



## LIMA DECLARATION ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organizations convened in Lima, Peru, on 3 and 4 October 2019, highlight the importance for the region of this First High Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade and its role for the Americas in taking forward and building upon commitments made in the Declaration of the London 2018 Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference.

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 69/314 of 2015, 70/301 of 2016 and 71/326 of 2017 and welcoming the adoption at its 73<sup>rd</sup> session of its fourth Resolution 73/343 of 2019 on illicit trafficking in wildlife.

Welcoming other concrete measures taken by the United Nations to drive actions to combat illegal wildlife trade, in particular the adoption by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of resolution 28/3 of May 22, 2019 on "Strengthening regional and international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to trafficking in wildlife".

Welcoming the Resolutions and the Decisions adopted by the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its Eighteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP18), in particular those relating to combating the illegal trade in vulnerable wildlife species and species endemic to the Americas and the conservation of wildlife and the ecosystems that support it.

Reaffirming our support for the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets, as well as the post 2020 process of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Welcoming the commitments made by Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations that have adopted the London 2014, Kasane 2015, Hanoi 2016, London 2018 and Santa Cruz de la Sierra 2019 Declarations on illegal wildlife trade, we reaffirm our determination to continue to implement those commitments.

Recognizing the cooperation of relevant international entities and conventions such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) formed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Bank (WB), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Also, the role of local and international non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, regional compliance and enforcement networks and the private sector in combating illegal wildlife trade.

We call on the regional and international community to take urgent and coordinated action in the Americas and in other parts of the world in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade and to recognize it as a serious crime that has adverse consequences for the species and ecosystems of the region and for the economy, security and well-being of its indigenous peoples and local



populations.

Recognising that the Region contains nine of the world's megadiverse countries, 55 of the world's 195 terrestrial and freshwater ecoregions, 20% of the key areas for biodiversity identified worldwide, and nearly 25% of the 14,000 taxonomic group species assessed as being at high risk of extinction (IPBES 2018).

Conscious that the survival of many species in the region is threatened by transnational criminal networks engaged in trafficking of wildlife and its parts, products and derivatives, including poaching and other illegal forms of extraction of wild fauna and flora and recognizing that these criminal groups may be associated with other illicit activities such as illegal logging, illegal fishing and illegal mining, drug and arms trafficking, money laundering and corruption.

Remaining concerned about the serious consequences that the illegal wildlife trade has for the conservation of the region's biodiversity and cultural heritage, the livelihoods and well-being of indigenous peoples and local populations, and its adverse social and economic effects that seriously undermine the efforts to achieve the sustainable development for the region and its peoples. And further, the significantly increased risk of introduction of invasive species and transmission of disease to wildlife and to people by the illegal and uncontrolled movement of wild specimens, and the potentially devastating impacts this can have on ecosystems, economies and populations.

Recognizing that the illegal wildlife trade is rapidly evolving and adapting, and requires greater and more urgent efforts to prevent it and its impacts on wildlife and ecosystems.

Aware that greater regional efforts are needed to fight the illegal trade in wildlife in a coordinated and effective manner and to undertake a multidimensional response to this crime and recognizing the role that regional cooperation plays in ensuring that the region has concrete actions and mechanisms in place to fight this crime head on.

Conscious that the main problems the Americas face in relation to the illegal trade in wildlife are inter alia: (i) a general lack of information about, and understanding of, the dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade, (ii) a limited appreciation of the importance of the contribution of wildlife to sustainable development and ecosystem services, (iii) a lack of recognition of the role of organized crime in the illegal wildlife trade in the region, (iv) poor enforcement of existing legal frameworks and limited related sanctions that do not act as a deterrent, (v) a lack of regional and transnational mechanisms to enable coordinated action to combat this crime, (vi) insufficient international recognition and cooperation to support national efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, and (vii) lack of effective strategies to change behavior and reduce demand for illegally traded wildlife.

We, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations, express our firm and determined political commitment to adopt and promote the following measures as appropriate:

1. Recognise poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife as serious crimes in national legislation and regulations, and apply penalties and fines that are consistent with the serious nature of the crime.



2. Address wildlife crime linked to the internet with effective penalties and sanctions.
3. Adopt the use of financial investigation techniques and support public-private partnerships to identify the illicit financial flows and the criminal organizations, and their networks associated with illegal wildlife trafficking.
4. Take measures to identify and address the risk of corruption linked to the illegal wildlife trade.
5. Strengthen the public institutions engaged in combatting the illegal trade in wildlife and support concrete and effective action by them to prevent the supply of and reduce the demand for illegally traded wildlife and their products, including in natural protected areas.
6. Develop strategies to eradicate the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products and promote zero-tolerance for wildlife trafficking and related crimes.
7. Promote the strengthening of cross-border and regional cooperation enforcement networks to improve coordination and the investigation, prosecution and punishment of wildlife crime.
8. Promote consultation and collaboration between countries sharing borders and ecological zones.
9. Develop studies to determine the distribution and population density of species affected by illegal trade and improve the collection and report of relevant legal and illegal wildlife trade data.
10. Develop and make use of innovative new technologies and tools that can facilitate the identification and control of illegal trade in species, their parts and derivatives.
11. Incorporate measures to address illegal wildlife trade within development and planning policies and in the programming of cooperation activities.
12. Establish and strengthen mechanisms and procedures that facilitate the legal and sustainable use of wildlife.
13. Promote the exchange of experience and good practice in the prevention and control of illegal trade in wildlife and their products.
14. Encourage active participation and close collaboration with indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to create strategic public-private relationships that help develop strategies to achieve changes in behavior and the reduction of demand for illegal wildlife and their products and to develop alternative means of economic development, and work with them to address this crime in a coordinated, effective, and urgent manner.



15. Promote the development and application of educational materials and programs for use in particular in school and youth education that develop understanding of the importance of the protection and conservation of wildlife.
16. Take appropriate action to ensure that the business and private sectors act responsibly in obtaining all wildlife products used in its productive activities and adopts zero tolerance policies with respect to the use of specimens, parts and products originating from illegal trade, in accordance with each country's legislation.
17. Strengthen national management and investigative institutions, mechanisms and capacities, including those related to justice and enforcement.
18. Promote collaboration and the exchange of information and knowledge in all fields in order to combat this crime effectively.
19. Encourage donor countries, agencies and international financial institutions to contribute to the implementation of this Declaration, through the provision of funding and technical assistance in support of countries' national, cross-border and subregional efforts.
20. Participate in, and strengthen the Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN or ROAVIS), the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG), the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) and the South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN) and foster cooperation among them.
21. Declare the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) an emblematic species of the Americas, because of its importance in maintaining the integrity and functionality of the ecosystems, and because it represents a spiritual and cultural icon of many peoples throughout their area of distribution and a symbol of the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

Welcome the offer of Colombia to organize the Second High Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2021.



## **Annex A**

### **The following countries adopted the Lima Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade**

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Brasil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
United Kingdom  
United States of America  
Uruguay



## Annex B

**The following countries and organizations participated in the First High Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade**

### Countries

Alemania  
Argentina  
Bahamas  
Bolivia  
Brasil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
France  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Honduras  
Japan  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
People's Republic of China  
St. Lucia  
Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago  
United Kingdom  
United States of America  
Uruguay



## Organizations

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)  
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Europe Latin America Assistance Program against Transnational Organized Crime (EL PAcCTO)  
European Union  
Humane Society International  
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
OCEANA  
Organization of American States (OAS)  
Panthera  
Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental  
Species Survival Network  
The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)  
TRAFFIC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)  
Wildlife Protection Solutions  
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)