

~~END~~
WILDLIFE
~~CRIME~~

End Wildlife Crime

PROGRESS REPORT



END
WILDLIFE
CRIME

Progress Report
Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime
January 2021 to December 2021

1. Introduction - Recap	1
2. Workstream Progress	1
2.1 A Fourth Protocol under the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)	1
Presidential Statements	1
Other Expressions of Support	1
Progress Within the UN System	2
2.2 Adopting a “One Health” approach to wildlife trade	2
2.3 Species Risk Assessment	3
2.4 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	3
3. Communications and Outreach	3
Increasing Awareness and Take up of our Key Messages	3
3.1 Events and Publications	3
Media Releases and Coverage	5
4. Next Steps	5
UNTOC	5
CBD and CITES	6
Annex 1: EWC Governance and Advisors	7
Annex 2: EWC Champions	7
Annex 3: Media Release and Coverage	8

1. Introduction - Recap

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC) was first announced on 3 March 2019 (UN World Wildlife Day) at the House of Lords in London and officially launched on 5 June 2020 (UN World Environment Day).

Governance

EWC is governed by a Steering Group, has an independent chair, is hosted by the ADM Capital Foundation, and works with the support of Special and Technical Advisors and International Champions.

Since its launch EWC has structured its work into the following streams:

- Technical and Legal Analysis
- Communications and Outreach
- Strategic Partnerships
- State support

2. Workstream Progress

2.1 A Fourth Protocol under the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)

Presidential Statements

- **Costa Rica and Gabon called for a Fourth Protocol:** in May 2021, the Presidents of Costa Rica and Gabon made an [historic joint announcement](#), calling for a new global agreement on wildlife crime, taking the form of a Fourth Protocol under UNTOC against the illicit trafficking in wild fauna and flora. Their call was conveyed to the opening general plenary of the Thirtieth Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on the same day by Gabon's Minister for Environment, Forest and Oceans, Prof. Lee White CBE. An opinion piece by the two presidents was also published in the [China Daily](#). The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC) welcomed the announcement in a press release that can be found [here](#).
- **Angola joined call for Fourth Protocol on wildlife crime:** on 21 September 2021, the President of Angola, H.E. João Lourenço, announced that Angola will join with Gabon and Costa Rica in promoting a Fourth Protocol on wildlife crime under the UNTOC, noting that a new global agreement is needed to tackle these highly destructive crimes. The announcement was made at the International Conservation Caucus Foundation U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Awards Dinner, which was held in Washington D.C. EWC formally congratulated President João Lourenço in a press release that can be found [here](#).

Other Expressions of Support

- **UN Crime Congress:** in March 2021, at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Lord Hague - speaking on behalf of the Duke of Cambridge - referred to EWC and included a Fourth Protocol under UNTOC as one of four "specific actions I believe we should take".
- **EU Organised Crime Strategy:** in April 2021, the European Commission publicly expressed its support for a Fourth Protocol in the [EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025](#), stating: "Finally, since the international dimension of wildlife trafficking is crucial, the Commission will promote the adoption of an additional Protocol under the UNTOC."
- **Dr. Jane Goodall:** on 5 June Dr Goodall released a [statement](#) personally congratulating EWC on its first anniversary, and expressed, once again, her support for a Fourth Protocol. The Jane Goodall Institute Global has been an International Champion of EWC since September 2020.

- **Steering Group and International Champions:** EWC International Champion’s network stands at [25](#). The Steering Group now comprises representatives of ADM Capital Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, Born Free Foundation, Global Environmental Institute, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), the Food and Land Use Coalition (represented by SYSTEMIQ), Freeland and is chaired by John Scanlon AO.

Progress Within the UN System

- **UN Crime Congress:** EWC hosted an [Ancillary Meeting](#) at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, titled “The Rationale for, and Possible Form and Content of, a New Global Agreement on the Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife”. The event featured experts in the fields of public policy, criminology, and environmental protection to explain the rationale for a Fourth Protocol on illicit wildlife trafficking, and to outline the process by which it can be realised.
- **UN CCPCJ Thematic Discussions:** in November 2021, Angola made an intervention during the Thematic Discussions of the CCPCJ on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, calling for the adoption of a new global agreement on wildlife crime, taking the form of a Fourth Protocol. At the same event, EWC also delivered a [statement](#) showing how biodiversity loss, climate change and the risk of future wildlife-related pandemics are exacerbated by the illicit trafficking of wild animals and plants, stressing the importance of embedding the illicit trafficking of wildlife into the international framework through an additional UNTOC protocol.
- **Engagement with Vienna-based Permanent Missions:** in November 2021, members of the EWC team held productive meetings with ambassadors and other high-level representatives from 13 Permanent Missions in Vienna. These meetings included discussions on a possible draft CCPCJ resolution to consider the potential benefits of adopting an additional Protocol under the UNTOC (which is similar to the approach adopted by the World Health Assembly in considering a Pandemics agreement or treaty), and the level of interest in co-sponsoring such a resolution.

2.2 Adopting a “One Health” approach to wildlife trade

- **CITES Standing Committee Working Group:** EWC and its Champions actively participated in the work of the Working Group “on the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade”.
- **Engagement with World Health Organisation (WHO):** EWC wrote several letters to the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and had multiple productive conversations with senior staff members of the organisation.
- **EWC response to proposed international Pandemics agreement or treaty:** EWC [welcomed](#) the decision of the World Health Assembly in May 2021 to explore the benefits of an International Pandemics agreement or treaty and urged the WHO and interested States to ensure that any such Treaty helps to prevent future pandemics that could emerge from human interaction with wild animals, and to institutionalise a ‘One Health’ approach to wildlife trade and markets.
- **Special Session of the World Health Assembly:** in December 2021, EWC [welcomed](#) the decision of the World Health Assembly to begin drafting and negotiating a convention, agreement or other international instrument under the Constitution of the WHO to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
- **International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade:** EWC joined the German Government-funded [International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife](#), an inclusive and interdisciplinary platform, which focuses on human-wildlife interfaces, the associated health risks and the emergence and spread of zoonotic pathogens from wildlife.

2.3 Species Risk Assessment

- **Species 360, Species Risk Assessment:** as an international Champion of EWC, Species 360, is leading a study in collaboration with the University of Liverpool, the City University of Hong Kong, and the University of Southern Denmark to assess the potential risks of legal and illegal wildlife trade on the spillover of diseases listed by the WHO Research and Development Blueprint Strategy ('BP diseases').

2.4 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- **Response to the Updated Zero Draft:** EWC reviewed the Updated Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and submitted a [response](#) calling for stronger provisions on both the illicit trafficking of wildlife and the need to take a holistic, precautionary approach to wildlife trade.
- **Response to the First Draft:** EWC reviewed the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and submitted a [response](#) that reiterated some of its previously expressed concerns. As an alternative to the addition of a new separate target on the illicit trafficking of wildlife, EWC later recommended [editing the language of a the existing Target 5](#).

3. Communications and Outreach

Increasing Awareness and Take up of our Key Messages

In order to build awareness and ultimately support of EWC's two proposals we have engaged extensively with a broad range of stakeholders. Outreach has been the participation in and organisation of webinars, the use of social media and production of videos. In response to these efforts we are increasingly seeing EWC's proposals referenced and supported in research and high-profile events and a heightened level of country interest. A summary of these activities is provided below.

3.1 Events and Publications

Outreach through events: The EWC has organised and participated in a large number of events to promote its international wildlife law reforms including:

Date	Organisation/Host	Title
Jan, 2021	MEPs Wildlife Group, Pro Wildlife and HIS Europe	Stolen Wildlife - Closing the Gaps in the International Legal Framework
Jan, 2021	Stimson Centre and the ICCF Group	Combatting Wildlife Crime and Reducing the Transmission of Zoonotic Diseases
Feb, 2021	Finance for Biodiversity (F4B), as well as various events on the financial aspects of wildlife crime hosted by the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (an EWC Champion) and its partners	Finance and the Illegal Trade in Natural Resources
Feb, 2021	WWF US, Cornell University, Atkinson Centre for Sustainability	Emerging Disease, Wildlife Trade and Consumption: the Need for Robust Global Governance
Mar, 2021	Air Canada	Air Canada's Virtual Forum: the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Canada's Transportation Industry

Apr, 2021	Confindustria and the San Patrignano Foundation	The Interconnected Nature of Things – Environment, Economy and Health
Apr, 2021	Born Free Foundation	Restore Our Earth: Born Free's Global Plan to Prioritize Wildlife and Nature
May, 2021	American Bar Association;	COVID-19, Emerging Infectious Diseases, and Links to International Wildlife Laws and Calls for their Reform,
Jun, 2021	Wilson Center	Ending Wildlife Crime to Protect Animals, Human Health, and the Planet
Jul, 2021	AIPA Secretariat and Freeland	Preventing Pandemics through One Health Approach
Sep, 2021	End Pandemics, United for Regeneration, and the Vatican COVID-19 Commission	End Pandemics: Appeal to World Leaders
Sep, 2021	IUCN World Conservation Congress, IUCN Species Survival Commission;	Reverse the Red - Ecocide and wildlife crime law reforms save species!
Sep, 2021	IUCN World Conservation Congress, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law	State of Global Environmental Rule of Law Reports: Tracking and Advancing Environmental Rule of Law
Dec, 2021	EWC and Sea Shepherd Legal	Above and Below the Waterline: Combating Illegal Take and Trade of Marine and Terrestrial Species through a New Global Agreement on Wildlife Crime 24 Hour Conference on Global Organised Crime session

Podcasts:

Date	Organisation/Host	Title
Jan, 2021	Jane Goodall Hopecast	S1E10: John Scanlon: Hope is Ending Wildlife Crime
Aug, 2021	Natural History Museum	What's the solution to wildlife crime?

Articles and Interviews:

Date	Organisation/Host	Type and Title
May, 2021	Sustainability Times	Gabon, Costa Rica call for new UN protocol on wildlife trade
May, 2021	Tico Times	Costa Rica and Gabon urge to fight wildlife crimes
Jul, 2021	China Daily	John Scanlon, AO, Chair of EWC Interview: In harmony with nature
Sep, 2021	The Independent	World leaders must take bold, transformative measures to protect threatened species
Oct, 2021	Sierra Club	Heeding the Pandemic's Warnings, the trade in legal wildlife is a ticking time bomb
Oct, 2021	PLOS Biology publication	John Scanlon, AO, Chair of EWC perspective article: Wildlife must be protected from crime

		and trade for the sake of public and planetary health
--	--	---

- **LinkedIn:** Since its launch in August 2020, [EWC's LinkedIn](#) has reached 2,287 followers, a 45% increase since April 2021 progress report. Between January and December 2021, the account achieved over 58,600 impressions and generated 38,093 unique visitors.
- **Website:** over the same period, EWC's [website](#) generated over 6.1k unique visitors across 8.1k sessions with an average session duration of 1m 17s. Peaks in traffic have coincided with press releases and webinars.

Media Releases and Coverage

In 2021, EWC has shared seven press releases covering its work and updates. The releases were also distributed through EWC's own networks and shared through the Champions network. Through tracking media clippings, and web searches, the initiative has been covered in over 60 clippings, this includes news articles, webinars, events, LinkedIn articles and Op-eds. Mainstream media outlets that have covered EWC's work included; The Independent, The Sierra Club, The New Scientist, China Daily and Sustainability Times.

EWC's 2021 press releases included:

- [March - UN World Wildlife Day](#)
- [May - Costa Rica and Gabon Lead Way in Calling for Global Agreement on Wildlife Crime](#)
- [May - Joint Statement: Presidents of Gabon And Costa Rica Call for Fourth Protocol on Wildlife Crime](#)
- [June - EWC Urges Proposed International Pandemics Treaty to Address Pandemic Prevention](#)
- [July - Un General Assembly Recognises the Role of Rangers in Tackling Illicit Wildlife Trafficking](#)
- [Aug - Statement Response to The First Draft of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- [Sept - Angola Joins Call for Global Agreement on Wildlife Crime](#)

4. Next Steps

Looking forward EWC will continue with its communication/outreach and state level engagement to garner support for its proposals

UNTOC

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) acts as the principal policy making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and is the preparatory body to the United Nations Crime Congresses. The route to the adoption of a Fourth Protocol on wildlife crime has to start from here. The timetable for the upcoming CCPCJ session is outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 UNTOC timetable

13 May 2022	31st session of the CCPCJ, Pre-session consultations
16-20 May 2022	31st session of the CCPCJ, M-Building, Vienna International Centre – draft resolutions may be submitted here
8-9 December 2022	Reconvened 31st session, Vienna International Centre

CBD and CITES

Table 3 CBD and CITES Timetable

7-11 March 2022	CITES: Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
13 – 29 March 2022	CBD: Resumed sessions of SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3
25 April – 8 May 2022	CBD: Fifteenth meeting of Conference of the Parties - CoP15
14 – 25 November 2022	CITES: Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties - CoP19

Annex

Annex 1: EWC Governance and Advisors

Steering Group

ADM Capital Foundation (Hong Kong SAR China)
Born Free Foundation (United Kingdom)
Global Environmental Institute (China)
The ICCF Group (United States of America)
Food and Land Use Coalition (United Kingdom)
Freeland (Brazil)*
African Wildlife Foundation (Kenya)*

Special Advisors

Neil Harvey (Business), ADM Capital
Craig Hoover (CITES), Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Gilda Moretti (Partnerships)

Technical Advisors

Alexander Rhodes, Mischoon de Reya	Law
Christina Voigt, World Commission in Environmental Law	Law
Dr Angus Nurse, Middlesex University	Criminology
Olivia Swaak-Goldman, Wildlife Justice Commission	Enforcement
Professor Tanya Wyatt, Northumbria University	Criminology
Professor Dirk Pfeiffer, City University Hong Kong,	Public and Animal Health
Marcus Asner, Arnold and Porter	Law
Daniel Kachelriess, Sea Shepherd Legal*	Policy

* Joined since the last progress report

Annex 2: EWC Champions

Corporations and Foundations

ADM Capital (Hong Kong, SAR)
African Wildlife Foundation (Kenya)
Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation (United Kingdom)
Legal Atlas (United States of America)
The Robert Ho Family Foundation (Hong Kong SAR)
Treadright Foundation (South Africa)

Industry Associations

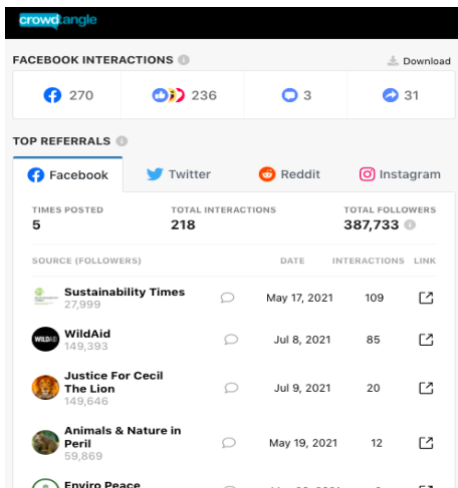
Association of Zoos & Aquariums (United States of America)
Blended Finance Taskforce (United Kingdom)
Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (United States of America)
World Ocean Council (Hawaii)
World Travel and Tourism Council (United Kingdom/Global)
World Tourism Forum Lucerne (Switzerland)

International and NGOs

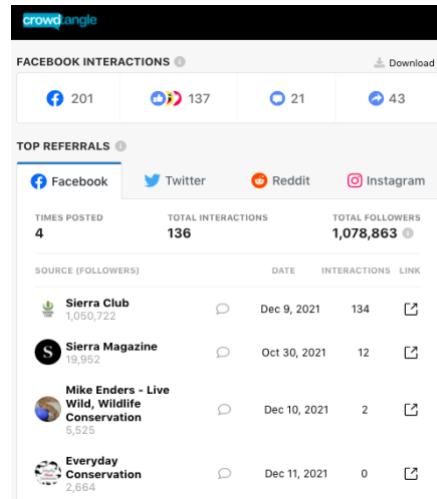
China Navigation (Singapore)
ENV (Vietnam)
Jane Goodall Institute Global (United Kingdom)
Freeland (Global)
International Ranger Foundation (Global)
Species 360 (Netherlands)
IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (Switzerland/Brazil)

Wildlife Justice Commission (Netherlands)
 Lions Head (United Kingdom)
 RENTAS (Brazil)
 SPDA (Peru)
 Stimson (United States of America)
 Wildlife Trust of India (India)

Annex 3: Media Release and Coverage



Sustainability times: [Gabon, Costa Rica call for new UN protocol on wildlife trade](#)



Sierra Club: [Heeding the Pandemic's Warnings, The trade in legal wildlife is a ticking time bomb](#)