



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

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime ([EWC](#)) is a broad alliance of environmental, policy, legal, business and public health organizations and experts coming from across every continent. EWC was created to address serious gaps in the existing international legal framework for combating wildlife crime and regulating wildlife trade. EWC advocates for, and offers technical support towards, the creation of a [new global agreement](#) on wildlife crime, and the [amendment](#) of existing international wildlife trade laws, or the development of a [new international instrument](#), to include public and animal health in decision making.

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In its submissions on the [Zero Draft](#), the [First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), including the [Addendum](#) to its second submission, and the [Post-Nairobi Revised Draft](#) EWC offered its comments on the Drafts and congratulated the Co-Chairs of the Open Ended Working Group, its members and the Executive Secretary on their work to date.

Following the publication of the [draft recommendation](#) submitted by the Co-Chairs, EWC remains **deeply concerned** about the current text of **Target 5**, covering wildlife exploitation.

Target 5 must **firmly address the threat posed by wildlife trafficking**, which is a top driver of biodiversity loss and poses a serious threat to human and animal health. This was highlighted by several United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions¹, and the most recent [Resolution](#) of May, 2022 of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”.

The importance of tackling wildlife trafficking was further highlighted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP27, in November 2022, where it released its [report](#) “Illegal Wildlife Trade and Climate Change: Joining the Dots”. It is critically important for the upcoming UN

¹ Resolutions [69/314](#) of 30 July 2015, [70/301](#) of 9 September 2016, [71/326](#) of 11 September 2017, 73/343 of 16 September 2019 and, most recently, resolution [75/311](#) of 23 July 2021.

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

Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 15) to take account of what is happening in other fora, including the CCPCJ and under the UNODC administered conventions.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the current text, EWC urges all Parties to **prefer Target 5, Alt. 1** as the basis for negotiations CBD COP 15, which reads as follows:

Target 5, Alt.1: *Eliminate all harvesting, trade and use of wild terrestrial freshwater and marine species that is illegal, unsustainable or unsafe, while safeguarding the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.*

EWC also recommends that Target , Alt 1 is strengthened as follows:

Target 5 (rev): ~~Eliminate all harvesting, trade and use~~ **Take effective measures to prevent and combat illicit wildlife trafficking and ensure the exploitation of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species is illegal, unsustainable or unsafe and does not pose a risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife, or other animals, while safeguarding the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.**

With regard to the recommended indicators for Target 5, EWC aligns itself with the position expressed by its founding Steering Group member Born Free Foundation in its November 2022 [position paper](#) "What The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Must Do For Animals, People & Nature".

FINAL COMMENTS

In 2019, the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) released its [Global Assessment Report](#) on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services, suggesting that **one million species already face extinction, many within decades**, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss. Among its many other findings, IPBES also reveals that **75% of the planet's terrestrial surface is significantly altered, only 3% of the ocean can be considered as free from human pressure**, and that over **85% of wetlands has been lost**, despite the adoption of the Convention on International Wetlands in 1973. Finally, the World Wildlife Fund's [2022 Living Planet Report](#) reveals **an average decline of 69% in wild species populations since 1970**.

The adoption of an ambitious and far-sighted Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is a once-in-a-decade opportunity. EWC urges all Parties to conclude negotiations in a constructive manner and in the spirit of compromise and remains ready to assist any Party in considering the issues raised in this submission, upon request.