



Born Free Foundation
comments on the UNEA-6 Zero Draft Declaration

May 2023

To:

HE Ms. Leila Benali, President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco

Mr. Rachid FIRADI, Director of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation in the Moroccan Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development

Dear HE Ms Benali, dear Mr Firadi,

Born Free greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide written inputs and comments on the draft Ministerial Declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), taking place in February 2024.

Born Free welcomes the draft Declaration and, in revising the draft, encourages the President to consider:

- acknowledging the convergence of the global biodiversity and climate crises, which are inter-linked;
- recognising the importance of wild animals and plants for ecosystem health and resilience, and climate change mitigation;
- committing to urgently halting and reversing species extinctions, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to preventing and combating the trafficking of wild animals and plants, and their unsustainable exploitation.
- supporting the adoption and implementation of the 'One Health' approach and principles to protect people, wild animals and the environment in the most effective and holistic manner.

We encourage countries to adopt a Ministerial Declaration that will serve to inspire transformational change, enhance collaboration, and identify opportunities to protect ecosystems, including their wild animals, and the services they provide.

Below we make specific textual recommendations to strengthen the Ministerial Draft Declaration for your consideration.

Thank you again for providing us with this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Jones

Head of Policy, Born Free Foundation



For further exchange with us please contact:

Born Free Foundation: Ms. **Adeline Lerambert**, International Policy Specialist
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Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime: Ms. **Alice Pasqualato**, Policy Officer
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The [Born Free Foundation](#) is a UK-based international charity committed to promoting compassionate conservation to enhance the survival of threatened species in the wild and protect natural habitats, while respecting the needs and safeguarding the welfare of individual animals. As a leading wildlife charity, we oppose the exploitation of wild animals in captivity and campaign to keep them where they belong – in the wild.

Born Free is a Steering Group member of the [Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime](#) (EWC), who provided substantial inputs to this submission. The EWC is a broad alliance of environmental, policy, legal, business and public health organisations and experts coming from across every continent, created to address serious gaps in the existing international legal framework for combating wildlife crime and regulating wildlife trade. The EWC is hosted by the ADM Capital Foundation, governed by a diverse Steering Group, and supported by a global network of 30 International Champions.

For more information, visit: <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/> and www.endwildlifecrime.org.



TEXTUAL PROPOSALS

Blue bold = Proposal for addition

~~Strikethrough~~ = proposed deletion

[New] **para 7. We recognise the interconnection between biodiversity and climate change identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in its 'Biodiversity and Climate Change' workshop report, and call for deeper convergence between efforts to protect biodiversity, tackle climate change, combat desertification and restore degraded land.**

[New] **para 8: We note the interrelationship between the health of ecosystems and their ability to sequester carbon, and the presence of robust populations of wild animals, and recognise the importance of protecting wild animals from overexploitation, including through the regulation of legal trade and through tackling wildlife trafficking. Further, we acknowledge the significant carbon benefits of responsible rewilding and its potential contribution to a sustainable future for all.**

~~Para 7~~ **9.** We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive, and collective and integrated action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution we surely need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity.

~~8~~ **10.** We are strongly committed to urgently address our common and global environmental challenges through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all stakeholders including civil society, citizens, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector, and academia; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account, the special needs and circumstances of the least greenhouse gas emitters and the most vulnerable, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), African States, and developing middle-income countries:

b. combat biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently **tackling species extinctions and** reversing ecosystem decline, promoting and strengthening ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, **and implementing measures to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking and unsustainable wildlife trade and use**, while mitigating and adapting to climate change and boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting **the adoption and implementation of** One Health **principles and approaches**, and ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection.

e. Incorporate environmental considerations into disaster risk management to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters, on human health and the environment and recommend using a combination of measures to strengthen the resilience to global risks, and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including actions on the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution reduction and management, as well as actions to transform economic and financial systems and to ensure **ecologically** sustainable production and consumption.
