

# ~~END~~ **WILDLIFE** ~~CRIME~~



Paul Hilton for Earth Tree Images [Left & Middle], Cecilia Silva Bernardo, Director for Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment of Angola, Carlos Sanchez Del Aguila, Minister Counselor, Embassy/Permanent Mission of Peru in Vienna and Amina Ali, Second Secretary, Embassy/Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya in Vienna. Further press materials [here](#)

## **Breaking News: UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopts historic resolution on illicit trafficking in wildlife**

**Vienna, 20 May:** [The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime](#) (EWC) welcomes the adoption of a groundbreaking resolution on “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”, by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

The [resolution](#), submitted by Angola, Kenya and Peru, invites Member States to “provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with their views on possible responses, **including the potential of an additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**, to address any gaps that may exist in the current international legal framework to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”.

This is the **first time that a UN resolution has mentioned a potential new global agreement on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking**. The resolution also invites Member States to share their “experiences, good practices and challenges when preventing and combating illicit trafficking in wildlife, and their national legislation in this sphere”.

This historic resolution was also co-sponsored by other Member States, namely Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Paraguay, Philippines and the United States of America.

“We warmly congratulate Angola, Kenya, Peru and the other co-sponsors on this historic achievement. It is the first time the UN has initiated an intergovernmental process to consider a new global legal instrument for tackling illicit wildlife trafficking, or any crime that affects the environment, including the possibility of bringing it under the umbrella of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime” said John Scanlon AO, Chair of EWC. “We will offer our full support, upon request, to the co-sponsors, and all interested States, in carrying this critically important conversation forward” he added.

Responding to the adoption of the resolution, Dr Mark Jones, Head of Policy at Born Free Foundation added: “As many as 1 million animal and plant species are staring down the barrel of extinction, with wildlife crime being one of the key drivers. Wildlife crime is also exacerbating climate change, and poses a threat to livelihoods, security and public health. Today’s Resolution represents the first step towards a much-needed agreement against these highly-destructive crimes”.

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“As a founding member of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, The ICCF Group would like to congratulate the governments of Angola, Kenya and Peru, as well as all the other co-sponsors, on this incredible achievement. We are hoping their visionary leadership will inspire other Member States to prioritize the effective tackling of wildlife trafficking through the establishment of an international legal instrument.” continued Susan Herman Lylis, Executive Vice President of The ICCF Group.

The resolution was adopted during the Thirty-first Session of the UN CCPCJ, which was held on 16-20 May 2022 in Vienna, Austria. EWC attended the Session offering technical support to co-sponsors, upon request. It also hosted a side event titled “Raising ambition on ending wildlife crime: the benefits of a global agreement”. The Initiative will continue to offer its support to all States in carrying this conversation forward. EWC is hosted by [ADM Capital Foundation](#), Hong Kong SAR.



Closing Plenary Session of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the CCPCJ, 20 May 2022.

## Helpful Press Release links:

[Angola, Peru and Kenya Submit Draft Resolution To UN CCPCJ](#)

[Statement by Presidents of Costa Rica and Gabon calling for global agreement on wildlife crime](#)

[Statement by President of Malawi calling for global agreement on wildlife crime](#)

## Media Contact

**Liberty McCarthy**

ADM Capital Foundation [liberty.mccarthy@admcf.org](mailto:liberty.mccarthy@admcf.org)

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The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime is an initiative of organizations working on wildlife crime and trade related issues and is hosted by the Hong Kong based [ADM Capital Foundation](#), chaired by John Scanlon AO and with a Steering Group comprising the [African Wildlife Foundation](#), the [Born Free Foundation](#), Freeland, the [Global Environmental Institute](#), the [International Conservation Caucus Foundation Group](#), and [The Food and Land Use Coalition](#) (represented by [SYSTEMIQ](#)). More information on the Initiative, including its Steering Group, the organizations that have signed up as Champions of the Initiative, and its Special Advisers and Supporters, can be found on the [EWC website](#).

