Environmental Investigation Agency

Fighting Organised Crime: Combating Transnational Wildlife Crime Networks with Intelligence

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DESK BASED RESEARCH

FIELD INVESTIGATION

BRIEFINGS

HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY INFORMATION
Fighting Organised Wildlife Crime

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?
Fighting Organised Wildlife Crime

Covert investigations & surveillance

Financial investigations

Controlled deliveries

Intelligence gathering & analysis

Multi-agency cooperation
The “Xaysavang Network” trading rhino horn, ivory and lion bone

Network charts by IBM ® i2®
South African hunting outfits...
Thai middlemen...."pseudo hunters"....
The USA has offered a $1m reward for information that leads to dismantling of the Xaysavang network
“Pseudo hunters” from the EU

- July 2013, 15 people arrested in the Czech Republic
- Recruited by Vietnamese financiers
- No previous hunting experience or gun licenses
- Obtained hunting permits and rhino horn trophies in South Africa for black market in Asia
“Pseudo hunters” from the EU

- Suspect shift in recruitment for “pseudo hunters” to other EU Member States
- Concerns over role of bona fide hunters following seizure of 2 rhino horn in Dec 2013 traced back to a genuine hunter
- Czech authorities have seized 24 rhino horns in recent years, undermined by lack of international cooperation
Possible Responses By the EU

1. DG ENVI and DG HOME issue a call to action to Member States & provide financial assistance for national investigations

2. DG ENVI and DG HOME ensure that Europol has resources to establish a Rhino Task Force to Member State investigations, including liaising with Member State financial investigation units to track the financial transactions associated with the rhino horn trade.
Possible Responses By the EU

3. EU Member States should launch inspections to track and monitor legally imported rhino horn trophies.

4. The European External Action Service and the EU Delegations in South Africa and Viet Nam should be activated to negotiate on the matter.

5. The EU CITES Management Committee and Scientific Review Group could consider tightening restrictions on the importation into the EU of rhino horn trophies from South Africa.