

# Operational or Project Plan

## CONFIDENTIAL

### OPERATION NAME VIENNA

**BRIEF OPERATIONAL DESCRIPTION:** Cross-border trafficking  
DRC-Zambia

**OPERATIONAL DATE:** Oct 22, 2019

---

#### **INFORMATION:**

Information received through third party source relating to active trafficking network in Northern Zambia, trafficking ivory through concealment into DRC and beyond

#### **INTENTION:**

- 1) To corroborate this information
- 2) To identify the individuals, associates, methodology, locations and routes of this network

#### **METHODS:**

- 1) Appropriate source tasking, briefing and debriefing in accordance with established protocols will be used to obtain the requisite information
- 2) Information will be shared in as much is appropriate with US federal agencies, and to an extent, WCS Asia, in order to maximise exploitative intelligence development opportunities using US federal assets
- 3) Once sufficient intelligence has been gleaned, a new operation plan will be established accordingly, and dependent upon potential capabilities and investigative potential to disrupt, deter and prosecute members of this alleged network."

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Christian P will remain OIC, and supervise source tasking through third party handler(s) in Zambia, and take responsibility for the dissemination of intelligence to USFWS and other appropriate parties.

All operational activity will be recorded on the relevant databases and forms according to current internal protocols.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Communication will be conducted through established information sharing channels, both overt and covert.

---

### RISK ASSESSMENTS

#### **RISKS PHYSICAL:**

There exist potential physical risks to sources involved in this operation, as a result of potential compromise. The subjects of this operation are involved in organised crime internationally and therefore pose a significant threat to the safety of the source if compromised. Therefore, only trained and experienced source handlers will liaise with the source, who will be provided with relevant security measures (cover stories etc) to assist in maintaining cover. Additionally, strict operational security and

source handling procedures will be followed, and the use of third party source handling offers an added layer of security. The source(s) are briefed as to expectations, that the role is voluntary, and that they can renege on source activities at any time without issue. Source(s) and personnel engaged on this type of activity are trained to a particular standard and always advised that their physical wellbeing is paramount, and to withdraw from any situation which may expose them to physical harm. Source handlers and associated personnel are adept at, and aware of the need for, dynamic risk assessment in the field which will allow them to make cogent and justifiable decisions in situations of potential physical risk. No-one will be expected to undertake any activities with which they are uncomfortable or which would expose them to unnecessary physical harm.

**RISKS PSYCHOLOGICAL:**

"Any operation involving covert activity can be eminently stressful, for personnel and source(s). Source(s) are always reminded that their role is voluntary and there is no obligation to expose themselves to undue risk. Personnel are advised that they should be proactive in recognising signs of stress in themselves, amongst team mates and source(s)/target(s), and to ensure that this is addressed. WCS has strict operational and source handling protocols in place to mitigate risks.

Personnel will not be tasked to undertake any activity which may expose them, or any third parties, to obvious psychological risks). Personnel and source(s) are debriefed and briefed regularly to enable any stressors to be discussed and dealt with. Source(s) are constantly assessed by their handler(s) for signs of psychological wellbeing. "

**RISKS PUBLIC:**

"There are no apparent risks or concerns from a public perspective. It is reasonable to assume that the public in general would be predisposed to support covert activity to acquire intelligence against transnational organised crime. The nature of the activity is, in any case, covert, and as such, will not (or should not) be exposed to the point where the public become aware of it.

"

**RISKS LEGAL - IS THERE A STATE OR OFFICIAL MANDATE IN PLACE?**

Oui / Yes

**RISKS LEGAL - JUSTIFICATION:**

The prevention and detection of organised crime / La prevention et detection de la criminalite organisee

**RISKS LEGAL - IS THIS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST?**

Oui / Yes

**RISKS - ECONOMIC:**

"No economic risks have been identified. All expenditure will be legitimately recorded and reconciled. WCS has processes in place to ensure transparency of payments to sources.

WCS has strict operational and source handling protocols in place to mitigate risks "

## **RISKS MORAL:**

### **PROPORTIONALITY**

***Describe how the activity is commensurate with the objectives, for example: "The activity is commensurate with the objectives. There is no other reasonable way of acquiring intelligence without compromising the interests of legitimate NGO or LEA. The activities proposed involve minor covert activity to acquire information about major international trafficking"***

The activity is commensurate with the objectives. There is no other reasonable way of acquiring the required intelligence without compromising the interests of legitimate NGO or LEA. The activities proposed involve established, transparent, and legitimate methods of covert activity to acquire information about major international trafficking, against a target who has allegedly been implicated in/or involved in, major seizures of ivory in the past. This therefore means the target is likely to be aware of more traditional law enforcement techniques. This is long-term activity designed to slowly acquire information, and is certainly an appropriate method of conducting this type of work combating a multi-billion dollar global criminal enterprise.

### **LEGALITY**

***Describe how, as much as possible, the operation or activity is legally justifiable, ie: "Whilst there exist no specific laws around covert acquisition of information, the activities will be conducted by personnel who have received requisite training and activities will be conducted in the spirit of UK RIPA guidelines, taking into account the intricacies of case law relating to Human Rights legislation and 'agent provocateur' "***

Whilst there exist no specific laws around covert acquisition of information, the activities will be conducted by personnel who have received requisite training from expert practitioners and activities will be conducted in the spirit of UK RIPA guidelines, taking into account the intricacies of case law relating to Human Rights legislation and 'agent provocateur'. Activities in Zambia are supported by the involvement of legitimate law enforcement entities. This activity is supported informally by other national (overseas) agencies.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

***Describe how the organisation and individuals can be held to account for this activity, ie: "All activities, decisions and actions relating to this operation are recorded, logged and briefed/debriefed. All expenditure is also recorded accordingly. Such records are kept securely with limited access to avoid compromising personnel or operational effectiveness. "***

Reputational credibility is staunchly maintained through the development and implementation of strict procedures and protocols necessary to justify this sort of activity. Threat to this credibility is hugely minimised by having such processes, developed by experts with decades of experience, and applying the high legal standards of the UK to the activities of WCS and partners.

As per internal protocols, all activities, decisions and actions relating to this operation are recorded, logged and briefed/debriefed. All expenditure is also recorded accordingly. Such records are kept securely with limited access to avoid compromising personnel or operational effectiveness.

### **NECESSITY**

***Describe why the operation is necessary, ie "This activity, in such a demanding and difficult environment (i.e. the urban areas of Kinshasa, DRC) is a legitimately feasible***

*manner in which to obtain the requisite information. Other options cannot be undertaken due to a lack of resources, legitimate lack of trust and/or working relationships with law enforcement, and corruption. "*

This activity, in such a demanding and difficult environment (i.e. the rural areas of Zambia and DRC) is a legitimately feasible manner in which to obtain the requisite information. Other options cannot be undertaken due to a lack of resources, legitimate lack of trust and/or working relationships with law enforcement, and corruption, potential for operational compromise and suspicion of enhanced NGO activities in the field. The acquisition of information is surely in the public interest, as it will influence enforcement action in disrupting and prosecuting a criminal network complicit in a multi-billion dollar illegal trade.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS OPERATION HAVE RECEIVED INPUT AND TRAINING IN:**

Le droit d'une vie privée / The right to private life

Le droit de vivre / The right to life

Le droit d'une poursuite juste / The right to a fair prosecution

Le droit d'être traité avec respect, sans violence, sans force justifiée, et sans torture / The right to be treated with respect, without violence, torture or unjustified force

Le concept d'agent provocateur / The concept of 'agent provocateur'

Le concept d'intrusion collatérale / The concept of collateral intrusion

### **AUTHORISED BY**

Christian

### **DATE OF AUTHORISATION:**

Dec 13, 2019

### **DATE OF REVIEW:**

Apr 15, 2020

The information contained herein is the property of the originator. The originator has assessed and evaluated this information in accordance with standard intelligence assessment protocols but takes no responsibility for its veracity or accuracy. The information herein is considered confidential, and under no circumstances should it be shared with any entity without specific authority and permission from the originator. The originator of this report obtains, manages and processes information (specifically criminal intelligence) under the auspices of EU data regulations, and in the spirit of EU and UK legislation governing criminal intelligence management and disclosure. Further information is available on request.

**Queries in relation to the contents of this report should be directed to the sender ONLY.**