



## DEBATE PACK

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# Anti-corruption strategy and the illegal wildlife trade

Westminster Hall

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2:30 - 4:00 pm

Debate initiated by Dr Rupa Huq MP

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

On 11 December 2017, the UK Government issued its first cross-government [anti-corruption strategy](#) to guide its actions through to 2022. On page 16 it says: “Criminal networks rely on corruption to facilitate illegal migration, modern slavery, drug trafficking and the illegal trade in wildlife.” On page 62 it provided further detail:

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT), worth up to £17 billion a year, is the fourth most lucrative transnational crime after human trafficking, drugs and arms. It undermines state institutions and the rule of law. It relies on and exacerbates corruption, cultivating discontent and undermining security. Between 2009 and 2014 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species recorded seizures of 91 large shipments, totalling 159 tonnes of ivory, which represented the killing of at least 15,900 elephants. Such large-scale seizures suggest involvement of transnational organized criminal groups being facilitated by corruption. This can involve obtaining false permits, paying bribes at borders, or laundering the proceeds of crime through international financial centres.

The report goes on to set out the kinds of international action that will be required to combat this trade:

Countering this illegal trade requires concerted multilateral and bilateral action – to raise awareness, eradicate markets, strengthen legal frameworks, fortify the law enforcement response and promote alternative livelihoods. Progress is being made. UN Resolutions recognise the links between IWT and corruption, and for the first time in 2015 the UN General Assembly called upon Member States “to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products.”

On the UK’s contribution it added:

In 2017 the UK worked successfully with Germany’s G20 Presidency to agree a set of [High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to the Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products](#).

The UK has led international efforts to tackle IWT, hosting the first international meeting in 2014 at which more than 40 governments agreed urgent co-ordinated action against the trade. The UK played a leading role in supporting follow-up at events in Botswana (2015) and Vietnam (2016) where the UK announced programmes to tackle IWT. These included: sharing expertise with Vietnamese customs enforcement; supporting co-

operation between Chinese and African border forces; and providing support to the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (comprising CITES, Interpol, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Customs Union, World Bank) to strengthen criminal justice systems and co-ordinate support at national, regional and international levels.

It goes on to refer to a forthcoming 'London IWT Conference' that is scheduled for 10-11 October 2018, which "will focus on tangible outcomes for implementation and delivery".

Point 4.3 of the accompanying plan of action says that the UK Government will: "Work through the UN, Commonwealth, G20, and others to highlight the links between corruption and the Illegal Wildlife Trade as a global concern."

The Coalition Government established the [Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#) (IWTCF) in 2013, which is managed by Defra. An August 2017 update on the currently-funded projects under the IWTCF can be found [here](#). Information about UK Aid-funded projects can be found on DFID's '[Development Tracker](#)' website.

In November 2016, the then [Defra Secretary of State Andrea Leadsom](#) [addressed](#) the 3rd Illegal Wildlife Trade conference in Hanoi. In her speech she said that the UK Government would be doubling its financial contribution towards efforts to tackle the trade to £26 million. In July 2017, the Foreign Secretary [repeated](#) this commitment.

On 21 February 2018, after Transparency International had ranked the UK as the 8<sup>th</sup> least corrupt country in the world, Cabinet Office minister Ben Wallace [reiterated](#) the UK Government's commitment to its "strong anti-corruption drive".

## 2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

### [Top ivory investigator murdered in Kenya](#)

Guardian  
5 February 2018

### [Almost four environmental defenders a week killed in 2017](#)

Guardian  
Jonathan Watts  
2 February 2018

### [Anti-corruption tools exist – now they must be used to help fight illegal wildlife trade](#)

Environmental Investigation Agency  
8 December 2017

### [Illegal wildlife trade is one of the biggest threats to endangered species – and the UK is a key player](#)

The Conversation  
4 December 2017

### [Prince William says the fight against 'murderous' ivory gangs 'must be won for the sake of all of us', after anti-poaching campaigner killed](#)

Daily Telegraph  
Nicola Harvey  
23 August 2017

### [New Army specialists to hunt African wildlife poachers and revive tracking skills](#)

Daily Telegraph  
Ben Farmer  
14 August 2017

### [Crime 'threatens nearly half the world's natural heritage sites'](#)

BBC News Online  
Matt McGrath  
18 April 2017

### [Tackling corruption will deal a lethal blow to the illegal wildlife trade](#)

Guardian  
Yury Fedotov and John E Scanlon  
19 September 2016

**Corruption and Wildlife Trafficking: the Elephant in the Room**

IPS [Inter Press Service] News Agency

Aled Williams and Rob Parry-Jones

15 September 2016

**UN report confirms corruption is biggest threat to ivory, as wildlife officials arrested across Africa and Asia**

Survival International

14 June 2016

## 3. Press releases

### [UK ranked 8th least corrupt country in the world](#)

**Home Office**

**21 February 2018**

The [Transparency International index](#) (published today - 21 February), drawn up by the leading civil society organisation fighting corruption worldwide, ranks 180 countries on how corrupt a country's public sector is viewed as. In the last year, the UK has moved 2 places from 10th least corrupt in the world to joint 8th.

Drawing on evidence from 13 surveys of business people and expert assessments, the index analysis highlights links between corruption, press freedom and the decline of civil liberties around the world.

Security Minister Ben Wallace said:

I am pleased that Transparency International has ranked UK as one of the least corrupt countries in the world. Our improved position clearly reflects the proactive role this government has taken to combat corruption both at home and abroad.

But we are not complacent and recognise there is more to do. That is why we published the UK's first anti-corruption strategy which establishes an ambitious longer-term commitment to tackle corruption.

I am determined that law enforcement and the government should work together to drive out dirty money and its corrupting effect.

The UK is making concerted efforts to tackle corruption and published the first [UK anti-corruption strategy](#) in December 2017. The strategy contains over 100 fully-resourced commitments to guide government efforts and establishes a 5-year plan to reduce corruption.

The strategy builds upon the UK's strong anti-corruption drive. The UK: was the first G20 country to publish the details of who owns and controls UK companies; was the first G7 country to undergo an international monetary fund fiscal transparency evaluation; and, in 2017, passed the [Criminal Finances Act](#) which established new anti-corruption tools and powers such as Unexplained Wealth Orders. These investigative orders require certain individuals - either politically exposed persons or individuals reasonably suspected of involvement with or connected to serious and organised crime - to explain the source of their wealth, supporting the UK's effort to tackle corruption.

Alongside the department's efforts, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of John Penrose MP as the new anti-corruption champion. In his role, Mr Penrose will be responsible for challenging and supporting the government in implementing the strategy, as well as promoting the UK's response to corruption both domestically and internationally.

## [DRC government reinstates illegal logging concessions in breach of its own moratorium](#)

**Global Witness**

**20 February 2018**

The Congolese Minister of Environment, Amy Ambatobe, has reinstated 6,500 km<sup>2</sup> of logging concessions that were cancelled in August 2016 by the then Environment Minister Robert Bopolo following instructions from then Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo.

The three concessions reinstated on 1 February 2018 were awarded to the Chinese-owned logging companies Forestière pour le Développement du Congo (FODECO) and Société La Millénaire Forestière (SOMIFOR). Two of the concessions overlap with a recently discovered peatland deposit covering 145,000 km<sup>2</sup> and believed to contain 30 billion tons of carbon. Expanding industrial logging into these areas is considered to [be among the biggest threats](#) facing them.

“We are alarmed that the Minister of Environment has illegally reallocated these concessions in breach of the 2002 moratorium on new industrial logging titles despite their earlier cancellation. Greenpeace Africa calls on the Congolese government to revoke these concessions once more and, this time, sanction the perpetrators,” said Irene Wabiwa Betoko, Greenpeace Africa Senior Campaign Manager.

In October 2017, the mainly Norwegian-funded Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) greenlighted the [transfer of USD 41.2 million](#) to the DRC’s national fund for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). This was supposed to be done only after the Congolese government put in place a “robust action plan” with internal oversight measures. However, CAFI’s failure to insist on measures to prevent future breaches of the moratorium has meant that significant funds have been disbursed in the absence of due diligence.

Jo Blackman, Campaign Leader at Global Witness, said: “We call on CAFI to immediately suspend funding until the DRC’s government cancels these concession allocations, guarantees that the moratorium will be respected and sanctions those responsible for these illegalities.

Lars Løvold, Director of Rainforest Foundation Norway added: “It is surprising that elements within the DRC government apparently are willing to risk cancelling the whole 200 million dollar agreement between CAFI and DRC by insisting on short-sighted illegalities.”

During a photo opportunity aboard the Greenpeace ship Esperanza on October 31 2017, the DRC Environment Minister solemnly committed himself to the protection of the country's peatlands by stating:

“I'm sending here a message to the entire international community for the mobilisation of funding and to help DRC Government to protect these sensitive areas and to improve the livelihood of communities living around these peatlands.”

Simon Counsell, Executive Director of Rainforest Foundation UK, said: “The issuing of new logging concessions sends a clear signal to the

international community that the DRC government is abandoning any pretence at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Any new large-scale logging operations on peatland forests in particular are likely to cause massive emissions of greenhouse gases. Donors such as Norway and the World Bank will need to reconsider whether REDD programmes in DRC are credible and supportable.”

### [Foreign Secretary calls for international effort to tackle wildlife crime](#)

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
19 February 2018**

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson visited the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) facility in London today (Monday 19 February) to see illegally traded wildlife products seized by the Met Police before they could be sold on the black market in the UK.

Many of the cases the WCU deals with involve cross-border smuggling and require police collaboration with international agencies, underlining the need for greater international cooperation to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

The Foreign Secretary saw items seized in successful WCU operations. This includes the recent Abbas Allawi case, where Met Police raided a Watford property using trained search dogs and found wildlife goods with a street value of over £1 million stashed in his attic.

The Foreign Secretary was shown items including 7 rhino horns weighing over 16 kg, and dozens of raw ivory tusks and carved ivory specimens as well as animal trophies including a stuffed lion’s head and tiger skins. He heard how there is online demand for primates, including severed monkey hands turned into trinkets and monkey skulls.

During the visit the Foreign Secretary said:

When we think of the illegal wildlife trade, the slaughter of elephants, rhinos and other species teetering on the brink of extinction, we think of Africa, Asia and distant countries where some think this acceptable. We rarely associate this crime with our own shores. To say I was angry to see the haul of ivory, rhino horns, animal furs and other items in the gross menagerie of seized illegal animal products in London is an understatement.

This is not just a crime taking place overseas. Criminal lowlifes operate right here in the UK and the Met Police and other forces are working to stop them in their tracks. Criminal gangs trafficking wildlife across UK borders will not be permitted to operate with impunity, but this requires a global effort, tackling both the supply and demand of this odious trade.

We will not let up our efforts to ensure that future generations can share our planet with rhinos and elephants and that the criminals who seek to harm them face justice.

The Foreign Secretary also learned about a new technique for taking fingerprints from ivory. The technique was tested on ivory from the WCU facility from previous seizures, and it increases the chances of building a legal case against perpetrators.

This follows on from the [Foreign Secretary's recent visit to Asia](#) where he viewed illegally trafficked ivory and pangolin scales seized by Thai customs.

In October the UK will host an international conference on the illegal wildlife trade, bringing together global leaders to work to end wildlife crime.

### **[PM announces new UK-China action to end the illegal wildlife trade](#)**

**10 Downing Street  
1 February 2018**

Proposals to outlaw the sale of ivory have attracted more than 70,000 replies - one of the largest responses in the history of Defra.

Officials are still analysing the replies but said it was clear that the 'overwhelming majority' support a ban. The government will set out its detailed response shortly.

As part of a global government effort to crack down on the wildlife trade, Prime Minister Theresa May has announced a joint UK-China effort to strengthen international cooperation.

Ahead of the London 2018 Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, the two countries will pledge to share our expertise in this area with countries in the southern African region.

Border Force officers will share their expertise in identifying smuggled ivory with counterparts worldwide to stop wildlife trafficking.

The UK military also trains an elite force of anti-poachers in African countries.

This week, an enforcement workshop facilitated by UK and Chinese experts is being held in Johannesburg to share best practice on tackling the international illegal wildlife trade.

In October 2017, the Environment Secretary launched a public consultation on proposals to ban sales of ivory in the UK.

The proposals would help protect elephants and help combat poaching by removing opportunities for criminals to trade illegally-poached ivory.

The environment and working together to tackle the wildlife trade are being discussed by the UK and China during a three-day visit by Mrs May.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister visited the Yangtze River in Wuhan, where she was briefed by local experts on Wuhan's efforts to reduce pollution in the river and in the city's lakes, including from micro plastic pollution.

The Prime Minister heard how improvements in water quality are helping to protect and restore the population of Yangtze River finless porpoises, including through a project led by the Zoological Society of London working in conjunction with local marine biologists.

Speaking in China, the Prime Minister said:

My visit to China is about our two countries working together on some of the most significant challenges of our time. And during my visit I have seen first-hand the way UK expertise is supporting Chinese efforts to protect wildlife and improve the quality of life of its citizens.

I am proud of the agreement that the UK and China have made to boost our co-operation in the fight against the illegal ivory trade.

We have committed to using all the levers at our disposal to lobby for other countries to implement domestic bans and stamp out this abhorrent practice.

The government will work both at home and overseas to tackle poaching and the illegal ivory trade.

In October 2018, the UK will host a fourth international conference on the illegal wildlife, bringing global leaders to London to tackle the strategic challenges of the trade.

This follows the groundbreaking London 2014 conference on the illegal wildlife trade, and subsequent conferences in Botswana and Vietnam.

**[United Against Corruption: Op-Ed by British Ambassador Moazzam Malik on Anti-Corruption](#)**  
**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
**9 December 2017**

Today is International Anti-Corruption Day. It's the day in 2003 that 140 countries came together to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Today, people around the world are joining forces under the banner "United Against Corruption" to raise awareness and to fight this crime.

It is also nearly two years since the 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit in London, when the UK hosted a unique coalition of governments, businesses, civil society, law enforcement, sports committees and

international organizations to step up global action to expose, punish and drive out corruption.

Corruption is one of the great obstacles to economic and social development. It is at the heart of many of our problems. Every year, World Bank estimates show that US\$1 trillion is paid in bribes and US\$2.6 trillion is stolen through corruption — a sum equivalent to more than 5 percent of global GDP.

Since the Summit, the UK has implemented a number of major commitments. For example, we have established a new International Anti-Corruption Coordination Center to help coordinate law enforcement efforts; established a Public Central Register of company beneficial ownership information in June 2016, which has been accessed over 2 billion times; and introduced the Criminal Finances Act, which establishes new anti-corruption tools and powers.

In July 2016, the UK became the first G7 country to undergo the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Evaluation. And we have published a new UK Code for Sports Governance in October 2016.

Alongside this, we have held events to promote discussion and cooperation in Washington (focusing on the recovery of stolen assets); in New York at the UN General Assembly (on anti-corruption, growth and the Sustainable Development Goals); and with Colombia, France, Mexico, and Ukraine under the auspices of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit 2016.

[...]

**[The British Army combat the illegal trade in wildlife by partnering with African parks and the Malawian Department of National Parks and Wildlife](#)**

**Ministry of Defence  
20 November 2017**

The illegal trade in wildlife is estimated to be worth between £7 -17 billion a year.

Such is the scale of this criminal industry that it is of international concern.

Often linked to other serious organised crime, the illegal trade in wildlife impacts on much more than the existence of many species already on the brink of extinction, undermining governance and the rule of law.

Tackling this deplorable trade is a priority for the UK government, and the reason why the UK Government is holding the illegal wildlife trade conference in London next year. Working with Rangers, the British Army's soldiers has already had an impact, reducing the number of poachers entering Liwonde National Park.

Minister for the Armed Forces, Mark Lancaster said:

The illegal trade in wildlife significantly damages the ecologies and economies of many African countries, and we are determined to help defeat this problem. British soldiers have had a real impact in helping to counter poaching. Following this, the UK Government will now look at what more can be done to support the affected countries.

The Ranger training is just one example of the UK Government's wider commitment to tackling the effects of the illegal trade in wildlife.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is funding this counter-poaching partnership project with the African Parks' Rangers in Liwonde National Park. Its aim is to reduce the number of poaching incidents by providing training in proven interception tracking tactics, which will develop the rangers' counter-poaching skills.

Defra has also announced plans to impose a ban on ivory sales to help bring an end to the poaching of elephants. The proposals will protect elephants and help combat poaching by removing opportunities for criminals to trade illegally-poached ivory.

The Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, said:

The decline in rhinos, elephants and countless other species shames our generation and the need for radical and robust action to protect these treasured species is beyond dispute.

That is why we are funding training missions of this kind around the world and we have announced plans to ban the sale of ivory, which should never be seen as a commodity for financial gain or a status symbol.

These plans will put the UK front and centre of global efforts to end poaching and the insidious trade in ivory.

The charity Tusk began this project with Defra, working alongside the conservation non-profit African Parks, which has managed Liwonde National Park in partnership with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) since 2015.

Charlie Mayhew, Chief Executive of Tusk said:

Poaching is one of the greatest and most immediate threats to Africa's elephant, rhino and countless other species, but at Tusk we have seen that it is possible to overcome it through a combination of well-trained rangers, information gathering and analysis, and a strong level of local community support.

The British Army's involvement will have a game-changing impact in the project areas, creating a very

strong deterrent to poaching and good relations with the local communities. We've been delighted to play our role in making this engagement a success.

The project got underway this summer.

Soldiers were selected from a range of units across the British Army. They were chosen based on their natural aptitude for tracking and flair for mentoring.

As a result, the make-up of the team boasted a wide range of skills and experiences including infantry, armored vehicle driving and engineering abilities.

For one member of the team, British Army Sergeant Kachoka Kingly, who grew up in the area, the deployment had a very special significance as he returns home to Malawi.

Sergeant Kachoka Kingly said:

As a local boy, this means a lot to me and my community. This is my home, and to be given the opportunity to come back and protect my country's natural treasures, I feel like a hero. Not only have I been able to support the team with my tracking skills, it has been beneficial to the whole team to have me on board, as a translator and cultural advisor.

The soldiers worked side by side with teams from African Parks and the Malawian Department of National Parks and Wildlife to mentor the Rangers.

The joint-training combined elements of information analysis, tracking, bushcraft and infantry skills, all aimed at the successful interception of the poacher.

This partnership allowed both parties to hone and develop their skills resulting in a much more effective, agile force capable of tracking both people and animals over a long distance. The UK soldiers have been able to learn and develop their own tracking skills, something the team do not get to practice in such terrain very often.

The UK Operational Commander of the deployment, Major Tony Viney, described the three-man tracking groups as 'ghosts in the park.' Leaving a minimal trace on the ground and being able to cover vast areas, the patrols are a strong deterrent to any poacher considering entering the park.

Comp Sergeant Major Francis Condron said:

Tracking is a fascinating skill, and the rangers are so enthusiastic and happy to share their experience.

It is such a useful skill to have, and now having this knowledge I think I'll be able to use it in other situations

as a useful survival skill, both with the Army and at home. I have already taught my kids the basics.

Working alongside the British soldiers the Rangers have improved their patrol techniques to better use their equipment and terrain, this includes lengthening their daily patrols and reducing the weight of their equipment by 30% so they can be more agile.

With 548 km<sup>2</sup> of woodland and dry savannah to cover, the shift to these long-range patrols has paid off. During the three-month period, the teams removed 362 snare traps, two gin traps and more than 700 meters of illegal fishing nets the park.

There is no doubt that the joint team approach has made a positive impact on counter-poaching in Liwonde National Park. The Rangers made 11 arrests, all of which have led to convictions, and nine poacher camps have been destroyed.

Since 2015, African Parks has held six different courses in Liwonde training a total of 166 rangers from across six of the parks it manages, with a vision to securing habitat and combatting poaching. Significant investments have been made in up-skilling Rangers, providing them with the needed equipment and motivating them. The British Military deployment is part of this broader sustained initiative.

These developments are having a major impact on poaching, not only through the delivery of justice but also by deterring poachers from committing such crimes in the first place.

### [Links between corruption and wildlife crime highlighted at UN anti-corruption conference](#)

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
6 November 2017**

The Secretariat of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) spearheaded a number of events at the 7th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC CoSP7, Vienna, 6-10 November 2017) to encourage Parties to both conventions to tackle the corruption associated with illicit wildlife trade.

There is an increasing recognition that to curb the global surge in wildlife trafficking, the world's governments must increase their efforts to fight the corrosive corruption that enables it. Corruption fuels and abets transnational organized crime, and is particularly rife in high-value wildlife trafficking.

UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov said: "Corruption is multifaceted and can occur at every stage of the wildlife, forestry and fisheries value chain. It can include bribes for information on the movement of animals or patrols, or to obtain rights and quotas, or grease the wheels of shipments, to ensure that they are not inspected

or seized. UNODC, as guardian of the UN conventions against corruption and transnational organized crime, is working with partners such as CITES to build understanding and ensure that wildlife, forest and fisheries agencies are trained and equipped to respond to corruption."

Addressing the UNCAC plenary in the opening session, CITES Secretary-General, John E. Scanlon said: "We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this serious challenge. We have no option but to confront corruption head-on by fully deploying the international agreements created to combat corruption and to regulate wildlife trade in a coherent manner. The vast majority of officials are honest and committed and we salute them. Yet, we also see customs and police officials bribed, logging and hunting licences forged, and poachers and wildlife traffickers set free due to obstructed prosecutions. We must root out the 'bad apples' and deepen efforts to build and maintain properly paid, trained and equipped civil services. The ratification and implementation of the UNCAC is central to this work."

Cooperation between UNCAC and CITES is at an all-time high. Both CITES and UNODC have been encouraging Parties to both conventions to take steps to address this important issue and are working together to integrate the tools to prevent corruption, and to facilitate the prosecution and punishment of offenders, while enforcing the international rules set by CITES for trade in wildlife.

At CITES CoP17 held in Johannesburg, South Africa last year, CITES Parties adopted, for the first time, a dedicated resolution on corruption ([Resolution 17.6 on Prohibiting, preventing and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention](#)). Among other things, this resolution urges all Parties to CITES to adopt measures to counter instances of corruption and ensure that any corrupt practices associated with the administration, regulation, implementation or enforcement of CITES are punishable with appropriate penalties under national legislation.

Corruption is also addressed in the first ever [World Wildlife Crime](#) report, published by UNODC in 2016, with support from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). The report records more than 7,000 endangered species of wild animals and plants illegally traded across 120 countries, where corruption is one of the major facilitators of poaching and trafficking. The international illicit trade in live great apes would not be possible without corruption. African elephant poaching in conflict zones suggests that corruption, rather than conflict, is the primary enabler of elephant poaching.

It therefore remains essential that Parties to both conventions step up efforts to ensure that measures are in place to identify, prevent and address corruption. It is crucial that anti-corruption bodies and other relevant agencies get involved as the issue is too big to be dealt with by wildlife, forestry and fisheries management authorities alone.

A number of tools are currently being developed under the auspices of ICWC, which is a collaborative effort of the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World

Bank and the World Customs Organization. These tools include anti-corruption guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies and assist member States to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens. ICCWC is also delivering a number of activities to support the implementation of national anti-corruption measures and strategies.

### **UK to host global conference to crack down on wildlife crime**

**DEFRA / FCO / DFID**

**30 October 2017**

Ministers have today (30 October 2017) officially launched the London 2018 Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, with less than a year to go before the global conference begins.

Foreign Office, Defra and DFID ministers brought together NGOs, academics and key countries affected by the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) to call on them to work with the UK to help stamp out this crime. It is now the fourth most lucrative transnational crime in the world after drugs, weapons and human trafficking.

Building a strong, global consensus on tackling IWT is a priority for the government as this crime, which is destroying entire populations of endangered species and causing misery for local communities, can only truly be addressed through international collaboration.

From previous conferences in [London in 2014](#) through to [Kasane in 2015](#) and Hanoi in 2016, the UK has shown the leadership and ability to secure the political commitment needed to bring an end to IWT.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

The illegal trade in wildlife is a serious organised crime and an utter abomination which has no place in the twenty-first century.

The criminals who run this trade do more than damage wildlife – they use the same networks of corrupt officials and agencies to commit further crimes, such as drug smuggling and people trafficking, along with financial crimes by laundering their illicit money.

Only by building global consensus and working together will we be able to stop wildlife crime in its tracks, and I am determined that the UK will continue to drive forward this agenda. I am proud to say that London will once again host the next global IWT conference next year.

Earlier this month the government announced [new plans to ban ivory sales in the UK](#).

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

The international community shares a common aim to end merciless poaching and criminal trading – but now is the time to step up decisive action.

Building on the success of past summits to protect critically endangered species, the London conference marks a collective intent to work together, share learnings and forge new partnerships to disrupt the criminality that is destroying flora and fauna on an unprecedented scale.

The UK government has committed £26 million between 2012 and 2020 to fund practical action around the world to help fight the illegal wildlife trade. This includes, to date, 47 projects funded through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

The UK will host the fourth consecutive conference on IWT on 10 to 11 October 2018.

## 4. PQs

### [Illegal Wildlife Trade](#)

20 Feb 2018 | 636 cc7-8

**Asked by: Alister Jack**

What steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

**Asked by: Anne-Marie Trevelyan**

What steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The United Kingdom will host an ambitious, high-level illegal wildlife trade conference in London in October this year. I believe that the ambition to crack down on the illegal wildlife trade is shared by the entire British people.

**Asked by: Alister Jack**

At that conference, will my right hon. Friend ensure that the United Kingdom remains at the forefront of efforts to stamp out the illegal trade in ivory?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

As my hon. Friend will know, we are nearing the conclusion of a consultation about a total ban on ivory, which I think many people in the House and in the country would agree is devoutly to be wished for. We will see where we get to, but I think my hon. Friend can count on us once again to be in the lead, and I believe that the October summit will produce some very substantive conclusions on saving elephants.

**Asked by: Anne-Marie Trevelyan**

During his recent trip to south-east Asia, what discussions did my right hon. Friend have with palm oil-producing countries about the illegal wildlife trade and deforestation?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I am acutely aware of the problems caused by palm oil cultivation. We are in urgent dialogue with our partners to discourage them from deforestation and the consequent loss of species.

**Asked by: Catherine West**

China has come a long way in the ivory trade discussions, but what discussions is the team having with Vietnam and some of the other countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

Only the other day, I had discussions with Thailand. We absolutely appreciate the importance of not simply diverting the flow of ivory from China to other countries in south-east Asia.

**Asked by: Gregory Campbell**

Will the Foreign Secretary assure the House, and the people of the United Kingdom, that an international approach is being taken to

ensure that nations across the developed globe take a similar position, so that we can ostracise and alienate those who are engaged in this sort of trade?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

The hon. Gentleman is absolutely right. That is why we are hosting a global summit, and the participation rates are already very high indeed.

**[Wildlife: Smuggling](#)**

**31 Jan 2018 | 124581**

**Asked by: Richard Burden**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of whether criminals make use of cyber-crime in the illegal wildlife trade.

**Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey**

**| Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Criminals are known to make use of cyber tools, including internet sale platforms, to facilitate the illegal wildlife trade. The National Wildlife Crime Unit assists law enforcers in their investigations and helps prevent and detect wildlife crime, including cybercrime.

**[Ivory Sales](#)**

**25 Jan 2018 | 635 cc390-1**

**Asked by: Rachel Maclean**

Whether the Government plans to have its proposed ban on ivory sales in place by the Illegal Wildlife Trade summit in October 2018.

**Answered Dr Thérèse Coffey | Department: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

The Government's consultation closed on 29 December. We had more than 70,000 responses, so we are considering them carefully. We want to act at pace—that is why officials are preparing legislation—but we need to be careful that we give due consideration to all the responses so that we introduce appropriate legislation that will end the scourge of elephant poaching in Africa and other parts of the world.

**[Illegal Wildlife Trade](#)**

**09 Jan 2018 | 634 cc153-5**

**Asked by: Henry Smith**

What steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

**Asked by: Rishi Sunak**

What steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

**Asked by: Marcus Fysh**

What steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Tackling the illegal wildlife trade is a massive priority for this Government. To that end, we will host a high-level conference in London this October to drive further progress. I can assure the House that the Government raise the issue of illegal wildlife trade consistently at all levels with our friends and partners around the world.

**Asked by: Henry Smith**

I am grateful to my right hon. Friend for his answer. Can he say a little bit more about what actions he has taken globally to ensure that the appalling ivory trade is reduced, and whether he thinks that national bans play an important part in that?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I am grateful for that question, because the UK Government have been a leader for many years now in calling for an end to the illegal trade in ivory, which not only does so much damage to the elephant population but encourages criminality of all kinds across the African continent. I am proud to say that this Government are currently consulting, as my hon. Friend will know, on an all-out ivory ban. The results of that consultation will be announced shortly, and I hope to have good news for the House.

**Asked by: Rishi Sunak**

I commend my right hon. Friend for all his work in this area, but may I draw his attention to a shocking investigation in the Mail on Sunday, which highlighted the continuing illegal trade in tigers in Laos?

Does he agree that those findings deserve urgent attention to ensure that this magnificent species can continue to enjoy a safe future?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I indeed commend the excellent journalism of that publication—at least in this respect—in highlighting what is taking place in respect of tiger farming in Laos, which is an abominable trade that all right-thinking people across the House would condemn. The UK Government not only call on the Government of Laos to stop this appalling trade, but stand ready to give any support and help that we can to the Laotians.

**Asked by: Marcus Fysh**

You, Mr Speaker, may be as interested as I am in the oceanic environment. I want to talk about whales, because 30,000 have been killed since the introduction of the international whaling ban, and nations such as Japan, Norway and Denmark take a very controversial view on participating in whaling. What can the Secretary of State's Department do to make whaling history?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I congratulate my hon. Friend, an eponymous Member, on that important question on what we are doing to protect whales—although they are, of course, mammals rather than fish, as he knows. The UK has

been in the lead over many decades in calling for an end to illegal whaling. We condone whaling only when it is clearly and demonstrably necessary for subsistence.

**Asked by: Kerry McCarthy**

Reports from the UN and others have shown links between not just the illegal wildlife trade but the illegal timber trade and the financing of terrorist groups such as al-Shabaab and the Lord's Resistance Army. Is that on the Minister's radar, and what will he be doing to ensure that the links between terrorism and those trades are broken?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

The hon. Lady asks an excellent question, because, of course, the illegal wildlife trade is intimately connected not just with the illegal timber trade, but with drug running, gun trafficking and the trafficking in human beings, so if we tackle the illegal wildlife trade, we drive down those phenomena as well.

**Asked by: Helen Jones**

The illegal trade in ivory is estimated to be worth about \$20 billion per annum, and yet the Government have so cut the Border Force that they are now looking at recruiting volunteers to fill the gap. What confidence can the House have that this illegal trade will be tackled if the Government are not prepared to put the resources into the Border Force?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I have every confidence in our Border Force and its ability to police the traffic of illegal items such as ivory. It should be evident, I hope, to everybody coming from another country with such an illegal item in their possession that they face the risk not only of prosecution, but of jail.

**Asked by: David Linden**

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, rhino poaching in South Africa increased by 7,700% between 2007 and 2013. People in Broomhouse want to know what support the Secretary of State has offered his South African counterpart to help global campaigning to end this trade once and for all.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I can tell the hon. Gentleman that the Minister for Africa has raised that very matter with the South African Government only recently.

**[Wildlife: Smuggling](#)**

**29 Dec 2017 | 120447**

**Asked by: Iain Stewart**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is a priority for the Foreign Secretary and for me. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will jointly host, along with Defra and DFID, a high level International IWT Conference in London in October 2018. Ahead of this, staff across our diplomatic missions overseas and in London are working, both bilaterally and through multilateral fora, to engage countries, NGOs, academia and business to work with us to deliver a step change in the global fight against this threat to endangered species.

**[Foreign Companies: Property](#)**

**28 Dec 2017 | HL4342**

**Asked by: Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the draft bill for their proposed register of the beneficial owners of overseas companies owning property in the UK.

**Answering member: Lord Henley | Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

On 11 December the Government published its new Anti-Corruption Strategy. In the Strategy we have committed to publish a draft bill in this session of Parliament for the establishment of a public register of beneficial ownership of overseas legal entities.

The Department ran a call for evidence on this policy earlier in 2017. We will publish a response to the call for evidence early in 2018 and will also set out more detail on the timeline for publishing the legislation.

**[Trade Agreements: Corruption](#)**

**22 Dec 2017 | 120220**

**Asked by: Dr Rupa Huq**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UK anti-corruption strategy 2017 to 2022, published in December 2017, what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for International Trade on the inclusion of anti-corruption measures in bilateral trade deals.

**Answering member: Ben Wallace | Department: Home Office**

The Home Office published the UK's Anti-Corruption Strategy on the 11th December, which establishes an ambitious longer-term framework to guide UK government efforts to tackle corruption at home and abroad in the period to 2022. It sets out priorities for the government's anti-corruption response and includes a strong recognition of the relationship of integrity in business and prosperity.

As part of this, the Department for International Trade will consider how anti-corruption can be best supported through our bilateral and regional trade dialogues and trading agreements as the UK develops its position

as an independent trading nation. The Home Office is overseeing implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and as part of this is working closely with the Department for International Trade.

### **Wildlife: Smuggling**

**22 Dec 2017 | 119815**

#### **Asked by: Dr Rupa Huq**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what (a) multilateral and (b) bilateral initiatives he has taken to counter the illegal wildlife trade.

#### **Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey**

**| Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Combatting the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a priority for the UK Government. This is why we are investing £26 million globally, and working with international partners, to tackle the systemic issues driving IWT.

Our work to combat IWT involves a number of multilateral and bilateral initiatives, including the commitments we made at the Hanoi Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference: <http://www.parliament.uk/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-12-01/HCWS295>

These commitments complement our existing initiatives, such as funding our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, which aims to reduce demand, strengthen enforcement, ensure effective legal frameworks and develop sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by IWT. A list of projects can be found on the IWT Challenge Fund website: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/collections/illegal-wildlife-trade-iwt-challenge-fund>

Following the success of the inaugural international conference on IWT in London in 2014 and UK Government support for the subsequent successful conferences in Kasane (2015) and Hanoi (2016), the UK will bring global leaders back to London in October 2018 for a fourth high level international meeting. This meeting will make sure that IWT stays at the top of the political agenda, that all participants deliver on existing commitments and instigate new partnerships for action.

### **Corruption**

**21 Dec 2017 | 119813**

#### **Asked by: Dr Rupa Huq**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Foreign Secretary on the active enforcement of the OECD Anti Bribery Convention.

**Answering member: Ben Wallace | Department: Home Office**

The UK has been recognised as a country which actively enforces the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (the “OECD Anti-Bribery Convention”).

The UK Anti-Corruption Strategy was published on December 11 and contains a clear commitment to promote international implementation of the OECD Anti Bribery Convention, together with other international standards. The Joint Anti-Corruption Unit in the Home Office is working closely with the FCO, DFID, HMT and law enforcement agencies to this end.

**[Foreign Companies: Ownership](#)**

**20 Dec 2017 | 119810**

**Asked by: Dr Rupa Huq**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when she plans to create a public register showing the beneficial owners of overseas legal entities which (a) own or buy property in the UK and (b) secure contracts from central Government.

**Answering member: Margot James | Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

On 11 December the Government published its new Anti-Corruption Strategy. In the Strategy we have committed to publish a draft bill in this session of Parliament for the establishment of a public register of beneficial ownership of overseas legal entities.

The Department ran a call for evidence on this policy earlier in 2017. We will publish a response to the call for evidence early in 2018 and will also set out more detail on the timeline for publishing the legislation.

**[Trade Agreements](#)**

**19 Dec 2017 | HL4029**

**Asked by: Baroness Chalker of Wallasey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek to enshrine anti-corruption provisions in all post-Brexit trade agreements.

**Answering member: Baroness Fairhead  
| Department: Department for International Trade**

The UK's Anti-Corruption Strategy, published on the 11th December, establishes an ambitious longer-term framework to guide UK government efforts to tackle corruption at home and abroad in the period to 2022. It sets out priorities for the government's anti-corruption response and includes a strong recognition of the relationship of integrity in business and prosperity. As a part of this, the Department for International Trade will consider how anti-corruption can be best supported through our bilateral and regional trade

dialogues and trading agreements as the UK develops its position as an independent trading nation.

### [Seahorses: Sales](#)

18 Dec 2017 | 117211

**Asked by: Sir Hugo Swire**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that online marketplaces abide by all UK and EU laws on the sale of seahorses.

**Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey**

**| Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Seahorses are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Trade of seahorses into, and from, the EU is regulated by CITES permits, however they can be freely traded within the EU without a CITES permit provided that they have been legally acquired.

It is for the police, including the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), which is partly funded by Defra, to investigate any cases involving the illegal trading of seahorses, including intelligence concerning potential illegal trading on online marketplaces. The NWCU has investigated a number of such cases.

### [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species](#)

01 Dec 2017 | 115288

**Asked by: Kerry McCarthy**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to reflect Decision 17.225 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the UK.

**Answering member: Dr Thérèse Coffey**

**| Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

At the 17 Conference of the Parties for CITES the UK contributed to achieving strong outcomes for tigers and other Asian big cats species.

Since then Defra has funded a workshop which took place in Vietnam on 7 and 8 September 2017. The UK Border Force, along with the National Crime Agency and others held a training workshop with Vietnam's border staff to share expertise in tackling wildlife crime at the borders including issues such as illegal shipment of animal parts and derivatives. The programme included best practice in training wildlife crime officers and setting wildlife crime priorities.

**Elephants: Conservation**

**15 Nov 2017 | HL2847**

**Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further support they intend to offer members of the Elephant Protection Initiative to succeed in protecting their wildlife.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**

**| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK Government has supported the work of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) since its launch at the 2014 Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) conference in London, including providing approximately £1.2 million funding through Stop Ivory. The Minister for Asia and the Pacific and the Minister for Africa both recently met Helen Clarke, co-chair of the new EPI Consultative Group, to discuss Her Majesty's Government's support for the next phase of the EPIs work and in developing plans for the 2018 London IWT Conference. The UK Government also supports countries, including EPI members, to tackle poaching and the illegal ivory trade through the Global Environment Facility which is providing \$131 million (£97 million) over seven years from 2015 to the Global Wildlife Programme. Our overseas network has supported EPI events in a number of member states and we are happy to continue this support.

**Companies: Ownership**

**13 Nov 2017 | 111541**

**Asked by: Layla Moran**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to extend the Register of Beneficial Ownership to British Overseas Territories; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Margot James | Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Under the UK Companies Act, legislation on the Register of People with Significant Control can only be applied to companies as defined in that Act. On matters of company law, the Overseas Territories are legislatively independent. These jurisdictions are largely self-governing: they have their own governments, legislatures and elected representatives, and do not have representation in the UK Parliament.

Under arrangements concluded in 2016, Overseas Territories with a financial centre have committed to hold beneficial ownership in central registers or similarly effective systems, and to give UK law enforcement and tax authorities near real-time access to beneficial ownership information on corporate and legal entities incorporated in their jurisdictions. These measures represent a significant step forward in our ability to investigate serious and organised crime, including bribery, corruption, money laundering and tax evasion.

**[Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference](#)****13 Nov 2017 | HL2845****Asked by: Lord Hague of Richmond**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what engagement they intend to have with (1) non-governmental organisations, and (2) the private sector, during the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference 2018.

**Answering member: Lord Gardiner of Kimble**

**| Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

The UK Government is engaging with non-governmental organisations and the private sector in advance of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference 2018. Our cross-sector engagement in the build-up to and at the conference will ensure we deliver ambitious goals and effective partnerships for globally coordinated action to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

**[Africa: Poaching](#)****31 Oct 2017 | 109459****Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much funding her Department provided for anti-poaching efforts in Africa in each of the last seven years.

**Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department: Department for International Development**

The Department has supported efforts to address the illegal wildlife trade through funding of the Global Environment Facility and by providing funding to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs including for the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. The Department for International Development's funding to the Global Environment Facility was £35 million in 2010 and £52.5 million each year since then. £13 million was committed by the Department to tackle the Illegal Wildlife Trade in the period of 2014 to 2018, to be administered by Defra. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the proportion of this funding that was specifically targeted at anti-poaching efforts in Africa.

**[China: Ivory](#)****13 Oct 2017 | 105364****Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when he last made representations on the environmental effects of the ivory trade in China with his Chinese counterpart.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

During my visit to China during the final week of August I had discussions with Vice Foreign Minister Wang Chao on our joint efforts to counter the Illegal Wildlife Trade, including the trafficking of ivory products. I also met our key NGO partners in country and reassured them of the UK's continued leadership on this issue through funding quality projects and working closely with the Chinese government through the UK-China Global Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

**Corruption**

**13 Sep 2017 | 8354**

**Asked by: Frank Field**

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, when the Government intends to (a) appoint an anti-corruption champion and (b) release its Anti-Corruption Strategy.

**Answering member: Chris Skidmore | Department: Cabinet Office**

The Government intends to appoint an Anti-Corruption champion in due course.

The position of the Anti-Corruption Strategy remains the same as in the answer I gave to a similar question on 27 June (PQ144); the Government is working on a new Anti-Corruption Strategy which will be published in due course.

**Illegal Wildlife Trade**

**11 Jul 2017 | 627 cc136-7**

**Asked by: Nigel Huddleston**

What steps his Department is taking to help tackle the illegal trade in wildlife.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I wish to begin by congratulating Iraq's security forces on liberating Mosul from the pitiless grasp of Daesh. The flag of Iraq flies once more in the country's second city and I pay tribute to the pilots of the RAF who played a vital role in supporting this operation, delivering more airstrikes than anyone else apart from the United States. The House can take pride in what they have done.

On illegal wildlife trade, we can be pleased with the agreement that the Prime Minister helped to secure at the G20 summit in Hamburg. It is about cracking down not only on the trade in charismatic megafauna, but on those who engage in gunrunning, people trafficking and much other human misery, as well as illegal wildlife trafficking. We can be proud of what we are doing.

**Asked by: Nigel Huddleston**

I applaud the efforts the Government are making in this area. I am also pleased that the UK will host the illegal wildlife trade conference in 2018. Can the Foreign Secretary confirm how much money the Department has committed to tackling the illegal wildlife trade and how effectively the money is being spent?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I can confirm that we are increasing our contribution to £26 million—another £13 million we are contributing to tackle illegal wildlife trade. I have myself seen what UK-financed projects are doing in Kenya to crack down on this vile trade.

**Asked by: Vernon Coaker**

I say to the Foreign Secretary that we simply have to give this subject a much higher priority than we do—not only our Government, but across the world. Every week or month we see programmes on our televisions—55 African elephants are poached every day. He has to make this a priority. It is not good enough for us to look at our television screens and feel sorry about it—we have to have a far greater commitment to do something about it.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

I completely share the hon. Gentleman's zeal and passion. The UK has in fact been in the lead on this for several years now, and we will continue to push the agenda, not just at the G20, as the Prime Minister did, but at the IWT summit that we will host in October 2018 in London.

**Asked by: Tom Tugendhat**

Will my right hon. Friend talk a little about his strategy on this issue, because the link between the illegal wildlife trade, smuggling, people trafficking, and lawlessness and violence in many countries is extremely real? Addressing the illegal wildlife trade may seem esoteric, but it is not: it is about the stability of many nations that are firm partners of the United Kingdom.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

My hon. Friend is right: this is far from esoteric. It not only touches the hearts of millions of people in our country—as the hon. Member for Gedling (Vernon Coaker) said—but helps to cause increased human misery. The same people are involved in trade in drugs, arms and people, worth up to £13 billion a year, and we are playing a major part in frustrating that trade.

**Asked by: Stuart C. McDonald**

There is increasing evidence that the UK's legal ivory market has been used as cover for illegal trade. What discussions will the Foreign Secretary have with colleagues about an all-out ban on the ivory trade, as has previously been committed to?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson**

As the hon. Gentleman knows, the Government have a commitment to an all-out ban on the sale of ivory in this country, and that is what we intend to pursue.

[Anti-corruption Strategy](#)

10 Jul 2017 | 783 c1080

**Asked by: Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate**

My Lords, the Government have previously indicated to the House that they were attempting to meet a target by the end of June this year to have central registers of beneficial ownership opened in the Crown dependencies and the overseas territories. I believe it is now July. Therefore, I would be very grateful if my noble friend updated us on the current position.

**Answered by: Lord Young of Cookham**

I am grateful to my noble friend. It is indeed now July, and I am happy to tell him that good progress has been made with the overseas territories and the Crown dependencies. Most of the larger territories already had these central registers in place. I think that only two, or possibly three, have not met the deadline, and they are making good progress. Therefore, significant information is now available, almost real time, in this country for law enforcement and HMRC because of the central registers of beneficial ownership that the overseas territories and the Crown dependencies have now introduced following last year's London summit.

[Corruption](#)

21 Mar 2017 | 68318

**Asked by: Imran Hussain**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, when her Department plans to release updated country-specific anti-corruption strategies.

**Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department: Department for International Development**

DFID will publish country anti-corruption strategies. In doing so DFID will want to ensure that we can take into account recommendations from the International Development Committee's report and relevant aspects of the forthcoming UK Anti-Corruption Strategy. DFID continues to deliver against the country anti-corruption strategies and efforts to tackle corruption do not hinge on when they are published.

[Developing Countries: Corruption](#)

14 Oct 2016 | 46778

**Asked by: Catherine McKinnell**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether her Department plans to continue to fund (a) innovative projects on anti-corruption and transparency and (b) country-specific anti-corruption strategies.

**Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department: Department for International Development**

My Department will continue to fund innovative projects on anti-corruption and transparency. The Secretary of State for International Development has confirmed that transparency and accountability are at the top of her agenda. Moreover the London Anti-Corruption Summit committed to a range of innovative approaches to fighting corruption globally, many of which DFID will support. This includes increased use of company beneficial ownership registers and improved open public contracting standards. DFID will also contribute towards a new UK-led Anti-Corruption Innovation Hub. It will establish a network across countries, businesses and civil society to share know-how, identify opportunities for collaboration and connect technology and data experts with law enforcement and civil society.

DFID has refreshed anti-corruption strategies for our priority country programmes. These take into account the issues and ambitions created by the Summit and the forthcoming UK Anti-Corruption Strategy. DFID will support our partner countries to implement their Summit commitments where appropriate.

## 5. Other Parliamentary material

### 5.1 Debates

#### [Anti-corruption Summit](#)

03 May 2016 | House of Commons | 609 cc1-25WH

#### [Illegal Wildlife Trade](#)

19 Mar 2014 | House of Commons | 577 cc317-324WH

### 5.2 Statements

#### [UK Public Register of Overseas Entity Beneficial Ownership](#)

24 Jan 2018 | HCWS425

**Andrew Griffiths** (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy): I am today confirming to Parliament the Government's timetable for implementation of its policy to achieve greater transparency around foreign entities that own or buy property in the UK or participate in UK Government procurement. This will set down in legislation the commitment made at the 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit and reaffirmed in the UK's Anti-Corruption Strategy, published in December.

The Government intends to legislate to establish a public register of beneficial owners of non-UK entities that own or buy UK property, or which participate in UK Government procurement. It will publish a draft Bill before the summer recess this year. This will be a significant piece of legislation that delivers a streamlined policy, consistent across the UK, where currently the Land Registries for England and Wales, for Scotland and for Northern Ireland have taken different approaches to land registration and registration of overseas entities.

The Government intends to introduce the Bill to Parliament early in the second session. Following Royal Assent and the making of secondary legislation, the Government intends that the register will be operational in 2021.

Separately, I will be publishing a response to my Department's call for evidence last year on this policy very shortly that will provide more detail on responses received and our proposed approach.

#### [25 Year Environment Plan](#)

11 Jan 2018 | HCWS398

**Michael Gove (Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)**: It is this Government's ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it. We have made significant progress but there is much more to be done.

The 25 Year Environment Plan that we have published today outlines the steps we propose to take to achieve our ambition.  
[...]

Internationally, we will lead the fight against climate change, invest to prevent wildlife crime, pursue a ban on sales of ivory, and strengthen partnerships to tackle illegal wildlife trade beyond borders, including investigating the feasibility of an anti-poaching taskforce.

We will underpin all this action with a comprehensive set of environmental principles. To ensure strong governance, we will consult on plans to set up a world-leading environmental watchdog, an independent, statutory body, to hold Government to account for upholding environmental standards. We will regularly update this Plan to reflect the changing nature of the environment.

While this 25 Year Environment Plan relates only to areas for which HMG is responsible, we will continue to work with the devolved administrations on our shared goal of protecting our natural heritage.

These actions will, we hope, ensure that this country is recognised as the leading global champion of a greener, healthier, more sustainable future for the next generation.

### **Economic crime and anti-corruption**

**11 Dec 2017 | HCWS329**

#### **Amber Rudd (Secretary of State for the Home Department):**

Economic crime and corruption do great harm to individuals, businesses, the integrity of our financial system and the UK's international reputation. We must do more on economic crime to safeguard our prosperity, and the UK's reputation as a world-leading place to do business.

The Government is making a step-change in its response to the threat. A broad and deep public-private partnership is at the heart of this new approach. The Minister of State for Security will become the Minister of State for Security and Economic Crime. Further, the Government will:

- Establish a new Ministerial Economic Crime Strategic Board chaired by the Home Secretary, to agree strategic priorities across Government; ensure resources are allocated to deliver those priorities; and scrutinise performance and impact against the economic crime threat.
- Create a new multi-agency National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) hosted in the National Crime Agency to task and coordinate the law enforcement response, working in the closest possible partnership with the private sector.
- Create a dedicated team to use the power in the Criminal Finances Act 2017 to forfeit criminal money held in suspended bank accounts.
- Legislate to give the National Crime Agency powers to directly task the Serious Fraud Office, who will continue to operate as an independent organisation.

- Publish draft legislation on the creation of a register of the beneficial ownership of overseas companies and other entities that own property in the UK or participate in Government contracts.
- Reform of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime, in partnership with the private sector, law enforcement and regulators, to reduce tick-box compliance, direct the regime to focus on the highest threats, help firms better protect themselves and improve law enforcement outcomes.
- Review disclosure procedures to explore how to make prosecutorial processes more effective and efficient. The Attorney-General will lead this work.
- Support a Law Commission review of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to identify improvements to our powers to confiscate proceeds of crime.

In addition, the Government is today publishing the UK's first cross-government Anti-Corruption Strategy, and the Prime Minister has appointed John Penrose MP as her Anti-Corruption Champion. A copy will be available from Gov.UK and placed in the House Library.

The Strategy provides a framework to guide UK government efforts against corruption both domestically and internationally for the period up to 2022. It sets six priorities to:

- reduce the insider threat in high risk domestic sectors (ports and borders, prisons, policing, defence);
- strengthen the integrity of the UK as a centre of global finance;
- promote integrity across the public and private sectors;
- reduce corruption in public procurement and grants;
- improve the business environment globally; and
- work with other countries to combat corruption.

There will be ministerial oversight of implementation and my department will provide an annual written update to parliament on progress.

To support the delivery of these commitments, responsibility for the Joint Anti-Corruption Unit will transfer from the Cabinet Office to the Home Office. This change will be effective immediately.

### [Bribery and Corruption Assessment template](#)

**15 Dec 2016 | HCWS361**

**Ben Wallace (Minister of State for Security):** I, along with my hon. Friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chris Skidmore), are today publishing a Bribery and Corruption Assessment template. We are writing to all Central Government Departments encouraging them to use the template to set a high standard within government of our response to bribery and corruption.

No sector is immune to bribery and corruption. Central Government and those it does business with are vulnerable to this threat due to their unique decision-making roles and access to information. To better protect themselves from bribery and corruption, a comprehensive

understanding of the unique set of risks posed is essential in order to effectively manage and mitigate the threat. The template directly supports this ambition.

We have therefore worked closely with experts and stakeholders across Government to develop this template, which is intended to be integrated into existing counter fraud activity and the work across Government, led by the Cabinet Office, to create standards for counter fraud work and, from these standards, a Government Counter Fraud Profession.

Development and publication of the template was a commitment made in the 2014 [UK Anti-Corruption Plan](#). The UK Government is committed to tackling corruption through transparency, open government and accountability and setting a high standard in government for counter corruption work is also aligned to our wider ambitions that will be reflected in our development of an anti-corruption strategy.

A copy of The Bribery and Corruption Assessment template will be placed in the House Library and also made available on the government website: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

### [Hanoi Conference on illegal wildlife trade](#)

01 Dec 2016 | HCWS295

**Andrea Leadsom (Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs):** The Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade took place on 17-18 November 2016, bringing together leaders from across the world to secure international political commitment to action on tackling the illegal wildlife trade (IWT). The Hanoi Conference was the third global conference on IWT to follow the London Conference in 2014 and Kasane Conference in 2015.

I was delighted to attend the Conference on behalf of the UK, alongside His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The Conference was successful, with 42 countries and the EU adopting the Hanoi Statement by consensus and 23 countries, the EU and 6 international organisations pledging new and specific actions in the Statement Annex to deliver on their commitments from London and Kasane.

The UK played a key role in supporting Vietnam as chair and host, including direct financial support and seconding staff to the conference secretariat. Our contribution and leadership were widely recognised and commended by international partners. At the Conference, I was able to announce an additional £13million in UK funding for IWT and a number of new initiatives, including expanded British Military training for African park rangers; a project with China to deliver joint training to African border forces; additional funding for Interpol to expand their work with key nations, tracking and intercepting illegal shipments of ivory, rhino horn and other illegal wildlife products; and up to £4million for the International Consortium for Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

Finally I was also pleased to announce that the UK will host a fourth high level meeting on IWT in 2018, to ensure that this urgent global issue stays at the top of the political agenda and that we continue to deliver on our manifesto commitment to lead the world in tackling IWT.

The UK was able to lead further progress in the margins of the Conference. I hosted a meeting of ASEAN Heads of Delegation, attended by the Duke of Cambridge, where I pressed for enhanced collaboration in this critical region, particularly on enforcement. The Philippines, chair of ASEAN in 2017, agreed that IWT would feature on the agenda.

In my meetings with Vietnamese Ministers, I welcomed recent positive steps taken by Vietnam to tackle IWT, and encouraged them to intensify further demand reduction and law enforcement efforts, including in respect of specific cases recently highlighted by NGOs and the media. I made clear the UK's commitment to ongoing practical cooperation between our two countries on these issues.

That so many countries and organisations came together once more in Hanoi to agree further action on IWT is a positive signal of ongoing political attention and also a consensus on the importance and urgency of the issue. We will remain focussed on driving forward this momentum and ensuring the commitments made in Hanoi are delivered in the lead up to the next event in London 2018.

### **[17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species](#)**

**18 Oct 2016 | HCWS198**

**Dr Thérèse Coffey (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities):** The 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) took place in Johannesburg between 24 September and 5 October 2016. CITES is a vital international mechanism for protecting some of our most precious yet vulnerable global wildlife.

Having attended the conference, I can report it was a great success, delivering strong agreements to protect some of the world's most iconic species. I am pleased that much of this action was driven by the UK.

For example, the UK led negotiations on African Lions which saw the trade in wild lion bones banned and the establishment of a new CITES Task Force.

We also chaired discussions on rhinos, resulting in investigative action into failures to halt rhino horn trafficking in key destinations. A proposal to allow trade in rhino horn was also rejected.

Perhaps most significantly and in recognition of the peril facing many elephant populations, the conference voted against a resumption of trading in modern day ivory, in line with recent domestic UK action.

There was also a clear direction to close national ivory markets where these fuel poaching and illegal trade and decisive action to strengthen National Ivory Action Plans which help combat ivory trafficking in key markets.

In addition, global rules on hunting trophies were enhanced, with export permits now mandated for almost all species listed as endangered.

The many victories for global wildlife are too numerous to detail, with action also delivered for Pangolins, as the world's most trafficked mammal, the African Grey Parrot and species of sharks amongst others.

Vitaly, while CITES deals with the legal trade in species, Illegal Wildlife Trade was also a strong focus, with agreements reached on increased global cooperation, and intelligence sharing to boost efforts to reduce demand for wildlife products and tackle corruption. This agreement is crucial as we look towards the Hanoi conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade which will bring together global leaders in November to push further action. Following on from the ground-breaking London Conference, the UK is providing funding and advice to Vietnam in hosting this latest conference, assuring the Illegal Wildlife Trade's place at the top of the global political agenda and delivering on our manifesto pledge to continue to lead the world on this issue. The Secretary of State Andrea Leadsom will lead HMG's delegation to the Conference, which will also be attended by HRH the Duke of Cambridge. Their presence at this vital time will show that the UK continues to be at the forefront of global action, pushing for an end to this brutal trade.

UK leadership in this area is clear. At home, we are tackling wildlife crime through our National Wildlife Crime Unit, which will receive £1.2 million of funding over the next four years. Abroad, the British military is delivering anti-poaching training to rangers in Gabon, home of Africa's largest population of forest elephants. We are also investing £13 million in projects around the world to support communities and boost law enforcement through our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, including specialised interception tracking courses to protect rhino and elephant populations across sub-Saharan Africa.

Decisions made in recent weeks will have a real impact in safeguarding some of the world's most vulnerable species. The UK has been at the forefront of driving this and we will remain committed to protecting global wildlife for generations to come.

## 5.3 Early Day Motions

### [ACTION TO TACKLE IVORY TRADE](#)

**EDM 11 (session 2017-19)**

**21 June 2017**

**John Mann**

That this House recognises that African elephants are facing an unprecedented crisis with an average of one killed every 15 minutes for its ivory; welcomes the action taken internationally by the Government to combat the ivory trade and protect elephants in their natural habitat; further recognises that both the illegal ivory trade and the existence of legal domestic markets are helping to fuel this trade; notes that ivory, both legal and illegal, is being traded on a daily basis within the UK; further notes that illegal ivory items seized by police and the Border Force in the UK has been falsely antiqued using artificial stains or ageing techniques, and are clearly destined for the legal antique market; notes that domestic ivory markets are known to provide cover for the illegal trade in ivory and also reinforce the high value of ivory across and the world; notes that China has announced a domestic ivory trade ban by the end of 2017; and calls on the Government to press for a total ban on ivory sales and to close down the UK ivory market, including that of antique ivory, with immediate effect.

### [ACTION TO TACKLE THE IVORY TRADE](#)

**EDM 859 (session 2016-17)**

**13 January 2017**

**John Mann**

That this House recognises that African elephants are facing an unprecedented crisis with an average of one killed every 15 minutes for their ivory; welcomes the action taken internationally by the Government to combat the ivory trade and protect elephants in their natural habitat; further recognises that both the illegal ivory trade and the existence of legal domestic markets are helping fuel this trade; notes that ivory, both legal and illegal, is being traded on a daily basis within the UK; further notes that illegal ivory items seized by police and the Border Force in the UK have been falsely antiqued, using artificial stains or ageing techniques, clearly destined for the legal antique market; notes that domestic ivory markets are known to provide cover for the illegal trade in ivory and also reinforce the high value of ivory across the world; notes that China has announced a domestic ivory trade ban by the end of 2017; and therefore calls on the Government to implement its commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales and close down the UK ivory market, including that of antique ivory, with immediate effect.

## 6. Further reading

### ***Commons Library Briefing Papers***

#### **[Trade in ivory: UK and international policy and regulation](#)**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP-7875  
9 November 2017

#### **[After the international anti-corruption summit in May 2016: what next?](#)**

Commons Briefing Paper CBP7580  
20 May 2016

### ***HM Government report***

#### **[United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Strategy 2017-2022](#)**

Department for International Development/Home Office  
11 December 2017

### ***Reports***

#### **[Report on EU action plan against wildlife trafficking](#)**

European Parliament  
23 November 2016

#### **[Time for Action End the criminality and corruption fuelling wildlife crime](#)**

Environmental Investigation Agency  
17 November 2016

#### **[World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in protected species 2016](#)**

UNODC  
9 May 2016

#### **[EU action plan against wildlife trafficking](#)**

European Commission  
29 February 2016

#### **[Strategies for fighting corruption in wildlife conservation: A Primer](#)**

Produced by the WWF and Traffic  
November 2015

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