

# WILDLIFE FORENSICS HARMONISATION WORKSHOP REPORT

The Hague, Netherlands,  
28-30<sup>th</sup> November 2017



### 3. Workshop Overview

#### Scope

The aim of this workshop was to make significant progress towards the harmonisation of development and training programmes in the fields of wildlife crime scene investigation (WCSI) and wildlife sample analysis (WSA) in Africa.

A great deal of work has already been done around the world to address quality assurance, infrastructure and equipment, training delivery and assessment of casework competency and there is, therefore, a comprehensive body of information to build upon. The intention was not to re-invent or re-write established best practice; however, many existing documents contain different ideas or emphasis, or have not been produced with a view to application in support of wildlife law enforcement in Africa. The current situation risks causing confusion and could lead to a reduction in the quality of investigative work, as well as damage the credibility of the field. The harmonisation workshop aimed to address these concerns and maintain national and international confidence in the use of crime scene investigation and forensic laboratory analysis.

The workshop made steps towards developing standardised approaches and quality assurance guidelines in key areas of wildlife forensic training and implementation:

1. Quality Assurance processes
2. Infrastructure and equipment
3. Training delivery & assessment

#### Schedule

The workshop took place over a two-day period comprised of eight sessions, encompassing quality assurance, infrastructure and equipment, training and assessment, workshop conclusions, outputs and proposals for future plans. Workshop sessions included breakout groups composed of different specialists to discuss the central topics in more detail, covering either wildlife sample analysis or wildlife crime scene investigation. For details of the workshop schedule see Appendix I.

#### Participants

Individuals were invited to the workshop based on their expertise in either wildlife crime scene investigation or wildlife sample analysis, rather than as a representative of their country or organisation. In total, twenty-seven participants from around the world accepted the invitation to the workshop, including one observer representing an international animal welfare charity. For more details on attendees and apologies see Appendix II.

#### Outputs

The culmination of this workshop was a comprehensive list of recommended short, medium and long-term objectives. These objectives were identified by the participants as an effective way of to harmonise standards and guidelines for quality assurance, infrastructure and equipment, and the development of training programmes in the fields of WCSI and WSA across Africa.

#### Workshop Supporters

The workshop was made possible through the support of a number of donors and projects. Contributions from TRAFFIC were made possible through the USAID funded Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment and Priority Setting Project (Wildlife TRAPS). Support to NFI was provided by the European Commission under the Forensic Alliance against Wildlife Crime initiative.