PROMOTING INFORMATION SHARING & CO-OPERATION VIA TWIX AS ONE EXAMPLE TO REDUCE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE (FAUNA & FLORA) TRADE

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PLAN

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TWIX = Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange -

"Tool developed to facilitate information exchange and international co-operation between law enforcement officials and CITES MAs"
## 1. TWIX in general

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>EUTwix</th>
<th>TWIX</th>
<th>SADC-TWIX</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Launching year</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Members</td>
<td>28 European countries +10 neighboring countries</td>
<td>6 Central African Countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, DRC, CAR, Chad) and soon Rwanda</td>
<td>11 SADC countries (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of law enforcement officials inter connected</td>
<td>+1000</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>450</td>
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1. **TWIX in general**

Two components:

1. **MAILING LISTE**

- It is an **Internet Forum** opened to all beneficiaries facilitating the information sharing and cooperation between law enforcement officials and CITES Authorities via their email address (real time information exchange)
- No nominal/sensitive information shared
1. **TWIX in general**

2. **WEB SITE**

- The web site is provided with information by law enforcement agencies of members’ countries
- The content have sections related to:
  - Seizures data, diverses resources (Species identification tools, training materials, laws, etc.), mailing list archive, etc.
- Data are properties of member’s countries and need approval from agencies providing them before sharing out of the platform.
1. **TWIX in general**

**THE CURRENT WEB SITES**

**EU-TWIX**: A TOOL TO FACILITATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

National law enforcement agencies in the European Union play a crucial role in the efficient enforcement of CITES. The database enables them to conduct rapid risk assessments of wildlife controls and to exchange information on the illegal wildlife trade. The EU-TWIX database has been developed to assist national law enforcement agencies, including CITES Management Authority and enforcers. The tool is used for detecting, analyzing and assessing illegal activities related to trade in fauna and flora covered by CITES. The main objectives of the database are to become a central source of information on actions and offers reported by National CITES Authorities. Additional levels, such as visitors with information on technical, scientific, economic, and other topics or help with the CITES/EEC/valuation, legislation, etc., are included or connected websites. The purpose of the database is to assist in national awareness and smart enforcement decision-making.

The success of EU-TWIX depends on the rapid input of information relating to new seizures and offers from the national law enforcement agencies. The tool benefits all developed and emerging African countries. If you are accessing this database for the first time, please read the Terms of Reference accessible here.

**SPONSORS**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**CONTACT**

If you have any questions or comments regarding the EU-TWIX website or database, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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1. **TWIX in general**
2. Advantages of TWIX

- Information Exchange on seizures
- Dissemination of News
- Exchange of information on new fraud techniques
- Identification of species, specimens

- Availability of information on criminals via INTERPOL
- Identification of CITES permits and fraudulent documents
- Evaluation of countries effort in combating illegal wildlife trade
- Reports production for States and CITES
3. Zoom on AFRICA-TWIX

- AFRICA-TWIX: launched in February 2016.
- 4 countries at the pilot phase (CM, GA, CG, CD), 5 countries involved in the 2nd phase (CM, GA, CG, CD, CF)
- mailing list component operational with many users connected
- AFRICA-TWIX Web Site (www.africa-twix.org) created and available in two languages: FR & EN.
- COMIFAC is hosting the tool, TRAFFIC manages it.
- Following scoping missions in novembre 2018, Chad integrated officially the platform in June 2019 and Rwanda is in the process of joining by December 2019
- Financial resources under mobilization for the third phase
3. Zoom on AFRICA-TWIX

COMIFAC
(Institutional Organisation)

TRAFFIC
Management Institution

ADVISORY BODY (AB)
Supervisory Entity (Country Representatives + TRAFFIC & COMIFAC)

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
(Ministry of Environment or Forests/Wildlife, Designated by the Minister)

OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS’ FOCAL POINTS
(Law Enforcement Agencies, Designated by competent Administrations)

NATIONAL USERS
(Law Enforcement Agents, Designated by Focal Points)

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL USERS
(Regional Law Enforcement Entities, Designated by the Competent Entity)
4. AFRICA-TWIX progress and results

From 2016 to now:

- 135 law enforcement officials connected
- 1038 messages exchanged between mailing list members, of which 1013 messages between April 2016 – 30 June 2019
- 264 seizures entries in the web site
- A section on diversify useful resources:
  - 92 identification tools, 49 links
  - 69 training materials, 48 laws
- A section with two inventories:
  - 29 rescue centres for seized specimens
  - 5 laboratories
4. AFRICA-TWIX progress and results

07 international investigations triggered, most important being:

- Pictures of ivory seized at Campo Ma’an on the 13th June 2016 and shared on AFRICA-TWIX triggered investigations in Gabon.
- Information on 4 tons of pangolins scales seized in Hong Kong on the 23 June 2016, from Douala triggered investigations in Cameroon.
- Information on 7 tons of pangolins scales seized in Hong Kong on the 19 July 2016, from Nigeria triggered investigations by Nigerian Customs.
- A seizure of 28 ivory tusks of Elephants in Bangkok at end of 2017, posted on AFRICA-TWIX led to the arrest of 7 officials in Congo (3 different nationalities).
- 2 international investigations were triggered by the national bureau of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force in Congo based on information shared via AFRICA-TWIX.
4. AFRICA-TWIX progress and results

**Impact of main functions of AFRICA-TWIX in daily work of LE officials**

- Better access to information on seizures of wildlife products in your country and in the region (25%)
- Awareness raising on fraudulent techniques (20%)
- Enhancement of agencies collaboration in the country and at the transboundary level (10%)
- Triggering of investigation and prosecution (25%)
- Capacity building in wildlife matters (25%)

**Frequency of getting information that can be shared in the AFRICA-TWIX platform**

- Often (every 03 month) (25%)
- Regularly (Once a month) (25%)
- Very regularly (More than once a month) (50%)
5. AFRICA-TWIX Perspectives

SHORT TERM

- Complete the insertion of AFRICA-TWIX in the COMIFAC web site
- Continue the recruitment of new users in the mailing list, priority recruitment of agents on the ground
- Continue the provision of the data base in seizure data
- Integrate all COMIFAC’s members States in AFRICA-TWIX (scoping missions and additional financial resources mobilization)
5. AFRICA-TWIX Perspectives

SHORT TERM

- Support the COMIFAC Secretariat to the management of AFRICA-TWIX (as the MoU between TRAFFIC and COMIFAC has just been renewed this June 2019).

- Extend TWIX in other regions in Africa (Priority: Eastern Africa (EAC/IGAD), and after Western Africa/ECOWAS, etc.).

- Strengthen ongoing consultations with South East Asia (SEA- via ASEAN working groups on transnational crime and CITES, as well as individual Parties) about how to build a TWIX to meet their needs.
5. AFRICA-TWIX Perspectives

IN-COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES

- Involve all relevant agencies (Forestry/Wildlife, Justice, Gendarmerie, Police, Customs, others), by promoting collaboration.

- Put in place national structures to support AFRICA-TWIX (coordination, information exchange) in countries where it not exist (Only CF has such a structure for AFRICA-TWIX).

- Capacity building of actors.
**Technical Partners:**
ICCCWC (CITES, OIPC INTERPOL, OMD, ONUDC)

**Executing Agencies:**
COMIFAC, TRAFFIC

**Donors:**
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WWF France

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Autorité de Gestion CITES de la Belgique
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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traffic.org/what-we-do/projects-and-approaches/twixs/