MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

UNDERSTANDING THREATS TO WEST AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY AND LINKAGES TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING
BURLKINA FASO FIELD ASSESSMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2018
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Cover photo: Display of crocodile skin and other wildlife parts at a market in Burkina Faso. Credit: Charles Mackay
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Our special thanks go to Paul Djiguemde, Director General of Water and Forests, and Benoît Doamba, Director of Wildlife and Hunting Resources. This report would not have been possible without their hard work, support and tireless efforts with their team on the ground organizing and leading the assessments, conducting interviews and ensuring that the report and its conclusions were validated at the national level.

We would also like to express our deep gratitude to the customs officials working in land, air and seaports, and all the other staff members who participated in the assessments and provided us with valuable information on their activities.

Finally, we would like to thank the many other individuals and organizations that assisted WA BiCC in ensuring that this report was produced to the highest standards. WA BiCC staff would like to also express their thanks and gratitude to all those who invested their valuable time, effort and thought in improving our organization’s understanding of the current threats to West African biodiversity and the links to wildlife trafficking.
# ACRONYMS

- **CITES**: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- **ECOWAS**: Economic Community for West African States
- **IUCN**: International Union for Conservation of Nature
- **MoUs**: Memoranda of Understanding
- **NCB**: National Central Bureau
- **UNTOC**: United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- **WA BiCC**: West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Program
- **WCO**: World Customs Organization
I.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso is located in West Africa and covers an area of approximately 274,200 square kilometers. The country has a population of 18.6m and a gross domestic product of $12.12bn.\(^1\) Data from the World Bank indicate that Burkina Faso’s key international trading partners are Switzerland, India, Singapore, South Africa, and Ivory Coast for exports; and France, China, Ivory Coast, the United States of America, and the Netherlands for imports.\(^2\) Burkina Faso is also one of the three African countries that maintains diplomatic relationships with Taiwan. The country has two international airports, in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, and shares its border with six neighboring countries: Togo, Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Niger.

Burkina Faso is characterized by its large array of biodiversity, including 128 species of mammals, 520 species of birds, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, 118 species of fish, 1,515 species of insects, and 1,407 species of flora.\(^3\) A full biodiversity profile will be made available in the report devoted to the analysis of key biodiversity threats.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) entered into force in Burkina Faso in 1990. The country is currently listed in category 2 of the CITES national legislation project, which means that its legislation is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES.\(^4\)

Between 2000 and 2016, international commercial trade in wild specimens of CITES-listed species from Burkina Faso was limited and focused primarily on reptiles and birds (Table 1). We note that three live elephants of wild origin were commercially exported from Burkina Faso to Japan in 2001, according to a CITES Trade Report. However, the Burkina Faso document differs from the Japanese document in suggesting that the export was for commercial purposes.

Table 1. Summary of commercial trade in wild specimens from Burkina Faso between 2000 and 2016 according to the CITES Trade Database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>CITES Status</th>
<th>Commercial Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td><em>Ptilopsis leucotis</em></td>
<td>White-faced Scops-Owl</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>2 trophies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Polyboroides typus</em></td>
<td>African Harrier-Hawk</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>2 trophies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Necrosyrtes monachus</em></td>
<td>Hooded Vulture</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>2 trophies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Micronisus gabar</em></td>
<td>Gabar Goshawk</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>2 skins, 2 trophies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Melierax metabates</em></td>
<td>Dark Chanting-Goshawk</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>4 skins, 4 trophies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</em></td>
<td>Lizard Buzzard</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>2 trophies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) http://databank.worldbank.org/data/views/reports/reportwidgetcustom.aspx?Report_Name=CountryProfile&Id=b450fd57&tbar=y&dd=y&inf=n&zm=n&country=BFA
\(^2\) http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/en/Country/BFA/Year/2015/TradeFlow/Export/Partner/all/Show/Partner%20Name;XPRT-TRD-VL;XPRT-PRTNR-SHR/;Sort/XPRT-TRD-VL/Chart/top5
\(^3\) https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/default.shtml?country=bf#facts
Trophy species are the most heavily traded items in Burkina Faso (see Table 2). Between 2000 and 2016, African lions (*Panthera leo*) and olive baboons (*Papio anubis*) were the most traded species in trophy hunting.

**Table 2. Summary of trade in hunting trophies from Burkina Faso in 2000–2016 according to the CITES trade database (most traded species highlighted)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>CITES Status</th>
<th>Commercial Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td><em>Kinixys belliana</em></td>
<td>Bell's Hinged-backed Tortoise</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>200 live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Python spp.</em></td>
<td>Python species</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>1 small leather products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Varanus spp.</em></td>
<td>Monitor lizard</td>
<td>App. II</td>
<td>4 small leather products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td><em>Loxodonta africana</em></td>
<td>African elephant</td>
<td>App. I</td>
<td>3 live</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CITES Trade Database
Strigiformes | *Glaucidium perlatum* | Pearl-spotted Owlet | App.II | 3 trophies
---|---|---|---|---
Ciconiiformes | *Egretta garzetta* | Little Egret | App. III | 1 trophy

**Source:** CITES Trade Database

Trade levels reported in the CITES trade database between 2000 and 2016 indicate that during that period, for all sources and purposes combined, primates (29%), carnivores (22%), and falconiformes (10%) were the species most commonly exported by Burkina Faso.

**Figure 1. Map of trade routes used for the legal export of wild specimens from Burkina Faso (all purposes combined) between 2000 and 2016**

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**1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT**

This assessment had two complementary objectives:

- **Objective 1:** To assess the status and effectiveness of the implementation of existing legal frameworks and policies in order to identify loopholes that limit the ability to fight wildlife-related crime in West Africa. As part of this objective, the project team will first analyze policies around the environment, forest management, and combatting illegal trade in wildlife. They will then implement them to understand their strengths and flaws and recommend options for enhanced effectiveness; and
Objective 2: to analyze the impact, perceived or evidence-based, of wildlife-related crime on biodiversity in West Africa, and to highlight potential activities to strengthen capacity and mitigate threats.

As part of this objective, the project team focused on the overall understanding of wildlife trafficking (targeted species, sources, traffickers involved, possible linkage to other illegal trafficking) by conducting data collection activities. Information gathered during the data collection phase will be used to develop potential recommendations for future mitigation and capacity-building programming throughout the region.

1.3 METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The field mission was scheduled for 7–14 May 2018 in Burkina Faso, led by Benoît Doamba, Director of Fauna and Hunting at the CITES management authority of Burkina Faso. The assessment and interviews were carried out at three locations: in Ouagadougou, where the team visited a traditional medicine market, the airport, and a railway freight terminal; and at two border posts, one at the border with Togo in Cinkansé and one at the border with Ghana in Dakola (see map below). Other locations were visited to assess working conditions of agents and to view markets. These locations included Fada N’Gourma, Kantchari, Pama, Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora, Djibasso, Po, and Gaoua.

Secondary data was collected in the form of publications, reports, databases, maps, and photographs, while primary data was collected through direct interviews with various categories of stakeholders. Internet searches were the main approach used to collect secondary data prior to the field survey, and these were complemented by documents from those who were interviewed.

The assessment team collected both qualitative and quantitative data during its interviews. Quantitative data was recorded using smartphones. Field surveys were conducted during a 6-day visit to the country as defined in Annex II. These visits included direct observation in at least one major market known for selling animal products, as well as interviews with various stakeholders at Cinkansé and Dakola border crossing posts, Ouagadougou international airport, the Ouagadougou Train Station, and various government offices and conservation or research institutions. The interviews chiefly targeted authorities responsible for the environment, as well as enforcement officers (police, customs and the national office for Interpol), and NGOs (IUCN/PAPCO). A list of interviewees and the full schedule of the threats assessment are included in Annex 1 (p. 18-20) of this report. Selection of these stakeholders was done through a stakeholder mapping carried out with the National CITES Authorities prior to the field trip. Additional institutions were identified through interviews with the pre-selected resource persons based on the snowball approach. The following data collection tools were developed or modified to provide a series of core questions that the survey team adapted to the context and field realities as necessary:


- A questionnaire for customs authorities. This was refined and divided into two series of questions that encompassed the following types: open-ended questions of a general nature,
multiple-choice questions of a more specific nature, Yes or No responses, and numbers-based questions.

- A questionnaire for non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders working on conservation issues.
- A checklist for market visits to be used as part of an “undercover investigation” where a team will visit the market, spot the shops with wildlife products, and record findings on their smartphones.

Responses to open-ended questions were recorded by hand and compiled daily into a report while responses to questions with multiple-choice response options were recorded on smartphones to allow for real time data access and statistical comparisons. The data collection and analysis is demonstrated in the following video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSRpYmtNak4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSRpYmtNak4).

The assessment team comprised the following:

- Alice Stroud, Africa Policy and Capacity Building Director, Born Free USA
- Marion Crepet, Africa Policy and Capacity Building Program Associate, Born Free USA
- Michael Bessike Balinga, West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Program (WA BiCC)
- Charles Van Niekerk, Chief Analysis Officer—Africa, Freeland (enforcement expert)
- Charles Mackay, MK Wildlife Consultancy (customs expert)
- Benoît Doamba, Director of Fauna and Hunting, CITES management authority of Burkina Faso
- Kevin Faidal Ben Sidy Tiendrebeogo, CITES management authority of Burkina Faso

![Map 1. Locations of assessments.](image-url)
2.0 ASSESSMENT OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AT MARKETS AND ENTRY POINTS

2.1 A VISIT TO THE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE MARKET OF OUAGADOUGOU

A visit to the traditional medicine market of Ouagadougou was organized to identify and quantify wildlife specimens available for sale in the market.

The market displayed around six stalls selling whole carcasses and parts of animals. Several stalls were selling plants for medicinal purposes (Photo 1). The team was introduced to a practitioner who provided a diagnosis and prescription to those who sought this type of medicine. He had in his lock-up some old-looking elephant bones that, if only scraped (as would be required by a prescription), would last a very long time. The CITES management authority also informed the team that the bones and skin of the elephant had been collected from carcasses and were bits that no one else wanted. (see Text Box 1).

The situation at the Ouagadougou traditional medicine market (Boins Yaré) was similar to those found in other markets in the localities of de Fada Gourma, Kantchari, Pama, Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora, Djibasso, Po, and Gaoua. As in Ouagadougou, the specimens are reportedly intended for the domestic market and often come from natural mortality, legal hunting, and culling.

Photo 1. A traditional medicine market in Ouagadougou with vendor stalls selling whole and partial animal carcasses and medicinal plants.
2.2 AIRPORT

The international airport of Ouagadougou, located 5 miles from the city center, is Burkina Faso’s largest airport and the country’s key entry and exit point. The main airlines serving this airport are Air France, Brussels Airlines, Air Algeria, Royal Air Maroc, Ethiopian Airlines, Air Cote d’Ivoire, and Tunis Airlines. As with other international airports, there is tight security and an established process for both freight and passengers passing through.

Other than perishables, which must be handled manually, all freight is scanned prior to export. Imports are processed through an automated system. Customs officers responsible for the control of freight are aware of CITES and quote it as one of their priorities, but there does not appear to be any risk profiles set for it, nor any knowledge of how it works. Moreover, customs officers appear to collaborate well with security, who also seem to know about CITES but have limited knowledge of what they are looking for.

Passengers are profiled against a passenger list without any intelligence links involved. All bags are x-rayed at import, however, and bags are usually checked against their baggage tags as passengers exit the customs area. This last function is not done by customs but by airport security in order to prevent bags from being stolen. Customs and security interact infrequently, but customs officers will refer cases to security if they suspect a security issue.

The General Directorate for Water and Forests are responsible for controlling the trafficking of wild specimens, and for the implementation of CITES in Burkina Faso. Forestry checkpoints have been in place at the airports in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso since 1998. Officials at these checkpoints are responsible for controlling the entry and exit of forest, wildlife, fishery, and pesticide products at the airport. This includes: control of certificates, permits (including CITES), authorizations, or any other

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**TEXT BOX 1. MEETING MARKET DEMAND FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE**

It was not possible to identify many of the species on display because the bodies were not intact and/or lacked obvious, visible characteristics. The following animals and groups of animals were observed with certainty:

- Big cats, including leopard (skin), lion (skull, skin), and serval (skin)
- Civet (skin)
- Primate (skulls, skin, feet, skeleton)
- Crocodile (skin, skulls)
- Chameleon
- Elephant (tail, skin, bone)
- Hornbill (head/casque)
- Python skin
- Monitor lizard
- Tortoise shells (possibly Sulcata)
- Porcupine (quills)
- Francolin
- Antelope (horns)
- Vulture (feet)
document accompanying the products upon their release; seizure of any product which does not fulfil the conditions of exit or entry; and preparation of reports regarding any offenses. Water and Forests Directorate officers at airports do not have an in-depth knowledge of CITES and are faced with some difficulties, including inadequate staffing (only two officers are currently staffing this post), limited control tools (scanners, dogs, etc.), and limited identification tools (guidelines, catalogues, magnifying glasses, microscopes, etc.). These shortcomings are at times filled by collaboration with the Police and Customs Departments.

Plant health and veterinary officers are based at the airport and have limited knowledge about CITES. Plant health officers rarely see plants, and mostly deal with shipments of fruits and vegetables. There are a small number of live animals that come through the airport—mainly pets being exported. Veterinarians check them at the exporter’s premises and sign paperwork; that paperwork is then simply checked at the airport. Veterinary officers usually check trophies to make sure they are not infested or decaying. In some cases, they will issue certificates of origin and sanitation. They are also responsible for issuing permits for hunting and collecting fees. They do not physically examine live animals at the airport, because they do not have the means or skills required for these examinations.

2.3 RAILWAY FREIGHT AT OUAGADOUGOU TERMINAL

A railway runs from Ouagadougou to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, currently managed by the International Society of Railway Transportation in Africa.

At present, freight appears to be handled manually, with all examinations of containers and trucks taking place at import as they are being emptied. It seems unlikely that all the freight inside containers is opened to check for concealments. Containers can be loaded and unloaded at the trader’s premises under the supervision of customs officers. Containers are placed under seal for transportation to/from the premises.

Customs officers do not know what is on board until they collect the documents from the train on arrival. Once consignments are entered into the computer system and all documents are provided by the agent, there are four separate verification processes that then take place under the scrutiny of the chief and deputy chief of customs. Clearly, revenue is the main priority for customs, although searching for drugs and wildlife was also mentioned as a customs priority.

The main railway station for passengers traveling to/from Ouagadougou and Abidjan is at Bobo Dioulasso. Most passengers and baggage should be cleared at the border between Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, so
customs officers at the railway freight only perform cursory checks. It appears that some passengers who travel with excess baggage are checked at the Ouagadougou freight station. If they do not have any documents to prove that they were checked by customs en route, their bags are spot checked.

There are no services to assist authorities in identifying environmental crimes and offenses within railway stations, and no scanners or dogs to help detect smuggling at the freight terminal. This contributes to enabling the traffic of wild products and species.

2.4 LAND BOUNDARY BORDER POSTS

Two site visits were organized at border-crossing points: the border post of Dakola (Photo 2) on the border with Ghana 160km south of Ouagadougou, and the border post of Cinkansé on the border with Togo about 300km from Ouagadougou. The post in Cinkansé was particularly busy during the team’s visit because of a protest by truck drivers.

Passengers traveling by bus must disembark and go through customs checks with their luggage. But given the number of bags stacked on top of most buses, it is unlikely that all of the luggage is processed during these checks. Passengers in cars must go through the same procedure, although the customs officials recognize that the checks can be by-passed by people using alternate routes across the porous border.

There are almost no control mechanisms at the many small bus stations of the various transport companies. There are unannounced checks in the stations of some companies, and findings suggest that public transport buses are frequently used for the trafficking of forest and wildlife products.

The areas are difficult to control because they are busy locations with many people moving in and out to sell goods, food, and other products.

Three Water and Forests Directorate officers are based in the office of Cinkansé; one oversees the office and two conduct the checks. They check for a variety of environmental items (e.g. fish, timber, charcoal, plastic bags, certain building materials, etc.) as well as for licenses and compliance. The officers are aware of CITES but have never seen a permit and would not know how to check for compliance. With only three officers when there should be 11, staff capacity to search for illegal goods is lacking. The officers do work well with customs, however, and have helped them with examinations when needed. There is a scanner at Cinkansé, but it is in need of repair and is not currently functioning.

2.5 MAIL/COURIER

There are two main areas for international parcels/courier: one in the main post office in Ouagadougou and another at the airport. The airport has a scanner to check outgoing parcels, but they are otherwise only randomly checked for illegal goods.
3.0 OVERVIEW OF WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

3.1 PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT AS A DETERRENT TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

3.1.1 ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY

The combating of wildlife trafficking in Burkina Faso is sometimes identified as a priority among national law enforcement agencies, but it has not been formally adopted or acknowledged as such. Apart from the Ministry of the Environment, wildlife trafficking has not been identified as a priority issue in the strategic plans of relevant agencies. The team saw no evidence to suggest its prioritization, such as Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), public statements by heads of agencies (besides the agency responsible for environmental affairs), or declarations/ decrees by the head of state.

Burkina Faso’s national police are responsible for dealing with criminal investigations. Since 2005, the country has adopted a community-policing approach, meaning the police operate in close collaboration with the communities they work in. Duties of the national police include the following:

- Maintenance of public order
- Support to the security of the state and institutions
- Protecting people and property
- Collecting information on behalf of the government
- Maintaining links with other law enforcement agencies at municipal, national, regional, and international levels.

The national police, the national gendarmerie (which acts as both a military and police force, stationed at rural and border areas), and Water and Forests authorities each have the power to detain suspects. Other security forces include customs authorities, prison security guards, and the municipal police.

3.1.2 SERIOUS CRIME

Interviewees reported that wildlife trafficking is recognized as a serious offense and is part of more organized, transnational crime. Despite this distinction, the lack of resources, limited capacity, and absence of intelligence analysis restrict what the country can do to combat it. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines a serious offense as an act deemed punishable by imprisonment for at least four years. According to the Forestry Code of Burkina Faso, the maximum imprisonment penalty for this offense is ten years. Article 261 of the Forestry Code stipulates that the penalties provided for in sections 263 to 272 shall be doubled in the event of a recurrence, of an offense committed at night, or of an offense committed in a wildlife protection area. The same is true.
for an offense committed by a wildlife concessionaire, a hunting guide, a water and forest services officer, or any other person involved in wildlife management.

“Serious crime is conduct constituting an offense punishable by imprisonment for at least four years or a more serious penalty.”

— United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

(For more information, see Article 2 of the UNTOC available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf)

3.1.3 NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

A national enforcement strategy and/or action plan for wildlife trafficking has not yet been developed. However, wildlife trafficking issues are addressed to some extent by the activities of the General Directorate for Water and Forests and the participation of Customs in World Customs Organization (WCO) initiatives.

3.1.4 NATIONAL COOPERATION

Interagency cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking depends on the specific operational context, situation, or problem encountered. Ad hoc cooperation between agencies is sometimes initiated by a phone call, but there is no formal process or structure (such as a national interagency enforcement committee or an MoU between agencies) to facilitate national cooperation.

3.1.5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking can be better understood in the context of participation in international operations and meetings (see, for example, Text Box 2). Burkina Faso has engaged in some international operations, detailed further below.

In September 2012, a technical mission to assess enforcement activities and initiatives in gorilla range states was led by a member of Customs (see CoP16 DOC 49, Annex 2, under the WCO’s Operation Great Apes and Integrity, supported by the Lusaka Agreement Task Force).

In 2015, Burkina Faso participated in Operation LOG, led by the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) and the regional bureau. This operation focused on rosewood and the trafficking of chameleons.

The CITES Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants program is scheduled to continue until 2019.

In October 2011, Burkina Faso took part in Operation COBRA, a transnational operation coordinated by INTERPOL National Central Bureau Ouagadougou. Although no wildlife contraband was seized, contraband pharmaceuticals were. Other internationally coordinated operations resulted in the arrest of suspected human traffickers and migrant smugglers, and the seizure of narcotics, pharmaceuticals, stolen vehicles, cash, and counterfeit goods. Nearly 400 child-trafficking victims—some as young as six years old—forced to work in illegally operated gold mines and cotton fields were rescued by police in Burkina Faso.

TEXT BOX 2. OPERATION COBRA: A MODEL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING?

In October 2011, Burkina Faso took part in Operation COBRA, a transnational operation coordinated by INTERPOL National Central Bureau Ouagadougou. Although no wildlife contraband was seized, contraband pharmaceuticals were. Other internationally coordinated operations resulted in the arrest of suspected human traffickers and migrant smugglers, and the seizure of narcotics, pharmaceuticals, stolen vehicles, cash, and counterfeit goods. Nearly 400 child-trafficking victims—some as young as six years old—forced to work in illegally operated gold mines and cotton fields were rescued by police in Burkina Faso.
The WCO Project INAMA is scheduled until 2018. In January 2017, the mobile customs unit found and seized 26 pairs of elephant tusks en route to Ivory Coast by bus. One respondent from Burkina Faso Customs commented that there has been an increase in international commitment to this issue, and what were usually general discussions are now becoming more focused on specific issues to be addressed. Better cooperation between international authorities is a priority as well.

One of the challenges to international cooperation is that the relevant INTERPOL desk officers have been transferred three times since 2011, moving on to other offices and to the Secretariat General in Lyon, France. Burkina Faso participated in the meetings of the INTERPOL Working Group on wildlife crime in Arusha, Tanzania in 2007 and at the INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France in 2008. There have been MOUs between Burkina Faso and Benin (1984), joined by Niger in 1986, to cooperate in combating poaching and wildlife trafficking. There is an agreement with Ghana (2009) and Côte d'Ivoire (2013) to support the management of shared natural resources including prosecution of offenders on both sides of the border. There is also a three-party agreement to manage the transboundary area between Niger, Benin, and Burkina Faso.

3.1.6 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management practices to combat wildlife trafficking are often constrained by a lack of resources (e.g., human, financial, and technical) and overall capacity. Ideally, risk management should be used to identify high-risk activities, locations, and individuals, and to target operational enforcement planning and the implementation of measures to combat wildlife trafficking. Strategic risk management helps to determine where the greatest areas of exposure are and where resources should be allocated to effectively manage these risks. Risk management can also assist in the identification of activities that require a higher level of control. In Burkina Faso, however, none of these risk management practices appear to be in place.

3.1.7 PROACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Proactive investigations to target prominent wildlife trafficking threats and pre-identified targets, individuals, and groups rarely take place in Burkina Faso. As with risk management practices, investigations are usually constrained by a lack of resources and capacity (e.g., training in transnational organized crime in the context of wildlife trafficking and criminal intelligence analysis on wildlife trafficking).

3.1.8 STAFFING, RECRUITMENT, AND TRAINING

In Burkina Faso, national law enforcement agencies responsible for combatting wildlife trafficking are significantly understaffed and under-skilled. They operate without an appropriate mix of full-time, part-time, and casual staff; experienced and less-experienced staff; and professional, technical, investigative, and administrative staff as needed to carry out the required activities. The agencies sometimes experience recruitment delays and difficulties. At the INTERPOL NCB Ouagadougou, for example, the one member responsible for wildlife trafficking has no experience in this field.

The national police in Burkina Faso have not been trained in wildlife trafficking. The country’s institutional training programs for national law enforcement agencies do not include basic content such as species identification materials, general information on wildlife trafficking, and legal requirements for trade
in wildlife. The training programs are not supported by training needs assessments, and training needs have not been formally identified.

3.2 DETECTION OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

3.2.1 TARGETED ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

Places in Burkina Faso most affected by or used for wildlife trafficking have not been identified through the use of intelligence, enforcement information, risk management practices, or proactive investigations. What is known, however, is where the protected areas are and whether they are near border lines and border points. The porous nature of regional frontiers makes them susceptible to exploitation by trafficking groups. A market for wildlife specimens exists close to the Ouagadougou airport (Marché de Boins Yaar), and site visit confirmed the specimens on display are traded locally and used by traditional healers (detailed in Section 2.1). At present, the international trafficking of these goods is marginal.

3.2.2 JOINT/SUPPORTIVE OPERATIONS

A multidisciplinary law enforcement operation is one that involves officers from all relevant enforcement disciplines as appropriate (e.g., officers from police, customs, and the Water and Forests Directorate). Operations can be subnational, national, or international in scope; “infrequent” operations can mean as seldom as once every two years. In Burkina Faso, multidisciplinary enforcement operations targeting wildlife trafficking are rarely conducted on an ad hoc and infrequent basis at the national level. Multidisciplinary enforcement operations targeting wildlife trafficking are only occasionally conducted at the international level. Burkina Faso is a member of the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), suggesting that more frequent international operations to address wildlife trafficking exist.

3.2.3 BORDER CONTROL STAFF

It is rare that law enforcement officers who are aware of and are trained in detecting and responding to wildlife trafficking actively staff ports of entry and exit. Such training may include national and international components (e.g., CITES legal requirements for trade in protected species, identification of CITES-listed species and specimens, and CITES permit and certificate requirements) as well as training in investigation techniques such as domestic and international controlled deliveries.

3.2.4 BORDER CONTROL EQUIPMENT

Burkina Faso lacks sufficient border control equipment and tools to respond to wildlife trafficking. There are x-ray scanners at the Ouagadougou airport, but its small size and tendency to become crowded means the scanners can become overwhelmed. The country also lacks a detector-dog unit, and no manuals or other equipment such as apps on smartphones are being used. Other equipment gaps include the following:

- Detection dogs imprinted for wildlife contraband

5 A new airport about 22 miles (35 km) northeast of the capital is scheduled to open sometime in 2018.
• Night vision equipment, field binoculars, handheld thermal imagers, and endoscopes
• Handheld microchip scanners, smartphones with relevant apps, cameras/lenses, and body cameras
• Laptop computers with appropriate software
• Tracking devices and electronic tablets combined with training in equipment use

3.2.5 INSPECTION AND SEIZURE POWERS

Any assessment of the capacity of law enforcement agencies in Burkina Faso to execute their relevant responsibilities should consider two fundamental questions: 1) do those agencies have the requisite powers of inspection, seizure, and confiscation needed to fulfill their law enforcement roles effectively, and, 2) do the powers of any other agencies need to be broadened?

3.2.6 DISPOSAL OF CONFISCATED WILDLIFE SPECIMENS

Systems and procedures for managing and disposing of confiscated wildlife specimens, including storage facilities with improved security and facilities for humane storage and disposal of live specimens, have not been developed in Burkina Faso.6

3.3 WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED USING AN INTELLIGENCE-LED APPROACH

3.3.1 INVESTIGATIVE CAPACITY

There are not enough staff from the Water and Forests Directorate and other national law enforcement agencies to investigate wildlife trafficking effectively. Existing agents lack the training necessary to carry out their duties, such as in crime scene investigation, information and evidence-gathering, identification of suspects, and interviewing techniques.

3.3.2 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

There are no national procedures and systems for capturing and consolidating information in a secure national database (e.g., poaching incidents, seizures, criminal activities, criminal associations, social networks, smuggling routes, smuggling methods, prosecutions, and convictions).

3.3.3 INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS

Information on wildlife trafficking is rarely analyzed. This may be due to a lack of consolidated information, insufficient access to relevant databases, or a lack of trained staff to analyze the data.

3.3.4 INTELLIGENCE-LED INVESTIGATIONS

Crime intelligence is information that is requested, gathered, compiled, and analyzed in an effort to anticipate, prevent, and/or monitor criminal activity. Crime intelligence is disseminated to direct and support effective law enforcement action, investigations, and prosecution. In Burkina Faso, intelligence on wildlife trafficking is not generated, possibly because of a lack of information-gathering capacity.

3.3.5 FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS

Similarly, follow-up investigations into wildlife-trafficking cases are rarely conducted at national and international levels. Such investigations could include acting on information and evidence found on seized computers, mobile phones, documents, DNA, and fingerprints. They can also include engaging with authorities in countries of origin, transit, and destination, when appropriate, to share or request information.

3.4 SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES USED TO COMBAT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

3.4.1 USE OF SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

Specialized investigation techniques such as domestic and international controlled deliveries, use of tracking devices, and covert operations against wildlife trafficking have not been used by national law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife trafficking in Burkina Faso.

3.4.2 FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY

Capacity to use forensic technology means the ability to collect, handle, and submit samples (e.g., ballistics, fingerprints, DNA, tool markings on ivory, etc.) from wildlife-trafficking scenes to an appropriate forensic analysis facility. In Burkina Faso, authorities have no forensic capacity to support the investigation of wildlife trafficking. They lack staff with basic training in sample collection and processing to support the investigations. The agencies can potentially access forensic support from other institutions or countries to support their investigations.

3.4.3 FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

A financial investigation could be defined as any investigation into either a person’s financial matters or the finances of a business. A financial investigation can determine where money comes from, how it is moved, and how it is used using techniques like a net-worth analysis. Financial investigations may lead to asset forfeiture and possibly charges of tax evasion or customs duties evasion. The training, knowledge, and capacity of national law enforcement agencies in Burkina Faso, particularly in the field of financial investigations related to wildlife traffic prosecutions, remains to be demonstrated. Although control structures such as the National Agency for Regulation and Control of the State and the National Anti-Fraud Authority have been established, their ability to effectively carry out their mission remains uncertain.
3.4.4 USE OF CRIMINAL LAW

Relevant criminal law is rarely applied to wildlife-trafficking offenses. Because of the high value of some wildlife specimens and the involvement of organized crime groups in their trafficking, mandated maximum fines often bear little relation to the value of the specimens trafficked or the severity of the offense. It is important that persons arrested for wildlife trafficking are charged and tried under a combination of relevant laws that carry the highest penalties when possible. This body of criminal law includes legislative provisions for international cooperation, combating corruption, and addressing organized crime. It also pertains to the use of general crime laws that relate to offenses such as fraud, conspiracy, possession of weapons, and other matters as set out in the national criminal code.

3.4.5 CASE FILE PREPARATION

National enforcement agencies responsible for the investigation of wildlife trafficking make efforts to prepare case files, follow judicial procedures, and submit evidence in court. A module on the judicial police procedure is taught at the National School of Water and Forests and a complementary training manual and curriculum exist. Yearly training in the 13 administrative regions are provided to Water and Forests staff. In addition, since 2014, exchange sessions on environmental issues have been held each year with Magistrates to share information and learning. Despite this, the capacity of law enforcement bodies remains inadequate in light of changes in the arena of wildlife trafficking.
4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of procedures at entry points and the capacity of national wildlife enforcement agencies to tackle wildlife crime provides a basis for the final part of the report. This section focuses on the identification of trafficking routes and the formulation of primary recommendations to strengthen the fight against wildlife trafficking in Burkina Faso.

4.1 TRAFFICKING ROUTES

The main trafficking routes were identified by the assessment team based on information shared by local authorities, international organizations, and recent seizures operated in or coming from Burkina Faso (see Text Box 3).

Burkina Faso is known for playing an important role in ivory trafficking. Additional important trafficking routes of other species were identified, namely from:

- Niger to Burkina Faso to Mali and Senegal (dried chameleons)
- Niger to Burkina Faso (lion products; traditional medicine; scorpions; chameleons; Uromastyx lizards)
- Burkina Faso to Nigeria and Mali (dried chameleons, dried scavengers, live parrots, live tortoises, lion skin, fat and claws, reptile skins)
- Burkina Faso to Guinea/Guinea Bissau (not enough information was available to make a clear determination).
- Burkina Faso to Togo and Benin because of ports towards Asia (ivory and skins of big cats, rosewood, elephant skins, lion fat, crocodile and snake skins, parrots)
- Burkina Faso to Mali, Benin, Senegal, and Ghana (trading partners for specimens that are captive and bred in violation of CITES requirements)
- Burkina Faso to Ivory Coast and Togo (rosewood)

4.2 CHALLENGES RAISED BY PARTICIPANTS

Throughout the assessment, participants also voiced challenges faced while tackling wildlife crime. The challenges are summarized below, with a full list included in Annex 3.

TEXT BOX 3. NABBING THE IVORY, BUT IN BURKINA FASO THE POACHING CONTINUES

In January 2016, a mobile customs brigade, acting on information, intercepted a vehicle en route from Niger to Ivory Coast. The vehicle was found to contain 70 kg of ivory. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reported that Burkina Faso had lost some 500 elephants in the last 10 years, mostly to ivory poachers. This information, however, is yet to be confirmed by the National Authorities.
▪ There is a general lack of CITES knowledge and identification of specimens at all levels of government. And although some customs officers were familiar with CITES, they frequently shifted duty stations, making it difficult to maintain trained staff at key locations. Lack of CITES training also means that customs officers clear wildlife products without asking to see proper CITES documentation.

▪ Judiciary, prosecutors, and lawyers do not know the laws well and are not informed when a law changes.

▪ Lack of information-sharing and coordination underscores the need for agencies to work together within the country and at sub regional level and with other ECOWAS member countries.

▪ The lack of formal collaboration causes confusion about the role of the various authorities (security and customs officers) in the enforcement chain and undermines the effectiveness of their proper functions.

▪ Traffic is often in processed wildlife products, making it difficult for local authorities to identify protected species.

▪ There is a need for support with crime scene management and targeted intelligence-sharing. Intelligence-gathering and enforcement-targeting processes rarely seem to include wildlife crime.

▪ There is a lack of certain critical assets (e.g., scanners and x-ray machines, detection dogs, metal detectors, and computer equipment).

▪ Because senior managers do not understand the issues, so wildlife crime is not given any priority, and customs and enforcement authorities are only marginally aware of their role in wildlife law enforcement.

▪ There is a misunderstanding of the role of customs clearance, and there is a lack of coordination between customs offices. Many customs officers did not consider their site as important for customs clearance in terms of wildlife products, and many reported that it was not their main priority to look for wildlife specimens in freight or with passengers.

▪ Two staff from the Directorate of Water and Forests have benefited from the CITES Master's program supported by USAID, however this is not sufficient to address the need.
4.3 PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

After participants in the assessment identified their challenges, they formulated a set of recommendations. The key recommendations are summarized below, and a full list is included in Annex 4.

- Provide CITES training to all front-line customs officers, including those responsible for dealing with permits as well as for new entrants. Implement a train-the-trainer program to provide sustainability at the end of the project. Ensure that water and forest officials and relevant enforcement authorities also receive basic CITES training.

- Develop a network of higher trained customs officers to cover entry points in Burkina Faso as a link with front-line officers. To address the problem of staff turnover, at least three from each location should be trained to the desired standard.

- Establish a unit of experts specialized in CITES within customs to contribute to training and CITES implementation at national level and provide specialist training of those responsible for investigating wildlife trafficking and incidences of poaching.

- Develop a national strategy for tackling wildlife crime (both poaching and trafficking), linked to one developed regionally. Adopt a multi-agency approach to identify roles and responsibilities; identify national/regional priorities and develop an action plan to tackle them.

- Designate someone as a central point of contact, through either the police or another relevant agency, who can collate, analyze, and disseminate information/intelligence and exchange information regionally and internationally when needed.

- Provide tools for identifying protected species and training materials for border posts, offices, and others. Distribute leaflets and posters featuring protected species to educate the public, enforcement authorities, and tourists about protected species and to prevent wildlife crime. Provide tools and funds to allow the CITES management authorities to lead awareness and information campaigns.

- Support crime scene management, investigation techniques, and targeted intelligence-sharing by educating field officers about investigation techniques. Set up exchange programs for enforcement officers that focus on enforcement and techniques used in the field for crime scene management, investigations, and the processing of evidence.

- The Burkina Faso national intelligence plan being developed within customs should incorporate wildlife trafficking. Provide training on CITES and establish a link to the customs CITES network of officers to ensure a two-way flow of information. Develop risk profiles to target the illegal

7. These recommendations have been formulated by participants interviewed during the field mission and by the team members based on their expertise in wildlife law enforcement and customs clearance. The governments will validate these recommendations during the regional meeting to be organized in Togo.
Develop guide on national laws and raise awareness of them, and train/inform judges and lawyers about laws. Organize regional workshops to inform agents on the procedures to apply so as to not jeopardize the ability to prosecute. Secure funds to evaluate/reform laws once every five years as needed.

Integrate wildlife trafficking into existing systems to fight corruption and money laundering. Lead study to evaluate impact of trade in species for traditional medicine, and conduct a survey of elephant ivory stocks and report confiscated/storing of ivory. Reestablish an autonomous communication system between the various national parks and protected areas in the country.
ANNEX I: SCHEDULE OF THE ASSESSMENT

Sunday, 7 May—Ouagadougou

- Hold team debriefing meeting to discuss the main priorities of the assessment and the schedule for the week.

Monday, 8 May—Ouagadougou

- Meet with the general director of the national police, the head of customs at the Ouagadougou railway station, Interpol representatives, the head of the regional school of customs, the head of the customs office responsible for freight at Ouagadougou airport, and the general director of Water and Forests Directorate.

Tuesday, 9 May—Ouagadougou

- Meet with the general secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Interpol officers, and the head of the CITES Scientific Authority.

- Visit the railway station for freight in Ouagadougou to gain an in-depth understanding of how customs clearance works and interview of the transporter responsible for freight (SETO).

- Hold dinner meeting with customs officer specialized in CITES enforcement.

Wednesday, 10 May—Dakola customs office, border of Burkina Faso and Ghana

- Interview the customs chief of the Dakola customs and visit the site to understand customs procedure in the area.

Thursday, 11 May—Cinkansé customs office, border of Burkina Faso and Togo

- Hold introductory meeting with the customs chief of the Cinkansé customs.

- Interview customs officer responsible for wildlife product clearance at the border and of the Water and Forest Directorate representative.

- Visit the site to understand customs procedure in the area.

Friday, 12 May—Ouagadougou

- Meet with general director of IUCN West Africa office.
• Visit Ouagadougou airport and interview key officials (freight, passengers customs clearance authorities; private company in charge of airport security; authorities in charge of phytosanitary and veterinary checks for plants and wildlife).

Saturday, 13 May—Ouagadougou

• Hold follow-up meeting with customs officer specialized in CITES enforcement.

• Visit the voodoo market (Boins Yaré market) and artisanal market.

• Meet with the Burkina Faso CMS focal point.

Sunday, 14 May—Ouagadougou

• Make short presentation to the Born Free USA team about WA BiCC programs in the region.

• Meet with the director of the legal department at the Ministry of Environment.

• Meet with the former CITES management authority.
# ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS INTERVIEWED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email and Phone Number</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Head of customs at Ouagadougou railway station                       | Mr. Adama Ilboudo                   | Email: iboudo.br@gmail.com; adama.ilboudo@douanes.fr  
Tel: +226 70 23 27 70  
Tel: + 226 78 78 20 20  
Tel: +226 76 62 21 10 |
| CITES Scientific Authority                                          | Dr. Ollo Théophile Dibloni          | Email: dibloni.o@gmail.com              
Tel: +226 70 44 23 75  
Tel: +226 77 66 88 93 |
| Terminal container manager of SETO (freight transporter at the       | Mrs. Laurence K. D’Almeida          | Email: Laurence/dalmeida@bollore.com    
Tel: +226 25 31 84 09  
Tel: +226 70 28 92 88 |
| Customs inspector                                                    | Mr. Boukaré Zoungrana               | Tel: +226 70 44 07 90  
Tel: +226 68 24 97 75 |
| Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and  | Dr Sibidou Sina                     | Email: sib_sina@yahoo.fr ; sibsina@fasonet.bf ; sibsina@cnsf.bf  
Tel: +226 25 30 70 39  
Tel: +226 70 25 85 74 |
| Climate Change                                                       |                                     |                                        |
| Deputy Director General of the National Police                       | Mr. Noraogo Ousmane Sawadogo        | Email: ousmane_sawadogol@yahoo.fr  
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| Police chief—Interpol                                                | Mr. Gnana R. Simon                  | Email: gnamasimon@yahoo.fr              
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| CITES focal point for customs                                        | Mr. Alain Farma                     | Email: film0mac@gmail.com               
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| Director of Water and Forests                                        | Mr. Paul Djiguemde                  | Email: djiguemdepaul@yahoo.fr           
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email and Phone Number</th>
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</table>
| Director of the legal department of the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change | Mr. Gontran Y. Some | Email: gontran.yanbefar@yahoo.fr  
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| Director of the Regional Training School of Customs | Mr. Casimir Sawadogo | Email: csawadogo@yahoo.fr  
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| Head of freight, Burkina Handling Services, Ouagadougou airport (contracted fore of airport security checks) | Mr. Abdoul Karim CISSE | Email: acisse68@yahoo.fr  
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+ 226 62 98 74 53  
+ 226 76 81 64 05 |
| Head of customs, Dakola | Contact to be confirmed by authorities | Contact to be confirmed by authorities. |
| Head of the customs office of Cinkansé | Mr. François N. Ouedraogo | Email: n.francoisouedraogo@yahoo.fr  
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ANNEX 3: CHALLENGES RAISED BY PARTICIPANTS

1. Lack of CITES knowledge
   - There is a general lack of knowledge of CITES and ability to identify specimens at all levels of government (Water and Forest Customs, police, judges, lawyers, prosecutors)
   - Some customs officers were introduced to CITES through their participation in short conferences, but due to frequent turnover practices (change of customs post every 3 years) it has proved difficult to maintain trained staff in key areas
   - Two Water and Forestry officers have benefited from CITES Master training, but this is still insufficient for an efficient implementation of the Convention in Burkina Faso
   - The lack of CITES training suggests that customs officers clear wildlife products without requesting the submission of the appropriate CITES documentation: any document submitted referring to the products is considered eligible (e.g. customs inspectors in Cinkansé cleared a person carrying ivory for an exhibition in Senegal and Benin who presented a document to this effect which was not a CITES permit)

2. Lack of knowledge of national laws governing wildlife management
   - Judges, prosecutors and lawyers do not fully understand wildlife management laws and do not keep aware of changes to the legal code

3. Lack of coordination among relevant agencies
   - Lack of information sharing and coordination hampers the ability of agencies to work together and have a coherent action plan
   - There is no protocol in place to tackle wildlife crime, and there is a need for the authorities to work together more closely at the national and sub-regional levels
   - There is a lack of coordination at the sub-regional level among ECOWAS member countries
   - The lack of formal collaboration leads to confusion about the role of different authorities in the law enforcement chain (some security interviewees sometimes did the work of Water and Forests by checking CITES permits without knowing it should not be their role)

4. Need for support to identify protected species
The fact that trafficking often involves processed wildlife products (jewelry, sculptures, leather products, etc.) makes it difficult for local authorities to identify protected species.

5. Need for support to improve crime scene management and information exchange

- There is a general lack of information/intelligence on wildlife crime. Support is needed for crime scene management and to facilitate the targeted exchange of information.
- The intelligence gathering processes do not appear to include wildlife crime outside what is sometimes provided by INTERPOL.

6. Lack of equipment, including the following:

- Scanners and X-ray machines
- Metal detectors support crime scene processing (in case of poaching incidents)
- Dictaphones to record interrogations of suspects for prosecution
- Vehicles (for ministry legal experts to visit courts across the country to explain new laws, to be represented at trials)
- Computers and printers
- Detection dogs (with funds to ensure that the program can be sustainably maintained)

7. Wildlife crime not considered a high priority/lack of awareness

- There is a lack of understanding of the issues by decision makers such that wildlife crime is not considered a priority.
- Customs authorities and law enforcement authorities appear to be largely unaware of their role in enforcing wildlife laws. The same lack of awareness extends to some water authorities and the Forests department.
- Many customs officers did not consider their posts to be important for customs control of wildlife products. Some customs officials stated that it was not their top priority to search for specimens of wildlife in the cargo or with passengers. This was reported at the two border crossing points visited and at the Ouagadougou railway station. Customs controls must operate in cooperation with other agencies such as Waters and Forests.
- Lack of awareness also affects the public as a whole in Burkina Faso, including communities and individuals in border towns.
ANNEX 4: RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Interagency

- Raise awareness among all front-line officers by providing basic CITES training, including to those who are responsible for permits. Other relevant agencies should be included in this training to promote joint working practices.

- CITES training should be formally included in the training program for Water and Forests, Customs, and the National Police and Gendarmerie and at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) of Burkina Faso for new entrants, both at national and regional level.

2. Forest Service

- Potential Forest and Customs trainers should be identified and a train the trainer program implemented to ensure sustainability.

- Establish a unit of experts specializing in CITES within the Water and Forests (there are already two) to contribute to capacity building and implementation of CITES at the national level.

- Ensure that Water and Forests officials and relevant CITES enforcement authorities also receive basic training on CITES.

- Organize specialized training for wildlife trafficking investigators, which should also include eco-guards involved in the investigation of poaching incidents.

3. Customs

- Establish a specialized unit on CITES (3-4 CITES experts) within Customs to contribute to capacity building and implementation of CITES at the national level.

- Potential Customs trainers should be identified and a train the trainer program implemented to ensure sustainability.

- Train Customs on conservation issues and how to handle specimens.

4. Police and gendarmerie

- Organize specialized training for police and national gendarmerie personnel.

- Organize specialized training for police and gendarmerie personnel in charge of wildlife trafficking investigations.
5. **Judiciary**

- Develop a guide on national laws.
- Train/inform judges and lawyers about laws (currently only one day per year).
- Organize workshops in the 13 administrative regions to inform officers of the procedures to be applied so as not to compromise prosecutions.
- Conduct campaigns and training sessions to raise awareness of new laws.
- Develop procedures to ensure the maintenance of records (seizures, arrests, settlements) and transmit information at the national level.
- Obtain funds to evaluate/reform laws once every 5 years, as needed.

6. **Lack of coordination**

- A national strategy to combat wildlife crime is needed and should be linked with a strategy at the regional level. The strategy should include poaching as well as trafficking of wildlife.
- A multi-jurisdictional approach is needed with a clear structure developed to identify the roles and responsibilities of each agency.
- National/regional priorities should be identified and an action plan developed to address them.
- Regular interagency meetings should be held to advance the plan, identify and resolve issues, and review progress against the plan.
- Workshops should be organized to sensitize decision-makers on CITES and the important role that Customs plays in the fight against wildlife trafficking.
- Develop a network of customs officers with specialized training to cover entry points in Burkina Faso and serve as a link with frontline officers (such as Waters and Forests). To solve the problem of personnel movements, at least three people from each duty station should be trained to the desirable standard.
- The lack of national and regional information sharing needs to be addressed. A focal point should be identified with the capacity and expertise to gather, analyze and disseminate information/intelligence. The Police or Waters and Forests (where there are training courses in progress) could be the focal agency. The focal point will need to be equipped with the ability to exchange information regionally and internationally, including training and equipment as needed.
- Recommend to foreign embassies to provide coordination support (for example, the US Embassy has provided videoconferencing facilities for inter-country discussions, which was useful for sub-regional coordination).
- Consider establishing a national authority in charge of wildlife crime. This authority would consist of experienced representatives from key ministries such as the Forest service, Customs, police, gendarmerie and judiciary.

7. **Support for the identification of protected species**

- Provide tools such as identification materials and new posters for border crossings, offices, etc.
- Organize trainings on species identification.
- Conduct awareness campaigns through the distribution of brochures and posters with information on protected species to inform the public, law enforcement authorities and tourists about protected species and prevent wildlife crime. The leaflets and posters should indicate the contact details of the relevant authorities.

8. **Support for crime scene management, investigation techniques and targeted information exchanges**

- Translate the FREELAND educational materials used for Asia and Kenya on the management of crime scenes into French and organize trainings.
- Develop guides to train enforcement agents in the field on survey techniques and establish a train the trainer cadre.
- Set up targeted exchange programs on law enforcement techniques. Send Water and Forest officers and if possible on exchange visits to other countries to learn techniques used in the field for crime scene management, investigations and evidence processing.

9. **Wildlife-related crime identified as a low priority/lack of awareness**

- Provide tools and funds to enable the CITES Management Authority to carry out awareness and information campaigns, such as leaflets, posters, clips focusing on wildlife crime. Leaflets and posters should include contact details for the authorities responsible for the implementation of CITES.
- Wildlife trafficking should be integrated into the national intelligence plan currently being developed by Customs. Training on CITES should be provided and a link to the CITES-established network of Customs officers created to ensure a two-way flow of information. Risk profiles should also be developed to detect the illegal trade in wildlife in imports and exports. This unit should be linked to the identified intelligence focal point.

10. **Lack of equipment**

- There is a clear lack of resources such as scanners and dogs to help Water and Forests and Customs, which would obviously be a great asset. It is to be hoped that the problems with the Cinkansé scanner will be solved in a short time.
III. Additional recommendations

- Conduct a study to assess the impact of traditional medicine on wildlife trade.
- Support an inventory of elephant ivory stocks, the declaration of confiscated ivory and improvements to the storage of ivory.
- Integrate wildlife trafficking into existing systems to fight corruption and money laundering.
- Restore an autonomous communication system between the different national parks/protected areas (which formerly existed).
- Increase coordination at the national level, such as establishing a National Anti-Trafficking Authority for Wild Species in Burkina Faso (ACTES-BF).
UNDERSTANDING THREATS TO WEST AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY AND LINKAGES TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

BURKINA FASO
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