2020: Rising to the challenge

2020 was a year like no other – a year that brought us together and kept us apart. In some ways, it could be considered inevitable. Mankind is encroaching on wilderness and wildlife more intensely than ever, causing biodiversity loss and increasing the likelihood of spillovers of zoonotic diseases. 2020 proved that the fight to end wildlife crime isn’t just about protecting vulnerable species, but also about protecting public health and global security.

It has never been clearer: the time for action on wildlife crime is NOW. The whole world now sees what is at stake. The context we find ourselves in seems dire; it feels as though a new report about mass extinction, catastrophic climate change, or political turmoil is on my desk every week. Humanity certainly has immense challenges to face, but I find myself feeling hopeful. We have all the tools we need to make a change and to take on the issue. Moves are already being made on global and regional fronts to expose criminals profiting from wildlife crime.

While 2020 certainly stretched and challenged us, we remain well-placed for providing a strategic bridge between the world of law enforcement and wildlife conservation. The world is poised for a more just and sustainable way of being, and the Wildlife Justice Commission is ready to be part of the solution.

The year started at its expected busy pace. We held trainings for law enforcement agencies, hosted and attended high-level meetings, and lined up undercover operations to expose criminals profiting from wildlife crime. But suddenly, the world went into lockdown, and just like everyone else, all our plans had to change. Once the gravity of the situation became clear, protecting our team was top priority. Our initial response as an organisation set the tone for the rest of the year: rapid, adaptable, and effective. We amended our plans and quickly refocused on how to remain impactful through remote work. I continue to be impressed by, and grateful for, the agility of my colleagues in modifying their ways of working.

In spite of the setbacks, the Wildlife Justice Commission still managed to facilitate the arrests of 24 wildlife criminals and the disruption of five criminal networks trafficking in valuable animal parts and live wildlife. Our work spanned Africa and Asia, demonstrating the continued importance of cross-border cooperation and an intelligence-led approach when combating transnational trafficking.

We continued to demonstrate the value of intelligence gathering and analysis, providing timely information and confidential updates to law enforcement agencies, governments, and key stakeholders about developments in criminal dynamics and trends throughout the year. In fact, 2020 was our most prolific year for public information sharing thus far. We released six significant publications on the trafficking of wildlife, market pricing, criminal trends, and convergence of crimes, with our findings reported by international media outlets. In addition to this work, we contributed valuable data to the Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) report, Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade and the World Wildlife Crime Report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The year also highlighted once again that fighting transnational wildlife crime requires global cooperation and innovative partnerships. To further our collective work, last year the Wildlife Justice Commission joined the End Wildlife Crime Initiative and the Alliance to Counter Crime Online (ACCO), became part of the United for Wildlife community, and signed the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature.

Throughout 2020, we took every opportunity to participate in high-level fora and collaborated with a diverse range of stakeholders and organisations. Our team engaged with specialist, corporate and mainstream audiences at many interdisciplinary events, such as the Volvo Ocean Summit Series, the World Bank Group Wildlife Forum, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and a side event at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, which we co-hosted with the UNODC. Last year also saw an increasing awareness of financial flows related to trafficking. To help expand this knowledge base, we participated in an AINRO employee webinar, an ACAMS Netherlands Chapter webinar for anti-money laundering specialists, and a webinar examining wildlife crime through the lens of financial crime.

It is not lost on me that in a year where we have had to keep our distance, so much of our work at the Wildlife Justice Commission was about making connections, combining efforts, and working with others. I am deeply appreciative of the fact that our team was able to continue our mission in relative safety; I know that many others were not so lucky. I extend my deepest sympathies to all those who have lost loved ones and livelihoods to this terrible pandemic. I hope for a swift and just recovery for all of us.

Thank you so much for standing by us during this difficult time. We deeply appreciate all the efforts of our donors and supporters to keep our work moving forward. Please, continue to share our work and our vision, connect with us on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, and donate if you can. I am so grateful to each and every one of you. I would also like to say a special thank you to my colleagues here at the Wildlife Justice Commission – I am extremely proud of what we achieved together in spite of tough circumstances.

2020 taught us resilience, patience, and what really matters: family, friends, community, health. And 2020 taught us that ending wildlife crime is an essential component of safeguarding these values. The Wildlife Justice Commission is ready to step up our work in line with the urgency of the threat posed by transnational organised wildlife crime. Guided by our ecosystem’s pressing needs, we plan to expand our investigative work while facilitating solutions that create institutional and systemic change to address wildlife crime. As we begin to cautiously think about life post-pandemic, I know that we can rise to the challenge of these times.
# A vision moving forward

*The Wildlife Justice Commission* was created in 2015 to help to disrupt and dismantle the criminal networks engaged in wildlife crime.

*In our first six years* of existence, the Wildlife Justice Commission has helped secure the arrests of 143 high-level traffickers, with a 100 percent conviction rate of those suspects whose court cases have been finalised. In taking the fight to the criminal networks, we have enabled the seizure of tonnes of wildlife contraband such as elephant ivory, rhino horns and pangolin scales, as well as live animals, and our intelligence disseminations have helped stop the killing of many other endangered species in their natural habitats. Our work spans the globe, from Africa to Asia to the Americas, and we have provided much-needed operational support to law enforcement partners in 12 key countries, helping to bridge the gap in technical and human capacity to address wildlife crime. The receptiveness of authorities to collaborate with us and the results that are being achieved are evidence that the Wildlife Justice Commission’s model is working.

We achieve this impact by conducting undercover, intelligence-led investigations based on law enforcement methodology. Our Intelligence Development Unit (IDU) is one of the largest such units dedicated to wildlife crime in the world. We produce intelligence reports, present compelling evidence, build law enforcement capacity, and encourage further action. The Wildlife Justice Commission also engages in diplomacy and holds governments to account when they fail to address wildlife trafficking. We are committed to sharing intelligence and information with law enforcement and policy makers that enable more effective and informed interventions against wildlife crime.

We maintained the high standards required of our work even during a year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, which ultimately shaped our decisions in 2020. Following guidelines from Dutch authorities, we implemented a series of measures to protect our staff and contribute to the protection of others. All our staff based in The Hague began working from home on 16 March 2020 and we limited staff travel. Certain investigation activities had to be modified, while our intelligence, policy and communication staff continued at full capacity.

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We also established a new strategic vision for 2021 – 2025 to help guide us in the near future.

Looking ahead to the next five years, we see a need to increase our support to law enforcement agencies and governments to institutionalise the successes achieved so far and create systemic change for wildlife crime enforcement. To achieve this, the Wildlife Justice Commission will work with governments in a phased approach — the objective being that governments will ultimately take full responsibility for addressing wildlife crime. We will support effective national capacity building, so governments have the skills to investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes independently. We will also expand our investigative focus to incorporate fisheries and forest crimes to prevent the devastating biodiversity loss that is occurring in these areas, whilst continuing to maintain the pressure on wildlife trafficking networks.

Following our three-year plan, we set about achieving our 2020 objectives in this new and challenging global context:

1. Provide a global intelligence overview shared with targeted parties.
2. Get governments to prioritise transnational organised wildlife crime.
3. Equip law enforcement authorities with the tools to address transnational organised wildlife crime. Throughout this report, you will find the evidence for how we furthered each of these goals during the year.
2020 impact at a glance

Disruption of criminal networks

- 24 high level wildlife criminals arrested
- 5 criminal networks disrupted

Building alliances

Tackling wildlife crime requires global cooperation and resources. In 2020, we grew our network of allies and partners to make an even bigger impact.

Bridging the intelligence gap

Our growing influence

Sharing expertise and supporting policies to fight wildlife crime
The Wildlife Justice Commission is in a unique position to offer timely and valuable intelligence on wildlife crime to law enforcement. We analysed timely data and shared 48 intelligence reports with authorities across the world, from Bolivia to China. By the end of 2020, we had helped to secure the arrests of 24 traffickers, disrupting five criminal networks trafficking in wildlife. Intelligence and investigative support provided by the Wildlife Justice Commission also led to arrests in Thailand and Cambodia, our first such achievements in each country.

It is important to make wildlife crime less appealing by increasing the risk for potential perpetrators. There are clear signs of progress towards wildlife justice in several of the countries with which we work. This was especially evident last year in Vietnam, when one of the country’s most prolific wildlife trafficker was sentenced to 11 years in prison. In Lao PDR, the country secured its first prosecution for ivory trafficking in June 2020, and in Mozambique and South Africa, authorities continued to arrest wildlife criminals throughout the year in spite of the pandemic.

2020 was a particularly busy year for our Intelligence Development Unit (IDU). Our crime analysts enable the organisation to not only share valuable intelligence with the relevant authorities; the IDU produces valuable and timely information on wildlife crime dynamics by analysing current, on-the-ground information. Six publications were released throughout the year, providing a clear and comprehensive intelligence picture of topics from shifting dynamics in the ivory trade to the increase in pangolin scale trafficking.

We have also noted an increase in political will to tackle wildlife crime in a number of countries in 2020, partly due to public scrutiny of the issue due to COVID-19. Capitalising on this momentum has formed a major part of our future plans as an organisation and provided encouraging momentum when forming our External Relations department in September 2020.

Improved engagement and collaboration with law enforcement authorities means that the Wildlife Justice Commission has not had to hold any governments to account in 2020, although it always remains ready to do so if necessary.

Providing valuable intelligence and supporting capacity building for law enforcement are both integral aspects of our mission. We provided training to law enforcement agencies in Asia early in 2020, looking particularly at the importance of intelligence gathering and analysis. We also supported several law enforcement agencies around the world with undercover and analytical capacity. We facilitated intelligence sharing between national agencies to ensure that actionable information reaches the appropriate authorities.

In March 2020 intelligence disseminated under our Operation Jeopardy in Cambodia enabled the successful raid of an ivory processing factory by the law enforcement agency Wildlife Rapid Response Team, supported by the local Cambodian NGO Wildlife Alliance. Five Chinese nationals and two Cambodian nationals were arrested, and diverse wildlife products were seized, including ivory, tiger bones, pangolin scales and dried seahorses. One Chinese national was later charged with wildlife offences. Our report, The Growing Relevance of Cambodia in the Global Ivory Trade, exposed the results from this operation as well as the shifting dynamics of the ivory trade across Southeast Asia and the need for cross-border collaboration, including the sharing of intelligence to curb this displacing ivory trade.

COVID-19 related travel restrictions and border closures related to the pandemic constrained our operations during 2020, impacting our ability to deploy undercover missions in many countries. Despite these challenges, our teams remained in a strong position to support law enforcement efforts with relevant and current analysed intelligence.

The investigations our teams conducted are grouped into three areas:

1. Africa to Asia nexus: Our teams continued to build up greater insight into the interconnectivity of the Africa-Asia supply chain for ivory, rhino horn and pangolin scales. Wildlife Justice Commission investigators were offered staggering amounts of pangolin scales to buy in 2020, while the number of seizures decreased significantly compared to 2019. In spite of travel disruptions due to COVID-19, prices for pangolin scales have not plummed dramatically. Offers of pangolin scales during 2020 outnumbered the offers of ivory across all our investigations for the first time.

While COVID-19 restrictions made work on the ground much more difficult, our Intelligence Development Unit was busier than ever. We were able to continue providing intelligence on criminal trends and dynamics to both law enforcement and policy makers, increasing insights about transnational trafficking through the application of intelligence analysis.

Our Intelligence Development Unit (IDU) is the largest intelligence analysis team of a non-profit focusing solely on wildlife crime and is the cornerstone of our work. It has established itself as one of the key players in the field of wildlife crime intelligence analysis, driven by the need to highlight the value of this hugely under-resourced response to wildlife crime. As major trafficking networks ran into cash flow problems in 2020 due
to the restricted movement of products and people, they were much more willing to engage with new “customers”. This has provided us with a veritable gold mine of intelligence. The IDU has been able to analyse and develop this information, resulting in an incredibly insightful understanding of wildlife crime threats. Over the course of 2020, the Wildlife Justice Commission shared 48 comprehensive intelligence products with law enforcement agencies in ten different countries.

Our intelligence is increasingly referred to by other actors in the field of wildlife crime or advocacy work. Wildlife Justice Commission data was used in the UNODC’s World Wildlife Crime Report and the Financial Action Taskforce’s (FATF) Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2020. Such contributions are examples of how we are actively raising awareness of the value and need of intelligence analysis, thereby raising the standard of intelligence analysis and its application in tackling transnational organised wildlife crime.

Throughout 2020, we continued to publish and promote our own data and intelligence analysis, contributing valuable insights to our wider community. It was our most productive year of public information sharing so far!

Scaling up: The Rapid Growth in the Industrial Scale Trafficking of Pangolin Scales

This analysis of reported seizure data from 2016-2019, combined with the Wildlife Justice Commission’s own investigative findings, creates a very detailed picture of how extensive the trafficking of pangolin scales has become and now truly qualifies as a transnational, organised crime.

Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on wildlife trafficking

A rapid analysis of the effect that global measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 are having on wildlife trafficking dynamics. It concludes that trafficking continues despite restrictions, albeit at a reduced scale, and that high-level criminal networks are adapting to resume operations to previous levels.

Operation Jeopardy: The Growing Relevance of Cambodia in the Global Ivory Trade

Operation Jeopardy, a year-long investigation into the trafficking of ivory in Cambodia, revealed the geographical displacement of this transnational crime in Southeast Asia. This report analyses how criminal networks are moving away from countries with strengthened law enforcement action, such as China and Vietnam, into more vulnerable areas.
Our first peer-reviewed paper, this was co-authored with the Monitor Conservation Research Society (Monitor). The paper showcases the vulnerable status of the Indian Star tortoise, pointing at efforts needed to enhance its protection and highlighting the crucial role that intelligence plays in guiding effective law enforcement action to curb the trafficking of live wildlife. Authors based their research on the significant amount of insightful information collected and analysed by our IDU during the course of our Operation Dragon to take a close look at the criminal dynamics related to the trafficking of the Indian Star tortoises.

This briefing paper examines data obtained by our undercover operatives from five countries along the ivory supply chain. Our analysis found fluctuations in the market value of raw ivory tusks between 2017 to 2020, with preliminary indications pointing to an overall drop in the value of raw ivory since 2017.

Throughout 2020, the Wildlife Justice Commission developed and furthered many valuable relationships, sharing our work and insights with policy makers globally. Despite the challenges that came with 2020, the Wildlife Justice Commission successfully managed to engage with a wide range of partners and add value to the overall global discussion on transnational organised wildlife crime.

In September, our new External Relations department began operations. This team specialises in developing multilateral relations with states and non-profits to ensure that relevant policy changes are implemented effectively to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks dealing in wildlife.

Prioritising policy to tackle transnational organised wildlife crime

International media also took notice of our work and publications during 2020. It was a prolific year for media outreach, with many outlets across the world covering our reports and data. The Wildlife Justice Commission was ultimately featured in top-tier media outlets during the year.
Throughout the year, we participated in a number of events aimed at bringing our work closer to the people who can help us make real change. We engaged with specialist, corporate and mainstream audiences at many inter-disciplinary events, such as the World Bank Group Wildlife Forum and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. 2020 also saw a growing awareness of financial flows related to trafficking. To help expand this knowledge base, we participated in an ABN AMRO employee webinar, an ACAMS Netherlands Chapter webinar for anti-money laundering specialists, and a webinar examining wildlife crime through the lens of financial crime.

Tackling an issue as huge as wildlife crime requires global cooperation and international resources. In 2020, we joined the United for Wildlife community, supported the Leaders Pledge for Nature, and have further expanded our network of allies and partners so our work can make an even greater impact.

End Wildlife Crime initiative

The Wildlife Justice Commission is a founding champion of the End Wildlife Crime initiative. This alliance, spearheaded by ex-CITES Secretary General John Scanlon, aims at leveraging, and if need be reforming, CITES and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNCAC) to effectively address wildlife crime.

Alliance Countering Criminality Online (ACCO)

ACCO members monitor crimes, including wildlife crime, happening online and exchange information on their activities. The forum provides an opportunity to exchange about events relating to transnational organised criminality, relevant research and publications.

We also strengthened relationships with the UNCAC Coalition, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), and De Nederlandse Bank. Engaging with this wide variety of stakeholders is essential to ensure that the Wildlife Justice Commission’s key messages are supported by stakeholders involved in the field.

A particular highlight for us in this regard was an official side event we organised in partnership with the UNODC at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNCAC) on 16 October 2020. Our esteemed panelists examined how the cross-cutting nature of wildlife crime can present multiple entry points for law enforcement engaged against organised crime. The event was well received and highly attended, increasing awareness of and interest in the convergence of wildlife crime with other organised crime.
During the Wildlife Forum in Washington DC, we spoke about the role of intelligence analysis in the fight against wildlife crime.

The Wildlife Justice Commission joined the panel for a high-level online event organised by UNODC, debating on challenges and opportunities to tackle transnational organised wildlife crime in Asia.

The finance sector plays a key role on the fight against transnational organised wildlife crime. Dutch bank ABN invited us to speak about wildlife trafficking at a webinar to sensitize its employees to this issue.

The Wildlife Justice Commission joined the panel of 26 multi-discipline experts at a webinar series hosted by Navigate Compliance and the International Compliance Association, discussing cross-cutting solutions to end wildlife crime.

The finance sector plays a key role on the fight against transnational organised wildlife crime. Dutch bank ABN invited us to speak about wildlife trafficking at a webinar to sensitize its employees to this issue.

We were invited to join the Ocean Summit Series, an interactive live streamed event in which experts discussed solutions to restore ocean health. We engaged with the audience discussing the fight against illegal, unreported and unreported fishing.

An online event organised by Dutch law firm Stibbe, which has provided legal assistance on a pro bono basis to the Wildlife Justice Commission for years, during the European Pro Bono week.
Finances

In spite of the economic consequences of the pandemic, our finances remained in relatively good shape in 2020. A cautious budget was drawn up for 2020. In the end, the year was financially more successful than anticipated and the financial result of the Wildlife Justice Commission is EUR 131,000 more positive than budgeted, which also reflects the forced postponement of some project activities.

A. Balance sheet as of 31 December 2020

Where our money comes from

- Income from lotteries: 24%
- Income from individual donors: 6%
- Government grants: 2%
- Income from other non-profit organisations: 68%

How we have spent the money

- Charitable activities: 81%
- Fundraising: 8%
- Management & Administration: 11%
# B. Income statement 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Actual 2020</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Income from individual donors</td>
<td>142,466</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>9,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Income from lotteries</td>
<td>594,487</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>1,446,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Income from other non-profit organisations</td>
<td>1,658,243</td>
<td>1,862,000</td>
<td>1,796,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>43,127</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>46,431</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,122</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,438,773</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,802,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,300,033</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Actual 2020</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Investigations</td>
<td>1,703,242</td>
<td>1,844,000</td>
<td>1,784,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Case File/Investigation Reports</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Joint Operations</td>
<td>17,921</td>
<td>77,000</td>
<td>10,586</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>155,844</td>
<td>227,000</td>
<td>280,440</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Public Hearing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>87,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Planning, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>40,603</td>
<td>205,000</td>
<td>41,826</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>219,460</td>
<td>205,000</td>
<td>172,738</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,137,070</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,454,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,290,431</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Actual 2020</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Costs of fundraising</td>
<td>215,389</td>
<td>346,000</td>
<td>211,954</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Management &amp; administration</th>
<th>Actual 2020</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Management &amp; administration costs</td>
<td>301,970</td>
<td>347,800</td>
<td>387,749</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,654,429</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,147,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,890,134</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Balance before financial income and expenditure</th>
<th>Actual 2020</th>
<th>Budget 2020</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Financial income and expenditure</td>
<td>-215,656</td>
<td>-345,800</td>
<td>409,899</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BALANCE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>-220,123</strong></td>
<td><strong>-351,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>403,479</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Key figures

- Costs of fundraising divided by total income: 9% (Actual 2020), 12% (Budget 2020), 6% (Actual 2019)
- Share in expenditure:
  - Charitable activities: 81% (Actual 2020), 78% (Budget 2020), 80% (Actual 2019)
  - Fundraising costs: 8% (Actual 2020), 11% (Budget 2020), 7% (Actual 2019)
  - Management & administration costs: 11% (Actual 2020), 11% (Budget 2020), 13% (Actual 2019)

## Income received from Lotteries
- Dutch Postcode Lottery (permanent beneficiary): 500,000
- Svenska Postkod Stiftelsen: 94,487

## Income from Lotteries
- **TOTAL INCOME FROM LOTTERIES**: 594,487
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT


A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2020 included in the annual report

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2020 of Stichting Wildlife Justice Commission based in The Hague, The Netherlands.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Wildlife Justice Commission as at 31 December 2020 and of its result for 2020 in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting 650 “Fundraising Organisations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020;
2. the statement of income and expenditures for 2020; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ‘Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements’ section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Wildlife Justice Commission in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (VIO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

B. Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of the Board’s report.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720: The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Board’s report, in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting 650 “Fundraising Organisations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the Executive Board for the financial statements

The Executive Board is responsible for the preparation and for presentation of the financial statements, in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting 650 “Fundraising Organisations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. Furthermore, the Executive Board is responsible for such internal control as the Executive Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the Executive Board is responsible for assessing the foundation’s ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the Executive Board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to dissolve the foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Executive Board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the foundation’s ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.
Our partners

We are proud of what we achieved in 2020, but none of it would have been possible without our generous supporters. The Wildlife Justice Commission is standing up against a multi-billion-dollar illicit industry; to take on this immense challenge, we rely on the contributions of lotteries, foundations, government institutions, non-profit organisations and individuals. United by our drive to protect our planet’s vulnerable wildlife, we are extremely grateful for our donors’ continued support and flexibility during such a complex and challenging year.

The share of fundraising costs compared to the total income was 8% in 2020, significantly lower than the 11% budgeted. In future years, we will aim for approximately 12% and we are exploring opportunities for additional support from governments and major donors.

Wildlife Justice Commission partners

Many happy faces at the Goed Geld Gala of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, celebrated in Amsterdam on 4 March 2020.

Many other generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.
Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission

We are also supported in the United States by Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission. It is a 501.3.(c) registered charity established in the United States in 2017 and officially launched in 2019.

Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission is an important partner to the Wildlife Justice Commission, building a network of supporters in the United States and strengthening relationships with government and other policy makers there.

In 2020, Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission supported our work through generous contributions from The Whitehead Foundation and several anonymous donors (both foundations and individuals). Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission also drove our engagement with US-based policy makers. As a result, we had the opportunity to brief several United States government agencies on developments we have observed in wildlife crime, and to provide input on where greater attention is needed.

In-kind donors

A number of organisations and businesses generously contribute to our mission with pro-bono assistance and in-kind donations. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Developing a stronger team

Throughout 2020, we worked hard to streamline and refine our fundraising processes. The capacity of the fundraising team was expanded in the later part of 2020 with a view to furthering our development program in the future.

Every donation makes a difference

While the majority of our funding comes via grants from lotteries, major donors and foundations, we also continue to facilitate individual donations through our website for the Wildlife Justice Commission and, for US-based supporters, Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission. Our supporters can also host Facebook fundraisers, for birthdays or other occasions, and can sign up to support Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission through Amazon Smile. We would like to extend a huge “thank you!” to all those who contributed in 2020; your generosity enabled us to keep up our fight for wildlife justice during a very challenging year.
The Dutch Postcode Lottery (Nationale Postcode Loterij - NPL) provides support to organisations worldwide working in the areas of poverty alleviation, human rights, nature conservation, and social cohesion in the Netherlands. With 3 million participants and a total of 4.17 million tickets in 2020, the Postcode Lottery gave more than 346 million euros to more than 120 charities.

Jonne Arnoldussen assumed the position of Head of Charities at the Dutch Postcode Lottery in January 2021, after three years as Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Management since March 2018.

The Charity Department maintains close contact with the charities that the Dutch Postcode Lottery supports, supervising applications for donations, monitoring and evaluating the beneficiary organisations.

Jonne Arnoldussen, Head of Charities at the Dutch Postcode Lottery

Our Executive Director, Olivia Swaak-Goldman, had a discussion with Jonne Arnoldussen, Head of Charities at the Dutch Postcode Lottery, to talk about challenges and opportunities for the non-profit sector during and post-pandemic, and about the importance of flexible funding to fight transnational organised wildlife crime.

For us, the Dutch Postcode Lottery’s unrestricted and long-term funding has always been absolutely vital, but even more so in 2020. We had to be very nimble and adjust our methods due to restrictions on travel and the Dutch Postcode Lottery’s flexible funding was critical. We were also very fortunate that many of our donors providing earmarked grants also were flexible in light of the unprecedented circumstances.

Dialogue with Jonne Arnoldussen

The importance of flexible funding

"I know unrestricted and long-term funding is a very deliberate strategy and important topic for the Dutch Postcode Lottery. You even held a symposium earlier in the year on unmarked funding and the long-term financing of societal organisations, where preliminary research on the topic was presented, coming out of a new research center you have funded at Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. What are the findings of that research?"

Yes, Prof. Dr. Pamala Wiepking and Dr. Arjen de Wit are researching the importance of unmarked and long-term funding for charities. It is a topic where hardly any research has been conducted to date. Preliminary results suggest that unmarked and long-term funding provides stability and flexibility for charities, allowing them to respond to a crisis or a changing context, allowing them to operate independently and be critical, enhancing their innovation and risk-taking as well as their ability to support “unfundable” or “unpopular” causes.

What is the Wildlife Justice Commission’s experience of unmarked and long-term funding? Why is it so important to you, as Executive Director of the Wildlife Justice Commission?

Much of our work involves long-term undercover investigations. Recently, for example, we facilitated the arrest of a high-level wildlife trafficker in Thailand for actions related to the illegal live pet trade through a joint operation by Thai and US law enforcement agencies. This was the culmination of a long-term, undercover investigation that we have been running since 2018. This is a perfect example of why flexible funding is so crucial. Such investigations can take years and must be conducted with meticulous attention to detail. Having unrestricted funding helps us remain nimble and adaptable to keep up with all the possible developments in these long-term investigations.

Can you give us a specific example of the direct impact of unmarked and long-term funding on the Wildlife Justice Commission?

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The future is never certain in the field of wildlife justice, whether it be a change in a criminal’s location, or a global pandemic that forces wildlife traffickers to adopt new behaviours. It’s clear to me, therefore, that unmarked funding is absolutely crucial for the Wildlife Justice Commission to react quickly to new developments and achieve maximum impact.

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Can you give us a specific example of the direct impact of unmarked and long-term funding on the Wildlife Justice Commission?

3.2020 was a challenging year for all of us – as the Dutch Postcode Lottery’s Head of Charities, you must have had an interesting perspective on the effects of the pandemic on the stability and flexibility for charities here in the Netherlands. What was the year like for the Dutch Postcode Lottery’s Charity team, and what were the main impacts you noticed on the organisations you work with?

2020 was a tough year for many of our beneficiaries. The Lottery provides long-term institutional support to organisations working worldwide, some sector were maybe harder hit than others by the impact of COVID-19, but it affected all the organisations in one way or another. In conversations with our beneficiaries, we realized even more the importance of our long-term unmarked support.

To get funds, charities often have to describe everything in detail beforehand, report on the interim, and justify every step afterwards. We try not to be like that. We understand that sometimes things don’t go as planned, like last year. With courageous funding, the lotteries want to make a statement and inspire other funders. We are not saying that flexibility is equally easy for every donor, but we do want to encourage other private funds to show more courage. We are convinced that changes will come about more quickly as a result, so our beneficiaries can focus on the work where they are good at.

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For us, the Dutch Postcode Lottery’s unrestricted and long-term funding is so important to achieving your mission. This is exactly why the Dutch Postcode Lottery makes long-term commitments to organisation and allows them to determine the most effective way to deploy the funds.

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Can you give us a specific example of the direct impact of unmarked and long-term funding on the Wildlife Justice Commission?
Who we are: the team at the Wildlife Justice Commission

The Wildlife Justice Commission is a team of highly skilled professionals, combining our expertise to make us a leading authority in our field. As of 31 December 2020, the Wildlife Justice Commission team comprised 19 staff members, 34 consultants, two interns and one volunteer. A new External Relations Department was established in 2020, and the capacity of our fundraising team was expanded.

We are very proud of our diverse nature. The organisation, including field staff, represents 21 different nationalities. The team is made up of 30 women and 26 men. Six of the eight senior management positions are held by women. Within the Intelligence Development Unit, the largest intelligence unit of any non-profit organisation focused on wildlife crime, all the criminal analysts are women.

Fighting wildlife crime, by necessity, comes with a variety of risks. We deal with dangerous criminals, in dangerous situations. Ensuring the safety of our people and the quality of our work is of the utmost importance. We therefore developed and implemented a series of policies and procedures to ensure both are protected. Team members participated in risk and crisis management trainings during 2020, and our Code of Conduct, Whistleblower Policy, and Risk Policy are reviewed and confirmed on an annual basis.

The Wildlife Justice Commission continues to value the support of our supervisory board and ancillary bodies (outlined below), providing expert insights to help guide our work.

SUPERVISORY BOARD

A dedicated group of experts who provide both strategic guidance and supervision to the organisation. Members of the Supervisory Board receive no remuneration for their work for the Wildlife Justice Commission.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The final decision-making body and responsible for the organisation, consisting of the Executive Director and the Chief of Investigations.

SENIOR MANAGERS

Covering intelligence, strategic partnerships, external relations, communications, fundraising, operations and finances, the Senior Managers are responsible for the planning and execution of strategies in their respective departments.

FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE JUSTICE COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members of the Friends of Wildlife Justice Commission Board who support the mission and vision of the Wildlife Justice Commission in the USA.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL

The Independent Review Panel (IRP) plays a critical role in the Wildlife Justice Commission’s process by conducting objective examination and evaluations of the Wildlife Justice Commission’s Case Files. Members of the IRP are therefore carefully selected based on their: 1) affinity with the rule of law, transparency and anti-corruption; 2) independence; and 3) impartiality and high moral character.

WJC COUNCIL

Members are renowned professionals from various fields who contribute with their vast experience to furthering the activities of the Wildlife Justice Commission. They are appointed by the Executive Board, after consultation with the Supervisory Board.

More information about the members of each of these bodies can be found on our website.
What you can do

Join us in stopping the destruction of our biodiversity caused by criminals trafficking in our wildlife for profit.

To protect vulnerable wildlife, we need to stay one step ahead of the criminals. Your support empowers us to move quickly, to safely face danger, to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Together, we can disrupt wildlife trafficking, dismantle criminal networks, encourage the growth of political will to combat the problem, and build tomorrow’s sustainable solutions.

Take up our banner:
- Support our work directly
- Share our mission
- Make use of our findings
- Stay up to date on our latest news and investigations
- SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER
- READ
- DONATE

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