

Seminar "Wildlife crime in the Czech Republic"

26.01.2022 - 27.01.2022

Although the current epidemiological situation is still unfavourable to educational processes, another planned activity No. 27 – seminar "Wildlife crime in the Czech Republic" took place on 26 and 27 January 2022, as part of the PDP1 project „Increasing police competence in preventing and combating crime, strengthening communication skills with the public and awareness of human rights". The seminar was held online again 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 are facing increasingly complex tasks. The illegal activities of organized groups cross 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 organized for the fourteenth year in a row, was attended by over 300 listeners, mainly from the Czech Police, the Czech Customs Administration, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, prosecutors and regional authorities. Other participants were colleagues from the Police of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate and the Slovak Ministry of the Environment.

The participants were acquainted with the news in the field of wildlife crime, the amendment to the Nature and Landscape Protection Act, news in the field of identification genetics of animals and the possibilities of radiocarbon dating. Particular attention was paid to rescue centres. The issue of breeding and protection of felines, especially tigers, was discussed. The seminar included specific case studies as well. A colleague from the Hungarian Police shared his experience in the fight against environmental crime.