

Information note to support CPR subcommittee discussions on the Ministerial Dialogue during UNEA

The subcommittee of the CPR, at its meeting on Tuesday 11 February 2014, agreed that a Ministerial Dialogue would be held during UNEA on the evening of Thursday 26 June 2014 to discuss the issue of the trafficking / illegal trade in wildlife (and timber). Although agreement was reached on the timing and scope of the dialogue, agreement was not reached on the specific title of the session. The secretariat was therefore requested to develop a short information note to outline the difference and implications of the four options for the title of the dialogues being considered, as follows:

1. Illegal trade in wildlife
2. Illegal trade in wildlife and timber
3. Trafficking in wildlife
4. Trafficking in wildlife and timber

“Wildlife” or “wildlife and timber”?

In common modern usage, the term wildlife is usually defined to include all living things other than humans – although it is occasionally used in relation to wild animals (fauna) only. With the common inclusion of plants (flora) in the term wildlife, the question of whether or not to include the term “and timber” in the title of the dialogues would appear to be more of an issue of emphasis, rather than scope. Certainly the use of the term wildlife alone would not exclude the option for interventions and any outcome to consider the issues relating to timber.

“Illegal trade” or “trafficking”?

In common usage, illegal trade means the act of selling or buying goods or services which is forbidden by law. Trafficking is most usually defined and understood as being the act of dealing, transporting or trading in something illegal, especially illegal goods or people. As such the use of the term *trafficking* can be considered as mostly synonymous with the use of the term *illegal trade*. Although both terms are in use in relation to wildlife, the illegal trade in wildlife is the most commonly used terminology (the illegal wildlife trade is for example the term used for the London conference on 12-13 February 2014). The terminology used in the context of the ongoing discussions on SDGs is the *illicit* trade in wildlife. “Illicit” refers to an activity that is either illegal or otherwise disapproved of or not permitted for moral or ethical reasons (i.e. improper) and so implies a broader scope than “illegal”.

Based on the above considerations, the proposal from the secretariat is to use the following title for the Ministerial Dialogue during UNEA:

Illegal trade in wildlife and timber.