GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO END WILDLIFE CRIME RESPONSE TO FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

August 31, HONG KONG - The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC) today welcomed the publication of the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which sets out an ambitious plan to transform society’s relationship with biodiversity by 2050.

While voicing its support for the 2050 Vision and Goals, and the 2030 Mission and Milestones outlined, it highlighted concerns that the revised text fails to reflect the urgency of some key wildlife-related issues, particularly the threat to biodiversity, our climate and human and animal health posed by wildlife trade, markets and consumption.

“The original Zero Draft was crafted before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the newly released First Draft of the post-2020 framework continues to largely reflect the pre-COVID situation” said John Scanlon AO, Chair of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime. “There is no reference to wildlife trafficking in the First Draft, which is quite astonishing given its devastating environmental, economic and social impacts and the fact that it is addressed explicitly in the Sustainable Development Goals and five UN General Assembly Resolutions” he added.

The framework, which was two years in the making, is now undergoing further refinements before being presented for consideration at CBD’s next meeting at COP-15, in Kunming, China. The Framework for “Managing Nature Through 2030” comprises 21 targets and 10 ‘milestones’, en route to ‘living in harmony with nature’ by 2050.

EWC stated its support for the establishment of a wildlife trade-focused action target and the inclusion of Target 5 as a means to reduce “threats to biodiversity”, but added it is imperative to;

- address the risks to animal health that are posed by the trade in wildlife, which provides opportunities for disease transmission that not only cause human disease outbreaks but also threaten livestock and native wildlife populations.
- strengthen and amend existing international wildlife trade laws to include public health and animal health criteria into decision-making - by taking a “One Health” approach to wildlife trade. A holistic and precautionary approach to wildlife trade, fully institutionalized, which would help national governments build pandemic preparedness and resilience.
- address the severe threats posed to biodiversity, climate change, public and animal health and security by illicit wildlife trafficking, which has an estimated impact valued at $1-2 trillion or more per year.
EWC also recommended:

- the addition of a separate target to directly address the illicit wildlife trafficking, namely “Ensure that illicit wildlife trafficking is reduced by at least X per cent, and that adequate legal frameworks for strictly regulating wildlife trade and preventing and combating illicit wildlife trafficking are in place and effectively implemented,” and

- amending the language of Target 5 to: “Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is ecologically sustainable, legal, and safe for human health and animal health.”

- redefining the term “sustainable”, from its current economic focus to one more ecologically driven. Further, it needs indicators on trends in the adoption of policies, laws and regulations, as well as measuring the degree of implementation and enforcement efforts through international instruments for all types of wildlife, terrestrial and marine, and not just those species listed under CITES.

Full submission available [here](#).

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EWC background:
EWC advocates for, and offers technical support towards, the amendment of existing international wildlife trade laws to include public and animal health in decision making and the adoption of a protocol on illicit wildlife trafficking under the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (as proposed by EWC and called for by the Presidents of Costa Rica and Gabon).