

## INL Project: Combatting the Facilitators of the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Cameroon

### Terms of Reference for a Consultant to update the Rapid Reference Guide and Standard Procedures (RRGSP) for Judiciary and Law Enforcement Officers to prosecute and combat the illegal forest and wildlife crime in Cameroon

#### Activity 2.1.

Date of publication: 03<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for application: \_17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, 2pm UK time\_\_\_\_\_

#### Background

Environmental crimes, including wildlife and timber trafficking, are amongst the largest and most profitable transnational criminal activities. Cameroon covers a complex mosaic of habitats, rich in species diversity, with over 409 species of mammals, 373 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 849 species of birds. The forested areas along the border with Nigeria are the wettest part of Africa, supporting the continent's second-highest concentration of biodiversity, including many endemic species. Despite global commitments to combatting the illicit trade in wildlife and forestry products by the Forestry and wildlife officials of Cameroon, other Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorities (LEAs), as well as private sector and civil society stakeholders, this rich biodiversity continues to be threatened by poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT), leading to the extinction of some species. Medium and large mammal populations within the country are not the only species facing significant threat: estimates suggest that 50 - 70% of timber production in Cameroon is illegally logged in its form and context (Kozak *et al.*, 2010; WWF, 2016). Considering that Cameroon occupies the second-largest forest area in the Congo Basin, this has existential implications for a biodiversity area of global importance.

Outside its role as a source country, Cameroon is also a transit country for wildlife and forestry products sourced illegally in other neighbouring Central African countries – especially the Central African Republic (CAR), Republic of Congo, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. These illicit supply chains are destined for global demand markets, moving via land, sea, and air routes. In 2020, a suspect was arrested as part of a major ivory trafficking network sourcing products from Gabon and Cameroon, intended for international buyers featuring 626kg of ivory (TRAFFIC, 2020). This case illustrates a critical need to support Cameroonian LEAs to build capacity to disrupt transboundary IWT flows and strengthen cooperation with their counterparts in Nigeria and elsewhere across the region including assets recovery. An opportunity to do so is provided by a new Memorandum of Understanding on joint action to counter IWT, recently signed by the governments of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Traffickers consider IWT as low-risk – high-value, given the huge profits generated from the sale of fauna and timber products in destination markets. This highly lucrative illicit activity is managed by Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) and other threat actors through a multiplicity of financial transactions, involving money laundering and other financial crimes. Administrative officials and scientific experts also observe that wildlife and timber trafficking is facilitated by extensive corruption, including bribery, patronage, and nepotism, on both a petty and grand scale.

Notwithstanding the gravity of the IWT, there is a conspicuous scarcity of financial investigations related to wildlife and forestry offences even within the existing laws. Information about the ways in which criminals extract profits from wildlife and forest crimes, and the identities of the main financial beneficiaries of these crimes, remains limited. Some suspicious transactions for these predicate offences are rarely reported by the private sector, and investigations are not actively carried out within the LEAs. The result of this is that low-level criminals, such as poachers, are routinely caught and prosecuted, leaving more senior OCG members and actual criminal beneficiaries free to perpetrate illicit activities with impunity. In their 2020 report on “Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade” the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) emphasised the need to conduct financial investigations into IWT to enable the identification and prosecution of senior IWT offenders, as well as outlining the role of regulated entities in the private sector (banks, mobile money services, etc.) in detecting and reporting suspicious behaviours and/or transactions linked to IWT. More recently, the third edition of the United Nations 2024 World Wildlife Crime report, recognised the importance of enforcement strategies which target large-scale offenders more incisively, avoiding the potential social harms of disproportionate targeting of subsistence offenders and successfully deterring large-scale offending, and the value of financial investigations in doing so.

To promote best practices in the application of the Law, TRAFFIC International through one of its projects (INL Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity and Collaboration to combat illegal Trade in Cameroon {SLECC}) developed and published a “Rapid Reference Guide and Standard Procedures” in 2022. This tool provides a valuable technical resource for Justice officials (Prosecutors and Judges) and law enforcement officials on the interpretation and application of Cameroon wildlife legislation, other related national penal and criminal procedure codes, codes of conduct and professional ethics, resulting in improved investigation and prosecution of wildlife and associated criminal offences. View recent developments, including the July 2024 promulgation of the New Forestry Law (Law N<sup>o</sup>. 2024/008 of 24 July 2024 to lay down forestry and wildlife regulations), there is a need to update this document for best practices. Updating aims to include pathways to building an evidential case against those accused of wildlife and associated predicate crimes, using tools and legislation covering financial crimes such as money laundering.

## **Interventions**

Consequently, TRAFFIC is recruiting a consultant to:

1. Upgrade the Rapid Reference Guide and Standard Procedures (RRGSP) to include prosecution guidelines and international best practices for addressing financial crimes that will aim to provide knowledge to the Judiciary and LEAs on further investigations to enhance the disruption of IWT and OCGs trafficking in fauna and flora.
2. Assist in a multiagency stakeholder validation of the product (Updated Rapid Reference Guides and Operating procedures), comprising public sector, private sector, and cross-sector audiences during a multiagency stakeholder validation workshop.

### **Potential resource audiences:**

- MINFOF
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) - Judges and Prosecutors.
- ANIF
- Financial institutions
- Other relevant law enforcement agencies (e.g., National Gendarmerie, Cameroonian Customs, Police, etc.)
- Lawyers of the Cameroon Bar Association

### **Outputs:**

- A comprehensive updated and validated Rapid Reference Guide and Standard Procedures that aims to stimulate further investigations on financial crimes to combat the IWT and OCG.

### **Timeframe for execution:**

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

N.B. The consultant will need to be available during the multiagency stakeholder validation workshop in March 2025 in Cameroon.

### **Consultancy profile**

TRAFFIC Central Africa is looking for a technical consultant to provide the following services:

- a) Upgrade the existing Rapid Reference Guide and Standard procedures as well as include international best practices to improve the knowledge of the Judiciary and LEAs to conduct further investigations on financial crimes linked to wildlife and forestry offences.
- b) To technically and strategically lead a multiagency stakeholder validation of the product (Updated Rapid Reference Guides and Operating procedures), comprising public sector, private sector, and cross-sector audiences during a workshop.

Adjunct validation inputs may be provided by local, cross-sector actors, as well as members of TRAFFIC's Central Africa and Global staff.

Under the direct supervision of TRAFFIC staff, the consultant will be expected to have:

1. Comprehensive experience designing Rapid Reference Guides and standard procedures on the value of financial investigation, prosecution, and intelligence to combat IWT, money laundering, and related predicate offences, preferably in the context of wildlife and/or forestry crimes.
2. Proven expertise in leading workshops for, national public sector actors, such as LEAs, financial intelligence units (FIUs) and justice actors on the use of financial investigation, preferably in wildlife and/or forestry crime.
3. Good coordination, interpersonal and communication skills, with experience of collaborating with public sector actors in the development and delivery of capacity-building products or activities.
4. Experience working with law enforcement agencies, prosecution, or financial compliance sectors.
5. At least 5 years of international work experience in designing manuals on financial investigation, for law enforcement/government institutions, preferably with experience of working with IWT source and transit jurisdictions in West, Central, East or Southern Africa.
6. Availability and willingness to lead an in-person validation workshop in line with the timeframe.
7. Fluency in English and/or French and have experience of working with simultaneous translation. Mastery of the two languages (EN & FR) will represent an asset.

## Application

To apply, please send your written application to the TRAFFIC INL Project Manager **Itoe Constantine**, copying **Fosab Ewah** via the email addresses below. The application should be submitted as a single PDF file consisting of the following sections:

- Cover letter summarizing relevant knowledge, skills, experience, and motivation for applying (max one page);
- Technical offer including the approach to the work, the proposal for manual development and workshop delivery and the timeline (max two pages);
- Financial offer (overall budget) to develop the document (half to one page); and
- CV including contact details of three professional references (max two pages).

NB: Only selected applicants will be contacted further through online systems.

## Deadline

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 2pm UK time

For further information, contact

- Itoe Constantine, E-mail: [itoe.constantine@traffic.org](mailto:itoe.constantine@traffic.org), Tel.: (+237) 690804082;
- Fosab E. Ewah, E-mail: [fosab.ewah@traffic.org](mailto:fosab.ewah@traffic.org) Tel.: (+237) 675645090.