

Seminar "Wildlife crime in the Czech Republic"

Although the current epidemiological situation is still unfavorable to educational processes, the first planned activity – seminar "**Wildlife crime in the Czech Republic**" took place on 28 and 29 January 2021, within the project PDP1 - "Increasing police competence in preventing and combating crime, strengthening communication skills with the public and awareness of human rights". The seminar was carried out online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The world has been confronted with wildlife crime for decades. In recent years, however, the extent and nature of this illegal activity has changed. Crime in the wild has become a serious threat to the security, political stability, economy, natural resources and cultural heritage of many countries and regions. Greater involvement of organized crime groups has changed the dynamics of this crime and, as a result, law enforcement agencies around the world face increasingly difficult and complex tasks. The illegal activities of organized groups transcend national and continental borders, and frauds, counterfeiting, money laundering, violence and corruption are often closely linked to various forms of wildlife crime.

The seminar "Wildlife crime in the Czech Republic", which was attended by almost 300 listeners, mainly from the Czech Police, the Czech Customs Administration, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and prosecutors, was the thirteenth year in a row on wildlife crimes topic. Colleagues from the Police of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate also accepted the invitation to the seminar.

The participants were informed about the news in the field of wildlife crime, the CITES Registry and new forensic methods. The issues of bushmeat and Eastern medicine were discussed as well, and specific case studies were a part of the seminar. At the same time, the conservation projects Kukang Coffee and Save Elephants were presented.