Private Sector Engagement and Information Sharing with Law Enforcement

To combat maritime trafficking of wildlife

Dr. Tim Wittig
Global Wildlife Program webinar
26 February 2019
Effectively combatting wildlife trafficking requires collective action across a complex multi-stakeholder environment.

Q: How do we leverage the strengths of different stakeholder groups to take collective action against IWT?

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- Has authorities & capabilities
- Lacks interest, mandate & information

**NGOs**
- Lack authorities & capabilities
- Have interest, mandate & information

**PRIVATE SECTOR**
- Has authorities & capabilities (some)
- Lacks interest, mandate, & information
Q: How do we leverage the strengths of different stakeholder groups to take collective action against IWT?

A: Combination of

1. High Level Commitments
2. Regular Intelligence Production & Sharing
3. Direct Coordination with Law Enforcement
CASE STUDY:
The United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce
How it Works, and Why
130+ Member companies, representing est. 80% of global maritime shipping industry (by volume)
SIMPLIFIED IWT SUPPLY CHAIN DIAGRAM

A: Manufacturer/Seller/Exporter
B: Warehouse (container packing)
C: Trucker/Transporter
D: Freight Forwarder
E: Inland Container Deposit
F: Port Customs/JPCU
G: Container Terminal Operator
H: Shipper/Shipping Line
I: Container Terminal Operator
J: Port Customs/JPCU
K: Freight Forwarder
L: Trucker/Transporter
M: Warehouse (container shipping)
N: Buyer/Importer

= UFW TASKFORCE MEMBER NETWORK
1. High Level Commitments
High Level Commitments

For Member companies to:

- **Receive** relevant IWT intelligence
- **Action** intelligence to detect & deter IWT activity in company networks
- **Report** suspicious activity to authorities
- **Adopt & implement** zero tolerance policies and relevant employee training
- **Participate** in periodic formal meetings & events
High Level Commitments

For the Taskforce to:

- Centrally compile & aggregate IWT intelligence
- Disseminate timely & actionable intel to members
- Catalyze enforcement outcomes against wildlife trafficking networks via public, private, and NGO partners

Buckingham Palace Declaration (2016)
2. Regular Intelligence Sharing
Regular Intelligence Sharing

The Taskforce Intelligence Sharing System has evolved into a global neural network against wildlife trafficking.
TASKFORCE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM

MEMBER COMPANIES
Receives and acts on intelligence from Taskforce, individually and collectively. Assists enforcement when appropriate.

EXTERNAL INFO SOURCES
NGOs, Data Mining, OSINT, etc

POLICY ORGANS
Egmont; FATF; UNODC; Interpol; etc

OTHER ENFORCEMENT & JUDICIAL PARTNERS
African/Asian law enforcement and judiciaries; US/UK/EU partners

FORMAL INFO-SHARING MECHANISMS
JMLIT; US 314 Consortium; Container Control Program

TASKFORCE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM
Builds shared consciousness of IWT via regular intel alerts & bulletins
Targeted intelligence work on sensitive cases and Direct case support.
‘Neural Network’ of relationships – Trusted conduit to sync intel & action

TASKFORCE SECRETARIAT
Central contact point. Strategy. Metrics. Fundraising. New Members

WHY IT WORKS
Action at the Speed of Trust
1. Neutrality: Unique and widely trusted conduit for intelligence to/from law enforcement and private sector.
2. Relationships with trusted, effective on-the-ground partners as well as formal info sharing mechanisms.
3. Tools & Technology to multiply ability to obtain, deliver, and action intelligence.

KEY ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS
Trusted on-the-ground partners.
Executes investigations, arrests, seizures, prosecutions.

SUBMISSIONS & RESPONSES based on Taskforce and Partner intel, esp on ‘Untouchable’ and ‘Kingpin’ cases
Regular Intelligence Sharing

- Monthly **Intelligence Bulletin**
- Alerting on latest IWT **Risk Trends**
- Alerting on IWT **Convergence** patterns
- Online database of ‘**Red Flag’ Typologies** / commodity and concealment patterns

*RISK TRENDS & DRIVERS*
Emerging wildlife trafficking trends and focus areas

Uganda, Nigeria, and Mozambique now priority risk countries in Africa for wildlife trafficking

Uganda, Nigeria, and Mozambique are likely now Africa’s most significant export countries for illicit shipments of ivory, rhino horn,
Transport Taskforce ALERT

Painting Wildlife Products as a Concealment Method for Illegal Ivory and Rhino Horn

15 January 2018

Red Flags

• Large quantities of similarly shaped painted items
• Items painted red or black
1,849 pieces of ivory seized at Dubai airport

Ivory pieces painted in black being smuggled in boxes with shoe tags

Ali Al Shouk, Staff Reporter

16:58 July 3, 2018
Transport Taskforce ALERT

Concealment Methods for Pangolin Scales from West Africa

01 April 2017

Red Flags
Shipments with the following profile may indicate a higher risk of wildlife trafficking and/or warrant enhanced due diligence

Country of Origin:  CAMEROON, GHANA, NIGERIA
Destination Country:  CAMBODIA, CHINA (HONG KONG), LAO PDR, VIET NAM

Description of Goods:  PLASTICS (HS code 39 series)
Hong Kong Customs today (January 5) seized about 1,800 kilograms of suspected pangolin scales from a container with an estimated market value of about $2.8 million…

Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected a 40-foot container declared to contain plastic materials arriving in Hong Kong from Nigeria.
**Regular Intelligence Sharing**

**INTELLIGENCE & ANALYSIS OUTPUTS (2019)**

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<tr>
<td><strong>150+</strong></td>
<td>Companies regularly receiving Taskforce intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
<td>New actionable red flags &amp; typologies developed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td>Professional intelligence products disseminated</td>
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3. Direct Coordination with Law Enforcement
Direct Coordination with Law Enforcement

The Transport Taskforce is a force multiplier for law enforcement against wildlife trafficking.

- Requests for Information & Assistance
- Personal connections and networking
- Subject matter expertise / advisory
- Targeting algorithm refinement
- Direct case collaboration
THE UFW TASKFORCE

Direct Coordination with Law Enforcement

Example:

- 31 suspicious containers identified.
- Full documentation obtained for 29.
- 8 interdictions facilitated across 3 countries.
- Various significant analytic / investigative outcomes

Uganda, Jan 2019: $8 million of ivory / pangolin seized in shipment of timber.
Recent Successes

• **Post-Seizure Investigations**
  RESULT: Seizures now the beginning not the end (avg. 1-2 requests per week)

• **Support to Company Insider Threat Investigations**
  RESULT: Linked company insider threat case to known trafficker / trafficking network

• **Strategic Partnerships**
  RESULT: Taskforce now a key, trusted conduit for information and action between law enforcement, private sector, and on-the-ground partners
## Scorecard

### TASKFORCE ENFORCEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS (2019)

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Arrests / indictments of wildlife traffickers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Interdictions of suspect shipments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Illegal wildlife shipments seized</td>
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<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>Law enforcement investigations supported</td>
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*Image: CBS News article about Prince William and wildlife smuggling.*

*Caption: Customs officers display seized elephant tusks to the media in Kampala, Uganda, Feb. 1, 2019. U.S. law enforcement agencies have taken down a smuggling network accused of trafficking at least $7 million dollars worth of rhino horn and elephant tusks.*
The UFW Transport Taskforce
Future Vision
What’s Next?

Scale UP

Prioritize efforts with potential for global impact

• Ambition is to help take down ALL existing major syndicates, especially involving ‘untouchables’
• Design, incubate, & accelerate scalable technologies:
  ➢ **AI-driven targeting systems**, for suspicious cargo / baggage / passenger targeting
  ➢ **Automated customer screening** systems for IWT
  ➢ **Shared info resources** (portal, databases) to build connections and align efforts among all stakeholders
• Contribute evidence/expertise for **international policy reform & standard setting** (e.g. FATF)
• **Systematize infrastructure** and related admin/legal
What’s Next?

Scale DOWN

Ensure **sustainable action** on the ground

• Localized **national & regional Taskforce chapters**, using Kenya chapter as a model

• Facilitate **lasting country-level connections** among member companies, enforcement, and NGO stakeholders

• Mentor & build capacity on-the-ground to ensure **long term sustainment of Taskforce-enabled action** without direct involvement of ‘Taskforce HQ’
What’s Next?

Scale OUT

Make saving wildlife business as usual

• Help win bureaucratic argument in governments to treat IWT as seriously as other transnational crimes and threats

• Fully integrate IWT intelligence into company risk management and legal/compliance activities

• Explore how IWT intelligence can contribute to core business activities, e.g. innovative lending products, impact investment, R&D, business intelligence

• Leverging global ESG trend for action against IWT
CONCLUSION

We need to think big.

It’s entirely possible to permanently end industrial scale wildlife trafficking. Public-private partnership is a critical component of any winning strategy.