



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY**
3 MARCH

MEDIA ADVISORY

Press briefing on results on a major global wildlife law enforcement operation and latest trend of elephant poaching in Africa

WHAT :

March 3 is the UN World Wildlife Day. The President of the General Assembly will host a high-level discussion on illicit trafficking in endangered wildlife, and the role of youth in wildlife conservation which is the theme of this year's UN World Wildlife Day. Following the event, heads of some key participating organizations of the event will brief the journalists on the following:

- CITES will provide the latest update on trend of illegal killing of elephants across the African continent in 2016 as well as the focus of this year's UN World Wildlife Day
- Interpol will report on results of Operation Thunderbird, the 2017 global wildlife law enforcement operation to counter illicit trafficking in wildlife in the frontline
- UNODC will brief on situation of wildlife crime and response by the United Nations
- Heads of leading global wildlife conservation organizations will speak on conservation efforts in the field and the importance of engaging and empowering the youth

The world lost 50% of its wildlife in just 40 years. The most grave and immediate threat is from poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, with transnational organized criminals now targeting high-value species. It is worth many billions of dollars every year ranking among illicit trafficking in arms, drugs and humans.

We are beginning to turn the tide on wildlife trafficking – but much still remains to be done. We would like to brief the media on the progress made so far and the way forward.

WHO:

- Mr John E. Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES
- Mr. Jorge Rios, Chief of the Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime, UNODC
- Mr Sheldon Jordan, Director General, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada, chair of INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group
- Mr Cristián Samper, President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- Mr Azzedine Downe, President and CEO, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

WHEN: Friday, 3 March, 15h00 – 16h00

WHERE: Press Room, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Please Note: The event is open to media accredited by the UN [Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit](#).

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