END
WILDLIFE
CRIME

Vienna, 17 October 2024, UNTOC COP12 SIDE EVENT

WILDLIFE CRIME HAS DEVASTATING IMPACTS; HOW ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN HELP PREVENT AND COMBAT THESE SERIOUS CRIMES

State sponsor: Brazil

EXPERT INTERVENTION FROM: Vanessa Negrini, Director of the National Department of Animal Rights and Protection, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are facing a global crisis that transcends borders and threatens not only biodiversity but the very survival of life as we know it. Transnational crimes against fauna and flora are not just attacks on the environment — they are assaults on ecological balance, public health, and national security. Every trafficked species and every destroyed forest weakens global conservation efforts and opens doors to new pandemics and economic instability.

On behalf of the Brazilian Government and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, it is an honor to sponsor this event, where we can discuss global efforts to combat crimes that affect the environment.

In the past 50 years, the world has lost 73% of its biodiversity, and to reverse this trend, coordinated actions are necessary, such as: reforming food systems, accelerating the transition to clean energy, redirecting investments to restore biomes, and combating environmental crimes.

In Brazil, more than 1,200 species of fauna and over 3,000 species of plants are threatened with extinction. The challenges are immense, but Brazil is facing them with determination. We are combating illegal mining and have already removed more than 20,000 miners from Yanomami Lands, where mining has poisoned our rivers and attacked our wildlife.

We are revising national legislation to strengthen control over the gold trade to trace its origin. Our operations against wildlife trafficking result in the seizure of more than 60,000 animals per year. Through international cooperation, we have managed to repatriate many trafficked

animals. We have resumed the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon, with new regulatory frameworks and enforcement actions. Brazil is proposing the creation of a new fund for the protection of Tropical Forests to ensure sustainable financing and global cooperation.

The Brazilian Government has also reactivated the Bolsa Verde program, an initiative that provides economic support to around 50,000 vulnerable families in the Amazon, with the goal of promoting environmental conservation and combating illegal practices. We have updated the National Biodiversity Action Plan with ambitious goals to combat environmental crimes and promote animal rights. We are also launching PACIFAUNA (a word that represents peace and fauna) to integrate Brazilian agencies responsible for combating wildlife crimes.

Indigenous leader Ailton Krenak often says, "The Earth is a living organism, and everything within it — animals, plants, mountains, and rivers — is part of it. When we destroy nature, we are destroying ourselves." His wisdom guides our actions.

As one of the most biodiverse nations in the world, Brazil is at the forefront of this battle. However, the criminal networks exploiting our fauna and forests operate internationally, and our response must be equally global.

Strengthening international cooperation frameworks with a common language on environmental crimes is essential. This is why Brazil is advocating for the establishment of additional protocols to the UNTOC to address crimes that affect the environment.

There is no time to lose. If we wait two more years, the Spix’s macaws could disappear forever.

We are grateful to the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime. To the Brazilian mission in Vienna, Ambassador Nelson Tabajara, Minister César Bonamigo, and Secretary Rodrigo Bertoglio. In Brasília, Ambassador Marcelo Della Nina and the Coordinator for Combating Transnational Illicit Activities, Gustavo Carneiro.

I would like to conclude with the words of Minister Marina Silva: "Long live the Rights of Ani-Us, for we are all animals." The fight for animals and the environment is always a fight for human life.

Thank you very much.

Wildlife Crime has Devastating Impacts; How Enhanced International Cooperation can help Prevent and Combat these Serious Crimes

Hosted by Brazil, and supported by Peru, Angola, Costa Rica, and 15 organisations, we will explore the devastating impacts of wildlife crime, including on biodiversity, climate change and human health. Join us for a discussion on the need to enhance international cooperation, and the possible strengthening of the international legal framework, to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking.

17 Oct 2024
2:00-2:50pm

Room CR7,
Vienna International Centre

State Sponsor:

State support: