the partnership of SEPNA, a particular branch of the police directed to environment infractions.
	Portugal: Portuguese Action Plan defines enforcement priorities as regards target species as timber species, parrots and European eel.
	Romania: Successful operations which have strengthened the enforcement of national and EU legislation on wildlife trafficking, including JCO Orion 3 and a further 6 national operations tackling wildlife trafficking in order to make implementation and enforcement more effective for customs officers.
	Slovakia: All wildlife criminal cases are recorded in the official police database in Slovakia. All administrative offences (investigated by environmental inspectorates, customs or district offices) are reported in the system of Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. There is also an unofficial database of bird crime cases which has been established and ran by NGO. There are 10 police specialists for the environmental crime in the Presidium of the Police Force who are competent to assist investigators in the process of investigation of these cases. There is 1 specialist in the General Prosecutor office competent to assist prosecutors. There are 16 inspectors of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate who are competent to investigate administrative offences regarding illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds. These administrative offences can be investigated also by ca 72 district officers- however it is not their main activity.
	Slovakia: In-country checks on traders, breeders and shops are regularly carried out by Slovak Environmental Inspectors and occasionally by District officers (for administrative offences). Furthermore, in-country criminal cases are investigated by Slovak police.
	Spain: Collaboration in an intergovernmental operation to control illegal trade of European glass eel.
	Spain: Development of national legislation to better regulate the proof of legal origin documentation of species included in the Annexes

Objective 2.2: Increase capacity to combat wildlife trafficking of all parts of the enforcement chain and the judiciary	
Action 15. Improve cooperation, coordination, communication and data flow between the enforcement agencies responsible in the Member States	
Action 16. Improve knowledge base on checks, investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings against wildlife trafficking	
Action 17. Step up training for all parts of the enforcement chain, including joint training activities	
Action 18. Strengthen or, where applicable, establish practitioner networks at national and regional level, and improve cooperation between them	
Action 19. Improve care of seized or confiscated live animals or plants	
<u>Implementation Activity at EU level</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best practices for inter-agency cooperation within Member States are shared in the EU wildlife trade Enforcement Group on a regular basis - The European Police College CEPOL will organise a dedicated training seminar in February 2017. - In December 2016, the Commission organised a joint meeting of the EU wildlife trade Enforcement Group and the PARCS expert group (which promotes the coordination of customs services from EU Member States on activities on the protection of Health, Cultural Heritage, and the Environment). This allowed to share experiences on risk analysis and increase cooperation with customs services for operational purposes against wildlife trafficking. - The European Networks of Prosecutors, with financial support from the EU LIFE project, has set up a specific working group on wildlife crime which will operate for the 2016-2019 period. - In May 2016, the first joint Conference of EU Environmental Enforcement Networks (Judges, prosecutors, police officers, inspectors) took place in Utrecht with a dedicated working group focussing on wildlife trafficking.
<u>Implementation Activity at MS level</u>	
	Belgium: Belgium (CITES Management Authority) is in the process of establishing an MoU with customs. This will be finalized in 2017.
	Belgium: In 2016 the public prosecutors have undergone a re-organization: they established several specialized units that will be responsible for environmental cases. This should lead to more specialized personnel. Also, Belgium is a yearly sponsor of the EU-Twix database to ensure data collection of CITES seizures and cases.
	Bulgaria: Cooperation has been established and since 2011 a formal Agreement has also been in place. It covers cooperation between National Customs Agency, Ministry of Environment and Water and Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (competent for veterinary and phytosanitary control). An inter-agency working group with the participation of Ministry of Interior and Prosecutors is also in the process of being established.
	Bulgaria: Republic of Bulgaria constantly puts efforts in improving the mechanism of coordination and in strengthening the capacity of enforcement officials in order to work efficiently to prevent the illegal trade and unsustainable wildlife trade related practices. In this regard the CITES Management Authority provided training for customs officers in April 2016. This is a regular activity in the framework of the mutual cooperation.
	Croatia: In order to improve understanding of judicial authorities of the problem of destroying wildlife, especially bird species, Recommendation No 177 (2015) on the gravity factors and sentencing principles for the evaluation of offences against birds, and in particular the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (Bern Convention) was submitted to the Ministry of Justice by Ministry of Environment and Energy, Directorate for Inspectorial Affairs. Customs Directorate organizes workshops for customs officers and the topic is included in the Annual educational program for customs officers, including apprentices. Furthermore, joint training for customs and police officers was organized with the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Energy.
	Croatia: The representatives of the Customs Directorate, Nature Protection Inspection and Police are the members of the national CITES Committee. They attend the CITES Committee meetings on a regular basis where they discuss ways how to enhance better cooperation and coordination related to the protection of endangered plant and animal species, prevention of their illicit trade and related measures and to cross-border trafficking and commercial exploitation of endangered species. Also, a Coordination body between the relevant enforcement agencies (customs, Nature Protection Inspection, police) has been established.

	<p>Czech Republic: A special workshop (3 days) for training of Customs, Environmental Inspectors, Police, prosecutors and judges and one workshop solely for prosecutors (2 days) were organized in 2016.</p> <p>An e-learning course on CITES enforcement available for enforcement officers in the Czech Republic has been developed.</p> <p>It is planned to include wildlife crime as a part of training and education at the Police and Justice Academy.</p>
	<p>Czech Republic: A working group consisting of representatives of all relevant agencies including the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Customs, Police, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Environment has been established in order to share information and to prepare National Action Plan against wildlife trafficking (to be adopted by the end of 2017).</p> <p>A workshop for experts from Central European Countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) in Environmental Crime including Wildlife Crime was organized in December 2016 in Prague in order to share best practice in the field of CITES enforcement.</p>
	<p>Denmark: A stronger and closer cooperation with the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, both at the border control and at national inspections was established in 2016. An MoU has been signed with the Danish Customs Service ensuring close cooperation and improvement of the exchange of information, with focus on instruments/tools being useful to implement some of the actions mentioned in the plan. Awareness raising of important players has also been an important aspect in this context. (Also relevant for action 1.)</p>
	<p>Estonia: Commission is regularly provided with relevant statistical data, including data on checks, investigations, seizures, penalties.</p>
	<p>Estonia: In 2016 the Environmental Inspectorate has formed the special CITES team which is trained and specialized to deal with CITES cases. Also a previously established network (enforcement authorities, CITES MA and SA) meet regularly to discuss latest cases, trends and actions that are needed.</p>
	<p>Estonia: Need for amendment of existing MoU, agreement of cooperation etc. is being analysed. Follow-up action coming up as required. Current agreements of cooperation provide sufficient basis for exchange of information between authorities. National legislation in tax and customs area is reviewed, proposal for amendments (will simplify access to information from tax and customs authorities) are expected.</p>
	<p>Estonia: Several trainings performed by customs and CITES Management Authority (Orchid club, Hunters association, public schools - in all cases initiative came from trainees). Regular seminars and trainings are held for enforcement officers (customs, police, environmental inspectorate).</p>
	<p>France: New legislation adopted in France in 2016 also strengthens the cooperation between the different competent authorities (Ministry of Environment, Energy and of the Sea, and control authorities). The identification of species takes place in collaboration with the National Natural History Museum, the Customs directorate (DGDDI), and ONCFS. New legislation adopted in 2016 (la loi du 8 août 2016 pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages, article 132) provides the legal basis for the exchange of information between the control authorities (the environmental inspection and the Customs).</p> <p>France (ONCFS, specialized unit) also participated in the EU Enforcement Group meetings.</p>
	<p>France: see action 21.</p>
	<p>France: The National Office of Water and Aquatic Environment (ONEMA) takes charge of glass eel/live eel seizures with the aim of reintroducing them in nature. A decree by the Ministry of Environment (MEEM) and the Ministry of agriculture prescribes the conditions of the homing of animals, including necessary equipment, sanitary conditions, etc.</p>
	<p>Hungary: Between 17 and 28 October 2016 a two-week course, called Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Program was held at the FBI's International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest. The training was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This specialized course presented the planning methods and techniques for conducting successful wildlife investigations, such as various types of investigative techniques and crime scene processing and interviews, undercover operations, and case report writing. The participating countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary) could nominate 10 persons each to attend this course, which consisted of ministry personnel, police officials, customs officials, inspectors and technicians that support such criminal investigations, and prosecutors; and by that the training was available for the entire part of enforcement chain. The Hungarian CITES MA was involved in the designation of participants as well as participated in the course.</p>

	Hungary: In Hungary, there are bilateral cooperation agreements between the CITES Management Authority and the Police, the National Tax and Customs Administration, and other enforcement agencies in Hungary about exchange of data, coordination and communication. The Management Authority also supervises the work of nature conservation authorities of the Government Offices.
	Hungary: The CITES Management Authority organises a wildlife trade inter-agency coordination meeting each year, with the participation of customs, police, nature conservation authorities, veterinary authority as well as the representative of TRAFFIC with the aim to discuss enforcement matters.
	Hungary: The dedicated rescue centres in Hungary are prepared for housing seized or confiscated animals and plants. According to Hungarian legislation the main rescue centres are zoos. Among them, the Szeged Zoo and the Budapest Zoo make regular improvement in their facilities in case of unexpected housing. Szeged Zoo recently built a wintering shelter for confiscated Hermann's tortoises (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>), and an aviary for African grey parrots (<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>). The Hungarian MA in cooperation with the World Parrot Trust is working on a project to re-introduce confiscated African grey parrots to Tanzania. In the frame of this collaboration, 61 birds have been transferred to a rescue centre in France, from where they will be transported to Tanzania later.
	Italy: In January 2017, the reform of police authorities has entered into force and the Forestry Corps' competencies in the enforcement of CITES have been assigned to Arma dei Carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza. Therefore, the Italian CITES Management Authority has promoted an MoU among all the authorities that are competent in CITES: the CITES Management Authority, the Customs Agency, the Ministry of Economic Development, Guardia di Finanza, Arma dei Carabinieri; the MoU improves the cooperation among these authorities and the efficiency of the implementation of the Convention, the EU regulations and the national laws as a whole.
	Italy: The Italian CITES Management Authority has improved the facilities for confiscated live specimen and reduced the duration of the administrative procedure that must be followed to assign a specimen to a facility; moreover, controls in the facilities have been increased.
	Latvia: Publishing information on the internet regarding the illegal killing of birds has been explored. This will facilitate better information exchange between the relevant authorities and public sector. Amendments to the national legislation are planned to better implement enforcement actions between the relevant authorities and facilitate. A meeting involving all of the relevant national authorities is planned, where issue relating to more effective inter-agency collaboration and best practices to achieve this aim, e.g. inter agency working groups, written agreements etc., will be discussed. Such agreement already exists between CITES Management Authority and Customs.
	Latvia: Training seminars for enforcement officers have been implemented. Awareness raising and educational materials have also been updated and several exhibitions focusing on illegal trade in endangered species have been set up
	Portugal: Portugal is establishing a MoU with the National Prosecutor Office which may be finalized and approved in the end of this first semester of 2017. At the same time a similar MoU is foreseen also in 2017 with customs along an update of the MoU with SEPNA, the environmental police.
	Portugal: Portuguese CITES Management Authority will continue its training actions for all entities with competences in the implementation of CITES.
	Romania: Romanian Customs plan on requesting access to the data base containing CITES permits (held by the Romanian Management Authority).
	Slovenia: The Inter-agency Working Group which is working at the national level (including police, Environmental Inspection, Customs and Management Authorities) with the support of the Scientific Authorities (Institute of RS for Nature Conservation) has been strengthened and the Action Plan fully taken on board. Concrete activities are planned within the agencies competences. There is regular cooperation and exchange of information and data between the agencies. In May 2016, at the 32nd meeting of the Enforcement Group, Slovenia presented its national inter-agency cooperation, providing a best practice example for such cooperation at the national level.
	Sweden: Swedish police has undergone a reorganisation and a CITES team has been formed having a group of specialised police men working with illegal CITES activities. Swedish enforcement authorities are meeting together with the CITES MA and SA in a "inter-agency task force" to discuss court cases, trends and actions that are needed. A network has been established that guarantees a fast reply when action needs to be taken.
	Sweden: In December 2016, Swedish Custom officers were educated at the two main airports, Stockholm and Gothenburg.

Sweden: The Swedish police have undergone a reorganisation and a CITES team has been created consisting of a group of specialised police officers working on illegal CITES activities. Swedish enforcement authorities also meet with the CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authority in a “inter-agency task force” to discuss court cases, trends and actions that are required. A network has been established that guarantees a fast reply when action needs to be taken.

Objective 2.3: Fight organised wildlife crime more effectively	
Action 20. Regularly assess the threat posed by organised wildlife trafficking in the EU	
Action 21. Boost capacity of relevant experts to tackle the links of wildlife trafficking with organised crime, including cybercrime and related illicit financial flows	
Action 22. Member States ensure, in line with international commitments made, that organised wildlife trafficking constitutes throughout the EU a serious crime under the UN convention against Transnational Organized Crime, i.e. that it is unishable by imprisonment of a maximum of at least four years	
Action 23. Member States review, in line with UNGA Resolution, national legislation on money laundering to ensure that offences connected to wildlife trafficking can be treated as rediccate offences and are actionable under domestic proceeds of crime legislation	
<i>Implementation Activity at EU level</i>	
	<p>The Commission adopted on 21 December 2016 a proposal for a Directive on countering money laundering by criminal law which foresees that Member States should consider environmental crime, including any of the offences set out in Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law, as predicate offence in relation to money laundering. This proposal is now being discussed by Council and Parliament.</p> <p>The Commission has started cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on the links between wildlife trafficking and illicit financial flows, providing consolidated input from the EU Member States to a project led by UNODC and the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering and will consider next steps after the results of this project are available in spring 2017.</p>
<i>Implementation Activity at MS level</i>	
	Austria: Initiated an evaluation of the National Species Marking Act for potential revision to more effectively address illegal trade
	Belgium: In 2015 the CITES administrative inspection department had undergone a re-organization: since 2015 they are responsible to detect only CITES infractions. In 2017 this department will be expanded, the capacity will be doubled.
	Bulgaria: Bulgarian CITES Management Authority almost finished the elaboration of the amendments in the National CITES implementing legislation. The amendments aim to increase the control in trade with CITES listed species at the border and within the country and to strengthen the cooperation between the main institutions involved. According to Bulgarian Penal Code the smuggling of endangered species or products thereof is considered as a serious crime and is punishable with imprisonment of three to ten years and a fine of twenty thousand to one hundred thousand BGN.
	Estonia: Since 2013 the Environmental Inspectorate may confiscate the means of committing CITES misdemeanours and apply confiscation towards the specimens or items constituting the direct object of such misdemeanour. Government is seeking (analyzing) possibilities for increasing penalties. According to latest proposal, the punishment for misdemeanor offences (mainly in customs) will be doubled. Analysis of possibilities to increase punishment for criminal offences is ongoing.
	Estonia: Unit specialised in cyber offences established within customs authority.
	France: France adopted new legislation (La loi pour la reconquête de la biodiversité, de la nature et des paysages) in August 2016, which provides sanctions for illegal trade in wildlife: fine - 15 000 to 150 000 EUR (and above 750 00 EUR if committed in organized group), imprisonment - two years (and 7 years if committed in organized group). Money laundering is also covered by the Penal Code (article 324-1): 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 375 000 EUR, and in case of aggravating circumstances: 10 years imprisonment and a fine of 750 000 EUR. The Customs Code also recognizes money laundering, which can be sanctioned by 2 to 10 years imprisonment and the confiscation of sums.
	France: The Ministry of Environment (MEEM) has a network of 50 instructors on CITES. ONCFS sensitizes magistrates and also trains 20 specialized agents internally per year. They also participate in the training of veterinary services and future "gendarmes". ONCFS also sensitizes 70 future care zoos takers/animal keepers per year. ONCFS has equipped and trained a specialized unit on the fight against wildlife crime (CITES) with tools allowing them to carry out research on the internet. The Customs (DGDDI) since 2009 has a unit dedicated to countering cybercriminality. This unit also deals with "darknet" and social media cases related to CITES. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAEDI) in cooperation with its interministerial partners, support in the framework of the FATF the launch of an typology study on money laundering related to wildlife trafficking. Training on money laundering is part of the curriculum/internal training for Customs and Gendarmerie.

	Hungary: In the framework of the Helicon Life Project the National Bureau of Investigation (Hungarian Police) dedicated extra resources to the investigation of online auction sites for illegally obtained and traded wildlife specimens.
	Hungary: The Hungarian Criminal Code was reviewed in 2012, and addresses this question adequately, additional review is not required.
	Italy: The implementation in Italy of this action requires a law to be voted and adopted by the Parliament; the Italian CITES Management Authority is reviewing the national legislation in order to align it to the provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The amendments must be submitted to the Parliament.
	Portugal: A review of national legislation is undergoing and some amendments were already proposed to improve the prevention and combat of the illegal trade of wildlife.
Objective 2.4: Improve international cooperation on enforcement against wildlife trafficking	
Action 24. Step up cooperation on enforcement between the Member States and EU enforcement actors and key non-EU countries and other regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks, relevant global networks (International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, ICCWC, and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, INECE)	
Action 25. Support capacity building for law enforcement in key source and market countries, including enforcement within protected sites	
<i>Implementation Activity at EU level</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best practices in enforcement cooperation are regularly shared in the EU Enforcement Group - The EU has been a major financial supporter to the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and intends to significantly step up its contribution to this body and its members in the future. Regional programmes were launched in Asia and will soon start in East/Southern Africa and in Central Africa. - The EU is facilitating the participation of EU Member States to joint international operations through the EU wildlife trade enforcement group and Europol - work is also ongoing to reinforce cooperation against wildlife trafficking with European neighbouring countries
<i>Implementation Activity at MS level</i>	
	Belgium: In February 2017 Belgium will give a training to some French speaking African custom officers regarding CITES legislation.
	Croatia: Customs Directorate participates in international and regional operations aimed at combating of smuggling of endangered species of plants and animals, and regularly participates in the meetings of the EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group.
	France: France provided funding to ICCWC, UNODC and the African Elephant Fund. France also supports the work of Interpol of the subject of wildlife trafficking by having seconded a national expert to Interpol.
	Germany: Development of a regional information exchange network between enforcement agencies in Central Africa ("Africa-TWIX"; trade in Wildlife Information eXchange)
	Portugal: In 2017 Portugal continues to participate in joint international law enforcement operations promoted by INTERPOL and will be part in others with the assistance of EUROPOL like the one related to European eels.
	United Kingdom: In November 2016 the UK announced additional funding for Interpol to expand their work on international wildlife trafficking, as well as up to £4million for the International Consortium for Combatting Wildlife Crime
	United Kingdom: The UK continue to share their expertise internationally to help build enforcement capacity in key source and destination countries. This includes work by our Border Force, National Crime Agency and Crown Prosecution service. For example, the British military is providing anti-poaching training for rangers in Gabon, home of Africa's largest population of forest elephants; and the UK Crown Prosecution Service has worked with officials in key states like Kenya and Tanzania to share their expertise and help them strengthen their own enforcement activities.

Main achievements relevant to the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (EU WAP)

Relevant EU WAP Objective and Action	
Objective 3.1: Provide increased, more effective and more strategically focused support to developing countries	
Action 26. Ensure that wildlife trafficking is considered for EU funding under relevant programmes in the areas of natural resources management, environment, organised crime, security and governance	
Action 27. Increase effectiveness of funding support against wildlife trafficking	
<i>Implementation Activity at EU level</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU financial resources dedicated to biodiversity have increased in the current Multiannual Financial Framework compared to the previous one, with a global commitment of EUR 1 billion for programmes with biodiversity as main objective in Development Cooperation Instrument and European Development Fund, including more than EUR 700 million on wildlife-related issues and a particular focus on anti-poaching field activities. - Regional strategic studies have been developed for Africa, Asia, Latin America and coastal areas to guide the programming of EU funding for biodiversity conservation and against wildlife trafficking - The Commission has launched projects financed under the Partnership Instrument to support EU-China and EU-Mexico efforts and cooperation against wildlife trafficking
<i>Implementation Activity at MS level</i>	
	France: France supports a number of projects in third countries, which include activities to fight wildlife trafficking.
Objective 3.2 Strengthen and coordinate better action against wildlife trafficking and its root causes with relevant source, transit and market countries	
Action 28. Step up dialogue with key source, transit and market countries, including dialogue with local communities, civil society and the private sector	
Action 29. Use EU trade policies and instruments proactively to support action against wildlife trafficking	
Action 30. Strengthen cooperation against wildlife trafficking with relevant regional organisations, such as the African Union, SADC, the East African Community, ASEAN, and in relevant multilateral fora, such as ASEM	
<i>Implementation Activity at EU level</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EU has been actively engaged in bilateral dialogues with a number of third countries on wildlife trafficking issues, through direct contacts or through the work of the EU Delegations in China, Hong Kong SAR, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Vietnam, Laos, Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, Senegal, Gabon, Indonesia, Morocco or South Africa. A dedicated seminar on wildlife trafficking gathered participants from a number of EU delegations in Brussels on 9 and 10 February 2017 - The EU is using various trade-related instruments to press for actions against wildlife trafficking, including through the inclusion of specific provisions in Free Trade Agreements (for example with Vietnam), the implementation of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+) regime, as well as work at the multilateral level in the World Trade Organisation (notably via a presentation of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in November 2016)

<i>Implementation Activity at MS level</i>	
	France: The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAEDI) engages in dialogues with sub-regional organizations, especially in Africa (e.g. COMIFAC, CEDEAO)
	Croatia: A meeting of experience exchange between Nature Protection Inspections of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Sept 2016.
	Germany: Support of the dialogue on illegal wildlife trade between China and African Range states in the frame of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and beyond.
	United Kingdom: The UK provided support to the Kasane Conference in 2015 and the Hanoi Conference in 2016 after hosting the London Conference on illegal wildlife trade in 2014, bringing together leaders from source, consumer and transit countries and putting illegal wildlife trade at the top of the political agenda.
	United Kingdom: See Action 28.
Objective 3.3 Address security dimension of wildlife trafficking	
Action 31. Improve knowledge base and develop strategies to tackle the links between wildlife trafficking and security	
	The Commission is considering the launch of a study on the links between wildlife trafficking and security from the Horn of Africa to the Sahelian region. In 2016 the EEAS and DEVCO organized two workshops on conservation and security in the Garamba-Chinko corridor (DRC-CAR), discussing the nature of the link between wildlife crime and the sustainment of armed groups in this "Tri-border" area with representatives of the US administration and civil society actors involved in conservation, park management and security. The meetings adopted joint recommendations which will be followed up in 2017, including on funding issues, intelligence sharing, priorities for political dialogue and support to communities. In addition, conservation and security was a key element of discussions at the International Working Group (IWG) on the Lord's Resistance Army held in Brussels on 30 November 2016. The IWG discussed revising the mandate of the AU-RTF to cover other illegally armed groups, including poachers and traffickers. Finally, in 2016 the EU continued formulating projects funded under regional programmes of the European Development Fund, in the field of natural resources management, including wildlife, in the Central Africa region.
Objective 3.4 Strengthen multilateral efforts to combat wildlife trafficking	
Action 32. Support the adoption and implementation of strong decisions, resolutions and political declarations on wildlife trafficking in international instruments and multilateral fora	
<i>Implementation Activity at EU level</i>	
	- The EU and its Member States played a very active role at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which took place from 24 September to 4 October 2016. The EU tabled a record number of proposals to this meeting. This included the inclusion of new species in CITES, in particular rare and valuable reptiles and birds, which are traded into the EU as exotic pets. The EU successfully proposed a Resolution which, for the first time in CITES, clearly recognises that corruption is a key enabler for wildlife trafficking and calls on CITES Parties and bodies to prevent, detect and penalise it. The EU also pushed for targeted recommendations and sanctions to improve the fight against ivory, rhino horn, rosewood and tiger trafficking. The EU is examining the possibility to provide support for the implementation of CITES CoP decisions and will follow up closely on their implementation. - The EU contributed to the development and adoption of the Resolution on "Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products" adopted by the 2nd UN Environment Assembly in 2016
	- The EU participated to the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in November 2016 and is also actively involved in the work of intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, having financially supported the first meeting. - The EU is supporting the inclusion of wildlife trafficking on the agenda of international bodies such as the G20 or the Financial Action Task Force (see above)
<i>Implementation Activity at MS level</i>	
	Croatia: Tunis Action Plan 2013 – 2020: national priorities of execution in terms of target species were defined and the promotional posters were produced and distributed.

	Germany: Support for the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, 17/18th November 2016.
	Hungary: Hungary has been a member of the CITES Standing Committee since 2013. Being the regional representative of the European Union in the committee, it represents the coordinated position of the EU which supports strong decisions and resolutions on wildlife trafficking.
	United Kingdom: See Action 28.