SADC
TWIX

TRADE IN **W**ILDLIFE **I**NFORMATION e**X**CHANGE

A TOOL TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE BETWEEN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
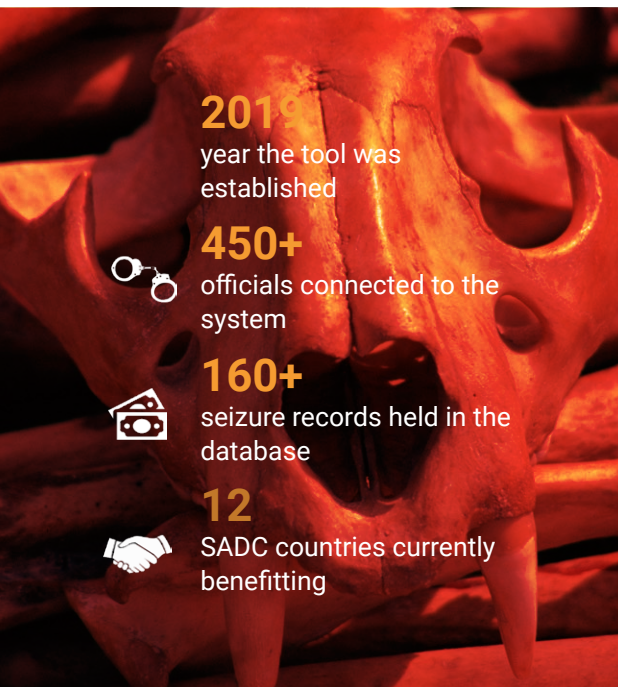
Confiscated ivory products. Photo: WWF / Mike Goldwater

WHAT IS SADC-TWIX?

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TRADE IN WILDLIFE INFORMATION EXCHANGE IS AN ONLINE TOOL DEVELOPED TO FACILTATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PROMOTE CO-OPERATION

The tool is developed to facilitate the exchange of information and promote co-operation between law enforcement and management authorities responsible for combating illegal wildlife trade and implementing CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in the SADC region.

The African continent is one of the largest legal and illegal exporters of wildlife products in the world. The majority of African nations are signatories to CITES, yet many of them continue to experience high levels of poaching and illegal trade. High consumer demand from Asia for a wide variety of illicit wildlife products continues to pose challenges to conservation actions, whilst national enforcement agencies are often hampered by a lack of resources and the existence of transboundary administrative barriers. If wildlife crime detection and prosecution efforts hope to succeed, international co-operation and information sharing between enforcement agencies is vital.

2019
year the tool was established

450+
officials connected to the system

160+
seizure records held in the database

12
SADC countries currently benefitting

THE TOOLS OF SADC-TWIX

The SADC-TWIX system provides users with a mailing list which facilitates the rapid exchange of information, expertise and experience on wildlife trade enforcement within participating countries. Enabling users to share information on emerging trends or specific illegal activities quickly and easily can be the difference between a successful or failed investigation.

SADC-TWIX also includes access to a dedicated website containing useful resources to support enforcement efforts as well as a database of wildlife seizures.

Individual law enforcement agencies maintain ownership rights to their data and any use thereof requires approval by an agency representative.

SADC-TWIX MEMBERSHIP

Due to the confidential nature of the information collected, SADC-TWIX is accessible only to enforcement and management officials responsible for the implementation of CITES in participating countries.

Agencies who are eligible to participate include, among others, customs, CITES Management Authorities (MA), police and intelligence services, environmental inspection services, fisheries, veterinary and phytosanitary services and the judiciary. Several international/regional organisations working on illegal wildlife trade issues are also connected.

If you meet these criteria and wish to gain access, please contact: contact@sadc-twix.org

THE OTHER TWIX PLATFORMS

SADC-TWIX is one of four TWIX platforms currently in operation around the world. Each platform functions independently and covers a specific region, including Europe (EU-TWIX), Central Africa (AFRICA-TWIX) and East and Horn of Africa (Eastern Africa-TWIX).

connecting enforcement across Southern Africa

wildife seizures database with a wide array of search criteria helps target queries

monitoring helps analyse trends and flows as they develop

enforcement collaboration facilitates co-operation on wildlife crime cases

supporting LEAP strategy objectives

enforcement
minimisation of wildlife crime and illegal trade

resource management
ensuring sustainable trade and use of natural resources

regulation
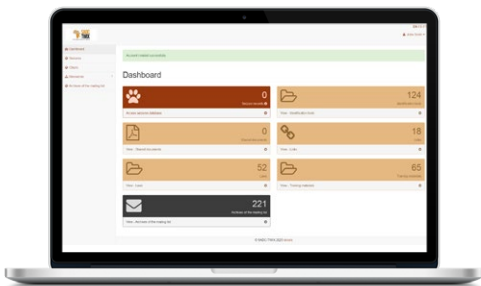enhancement of legislation and judicial forces

Seized Abalone Haliotis midae in a confiscation centre in South Africa

Temminck's ground pangolin Manis temminckii foraging. photo: naturepl.com / Neil Aldridge / WWF

> **"** We need to continue to work together in order to bring down these criminal networks. Criminals continue to win because they work together in order to avoid law enforcement agencies, who continue to work in isolation. The sooner information is captured and shared, the better chance to develop intelligence

Sitwala Youngs Mapenzi, SADC-TWIX user from the Namibian Ministry of Finance, Customs

The SADC-TWIX website allows users to:

- ✓ Extract and analyse seizure information
- ✓ Create charts online and generate maps with trading routes
- ✓ Find rescue centres to re-home live specimens
- ✓ Access training materials and wildlife ID guides
- ✓ Consult relevant laws and regulations
- ✓ Find links to other websites related to wildlife trade
- ✓ Access archived messages from the mailing list

> **"** SADC-TWIX is a good development. As we are in this modern world we have to be more creative in all angles to combat wildlife crime

Joe Chauluka, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Malawi

INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT THROUGH COLLABORATION

Recent years have seen numerous international commitments made between African nations concerning wildlife conservation and sustainable wildlife trade. The implementation of SADC-TWIX is in part a response to such regional and international recommendations and declarations and an effort to support signatories to fulfill their obligations and implementations. Information sharing and co-operation within and between law enforcement and management agencies both at national and international levels is critical in the fight against transnational organised wildlife crime. The SADC-TWIX platform helps participating countries fulfil their obligations under CITES by helping Law Enforcement and Management Authorities share information relating to wildlife crime and illegal trade of both animal and plant species and their products.

Declarations and Commitments that SADC-TWIX is helping to support include:

- ✓ London Conference Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade
- ✓ Arusha Declaration on Regional Conservation and Combating Wildlife/ Environmental Crime
- ✓ Kasane Statement on the Illegal Wildlife Trade
- ✓ African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa
- ✓ The SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy and the action plan for its implementation – the LEAP Strategy

EXPANDING OUR REACH

Since the inception of the SADC-TWIX mailing list in May 2019, over 460 messages have been exchanged among officials working to combat wildlife crime in the SADC region. Among these exchanges could be: requests for assistance with identification of specimens/products, sharing of seizure news or observations regarding concealment methods, CITES Enforcement Alerts, requests for clarification on laws of specific countries as well as numerous other scenarios. SADC-TWIX is building a robust network of professionals who can quickly and efficiently connect with their counterparts across the region.

PROSECUTIONS
AND
INVESTIGATIONS

NAMIBIA
RHINO HORN AND
ELEPHANT TUSKS

Following the arrest of a Zambian poacher with one rhino horn and one elephant tusk, Namibian Police shared an alert via SADC-TWIX. This information was picked up by Zambian Police who during their investigation, noted that this poacher is included in their wanted list and has been previously arrested in similar cases. The investigation is ongoing to identify the possible counterparts or network.

ZIMBABWE
20KG+ OF RHINO HORN PIECES

A Zimbabwean media report was circulated on the SADC-TWIX mailing list, providing details of seven Chinese nationals facing charges of money laundering and illegal possession of more than 20kg of rhino horn pieces with an estimated street value of about 1 million USD who were feared to have fled from Zimbabwe to Zambia or Mozambique. The Zambian Drug Enforcement Network, Zambian Police and the Attorney General Office of Mozambique were able to connect and contacted the Zimbabwean Police to have full details of each individual. One of the Chinese offenders was later thought to be spotted in Lusaka, Zambia. The investigation is still ongoing to confirm this and to track down all others involved.

MAURITIUS
SIX SHARK JAWS

After seizing a shipment of shark jaws coming from Madagascar that were not covered by any certificate nor export permit, Customs in Mauritius posted details and a photograph on the SADC-TWIX mailing list. Madagascar Customs were able to respond and receive information on the seized product including detailed contact information of the exporter. This allowed rapid identification of the individual and company involved who are thought to be part of a larger network of marine product traders from the Indian Ocean region to Asia.

For further information, please contact:

SADC-TWIX Project Manager
c/o IUCN ESARO, First Floor, Hatfield Gables
484 Hilda Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa

CONTACT@SADC-TWIX.ORG

TRAFFIC