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Results of the WWF survey on exotic wild meat trade involving European countries

Regional webinar for WOA National Focal Points on Wildlife in Europe – 14 December 2022



Presentation outline:

1. WWF: who we are and what we do
2. Illicit wild meat trade involving Europe
3. Study findings



1. WWF: who we are and what we do

WWF – Who we are



WWF is **one of the largest independent conservation organisations** in the world.

- **1961** – Creation of WWF
- **100** countries form the WWF's active network
- **6 000+** employees worldwide

ALERT - PROTECT - TRANSFORM



OUR MISSION

“ To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

WWF – Our strategy



6 GOALS



3 DRIVERS



WWF – Our strategy against wildlife crime



STOP THE POACHING
Helping strengthen field protection, conservation and wildlife stewardship



STOP THE TRAFFICKING
Supporting actions to suppress illegal trade and smuggling



STOP THE BUYING
Motivating consumer demand reduction and behavioural change



INTERNATIONAL POLICY Mobilising policy pressure, ensuring transparency and compliance





2. Illicit wild meat trade involving Europe

Illicit wild meat trade involving Europe



Wild meat (IUCN Resolution): meat and other products derived from wild animals for human consumption.



From **West and Central Africa** to **Europe**



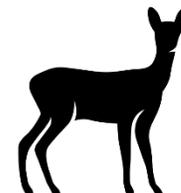
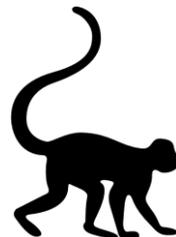
273 tonnes/year

Via Paris-CDG airport only



40 tonnes/year

Via Zurich and Geneva airports



OVEREXPLOITATION

(including illegal wildlife trade)

**is the second most important threat
on wild species**



1/3 of wild meat seizures
involved CITES-listed species



Emerging infectious diseases
Ebola, AIDS, monkeypox, etc.



3. Study findings

Introduction to WWF FR's study



5 work streams:

1. **Analysing wild meat seizures** reported by European countries;
2. **Better understanding the European demand and supply chains**;
3. **Identifying trafficking species and conservation risks** related to illicit wild meat trade;
4. **Identifying health risks** associated to illicit wild meat hunting, processing, trade and consumption;
5. **Improving the understanding of European authorities' roles and responsibility** with regards to regulating, monitoring, controlling and investigating exotic wild meat trade.



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Improving the understanding of European authorities' roles and responsibility with regards to:

- The regulation, monitoring and control of legal exotic wild meat trade
- The monitoring, control and investigation of illegal exotic wild meat trade



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



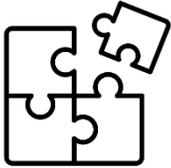
WOAH's « Wildlife » Focal Points
from EU Member States,
Switzerland and the UK

➔ 12 responses from 11 countries

Introduction to WWF FR's study



Main findings:



- **Responsibilities and competences are either shared and/or distributed** between many different authorities including from the ministry of the Environment, the ministry of Health, the ministry of Agriculture and Food Safety, the ministry in charge of Customs, etc.



- Only **50% of the countries** consider that the roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.

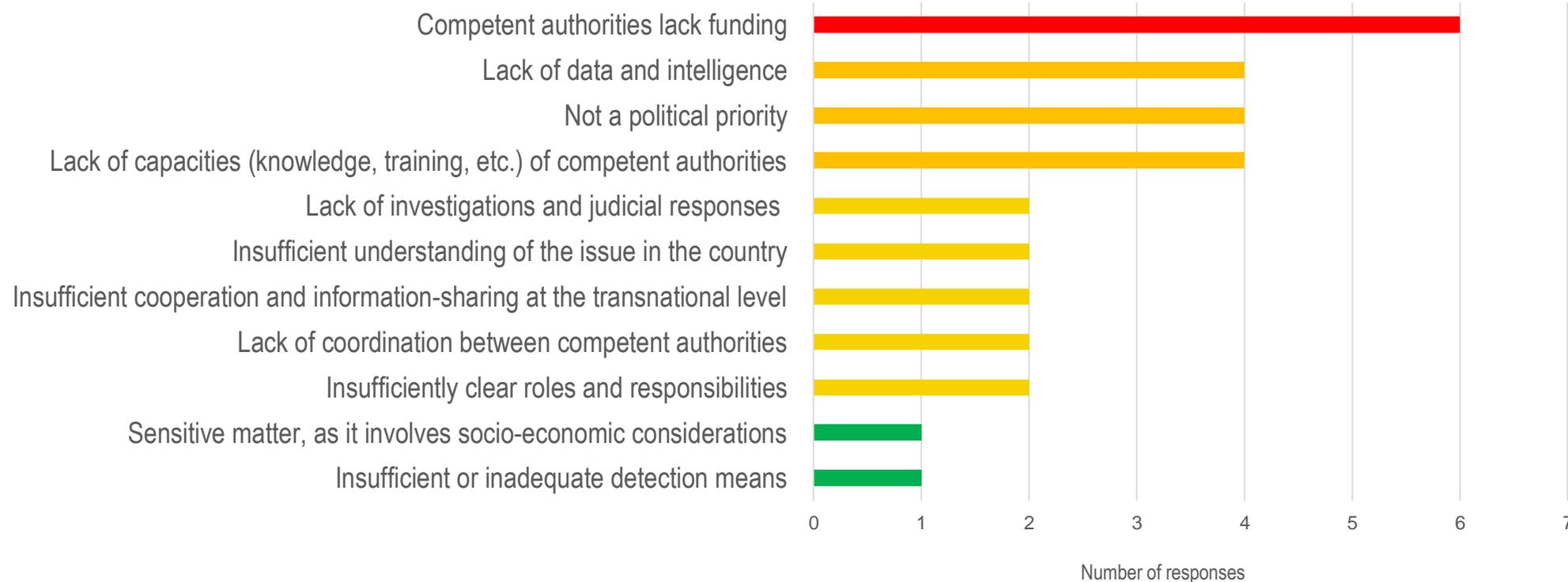


- Only **one third of the countries** consider having:
 - A clear definition of roles and responsibilities;
 - Together with adequate powers;
 - And adequate capacities to fulfill their duties.

Introduction to WWF FR's study



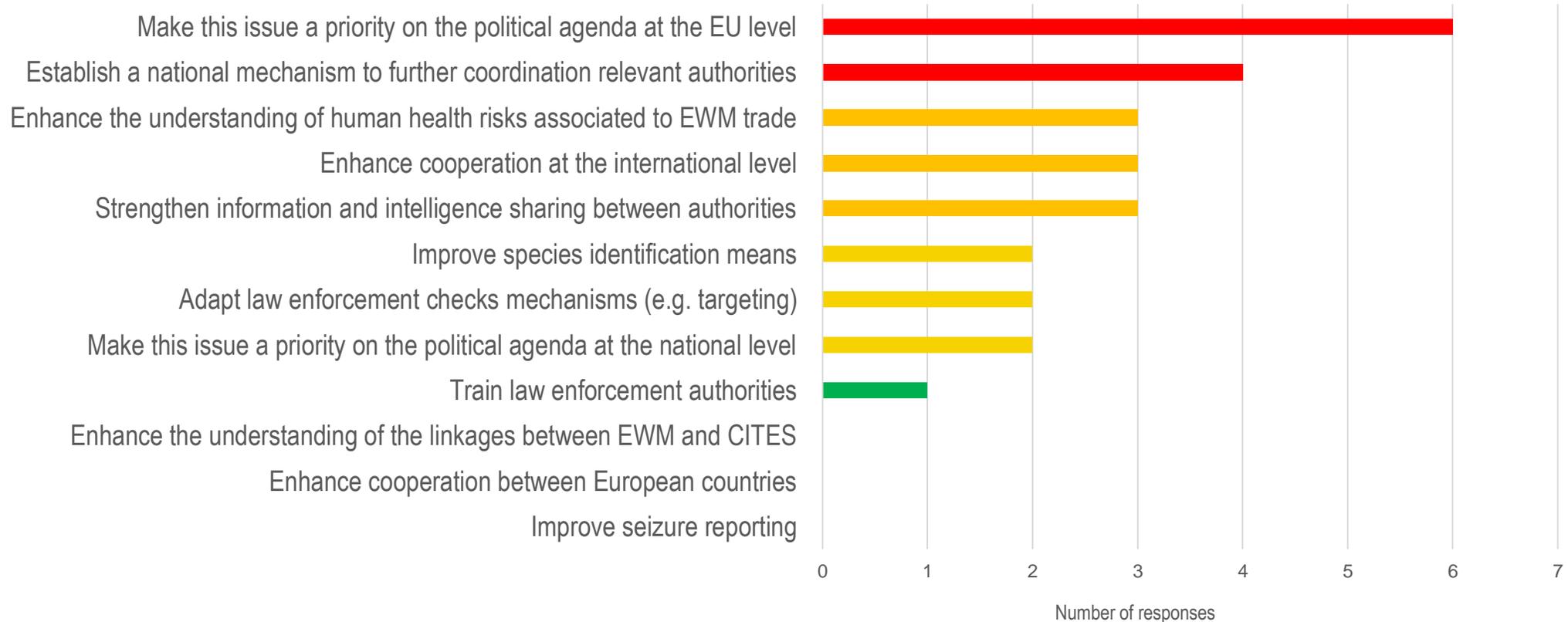
- **Six countries** said they have a national coordination mechanism in place: France, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **Main challenges** authorities face with regards to the regulation, monitoring, control and/or investigation of exotic wild meat trade:



Introduction to WWF FR's study



- **Main required improvements** authorities highlighted with regards to the regulation, monitoring, control and/or investigation of exotic wild meat trade:



- **Only three countries** indicated that the regulation, monitoring, control and/or investigation of the EWM trade has been given a higher priority since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

Introduction to WWF FR's study

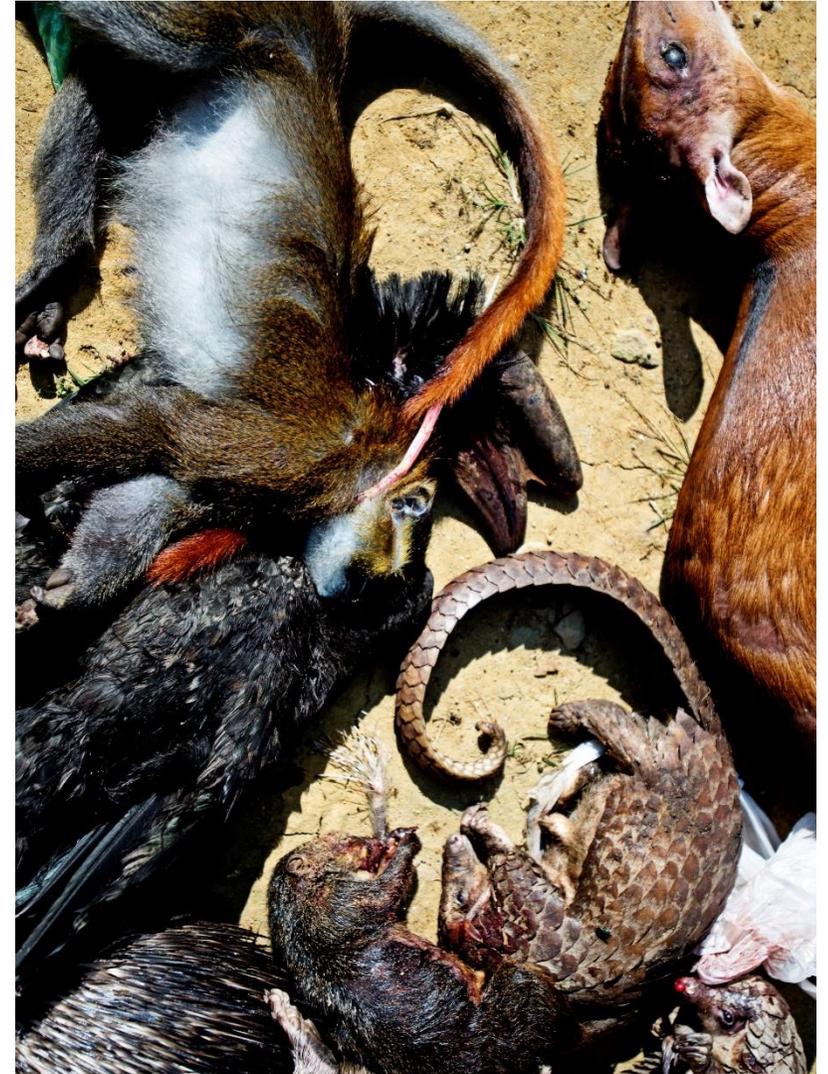


Pressing issues in Europe:

- **Health risks**
- Lack of understanding of **current modus operandi** (e.g. transport modes)
- **Emerging modus operandi**: online trade and use of postal/express courier services
- Evidence of the **involvement of organised crime groups**
- **Limited transnational cooperation**
- **Weak attention from decision-makers**

Main difficulties in Europe:

- **No common definition** of « wild meat »
- **No shared database**
- **Lack of species identification**
- **Cross-disciplinary issue**, requiring joint strategies and cooperation.

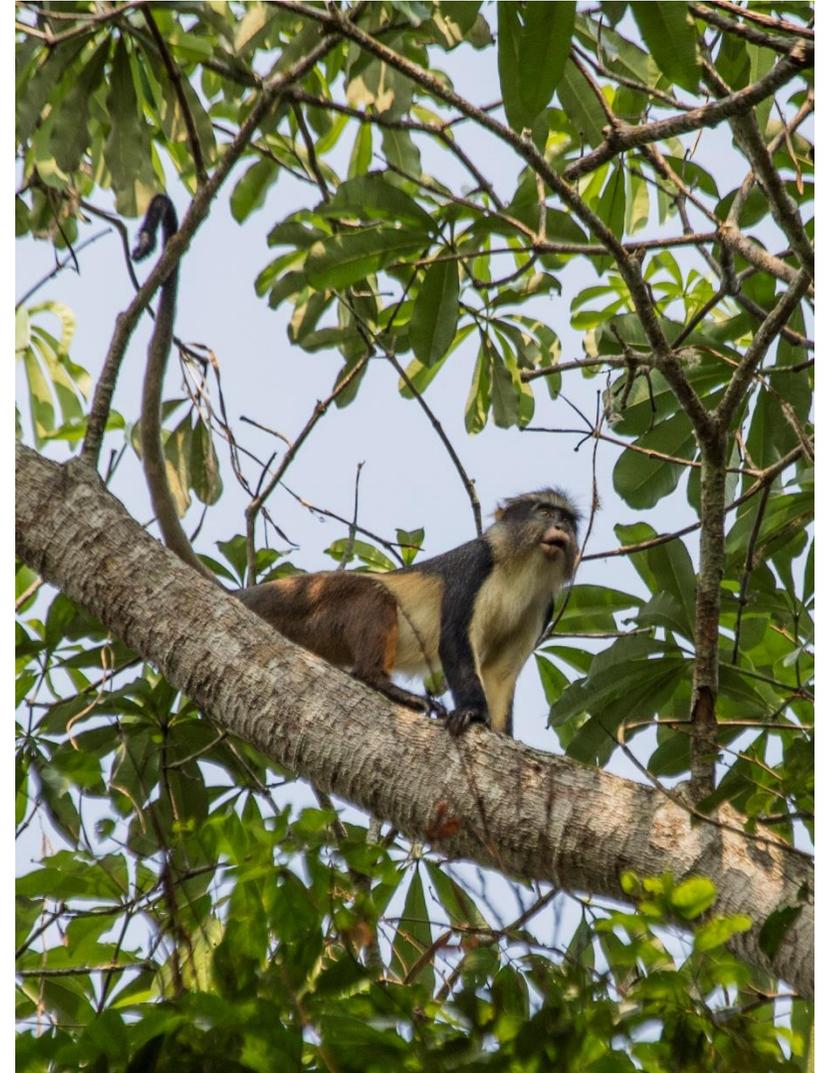


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Recommendations:

1. Implement the **EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking 2022-2027**, in particular objective 4 *“Take a ‘One Health’ approach into account in the context of regulating wildlife trade in source, transit and destination countries”*
2. Enhance the understanding of the different authorities’ roles and responsibilities with regards to legal and illicit wild meat trade
3. Enhance **multi-stakeholder and transnational cooperation** (especially between European countries and between source and destination countries)
4. Enhance the **reporting of wild meat seizures**
5. Enhance the **understanding of:**
 - the **European markets** for wild meat and the **European demand**;
 - the **routes and intra-Europe flows** for illicit wild meat trade imported to Europe;
 - **health risks** associated to illicit wild meat trade.



Thank you for your attention !

Lorélie Escot, WWF France
lescot@wwf.fr

