



# **Illegal Trafficking of Wildlife and Other Natural Resources**

*February 18, 2021*

Fiscal Year 2020 Report to Congress



**Homeland  
Security**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*

# Message from the Acting Director

February 18, 2021

I am pleased to present the following report, “Illegal Trafficking of Wildlife and Other Natural Resources,” which has been prepared by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This report was compiled pursuant to direction in Senate Report 116-125, which accompanies the Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-93).



Pursuant to congressional guidelines, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Inquiries related to this report may be directed to me at (202) 732-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tae D. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tae D. Johnson  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs  
Enforcement

# Executive Summary

This report highlights recent activities and initiatives that DHS has put forth to address wildlife and natural resources trafficking—illegal activities that pose both a conservation and a national security threat to the United States.

Through its engagement with the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, DHS has taken steps to coordinate further with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Law Enforcement and has worked to implement the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. Further, DHS has aligned its resources to meaningful activities designed to address and eliminate the threat from these unlawful activities.

DHS remains strongly committed to combating wildlife trafficking, to assisting foreign nations in building capacity to combat wildlife trafficking, and to working with its partners to combat transnational organized crime.



# Illegal Trafficking of Wildlife and Other Natural Resources

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# I. Legislative Language

This document was compiled pursuant to direction in Senate Report 116-125, which accompanies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-93).

Senate Report 116-125 states:

*Wildlife Trafficking.*—As noted in prior reports, the Committee is concerned by the high level of illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The Committee expects the Department to work in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve cooperative efforts to better address wildlife trafficking. The Committee remains frustrated that the Department has failed to produce some specific reports on these activities, as required. Such reports should be provided to the Committee without delay. Further, as outlined in the explanatory statements accompanying Public Laws 114–113, 115–31, 115–141, and 116–6, a similar report shall be provided for fiscal year 2020 not later than 45 days after the end of fiscal year 2020.

The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2019 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6) does not contain a requirement for DHS to provide a report on this subject; however, the accompanying Senate Report 115-283 states:

*Wildlife Trafficking.*—As noted in prior reports, the Committee is concerned by the high level of illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The Committee expects the Department to work in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve cooperative efforts to better address wildlife trafficking. ...Further, as outlined in the explanatory statements accompanying Public Laws 114–113, 115–31, and 115–141 a similar report shall be provided for fiscal year 2019 not later than 45 days after the end of fiscal year 2019.

Senate Report 116-125 also references the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2018 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-141), which states:

In addition, an updated report on wildlife trafficking, as outlined in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 115-31, shall be provided to the Committees not later than November 15, 2018.

Additionally, Senate Report 116-125 references the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2017 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31), which states:

As previously discussed in Senate Reports 113-198 and 114-68, the Committee is concerned about the sharp increase in illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products and expects DHS to work in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve their cooperative efforts to better address wildlife

trafficking. The Committee remains frustrated that the Department has failed to produce specific reports on these activities as required in Senate Report 113-198 and in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-113. These reports should be provided to the Committee expeditiously. A similar report for fiscal year 2017 should be provided not later than 45 days after the close of the fiscal year.

Further, Senate Report 116-125 references the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the FY 2016 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113), which states:

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary is directed to update the report required by Senate Report 113-198 regarding DHS activities related to wildlife trafficking and the illegal natural resources trade.

## II. Background

Wildlife trafficking has become an international crisis that threatens security and public health, hinders sustainable economic development, promotes biodiversity loss, and undermines our laws. As demonstrated by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic, the bushmeat trade is another growing threat because wild animals are reported as being reservoirs for pathogens and people who come into contact with animal body fluids are at risk of becoming infected with a zoonotic disease—a disease that passes from animals to humans.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the connections between trafficking in illegal wildlife and natural resources with the financing of groups involved in transnational organized crime pose additional threats to the United States.

Executive Order No. 13648, *Combating Wildlife Trafficking*, issued on July 1, 2013, addressed the significant effects of wildlife trafficking on the national interests of the United States. The order established the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking (Presidential Task Force), led by the Department of State (DOS), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) and included DHS and 13 other federal agencies and offices. The Presidential Task Force created a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking (Strategy) that included consideration of issues related to combating trafficking and to curbing consumer demand.

On February 11, 2015, the Presidential Task Force issued the Strategy’s implementation plan, which reaffirmed our Nation’s commitment to work in partnership with governments, local communities, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector to stem the illegal trade in wildlife. DHS continues to work in concert with other agencies to help to implement the key objectives of the Strategy: strengthening enforcement, reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife, and expanding international cooperation.

Effective July 6, 2016, the Rule for the African Elephant, promulgated under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, was revised to increase protection for African elephants in response to the rise in poaching driven by the illegal trade in ivory. The African elephant was listed as “threatened” under the ESA effective on June 11, 1978, and, at the same time, a rule was promulgated under section 4(d) of the ESA to regulate import and use of specimens of the species in the United States. This final rule allows U.S. authorities to regulate trade in African elephant ivory and to help to ensure that the U.S. ivory market is not contributing to the poaching of elephants in Africa, while still allowing activities that do not contribute to poaching and illegal trade, such as well-managed sport hunting.

On February 9, 2017, Executive Order No. 13773, *Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking*, was issued. The order addressed the substantial threat to the safety of the United States and its citizens posed by transnational criminal organizations (TCO). The order seeks to strengthen federal law

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/zak-smith/bipartisan-leaders-aim-prevent-pandemics-and-biodiversity#:~:text=The%20Preventing%20Future%20Pandemics%20Act%20of%202020%20recognizes,the%20strongest%20Congressional%20proposal%20to%20stop%20future%20>

enforcement efforts to combat transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations engaged in illicit activities, such as “the illegal smuggling and trafficking of humans, drugs or other substances, wildlife and weapons,” which threaten public safety and national security. It was significant that the executive order specifically recognized wildlife trafficking, which includes timber trafficking, as one of the illicit activities by TCOs that the United States must work to combat.



### III. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) leads DHS participation on the Presidential Task Force. ICE HSI was involved actively in building the Strategy's implementation plan and identified existing DHS resources and expertise capable of executing the plan's enforcement and investigative fundamentals. ICE HSI works to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations involved in wildlife trafficking using its domestic and international resources, expertise, and authorities. ICE HSI personnel are engaged actively with other U.S. Government agencies and NGOs to promote ICE HSI's role both domestically and abroad, including capacity-building as it relates to illegal wildlife trafficking. These entities include DOI's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOS's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the World Customs Organization, the International Police Organization (INTERPOL), and several NGOs.

ICE HSI is the largest investigative arm of DHS and is a vital U.S. asset in combating criminal organizations illegally exploiting America's travel, trade, financial, and immigration systems. ICE HSI's workforce includes special agents, analysts, auditors, and support staff. Men and women of ICE HSI are assigned to cities throughout the United States and to offices around the world. ICE HSI's international force is the Department's largest investigative presence abroad and gives ICE HSI one of the largest international footprints in U.S. law enforcement.

ICE HSI, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and FWS have joined forces by way of CBP's Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC) and CBP's National Targeting Center (NTC) to enhance mutual U.S. Government efforts to combat illegal imports of endangered wildlife. The CTAC brings together key federal agencies with safety regulation oversight of imports into the United States, as well as law enforcement agencies like ICE HSI and FWS, with authority to enforce import violations. CBP provides intensive systems and targeting training, along with operational targeting support, through the NTC. ICE HSI and FWS have assigned personnel to both the CTAC and the NTC. Furthermore, since December 2013, ICE HSI has maintained the National Targeting Center – Investigations, which is situated within CBP's NTC, to enhance its shared border security mission. ICE HSI's collaborative presence at the NTC supports the border security continuum, from CBP interdictions and ICE HSI investigations, to the joint exploitation of intelligence.

In October 2019, DHS Science and Technology Directorate awarded funding to a wildlife contraband-focused project proposed by the Texas A&M University Center of Excellence for Cross-Border Threat Screening and Supply Chain Defense and the University of Washington – Seattle's Center for Conservation Biology. The aim of this collaborative project is to develop and test innovative, nonintrusive canine inspection technologies to detect contraband in shipping containers throughout global supply chains. The ICE HSI Global Trade Investigations Division Commercial Fraud Unit volunteered to serve as the "DHS Champion" for this pilot project, which aims to advance high-throughput methods for authorities to search containers during transit and to identify containers transporting contraband without breaking the security tape seals. A nonintrusive detection process such as this could provide to law enforcement a better

probability of success in conducting controlled deliveries of identified containerized contraband, especially when criminals surveil these containers.

From October 22-24, 2019, at the invitation of INTERPOL, ICE HSI Nairobi participated in a wildlife trafficking symposium held in Nairobi, Kenya. Twenty delegates from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and Vietnam attended the symposium. ICE HSI provided training presentations on investigative techniques, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sampling and analysis, and shared case studies illustrating successful collaborative efforts between ICE HSI and its international partners.

From October 22-24, 2019, ICE HSI participated in the DOJ Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD)-sponsored and DOS INL-funded Illicit Timber Trafficking Workshop, held in Bogota, Columbia. The training focused on various aspects of the illegal harvesting of timber in the region and shared investigative best practices for law enforcement and prosecutors. The workshop was attended by 29 officials from the Colombian Inspector General's office, prosecutor's office, National Parks administration, national police, national army, Ministry of Agriculture, and Colombian regional governments.

From November 18-22, 2019, ICE HSI conducted outreach and provided a block of training at the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG) hosted in Singapore. During this 30th meeting of the INTERPOL WCWG, some 160 participants from police, government agencies, international organizations, the transport and financial sectors, academia, and social media companies gathered to review the latest environmental threats, trafficking trends, and challenges to tackling the criminal networks behind such crime. ICE HSI Singapore shared a presentation on targeting, trade compliance, and work across government to achieve effective environmental crime enforcement.

From November 19-21, 2019, ICE HSI Nairobi provided training at the Angolan National Judicial Symposium on Wildlife Crime held in Luanda, Angola. The symposium was one of the deliverables of the Stop Ivory Project and initially was dubbed "Developing Investigation Prosecution Capacity to Save Angola's Elephants." The event was funded by the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. ICE HSI was invited to participate in the delivery of symposium law enforcement presentations sharing best practices and investigative techniques useful in combating illicit wildlife trafficking.

On December 5, 2019, ICE HSI Assistant Director (AD) for International Operations Patrick J. Lechleitner addressed the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere regarding "Illicit Mining: Threats to U.S. National Security and International Human Rights." In his statement to the subcommittee, AD Lechleitner highlighted the ICE HSI-led Operation Arch Stanton. The ongoing Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation is a joint effort undertaken by ICE HSI, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, CBP, DOJ-Office of International Affairs, and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations, along with state and local law enforcement agencies. In January 2018, Operation Arch Stanton resulted in the conviction of executives from one of the largest American-owned precious metals purchasing and refining

companies for conspiracy to purchase more than \$3 billion of criminally derived gold from Latin America. These proceeds were gained from unlawful criminal activities, including illegal mining, foreign bribery, foreign smuggling, foreign narcotics trafficking, and the entry of goods into the United States by false means and statements. They subsequently transmitted more than \$3 billion of wire payments from the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the delivery of additional criminally derived gold.

Previously, in November 2017, Operation Arch Stanton also had resulted in further charges against one executive and the indictment of an additional four Peruvian nationals who were charged in the Southern District of Florida for alleged participation in this gold money-laundering scheme. One of the suspects was arrested in Peru by the Peruvian police for charges of illegal gold mining and of laundering more than \$630 million worth of gold. Pursuant to the terms of the Plea & Forfeiture Agreement filed with the court, the American-owned precious metals purchasing and refining company was sentenced to forfeit \$15 million to the United States, to develop and maintain an effective compliance and ethics program, and to be subject to a 5-year term of probation, during which time it will be prohibited from purchasing precious metals from outside the United States and will be required to comply with all further investigations.

Additionally, in October 2018, 10 members of a TCO were arrested by Colombian authorities for violation of a Colombian law concerning illegal gold mining, customs fraud, and money-laundering. This organization used shell corporations to introduce illegally mined minerals into legitimate mineral trade sectors of the United States. The illegally mined gold then was paid for through a trade-based, money-laundering scheme.

From February 3-5, 2020, ICE HSI Nairobi was invited to provide training at the Lusaka Agreement Wildlife Trafficking Conference in Kampala, Uganda. This 3-day multiagency workshop brought 30 key law enforcement officers together from various agencies represented within the National Task Force on Wildlife Crime in Uganda, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the National Task Force Anti-Poaching of Tanzania, and Grace Farms Foundation. ICE HSI's primary objective focused on strengthening the task force on wildlife crime in Uganda and on highlighting the work of its members. The event focused on multiple objectives to understand better the duties of task force members and measures to prevent and combat poaching and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.

From February 17, 2020, to March 6, 2020, ICE HSI Bangkok, ICE HSI Singapore, and ICE HSI Nairobi partnered with the Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation and the Singapore National Parks Board to conduct DNA sampling of approximately 16.8 tons of seized ivory. The ivory was the result of three prior seizures—two made in Thailand in April 2015 containing 4.4 tons and 3.4 tons, respectively, and one seized while transiting through Singapore in July 2019 totaling 9 tons. The DNA sampling operation was performed in close concert with Dr. Samuel Wasser, a leading conservation biologist from the University of Washington and the 2018 Albert Schweitzer Medal recipient, who, in 1998, pioneered the scientific method of extracting DNA from ivory tusks. This DNA-sampling operation was the second time in 2 years that ICE HSI and Dr. Wasser have collaborated with the Government of Singapore on an ivory seizure. Dr. Wasser's DNA tests on smuggled elephant tusks have identified major ivory cartels in Africa and are helping ICE HSI and other

investigators to bolster criminal cases against some of the most dangerous wildlife traffickers. Most ivory traffickers face prosecution for a single seizure, so connecting these traffickers to multiple large seizures can benefit prosecutors greatly by allowing them to charge the traffickers with major transnational crimes and to impose tougher penalties.

From March 16-19, 2020, ICE HSI Bangkok was invited by DOJ ENRD to participate in an Illegal Logging Workshop held in Myitkyina, Myanmar, for law enforcement and prosecutors. ICE HSI provided blocks of instruction and facilitated discussions on investigating transnational criminal organizations, international smuggling of illegally harvested or protected timber, best practices for investigating timber crimes, and an illegal timber investigation case study.

On June 12, 2020, a federal court sentenced the owner of a Newport News, Virginia, seafood company to pay a \$10,000 fine and to complete a 3-year term of probation. The sentencing was the culmination of a joint investigation by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, ICE HSI, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Virginia Marine Police, while the prosecution was led by DOJ ENRD. The owner previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy and to violating the Lacey Act for falsely labeling millions of dollars' worth of foreign crabmeat. The investigation determined that, from approximately 2010 through June 2015, the owner and others directed employees to unpack foreign crabmeat from suppliers' containers, commingle it with domestic blue crab or other types of crab, and repack it into Casey's Seafood containers, all of which were labeled "Product of USA." Some of this foreign crabmeat was referred to as "distressed" because it was approaching or beyond the posted "best used by" dates. Employees falsely labeled approximately 183 tons of crabmeat purchased by grocery stores and independent retailers. The company sold approximately 367,765 pounds of falsely labeled crabmeat with a total wholesale value of more than \$4 million.

Between July and September 2020, ICE HSI Pretoria collaborated with the South African Police Service and a nongovernment organization, African Pangolin Working Group (APWG), to establish a pangolin task force. During this timeframe, this task force has rescued six live pangolins, seized four sets of pangolin skins, and effected the arrests of 24 wildlife traffickers. After each raid or enforcement action, the pangolins, a protected species, were handed over to the APWG to be rehabilitated and eventually to be released back into the wild. The task remains active, and future arrests and seizures are anticipated.

On August 10, 2020, the two owners of a Miami, Florida-based company were sentenced in federal court for their involvement in a conspiracy knowingly to export fish and protected coral in violation of federal law. The U.S. District Court Judge sentenced the owners to a term of 6 months' imprisonment, a term of supervised release for 1 year, and a criminal fine of \$7,500. The company also was placed on probation for 4 years. This case was the culmination of a joint enforcement initiative by ICE HSI, FWS, NOAA, CBP, and DOJ ENRD, wherein these agencies coordinated their respective interdictive, investigative, and prosecutorial efforts concluding in the successful prosecution of the two owners. From May 2014 through July 2015, the defendants provided international shipping manifests to the United Parcel Service that falsely identified shipments of fish and corals as "aquarium accessories." Using this fraudulent documentation, the company illegally exported almost 1,000 shipments of fish and wildlife from the United States to Colombia.

From September 14–October 11, 2020, ICE HSI, along with FWS, CBP, INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau, NOAA, and the U.S. Forest Service, participated in a global operation against illegal wildlife crime and trade, codenamed “Operation Thunder 2020.” Operation Thunder 2020 was a joint World Customs Organization/INTERPOL initiative and was the fourth edition of the “Thunder” series. After the successful implementation of Operations Thunderbird (2017), Thunderstorm (2018), and Thunderball (2019), Operation Thunder 2020 aimed to build on the previous successes and rallied 103 countries against wildlife and forestry crime. Operation Thunder 2020 resulted in more than 2,000 seizures of wildlife and forestry products, and 699 offenders were apprehended. Further arrests and prosecutions are anticipated as ongoing global investigations progress.

ICE HSI and CBP maintain a close relationship with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to address illegally logged Peruvian timber subject to monitoring under the United States-Peru Trade Agreement (PTPA). As part of the PTPA, CBP is an observer to the Interagency Committee on Trade in Timber Products from Peru (Timber Committee). During 2017, CBP denied entry to products of Inversiones La Oroza. The Timber Committee made this decision after considering the verification report issued pursuant to the PTPA, which identified that a large percentage of the shipment had been harvested illegally. The enforcement action was for a 3-year period or until the Timber Committee determined that the exporter or producer has complied with all applicable laws, regulations, and other measures of Peru governing the harvest and trade in timber products, whichever was shorter. On October 19, 2020, USTR directed CBP to continue to block future timber imports from Inversiones La Oroza, because of illegally harvested timber found in its supply chain.

Additionally, in 2019, following a second verification exercise under the PTPA, CBP was instructed by USTR, pursuant to a decision of the Timber Committee, to block future timber imports from a second Peruvian company, Inversiones WCA E.I.R.L. The decision was based on illegally harvested timber found in its supply chain. ICE HSI’s investigative efforts and work in combatting illegally harvested Peruvian timber have been significant. ICE HSI has been instrumental in coordinating with the U.S. Embassy in Lima and the Government of Peru to identify targets allegedly involved in illegal logging. On January 18, 2017, DOJ ENRD announced that 24 pallets of timber seized by ICE HSI on December 20, 2015, at the Port of Houston for violation of the Lacey Act and customs law were destroyed in accordance with a settlement agreement reached by the United States and the importer of the timber, an Oregon-based company. The agreement, the first action of its kind for foreign timber seized under the Lacey Act, ensures that timber that the U.S. Government maintains was harvested in violation of Peruvian law will not enter the U.S. stream of commerce.<sup>2</sup> ICE HSI also exposed fraudulent claims for export subsidies in Peru and resulted in the Peruvian government preventing a payment of more than \$7 million to an affiliated company. Since the last reporting period, ICE HSI has placed a country attaché in Lima and that office is engaged fully with the Government of Peru and the U.S. Embassy in Lima on illegally harvested timber and other law enforcement matters.

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, “Justice Department Reaches Agreement to Ensure Destruction of Timber Believed to Have Been Harvested in Violation of Peruvian Law,” January 18, 2017. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reaches-agreement-ensure-destruction-timber-believed-have-been-harvested>

## IV. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Engagement

CBP collaborates with ICE HSI and FWS in addressing threats related to this important issue. CBP partners with FWS to ensure that commodities and goods (in passenger and commercial environments) meet requirements for legal entry into the United States. FWS personnel also are stationed at various ports of entry and enforce their regulations alongside CBP officers and CBP agriculture specialists.

CBP also works with ICE HSI and FWS through CBP's CTAC to enhance efforts to combat illegal imports of endangered wildlife. The CTAC mission is to join federal agencies with authority over safety regulations of products imported into the United States. CTAC facilitates information-sharing, leveraging the collective resources of the 12 CTAC partner government agencies to enhance the prevention, preemption, deterrence, analysis, and investigation of violations of importation laws that affect the United States' interest in the import safety environment.<sup>3</sup> FWS joined CTAC on April 1, 2014. The inclusion of FWS in CTAC allows for better coordination and enhancement of operations toward thwarting illegal wildlife trade by joining FWS with other CTAC partner government agencies, including CBP and ICE HSI.

FWS has committed assets to NTC, including resources such as a law enforcement agent who is co-located physically at NTC. NTC provides FWS with operational support for targeting through the Tactical Trade Targeting Unit to facilitate import targeting.

FWS and ICE HSI have broadened the scope of CTAC by bringing its subject matter expertise and resources to targeting illegal wildlife trade at our Nation's borders. The information-sharing and collaboration between FWS and CTAC partner government agencies play a key role in tackling illegal wildlife trade and in advancing FWS's mission.

CBP also is working with ICE HSI and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to address illegal timber shipments and is supporting the U.S. Trade Representative's efforts to ensure that timber shipments from Peru are exported to the United States in accordance with the Forest Annex of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

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<sup>3</sup> CTAC Partner Government Agencies: USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CBP, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration, FWS, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services, ICE HSI, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, and DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

## V. Conclusion

DHS remains steadfast in its commitment to combat wildlife trafficking and the illegal trading of other natural resources. Through its collaboration with interagency partners, DHS will continue to work and build on the Strategy's three objectives: strengthening enforcement; reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife; and building international cooperation, commitment, and public-private partnerships.

## Appendix: List of Abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>AD</b>	Assistant Director
<b>APWG</b>	African Pangolin Working Group
<b>CBP</b>	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
<b>CTAC</b>	Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center
<b>DHS</b>	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
<b>DNA</b>	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
<b>DOI</b>	U.S. Department of Interior
<b>DOJ</b>	U.S. Department of Justice
<b>DOS</b>	U.S. Department of State
<b>DOT</b>	U.S. Department of Transportation
<b>ENRD</b>	Environment and Natural Resources Division
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act of 1973
<b>FWS</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>HSI</b>	Homeland Security Investigations
<b>ICE</b>	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
<b>INL</b>	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Police Organization
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental Organization
<b>NTC</b>	National Targeting Center
<b>Presidential Task Force</b>	Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking
<b>PTPA</b>	United States-Peru Free Trade Agreement
<b>Strategy</b>	National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking
<b>Timber Committee</b>	Interagency Committee on Trade in Timber Products from Peru
<b>TCO</b>	Transnational Criminal Organization
<b>USDA</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture
<b>USTR</b>	U.S. Trade Representative
<b>WCWG</b>	Wildlife Crime Working Group