Tackling Tiger Trafficking Framework

The illegal trade in tigers, tiger parts and their derivatives drives the poaching of wild tigers and undermines conservation efforts throughout their range. This is heightened by the continued existence, and even growth, of tiger farms - facilities breeding and keeping captive tigers which put them, and their parts and products, into trade.

2022 is the Lunar Year of the Tiger, which offers a renewed opportunity for increased focus by Tiger Range Countries, who are expected to commit to needed conservation actions for the new Global Tiger Recovery Programme, and for political momentum behind tiger conservation as a whole.

To support this, a number of partners involved in tiger conservation have inspired the development of a comprehensive framework aiming to address the illegal trade in tigers and their parts and products, both from wild and captive sources: the Tackling Tiger Trafficking Framework.

The Framework sets out solutions that are known to be effective, based on best practices in tackling the trafficking of tigers and other wildlife species, and in combating other serious crimes, such as human, weapons and drugs trafficking.

For the scope of this Framework, tiger trafficking is defined as the illegal trade of tigers and their parts and products after the poaching of the animal, or from a captive source, and all points along the illicit supply chain to the end consumer market. This Framework focuses on the enforcement actions that sit between poaching and consumption.

Tiger and other wildlife trafficking is facilitated by corruption, weak or poorly implemented laws, inadequately capacitated law enforcement, and a lack of political will, among other things. While the required response may sometimes feel overwhelming, many resources are already available for improving efforts to stop tiger trafficking, wildlife trafficking, or trafficking more broadly.

This Framework seeks to pull together currently available, effective and relevant resources and information from other crime areas and provide context as to their application towards tackling tiger trafficking.

As such, this Framework aims to provide governments of Tiger Range Countries and other countries affected by illegal tiger trade with the guidance needed to implement a comprehensive and effective approach to address the complex issue of tiger trafficking, which can be used in developing national tiger trade strategies.
The Framework focuses its interventions around four core pillars:

1. **Laws and policies**: to address the illegal trade in tigers and their parts and derivatives, it is imperative to have strong, clear laws and policies in place.

2. **Criminal justice system capacity**: an effective criminal justice response to tiger trafficking requires adequate enforcement powers for law enforcement agencies tasked with fighting wildlife crime; sufficient resources; expertise; and integrity of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges.

3. **Cooperation**: tiger trafficking is a networked, associative, transboundary crime, whose response requires multidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional interventions. Thus, national, inter-agency, regional, and international cooperation is crucial to tackling tiger trafficking.

4. **Private sector engagement**: engaging the private sector to support government efforts to tackle tiger trafficking would encourage political will, facilitate intelligence gathering and sharing, and help find novel approaches to solving complex problems in tiger trafficking.

Underpinning these pillars are the cross-cutting pillar, Tools, and two foundational requirements, Political will and governance and Monitoring.

While governments are the primary audience for this Framework, international organisations, the private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders are urged to provide technical and/or financial assistance where needed.

You can find the Tackling Tiger Trafficking Framework here: https://tigers.panda.org/reports/Tackling-Tiger-Trafficking-Framework

For more information please contact:
Heather Sohl, Tiger Trade Lead, WWF
(hsohl@wwf-tigers.org)

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