



Photographs (left: Paul Hilton for Earth Tree Images, right: ManoAfrica via Getty Images) available [here](#).

GIZ grants the ICCF Group, the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime and Legal Atlas funds for new pandemic prevention project in Southern Africa

Washington, D.C. (2 February); The ICCF Group, the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (hosted by ADM Capital Foundation) and Legal Atlas are excited to announce that the [International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade](#), hosted by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), commissioned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, has awarded them a grant of EUR 212,103.23 for a new pandemic prevention project, focusing on Angola, Botswana and Zambia. The project duration is expected to be 18 months.

Utilising relevant scientific research to assess national laws and identify legal best practices, the project, titled “Preventing future zoonotic pandemics: strengthening national legal frameworks and international cooperation”, aims to develop scalable regulatory standards in the field of zoonotic disease prevention and control, for target jurisdictions to have at their disposal when drafting or amending legislation.

The project will focus on three countries in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) in Southern Africa, where over 70% of the land is inhabited by communities that live in close proximity to protected areas, expanding the interface between wildlife, livestock and people. Management of animal diseases (e.g., bovine tuberculosis, rabies, foot and mouth disease) in the KAZA TFCA is a serious concern for public health, economic and conservation reasons.

The project partners will work closely with the parliamentary conservation caucuses in Angola, Botswana and Zambia, helping identify legal shortcomings in zoonotic disease prevention, opportunities for legislative improvement, and strategies for increasing awareness and support for legal change at the national level.

“Despite wildlife trade being a key driver for disease transmission, regulatory responsibility remains unclear and legal responses to control zoonotic disease fail to address the risks posed by wildlife trade. Some of the previous research conducted by Legal Atlas shows that national laws directed at zoonotic disease focus primarily on livestock and human health – not wildlife. This needs to change if we want countries to be better positioned to prevent future spill overs.” said Jim Wingard, Co-Founder and Legal Director of [Legal Atlas](#).

“We are grateful to the Alliance for supporting this much-needed project and choosing to invest in pandemic prevention, not just preparedness and response. Over the course of twelve years, the ICCF



Group has supported the establishment of conservation caucuses all over the world, including in Angola, Botswana and Zambia. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with them, and our other in-country partners, on this important effort.” continued Susan Lylis, Executive Vice President of [the ICCF Group](#).

“The KAZA TFCA is the largest transfrontier conservation area in the world: legal reforms designed to prevent and better control zoonotic diseases in this key region of Africa have the potential to inspire and influence jurisdictions worldwide. Our aim is to develop scalable legal tools, that can serve people, and wildlife, beyond the completion of this project.” concluded John Scanlon AO, Chair of the [Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime](#).

About the project partners

The International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) Group (lead organisation) is a U.S.-based non-profit organisation at the forefront of building political will to improve natural resource governance by supporting over 25 parliamentary conservation caucuses globally. The ICCF Group works to empower parliamentarians with the tools, framework, and science to reach across the aisle and sponsor legislation that shares a common purpose: to strengthen a country's legislative framework in a manner that is not only good for the planet, but for economies and local communities as well.

Hosted by the ADM Capital Foundation, the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime is an alliance of environmental, policy, legal, business, and public health organisations and experts from around the world. It was created to address serious gaps in the existing international legal framework for combating wildlife crime and regulating wildlife trade.

Legal Atlas is a legal analytics and consulting firm with an award-winning legal intelligence platform and more than a decade of experience assessing wildlife trade laws in 70+ jurisdictions and wildlife health laws in 40+ jurisdictions. In 2020, Legal Atlas published research on pandemics and the law (see [review](#) and [follow-up report](#)) and is now assessing laws governing veterinary services and their authority to manage wildlife health.

About the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade

The International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade tackles contemporary risks of zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases from wildlife, in use or trade. It supports adequate action and policies to mitigate risks to human and animal health. It was launched in 2021 as an interdisciplinary and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform, uniting various disciplines by taking a One Health approach. The Secretariat of the Alliance is currently hosted by the GIZ.