EU-TWIX:

A successful tool for wildlife law enforcement officials in Europe

by

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What?

- **EU-TWIX** = Internet tool developed to facilitate information exchange and international co-operation between wildlife law enforcement officials in the EU

- “**European Union - Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange**”

- 2 components:
  
  I. The **database**
  
  II. The **mailing list**
Who?

- A total of **754** wildlife law enforcement officials across the 28 EU Member States (+ 6 neighbouring European countries)

- ... and **127** EU enforcement agencies including:
  - Customs
  - Police
  - Environmental inspection services
  - CITES Management Authorities
  - Veterinary and Phytosanitary inspection services
  - Prosecutor’s offices
  - Also the EC, WCO, Interpol, Europol & CITES Secretariat
Who?

- EU-TWIX system established by the Belgian police, Customs and CITES MA, and TRAFFIC in October 2005
- TRAFFIC manages system on behalf of four project partners
- System received financial support from the European Commission, and the Governments of 12 EU Member States to date
THE EU-TWIX DATABASE

(www.eutwix.org)
II. The database: general description

- Access **secure** and **restricted** to officials (using personal codes)
- Currently over **37,000 seizures data** from 26 EU countries
- Seizures cases **back to the year 2000** for most countries
- **Numerous possibilities** of combining search criteria
- Also holds directories on **rescue centres for seized specimens, EU laboratories, wildlife experts** and **prices of specimens in trade**
II. The database: the benefits

- Used to monitor current illegal trade patterns (e.g. species, countries, concealment methods most relevant in illegal trade): allows to determine enforcement priorities

- Used to assess detection efficiency of agencies e.g. the French Customs identified seizures in other MSs of goods which first passed through France undetected

- Brings awareness to unsuspected illegal trade in own country
THE EU-TWIX MAILING LIST
The EU-TWIX mailing list: the benefits

- Increasingly used by EU officials to exchange information quickly and efficiently and seek help for their daily work
  - Quick sharing of seizures and stolen specimens alert
  - Facilitates investigations
  E.g. numerous investigations triggered across Europe
  - Sharing of resources and expertise (e.g. lab analyses)
  - Reveals scope of illegal trade networks in the EU
  - Help with ID of seized specimens/products, locating rescue centres etc.
  - Assistance with practical application of CITES legislation
Thank you for your attention!

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