working across three continents on thirteen separate investigations, in 2017 undercover teams of the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) were instrumental in multiple arrests, the disruption of deep-rooted criminal networks and the identification and prosecution of major wildlife traffickers.

It was a busy year! From small start-up in 2015, we have come a long way, very fast, and I am proud that the experts in our growing team are considered leaders in their field, working closely with governments to deliver reliable, actionable evidence of the deadly, destructive multi-billion dollar business of wildlife trafficking.

Our intelligence analysis and undercover investigations led to the arrest of high-level traffickers in India, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Bangladesh and Mozambique. Ivory, freshwater turtles and tortoises, rhino horn and leopard canines and claws, all destined for the illegal market, were seized.

The in-depth investigation work into the growing trade in rhino horns not only resulted in arrests and disruption of the criminal networks supporting it, but also enabled us to produce Black Business - a unique report exposing a trafficking network based in Nhi Khe, Viet Nam. The report, which came after an 18-month long investigation, is a detailed account of the trafficker’s systems, pricing structure and use of social media.

Our investigators risk their lives looking into criminal gangs to bring to light the evidence we need. I am deeply grateful for their unflinching dedication. Their skill in the field continues to be complimented by our diplomatic work, which also expanded significantly in 2017. We developed stronger relationships with key governments and organisations, and became a stronger presence on the international stage. Their successes laid the groundwork for important partnership agreements with Europol and the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Our work is painstaking and detailed, but urgently needed. The illegal trafficking of wildlife is a billion-dollar dirty business that is a daily threat to some of our planet’s most vulnerable species. We are proud that in the three short years we have been operating we have helped to shut down some significant criminal networks. We have the right formula that presents evidence to enable action, but there is a lot still to do and for some species time is running out. We hope you are inspired by the work we have done last year and continue to support us and bring justice for our wildlife in the coming years.

Olivia Swaak-Goldman, Executive Director
very 15 minutes an elephant is killed for its ivory. Three rhinos a day are slaughtered for their horns. Organised wildlife crime syndicates are now operating on such an industrial scale that endangered species are under 24-hour armed-guard; fragile habitats are threatened and communities and livelihoods destabilised.

Our natural world is already under huge pressure, with the impact of climate change and the clearing of our lands and forests for industry and plantations. Some of our most vulnerable species such as rhinos, pangolins, elephants and tigers also face a growing threat from traffickers, who turn these majestic animals into trinkets and jewellery.

Almost all states have laws against wildlife crime and the associated money laundering, fraud, tax evasion and corruption. Almost all are signatories to international treaties designed to prevent the illegal trade in wildlife, yet the trade continues to decimate our natural heritage.

It is an estimated USD 20 billion dollar criminal industry\(^1\) that crosses borders and continents, and the WJC is committed to help shut it down.

The task we have set ourselves is daunting and often dangerous. Only the trafficking of drugs, humans and fake goods are more profitable, and the networks that support and drive the trade are organised, adaptable and often interconnected. They take advantage of a lack of real intelligence sharing and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and, like other forms of transnational organised crime, rely upon corruption to facilitate their activities.

Our mission is to ensure that those traffickers are exposed, and that governments take strong action against them. The scale of the problem requires an equally significant response and we work to ensure governments send a clear signal that the seriousness of the crime will be matched by the commitment to address it.

\(^1\) [https://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/environmental_law_symposium_31082015](https://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/environmental_law_symposium_31082015)
Who We Are

The WJC is truly international. Our small team represents more than a dozen different countries and cultures and we are proud of our diversity.

Our WJC community is made up of teams of investigators, analysts, diplomats, lawyers, communicators and administrators. We are a young organisation – only formed in 2015 – but we have decades of experience to bring to our work.

At the core of who we are and what we do is our investigations and intelligence team. With more than 325 years of law enforcement experience in Europe, Asia, Australia and the USA, the team has extensive expertise in intelligence-driven investigations and training.

The meticulous investigations run by our undercover teams also form the cornerstone of our diplomatic work, led by seasoned experts. The WJC is also fortunate to have a well-respected, hugely experienced governance team of different professional backgrounds, who make up the Supervisory Board, ambassadors, Independent Review Panel and advisory council.

The Executive Board

Our Executive Board is made up of our Executive Director, Olivia Swaak-Goldman and the Chief of Investigations (whose identity cannot be revealed due to security reasons).

Remuneration Policy

The Supervisory Board has determined the remuneration of the Board of Directors (Executive Board) in accordance with Dutch law. The Supervisory Board receives no remuneration.

Risk assessment

Exposing wildlife criminals and their networks is dangerous. We do not undertake our work or any of our operations lightly and always carry out extensive research and risk assessments to minimise any threats to our undercover investigators, partner organisations and the WJC itself. We constantly monitor identified organisational and individual risks, and have policies and procedures in place to reduce and manage them.
The WJC served case files to the authorities of Viet Nam, China and Lao PDR with compelling evidence on organised wildlife crime and the activities of high-level traffickers.
What We Do

The WJC undertakes intelligence-driven investigations with a goal of presenting verifiable, first-hand evidence of wildlife crimes in Case Files or intelligence reports to national governments and law-enforcement agencies for action. We identify trafficking suspects through intelligence analysis; publish briefings and reports to help build a broader knowledge base; and share intelligence with governments, to enable more effective enforcement.

Our intention is that evidence is followed with action from local and national law enforcement agencies. Our goal is to support law enforcement action in arresting and successfully prosecuting high-level traffickers as well as disrupting their networks. We offer operational support but also create diplomatic pressure on those governments that are unwilling to act on the evidence, holding a public hearing as a last resort. We will work with law enforcement, policymakers, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations to advance the cause of wildlife justice and over the longer term help create sustainable solutions.
The nature of their work is behind the scenes and confidential, but their expertise in conducting complex investigations across national borders and the vital intelligence they gather, enables us to bring the wildlife criminals out of the shadows.

The WJC has devised a specialist training programme run by experienced professionals in the field. The in-depth course, taken by all our undercover operators, ensures they have the knowledge, skills, networks and state-of-the-art recording equipment to go into the field with confidence and deliver actionable evidence. Our detailed research on the most up-to-date criminal terminology, references, techniques and prices used by the traffickers ensures we can prepare our field teams with the right cover story, language and knowledge to successfully infiltrate the networks.

Our undercover operatives come from a range of backgrounds, including former law enforcement officers, but all are driven by the same desire to bring wildlife traffickers to justice.

“We question everything, check everything they tell us, we are always seeking to corroborate what the trafficker has said, let’s face it, criminals lie. We work to sight wildlife products and provide that information to law enforcement. This enables them to take action. It works.”

WJC investigator

“The sheer scale of destruction is horrifying to witness sometimes, but we know if we do our job right, we can help stop the wildlife traffickers and protect some of our most endangered animals from extinction.”

WJC investigator
Use of social media by traffickers

Wildlife traffickers are increasingly turning to public social media platforms like WeChat and Facebook. While the posts are public, the criminals still try to disguise their dirty business with code words, emojis and images, which are harder to track through traditional monitoring and word searches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Keyword in Chinese / Emoji</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>大猫</td>
<td>Big cat</td>
<td>Tiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>小猫</td>
<td>Small cat</td>
<td>Wolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🐯</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XJ</td>
<td>First letters of rhino horn in Chinese “Xi Jiao”</td>
<td>Rhino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🐘</td>
<td>Tooth</td>
<td>Ivory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>牙</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ivory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Wildlife Crime Successes in 2017

As a direct result of our work in 2017, 25 high-level traffickers were arrested, a further 88 traffickers were identified and nine trafficking bank accounts confirmed. All our research data, some from investigations that took more than two years to complete, was delivered to governments or law enforcement authorities in India, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Mozambique, China and Bangladesh. We also produced two substantial Case Files, for the governments of Viet Nam, Lao PDR and China, identifying the trafficking of over USD 30 million in ivory, rhino horn and tiger body parts such as skin, claws, teeth canines, whiskers and bones.

The priority for the investigators is to identify, target and document the high-level traffickers - the drivers of the illegal trade, the core of the networks. We have formulated a 1-5 rating system to identify the level of influence of traffickers and smugglers, with those rating 3-5 the priority targets. Our undercover research enables us to create a clear picture of how the crime networks operate and who the key drivers are. The targeting and removal of those enabling individuals will achieve a much greater long-term impact, causing maximum disruption and ideally the collapse of the network.

These arrests and Case Files represent just some of our investigations that we undertook in 2017. Our investigations are comprehensive and often span up to 2 years in duration. Several investigations we commenced in 2017 only came to fruition in 2018, outside of the scope of this report, while others cannot be mentioned for security reasons.

WJC undercover operatives collect compelling evidence every day on the trafficking of live wildlife, feline body parts and raw and processed ivory and rhino horn by major criminal networks.
WJC 2017 Timeline of Investigation Results

January 2017
Arrest of 1 high-level trafficker in India – 280 tortoises recovered by authorities. Matter still before the courts.

March 2017
Arrest of 4 high-level traffickers in India – 64 turtles and tortoises recovered. Matter still before the courts.

April 2017
Arrest of 2 high-level traffickers in Malaysia – 18 turtles and tortoises recovered.

Arrest of 4 traffickers in India – several hundred turtles and tortoises recovered. Matter still before the courts.

May 2017
Arrest of 1 high-level trafficker in Malaysia – 55 turtles and tortoises recovered. Convicted and sentenced to 2 years’ imprisonment.

Arrest of 1 high-level trafficker in Viet Nam – 18 rhino horns recovered. Offender later convicted and sentenced to 18 months’ imprisonment.

June 2017
Arrest of 3 high-level traffickers in India – 270 turtles recovered. Matter still before the courts.

July 2017
Arrest of 3 high-level traffickers in Mozambique – 11 ivory tusks, worked ivory, leopard and lion parts seized. Matter still before the courts.

The WJC served a Case File on the governments of Lao PDR and China outlining the criminal activities of 31 individuals responsible for trafficking approximately USD 16 million in ivory, rhino horn and tiger parts.

August 2017
Arrest of 1 high-level trafficker (government official) in Malaysia – 24 kg of ivory seized. Matter still before the courts.

September 2017
Arrest of 5 high-level traffickers in Bangladesh – Working in cooperation with the the Bangladeshi authorities and INTERPOL, over 600 turtles and tortoises were recovered and major safe house used by several Indian trafficking networks shut down. Matter still before the courts.

October 2017
During a 10-day deployment in an African country WJC undercover operatives collected intelligence on 27 wildlife traffickers. This information was provided to local authorities.

November 2017
The WJC served a Case File on the governments of Viet Nam and China outlining the criminal activities of a network of 30 individuals responsible for trafficking in approximately USD 15 million in ivory and rhino horn.

During this investigation, nine bank accounts used in the laundering of proceeds of the trafficking were identified and provided to the relevant authorities.

The work of Indian, Bangladeshi, and Malaysian authorities, supported by the WJC, had a major impact on the trafficking of freshwater turtles and tortoises out of South Asia. Networks that have previously operated in the shadows were identified and dismantled and have now become fragmented. Significant intelligence has been collected on how they operate. The WJC continues to collaborate with authorities to stop the trafficking of these critically endangered species.
Who We Work With

While our work is undercover, we do not work in isolation

We partner with those who share our goals and our vision of an end to wildlife trafficking and the criminal networks that perpetuate it.

We work with groups and individuals in a dozen different countries to bring evidence from the field. They make a vital contribution, for which we thank them but cannot always identify them. Among those we can publicly thank are Europol, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN), the Indian Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and Mozambique’s National Administration and Conservation Areas (ANAC).

We work with national governments and law enforcement agencies to bring the evidence that should allow and compel them to take action to stop wildlife crime. In addition to our work at national government level, we also work with international political mechanisms like the United Nations Convention against Corruption, CITES and the G20.
Thank you to our partners for their support

- Nationale Postcode Loterij
- Adessium Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Dioraphte Foundation
- Swedish Postcode Foundation
- WWF Netherlands
- Woodtiger Foundation
- The Wildcat Foundation
- Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation
- The Brook Foundation
Our integrity and independence are not only core principles, which drive how we work, they also give clarity to how we are funded and who we will take donations from. We are working to stop a multi-billion dollar illicit industry and operate with a tiny fraction of the funds at the disposal of the criminals. Our funding comes primarily from lotteries, foundation grants and individuals, which provide us with the necessary flexibility and independence.

We were particularly indebted in 2017, to the Nationale Postcode Loterij of the Netherlands for supporting our work with a three-year, EUR 2.5m grant. The funding has enabled the WJC to increase capacity and cover the cost of longer term investigations, as well as providing a strong, clear signal of their confidence in our team, our effectiveness and the urgent need for our work to continue.

We are also deeply grateful for new grants and valuable support from the Adessium Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Dioraphte Foundation, the Swedish Postcode Foundation, WWF-Netherlands, the Woodtiger Foundation, the Wildcat Foundation, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation and The Brook Foundation.

In addition to the financial support from donors, several in-kind donations with respect to IT, finance and management services were received and deeply appreciated. We also want to extend our gratitude to the individual supporters who generously donated through our website.
Overview total income

- Income from lotteries: 57%
- Income from other non-profit organisations: 40%
- Income from individual donors: 3%

Overview of expenditure

- Charitable activities: 80%
- Management & Administration: 12%
- Fundraising: 8%

Last year

All of our income was spent realising the goals of the organisation. Our income fell slightly in 2017, primarily because of a funding gap between the end of one set of grants and the start of the next, and our expenditure increased slightly. The majority of the increase came from the increased cost of carrying out our work. There was also an increase in management and administrative costs, due mainly to a planned audit and improvements in management systems.

Our work

Requires courage to undertake and patience to deliver and we thank all the individuals and partners who support us and encourage new donors to contact us through our website or our offices in the Netherlands and through the Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission in the United States (FoWJC). The FoWJC has been established in the United States to enable us generate additional support for our ongoing work.
## Balance sheet as of December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2017</th>
<th>31-12-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation and furniture</td>
<td>51,260 €</td>
<td>90,789 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Receivables</td>
<td>24,326 €</td>
<td>98,915 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>2,399,396 €</td>
<td>1,256,382 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>2,423,722 €</td>
<td>1,355,297 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>2,474,982 €</td>
<td>1,446,086 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Continuity reserve</td>
<td>372,440 €</td>
<td>372,440 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting obligations</td>
<td>1,981,096 €</td>
<td>944,452 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short term accruals</td>
<td>121,446 €</td>
<td>129,194 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>2,474,982 €</td>
<td>1,446,086 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Income statement 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Income</th>
<th>Actual 2017</th>
<th>Budget 2017</th>
<th>Actual 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from individual donors</td>
<td>67,539 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
<td>395 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from lotteries</td>
<td>1,199,115 €</td>
<td>1,076,818 €</td>
<td>1,100,000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>0 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
<td>97,818 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from other non-profit organisations</td>
<td>824,538 €</td>
<td>939,845 €</td>
<td>1,153,175 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>150 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>2,091,342 €</td>
<td>2,016,663 €</td>
<td>2,351,388 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Source</th>
<th>Actual 2017</th>
<th>Budget 2017</th>
<th>Actual 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Investigations</td>
<td>1,022,736 €</td>
<td>1,056,414 €</td>
<td>1,194,262 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Case File/Investigation Reports</td>
<td>173,524 €</td>
<td>174,639 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Joint Operations</td>
<td>56,736 €</td>
<td>58,814 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>206,854 €</td>
<td>109,574 €</td>
<td>71,495 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public Hearing</td>
<td>105,754 €</td>
<td>99,447 €</td>
<td>285,258 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Planning, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>28,553 €</td>
<td>21,534 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Communications</td>
<td>72,590 €</td>
<td>122,276 €</td>
<td>0 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total charitable activities</strong></td>
<td>1,666,747 €</td>
<td>1,642,698 €</td>
<td>1,551,015 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Costs of fundraising</td>
<td>161,717 €</td>
<td>177,175 €</td>
<td>298,868 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Management &amp; administration costs</td>
<td>260,255 €</td>
<td>192,727 €</td>
<td>127,555 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>2,088,719 €</td>
<td>2,012,600 €</td>
<td>1,977,438 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance before financial income and expenditure | 2,623 € | 4,063 € | 373,950 € |

Financial income and expenditure | -2,623 € | -3,000 € | -1,510 € |

**Balance income and expenditure** | 0 € | 1,063 € | 372,440 € |

Allocation balance of income and expenditure | 0 € | 1,063 € | 372,440 € |
ou already are! By taking time to read our reports and become more informed you are already helping. It is by raising the profile of this terrible trade that we create the political climate and will to stop it.

Our investigators can bring the evidence, and with your continuing support we can turn that into action and accountability.

Contact Us

Click here to learn more about the vital work of the Wildlife Justice Commission, subscribe to our newsletter or make a donation that will enable us to continue to bring justice for wildlife.

To stay up to date with our latest developments, you can follow us on social media:

You can also call, email, or drop us a line

Tel: +31 70 205 1050
info@wildlifejustice.org