REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE LAUNCH OF SADC-TWIX

July 2019

SADC-TWIX LAUNCH

09 -10 April 2019
Garden Court OR Tambo
International Airport HOTEL
Kempton Park. South Africa

Workshop Proceedings
TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. TRAFFIC, IUCN and WWF work in strategic alliance on wildlife trade.

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Delegates at the SADC-TWIX Regional Workshop at Garden Court OR Tambo International Airport HOTEL Kempton Park. South Africa on the 9th April 2019. © TRAFFIC
Workshop background

The mandate for the establishment of the SADC-Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (SADC-TWIX) emanates from the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy that was approved by Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources in 2015 and endorsed by the Joint Committee of Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation in 2017.

The overall objective of the SADC LEAP Strategy is to significantly reduce the level of poaching and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and enhance law enforcement capacity in the SADC Region by 2021. The LEAP strategy explicitly identifies the establishment of a TWIX system, an Internet tool for information exchange amongst the law enforcement agencies in the region, as one of its key deliverables.

With funding from a global German funding initiative, the Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Ivory and Rhino-Horn) in Africa and Asia, implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), TRAFFIC has conducted TWIX scoping missions in the SADC region, introduced the TWIX concept and invited law enforcement agencies to nominate TWIX focal points and users. To date 316 TWIX users have been nominated from 10 countries out of the 11 visited SADC Member States.

It was against this background, and to maintain the momentum built during the scoping missions and based on the high level of expectation and need for the TWIX system to become operational, that a regional workshop formally to launch the system was convened on the 9th and 10th April in Johannesburg, South Africa at the Garden Court hotel, OR Tambo International Airport. The workshop was jointly funded by the aforementioned German Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs within the US Department of State (the latter via a grant to Conservation International).

The main objectives of the workshop were:

1) To provide an overview of TWIX and its structure
2) To build the capacity of officials on TWIX implementation
3) To provide an overview of TWIX implementation progress and a roadmap for next key steps

The workshop agenda can be found in Annexe I.

1. OPENING

1.1 Welcoming Remarks by TRAFFIC

In his welcoming remarks, the Director of TRAFFIC’s Southern Africa Programme Office, David Newton, described TRAFFIC’s aims which are to reduce the pressure of illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife and to enhance the benefits of wildlife to local communities and nations. TRAFFIC is an international non-governmental organisation working globally on the trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Within SADC Member States, it is recognised that the illegal harvesting and trafficking of wildlife is a serious challenge to the region as it threatens the survival of targeted species and undermines the wealth of nations while generating profits for organised crime. Given the
transnational nature of illegal wildlife trafficking, it needs to be addressed in a collaborative manner, at a national, regional and international level.

The German Government and its Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade, through their grant to TRAFFIC via GIZ, WWF France through their support to TRAFFIC, and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs within the US Department of State through its support to Conservation International were thanked for providing funding for the workshop.

1.2 Official Opening by SADC Chair
Ms Gloria Tutalife, representing the SADC Secretariat, gave a round of introductions and thanks. Her statement put an emphasis on the detrimental effect of wildlife crime and changes in the trends by which wildlife crimes are being committed around the world. It was further noted that collaboration between law enforcement agencies was essential for them to do their work to combat wildlife crime and illegal cross-border trade in wildlife. Illegal traders have become more sophisticated, with links to global criminal networks and these networks pose a threat to wildlife and require a global response.

1.3 Remarks by the German Embassy in South Africa
Ms Regina Kimpel, Second Secretary, Economic Department, German Embassy in South Africa, Pretoria, mentioned that between 2010–2016, Germany has invested EUR270 million to combat illegal wildlife trade in Africa and Asia and the key instrument is Germany’s “Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia, implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German government.” It is an innovative initiative that tackles wildlife trafficking along the entire illegal trade chain and aims to enhance capacities to respond to wildlife crime by addressing both supply and demand and the interconnecting illegal trade.

Ms Kimpel reiterated that It is very important to join forces to curb cross-border trade in wildlife and to share information and that the EU TWIX has enabled Germany to foster collaboration between the EU, Asian and African law enforcement operations to share lessons learned. On behalf of the German Government, she was delight to see TWIX implemented in the Southern Africa region.

At the end of her speech, Ms Kimpel notes that co-operation between the German government and TRAFFIC dated back to the 1980s and that TRAFFIC’s evidence-based approach has supported and led to countless improvements of natural resource management in Africa, Asia and Europe.

The speech notes of Ms Kimpel can be found in Annex II.

1.4 Remarks from the US Embassy, Botswana
Mr David Krzywda from the US Embassy based in Gaborone, Botswana, welcomed and thanked all delegates, and mentioned how the Illegal wildlife trade was known to threaten border security and the rule of law. There are substantial profits to be made from this trade, and unfortunately it thrives where corruption thrives. Mr Krzywda mentioned Chobe National Park in Botswana and how the rangers successfully tackled a range of poaching challenges.
He clarified the USA adopted the *Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016*, with the aim of disrupting global and transnational wildlife trafficking, through using innovative approaches to tackle this type of crime. The USA also supports transboundary conservation efforts.

1.5 Remarks by the Senior Programme Coordinator of TRAFFIC and Objectives of the meeting

Mr Markus Bürgener, Senior Programme Co-ordinator of TRAFFIC, outlined the objectives for the two-day TWIX workshop as follows:

1) To provide an overview of TWIX and its structure

2) To build the capacity of officials on TWIX implementation and

3) To provide an overview of TWIX implementation progress, and a roadmap for next key steps.

The speaker also mentioned that the regional TWIX will be operational in the second week of May 2019. In order to define the parameters of the TWIX system, the Member States Representatives had a set of key decisions to take during the workshop. These decisions will mark the end of a long process to establish SADC TWIX. In 2018, TRAFFIC visited around 60 wildlife law enforcement agencies from 11 SADC Member States through a set of scoping missions. As a result, 360 users had been nominated for participation in the new SADC-TWIX programme. The speaker also mentioned that TRAFFIC was mandated to manage the TWIX system on behalf of the participating law enforcement agencies during the workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 4–5th September 2018.

2. ATTENDANCE

The workshop brought together 80 participants including 60 law enforcement officials from 14 out of the 16 SADC Member States (Seychelles and Comoros were invited but did not send any representatives). The Member States present were Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, representing five sectors, namely Wildlife, Police, State Security, Customs and Judiciary. This is the first time that Tanzania was represented during a SADC-TWIX meeting. There were also representatives from INTERPOL, UNEP, the German Embassy, GIZ, USAID and the US Department of State in Botswana and South Africa, WWF, IUCN, Conservation International and the VukaNow project.

The list of participants can be found in Annexe II.

All Participants were given an opportunity to introduce themselves prior to commencing the workshop proceedings.
3. RECAP OF MINISTERIAL DECISIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SADC LEAP STRATEGY AND CURRENT STATUS OF LEAP IMPLEMENTATION

Mr Abednico Amecheme of Conservation International gave a short summary of the path for the development of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-poaching Strategy (LEAP) which was launched in 2017. Issues that led to the development of the LEAP Strategy were:

- the need to develop and adopt a cohesive strategy to counteract the alarming poaching going on across the network of protected areas in the region;
- the need to strengthen institutional capacity at a national level for improved enforcement;
- the need to enhance the capacity of the SADC Secretariat to facilitate and co-ordinate cross-border law enforcement and inter-agency cooperation.

Following early discussions, the Ministerial Workshop on Illegal Trade in Wildlife held in Gaborone held on 8th July 2016 made a recommendation to establish a SADC Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (SADC-TWIX) system to facilitate information exchange and co-operation between wildlife law enforcement officers. The motivation for the establishment of a SADC-TWIX system was based on the success and learning from the EU-TWIX and AFRICA-TWIX 1 systems.

Mr Amacheme also mentioned that SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) would also have to contribute to implementing the LEAP strategy.

3.1 Presentation on the TWIX system

Ms Magdalena Norwisz from TRAFFIC provided an overview of the TWIX platform and responded to questions on the roles and responsibilities of users and the administrative arrangements of the existing platforms.

TRAFFIC has been managing the EU-TWIX and AFRICA-TWIX systems on behalf of the participating wildlife law enforcement and management authorities for many years. EU-TWIX was established in 2005 and AFRICA-TWIX in 2016.

TWIX is an internet tool developed to facilitate information exchange and international co-operation between wildlife law enforcement and management officials in the region. It has two components: a mailing list, and a website containing useful resources and a database of wildlife seizures. Access is restricted to wildlife enforcement officials involved in the implementation of CITES.

1 AFRICA-TWIX connects more than 100 officials from six countries of the COMIFAC (Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale) region, namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, and Republic of the Congo and Rwanda joining soon. https://www.africa-twix.org/
The mailing list allows the exchange of information in real time, the sharing of knowledge and best practices, and for obtaining assistance from other TWIX users, for example in the identification of seized specimens. Even though only non-nominal information can be shared, communicating on seizures can trigger investigations.

Through the TWIX website, users gain access to training materials, identification guides, information on legislation, various directories and other useful resources. Users are able to consult a centralised database of non-nominal information on wildlife seizures which can facilitate decision-making on enforcement priorities and can guide capacity building activities. Furthermore, it can be used to prepare national CITES annual reports.

Other public reports can be prepared under condition that authorisation to use seizure data has been obtained from the national agencies that provided data to the database (the owners of the data).

3.2 Discussions and comments

Following the presentations, the participants discussed the following issues.

i) The participants wanted to know what monitoring mechanisms ensure that information sharing was restricted to the TWIX networks and how information was protected, for example, where it was used in a publication.

Ms Norwisz noted that all TWIX users were bound by a confidentiality agreement. The TWIX system is based on trust and all participating officials have to act responsibly with the data and information shared on TWIX. Additionally, when downloading data from the TWIX website, there are “pop-ups” that warn that the data should not be shared outside TWIX.

ii) A question was raised on the accuracy of the information shared on TWIX and whether the TWIX manager screens requests for information.

Ms Norwisz responded that information on the TWIX mailing list was shared in “real time” so it was not possible to check its accuracy. Participating agencies can mandate certain users to share seizure information on the mailing list. Receiving seizure information from the same users might assure other users of the accuracy of the information. As TWIX is based on trust there is a need for quality control within participating organisations. Having many users from the same agency can also help ensure that information shared on the mailing list is correct as they all have access to the messages sent by their colleagues and can rectify inaccuracies or provide further information, if needed.

iii) It was queried whether seizures reported to the CEN database of the World Customs Organization (WCO) can be automatically included into the TWIX database?

Ms Norwisz noted that there was an MOU between WCO and TRAFFIC, to enable the sharing of information.

There is no automated transfer of seizure data from the CEN database to the TWIX database. However, Customs may grant authorisation that their seizure data be submitted to TWIX via the WCO. In this case, the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO) of a given region would
periodically download data from the CEN database and provide them to TWIX staff for upload to the TWIX database.

This solution decreases the reporting burden for Customs as data are submitted only once for two databases. The authorisation can be revoked at any given time if Customs would wish to report their data separately to the CEN and the TWIX databases.

iv) Clarification was sought on the arrangements for sharing information between INTERPOL and TWIX.

Ms Norwisz reiterated that TWIX was used to share non-nominal (not sensitive or personal) information, while the INTERPOL platform provides for the sharing of nominal and sensitive information such as names and places, and criminal profiles with names. INTERPOL can nominate TWIX users for any of the TWIX systems and monitor all information exchanged on the TWIX platform. If INTERPOL wants to act upon certain information about seizures, they can request this information from the relevant agencies.

INTERPOL stated that it was not possible to take information directly from TWIX and upload it onto the INTERPOL systems. INTERPOL and TWIX have different requirements to upload data, and only certain types of information can be circulated via the different platforms. Individual agencies are the owners of the data, and agencies should submit data to INTERPOL or TWIX as appropriate.

v) Clarification was sought on the possibility of information sharing between the different TWIX systems.

Ms Norwisz explained that there was no automatic link or exchange of information between the various TWIX systems. Each TWIX is developed for a designated region, but in some cases, information may need to be shared more widely. Any such communication is facilitated by the TWIX staff. Relevant information can be shared from one TWIX to another on condition that permission from the agency that originally provided the information has been obtained.

vi) Tanzania noted that although it has not yet been included in the TWIX scoping missions, it would like to join SADC-TWIX.

Ms Norwisz noted that TRAFFIC could not visit all SADC countries for scoping missions. There is a plan to develop an Eastern African TWIX in cooperation with the Eastern African Community (EAC) and possibly with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), too, and that scoping missions are being planned and Tanzania is included in the planning. Tanzania being a member of both regional economic communities (SADC and EAC) has the right to join either one or both of the TWIX systems.
4. PRESENTATION ON THE TWIX IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA: PERSPECTIVES FROM AN AFRICA-TWIX USER FROM DRC

Mr John Kabange Mukubu, Inspector of Customs DRC, and the focal point for AFRICA-TWIX in DRC, gave a presentation on his experiences as a practicing AFRICA-TWIX user including the benefits and challenges. Mr Kabange noted that DRC was a very large country, with nine neighbouring countries, nine national parks, ordinary protected areas and many protected species (both fauna and flora), and that several sites also have an international protection status through other conventions (e.g. Virunga National Park is also a UNESCO World Heritage Park). There is a huge natural resource potential with DRC’s biodiversity. However, the country has a vast border area with nine neighbours and a huge problem with illicit cross-border trade in wildlife. The management of such a big country is very difficult as borders are not protected and it is easy to move illicit goods through these borders. Furthermore, in the DRC, national laws are often not enforced; prosecutions and officials are often bribed.

Mr Kabange noted that having and sharing information on wildlife trade makes officials more efficient in fighting illegal wildlife trade. The exchange of information via AFRICA-TWIX is thus key for Customs officials and the fight against illegal trade. It is good to be part of AFRICA-TWIX as it helps officials to share information simultaneously (also on their smart phones) and enables co-operation between all partners dealing with poaching. Users can share certain information on persons who have been arrested (if already available via open sources) or goods that have been seized, with the hope that other AFRICA-TWIX agencies will see similarities in modus operandi that might link to other cases underway in other AFRICA-TWIX countries. This means TWIX members can act rapidly and secure seizures and arrests, which is a major benefit of AFRICA-TWIX.

It was noted that information technology was a big component of law enforcement, but criminals also benefited from this technology. Another major issue with the trade in wildlife is that it is not always possible to tell whether permits are fake or authentic, and some more central way of sharing this information would assist in curbing illegal wildlife trade. Mr Kabange was hopeful that co-operation between countries will lead to more interventions and that TWIX will help put an end to illegal wildlife trade.

Five central African countries are part of AFRICA-TWIX and Chad and Rwanda have recently expressed a wish to join the network. AFRICA-TWIX involves officials from many law enforcement sectors: Police, Customs officials, CITES officers, the Ministers of Environment and the Departments of Justice, in all five AFRICA-TWIX countries. Through AFRICA-TWIX, they also have links to international organisations such as INTERPOL and CITES Secretariat.

Mr Kabange also mentioned how the identification of species in trade was very important. For example, snakes can look similar, yet one may be a CITES species and the other not. TWIX members can send photographs out on TWIX and get help with identification, and this is also a benefit of the TWIX system.

Overall, as a user of AFRICA-TWIX, Mr Kabange is finding TWIX useful in fighting wildlife crime because it serves as a tool for communication, source of information, help desk for law enforcement work, and a repository of statistical data about wildlife trade in Central Africa.
In response to the participants’ questions on the relevance of TWIX, the presenter indicated that, based on his experience, what differentiated TWIX from other existing tools in fighting wildlife crime was the fact that TWIX was broader than other systems. TWIX is a voluntary tool that complements other tools in increasing the efficiency of law enforcement efforts. In addition, TWIX users may include members of the justice system and some countries implementing TWIX view it as a useful tool to facilitate appropriate sentencing for wildlife crimes.

4.1 Discussions and comments
Following the presentations, the participants discussed several issues.

i) The issue of illegal trade in Makula *Pterocarpus chrysotrich* timber, used for gun butts and high value furniture in the East, was raised. This species is vanishing in Zambia and other SADC countries, and trade is “sanitized” through “legal” transit through various countries such as the DRC. Trees are harvested illegally in Zambia, transported to the DRC, where this species can be harvested and traded legally, and a legal export permit is issued. The logs are then moved back across borders as legal “goods in transit” whereas in fact, the original transaction was illegal and should have been stopped at the first border [DRC].

Mr Kabange recognised that this type of transaction was known to be a problem and noted that various border officials in the DRC-Zambia border area had lost their jobs because of this. One of the issues may be confusion over the vernacular species names of timber species. Mr Kabange said he would investigate and see what could be done.

ii) Further concerns were raised on the Makula timber trade and the prospect of losing this valuable species and delegates reiterated the need for collaboration between neighbouring countries in tackling the illegal trade Makula. One suggestion was that the species should be CITES-listed in order to regulate international trade. GIZ informed the plenary that in a recent CITES meeting, no consensus was reached on the CITES Appendix II listing of Makula.

iii) The illegal trade of Makula is also problematic for Mozambique. Six containers of Makula timber were recently seized, but prosecutors did not have all the information they needed to proceed with prosecution. Mozambique-origin wood is deliberately moved across many borders so that it becomes very difficult to track its origins. The differences in trade permits of this species within the SADC region make it challenging to determine the origin and legality of timber consignments. It was noted that similar challenges occur in Namibia and that the TWIX platform could be useful for tracking the movements of timber consignments across SADC borders.

iv) Further concerns were noted regarding the porous border between Angola and the DRC. For some years Angola has been seizing large quantities of pangolin scales, rhino horn and ivory. Rhinos are considered extinct in the wild in Angola, yet enforcement officials are seizing rhino horn in the country. It is thought that much of this horn is coming across the DRC-Angolan border from elsewhere, and its origins are disguised.
Mr Kabange acknowledged that the DRC’s borders were not all secure. He also stated that officials at the borders might not be aware of what pangolin scales were, or even what a pangolin was. Officials at the DRC-Angola border, for example, say that they often seize these scales, but do not know that pangolins are internationally protected. Criminal networks are now using seaports in Angola to transport illegal wildlife products, whereas in the past this was predominantly conducted through the country’s airports.

v) Further information was requested on how the AFRICA-TWIX focal point and users were sharing information from AFRICA-TWIX with other organisations or persons not included in AFRICA-TWIX.

Mr Kabange stated that, as the AFRICA-TWIX focal point, it was not his role to share information outside of AFRICA-TWIX. He has created a WhatsApp group with representatives of other law enforcement agencies. If they have important information, it can be shared, and perhaps ultimately the other officials can become part of AFRICA-TWIX.

vii) A query was made as to whether the AFRICA-TWIX focal point appointment is permanent or whether the position rotates every few years.

Mr Kabange stated that there was no stipulation as to how long a focal point could retain this role. Each TWIX agency must decide how this appointment will work in practice, noting that if a new person is designated as focal point, he/she must be formally appointed.

5. PRESENTATION OF PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR TWIX USERS

Ms Cynthia Ratsimbazafy, SADC-TWIX project manager at TRAFFIC, covered TWIX data rules, structure and management arrangements.

i) Organisations eligible to participate in TWIX are national wildlife law enforcement, management authorities and international organisations dealing with CITES issues, for example: Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, Forestry Departments and Ministries, CITES Management Authorities. CITES enforcement such as CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO.

ii) All TWIX users have access to all components of TWIX (mailing list and website) and all users are bound by a confidentiality agreement.

iii) Non-nominal information should be shared on the TWIX mailing list (names and other intelligence can be shared only if already available via other open sources; otherwise they should be shared via official channels).

iv) Information shared on the mailing list and/or data stored in the database remain(s) the property of the agency that provided it/them.

v) Information and/or data available on TWIX cannot be shared outside the TWIX network without prior authorisation from the owner of the information/data.

vi) The TWIX system is maintained and managed by TRAFFIC on behalf of the CITES law enforcement and management authorities of the participating countries (Johannesburg workshop recommendation). Only a limited number of TRAFFIC staff (TWIX staff) have access to the tool.
vii) TWIX staffs are bound by a confidentiality agreement and information and/or data available on TWIX cannot be shared with other TRAFFIC staff without prior authorisation from the owner of the information/data.

Mrs Ratsimbazafy noted that detailed user guidelines and terms of reference would be shared with users through the TWIX mailing list.

5.1 Discussions and comments
i) Clarification was sought on TWIX as a platform for sharing “sensitive information”. It was noted by TRAFFIC that TWIX was designed for non-nominal information and there are already official channels designated for the sharing of sensitive information.

ii) Angola noted that at the TWIX meeting in Johannesburg in 2018, it was represented by three agencies who dealt with criminal investigations and wildlife crimes. The country’s greatest challenge is that many cases come from various other agencies that also play a role in reporting wildlife crimes. These agencies have not had an opportunity to meet to discuss information-sharing on tools such as TWIX. A wider range of organisations need to be able to access TWIX. TRAFFIC noted that Angola would be supported by TRAFFIC to become part of SADC-TWIX when the SADC-TWIX was established. With SADC-TWIX, participating users will be able to access information and communicate with a wide range of agencies, which must all be members of the regional TWIX.

6. DISCUSSIONS ON TWIX STRUCTURE
The following four issues were discussed by workshop groups.

- Confirmation of the name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region
- The possibility of NGOs to have access
- The need for an Advisory Group and its structure
- The logo to be used for TWIX in the region

Prior to the group discussions, a short presentation on the TWIX Advisory Group and its potential role was provided by Ms Magdalena Norwisz (TRAFFIC). Ms Norwisz mentioned that the Advisory Group would provide advice to the TWIX project manager and ensure that the TWIX system evolved to keep up with challenges. It would advise on data collection and analysis and provide advice and guidance on sensitive decisions. It is the participating countries’ responsibility to decide on the Advisory Group structure, functionality and on the time to set it up. Advisory Group members would be chosen from participating member agencies.

6.1 Results of group discussions

Group 1

1. Name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region: “SADC-TWIX” as long as this is not in conflict with “SADC” Secretariat related trademark.
2. The possibility of NGOs to have access: NGOs will also need access to the various TWIX tools, with terms and conditions.
3. *The need for an Advisory Group and its structure:* Yes, but that the Advisory Group was not needed yet. When it was felt to be necessary, Member States should select the members of the SADC-TWIX Advisory Group, and the progress and composition of this board should be reviewed approximately every two years.

4. *The logo to be used for TWIX in the region:* The words “SADC-TWIX” should be included

**Group 2**

1. *Name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region:* “SADC-TWIX”
2. *The possibility of NGOs to have access:* There was a debate as to which NGOs would be given access to TWIX information and under what conditions, noting that it would be important to know which NGOs normally work with law enforcement agencies. It was suggested that there would have to be more work on the issue of NGO participation, potentially by the Advisory Group.
3. *The need for an Advisory Group and its structure:* “Yes” but there is a need to determine exactly what this Advisory Group would do and how members of the Advisory Group would be chosen. It was suggested that this would need to be discussed at some point in the future.
4. *The logo to be used for TWIX in the region:* The group suggested a logo that would represent the SADC countries; namely a SADC map with the Big Five and eagles.

**Group 3**

1. *Name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region:* “SADC-TWIX”
2. *The possibility of NGOs to have access:* the group of delegates said “no” to this question. They suggested that NGOs could get access by putting in an official request for information. There would be no open access, as it gets too difficult to monitor the use of confidential information. Any requests for information would have to go via the Advisory Group, and the Advisory Group would have to develop a protocol to govern NGO access to both information and data.
3. *The need for an Advisory Group and its structure:* “Yes”—But it was felt that the Advisory Group was not needed immediately and should only be constituted once SADC-TWIX had become established and gained momentum (approximately 6–12 months after launch). Such an Advisory Group should work digitally as most member countries did not always have resources to send officials to annual meetings. There might, however, be occasional contact sessions. It was felt that Member States needed to see how well the TWIX system worked before adding the complexity of an Advisory Group. SADC-TWIX Member States should nominate persons to sit on the Advisory Group and should also decide the period of tenure for such a position.
4. *The logo to be used for TWIX in the region:* The group suggested a rhino and elephant under a Makula tree.

**Group 4.**

1. *Name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region:* “SADC-TWIX”
2. *The possibility of NGOs to have access.* “Yes”, noting that some NGOs add value to law enforcement work and need to be granted access through various formal channels, to both share and access information.

3. *The need for an Advisory Group and its structure.* It was considered too early for decisions on an Advisory Group, and that this should be delayed until the SADC-TWIX was more established.

4. *The logo to be used for TWIX in the region.* The group suggested a logo with a “STOP” sign reading “stop illegal wildlife trade in flora and fauna, rhino, pangolin, ivory and Makula trees”.

**Group 5.**

1. *Name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region.* “SADC-TWIX”, noting that this then will complement the SADC LEAP strategy.

2. *The possibility of NGOs to have access.* “Yes”, noting that some NGOs supply important information. NGOs should be vetted, and their objectives should align with TWIX objectives. The Advisory Group, when established, should develop guidelines for NGO participation.

3. *The need for an Advisory Group and its structure.* “Yes”. Membership should include a person from each Member State to ensure that all Members States feel part if the SADC-TWIX initiative. Each state should choose/elect their own representative.

4. *The logo to be used for TWIX in the region.* The group suggested a logo with the Big Five in the background, overlaid with the SADC logo, and TWIX layered over this.

**Group 6**

1. *Name to be used for TWIX for the Southern African region.* “SADC-TWIX”.

2. *The possibility of NGOs to have access.* “Yes”, noting that NGOs should be vetted, and a determination would need to be made on what type of information could be accessed by NGOs. The Advisory Group could decide this at some point and establish the Terms and Conditions for NGOs to access information.

3. *The need for an Advisory Group and its structure.* “Yes”. Noting that all Member States should have a member on the Advisory Group, but that this may not always be feasible. Persons from different sectors should be selected and ideally the Advisory Group should not be too large.

4. *The logo to be used for TWIX in the region.* The group suggested a map of SADC countries with the words “SADC TWIX” as an overlay.

### 6.2 Discussion and comments

Following discussion on NGO access to data, TRAFFIC noted that in AFRICA-TWIX and EU-TWIX, NGOs could present a request for data. They are required to provide to the TWIX project manager a description of their data needs and how the data would be used. This request is then shared with the focal points of the relevant agencies. If authorisations are granted, the requested data are shared with the organisation requesting data under condition that a confidentiality agreement has been signed.
7. WORKSHOP DECLARATION

The outcome of the group discussion was developed into a workshop Declaration that was presented to all participants for review. After a plenary discussion, participants agreed on the final Declaration below:

Workshop on TWIX in Southern Africa

09-10 April 2019

Garden Court Hotel

Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

Workshop Declaration

Representatives of wildlife law enforcement and management authorities from the following Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) attending a workshop on Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX) in Southern Africa agreed on the following with regard to the establishment of a TWIX system for SADC Member States:

1. The name of the system is ‘SADC-TWIX’.

2. A SADC-TWIX advisory group will be established but only after the system has been operational for a period of time (6-12 months).

3. The SADC-TWIX system could potentially allow access to data held in the system to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s). This issue should be addressed by the advisory group once it has been established (on a case by case basis)

4. A draft SADC-TWIX logo will be developed, using suggestions provided by Member States at the workshop, and will be shared via the SADC-TWIX mailing list.

5. SADC-TWIX will function according to the user guidelines presented at the workshop (Annex A).

7.1 Discussion and comments regarding the Declaration

i) Regarding the inclusion of NGOs in the system, a Member State delegate suggested that despite the fact it has been agreed that some selected NGOs should have access under certain terms and conditions, only selected information should be made available. An amendment was made to the Declaration document, to say that it would be an option that NGOs could be given access to certain information, but that this would not be a blanket right, but all information requests would be decided on a case-by-case basis.
TRAFFIC suggested that this could form part of the work of the Advisory Group when established. Delegates discussed the process to be followed to establish the Advisory Group, and some of the participants suggested having one representative per country in the Advisory Group might be a good idea.

8. OVERVIEW OF TWIX IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION; PROGRESS TO DATE AND KEY RESULTS OF THE CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The presentation provided by Ms Cynthia Ratsimbazafy, covered the progress to date towards SADC-TWIX engagement. It was noted that at this stage, TRAFFIC has conducted scoping missions within 11 SADC countries, and has met with representatives of approximately 60 law enforcement agencies. During each meeting, the TWIX concept was introduced, and questions and concerns regarding TWIX implementation were addressed. Each agency was invited to nominate TWIX users and to appoint one focal point among nominated users. The scoping missions were followed by the dissemination of TWIX capacity needs assessment questionnaires to each agency. The questionnaire aims to determine capacity needs for implementation of the TWIX system, including technical, computer, internet coverage and human capacity. The questionnaires were sent out to 60 agencies, and 20 have provided feedback to date. Among the needs expressed by the agencies consulted was training in species identification, the need for reliable information regarding illegal wildlife trade such as information on trade routes, concealment methods and traded species.

At this stage of implementation, 360 SADC-TWIX users including 35 focal points have been nominated by eight SADC countries. All law enforcement agencies were encouraged to submit their list of users prior to the start of SADC-TWIX becoming operational, but it was reiterated that users could still be added at any point in the future.

9. PRESENTATION ON WILDLIFE TRADE DYNAMICS SPECIFIC TO THE SADC REGION

Markus Bürgener, provided an overview of illegal wildlife trade dynamics in the SADC region, based on seizure data collected by TRAFFIC. Data on these seizures is gathered predominantly from media reports, noting that, in some countries, the media may be less active than in others and that the database does not include data on all wildlife seizures in SADC Member States.

9.1 Discussion and comments
i) Customs officials from South Africa suggested that the seizure data reported for Johannesburg’s OR Tambo airport in the media only reflected a small proportion of actual seizures at this airport and could be “multiplied by ten”.

ii) Following a query as to whether seizures that occur at informal border crossing areas and remote roads get taken into account in the overall seizure data, TRAFFIC confirmed that the database does not contain data on all seizures from made in a country, including informal border crossing areas and remote roads. TRAFFIC added that the TWIX seizure database will include higher figures of seizures than the TRAFFIC database as the TWIX
data will be directly provided by law enforcement officials and will not be based on media
reports.

iii) The US Embassy in South Africa noted that TRAFFIC publishes many reports on wildlife
trade issues in Southern Africa and asked whether TRAFFIC’s access to SADC-TWIX will
change how TRAFFIC prepares these reports. TRAFFIC responded that if they needed to
use TWIX data, they would have to get agreement from each agency that submitted the
data to the TWIX system, permitting the use and publication of that data by TRAFFIC.
Such situations have occurred under EU-TWIX, where TRAFFIC has requested
authorisations from each agency to use EU-TWIX data in a publication.

iv) Regarding the illegal timber trade, it was suggested that TRAFFIC should investigate
timber trade in the SADC region including charcoal production. It has been reported that
the proceeds of illegal charcoal trade in some cases fund non-state armed actors involved
in wildlife crime. TRAFFIC noted that it works on illegal timber trade issues in Central and
Eastern Africa, Namibia and other countries. It was noted that Customs and other law
enforcement officials require training and tools for determining whether documents
accompanying timber consignments are legitimate.

v) Angola pointed out that there were many more seizure records for the country than have
been reflected in the TRAFFIC database. This may be because Angolan law does not allow
officials to release information on seizures until the case has been finalised in court. Such
information can, however, be shared within a TWIX system as it will only be shared with
other law enforcement officials and not with the media or general public.

10. TRAINING SESSION ON SPECIES IDENTIFICATION
Towards addressing the capacity needs of law enforcement agencies and following a request
for such support at the SADC-TWIX workshop in September 2018, a training session on
species identification was provided by TRAFFIC with the support of officials from the South
African Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African Police Services.

Four demonstration stands were set up, one for marine products and three for other
commodities such as raw and processed ivory and rhino horn, tortoise shell, and reptile skins.
Delegates were invited to visit each display to discuss and examine these items.

This session also included a presentation by Ms Tess Rayner from TRAFFIC who
demonstrated the South African National Biodiversity Institute’s (SANBI) species
identification guide to Southern Africa’s threatened protected and CITES-listed species. The
guide, which was developed by TRAFFIC, works as an App and can be freely downloaded from
the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.

All participants showed interest and enthusiasm during the species ID sessions and made a
request that follow-up training should be provided to all TWIX users.
11. SADC-TWIX IMPLEMENTATION: THE WAY FORWARD
Ms Cynthia Ratsimbazafy gave an overview on the next steps:

- All participants will be provided with a memory stick that includes all presentations given during the workshop.
- TRAFFIC will compile workshop proceedings and circulate to all participants.
- The SADC-TWIX system will become operational from the second week of May but new users can still be added into the list at any time.
- The draft of a SADC-TWIX logo design will be sent through the SADC-TWIX mailing list for comments.
- The Advisory Group will be considered 6–12 months after SADC-TWIX becomes operational.

12. CLOSING REMARKS BY SADC CHAIR
Ms Gloria Tutalife, representing the SADC Chair, gave closing remarks. Ms Tutalife noted that governments needed to work together to fight wildlife trafficking for the benefit of each country and the SADC region and reiterated the need to identify the underlying drivers of these crimes. She concluded by thanking the participants for their attendance at the meeting and wished them safe travels to their home countries.

13. REMARKS BY TRAFFIC’S DIRECTOR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
Mr David Newton closed the workshop by noting that it was heartening to see that delegates were so engaged during the discussion on Makula timber trade as plants are often neglected as species of concern in the illegal wildlife trade, and how useful the SADC-TWIX will be in tackling the illegal trade in Makula.

In conclusion, Mr Newton said that the development of SADC-TWIX was a process, and that momentum created by the workshop should be maintained to ensure the successful establishment of SADC-TWIX. Mr Newton thanked all delegates and other partners for traveling to attend the meeting and for their participation in constructive discussions. He thanked Germany’s Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade and the US Department of State who had provided funding for this workshop and the German Government through GIZ and WWF France for overall funding for SADC-TWIX implementation. The South African Police Service and the South African Department of Environmental Affairs were thanked for their support on species identification training. He reiterated that TRAFFIC was looking forward to working with all participants in the implementation of SADC-TWIX.
# ANNEXE I: Workshop Agenda


**(TWIX for Southern African region)**

**9–10th April 2019**

**Garden Court O.R. Tambo International Airport**

**2 Hulley Road, Isando, Kempton Park, 1619, ZA**

## Day 1

<table>
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<tr>
<td>08.00-08.30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.30-08.45</td>
<td>Welcoming remarks by TRAFFIC</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>TRAFFIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.45-09.00</td>
<td>Remarks by SADC Chair</td>
<td>Speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00-09.15</td>
<td>Remarks by German Embassy in South</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>German Embassy</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.15-09.30</td>
<td>Remarks by US Embassy in Gaborone</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>US Embassy</td>
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<td>09.30-10:00</td>
<td>Objectives of the meeting</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>TRAFFIC</td>
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<td>10.00-10.20</td>
<td>Introduction of participants</td>
<td>Facilitation</td>
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<td>10.20-10.30</td>
<td>Photo session</td>
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<td>10.30-11.00</td>
<td><strong>Tea/Coffee Break</strong></td>
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<td>11.00-11.30</td>
<td>Recap of Ministerial decisions on Implementation of the SADC LEAP Strategy and current status of SADC LEAP implementation</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>11.30–12.30</td>
<td>Presentation of the TWIX system</td>
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<td>12.30-13.00</td>
<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td><strong>13.00-14.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lunch Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-14.30</td>
<td>Implementation of TWIX in Central Africa: Perspectives from an AFRICA-TWIX user from DRC</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>User from DRC</td>
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<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
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<td>14.45-15.15</td>
<td>Presentation of practical guidelines for TWIX users</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>15.15-15.30</td>
<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td><strong>15.30-16.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tea/Coffee Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00-17.30</td>
<td>Discussion on the management of TWIX for Southern Africa: name, access, content of website</td>
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<td>17.30</td>
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<td>08.45-09.15</td>
<td>Overview of TWIX implementation in the Southern African region: progress to date and key results of the capacity needs assessment</td>
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<td>09.15-09.30</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>09.30-10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-13.00</td>
<td>Training on species identification</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>TRAFFIC</td>
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<td>13.00-14.00</td>
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<td>14.00-15.00</td>
<td>Training on species identification (cont’d)</td>
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<td>15.00-15.30</td>
<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Facilitator</td>
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<td><strong>15.30-16.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tea/ Coffee Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td>Wrap up: perspectives and roadmap to promote TWIX within participating countries</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>16.30-17.00</td>
<td>Concluding remarks</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>SADC Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18.00</strong></td>
<td>Cocktail/ Dinner</td>
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### ANNEXE II. Speech notes of Ms Regina Kimpel, German Embassy in South Africa, Pretoria

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It’s a pleasure for me to provide opening remarks on behalf of the German Government on this occasion.
- I would like to highlight some of Germany’s priorities in supporting our partner countries to tackle poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Africa.
- As we all know, over the last few years, wildlife crime has reached new dimensions - with transcontinental implications.
- We are all well aware of the many shapes and effects:
  - it threatens the survival of often already endangered species
  - it constitutes a barrier for sustainable, environmental development
  - it puts the local population at risk
  - it weakens governance and the rule of law
  - it fosters organized crime and corruption
-- it threatens tourism through the rapid loss of Africa’s natural treasures (today, approximately every 10th job in Sub-Sahara Africa depends on tourism).

- The causes of poaching and the related illegal international trade in wildlife products are complex, and they nowadays involve well-organised crime syndicates.
- No individual country is in a position to address these issues alone. We all need to join our forces and ideas to tackle poaching and illegal wildlife trade as part of a broad, sustainable development and conservation agenda with determination and adequate resourcing.

- We require therefore:
  - Transcontinental, cross-border, cross-regional and multi-sector approaches,
  - True economic opportunities and livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and rural communities who are living with wildlife in and around conservation areas,
  - Better protection of natural resources
  - Improved governance and rule enforcement,
  - And the reduction of demand for illegal wildlife products.

- Since 2013, the German Government has been providing 500 Mio. EUR annually for the international conservation of forests and other ecosystems. With this, we aim to work with all development partners to help safeguard our natural heritage.
- Currently, Germany is supporting combating wildlife crime with around 270 Million EUR (between 2010 and 2016).
- The key instrument is Germany’s “Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia,” implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German government.
- This Partnership combines the expertise and knowhow of several German Federal Ministries (Economic Cooperation and Development / Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety / Foreign Office, Finance / Interior / Justice and Consumer Protection), as well as national and international organisations.
- It is an innovative initiative that tackles wildlife trafficking along the entire illegal trade chain.
  - Short-term interventions are linked with long-term development measures
  - Tries to trigger transformation processes at key stages of the illegal trade chain
  - And aims to enhance capacities to respond to wildlife crime by addressing both supply and demand and the interconnecting illegal trade.
- Within this Partnership-Project, we have been working very closely with our partners from Asia and Africa, thus fostering the dialogue and inter-agency exchange between Asian and African countries. The measures were f.ex.:
  - raising awareness in general
  - reinforcing the effective conservation of protected areas
  - improving rural livelihoods
  - reducing demand
  - supporting the work and collaboration of law enforcement staff

- It has also fostered African responses to wildlife crime crisis
  - at a continental level through technical support provided towards the “African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and
Flora* led by the African Union Commission
– at a regional level through supporting initiatives of regional coordinating bodies in
Central and Southern Africa (i.e.: COMIFAC and SADC).

- NGOs, such as TRAFFIC, play an important central role as strategic partners in the
implementation of activities in the framework of the Partnership.
- And the co-operation between the German government and TRAFFIC is already
dating back to the 1980s. Its evidence-based approach has supported and led to
countless improvements of natural resource management in Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Under this Partnership, TRAFFIC has supported decision-makers from governments
and other stakeholders with its key expertise.

- **As I said earlier, we all need to join our forces.**
  In order to achieve a successful collaboration and improved cross-border law
  enforcement strategies, it is important to foster a regional information exchange.
- So one key to catalyse this collaboration will be the **TWIX** for Southern Africa.
- It has already proven its effectiveness in Europe and Central Africa.
- On behalf of the German Government, I can say that we are very happy to see TWIX
  now being brought to light for the Southern Africa region, too.
- We would like to thank the organisers and our other governmental and non-
governmental partners for their continuous efforts.
- In this spirit, Germany will continue working with its partners to help safeguard our
  natural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.
- **We are all sitting in one boat—and we only have this world.**
- Thank you for your participation and contributions to this event.
- I am very eager to learn more about it and I am looking forward to an interesting
  event and fruitful discussions.
## ANNEXE III: List of participants

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<tr>
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<th>AGENCY</th>
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TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

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