

September 2023

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime comments on the UNEA-6 First Draft Declaration

To:

H.E. 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 H.E. Ms Benali, dear Mr. Firadi,

Having recently obtained accreditation with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), ADM Capital Foundation greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide written inputs and comments on the [First Draft](#) of the Ministerial Declaration for the sixth session of the UNEA, taking place in February 2024. We are submitting this feedback on behalf of the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC), hosted by ADM Capital Foundation, and its [32 international Champions](#). These recommendations build on the May 2023 [submission](#) of Born Free Foundation, one of the founding members of the EWC.

The EWC welcomes the First Draft Declaration and, in revising the draft, strongly encourages the President to consider:

- acknowledging the convergence of the global biodiversity and climate crises, which are linked and interdependent;
- 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 (GBF), including by preventing and combating the trafficking of wild animals and plants, and ensuring that all remaining forms of use and trade are ecologically “sustainable, safe and legal” (Target 5, GBF);
- supporting the adoption and implementation of the ‘One Health’ approach and principles to protect people, 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 plants, 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,

John Scanlon AO
Chair, Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime

Sophie Le Clue
CEO, ADM Capital Foundation

TEXTUAL PROPOSALS

Bold = official additions from Zero Draft to First Draft

Blue bold = proposal for addition

Green bold = reinstated Zero Draft language

~~Strikethrough~~ = proposed deletion

[New] **para 8. 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 9: 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 ~~8-10~~. We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective action to tackle the **three planetary environmental crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **as well as other related crises of desertification, land degradation and drought**, we urgently need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity and **to provide new, additional, and adequate means of implementation.**

Para ~~9-11~~. We are strongly committed to urgently address the challenges before us through effective, inclusive sustainable transformative, **intra-** and inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all relevant actors and partners including civil society, academia and **philanthropies**, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private and public sectors, as well **women and girls, children and youth and those at risk of being left furthest behind**; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account **the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, as well as** the special needs and circumstances of vulnerable regions and the specific challenges faced by developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS:

b. **Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030** in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently **tackling species extinctions, and implementing measures to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking and unsustainable wildlife trade and use**, by reversing ecosystem decline, **conserving at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas and marine coastal areas and ensuring that at least 30% of the world’s degraded ecosystems are under restoration, by mitigating and adapting to climate change and boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting the adoption and implementation of One Health principles and other holistic approaches.** We will do so by accelerating the implementation of strengthened national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the alignment of national targets with the GBF, whilst **driving a transition to nature-positive economies which mainstreams biodiversity in all sectors.** We will promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, support the need to ensure that any use of biodiversity is **ecologically** sustainable while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing

of benefits arising out of **the utilization of genetic resources**, including traditional knowledge, **through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection**.

g. Incorporate climate, biodiversity and pollution considerations into disaster risk management policies and actions to mitigate and prevent the adverse impacts of natural and human-made hazards on human health and the environment, strengthen the resilience to global risks **and shocks and promote a sustainable and inclusive recovery to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development...**

For further exchange with us please contact:

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ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (hosted by [ADM Capital Foundation](#)) 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. For more information, visit our website: www.endwildlifecrime.org