



The G7 Research Group presents the

## 2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Interim Compliance Report

14 June 2021 to 1 February 2022

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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*

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## 7. Crime and Corruption: Environmental Crime

“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		0	
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.25 (63%)	

### 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.<sup>863</sup> All G7 members are party to the CITES, which sets rules and guidelines for international trade in selected vulnerable species.<sup>864</sup> However, recognition of these threats as serious organised crimes would not come until 2000, when the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNCTOC) established the illicit trading of flora and fauna as a kind of organised crime.<sup>865</sup>

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).<sup>866</sup> 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.<sup>867</sup>

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

<sup>863</sup> 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>

<sup>864</sup> 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>

<sup>865</sup> 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>

<sup>866</sup> 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>

<sup>867</sup> 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.<sup>868</sup>

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders again addressed financial crime and money laundering.<sup>869</sup> 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.<sup>870</sup> 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.<sup>871</sup> 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.<sup>872</sup> 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.<sup>873</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members addressed and broadened their ambitions for sustainable development as it relates to internationally recognized environmental trade standards.<sup>874</sup> 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.<sup>875</sup> 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.

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<sup>868</sup> 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>

<sup>869</sup> 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>

<sup>870</sup> 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](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/corruption_en.html)

<sup>871</sup> Chair's Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 2006. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/summary.html>

<sup>872</sup> 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>

<sup>873</sup> 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>

<sup>874</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 27 May 2017. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>875</sup> 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>

## 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 laundering of the criminal proceeds of these crimes.”<sup>876</sup> 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.<sup>877</sup> 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.<sup>878</sup> 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.<sup>879</sup>

“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.<sup>880</sup> 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.<sup>881</sup> 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.<sup>882</sup> 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.

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<sup>876</sup> 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>

<sup>877</sup> 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](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>878</sup> Definition of Tackle, Lexico Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

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

<sup>879</sup> 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>

<sup>880</sup> 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>

<sup>881</sup> 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](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>882</sup> 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](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

To “combat” is understood to mean to try to stop something harmful from happening or increasing, in this case money laundering.<sup>883</sup>

“Money laundering” refers to the processing of criminal proceeds to disguise their illegal origin.<sup>884</sup> 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.<sup>885</sup> The second part of this commitment requires G7 members to increase existing efforts to combat the processing and disguise 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: Kiyala 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.

<sup>883</sup> Definition of Combat, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/combat>

<sup>884</sup> 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>

<sup>885</sup> 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>

On 23 July 2021, Canada launched a consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade.<sup>886</sup> 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 Canada’s counterparts from Japan, Korea and the United States.<sup>887</sup> 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.<sup>888</sup> 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.<sup>889</sup> DFO holds a mandate to protect and conserve marine resources, which includes prosecuting cases of illegal fishing.

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.

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.<sup>890</sup> The ADP was launched in 2015 and also signed by

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<sup>886</sup> 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-ivory-trade.html>

<sup>887</sup> 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>

<sup>888</sup> 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/>

<sup>889</sup> 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>

<sup>890</sup> Fight against imported deforestation: France, represented by Bérangère 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>

Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.<sup>891</sup> 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.<sup>892</sup>

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.<sup>893</sup> 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.”<sup>894</sup> 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.<sup>895</sup> 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.<sup>896</sup> 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.

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.<sup>897</sup> It was also announced that the national strategy for biodiversity is meant to limit or outright stop human activity in designated areas. The

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<sup>891</sup> Fight against imported deforestation: France, represented by Bérangère 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>

<sup>892</sup> 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>

<sup>893</sup> 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>

<sup>894</sup> 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>

<sup>895</sup> 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/>

<sup>896</sup> 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](https://cites.org/eng/CITES_StandingCommittee74_France_March2022_biodiversity_18112021)

<sup>897</sup> 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>



statement further mentioned that national parks and nature reserves are among some of the elements included in the framework.

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.<sup>898</sup> 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).<sup>899</sup> 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 United Nations Climate Change Conference.<sup>900</sup>

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.<sup>901</sup>

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

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<sup>898</sup> 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>

<sup>899</sup> 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](https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/GP%20IFF%20Factsheet_en.pdf)

<sup>900</sup> 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>

<sup>901</sup> 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/>

Amazon, referencing the German government's previous pledge of EUR210 million for this purpose.<sup>902</sup> 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.

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: 0

Italy has partially 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.<sup>903</sup>

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.<sup>904</sup> 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.<sup>905</sup> 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.

Italy 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. They have consistently recognized IWT as an organized crime and have taken measures to prevent it, however, there has been no effort to combat money laundering related to such crimes.

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<sup>902</sup> 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.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/peru-reaching-key-milestones-in-rainforest-protection>

<sup>903</sup> 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>

<sup>904</sup> 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>

<sup>905</sup> "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>

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Anabit 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.<sup>906</sup>

Japan 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.<sup>907</sup>

*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.<sup>908</sup> 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.<sup>909</sup> 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.

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<sup>906</sup> G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100253891.pdf>

<sup>907</sup> 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>.

<sup>908</sup> 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>

<sup>909</sup> 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.<sup>910</sup> 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.<sup>911</sup> 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.<sup>912</sup> 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.<sup>913</sup> 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.<sup>914</sup> The initiative is supported by the UK’s Blue Planet Fund and will help coastal communities counter illegal, unreported and unregulated 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*

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<sup>910</sup> \$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>

<sup>911</sup> 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>

<sup>912</sup> 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>

<sup>913</sup> 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>

<sup>914</sup> 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>

### **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.<sup>915</sup> By enforcing the ban on importing the crab 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.<sup>916</sup> 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.<sup>917</sup> 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.<sup>918</sup> 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.<sup>919</sup> 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.<sup>920</sup>

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

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<sup>915</sup> 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](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=us-fish-and-wildlife-service-clamps-down--on-the-illegal-mitten-crab-&_ID=36943)

<sup>916</sup> 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>

<sup>917</sup> 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>

<sup>918</sup> 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/>

<sup>919</sup> 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/>

<sup>920</sup> 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>

smuggle illegal wildlife and/or timber.<sup>921</sup> 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 U.S. Council on Transnational Organized Crime and the implementation of targeted sanctions against individuals and organizations within the illegal wildlife trade and timber trafficking.<sup>922</sup> 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.

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 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.<sup>923</sup> 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.<sup>924</sup> 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

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<sup>921</sup> 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/>

<sup>922</sup> 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/>

<sup>923</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/european-green-deal-commission-launches-public-consultation-eu-action-plan-against-wildlife-2021-10-08_en)

<sup>924</sup> 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>

its Member States to take criminal law measures on activities such as the illicit trafficking of wildlife or IWT.<sup>925</sup> 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.<sup>926</sup>

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.<sup>927</sup> The measures reaffirm and deliver on the EU’s commitment to take further action against elephant poaching and ivory trafficking globally.

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*

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<sup>925</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6744)

<sup>926</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/1_1_179760_prop_dir_env_en.pdf)

<sup>927</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6887)