

Prince William hails progress in the fight against the Illegal Wildlife Trade at United for Wildlife's Global Summit in London

Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and United for Wildlife announce formal agreement to combat the illegal wildlife trade at the Global Summit

Prince William on 4th of October highlighted the serious and organised nature of illegal wildlife crime, warning that the world does not have 'the luxury of time to tackle it', but it does have 'the roadmap and motivation to do it.'

Speaking at the United for Wildlife Global Summit in London, The Prince set out the damaging impact of the illegal wildlife trade, which is worth up to \$20 billion annually and is associated with violent crime, corruption and other forms of trafficking. "The illegal wildlife trade is a crime that robs us all of our most precious natural resources, funds organised crime, and the harms of which are often directly felt by the most vulnerable communities," **said Prince William, who founded United for Wildlife with the Royal Foundation.**

During the summit, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and United for Wildlife announced a formal partnership to work together to address the illegal wildlife trade using 'follow the money' principles and money laundering regulation. The regional partnership comprising 19 countries will mark the first international public-private partnership for any financial crime.

The illegal wildlife trade is the fourth largest financial crime, behind drugs, human and arms trafficking and demonstrates the desire of the Eastern and Southern Africa region to disrupt this crime and prosecute those that benefit from it.

The partnership confirms United for Wildlife's and ESAAMLG's commitment to work with each other to better identify and combat money laundering from the illegal wildlife trade. It will establish multi-agency co-ordination mechanisms that allow for the sharing of intelligence and information between and among Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), financial investigators, agencies involved in investigating wildlife crimes, prosecutorial authorities and private sector and not-for-profit organisations.

Dr Kisanga, The Executive Secretary of ESAAMLG said: "The opportunity for ESAAMLG to lead the way in terms of public private partnerships in the financial crime space demonstrates the vision and desire of us all to protect our planet and animals. We look forward to working with United for Wildlife over the coming months and sharing our successes on the global stage."

David Fein, Chair of the United for Wildlife Financial Taskforce, said: "We are both privileged and delighted to work with ESAAMLG and are confident that the success that we have seen domestically will be multiplied across the whole region. This partnership has the potential to have a huge impact, helping close the net on those who profit from wildlife crime."

the United for Wildlife Global Summit was attended by 300 leading figures from the financial industry, law enforcement agencies, conservation organisations and other businesses.

The summit emphasised the important role of the private sector and collaboration across sectors. Delegates also paid tribute to wildlife rangers, who are on the frontline against commercial poachers targeting the world's most iconic species. The death earlier this year of Anton Mzimba, a close colleague of many in the United for Wildlife network, served as an awful reminder of the very real threat that many rangers on the frontline still face.

Speakers at the event included **Xolisile Khanyile**, Director of the Financial Intelligence Centre and the Egmont Group Chairperson; **Altin Gysman**, Head, Protected Area Integrity/African Field Ranger Training Services at Southern Africa Wildlife College; **Raja Kumar**, President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); **Jon Godson**, Associate Director, International Air Transport Association; **Mary Rice**, Executive Director, Environmental Investigation Agency; **Stephen Kavanagh**, Executive Director of Interpol; and **Matthew Strickler**, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

In the six years since creating its international transport and financial taskforces, the United for Wildlife network has grown to over 250 members, contributed to over 450 law enforcement cases, over 250 arrests, almost 200 seizures of wildlife products and has trained over 100,000 people. The network spans the globe - from Southeast Asia to South America, Europe to East Africa - increasing deterrents across the entire chain of demand and supply.

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Photography and video clips from the United for Wildlife Global Summit [can be found here.](#)

United for Wildlife

Founded by Prince William and The Royal Foundation in 2014, United for Wildlife aims to make it impossible for traffickers to transport, finance or profit from illegal wildlife products. By working collaboratively with the transport and finance sectors, building key partnerships with law enforcement and NGOs, and sharing information and best practices across the sectors, and across borders, United for Wildlife is disrupting this criminal network globally.

The Royal Foundation

The Royal Foundation is driven by a desire to make a difference. We mobilise leaders, businesses and people so that together we can address society's greatest challenges. Led by our Principals, The Prince and Princess of Wales, our work is built on world-class research, long-term partnerships, and measurable, scalable impact.

ESAAMLG

The Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) is a Regional Body subscribing to global standards to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism and proliferation. Its 19 [Member Countries](#) are Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia,

Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and includes a number of regional and international observers such as AUSTRAC, Commonwealth Secretariat, East African Community, FATF, IMF, SADC, United Kingdom, United States of America, UNODC, World Bank and World Customs Organization. The United Kingdom and United States of America have been cooperating and supporting nations of the organization since it was established in 1999.