

Project GAPIN II Workshop in Switzerland

As Customs plays a crucial role in combating the illegal trade in wildlife protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 13 Customs officers from seven countries in Africa – Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mali and Rwanda – came together at Zurich Airport in Switzerland, from 19 to 22 June 2012, to attend the Project GAPIN II Workshop for frontline Customs officers working at airports organized by the WCO. The Workshop was hosted by the Federal Customs Administration of Switzerland and funded by the Government of Sweden.

The Customs officers were trained in risk management, detection and investigation techniques (i.e. controlled deliveries), and x-ray image analysis. They also received information on how CITES works and how to deal with CITES permits. Case studies were presented to the participants, including practical exercises on identifying risk consignments and inspecting luggage and freight consignments. The impact of corruption for Customs in general and in the context of wildlife crime was discussed, and the importance of close cooperation between Customs and other law enforcement agencies in fighting wildlife crime promoted.

Resource persons for the Workshop included Customs officers from Belgium and Switzerland, as well as representatives from the WCO Secretariat and the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

More information

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