



2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Research Team.....	4
Compliance Directors.....	4
Lead Analysts.....	4
Compliance Analysts.....	4
Summary.....	6
The Final Compliance Score.....	6
Compliance by Member.....	6
Compliance by Commitment.....	6
The Compliance Gap Between Members.....	6
Future Research and Reports.....	7
Table A: 2021 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment.....	8
Table B: 2021 G7 Cornwall Final Compliance Scores.....	10
Table C: 2021 G7 Cornwall Final Compliance Scores by Member.....	11
Table D: 2021 G7 Cornwall Final Compliance Scores by Commitment.....	12
1. Health: Vaccines.....	13
2. Health: Vaccine Equity.....	65
3. Health: Disease Prevention.....	77
4. Health: Indirect Impacts of COVID-19.....	115
5. Climate Change: Zero Emission Vehicles.....	158
6. Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use.....	184
7. Environment: Crime and Corruption.....	229
8. Environment: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss.....	247
9. Environment: Marine Health and Litter.....	283
10. Energy: Renewables.....	316
11. Energy: Coal.....	346
12. Trade: Free Trade.....	382
13. Gender: Education Equality.....	417
14. Democracy: China.....	440
15. Regional Security: Addressing Instability.....	465
16. Development: Sustainable Growth in Africa.....	527
17. Infrastructure: Build Back Better.....	555
18. Human Rights: Forced Labour.....	583
19. Digital Economy: Open Internet.....	608
20. Macroeconomics: Strong, Resilient, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth.....	633
21. International Cooperation: Research Transparency.....	739
22. International Cooperation: Research and Knowledge Sharing.....	764

7. Environment: Crime and Corruption

“We will recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes, including intensifying efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.”

G7 2030 Nature Compact

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.38 (69%)	

Background

Illicit threats to nature have been a focus of the international community since the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) entered into force in 1975.¹³⁵¹ All G7 members are party to the CITES, which sets rules and guidelines for international trade in selected vulnerable species.¹³⁵² However, recognition of these threats as serious organised crimes would not come until 2000, when the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) established the illicit trading of flora and fauna as a kind of organised crime.¹³⁵³

The G7 has a long history of commitments addressing financial crimes, corruption and environmental threats, but did not address threats to nature as a function of organised crime until recently. On 25 June 2020, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which was established by the 1989 Paris G7 Summit, released the first global report with guidelines on how countries may take measures to combat money laundering from the international wildlife trade (IWT).¹³⁵⁴ This directly led to the recommendation of FATF-proposed actions into the G7 2030 Nature compact, including the proposal of a progress report on assessing and addressing money laundering risks related to IWT at the G7 Interior & Security Ministers’ meeting in September 2021.¹³⁵⁵

At the 1999 Köln Summit, G8 members addressed organised crime, stating that they welcome and support the work of the FATF to identify jurisdictions which fail to cooperate effectively in the international fight

¹³⁵¹ What is CITES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

¹³⁵² List of Contracting Parties, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Geneva) 26 October 2016. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://cites.org/eng/disc/parties/chronolo.php>

¹³⁵³ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 15 November 2000. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

¹³⁵⁴ Money Laundering and the International Wildlife Trade, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/methodsandtrends/documents/money-laundering-wildlife-trade.html>

¹³⁵⁵ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

against money laundering and thus facilitate the laundering of proceeds from corruption and organised crime.¹³⁵⁶

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders again addressed financial crime and money laundering.¹³⁵⁷ These crimes were not linked to nature or the environment, but instead to good governance and improving the observance of international standards.

At the 2003 Evian Summit, G8 leaders reaffirmed the importance of tackling financial crime by encouraging ratification of the UNCTOC.¹³⁵⁸ It encourages universally criminalizing money laundering, corruption and related crimes, allowing countries to seize or freeze assets used in the process of these crimes. This served to further set the precedent for G7 leaders with respect to crime.

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, G8 members further reinforced their commitments to maintain FATF recommendations, the UNCTOC and the UN Convention Against Corruption.¹³⁵⁹ G7 members further acknowledged efforts by non-governmental organizations to counteract transnational crime.

At the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, the first connections between environment and illicit trade were drawn under the biodiversity commitment.¹³⁶⁰ G8 members enforced their commitment to increase efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 Biodiversity Target, including by reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife.

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 members committed to combat wildlife trafficking, noting its use as a way to finance organised crime, insurgencies, and terrorism.¹³⁶¹

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members addressed and broadened their ambitions for sustainable development as it relates to internationally recognized environmental trade standards.¹³⁶² This commitment by G7 members enables a guideline for environmental trade policy in order to help define which actions are considered as illegal wildlife trade. It seeks to foster sustainable economic and environmental development, dictating the types of environmental trade which are legal, and which types are considered illicit.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 members again acknowledged the importance of biodiversity and the risks of biodiversity loss as a result of over-exploitation of natural resources, among other factors.¹³⁶³ The further recognition of the importance of biodiversity in sustainable development and environmental security reinforces the global need to tackle actions causing biodiversity loss, including illegal wildlife trade.

Commitment Features

At the 2021 Carbis Bay Summit, G7 members committed to “recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes, including intensifying efforts to combat money

¹³⁵⁶ Money Laundering and the International Wildlife Trade, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/methodsandtrends/documents/money-laundering-wildlife-trade.html>

¹³⁵⁷ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

¹³⁵⁸ Fighting Corruption and Improving Transparency: G8 Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/corruption_en.html

¹³⁵⁹ Chair's Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 2006. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/summary.html>

¹³⁶⁰ Press conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 6 July 2008. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/press/2008/7/0706.html>

¹³⁶¹ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit 2015, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

¹³⁶² G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 27 May 2017. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>

¹³⁶³ Biarritz Chair's Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, G7 Communication Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/chairs-summary-climate.html>

laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.”¹³⁶⁴ There are two components to this commitment that must be fulfilled in order for full compliance to be achieved. These components include taking actions that “recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature as serious organised crimes” and “intensifying efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.”

To “recognise” is understood to mean to acknowledge formally.¹³⁶⁵ In the context of this commitment, to recognise means to commit to identifying actions that are considered illegal wildlife trade and prosecute them accordingly.

To “tackle” is understood to mean to make determined efforts to deal with a problem or difficult task, in this case that of illicit threats to nature.¹³⁶⁶ This language implies that G7 members commit to taking action against threats to nature, including illegal wildlife trading.

IWT refers to the supplying, selling, or trafficking of wild flora or fauna, including animals, birds and fish, as well as timber and non-timber forest products, in contravention of national or international law.¹³⁶⁷

“Organised crimes” do not have a precise definition under international law, but are understood in this context to refer to all profit-motivated serious criminal activities.¹³⁶⁸ In this case, the G7 members must both formally acknowledge and make determined efforts to deal with illicit threats to nature as serious criminal activities, with special focus on IWT. Examples of actions that tackle IWT in this manner include introducing legislation that criminalizes the import or export of endangered flora and fauna, creating intelligence units for wildlife crime investigations, or providing modernized enforcement tools such as forensic equipment.

As this commitment requires both recognition and specific efforts, there is a depth component analyzing how strong G7 members’ actions are.¹³⁶⁹ Actions towards solely recognition, such as verbal reference to IWT as organized crime in a speech on threats to nature, would constitute only partial compliance. Full compliance requires significant action, either domestic or international, that tackle illicit threats to nature. These could include financial support, either directly or through international institutions, the expansion of an existing program, or the launch of a new initiative.

To “intensify” is understood to mean to increase existing actors or actions.¹³⁷⁰ In the context of this commitment, to intensify implies that G7 members are expanding upon or facilitating the creation of new initiatives that will combat the money laundering of the proceeds associated with IWT and other profit-producing illicit threats to nature.

To “combat” is understood to mean to try to stop something harmful from happening or increasing, in this case money laundering.¹³⁷¹

¹³⁶⁴ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

¹³⁶⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹³⁶⁶ Definition of Tackle, Lexico Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

<https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/tackle>

¹³⁶⁷ Wildlife Crime, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc/crime.php>

¹³⁶⁸ Transnational Organized Crime, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/ropan/en/organized-crime.html>

¹³⁶⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹³⁷⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹³⁷¹ Definition of Combat, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/combat>

“Money laundering” refers to the processing of criminal proceeds to disguise their illegal origin.¹³⁷² The three stages of money laundering include placement; or moving the funds from direct association with the crime, layering; or disguising the trail to foil pursuit and integration; or making the money available to the criminal from what seem to be legitimate sources.¹³⁷³ The second part of this commitment requires G7 members to increase existing efforts to combat the processing and disguisement of the criminal proceeds of IWT. Examples of actions that qualify as compliance include any program, regulation, or distribution of funds that directly work to combat IWT’s use of money laundering in any of its three stages.

To achieve full compliance, or a score of +1, the G7 member must take strong action to fulfill both components of the commitment. This includes taking actions that both recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature, especially IWT, as organised crimes and intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. Examples of actions that count towards the fulfillment of both of these components were described in the preceding paragraphs. For a score of partial compliance, or a score of 0, the G7 member must only take action to either tackle illicit threats to nature as organised crimes or only intensify efforts to combat money laundering of these crimes or some action in both areas. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be awarded if the G7 member has fulfilled none of the aforementioned criteria, or if the G7 member has only recognized illicit threats to nature as organised crimes and has not taken action to tackle them.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has NOT taken enough action to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes OR to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.
0	The G7 member has taken strong action to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organised crimes OR to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes OR has taken less than strong action in both areas.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organised crimes AND to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

*Compliance Director: Kiayla Amos-Flom
Lead Analyst: Rebecca Campbell-Martin*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 23 July 2021, Canada launched a consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade.¹³⁷⁴ Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson launched a 60-day consultation for Canadians to provide their feedback on Canada potentially revising its approach to elephant ivory trade in the country.

On 1 November 2021, Canada completed its work in “Operation North Pacific Guard,” an annual international law enforcement operation to combat illegal fishing in the high seas of the North Pacific with

¹³⁷² Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money-laundering/index.html>

¹³⁷³ Money Laundering, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021 <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money-laundering/overview.html>

¹³⁷⁴ Canada launches consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-launches-consultation-on-stricter-measures-for-elephant-ivory-trade.html>

Canada's counterparts from Japan, Korea and the United States.¹³⁷⁵ Among other discoveries, Canadian officers were able to collect evidence of active shark finning and detected illegal retention of salmon.

On 2 November 2021, Canada endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, identifying the critical role of forests in global biodiversity and sustainability.¹³⁷⁶ The declaration was signed by 141 countries, each reaffirming their commitments to the conservation and protection of, and the restoration and sustainable use of land in forests and other terrestrial ecosystems. The countries further committed to both reversing and halting forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

On 14 December 2021, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) laid 66 charges related to the illegal possession and sale of harvested halibut as a result of a 24-month major case investigation in the Sambro area of Nova Scotia.¹³⁷⁷ DFO holds a mandate to protect and conserve marine resources, which includes prosecuting cases of illegal fishing.

On 2 March 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) announced a Departmental Plan for 2022-2023 which includes commitments on a range of environmental issues around the world, such as the illegal wildlife trade, sustainable fisheries and forestry management.¹³⁷⁸ The ECCC further announced that it will continue to implement the Pan-Canadian Approach for supporting the recovery and conservation of six federal, provincial and territorial priority species including Barren-ground Caribou, Boreal Caribou, Greater Sage-grouse, Peary Caribou, Southern Mountain Caribou and Wood Bison, as well as other species.

On 6 June 2022, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault announced the formation of the Nature Advisory Committee, a group of experts dedicated to strategizing how to fulfill Canada's commitment to halt nature loss by 2030 and achieve full nature recovery by 2050.¹³⁷⁹ Among the committee's priorities is the creation of protections for wildlife and other species at risk.

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature, including IWT, as serious organized crimes. Canada has taken strong action to recognise and tackle IWT, such as through the illegal fishing and the illegal ivory trade but has not intensified efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nivaal Rehman

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

¹³⁷⁵ Canada wraps up Operation North Pacific Guard to combat global illegal fishing, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/11/canada-wraps-up-operation-north-pacific-guard-to-combat-global-illegal-fishing3.html>

¹³⁷⁶ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

¹³⁷⁷ Lengthy investigation leads to 66 halibut fishing charges in Nova Scotia, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Dartmouth) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/12/lengthy-investigation-leads-to-66-halibut-fishing-charges-in-nova-scotia.html>

¹³⁷⁸ 2022-23 Departmental Plan: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 5 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/transparency/priorities-management/departmental-plans/2022-2023.html>

¹³⁷⁹ The Government of Canada announces newly formed Nature Advisory Committee to kick off Canadian Environment Week, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 6 June 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/06/the-government-of-canada-announces-newly-formed-nature-advisory-committee-to-kick-off-canadian-environment-week.html>

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transitions reaffirmed that France is the current chair of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership (ADP), a multilateral agreement focused on fighting against deforestation and stopping the import of illegally harvested timber.¹³⁸⁰ The ADP was launched in 2015 and also signed by Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.¹³⁸¹ Some of the actions announced as part of this initiative include a legislative framework called the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, which grants licenses to countries that follow specific standards for logging.¹³⁸²

On 3 September 2021, France hosted the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Marseille, which brought states, local governments, scientists, private sector and civil society representatives together in order to present solutions for major environmental issues.¹³⁸³ France submitted around ten motions, including some on fighting environmental crime and light pollution. At the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs co-sponsored Motion 47, titled “Treating organized crime having an impact on the environment as a serious crime.”¹³⁸⁴ The motion urges states to recognise environmental crimes as serious crimes within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to enhance national law-enforcement capacities to disrupt criminal networks engaged in trafficking wildlife, timber, and other environmental commodities, and to reinforce the organisation of regulatory frameworks surrounding IWT’s links with money laundering.

On 2 November 2021, France endorsed the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use, identifying the critical role of forests in global biodiversity and sustainability.¹³⁸⁵ The declaration was signed by 141 countries, each reaffirming their commitments to the conservation and protection of, and the restoration and sustainable use of land in forests and other terrestrial ecosystems. The countries further committed to both reversing and halting forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

On 18 November 2021, France committed to host the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is scheduled to take place from 7 March 2022 to 11 March 2022.¹³⁸⁶ Among other matters, the committee is set to discuss reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade, new resolutions on reducing deforestation, engagement of indigenous peoples and compliance and enforcement matters related to endangered species.

¹³⁸⁰ Fight against imported deforestation: France, represented by Bérange Abba, has chaired the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership since July 1, which brings together the most committed countries, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 26 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutte-contre-deforestation-importee-france-representee-berangere-abba-preside-1er-juillet>

¹³⁸¹ Fight against imported deforestation: France, represented by Bérange Abba, has chaired the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership since July 1, which brings together the most committed countries, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 26 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutte-contre-deforestation-importee-france-representee-berangere-abba-preside-1er-juillet>

¹³⁸² Wood and derived products, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.deforestationimportee.fr/fr/produits/bois-et-produits-derives-9>

¹³⁸³ World Conservation Congress: a major international event for biodiversity, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/world-conservation-congress-a-major-international-event-for-biodiversity>

¹³⁸⁴ 047 - Treating organized crime having an impact on the environment as a serious crime, International Union for Conservation of Nature’s World Conservation Congress 2020 (Marseille) 30 September 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/047>

¹³⁸⁵ Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

¹³⁸⁶ As the biodiversity and deforestation crises are recognized on the global stage, France offers to host 74th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Geneva) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. https://cites.org/eng/CITES_StandingCommittee74_France_March2022_biodiversity_18112021

On 19 November 2021, the Ministry of the Ecological Transition announced a national strategy for biodiversity that includes legal protection for a variety of land and sea areas.¹³⁸⁷ It was also announced that the national strategy for biodiversity is meant to limit or outright stop human activity in designated areas. The statement further mentioned that national parks and nature reserves are among some of the elements included in the framework.

On 8 February 2022, the Central Office for the Fight against Damage to the Environment and Public Health (OCLAESP), a division of the National Gendarmerie, launched “Unite,” a project designed to improve the fight against organized crime networks that traffic in wildlife, timber and waste in and via the European Union.¹³⁸⁸ The project’s investigators will focus for the next two years on the cyber component, the sub-pseudonym investigation and the links with financial crime specifically in regards to waste trafficking, illegal timber trafficking and trafficking in protected species.

On 9 February 2022, France hosted the first One Ocean Summit, an international summit with the goals of preserving biodiversity, stopping the overexploitation of marine resources, fighting pollution and mitigating climate change.¹³⁸⁹ As part of the summit on 11 February 2022, President Macron announced close to 1 million extra square kilometers of maritime area would become part of the National Nature Reserve of the French Southern Territories.¹³⁹⁰ The same announcement mentioned that 23 per cent of the extended protection area prohibits any industrial or commercial activity. It also stated that fisheries are obligated to reduce the pressures on the most vulnerable species and habitats.

On 7 March 2022, France hosted the 74th session of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is the body that advises and makes recommendations to the Conference of the Parties of CITES later this year.¹³⁹¹ At the meeting, France initiated CITES registration requests for two endemic species and started joint work with the European Union to propose the inclusion of other animal species in CITES (hammerhead sharks, sea cucumbers and a species of turtle) in order to strengthen their protection.¹³⁹²

On 15 March 2022, Secretary of State for Biodiversity Bérangère Abba launched France’s first national action plan to prevent the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species.¹³⁹³ The action plan includes strategies for consolidating regulatory and legal frameworks, training individuals and collectives, developing information guides and strengthening administrative and judicial enforcement of laws relating to the spread of

¹³⁸⁷ Protected areas in France, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/aires-protegees-en-france>

¹³⁸⁸ “UNITE”: a European network for the fight against environmental crime, National Gendarmerie Info (Paris) 8 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 April 2022. <https://www.gendinfo.fr/actualites/2022/unite-un-reseau-europeen-de-lutte-contre-la-criminalite-environnementale>

¹³⁸⁹ One Ocean Summit: for a more sustainable ocean, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Brest) 11 February 2022. Access Date: 4 April 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/one-ocean-summit-for-a-more-sustainable-ocean-9-11-feb-2022>

¹³⁹⁰ One Ocean Summit: The President of the Republic Announces the Extension of the French Southern Territories National Nature Reserve, which becomes the second largest marine protected area in the world, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 11 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/one-ocean-summit-president-republique-annonce-lextension-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-terres>

¹³⁹¹ SC74 meeting in Lyon ends after 5 packed days, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Lyon) 11 March 2022. Access Date: 5 April 2022. <https://cites.org/eng/node/130738>

¹³⁹² CITES Standing Committee: review of the 74th session, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Lyon) 14 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 April 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/comite-permanent-cites-bilan-74e-session-lyon>

¹³⁹³ Launch of the action plan to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 15 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-du-plan-daction-prevenir-lintroduction-et-propagation-des-especes-exotiques-envahissantes>

invasive species from overseas. The announcement also included a decree imposing restrictions on the trade, possession and transport of invasive species including the Blue Crab, the Quagga mussel and the eastern hornet.

On 11 April 2022, the Office for Biodiversity announced the creation of a new university diploma for sea trades, in partnership with the Institut Catholique Européen des Amériques, and allocated EUR131,065 to fund the program.¹³⁹⁴ The program intends to protect the Martinique Marine National Park from environmental threats and crime by training people to fill job positions such as environmental protection manager, environmental risk prevention officer and environmental policing officer.

France has partially complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organised crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. France has recognized illicit threats to nature as organized and has tackled such threats to nature. France has not, however, intensified efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 1 October 2021, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection launched the “Partnership against Wildlife Crime (in Africa and Asia),” which is designed to address both supply and demand along the entirety of the illegal wildlife trade chain.¹³⁹⁵ The project is designed to tackle IWT by strengthening anti-poaching actors, improving cross-border cooperation in investigations of IWT, analyzing trade and consumption patterns and improving the exchange and coordination of knowledge and experience on the topic.

On 1 October 2021, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development launched a new program, “Combating Illicit Financial Flows,” with co-financing provided by Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implementation led by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).¹³⁹⁶ This three-year program focuses on preventing illicit financial flows, including those stemming from environmental crimes or money laundering, conducting financial investigations and supports asset recoveries.

On 1 November 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to fight deforestation and to end it by 2030 while speaking at the World Leaders’ Summit at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26).¹³⁹⁷

¹³⁹⁴ A new University Diploma (D.U.) on maritime professions, French Office for Biodiversity (Paris) 11 April 2022. Access Date: 22 April 2022. <https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/en/actualites/new-university-diploma-du-maritime-professions>

¹³⁹⁵ Poaching and Biodiversity: Combatting poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife products, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/development-policy/biodiversity/poaching>

¹³⁹⁶ Combating Illicit Financial Flows, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Eschborn) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2022. https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/GP%20IFF%20Factsheet_en.pdf

¹³⁹⁷ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel on the Occasion of the World Leader’s Summit at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow on 1 November 2021, The Federal Government (Berlin) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-on-the-occasion-of-the-world-leaders-summit-at-the-26th-conference-of-the-parties-to-the-unfccc-cop26-in-glasgow-on-1-november-2021-1974784>

On 2 November 2021, Germany committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021, as it was a signatory to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.¹³⁹⁸

On 6 November 2021, the Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Svenja Schulze reiterated Germany's commitment to help Peru in its efforts to combat illegal deforestation in the Amazon, referencing the German government's previous pledge of EUR210 million for this purpose.¹³⁹⁹ This funding comes as part of a Joint Declaration of Intent, which formed an international forest and climate alliance between Peru and Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

On 2 February 2022, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) announced a EUR32 million budget for four new projects to support the protection of wetlands and peatlands under the International Climate Initiative.¹⁴⁰⁰ The BMUV stated that the protection of endangered animal and plant species which are native to these ecosystems is one of Germany's interests for the new projects.

On 10 February 2022, the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection Steffi Lemke announced a binding government-wide marine strategy.¹⁴⁰¹ This strategy will involve hiring a marine commissioner and prioritizing marine conservation. Minister Lemke also stated that Germany was working with the United Nations to create a convention that focuses on biodiversity conservation, with an emphasis on creating new marine protected areas.

On 11 April 2022, Germany supported the Government of Nigeria's launch of its first National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime, as implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.¹⁴⁰² The partnership intends to stop Nigeria's flora and fauna from being harmed as well as prevent financial crimes that enable wildlife crime. The funding for the project was also initially provided by Germany.¹⁴⁰³

On 30 May 2022, Germany provided funding to support the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) launch of a review of a tool called a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF).¹⁴⁰⁴ NDFs are science-based studies that are to be carried out before permits for trade are issued, especially with regards to threatened and endangered species. NDFs determine whether or not trade would enable species to be maintained in a range consistent with its role in its ecosystem. The review of this program is carried out by CITES and funded by Germany, Switzerland and the European Union.

¹³⁹⁸ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

¹³⁹⁹ Peru: Reaching Milestones in Rainforest Protection, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.bmuv.de/en/pressrelease/peru-reaching-key-milestones-in-rainforest-protection>

¹⁴⁰⁰ Worldwide Protection for Wetlands and Peatlands, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 2 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.bmuv.de/en/pressrelease/worldwide-protection-for-wetlands-and-peatlands>

¹⁴⁰¹ Statement by Steffi Lemke at the One Ocean Summit on Global Marine Protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 10 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.bmuv.de/en/press/speeches/speech/rede-von-steffi-lemke-auf-dem-one-ocean-summit-zum-globalen-meeresschutz>

¹⁴⁰² Nigeria launches its first ever National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Abuja) 11 April 2022. Access Date: 21 April 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/nigeria-launches-its-first-ever-national-strategy-to-combat-wildlife-and-forest-crime-in-nigeria-2022-2026.html>

¹⁴⁰³ National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Abuja) 11 April 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. https://www.unodc.org/documents/nigeria/National_Strategy_to_Combat_Wildlife_and_Forest_Crime_in_Nigeria_2022-2026.pdf

¹⁴⁰⁴ What's an NDF and why is it important?, Cites News and Highlights, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Geneva) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 7 June 2022. <https://cites.org/eng/news/whats-ndf-important>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organised crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. Germany has recognized illicit threats to nature as serious organised crimes and has tackled these threats. Germany has also intensified efforts to combat the money laundering and other illicit financial flows of environmental crimes.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organized crimes, including intensifying efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 29 September 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition's Undersecretary Ilaria Fontana announced the need to increase the number of marine protected areas in Antarctica due to threats to wildlife including illegal fishing while attending the 40th annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Living Marine Resources of Antarctica.¹⁴⁰⁵

On 30 October 2021, Italy hosted the G20 Summit in Rome and committed in its final declaration to continue to pursue efforts to combat crimes against the environment such as illegal logging, illegal mining, and illegal wildlife trade.¹⁴⁰⁶ The Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research contributed to drafting the chapters dedicated to the environment.

On 20 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition, in collaboration with the governments of France and Monaco, announced the establishment of the "Pelagos Voluntary Fund," in order to provide financial support for the protection of the Pelagos Cetacean Sanctuary.¹⁴⁰⁷ The Ministry of the Ecological Transition's Undersecretary Ilaria Fontana stated that the agreement is part of Italy's commitment to protect marine mammals and prevent illegal and unregulated fishing.

On 8 February 2022, the Parliament amended the Italian constitution to include the protection of the environment, biodiversity and ecosystems.¹⁴⁰⁸ A principle of protection for animals is explicitly specified in the new amendment and it also establishes that health and the environment are paradigms to be protected by the economy, as well as safety, freedom and human dignity.

On 3 March 2022, Undersecretary Fontana announced on World Wildlife Day that the Government of Italy is creating a National Biodiversity Strategy following the environmental protection amendment to the

¹⁴⁰⁵ Environment: Increase the number of marine protected areas in Antarctica, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/ambiente-aumentare-il-numero-di-aree-marine-protette-antartide>

¹⁴⁰⁶ G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration, Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (Rome) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/archive/news-and-other-events/ispra-news/files2021/notizie/g20-rome-leaders-declaration.pdf>

¹⁴⁰⁷ "Pelagos": the Conference of the Parties establishes a voluntary fund, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Rome) 20 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/pelagos-la-conferenza-delle-parti-istituisce-un-fondo-volontario>

¹⁴⁰⁸ Environment in the Constitution. Minister Cingolani: "An epochal day, an achievement that allows us to protect the planet and future generations," Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Rome) 8 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 April 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/ambiente-costituzione-il-ministro-cingolani-giornata-epocale-conquista-che-ci-permette-di>

constitution.¹⁴⁰⁹ The strategy will include provisions for the agricultural sector, forests, sea and the conservation of animal and plant species, many of which are at risk of extinction in Italy.

On 29 March 2022, the Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani approved the Directive for the Digitization of National Parks and Marine Protected Areas, which has a budget of EUR100 million.¹⁴¹⁰ The directive makes new digital tools available to managing bodies of these areas, which allows for more efficient protection of flora and fauna within their boundaries.

On 11 April 2022, Minister Cingolani announced that Italy joined the Blue Leaders, a group of 17 countries that aims to protect the global ocean from overfishing, pollution, the climate crisis and other environmental threats.¹⁴¹¹ By joining the group, Italy committed to protecting 30 per cent of the seas by 2030 by, among other methods, legally establishing protected marine areas.

On 5 May 2022, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law decree regarding provisions for implementing EU regulation 2016/429 on the trade, import and conservation of wild and exotic animals as well as the introduction of criminal provisions focused on punishing the illegal trade of protected species.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. Italy has consistently recognized IWT as an organized crime and has taken legal measures to prevent it with the approval of EU regulation 2016/429.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anahit Hakobyan

Japan: -1

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 29 October 2021, Japan reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the environment at the G20 Summit in Rome, Italy, and the G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration included efforts to protect and conserve natural resources, take steps to combat illegal fishing and overfishing and tackle crimes that endanger the environment including the illegal wildlife trade.¹⁴¹²

On 11 February 2022, Japan met with the United States, Australia and India for the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting where they discussed their ongoing commitment to uphold maritime law which includes tackling unregulated and unreported fishing.¹⁴¹³

¹⁴⁰⁹ Wildlife, world day today. Italy at the forefront with the renewed Constitution that expressly protects it, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Rome) 3 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 April 2022.

¹⁴¹⁰ PNRR. MiTE: the Directive for the digitization of national protected areas approved, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 April 2022.

¹⁴¹¹ National day of the sea: Minister Cingolani announces Italy's membership of the Blue Leaders, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Rome) 11 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022.

¹⁴¹² G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021.

¹⁴¹³ Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Japan and the Secretary of State of the United States: Quad Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 February 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022.

On 2 March 2022, Japan reiterated its commitment to the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration at the UN Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme which has an element of addressing illegal wildlife trafficking, unregulated fishing and related crimes.¹⁴¹⁴

On 18 May 2022, Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kentaro Uesugi met with the Mongolia's Minister of Nature, Environment and Tourism Bat-Ulzii Bat-Erdene to reaffirm their bilateral cooperation in the fields of environment and tourism.¹⁴¹⁵ Mongolia reiterated its support of Japan's continued whaling. They jointly expressed intention to promote the sustainable use of aquatic resources, including whales, though no actionable plans were established to support this intention.

Japan has only recognized illicit threats to nature as organised crimes and has not taken any action or made any collaborative commitments to tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes, including intensifying efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

Thus, Japan receives a score of -1 .¹⁴¹⁶

Analyst: Armaan Ahmad

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 15 August 2021, Minister of State for the Pacific and the International Environment Zac Goldsmith announced new legislation set to ban the import and export of shark fin products.¹⁴¹⁷ Endangered and overfished species including short fin mako shark and blue shark are among those to benefit from greater protections.

On 1 October 2021, the United Kingdom committed GBP7.2 million in funding to target the illegal wildlife trade and protect a variety of endangered animals through the seventh iteration of its Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.¹⁴¹⁸ The funding supported 17 projects around the world including those dedicated to embedding financial investigation and asset recovery into illegal wildlife trade enforcement practice, disincentivizing poaching through strengthened enforcement and driving transparency and reducing corruption in judicial processes.

¹⁴¹⁴ Draft ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/117596.pdf>

¹⁴¹⁵ Parliamentary Vice-Minister Uesugi Holds Lunch Meeting with Minister of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 May 2022. Access date: 7 June 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000380.html

¹⁴¹⁶ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.env.go.jp/en/index.html>, <https://www.mofa.go.jp/>, <https://japan.kantei.go.jp/index.html>, <https://www.npa.go.jp/english/index.html>, <https://www.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>, <https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/index.html>, <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/>, <https://asean.org/>, <https://cites.org/eng>, and <https://www.bbc.com>.

¹⁴¹⁷ Government to introduce world-leading ban on shark fin trade, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-introduce-world-leading-ban-on-shark-fin-trade>

¹⁴¹⁸ UK commits additional £7.2 million to tackling illegal wildlife trade, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-additional-72-million-to-tackling-illegal-wildlife-trade>

On 2 November 2021, the UK pledged GBP1.5 billion over five years to support the Global Forest Finance Pledge, which aims to tackle the causes of deforestation in developing countries.¹⁴¹⁹ The financial commitment includes GBP350 million for tropical forests in Indonesia, GBP200 million for the LEAF Coalition and up to GBP300 million intended for the Amazon.

On 10 November 2021, the UK passed the “Environment Act” into law, which includes legally binding environmental targets in species abundance, a new Office of Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law and prohibitions on use of commodities associated with illegal deforestation among other measures.¹⁴²⁰ The Environment Act will crack down on illegal deforestation and strengthen initiatives to protect rainforests.

On 3 December 2021, the UK launched a public consultation, after the passing of the Environment Act on 10 November 2021, on how to best implement new measures to tackle illegal deforestation associated with UK supply chains.¹⁴²¹ The measures will make it illegal for larger businesses in the UK to use commodities whose production is associated with large-scale forest loss such as cocoa, beef, soy, coffee, maize and palm oil, when they have not been produced in line with relevant local laws.

On 10 December 2021, Environment Secretary George Eustice announced a new ban on the import of hunting trophies from endangered and threatened species into the UK as part of a wider push for international conservation.¹⁴²² The ban will protect nearly 7,000 endangered or critically threatened species and will be one of the toughest bans in the world.

On 27 January 2022, Minister Goldsmith announced the investment of an initial GBP2 million of UK Aid through the World Bank’s PROBLUE Fund, to protect over 500,000 kilometers of marine environments in the Eastern Pacific.¹⁴²³ The initiative is supported by the UK’s Blue Planet Fund and will help coastal communities counter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

On 15 March 2022, British Ambassador to Guatemala Nick Whittingham visited Peten, Guatemala, to check on the progress of a UK-funded project to tackle illegal wildlife trade on the Guatemala-Mexico border.¹⁴²⁴ The three-year project began in 2020 and has since arrested 11 people linked to activities damaging the environment and achieved 22 months without the presence of illegal loggers in the border area.

On 16 March 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced new targets in the areas of water, air quality and biodiversity for the Environment Act, passed in November 2021, and the

¹⁴¹⁹ \$12 billion donor support to halt and reverse forest loss and protect land rights, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/12-billion-donor-support-to-halt-and-reverse-forest-loss-and-protect-land-rights>

¹⁴²⁰ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

¹⁴²¹ Government sets out plans to clean up the UK’s supply chains to help protect forests, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plans-to-clean-up-the-uks-supply-chains-to-help-protect-forests>

¹⁴²² Importing of hunting trophies banned to protect world’s threatened species, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/importing-of-hunting-trophies-banned-to-protect-worlds-threatened-species>

¹⁴²³ UK supports international efforts to protect over 500,000 km of ocean with £2M investment, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 27 January 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-international-efforts-to-protect-over-500000-km-of-ocean-with-2m-investment>

¹⁴²⁴ UK aid helps to reduce illegal wildlife trade in green corridor between Guatemala and Mexico, British Embassy Guatemala City (Guatemala City) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-helps-to-reduce-illegal-wildlife-trade-in-green-corridor-between-guatemala-and-mexico>

publication of the Nature Recovery Green Paper.¹⁴²⁵ The publication started an eight-week consultation period setting out proposals for several areas, including a new system of protections for sites and species.

On 13 April 2022, the UK introduced new regulations banning harmful fishing activity in four Marine Protected Areas in order to protect rare habitats and wildlife.¹⁴²⁶ The byelaws, which will come into force on 13 June 2022, prohibit the use of bottom towed gear and other damaging fishing practices.

On 23 May 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced GBP6.4 million in funding towards the Darwin Plus Initiative, which protects biodiversity in UK Overseas Territories.¹⁴²⁷ Several of the projects the funding will support work to protect threatened species from illegal or inappropriate human activity through research, technological innovations and legal protections.

On 6 June 2022, the UK Government enforced an almost total ban on the elephant ivory trade.¹⁴²⁸ At the announcement of the ban coming into effect, the UK Government also stated its intention to extend the Ivory Act to other species in response to the public consultation concluding later in 2022.

On 8 June 2022, Minister Goldsmith announced that the Turks and Caicos Islands, a UK Overseas Territory, joined the UK's Blue Belt marine conservation program.¹⁴²⁹ Among other conservation efforts, the Blue Belt program works to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to recognize and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. The United Kingdom has recognized IWT as a serious organized crime and has put forward initiatives and funding to tackle it but has not intensified efforts to combat money laundering of its criminal proceeds.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anahit Hakobyan

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 23 June 2021, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced the completion of Operation Mitten Catcher, which prevented the import of over 15,500 Mitten Crabs.¹⁴³⁰ By enforcing the ban on importing the crab

¹⁴²⁵ Delivering on the Environment Act: new targets announced and ambitious plans for nature recovery, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/delivering-on-the-environment-act-new-targets-announced-and-ambitious-plans-for-nature-recovery>

¹⁴²⁶ Government uses Brexit Freedoms to protect our seas, Marine Management Organisation (London) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-uses-brexit-freedoms-to-protect-our-seas>

¹⁴²⁷ New funding to protect biodiversity in UK overseas territories, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-protect-biodiversity-in-uk-overseas-territories>

¹⁴²⁸ Cruel trade in ivory to be illegal from today as world leading ban takes effect, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 6 June 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cruel-trade-in-ivory-to-be-illegal-from-today-as-world-leading-ban-takes-effect>

¹⁴²⁹ Blue Belt extends to the Caribbean, as Turks and Caicos Islands join flagship marine conservation programme, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 8 June 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blue-belt-extends-to-the-caribbean-as-turks-and-caicos-islands-join-flagship-marine-conservation-programme>

¹⁴³⁰ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Clamps Down on the Illegal Mitten Crab Trade, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Washington D.C.) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=us-fish-and-wildlife-service-clamps-down-on-the-illegal-mitten-crab-&_ID=36943

under the Lacey Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service prevented this illegal trade and safeguarded the American ecosystem from an invasive species.

On 1 July 2021, the Department of Justice announced that a man pleaded guilty for attempting to smuggle USD86,000 worth of endangered glass eels from the United States.¹⁴³¹ He faces up to 10 years in prison and a USD250,000 fine. This plea and subsequent charges demonstrate that the US is complying with its commitment to recognize and tackle illegal wildlife trade.

On 21 September 2021, the US co-hosted the virtual Counter Wildlife Trafficking Partnership Forum with Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.¹⁴³² During the forum, the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Thailand Michael Heath announced plans to continue counter wildlife trafficking efforts through a new program, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Reducing Demand for Wildlife program.

On 26 October 2021, the White House announced up to USD102 million in funding for new initiatives to expand the US government's partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), where they agreed to invest and promote tools for combating illegal fishing.¹⁴³³ This will be achieved through the USAID's new Sustainable Fish Asia project, which aims to strengthen ASEAN's role in fisheries, enhance fisheries' trade and compliance as well as promote tools to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the ASEAN region.

On 6 December 2021, the White House released the first ever US Strategy on Countering Corruption.¹⁴³⁴ The strategy's second core pillar focuses on curbing illicit finance, including explicitly targeting deficiencies in the US anti-money laundering regime as it relates to IWT.¹⁴³⁵

On 13 December 2021, the Department of State imposed visa restrictions on eight nationals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in order to disrupt wildlife trafficking networks by making it harder to smuggle illegal wildlife and/or timber.¹⁴³⁶ Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, wildlife and timber traffickers who are believed to be or have been involved in IWT will not be allowed to enter the US. This visa policy seeks to halt wildlife trafficking while also sending the message that wildlife traffickers are not welcomed in the US.

On 15 December 2021, the White House held a teleconference where they discussed the introduction of the US Council on Transnational Organized Crime and the implementation of targeted sanctions against

¹⁴³¹ Resident of Hong Kong Who Smuggled Endangered Glass Eels from the United States Pleads Guilty, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/resident-hong-kong-who-smuggled-endangered-glass-eels-united-states-pleads-guilty>

¹⁴³² New Partners' Group to Build Upon U.S., Thai Success to Counter Wildlife Trafficking, United States Agency for International Development (Bangkok) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.usaid.gov/asia-regional/press-releases/sep-23-2021-new-partners-group-build-upon-us-thai-success-wildlife-trafficking>

¹⁴³³ Fact Sheet: New Initiatives to Expand the U.S.-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 October 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/26/fact-sheet-new-initiatives-to-expand-the-u-s-asean-strategic-partnership/>

¹⁴³⁴ Fact Sheet: U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption, The White House (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 7 February 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/06/fact-sheet-u-s-strategy-on-countering-corruption/>

¹⁴³⁵ United States Strategy on Countering Corruption, The White House (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/United-States-Strategy-on-Countering-Corruption.pdf>

¹⁴³⁶ U.S. Imposes Visa Restrictions on Wildlife Traffickers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Department of State (Washington D.C.) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-imposes-visa-restrictions-on-wildlife-traffickers-in-the-democratic-republic-of-congo-drc/>

individuals and organizations within the illegal wildlife trade and timber trafficking.¹⁴³⁷ These new measures seek to actively combat the illegal wildlife trade and disrupt and dismantle the various transnational organizations crime networks and their support infrastructures.

On 25 January 2022, the House of Representatives introduced the Combating Wildlife Trafficking Financing and Proceeds Study Act, which would require the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Interior to launch a study regarding wildlife trafficking financing and proceeds.¹⁴³⁸ This bill provides essential insight into the illegal wildlife trade and offers tools to better tackle its nature as organized crime.

On 12 April 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency launched its first comprehensive workplan to protect endangered species from pesticides.¹⁴³⁹ The plan includes strategies to improve approaches to identifying when Endangered Species Act protections are required, which is designed to benefit species threatened by pesticides the most but will apply for all protected and endangered species.

On 14 April 2022, USAID announced 24 new initiatives designed to protect the world's oceans at the Our Ocean Conference 2022 in Palau.¹⁴⁴⁰ Among these initiatives included the allocation of up to USD21 million designed to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing throughout the Pacific Islands region. Another initiative is the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Ocean and Landscapes program, which provides up to USD5.5 million in funding to combat environmental crimes and unsustainable marine practices in the Philippines.

On 21 April 2022, USAID Administrator Samantha Power launched the organization's new Climate Strategy, which included targets to address the climate crisis between 2022 and 2030.¹⁴⁴¹ Several of these targets were connected to illegal logging and mining as organized crime; specifically, USAID committed to support open government approaches and anti-money laundering tools in relation to environmental conservation crimes.¹⁴⁴²

On 25 May 2022, a federal judge in North Carolina sentenced James Freeman to 18 months in prison followed by three years of supervision, as well as a fine of USD25,000.¹⁴⁴³ Freeman trafficked wild-caught turtles, including eastern box turtles, spotted turtles and wood turtles, smuggling them to Asia where they were sold for significant profit. These species are protected under CITES, and Freeman's sentencing represents the commitment to tackling illicit threats to wildlife.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organised crimes, including intensifying efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. The United States has launched operations to tackle IWT while also further investigating and prosecuting IWT activities through visa restrictions, judicial processes and new

¹⁴³⁷ Background Press Call by Senior Administration Officials on New Efforts to Counter Transnational Criminal Organizations and Illicit Drugs, the White House (Washington, D.C.) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/12/15/background-press-call-by-senior-administration-officials-on-new-efforts-to-counter-transnational-criminal-organizations-and-illicit-drugs/>

¹⁴³⁸ H.R. 6477 – Combating Wildlife Trafficking Financing and Proceeds Study Act, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6477/text>

¹⁴³⁹ EPA Announces Plan to Protect Endangered Species and Support Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-plan-protect-endangered-species-and-support-sustainable-agriculture>

¹⁴⁴⁰ USAID Announces New Programs to Protect Our Oceans, United States Agency for International Development (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-14-2022-usaid-announces-new-programs-protect-our-ocean>

¹⁴⁴¹ USAID Commemorates Earth Day with Launch of New Climate Strategy, United States Agency for International Development (Washington D.C.) 21 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-21-2022-usaid-commemorates-earth-day-launch-new-climate-strategy>

¹⁴⁴² Climate Strategy 2022-2030, United States Agency for International Development (Washington D.C.) 21 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USAID-Climate-Strategy-2022-2030.pdf>

¹⁴⁴³ North Carolina Turtle Supplier Sentenced to Prison, United States Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 25 May 2022. Access Date: 7 June 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/north-carolina-turtle-supplier-sentenced-prison>

governmental strategies. The United States also has signalled its readiness to address the issue multilaterally with international actors.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Armaan Ahmad

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organized crimes and to intensify efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.

On 8 October 2021, the European Union launched a public consultation to evaluate and revise its existing Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.¹⁴⁴⁴ This consultation will collect information and views from both citizens and stakeholder organizations to improve current efforts to curb wildlife trafficking, one of the most profitable forms of organized crime in the EU.

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation to curb EU-driven deforestation and forest degradation.¹⁴⁴⁵ The proposal aims to address any deforestation, including through illegal logging, driven by agricultural expansion to produce the commodities in the scope of the regulation. This proposal also aims to ensure that products that EU citizens consume on the EU market do not contribute to the continuation of deforestation or forest degradation within the EU and outside the EU.

On 15 December 2021, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU Directive to crack down on environmental crime that intends to make protection of the environment more effective by obliging its Member States to take criminal law measures on activities such as the illicit trafficking of wildlife or IWT.¹⁴⁴⁶ The proposal sets new EU environmental criminal offences such as illegal timber trade, provides for support of inspectors, police, prosecutors and judges through training, investigative tools, coordination and cooperation and helps cross-border investigation and prosecution. The proposal also directs criminal proceedings and trials of environmental crime to address the involvement of international organized crime, corruption, cyber-crime and money laundering.¹⁴⁴⁷

On 16 December 2021, the European Commission adopted the revised “Guidance on the EU regime governing ivory trade,” which suspends trade in raw ivory on the EU market except for the exclusive purpose of repairing objects containing ancient ivory.¹⁴⁴⁸ The measures reaffirm and deliver on the EU’s commitment to take further action against elephant poaching and ivory trafficking globally.

On 3 March 2022, the European Commission adopted the Proposal for a Council Decision to be taken on behalf of the European Union in advance of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

¹⁴⁴⁴ European Green Deal: Commission launches public consultation on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2021. Access Date: 24 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/european-green-deal-commission-launches-public-consultation-eu-action-plan-against-wildlife-2021-10-08_en

¹⁴⁴⁵ Proposal for a Regulation on deforestation-free products, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/deforestation-proposal.htm>

¹⁴⁴⁶ European Green Deal: Commission proposes to strengthen the protection of the environment through criminal law, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6744

¹⁴⁴⁷ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directive 2008/99/EC, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/1_1_179760_prop_dir_env_en.pdf

¹⁴⁴⁸ Ivory trade: Commission updates rules to end most forms of ivory trade in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6887

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).¹⁴⁴⁹ The Proposal includes 12 draft proposals for inclusion of species in CITES Appendix I or II and one draft proposal for inclusion in CITES Appendix III.

On 14 April 2022, the European Commission announced its dedication of nearly EUR1 billion for 44 different commitments designed to protect the world's oceans during the Our Ocean Conference 2022 in Palau.¹⁴⁵⁰ Issue areas for the commitments included measures to combat illegal fishing and other unlawful activities that damage ocean ecosystems.¹⁴⁵¹

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to recognise and tackle illicit threats to nature such as IWT as serious organised crimes, including intensifying efforts to combat money laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes. The European Union has especially focused on criminal law measures associated with IWT.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nivaal Rehman

¹⁴⁴⁹ Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in preparation of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, European Commission (Brussels) 21 March 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2022. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A116%3AFIN&qid=1647873821577>

¹⁴⁵⁰ Green Deal: EU announces €1 billion worth of commitments to protect the ocean, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2398

¹⁴⁵¹ Areas of Action, Our Ocean Palau 2022 (Koror) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://ourocean2022.pw/areas-of-action/>