



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY

22 JUNE 2017



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION



WCO - CONTEXT



- 1952 - Customs Cooperation Council was established & in 1994 - Council adopted working name World Customs Organization
- Voice of 182 Customs administrations across the globe responsible for processing more than 98% of all international trade and representing all stages of economic development

WCO & THE ENVIRONMENT



In response to its Members' needs

- 2012
 - WCO launched Environmental Programme to contribute to combating of environmental crime, in particular, illegal wildlife trade, illegal trade in hazardous and other waste, ozone depleting substances and illegal trade in timber
- 2014
 - WCO Council adopted WCO Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade - demonstrating commitment of global Customs community to address these crimes in a timely, coherent and coordinated manner

Enforcement Committee - 2017



- Matrix: Regional Priorities 36th Session EC
 - Environment 9 ('scored' highest)
 - Inv Techniques 8, IPR 7, tobacco / alcohol 6, intel 5, targeting 4, com fraud & security 3, Illicit Financial Flows / MBL 2)



Why is Environmental Crime important?



- Wildlife crime = 20 billion \$
 - making wildlife trafficking the world's fourth largest criminal activity.



Environmental crime = hits record high at up to \$258 billion in 2016

- outstripping the illegal trade in small arms
- international criminal gangs and militant groups profit from the plunder of Earth's resources
- value is 26 % larger than previous 2014 estimates



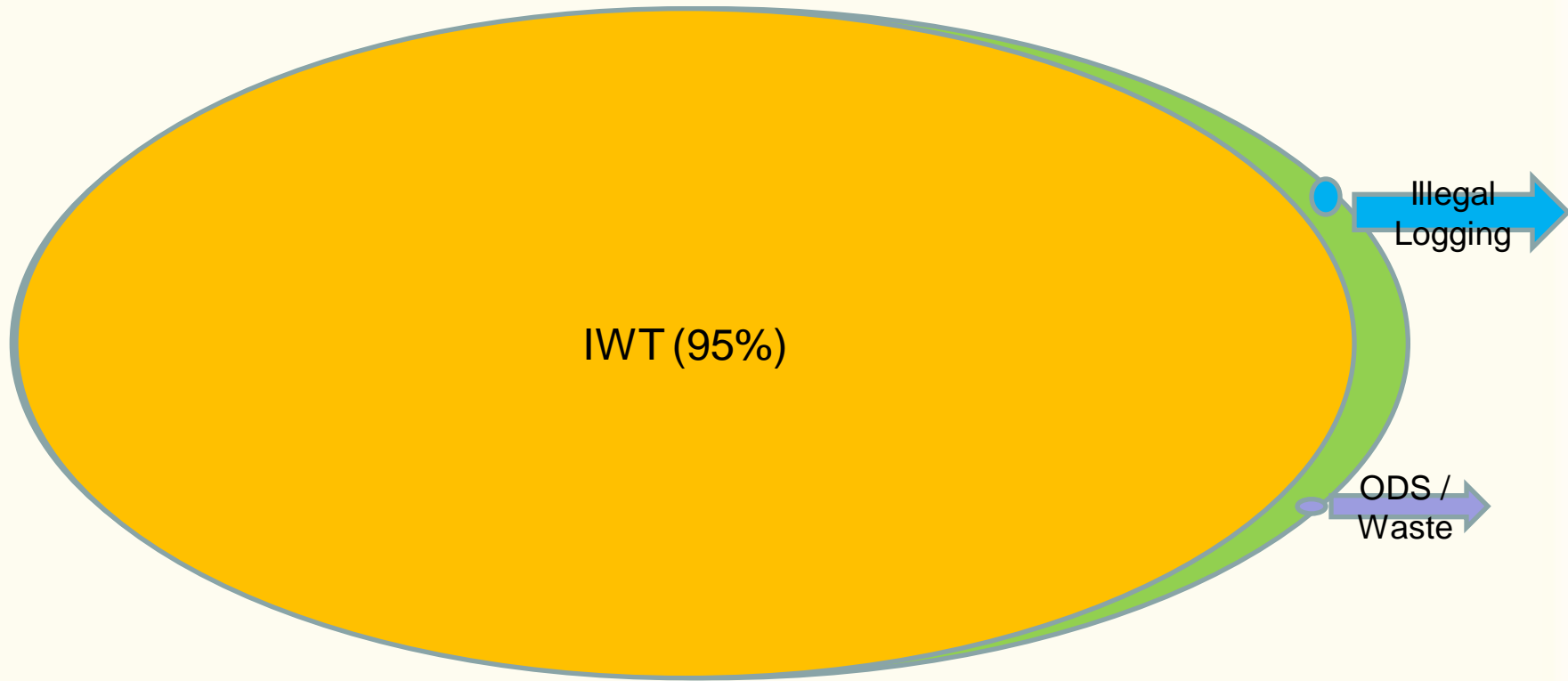
- **Lose natural resources in economy (i.e. not economically sustainable)**
- **Pressure on remaining resources**
- **Communities lose livelihoods**
- **Tamper with the natural hierarchy and bring about catastrophes when removing a species**
- **ORGANISED CRIME** (Proceeds used to fund other criminal activities)

A background image showing several hands of different skin tones cupping a small, stylized globe of the Earth. The hands are positioned around the globe, with fingers pointing inwards, symbolizing global unity and environmental stewardship.

2016/17

- Review of the Timber Guide
- ICCWC partnership and activities
- Operation Wisdom
- Hanoi Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Royal Foundation UFW Transport Taskforce (Buckingham Palace Declaration)
- TRAFFIC

TIME ALLOCATION



ILLEGAL LOGGING



2017 Activities



- ICCWC support
- Wisdom – ICCDs
- Vietnam
- Fast Mail
- Sesha and Fly Away
- Guide
- Environet Platform expansion



CUSTOMS 'BENEFITS'



- Controls the international 'chokepoints'
- All products flow through customs controlled ports / border posts and are subject to customs controls
- Strategically located: frontline or last defense
- Holistic knowledge and expertise in dealing with legal transboundary movement of goods, illegal trade and actors involved
- Global information and intelligence exchange networks in place
- Power of physical controls, detention, seizure (and investigation)

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

1PARTNERSHIPS



Policy

WCO recognizes the critical role partners play in mitigating wildlife crime

Must continue to build, expand and maintain partnerships and recognize the role each can play



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

2 CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

- Increase joint training on aspects such as product identification, risk management and intelligence, detection and investigation and enhance overall awareness
- WCO can assist and facilitate in training with frontline officers

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

3 ENHANCE DATA EXCHANGES



- Enhance the exchange of information with local customs as well as the WCO regarding wildlife and other environmental crimes
- Better intelligence and RM = better results

Data Management



- Data
 - facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis.

Data for What?



- Strategy
- Policy
- Risk Management
- Operations
- Grow the body of knowledge on a subject

Data – Key Questions



- What type of data is important?
 - What do you want to achieve?
- When is it required? Pre-arrival?
- How is it collected? Format / data elements
- How is it vetted?
- How is analysed? Risk management
- How is it enriched?
- How is data stored? Governance

Challenges



- Selection of data (what data to look at)
 - Influence Policy
 - Political agenda
 - Wildlife versus revenue
- Quality of data
 - Incomplete (e.g. seizures not recorded)
 - Incorrect (e.g. classification of species)
 - Algorithms are ineffective if quality not assured

Challenges



- Institutional / legal barriers
 - Still too difficult to exchange data? E.g. B/L information
 - Example of police and customs
 - State to private sector
 - Across borders (sovereign states with each other, especially where taxpayer data is exchanged and or nominal data)

Platforms



- Environet:
 - Secure
 - Within CENcomm
 - Exchange relevant information
- CEN
 - Seizure data

‘It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it’





Thank-you

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