



**INTERPOL**



## Table of Contents

<b>1. Welcoming Letter</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Introduction to the Committee</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1. Historical Background.	4
2.2. Functions and Powers.	5
2.3. Regulatory Documents.	7
2.3.1. The Constitution	7
2.3.2. The General Regulations:	8
2.3.3. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and Executive Committee:	8
2.3.4. Financial Regulations:	8
2.3.5. The Statute of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files:	8
2.4. References	8
<b>3. Topic A: Piracy and Maritime Crimes in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean</b>	
3.1. Introduction to the Topic:	9
3.2. Historical Background:	11
3.3. Current Situation	12
3.3.1. Gulf of Arden:	12
3.3.2. Strait of Malacca and Indian Sea:	13
3.4. Previous Strategies on the Matter	14
3.5. Guiding questions	18
3.6. Support links	18
3.7. Glossary	19
3.8. References	19
<b>4. Topic B: Mechanisms to Address Trafficking of Wildlife and Animal Derivatives in the South of Africa</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1. Introduction to the Topic:	20
4.2. Historical Background	21
4.2.1. History of Poaching:	21
4.3. Current Situation	22
4.3.1. Elephant Tusk and Rhino Horns	22
4.3.2. Pangolin Scales	24

4.3.3.	Living Reptiles	25
4.3.4.	Big Felines	25
4.3.5.	Traffic Chains and Illicit Financial Flows	26
4.4.	Previous Strategies on the Matter	27
4.5.	Guiding Questions	28
4.6.	Support Links	29
4.7.	Glossary	29
4.8.	References	30
<b>5.</b>	<b>List of Countries:</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Commission Protocols</b>	
6.1	Notice System	
6.2	Territorial integrity & Power	
6.3	Directives	
6.3.1	Individual and collective directives	
6.4	Press release	
6.5	Plans of action	



## 1. Welcome Letter

“ The well being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until it’s unity is firmly established”

Bahá'u'lláh

Dear Delegates, in a world where security is in constant threat, the cooperation among countries is vital for development and peace. As delegates, each of you must use the available resources and intelligence to anticipate and act against the current threats, and prevent catastrophic events.

Regarding these worrying issues, and convinced of the need for an immediate intervention, we, Miguel Ochoa and Samuel Osorio, welcome you to the committee of the International Police Organization.

We expect you to have the best preparation and attitude inside and outside of the debate, and to understand the importance of our actions. What we will debate is something that has many approaches, and it is vital for the world in order to grant security to the environment and the world. Our job is to stop these problems that are challenging the stability, threatening the security of hundreds, and which have unaccountable secondary effects.

Lastly, we would like to welcome you to the Model United Nations of the Colombo Británico School CCBMUN XII. We wish you the best of luck. Do not hesitate to contact us for any inquiries or doubts.

Sincerely,

Miguel Ochoa Ramirez.

3148594394

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## 2. Introduction to the Committee

### 2.1. *Historical Background.*

The International Criminal Police Organization, created in 1914 when police and lawyers from 24 countries first got together in Monaco at the first International Criminal Police Congress (14 to 18 April 1914), to discuss identification techniques and catching fugitives. For more than 100 years, police across the globe have been cooperating to prevent and fight crime.

After the First World War, the idea of an international police body was revived by Johannes Schober, President of the Vienna Police. The International Criminal Police Commission was established in September 1923, with headquarters in Vienna.

The 4th General Assembly in Amsterdam adopted a Resolution that each member country should establish a central point of contact within its police structure; this was the forerunner of today's National Central Bureau. These specialized departments were established to deal with criminal records, currency counterfeiting and passport forgery. In 1932, new statutes were established creating the role of Secretary General. The first Secretary General was Austrian Police Commissioner Oskar Dressler.

Belgium led the rebuilding of the Organization after the Second World War with a democratic process to elect the Executive Committee. The Headquarters moved to Paris, France. In 1947, the system of color-coded notices was created, and it expanded over the years to cover other alerts. Nowadays, the Red Notice for wanted persons remains a key tool for international security.

While some of the basic crimes remain unchanged over the years (Eg. murder, robbery) other crimes have followed technological, economic and sociological developments in our world (such as cybercrime and people smuggling).

Additionally, the very first initiatives to discuss extradition procedures, identification techniques and record keeping are still at the heart of the role of the international police up until today. Locating fugitives remains a core activity, biometrics have replaced paper fingerprints, and databases contain millions of global records of criminal data.

The committee began as the International Criminal Police Commission, created in 1923, and became the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL in 1956.

## **2.2. *Functions and Powers.***

Interpol has a broad area of intervention helping countries to fight the following crimes:

- Corruption
- Counterfeit Currency And Documents
- Crimes Against Children
- Cultural Heritage Crime
- Cybercrime
- Drug Trafficking
- Environmental Crime
- Financial Crime
- Firearms Trafficking
- Human Trafficking
- Illicit Goods
- Maritime Crime
- Organized Crime
- People Smuggling
- Terrorism
- Vehicle Crime
- War Crimes

The Interpol works to achieve Seven Global Policing Goals as security challenges increasingly threaten sustainable development. These Goals were created to address a range of issues related to crime and security. The Interpol Global Policing goals are expected to be achieved by 2030 jointly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, due to its capabilities and the power it holds as well as being the oldest international law enforcement police organization in the world. The Seven Interpol Global Policing goals consist on:

- Counter the threat of terrorism
- Promote border integrity worldwide
- Protect vulnerable communities
- Secure cyberspace for people and businesses

- Promote global integrity
- Curb illicit markets
- Support environmental security and sustainability

The International Criminal Police Organization does not work like common law-enforcement agencies and state forces. The International Criminal Police Organization works as an administrator and source to member countries giving database assistance. INTERPOL's analysis systems are a tool to fight international crimes. The Interpol works under each member's existing laws, and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"- as stated in its constitution. Therefore, under the Interpol's Constitution article 3 declares that "it is strictly forbidden to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character." (ICPO-INTERPOL, 1956, p. 3) Therefore the Interpol must remain politically neutral.

The databases of the Interpol are a network that offers to member countries information about all the areas of intervention of the organization's working 24/7/365. These databases hold information about organized crime networks, firearms trafficking, stolen property (art, vehicles, vessels), travel and official documents (counterfeit and documents), forensics, and individuals. The main database and the most important in the organization is The Notices system.

The Notices work under the colored notice system of the Interpol, that are alerts of fugitives, allowing members to share crime-related information. In most cases the notices are private, but in some cases they are published to request help from the public. The color notifications are:



Red Notice:

To seek the location and arrest of a person wanted by a legal jurisdiction or an international tribunal seeking his/her extradition.



#### Yellow Notice:

To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.



#### Blue Notice:

To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.



#### Black Notice:

To seek information on unidentified bodies.



#### Green Notice:

To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.



#### Orange Notice:

To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.



#### Purple Notice:

To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.



#### INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice:

Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees. (INTERPOL, 2022)

## 2.3. *Regulatory Documents.*

### 2.3.1. *The Constitution*

Adopted in 1956, the Constitution is INTERPOL's main legal instrument. It establishes the fundamental rules and principles by which the organization operates. It defines the structure and roles of each INTERPOL body together with its mandate, which is:

To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”;

To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes. (ICPO-INTERPOL, 1956, p. 3)

Four main principles established by the Constitution govern INTERPOL’s action in the execution of its mandate: National sovereignty; Respect for Human Rights; Neutrality; and Constant and active cooperation.

### 2.3.2. *The General Regulations:*

### 2.3.3. *The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and Executive Committee:*

These documents lay out in detail the rules that govern the sessions of the General Assembly and Executive Committee.

### 2.3.4. *Financial Regulations:*

The Financial Regulations define how the budget is drafted and implemented, and how the assets and funds are managed.

### 2.3.5. *The Statute of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files:*

It is an independent, impartial body, officially responsible for ensuring the processing of personal data by the General Secretariat.

While the CCF’s functions are defined by INTERPOL’s Constitution, the Statute of the CCF defines its competence, powers, structure, functioning and procedures.

## 2.4. *References*

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<https://www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL#:~:text=This%20experience%20supports%20national%20efforts,different%20activities%20alongside%20member%20countries>

*Legal documents.* (2022). Interpol.int.

<https://www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/Legal-framework/Legal-documents>

### **3. Topic A: Piracy and Maritime Crimes in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean**

#### **3.1. Introduction to the Topic:**

According to the legal information institute of the US, piracy is defined as: “The crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, or similar violent and destructive activities on the high seas. The trial and punishment of such pirates may be under international law, or under the laws of the particular nation where the pirate has been captured.”(Legal Information Institute, 2020) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Article 101 defines piracy as: “any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew of the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft. . . on the high seas against another ship or aircraft and any act of voluntary participation”(UNCLOS,27/09/01)

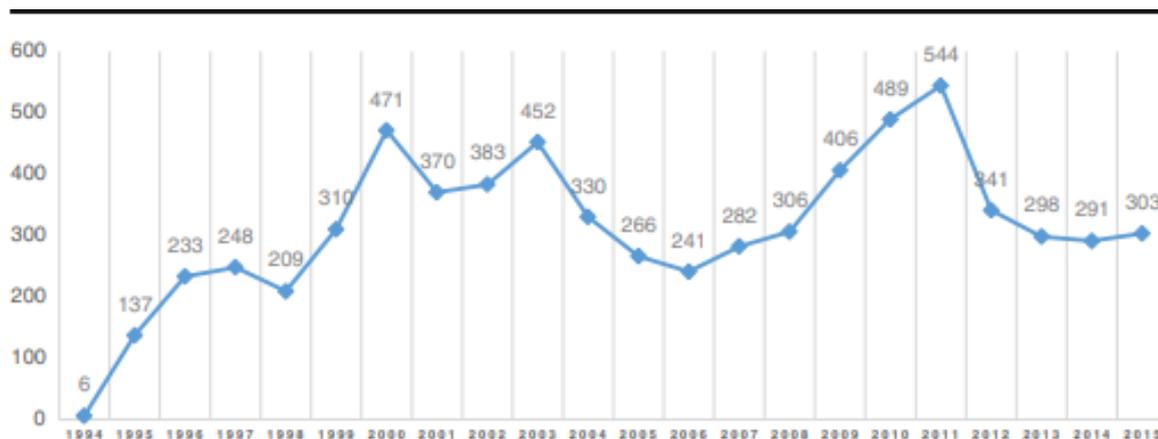
Maritime piracy affects major shipping lanes and endangers the lives of seafarers from all over the world. As the most cost-effective way to move goods and materials, maritime shipping represents 90% of the world's goods transportation. Maritime crimes affect the freedom of navigation and world trade, and pose a threat to international security and individual safety.

Criminal activity perpetrated at sea is often directed at vessels or maritime structures, but it also includes the transportation of illicit substances or trafficking in persons by organized transnational criminal networks. In its violent forms, it is a constant menace to the security of navigation and to the physical integrity and life of seamen.

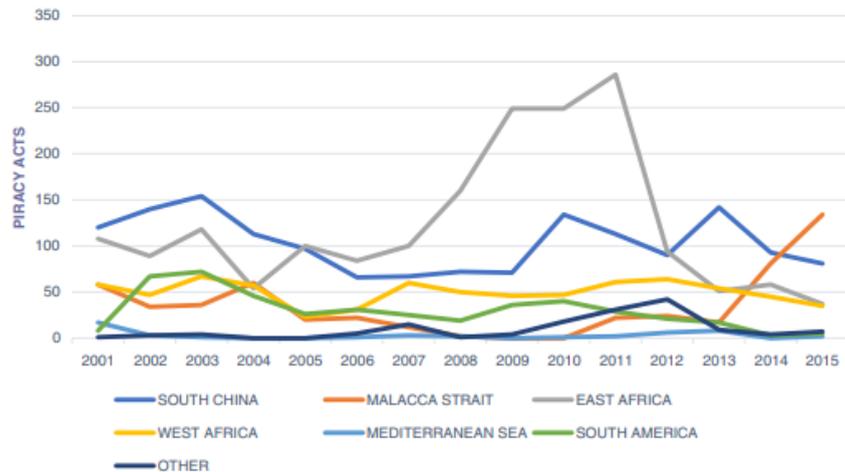
In West and Central Africa, and particularly in the Gulf of Guinea and Arden (home to some of the biggest offshore oil fields in the world), maritime crime involves the hijacking of petrochemical tankers, and attacks on other oil and petroleum storage and transportation platforms. The number of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Guinea increases each year. Assessments and fact-finding missions conducted by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the region determined that no State bordering the Gulf of Guinea or Arden possesses the necessary combination of jurisdictional provisions, offense-creating legislation, and judicial capacity needed to undertake prosecutions against piracy.

Incidents of armed robbery against ships take place closer to shore and at anchorages worldwide. Such incidents can turn violent and result in injury and trauma to crew members. Current statistics show that the primary hotspots for maritime piracy are occurring in the waters off the Horn of Africa, Southeast Asia, South America, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Guinea.

According to the World Bank, ransoms paid to Somali pirates in the period 2005–2012 were US \$ 339–413 million. The financial gain remains the main motivation of the Somali pirates fleeing extreme poverty, unemployment and despair. In a report submitted to the UN Secretary-General by his special adviser, Jack Lang, it is stated that "the assessment of the threat reveals a serious situation" (Security Council 2010). The seriousness of the situation addressed in this report has clearly demonstrated the importance of the destabilizing impact of piracy on Somalia, the countries of the region, and on international maritime trade as well.



**Fig. 1** Evolution of acts of sea piracy in the world (1994–2015). The above graph has been compiled from data contained in monthly and annual reports on piracy and armed robbery against ships issued by the IMO



**Fig. 2** Evolution of piracy by regions in the world (2001–2015). Chart created from the data contained in the monthly and annual report of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships published by the IMO

### 3.2. *Historical Background:*

Piracy is an activity that has been present throughout human history. Since the beginning of maritime commerce, the act of stealing goods has been a crucial activity in international relations, and it has affected the security in most seas. There has been recorded data that in ancient Greece, and through the mediterranean sea, there were attacks on cargo ships with the purpose of either stealing goods or kidnapping the sailors. Even though globalization has made a huge impact in reducing the attacks since the last centuries, there are zones and routes that due to the high amount of commerce and instability are targets to these types of crimes.

#### 3.2.1. *Political, social and environmental instability in Somalia*

The restart of the illegal maritime activity in Somalia, and the fact that this large territory of the Horn of Africa has been devastated by the civil war since 1991, following the fall of the president, has led to substantial political instability and the disappearance of the State in large parts of the territory. Repeated attempts by the international community to restore a stable government have not been successful. Successive to that, aggravating circumstances for Somalis living largely on agriculture and livestock may include the 1991–1992 severe drought, which deprived the population of food. These various crises, with polymorphic social consequences, are the ideal breeding ground for the development of piracy. In the midst of the country’s anarchy since 1991, it appears to be a lucrative activity and, for some, a privileged (safe and profitable) way to improve their lives.

Thanks to the acceleration of economic globalization, international maritime transport increased. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the volume of maritime transportation between 1996 and 2015 increased from 2.6 billion tons to 10 billion tons, making over 80% of the world trade by sea. In this same period of time there were 6,916 acts of piracy. The increase of sea traffic favored the rising of piracy in the region, and with the lack of government response, the high power illegal militia hold on the region, people started resorting to piracy as a way of wealth redistribution and source of income for living.

### **3.3. Current Situation**

#### **3.3.1. Gulf of Arden:**

With the longest coastline in the African continent, and a position adjacent to some of the world's busiest shipping routes, Somalia's maritime space is set to be a strong drive in the country's social and economic development. The Government of Somalia (FGS) is concerned over the lack of capacity to manage the maritime space effectively, whose vulnerability has been highlighted by piracy. Today, piracy is still seen by many as a dormant threat rather than a fully repressed one. While the presence of international navies off the Horn of Africa has greatly contributed to repressing it, it has had little impact on other aspects of maritime security. Somalia continues to have a reputation as the launching point for terrorism, piracy, people trafficking and smuggling operations, which obstructs efforts to commercialize Somali marine resources and hinder effective stabilization.

When the attacks began in the 90's, they have been studied according to three factors: An unstable political environment, a social environment marked by chaos and desolation and an ecological environment degraded by overexploitation of maritime resources. According to data from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Maritime Bureau (IBM), there have been international studies in the socio-ethnic matters emphasizing in the cost of piracy and the regional factors that lead to the high rate of piracy in the Indian Ocean.

According to investigations done by Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP), organization that researches and reports on piracy activities around the world, a holding of a ship can last from 6 to 12 months on average, implying the negotiations between the pirates and interlocutors, as

they take advantage of the existent power void and the geographical location of the coastlines and villages. Regarding the investigations, information was gathered by officials of the INTERPOL about networks of piracy in villages in the Somali coast, from where there are coordinated attacks made by people living on these areas, who are responsible for the planning and execution of attacks.



Fig. 3 Somali pirates villages Source: Compilation based on the UN cartographic data

### 3.3.2. Strait of Malacca and Indian Sea:

Stretching from the westernmost corner of Malaysia, to the tip of Indonesia’s Bintan Island, the Malacca and Singapore straits serve as global shipping superhighways. Each year, more than 120,000 ships traverse these waterways, accounting for a third of the world’s marine commerce. Between 70% and 80% of all the oil imported by China and Japan transits the straits.

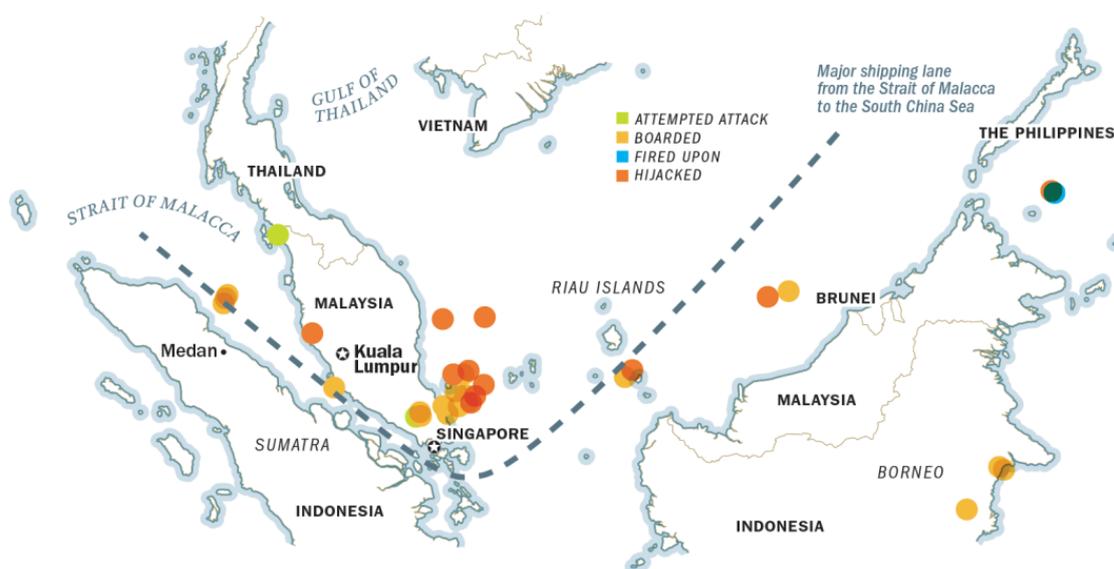
Southeast Asia was the location of 41% of the world’s pirate attacks between 1995 and 2013. The West Indian Ocean, which includes Somalia, accounted for just 28%, and the West



African coast only 18%. During those years, 136 seafarers were killed in Southeast Asian waters as a result of piracy — that's twice the number in the Horn of Africa.

According to a 2010 study by the One Earth Future Foundation, piracy drains between \$7 to \$12 billion dollars from the international economy each year. The Asian share of that represents buccaneering on a lavish scale, and it is becoming more ambitious. In recent months, well-armed and organized criminal groups have focused their efforts on the oil tankers that exit the narrow Malacca and Singapore straits and venture into the South China Sea. Here, the territory is vast, law enforcement's resources are stretched, and the potential profits are immense.

While the majority of attacks are opportunistic — 80% of total incidents worldwide occur against anchored ships, with thieves looting equipment, crew members' belongings and any cash found aboard, the attacks this spring have featured large-scale, sophisticated strikes on vessels at sea. This requires military coordination and meticulous planning.



(Figure 4: traffic and piracy attacks attempt in the malacca strait)

It is relevant to emphasize that the attacks are usually perpetuated in the exclusive economic zones of the countries following the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). For that reason, the direct intervention of the external armies implies a logistical challenge regarding politics, therefore, the deployment of troops must be done

along the National Central Bureaus (NCB's) of the affected countries taking into account the laws that affect these important areas of high traffic.

### 3.4. *Previous Strategies on the Matter*

A multiform response has been gradually put in place to eradicate maritime piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. It began to take shape in 2007 at the scenes of the United Nations, precisely in the Security Council, which adopted consecutively several resolutions. To combat maritime piracy in Somalia, the Security Council of the United Nations adopted 15 resolutions between 2008 and 2015. Consequently, there is a significant gap between the proven beginnings of Somali piracy around 1994 and the United Nations response, more than thirteen years later.

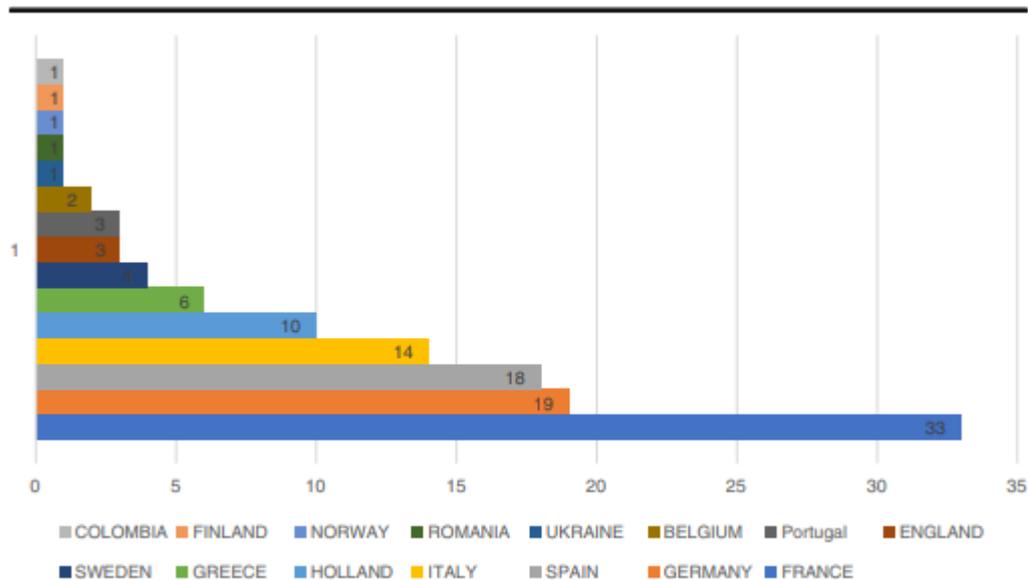
- The first resolution (1814), adopted on 15 May 2008, calls on Member States to protect ships carrying humanitarian aid to Somalia. According to this resolution: "The United Nations Security Council reiterates its support for the contribution made by some States to protect the World Food Program maritime convoys, calls upon States and regional organizations, in close coordination with each other and as notified in advance to the Secretary-General, and at the request of the TFG, to take action to protect shipping involved with the transportation and delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia and United Nations-authorized activities"<sup>1</sup>. This Resolution only focuses on the protection of the humanitarian aid, therefore it includes that no direct action can be taken to avoid and prevent the attack of these groups or establish a zone of action to combat the situation by the military of the countries, lacking the needed enforcement of the law that the national Somali police can't make.
- The second resolution (1816), adopted on June 2nd 2008, authorizes foreign naval forces to enter for a period of six months to Somali territorial waters to damp down on acts of piracy from the date of its adoption, and in agreement with the Somali authorities. The military action that follows is described as one of the most important to eradicate piracy in the world.

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<sup>1</sup> Hamza, F. R. (2018, 9 abril). Maritime trade and piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean (1994–2017). SpringerLink.  
[https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12198-018-0190-4?error=cookies\\_not\\_supported&code=4238ead0-19cd-4b0e-afec-f9ed7712ef86](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12198-018-0190-4?error=cookies_not_supported&code=4238ead0-19cd-4b0e-afec-f9ed7712ef86)

The first Operation conducted was *Atalanta*, made by the European Union, launched in November 2008, was the first maritime operation organized by the European Security and Defense Policy (CSDP).

The latter operation allows the European Union to have an operational capability using military and civilian means for conflict prevention and international crisis management. The European Union is the first organization to react militarily, as piracy hovers over 95% of its foreign trade with Asia and the Middle East, and about 30% of its energy supply. In 2008 EU members adopted a resolution at the council, and they responded to the problem of maritime piracy through a comprehensive approach to Somalia called European Union Naval Force Somalia-Operation *Atalanta*.



**Fig. 8** Contributing countries to operation Atalanta in number of vessels (2008–2017) **Source:** Compilation based on data from operation Atalanta (EU NAVFOR)

- The second international action is a NATO mission with *Operation Ocean Shield*, which begins on 17 August 2009, replacing the previous operation (*Allied Protector*). The third joint mission was Operation Combined Task Force 151 (*CTF-151*) led by the United States of America starting in January 2009. In addition to these coalition-led missions, there are a number of unilateral missions led by China, India, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Iran, Japan, and many others.
- Other strategies have been done to reduce the attacks in the region, such as the establishment of a safezone corridor ( The International Recommended Transit

Corridor), far from the coastline in conjunction with the Horn of Africa Marine Security Center that safeguards this zone.



**Fig. 10** Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor Map **Source:** Compilation based on data from the circular SN.1/Circ.281 of IMO

- It has been taken into consideration to involve the private sector in the security of the vessels by providing privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP). These are services offered by private security companies in return for remuneration. The services of men-at-arms on ships are used to protect the ship against possible threats, have been authorized by parliaments in some countries.

Regardless of all the investments made and the direct actions of the governments, there has been a decrease in the piracy in the zone. However, piracy hasn't been eradicated, mainly because the problem has only been treated in small zones and international waters 200 miles from the shore, and the national police and INTERPOL haven't intervened on land where the root of the problem can be found. The criminal organizations still work freely on land, and their main leaders still make plans and recruit people for the hijacking of ships and selling on the black market. As the Interpol works freely through the world without most of the limitations of political affairs, the committee has to decide what should be done to completely eradicate the problem, not only in Somalia, but also in other areas.

### 3.5. *Recommendations from the chair*

The chair recommends that through the directives and collective work you are able to act directly into the source of the problem on piracy analyzing the roots and instability of the regions over how to solve or decrease further the attacks, creating security and stability overseas by creating a response action plan in order to be more effective at the response time of the teams, promoting the cooperation among nations. Analyzing the previous attacks acts among new ones.

### 3.6. *Guiding questions*

1. Regarding the direct intervention of the INTERPOL, should the security operations in Somalia be approached only in the maritime aspect, or should the organizations be intervened directly (according to your delegation)?
2. To what extent has your country contributed to the resolutions and UN measures, in the resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly?
3. How can the NCB of Somalia increase its capacity and cooperation in national and international waters, despite the lack of resources and political instability?
4. Has your country intervened militarily or given supplies to the intervention of NATO and the EU?
5. What are the social and political implications of the intervention of the INTERPOL in Somali territory?
6. What strategies can be applied in zones where there is little knowledge of operations such as the Malacca Strait in order to guarantee security at relevant commercial zones?

### 3.7. *Support links*

Importance of the Strait of Malacca to world trade.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDIRWyPoONc&ab\\_channel=MilitaryTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDIRWyPoONc&ab_channel=MilitaryTV)

Piracy in the Malacca Strait.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgGn1wCOFbg&ab\\_channel=CrimsonCompassInternationalLimited](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgGn1wCOFbg&ab_channel=CrimsonCompassInternationalLimited)

Piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKyQtsn\\_Heo&ab\\_channel=MilitaryTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKyQtsn_Heo&ab_channel=MilitaryTV)

Legal approach in the fight against pirates in ships.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_IFHE-NPkk&ab\\_channel=Niel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_IFHE-NPkk&ab_channel=Niel)

UNCLOS.

[https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos\\_e.pdf](https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf)

### 3.8. *Glossary*

1. Piracy: The act of attacking ships in order to steal from them.
2. Maritime security: Umbrella term used to classify issues in the maritime domain that are often related to national security, marine environment, economic development, and human security.
3. International sea trade: Act of buying or selling goods between two or more countries through international waters.
4. Gulf of Aden: deepwater basin that forms a natural sea link between the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.
5. Protection costs: All legal fees, costs and expenses reasonably incurred by Licensor in the performance of the Protection Activities.
6. Malacca Strait: narrow stretch of water, (930 km in length), between the Malay Peninsula (Peninsular Malaysia) and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.
7. EEZ's: According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea. Exclusive Economic Zones are areas situated in a 200 nautical mile limit from the territorial sea, in which countries are the only available to exploit natural resources.

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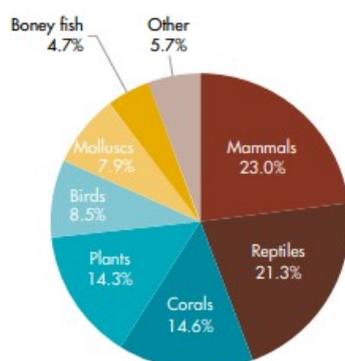
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/GARS.html>

#### 4. **Topic B: Mechanisms to Address Trafficking of Wildlife and Animal Derivatives in the South of Africa**

##### 4.1. *Introduction to the Topic:*

The inconsiderate exploitation of nature by humankind has led to unprecedented biodiversity loss. Wildlife trafficking, including their derivatives, is a market that is thriving with high demand and high prices. Wildlife crimes go beyond border-lines and can be found in more than 120 countries around the world, endangering approximately 6,000 species of fauna and flora. This phenomenon happens understanding that wildlife crime “refers to the taking, trading (supplying, selling or trafficking), importing, exporting, processing, possessing, obtaining and consumption of wild fauna and flora, including timber and other forest products, in contravention of national or international law.” (Wildlife Crime | CITES, 2015)

Animal trafficking worldwide is estimated to be worth between \$5-23 billion USD annually. Wildlife trafficking affects not only the ecosystems by endangering animal welfare and risking having implications that could lead species to extinction, but also has a huge environmental impact because the alterations to fragile ecosystems could be harmful to the entire trophic chain and could harm people. Wildlife trafficking is closely associated with corruption – due to institutional flaws that allow this market to thrive. Money laundering and national insecurity also contribute because of the power these kinds of organizations gain. Zoonotic diseases that belong to species, due to precarious sanitary conditions of their captivity, contribute to the increase.



Source: UNODC World WISE Database

Wildlife markets around the world do not categorize one specific biological category. This is because the use intended for the species is broad, from anonymous collectors to designer brands that profit from animal fur and other body parts to use for clothing. Although there has been increased

awareness and exposition of this issue around the world, there are important actions to take that have a positive impact to help solving the problem. Some of this happens because people might not consider wildlife trafficking as an organized crime, yet any organization with a structured group that aims at committing any crime whatsoever is considered so, and wildlife trafficking fulfills this criteria. That is why illicit traffic organizations strategize the way of working to adapt to specific national laws, looking for loopholes and working unseen to get the shipments to the immense number of buyers.

Criminals easily shift from the different protected species that vary around the same price and rareness. Substitution is causing huge environmental consequences because removing specimens from the chain alters the ecosystem. Like many markets around the world, wildlife and derivatives trade is moving to the world wide web. This involves advanced networking and huge developed operations that are inconsistent with regulatory frameworks, and which are hidden from the authorities. Therefore, there is limited enforcement capacity because of illegal networks such as the deep web. Furthermore, the impact on the number of species on the wild is starting to be noticeable by the illicit crime groups as a result of the inconsiderate speed of hunting and the slow process in which the ecosystem restores itself. Because of this, captive reproduction has increased specially with endangered species to exploit them, and make some profit. Some countries do not ban or restrict captive breeding for commercial purposes, as long as it follows the mild national regulations. Therefore, criminals use licensed breeding facilities to supply the trade of the animals.

## **4.2. Historical Background**

### *4.2.1. History of Poaching<sup>2</sup>:*

Poaching has been illegal for hundreds of years, but it was during the Late Middle Ages that poaching became a punishable offense. During this time, the right to hunt was limited to landowners and nobility. Peasants usually did not have weapons, skills or the extra time to hunt, so in order to provide food for their families they devised another way to bring meat to their tables, including snares.

While hunting was reserved for the privileged, it was illegal to buy and sell wild animals. It remained illegal to engage in this activity until the mid-1800s. Gangs of poachers formed

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<sup>2</sup> The catching and killing of animals without permission on someone else's land

outlaw bands, and sold animals through the black market. Buyers of black-market food even included wealthy people, who could or not chose to hunt on their own for need or just for amusement.

As rural poverty was prevalent in the 1700s, many people turned to poaching just to survive. Commoners protected poachers as an act of rebellion, because food was so scarce. Nonetheless, poaching gangs did provide food to the poor, they were violent, often greedy, and poaching was made aiming the black market more than hungry peasants that needed the food.

Poaching is now usually done for sport or commercial profit, both in legal and black markets. Poaching can be a serious threat to many wild species, particularly those protected in wildlife preserves or national parks. Many animal species have been limited in range or depleted in numbers, sometimes to the point of extinction, by the abuse of market hunters and unregulated sportsmen.

In Africa, the difficulty of enforcing game codes has led to the critical depletion of the rhinoceros, which is hunted for its horn, and of the African elephant, which is slaughtered for ivory. The Bengal tiger of India and the gorilla of central Africa have similarly been threatened with extinction by hunters operating illegally. Asian and African pangolins are heavily poached for their meat and for their organs, skin, scales, and other parts of the body that are valued for their use in traditional medicine; as a result, populations of all eight species have fallen dramatically during the early 21st century, and they are listed as endangered or critically endangered species. Many species of parrots are in danger because of the pet trade, like the many tropical fish collected illegally for aquaria. River poaching has been a problem in some countries, causing the depletion of stocks of fish in many areas.

Those hunting for food present a threat to animal populations, but not on the same level as those who do so for international markets. In the 1970s and 1980s, poaching in Africa reached crisis levels. The continent's elephant and rhinoceros populations in particular faced potential extinction at that time.

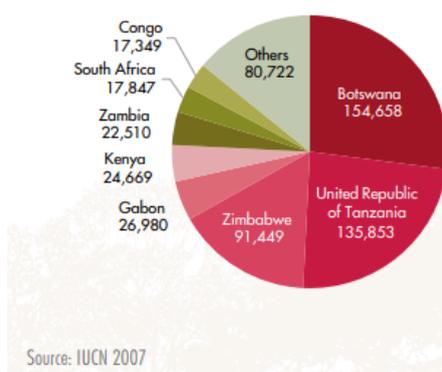
### 4.3. Current Situation

Criminal networks operating in Africa's tropical rainforest and savannas pose a huge threat. Criminals involved in trafficking seek for operational environments that are connected with the interest of the market, and have minimal law enforcement risk. The problem hides under absence of rule, low human development and armed conflict making the region highly vulnerable to trafficking networks. Numerous groups of species suffer the consequences of poaching and trafficking, they are categorized in the following groups:

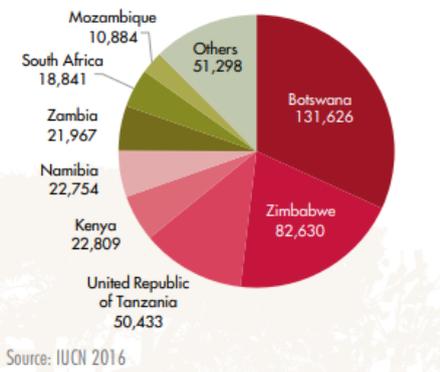
#### 4.3.1. Elephant Tusk and Rhino Horns

The extraction of these products is mainly directed for traditional markets that intend to use the products to make art, décor, and jewelry. Due to the amount of propaganda and media coverage the issue has received, the governments of African countries have started working on protection and seeking for the elimination of this practice. As a consequence creating more competence and increasing the value, after all people intend to get things that are scarce, exotic and illegal. This reasoning has led to exponential loss of the species, according to the African Elephant Specialist Group reports the “Great elephant census” from 2006 and from 2015. The report shows that the species has lost on average 10,000 elephants per year. While all the fatalities were of course not because of poaching, it has a significant percentage on the value. On average every year 100 metric tons of ivory are collected illegally and commercialized. Countries that have suffered the most from elephant poaching are South Africa, Kenya, Botswana and principally Tanzania that suffered the loss of over 50,000 elephants over the decade. Overall 157,000 are estimated to have been poached.

**Fig. 1** : Estimated number of elephants residing in African countries in 2006 (556,973 elephants)<sup>10</sup>

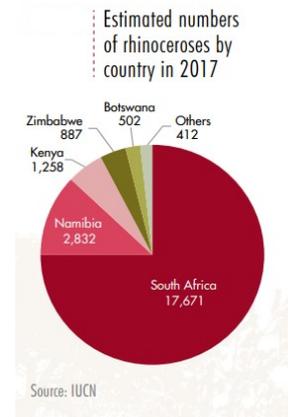


**Fig. 2** : Estimated number of elephants residing in African countries in 2015 (413,242 elephants)<sup>11</sup>



Regarding rhino horns the situation is even worse. Rhinoceros population is way more scarce, for every 20 elephants there is only 1 rhino (about 25,000), and the geographical zone

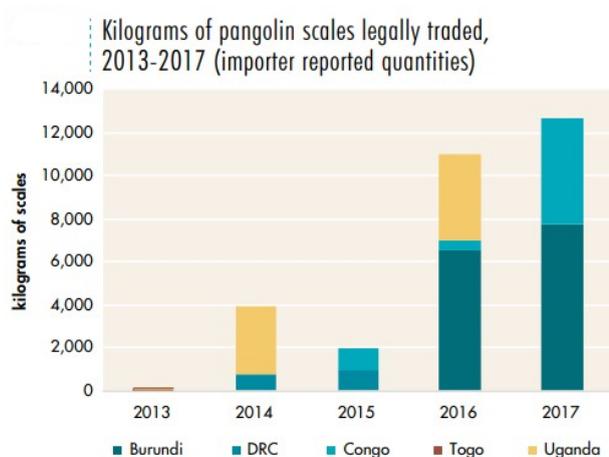
where they can be found is not as broad as it is for elephants. About 75% of the population of rhinoceros can be found in South Africa. South Africa is leading programs on repopulation and conservation that have helped reduce the price of rhinos in two-thirds between 2007 and 2018. Rhino ranchers have been working to recuperate the number of specimens of rhinos in captivity, which creates protection and 24-hour surveillance, helping reduce unnecessary deaths. However at the end the difficulty of getting the hold of a rhino horn makes it more valuable for collectors and more interesting a catch to criminal groups.



Trafficking records can be detected, considering the accuracy of this is not certain because the flow of the tracking activities is hard to track. The only piece of information that is clear is the destination of the shipments. A high majority of this goes to South-East Asia 20% Vietnam 34%, and about 27% to China. This is closely related to the lack of restrictions and regulations. According to the UNODC, only 2% of the world's shipments are checked by authorities, leaving the way open to arrive at the destination without much to worry about. In the case of rhinos, their horns are easily portable, being carried most of the time on carry-on luggage.

#### 4.3.2. Pangolin Scales

Pangolins are nocturnal creatures, and the only mammal that is covered in scales. Scientists still have limited knowledge of their ecology, yet they are one of the most trafficked animals in the world. There are eight species of them, and four of them are



Source: CITES Trade Database

located in Africa. They are killed for their meat and their scales, which have medicinal use.

This market flourished under cover for years and has recently come to light. Even the trade of African pangolin was rare until around 2014. There has also been a sudden variation on the flow of trade routes to Africa. The cause of the change is yet unknown; however, as the continent

is now the center of operations, authorities have started focusing more on it.

The magnitude of poaching has risen incredibly, showing that this market is unsustainable. There is also no possibility that illegal armed groups use captive breeding because of the highly specialized diet pangolins have, and the extreme capture-induced stress. Also, there is a high infant mortality rate on captured specimens. Shipments are done by sea and land. Because of the use that their meat receives, there have been reports of frozen meat shipment directed to Asia. Ivory trafficking is highly related with pangolin scales. Shipments of them together have been found. Thus, the main problem is that there is no fear of enforcement so the actions are not playing a role in decision making. About 71% of the seizures of pangolin scales were destined to China, and the other majority to Asian countries like Vietnam.

#### 4.3.3. *Living Reptiles*

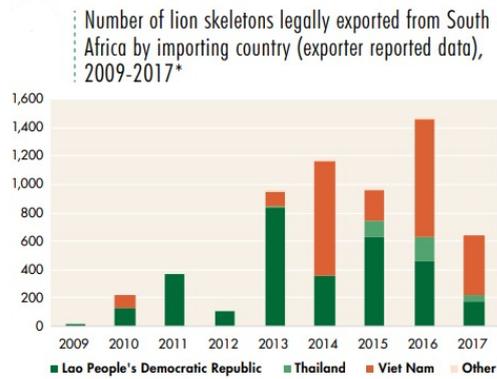
The issue with reptiles in previous years used to be mainly fashion brands and designers that needed the skin for things like handbags, shoes and wallets. The smuggling of living reptiles results in high mortality. Therefore, smugglers have also started using the meat for commercial purposes. Because of the numerous places where reptiles can be found, the trafficking network is broad, including South Asia, Central Asia, South-East Asia, East, West and South Africa as well as the majority of Latin American countries .

The wide range of seizures done have made it hard to generalize the means of collection. Based on investigations from UNODC fieldwork, the most used technique is capture by hand or using traps, and even specialized hunting dogs. Now it is common to remove the animals from their home habitat and turn them into domestic animals. Due to the demand for young reptiles to be made pets, the hunters have resulted in making farms, removing the females from their habitat and raising the eggs.

The way the species are taken to their final destination leads to suffocation, dehydration and starvation, because 56% of the trade happens by air. The method of acquiring a reptile has become easier with tools like Facebook and WhatsApps groups that specialize in animal trafficking. That way the buyer pre-arranges the meeting and price, making it too unnoticeable to law enforcement.

#### 4.3.4. Big Felines

Sport hunting has become one of the biggest problems for African felines. This has left lions and cheetahs close to extinction. The problem is that the sole purpose of the lions being hunted for is to gain their dead body as a trophy. There are more than 300 facilities that breed and keep an estimated 12,000 felines that now have three times more than the country's



Source: CITES Trade Database.

\* The drop in exports in 2017 is linked to the South African government setting a quota of 800 skeletons, but questions remain as to the exact volume of bones exported.

population living in the wild. One of the purposes of those facilities is tourism, using small cubs for entertainment. They work removing female felines from their habitats and breeding them. What happens with this practice is that, because the felines are on top of the trophic chain, they are biological regulators; they are keeping the carrying capacity of the ecosystem balanced. Yet, when the females are removed there is reduced

reproduction, leaving less predators in charge of the balance. The species down the chain will increase the number of animals because of the lack of predators, so the ecosystem will not be prepared for that overpopulation, and the consequences can be extremely damaging. They may include famine, environmental destruction, and general scarce resources.

Once the cubs are grown up there cannot be entertainment for tourists and the cubs, so they become hunting targets. Male lions with attractive manes are the most prized trophies. The lions are released in an enclosure. That practice is known as “canned hunting” so the animals cannot escape. This practice is condemned by conservationists and animal welfare organizations, however, it remains popular in some places. After the hunt is completed, the skin is removed to keep it as a souvenir. The remaining bones are used for traditional medicinal purposes, or they might be carved into jewelry.

Apart from the intensive hunting and the removal of their ecosystem, the conditions on which felines are kept are precarious. Facilities are not regulated, and they live in inappropriate conditions like small enclosures, having poor nutrition, lack of medical care, and facing the risk of zoonotic diseases, which are dangerous both for humans and the felines.

#### 4.3.5. Traffic Chains and Illicit Financial Flows

In the early 2000s, Asian demand for ivory began to rise steeply, and poaching in Africa rose again to crisis levels. The Congo Conflict<sup>3</sup> also created a perfect environment for poachers, and elephants and rhinoceroses began to be killed at dangerous levels once more.

Even more worryingly, militant extremist groups like Al-Shabaab began poaching to fund their terrorism. In 2013, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature estimated that 20,000 elephants were being killed annually. That number exceeds birth rates, which means that if poaching does not decline soon, elephants could be driven to extinction in the foreseeable future. The problem with traffickers is that they always find a way to cheat the



system. Due to the lack of revision of shipments, criminal groups have started using logs to transport the derivatives such as tusk, rhino horns and pangolin scales. They use wax to prevent dogs from catching the scent and protect the merchandise.

Value chains are well developed and have detailed structures. Those structures consist and some special roles:

- Poachers: Could be divided into two types: Local poachers that intend to sustain their poor communities, or highly organized groups that hunt massively and have gained access to things like weapons and tranquilizers.
- Runners/brokers: The next link in the chain. These are low level traffickers that live in the areas of poaching. Their goal is to get the products to the Dealers or to locals that use them for traditions.
- Dealers: They operate on a national level or urban areas. They are the step before international exporters.
- Exporters/Importers: They start actually making part of the organized crime group. They are the ones that take care of international trafficking with fake paperwork and packaging. Principally located in the main cities with airports to make the process easier.

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<sup>3</sup> It is an armed civil conflict that resulted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that has affected thousands of families and created a deteriorating humanitarian situation.

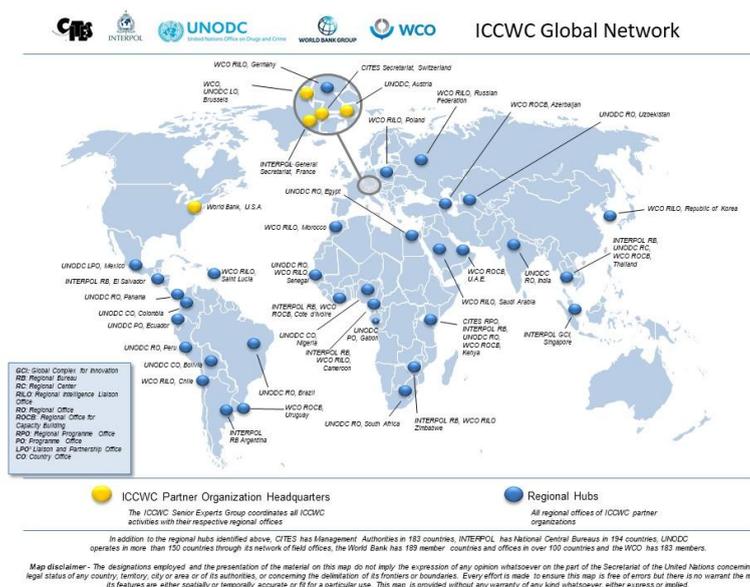
- Traders: They are the ones that receive the products in the destination. Once they get the hold of the products, they sell them to the consumer market.
- Retailers: Those in charge of refining products and selling them to consumers where the supply chain ends.

#### 4.4. Previous Strategies on the Matter

Although each country has started to work on the prevention of wildlife in its territory, and taking into account that animals do not respect borderlines and they live freely, actions have been hard to implement. International cooperation is needed to achieve the protection of the numerous species that are affected by poaching.

Organized wildlife crime groups have serious implications on biodiversity, national security, and human health. No country is untouched by this issue, yet efficient measures are lacking. In these past years countries have reunited to address the issue on multiple occasions, like the London Conference or the Conference of the Americas on the illegal wildlife trade. Many countries consider wildlife trade to be related to corruption and economic crimes.

The UNODC, working in cooperation with CITES<sup>4</sup>, Interpol, the World Bank and World Customs Organization, have all together come into signing the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). The ICCWC is working with wildlife law enforcement agencies to defend all types of natural resources.



<sup>4</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

There needs to be international cooperation on the matter to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals agenda for 2030, which has one specific aim: focus on “life on land”, specifically promoting urgent action on poaching and trafficking of species, as well as working with communities to protect species.

#### **4.5. Guiding Questions**

Although some actions have been taken, there is yet a strategic way to address and end wildlife crimes. This is why the chair expects agents to understand the immense consequences of these types of crimes, not only environmentally but also considering the well being of the nations affected and citizens. It is also recommended to research each National Central Bureau, the resources they have, and the strategies they have applied. The chair recommends to consider strategies that criminal organizations use, and to develop resourceful solutions that help tackle the problem. Here are some questions that are useful to better understand each delegation’s position on the topic:

1. In order to prevent poaching activities in Africa, does your delegation consider that the international police should make more strict border control and protect wildlife sanctuaries to avoid trafficking of illegal species?
2. Why are the current strategies on the matter not working?
3. Is your delegation having corruption issues or, is the territory that makes it easier for poachers to work than the police?
4. Has your country kept any important cultural tradition of using these animal derivatives? If so, how can your NCB decrease the dependence on this, avoiding the use of these products?
5. What interventions have been done to the black markets that sell animal derivatives in your country? What is the size of the market for these products?
6. What is the most endangered species in your country, due to illegal activities and poaching? Is your country a trading path of these animal derivatives?
7. What is the national police budget to fight against the trafficking of animals and their derivatives? What are the main actions taken by governmental organizations to promote security and prevent black markets?
8. Are there any special organizations in your delegation that look after the protection of natural reserves or wildlife?

#### 4.6. **Support Links**

Wildlife Out of Africa How West and Central Africa have become the epicenter of ivory and pangolin scale trafficking to Asia. (2020).

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#### 4.7. **Glossary**

1. CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Also sometimes used to describe the international legal order that flows from the Convention, or as shorthand for governance mechanisms or the Secretariat of the Convention.
2. Poaching: The catching and killing of animals without permission on someone else's land.
3. Zoonotic disease: Disease Transmitted from Animals to Humans.
4. Trophic chain: step in a nutritive series, or food chain, of an ecosystem. The organisms of a chain are classified into these levels on the basis of their feeding behavior.
5. World WISE: UNODC World Wildlife Seizure database.
6. Tusk: a long pointed tooth, especially one which protrudes from the closed mouth, as in the elephant, walrus, or wild boar.
7. Rhino rancher: Specialized centers for taking care of Rhinoceros, their objective is to protect and breed them to fight the poaching and repopulate the species.
8. Mane: long and heavy hair growing about the neck and head of some mammals.
9. Carrying capacity: Carrying capacity can be defined as a species' average population size in a particular habitat. The species population size is limited by environmental factors like adequate food, shelter, water, and mates. If these needs are not met, the population will decrease until the resource rebounds.

10. Biological regulators: The way the ecosystem functions and takes care of the maintaining of the balance, biological regulators can go from seasons that have drought and flooding, to factors like predators or diseases, even disasters.

#### 4.8. *References*

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<https://doi.org/10.1353/gia.2020.0023>

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## 5. List of Countries:

- I. Democratic Republic of Congo
- II. Dominion of Canada
- III. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- IV. Federal Republic of Germany
- V. Federal Republic of Somalia
- VI. Federative Republic of Brazil
- VII. French Republic
- VIII. Kingdom of Spain
- IX. People's Republic of China
- X. Republic of Botswana
- XI. Republic of India
- XII. Republic of Indonesia
- XIII. Republic of Kenya
- XIV. Republic of Mozambique
- XV. Republic of Singapore
- XVI. Republic of South Africa
- XVII. Republic of Zimbabwe
- XVIII. Russian Federation
- XIX. Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- XX. The Federation of Malaysia
- XXI. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- XXII. United Republic of Tanzania
- XXIII. United States of America

## 6. Commission Protocol

### 6.1 Notice System

The Notices work under the colored notice system of the Interpol that are alerts of fugitives allowing members to share crime-related information. Most cases the notices are private but some cases are published to request help from the people.<sup>5</sup>

These notices will be crucial to the development of the committee as they are helpful to give information to the central office (Chair) and to other NCBs regarding the use of resources and take action within national and international borders through cooperation.

### 6.2 Territorial integrity & Power

The Interpol assists the enforcement agencies of the 195 members. Being the largest international police organization in the world, it seeks to assist and help combat international crimes. The objective of this cooperation is to help fight 21st century crimes and provide resources that not all countries can access to, including targeted training, expert investigative support, specialized databases, and secure police communications channels.

Because of the cooperation needed between countries to help fight against crimes, the Interpol will allow interventions or response teams on foreign territories as long as the chair sees that the response mission is actually beneficial and does not harm the normal functioning of other delegations.

### 6.3 Directives

The Directives are the method that each delegate will use to give a proposal of the actions taken by the NCB's to act regarding a certain issue. Issues can vary based on the circumstances that is why Interpol has Incident Response Teams (IRT). The Interpol (2022) defines IRT as "a team of experts deployed at the request of a member country during a crisis situation". IRT varies depending on the occasion. In case of a disaster IRT can be used upon request to aid the catastrophic events such as natural disasters, also the help with disaster victim identification (DVI)<sup>6</sup>. The most important types of IRT's are the ones specialized on crimes. These deploy specialized personnel (2021) in countries with major or serious crime issues. IRT cooperates with investigation and strategic intervention using Interpol databases.

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<sup>5</sup> Find the official notices in section 2.1 Functions and powers

<sup>6</sup> A coordinated effort by the international community can significantly speed up the recovery and identification process, helping victims' families to begin the healing process and societies to rebuild.

Interpol (2022) states that “An INTERPOL Incident Response Team can be briefed, equipped and deployed anywhere in the world within 12 to 24 hours.” Each delegate can take national or international decisions to handle situations in which a series of actions can be done.

Considering the information above the following format will be required:

Country	date
National central bureau (Police Department of the Delegation)	
Name of the directive (Main action/reason)	
Description of the directive and action taken	
Place where the directive will take place.	
Resources needed	
Supporting Agents	

Example:

Paris France

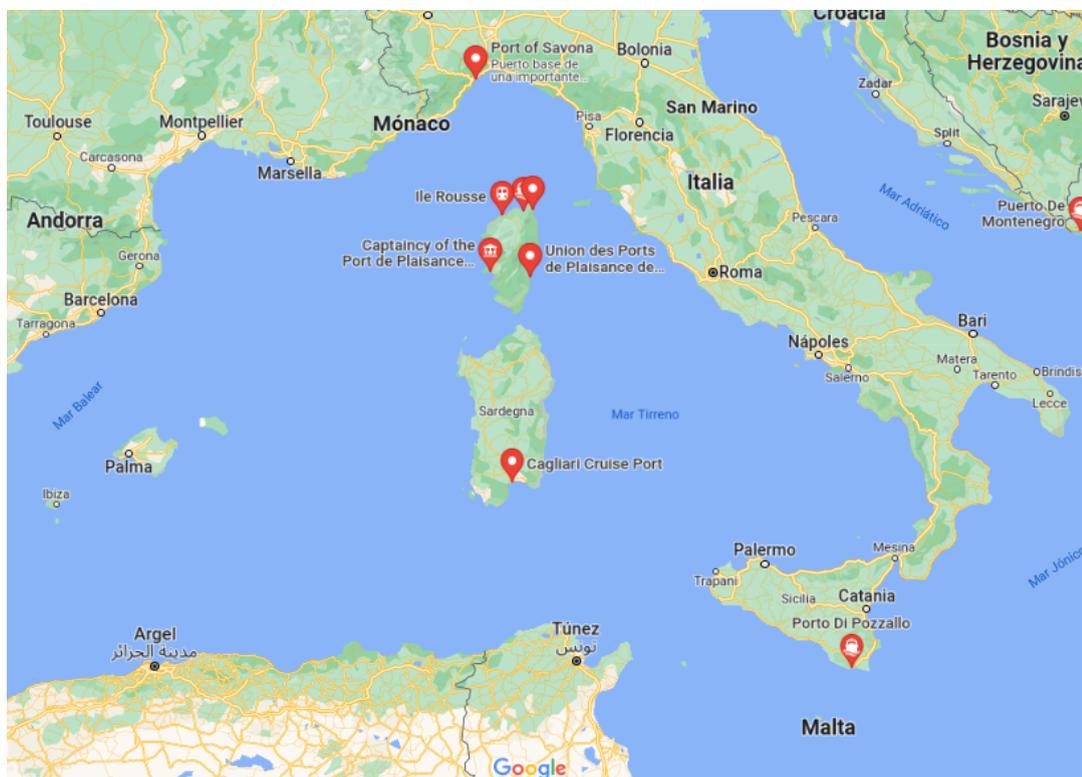
7/9/2022

France National Central Bureau INTERPOL

Deployment of anti-narcotic teams in the Mediterranean sea.

Due to the increase of drug traffic coming from Tunisia and Argelia through the island of Corsica to the south of the country, the central office will deploy an anti narcotic team along with the Italian and Argelia Central bureaus in the main ports of the countries, to validate the provisions in the main direct routes, as well as the use of ships to patrol the traffic and commerce through the Mediterranean.

Place where the directive will take place:



The IRT will be deployed in the ports of Porto Vecchio, the Captaincy of the port of plaisance and Port de commerce de Bastia, as it is the main base of operation for the drug traffic of the south of the country from the coming bands from Africa. Finally, the largest and most important team will be deployed in the Port of Savona where the largest cargo eters the country.

Resources needed:

300 police officers from europol and the mentioned delegations will be deployed in the chosen zones to make a direct intervention, make checks and inspections.

Redacting Delegates:

French Republic.

Tunisia.

Italy.

**Note:** Each delegate will only be able to send one directive per session, being this the best-structured as possible, along with detailed instructions to have more impact and a more solid plan regarding the issues that present to the committee. The use of maps and images will allow the illustration and focus on zones of action.

### ***6.3.1 Individual and Collective Directives***

As the committee develops the cooperation of the agents will be crucial as the interpol is an organism that looks after international cooperation and use of resources.

delegates will only have one directive available to use per session that's why it is vital for delegates to cooperate in the two types of directives.

#### *3.1.1 Individual directives:*

These types of directives will be used by the each agent in order to coordinate each delegations response to the problem, it is done by a single delegate and is a proposal made to the central agency (Chair) and must be approved by the chair and the NCB in which the directive will take place (unless it takes place in international waters) .

### 3.1.2 Collective directives:

These types of directives will be used by a group of agents to cooperate between NBCs, sending the proposal and adding the names of all agents that are to take part in the directive. Collective directives are expected to be plans of higher complexity that need cooperation and more resources that other counties can provide.

## 6.4 Press Release

Press releases are a public official document that is read in the committee in order to announce actions and decisions made by each NCB. They are official documents, available to the public.

It is also sent to the public opinion or press, in order to inform or to announce something that could be important or interesting to a certain entity or population.

Example:

COTONOU, Benin

INTERPOL's African Regional Conference closed with a series of recommendations to increase information sharing and operational activity to combat transnational crime and terrorism.

Addressing the current and evolving challenges facing Africa, delegates discussed a range of law enforcement issues including terrorism, cybercrime, financial crime and corruption as well as human trafficking and maritime piracy.

Key measures for African member countries approved by the conference include:

Increasing the use of INTERPOL's global network, I-24/7 and other capabilities, to share information on transnational financial crime cases.

Designing and developing a regional coordination framework to enhance the interoperability of the cyber law enforcement community, and strengthen cooperation for joint operations against cybercrime.

Expanding access to INTERPOL's network beyond the National Central Bureaus (NCBs) to better support African Union programmes.

Delegates also supported a recommendation for NCBs to actively and collectively support INTERPOL's training and capacity building initiatives through the Organization's Virtual Academy and Global Academy Network.

## **6.5 Action Plans**

The Action Plans are the culminating document the committee will make, in which delegates are expected to create a document with the format required. In these plans, the issues that are debated in the committee will have a more effective action in case repeated, in either the zones in which there is a higher concentration of the crimes or at global level and more specifically regarding the crises as these are the main focus of the committee.

The format to be used is the same as the draft resolution of the CCBMUN handbook.