



THE COALITION AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Partners in the Fight Against Illegal Wildlife Trade

Wildlife trafficking – the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts – is a soaring black market worth \$10 billion a year, second only to arms and drug smuggling.

The Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) aims to focus public and political attention and resources on ending the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. CAWT is leveraging the combined strengths of government and non-government partners to:

- **Stop illegal exports** by improving wildlife law enforcement, training, information-sharing and networking.
- **Reduce consumer demand** by raising awareness of the impacts of wildlife trafficking on biodiversity, human health and sustainable livelihoods, and its links to organized crime.

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING – A GLOBAL CONCERN

Unchecked demand for exotic pets, rare foods, trophies and traditional medicines is driving many species to the brink of extinction, threatening efforts to meet the 2010 target to reduce global biodiversity loss, and contributing



to the spread to humans of virulent wildlife diseases, such as SARS, avian influenza and the Ebola virus. The illegal wildlife trade is often linked to organized crime and involves many of the same culprits and smuggling routes as trafficking in arms, drugs, and persons.



BUILDING THE COALITION – A NEW APPROACH

First launched in 2005 by the United States, CAWT is a unique voluntary public-private coalition of like-minded governments and international organizations that share a common purpose. By joining the Coalition, a partner commits to help

address the growing threats to wild animals from poaching and illegal trade. CAWT partners work individually and jointly toward achieving the Coalition's goals, with each partner acting where it can contribute most effectively.

COMPLEMENTING ONGOING EFFORTS

The Coalition complements and reinforces existing national, regional and international efforts, including the work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which monitors and regulates international trade in endangered and threatened species and their derivatives.