



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

Northern Wildlife Enforcement Network Overview – Background, Challenges, Opportunities and Next Steps



Presentation at the Range States Meeting of the Parties (Fairbanks, Alaska, USA) – February 2-4, 2018

Environment and Climate Change Canada

DRAFT Version 6 – January 9, 2018

What is a Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN)?

- A Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) is a regional, intergovernmental law-enforcement network designed to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- It facilitates a proactive, collective response by countries to wildlife crime.
- It also provides a mechanism by which countries can share experience and intelligence, learn from each other's best practices, collectively build capacity and coordinate joint enforcement operations.



Northern WEN - Background



- Dec. 2013: The Declaration of the Responsible Ministers of the Polar Bear Range States meeting in Moscow called on countries to enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies at the regional, national, and global levels.
- Sept. 2015: The Circumpolar Action Plan: Conservation Strategy for Polar Bear was approved by the Range States and one priority of the plan included the development of a Polar Bear Range States WEN.
- Oct. 2016: An “Arctic WEN” was later discussed in a meeting on the sidelines of CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg.
- Nov. 2017: On the margins of the CITES 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, Northern countries discussed greater collaboration to identify and raise issues, trends, challenges and best practices in law enforcement.



Similar Issues and Challenges



Similar issues and challenges were identified by Arctic countries and included examples such as:

- Experiencing increasing tourism and incursion of cruise ships into the Arctic, disturbing sensitive habitats and wildlife.
- Trade routes are mainly north-south.
- There are “Northern” issues in common that go beyond “Arctic” species: glass eels, reptile smuggling, wild American ginseng, illegal harvesting of timber, fishery products, marine mammal ivory, bird egg poaching, etc.
- Increasing issues with import and introduction of invasive species.
- Few collaborative initiatives and general lack of communication in order to effectively investigate and prosecute offenders.

Northern WEN - Opportunities



- There is a need for a 'Northern WEN' to include northern countries but scope would go beyond Arctic species.
- It would encourage and enhance the transmission of law enforcement information between parties.
- Provide opportunity to improve traceability of Northern species in trade and sharing of best practices.



Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

What Type of Information Could be Shared Among Members?



- Members of the network would develop and agree to a terms of reference and identify areas of work. Some examples of information that could be shared:
 - Enforcement information could be shared to support wildlife enforcement operations.
 - Key points of contact for each country.
 - Legislation that are related to Arctic species.
 - Documents outlining best practices could be shared to inspire each country.



Proposed Next Steps



- Continue discussions, among law enforcement authorities to share experiences, intelligence and collaborate on transnational investigations.
- The next Northern WEN discussion/meeting may be planned during the 70th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Sochi, Russia in October 2018.
- It may be interesting to include other agencies such as customs in the upcoming discussions.



Photo: Garry Donaldson © Environment and Climate Change Canada

Discussion?



Photo: Copyright free – Source: [Pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

Page 8 – July 24, 2018



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada