



ROYAL FOUNDATION
**united
for
wildlife**
BUSINESS FORUM

Celebrating
10 years of partnership

Confronting
the illegal wildlife trade

Committing
to bolder action

After a decade of progress, the question isn't whether the private sector can disrupt wildlife trafficking. It's how much more we can achieve together.

Tom Clements

Executive Director, United for Wildlife

On March 28, 2021, during a routine luggage inspection at Galápagos Ecological Airport, National Park staff discovered 185 giant tortoise hatchlings inside a suitcase.

For a species that is endangered, it was a significant find. It also sent a loud message to would-be traffickers. And it would never have happened without the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce.

This is what the UfW Business Taskforces do. Not just in a press release, or in a declaration. But in the real world, on a Sunday afternoon, at an airport on a remote island in the Pacific.

Since I joined United for Wildlife in 2024, I have been struck by the sheer number and scope of stories like this. Working in partnership, Taskforce members truly have changed the trajectory of global wildlife crime.

Today, we celebrate the first 10 years of these Transport and Financial Taskforces. Since 2016, when 40 first-mover companies signed the Buckingham Palace Declaration, we've grown to more than 300 members and 122 partners across six continents.

To our founding members and our more recent partners, a huge and heartfelt thank you. You are the ones delivering the training, intercepting the shipments and flagging suspicious payments – even as traffickers become ever more cunning.

By collaborating across the Taskforces, we have compounded these results. Financial intelligence has powered interventions during illicit transportation, and transport seizures have fed into financial investigations. Ivory, rhino horn, primates, reptiles, lemurs: together, we have truly disrupted international wildlife crime.

We'll be envisioning how to amplify that impact in a new decade. By bringing additional sectors and wider environmental crimes into our Taskforces – crypto, e-commerce and digital platforms – we can drive even greater success.

Today, we welcome some of these sectors into our discussions. Our message is simple: join us. Help us expand our reach, sharpen our intelligence and make it easier for every member to turn commitment into action.

At the same time, we must be clear-eyed about the challenges we face. Traffickers are taking advantage of technology – from untraceable currencies to cashless payments and social networks – to profit from their crimes online. These technologies have fragmented structures, creating gaps in visibility and accountability – and allowing wildlife traffickers to move illicit goods with less chance of being detected.

We must also listen to the realities of implementation that Taskforce members have shared with us, from training and data collection to policymaking and communications. Transparency builds trust, and the United for Wildlife team has been inspired by the recent re-engagement of members who have faced challenges – and who are now ready to contribute once again.

This partnership, founded by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, invites you to celebrate our mutual success and to contribute your ideas for the future.

Together, we can show the world what we already know: wildlife is everyone's business.

With best wishes,
Tom

Rt Hon Lord Hague of Richmond Co-chair, United for Wildlife

"Ten years ago, asking the financial and transport industries to take on wildlife crime felt like a long shot. But this decade has proved that when business commits – genuinely commits – it can reach places that law enforcement alone cannot. Now we share the opportunity, and the responsibility, to scale what works."

Sarah Henwood CEO, The Royal Foundation

"Within a decade, United for Wildlife has grown from its initial focus just on transport, to taking action across all stages of the global supply chain. This report captures the remarkable progress that the Taskforces have made, protecting precious wildlife by targeting the transnational criminals who profit from these crimes."

In our 2026 member survey, those responding said*:

300+
members

150,000+
employees trained

74% deliver IWT-related training

65% have IWT operational guidance

122+
partners

550+
law enforcement
cases supported

52% have refused business on
IWT suspicion

55% want risk assessment guidance

74% want sector-specific sector
specific intelligence on
environmental crime

Case studies

Qatar Airways

Aviation | Repatriating endangered animals

As the first airline to pass IATA's independent Environmental Assessment Wildlife Module, Qatar Airways created the "Rewild the Planet" project, which has repatriated over 1,000 animals. The airline has run onboard awareness campaigns, and introduced enhanced CITES cargo data capture.

Maersk

Maritime | Closing trafficking routes

After signing the Buckingham Palace Declaration in 2016, Maersk introduced a group-wide zero-tolerance IWT policy and Cargo Incident Notification Systems. It played a major role in developing the IMO's guidelines for preventing wildlife trafficking – an industry-wide standard.

Investec

Finance | Building public-private partnerships

Investec spearheaded the formation of SAMLIT's IWT Expert Working Group in 2020 and led the first two of three reports on financial typologies related to wildlife trafficking. By Dec 2024, IWT suspicious-transaction reports by South African banks had risen from 16 to 439, enabling 26 money-laundering convictions in that time. SAMLIT set the template for public-private finance sector partnerships, now replicated worldwide.

Changi Rhino Horn Seizure

Cross-sector | Multinational task force

Twenty rhino horns, weighing 34.7kg and valued at US\$843,210, were seized at Changi Airport in 2022. A taskforce of Singapore and South African agencies, along with UfW Transport and Financial Taskforce members, together secured a 24-month sentence – Singapore's heaviest ever for wildlife smuggling.

*Survey of 31 members conducted online, April-May 2026. Due to the small sample size, results should be seen as indicative.

Our plan for the next era:

The illegal wildlife trade is changing fast – which means that the coming decade will only increase the need for delivery by the United for Wildlife Business Taskforces. Traffickers are increasingly:

- Fragmenting consignments to avoid detection
- Exploiting postal and parcel systems
- Moving trade onto social platforms and e-commerce sites
- Laundering wildlife through legitimate businesses
- Using digital payments, cryptocurrency and fintech to reach buyers across borders

Our plan is to deepen, sharpen and widen the Taskforces' work:

Deepen by helping members turn commitment into consistent practice – through better training, clearer red flags, stronger risk assessment and more open sharing of what works.

Sharpen by using technology, including AI, to analyse a decade of Taskforce data, identify hidden patterns and share stronger intelligence with law enforcement.

Widen by bringing in sectors that also shoulder the risk: insurance, consumer goods and digital platforms.

The first decade proved that business could disrupt wildlife crime. The next era is about scaling those results into a broader, faster and more connected system of defence.

2016 → 2018 → 2021 → 2023 → 2025 → 2026 →

Buckingham Palace Declaration establishes Transport Taskforce

Mansion House Declaration establishes Financial Taskforce

Taskforces reach 200 members and 50 partners

UfW Statement of Principles launched in Singapore, securing endorsement from 49 countries

Cape Town + Rio Declaration establishes environmental crime as a global political priority

UfW Business Forum: 10-year findings + forward strategy launch