



LATIN AMERICA ACTION PLAN



COUNTER

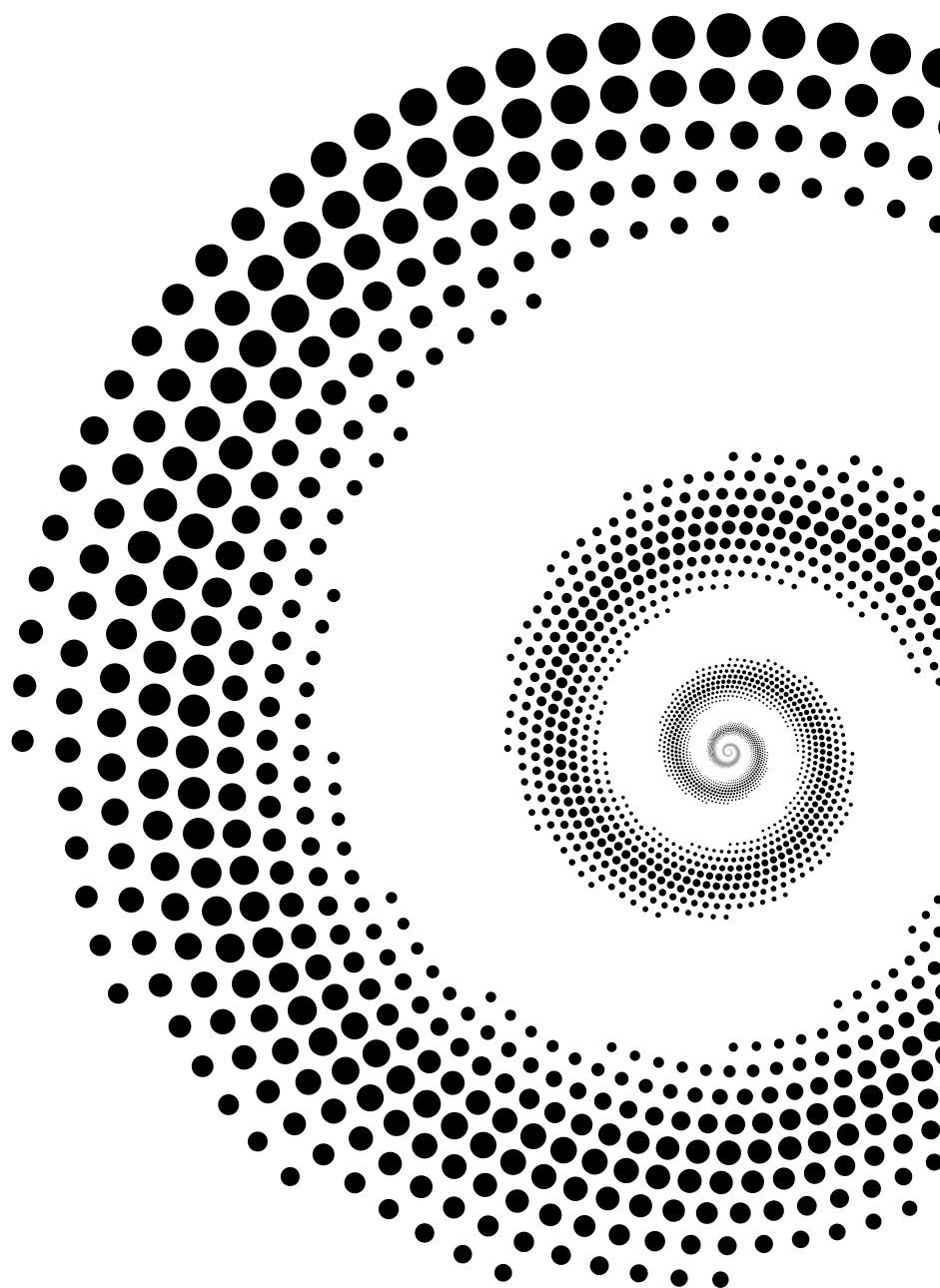


WILDLIFE



CRIME HUB

LATIN AMERICA ACTION PLAN COUNTER WILDLIFE CRIME HUB



JANUARY 2022



WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

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Natura Mexicana

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INTRODUCTION



Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) harbors the richest assemblages of plants and animals on the planet. Indigenous peoples and local communities have relied on wildlife, animals and plants, for food, medicine and other resources for centuries, and many harvest and sell wildlife products for their livelihoods. However, commercial wildlife trade in the region, both legal and illegal, has grown in recent years, involving millions of animals and plants in trade each year.

Globally, **illegal wildlife trade** is worth an estimated 23 billion US dollars annually, according to UNEP and Interpol, and much of it is run by organized crime. The LAC region is experiencing a notable rise in organized crime, including the illegal harvest and trade of wildlife, wildlife parts, and wildlife derived products, threatening jaguars, sharks, totoaba fish, parrots, tortoises, monkeys, cacti, palms, tarantulas, and hundreds of other species (IPBES 2019, IUCN 2021). Wildlife crime is also a development issue as it undermines the rule of law, drives corruption and human rights abuses, exposes the public to novel zoonotic diseases and undermines food and societal security.

The **Wildlife Crime ACAI** (Area of Collective Action and Innovation) is a WWF programme which, in collaboration with TRAFFIC, strives to foster partnerships and innovative approaches at local, national, and global levels, focusing on all points along illegal wildlife value chains (planning/financing, poaching, trafficking, consumption, and laundering of illicit proceeds) as well as advocating for the adoption and implementation of more effective national and international policies. The Wildlife Crime ACAI hopes to bring the attention of all WWF LAC offices in the region to the urgent need for addressing and coordinating WWF's work on wildlife crime.

Regional Counter Wildlife Crime Hubs (currently three in Africa, one in Asia-Pacific and the newly created in Latin America, hereafter, "Hubs") comprise a global architecture to enhance WWF's counter wildlife crime efforts globally. The Hubs seek to magnify the reach of WWF and partners, bring policy coherence, facilitate synergy in regional and programmatic planning, and provide a support network for learning and sharing, funding development, and partnership building. The newest Hub focuses on wildlife crime issues in the LAC region.

Wildlife crime, for the purposes of this document and for use by the LAC Counter Wildlife Crime Hub, is defined as the illegal harvest or trade of fauna or flora, as well as the planning, financing, transporting, and laundering of illegal proceeds of such trade (see Annex A for further details, including consideration of unsustainable use and trade).

LAC is used here to cover all countries in the region with WWF offices/programs in place, which currently includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala-Mesoamerica, the Guianas, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Suriname.

This document summarizes actions being taken to develop the first stage of the LAC Counter Wildlife Crime Hub, including collating baseline information within the region, priority-setting of issues, mapping capacity gaps, and developing a two-year Action Plan. The Annexes provide additional details on defining wildlife crime (Annex A), results from the LAC WWF office consultation (Annex B), the analysis of regional wildlife crime work, identifying key actors and gaps (Annex C), and Hub architecture and national/thematic focal points (Annex D and E).



Credit: Santiago Gilbert / WWF.

Photo. Logger in the Mesoamerican tropical forest.



WWF LAC OPPORTUNITIES/AREAS OF WORK, GAPS, STRENGTHS, AND CHALLENGES

Based on feedback received from WWF staff in the LAC region, over 80% currently have a **wildlife crime agenda** or are developing conservation initiatives that include a wildlife crime component. Presently in the region, “wildlife crime” is commonly interpreted as covering mainly illegal trade of large terrestrial fauna (see Annexes A and B for further details).

Ten regional opportunities and/or initiatives the LAC Counter Wildlife Crime Hub could actively support were identified and mapped in collaboration with WWF staff and partners to help create a WWF LAC wildlife crime opportunities for Hub support (see Table 1).

A rapid spatial and thematic gap analysis of existing illegal wildlife trade (IWT) work being (or having been) carried out in the region by other key actors (other NGOs and government agencies) identified **additional priority taxa and topics** and potential international and national partners for future IWT work by WWF in the region. Further research and scoping studies are needed to refine and expand these findings, with the aim of developing a regional wildlife crime work plan by the end 2023 (see Annex C for further details).

WWF, as an organization, brings added value to tackling wildlife crime in LAC.



Most of the WWF LAC offices surveyed agreed that WWF, as an organization, **added value** to tackling wildlife crime in the region (or had the potential to do so), highlighting the following attributes, all of which are facilitated by global recognition of the organization’s expertise in this area:

1. long-term, established representation across the continent;
2. excellent relations with indigenous peoples and local communities where they work;
3. experience working in diverse environments (terrestrial, freshwater, and marine);
4. the ability to conciliate and convene a large number of actors from various sectors;
5. capable of leveraging resources, strengthening alliances and advocating; and raising awareness through successful communication campaigns; and
6. raising awareness through successful communication campaigns and brand recognition.

The main **challenges** WWF staff face (or perceive) when working in this area are a lack of 1) funding and 2) experience and expertise. Difficult current socio-political conditions and the complexities and risks associated with working on this topic were also concerns.

When asked how a Counter Wildlife Crime Hub could best **support** LAC WWF offices, survey participants particularly valued:

1. Help with mobilizing funds and drafting concepts/proposals;
2. Developing WWF staff wildlife crime capacity/knowledge;
3. Facilitating regional coordination between WWF offices for wildlife crime work;
4. Helping develop a regional WWF wildlife crime agenda or plan; and
5. Generating communication strategies to raise public awareness of the issue.

	REGIONAL INITIATIVE/PROJECT	OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HUB TO SUPPORT PRACTICES	WWF PRACTICES
1	Regional Jaguar Conservation Strategy	Support the development of anti-poaching strategies and wildlife crime prevention action plans (Wildlife Crime Prevention Framework and Zero Poaching Framework), Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) capacity building, and generating information about trade and trafficking, and its relation to Asian investments in the region.	Wildlife
2	Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA)	Facilitate action plan implementation in LAC.	Wildlife
3	Counter wildlife trafficking in Brazil	Support coordination between WWF-offices and with other WWF initiatives in the region looking at the same issues, inclusion of other key partners, fundraising and IWT research.	Wildlife
4	ROUTES Partnership (Initiative is over, however follow-up actions are still in place)	Help expand ROUTES (partnership that engages with the air transport sector to address wildlife trafficking) to LAC, enhancing data analytics on wildlife trafficking routes and encouraging collaboration, and encourage further engagement with the public and private sector (beyond this specific initiative) in the region.	Wildlife
5	Wildlife and Forests Alliance	Facilitate alliances, partnerships and provide tools along with technical support to reduce illegal logging in the Amazon.	Forest
6	Strengthening Natural Resources Governance	Provide technical support, tools and protocols in order to help reduce corruption, poaching and illegal wildlife trade and illegal fishing in Ecuador.	Governance
7	Shark conservation initiative	Help develop a regional shark conservation and illegal trade concept for LAC, with a focus on Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.	Ocean
8	Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online	Support coordination and facilitation of expansion and engagement with key online companies in LAC, to increase online monitoring, trends analysis, and awareness building to online users.	Wildlife
9	Targeting Natural Resource Corruption in LAC	Facilitate and support the development of case studies in LAC to understand how corruption facilitate wildlife crimes.	Governance
10	Gender wildlife crime agenda	Develop a series of policy dialogues on gender and IWT, and how to integrate gender into IWT programming.	Wildlife and Governance

Table 1. Existing WWF LAC initiatives/projects with a wildlife crime component which the Hub could potentially support.



LAC COUNTER WILDLIFE CRIME HUB PURPOSE, ROLES, STRUCTURE, AND ACTION PLAN

The **purpose** of the LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub is to support WWF LAC offices to significantly reduce wildlife crime by strengthening WWF offices' interventions and building cross-regional synergies and partnerships. Figure 1 presents the overall wildlife crime vision and outcomes for the region, together with potential Hub outputs, strategies and activities which comprise the LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub Action Plan (see below). The Hub intent is to facilitate and support the implementation of related wildlife crime initiatives in the region, but it will not deliver the work itself or impinge on, or direct/govern, the work of national offices or regional programs and projects.

In order to facilitate the development and implementation of the strategies and activities described in the LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub Action Plan below, the hub's cross-cutting roles and responsibilities include:

The purpose of the LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub is to support WWF LAC offices to significantly reduce wildlife crime by strengthening WWF offices' interventions.



- Be a liaison point for all WWF LAC country offices for wildlife crime issues.
- Support country offices to integrate human rights and gender into counter-IWT programming.
- Facilitate regional coordination and collaboration between country offices, including the development of a regional wildlife crime action plan, promote regional data sharing and foster joint regional projects.
- Support country offices in mobilizing funds, drafting proposals and identification of financial opportunities.
- Provide country offices with regular updates (newsletters/reports) on wildlife crime related information through an agreed information sharing mechanism (Workplace group, monthly coordination calls, mailing list or other).
- Identify risks and provide guidance and protocols for WWF LAC staff engaging in activities related to wildlife crime, according to advice provided by WWF International and WWF US.
- Inform all country offices of ongoing work/developments/opportunities in the wildlife crime area.
- Support country offices in adopting wildlife crime technologies/Conservation technologies to help monitor and reduce wildlife crime in the region.
- Promote learning and experience sharing of wildlife crime technologies, systems, and methodologies among WWF staff, such as annual learning events within the region, based on needs identified by offices.
- Facilitate effective partnerships with organizations such as UNODC, UNDP, Interpol, WCO, SUDWEN and academic institutions across the region.
- Enhance collaboration with other regional and international, bi-lateral and non-governmental organizations actively working to combat wildlife crime in the region.
- Represent LAC WWF country offices at conferences, where appropriate, to raise awareness of regional wildlife crime issues.

- Provide suggestions for, and help increase the number of, press releases on wildlife crime topics, ensuring projects are being well represented in international media.
- Organize and support training courses, seminars, working groups and workshops for WWF and partner's capacity building.
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of achievements in the region towards the region's wildlife crime vision, including tracking progress against set indicators.

Currently, the Hub is being hosted by the WWF Mexico office and its structure comprises a regional coordinator, and a Core team (Annex D), as well as Active members (Annex E) comprising national and thematic focal points whose roles depend on the specific interests and topics being discussed in the strategic environment of the Hub, as well as External Members that collaborate with the Hub for specific thematic goals.

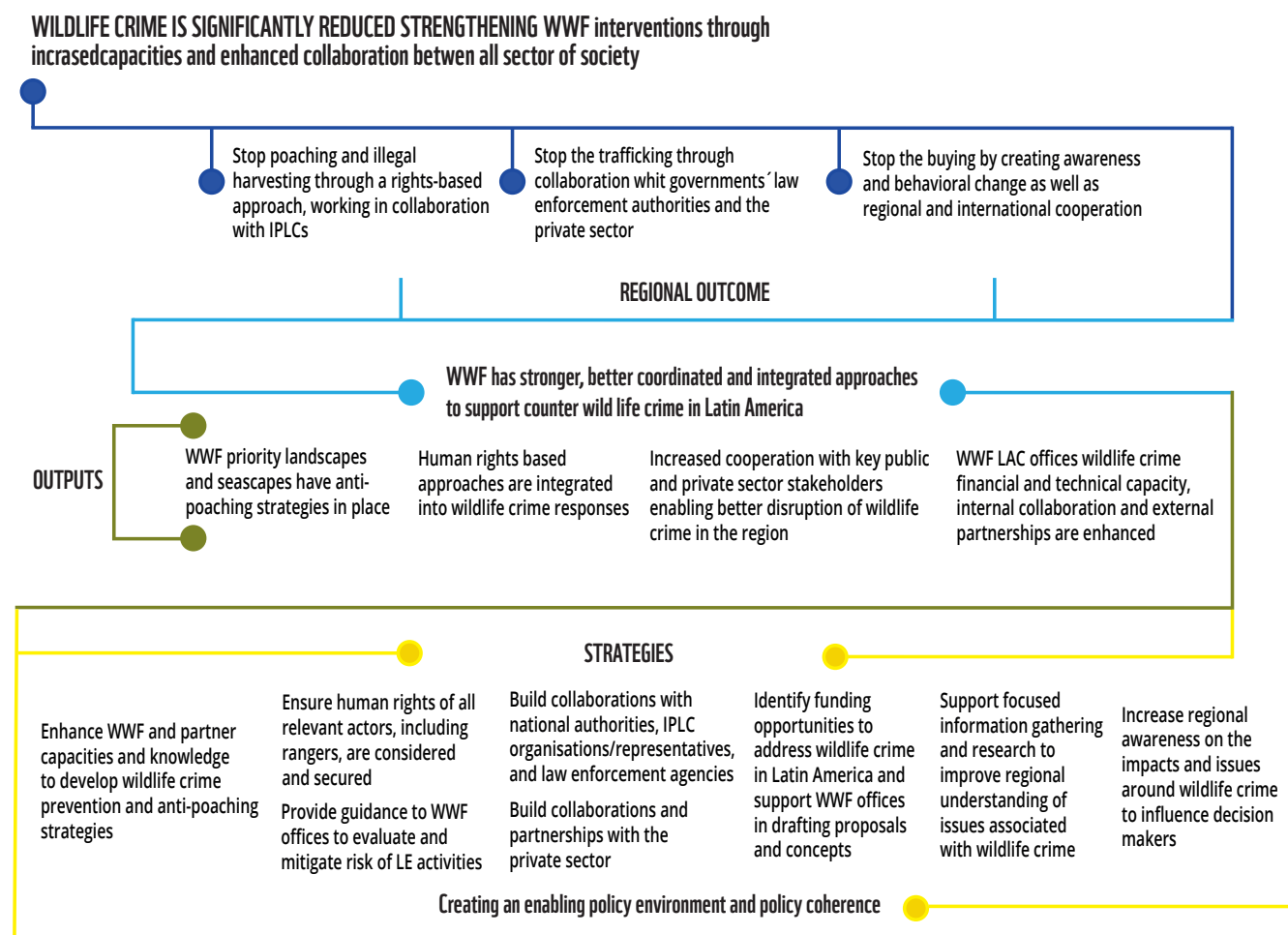


Figure 1. Vision and outcomes for the region, and Hub outputs and strategies.



Photo. Discarded camp used by poachers in the Mexican Mayan Forest.



LAC COUNTER-WILDLIFE CRIME HUB ACTION

OUTPUT 1. WWF PRIORITY LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES HAVE ANTI-POACHING STRATEGIES IN PLACE

Strategy 1.1

Enhance WWF and partner capacities and knowledge to develop wildlife crime prevention and anti-poaching strategies including generation of disincentives for community participation in illegal activities as well as incentives for indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) to remain stewards of their biodiversity.

- **Activity 1.1.1**

Assess priority WWF landscapes and seascapes using the WWF-Wildlife Crime Prevention Framework and generate anti-poaching strategies accordingly in close collaboration with IPLC.

- **Activity 1.1.2**

Develop WWF and partner capacities on SMART and others wildlife crime technologies by facilitating regional webinars, trainings, and providing technical guidance for its adoption by country offices.

- **Activity 1.1.3**

Share best practices and develop capacities in implementation of the Zero Poaching toolkit, helping government agencies and partners to close gaps in anti-poaching efforts.

OUTPUT 2. HUMAN RIGHTS AND RISK APPROACHES ARE INTEGRATED INTO WILDLIFE CRIME RESPONSES

Main challenges WWF staff face when working in this area is lack of funding.



Strategy 2.1

Strengthen ranger workforces, facilitating fulfilment of their human rights.

- **Activity 2.1.1**

Strengthen ranger workforces by supporting better working conditions, capacity building, gender mainstreaming, and so forth, including facilitating the URSA Action Plan implementation in the region.

Strategy 2.2

Provide guidance to WWF offices to evaluate and mitigate risks associated with working on and/or supporting wildlife crime and/or law enforcement initiatives.

- **Activity 2.2.1**

Facilitate the roll out of Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESSF) and associated policies and protocols.

When asked how a Hub might best support their work, participants particularly valued fundraising, capacity-building and regional coordination.



Strategy 2.3

Integrate gender perspective into wildlife crime programs and projects.

- **Activity 2.3.1**

Develop a series of policy dialogues on the importance of including gender perspective into WWF wildlife crime responses.

- **Activity 2.3.2**

Facilitate trainings for WWF staff and partners on the ADIR (Actor-Driver-Impact-Response) framework.

- **Activity 2.3.3**

Facilitate and guide the implementation of wildlife crime projects with gender perspective.

OUTPUT 3 - INCREASED COOPERATION WITH KEY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS ENABLING BETTER DISRUPTION OF WILDLIFE CRIME IN THE REGION

Strategy 3.1

Build and sustain collaboration and support capacity building of national authorities, in particular law enforcement agencies.

- **Activity 3.1.1**

Strengthen regional enforcement efforts by facilitating wildlife crime and legislative information gathering and sharing, and/or supporting the development of enforcement networks.

Strategy 3.2

Build and sustain collaborations and partnerships with the private sector to further disrupt illegal markets, trade routes and financial flows associated with wildlife trafficking

- **Activity 3.2.1**

Strengthen partnerships with the financial sector and anti-money laundering specialists such as ACAMS to disrupt illicit financial flows.

- **Activity 3.2.2**

Work with the transport sector, in particular air transport, to reduce wildlife trafficking in the region, and support the expansion and action plan of the ROUTES partnership in LAC.

- **Activity 3.2.3**

Address Illegal wildlife trade in online markets by supporting the expansion of WWF global initiatives such as the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online in the LAC region.

OUTPUT 4 - WWF LAC OFFICES WILDLIFE CRIME FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY, INTERNAL COLLABORATION DATA SHARING AND EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS ARE ENHANCED, ENABLING MORE INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES TO WILDLIFE CRIME ISSUES

Strategy 4.1

Identify funding opportunities to address wildlife crime in Latin America and support WWF offices in drafting proposals and concepts.

- **Activity 4.1.1**

Support communication between offices with regards to developing a regional proposal on shark conservation, providing specific input on trade issues such as improving processes for making non-detriment-findings by CITES Parties, promoting traceability mechanisms and monitoring and enforcement of illegal shark fin trade.

- **Activity 4.1.2**

Collate ideas and draft concepts on other priority issues.

Strategy 4.2

Support focused information gathering, data sharing and research to improve regional understanding of issues associated with wildlife crime in collaboration with academic institutions and other relevant partners.

- **Activity 4.2.1**

Initiate and develop a collaborative program with academic institutions such as the University of Oxford for developing IWT scope/scale/trends scoping studies for the region, including data gathering with regards to trade routes and species, corruption, Political Economy Analysis and gender mainstreaming.

Strategy 4.3

Increase regional awareness on the impacts and issues around wildlife crime to influence decision makers.

- **Activity 4.3.1**

Support the adoption of Behavioral Science for influencing decision making.

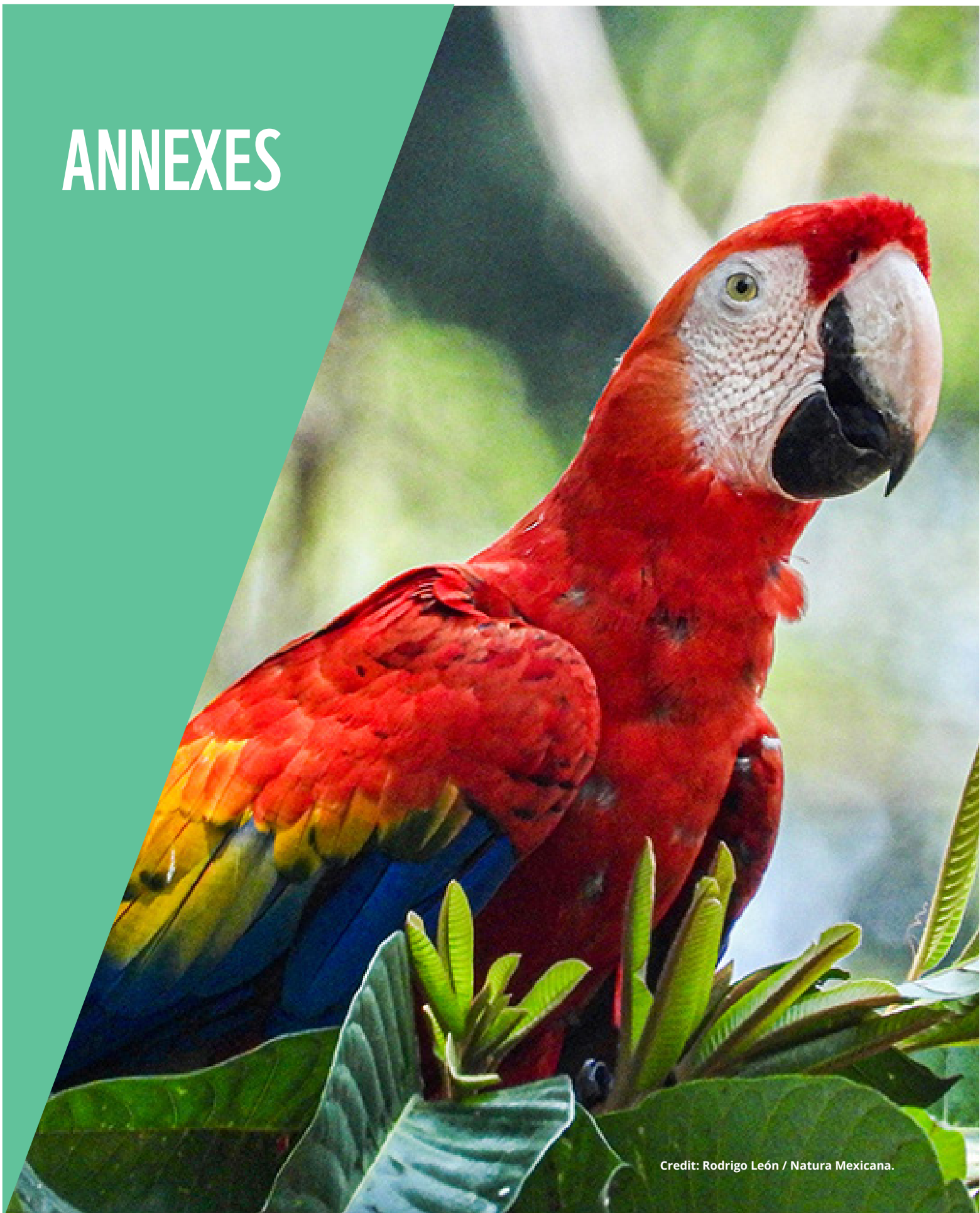
- **Activity 4.3.2**

Advocate regional responses to address wildlife crimes in LAC by organizing and participating in regional policy dialogues (for example on gender and IWT with UNODC), webinars and events, sharing WWF and partner experiences, knowledge and ideas on the topic

- **Activity 4.3.3**

Help increase media coverage and communication on the importance and impacts of wildlife crime in the region through identification of priority issues and liaison with relevant regional/global media outlets (such as Mongabay LATAM).

ANNEXES



Credit: Rodrigo León / Natura Mexicana.

A. DEFINITION OF WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime for the purposes of this document, and for use by the LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub, can be understood as any illegal harvest or trade involving fauna or flora, as well as the planning, financing, and laundering of illegal proceeds of such trade.

It is important to note that “poaching” is usually defined as the illegal killing or capturing of any wild animal, and although the term is generally associated with terrestrial animals, it can also be used to describe the illegal take of flora and marine and freshwater fauna. Hunting, fishing, or other harvesting may be illegal for a wide range of reasons, for example, the species may not be legally harvested (a) at all, (b) in a certain area, (c) during a certain time, (d) by a particular group, (e) using particular equipment, (f) when exceeding a quota, and/or (g) if the animals are of a particular gender or age-class.

It is also important to note that harvest and trade in certain taxa may only be considered illegal if there is legislation in place to control this. Unsustainable take, and/or the use of inappropriate harvest or trade methods may also be having a serious negative impact on wild populations, however if relevant laws are not in place these cannot be considered ‘illegal’ as such.

Nevertheless, as these issues are particularly relevant in the LAC region, where many countries do not limit the harvest of wild fauna or flora for subsistence or recreational purposes (nor regulate domestic commercial trade in certain cases), they may be incorporated into the region’s wildlife crime work where appropriate to achieve a sustainable use of wildlife resources. Sustainable subsistence offtake by indigenous/traditional groups would naturally not fall under this remit.

B. RESULTS FROM LAC WWF OFFICE CONSULTATION

Harvest and trade in certain taxa may only be considered illegal if there is legislation in place to control this.



One-on-one meetings were organized with all LAC WWF country offices, to gather information on the main projects, capacities, strengths and needs of WWF staff and offices in the region, related to a number of wildlife crime issues and existing initiatives. These were complemented by a short online survey which requested further details on these, in addition to opinions regarding the possible value of a LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub to their current and/or future wildlife crime work.

By 31.01.21, 27 staff members from 13 different offices had replied to the survey (Fig. 2). A high number of survey participants (85%) mentioned that they currently have a wildlife crime agenda or are developing conservation initiatives that have a wildlife crime component; the same proportion noted that they were interested in strengthening their current wildlife crime work. The remaining 15%

said they were unsure if they would consider or include wildlife crime issues in their future projects due to difficult current socio-political conditions and concerns over the complexities

and risks associated with working on this topic; these were also challenges described by staff who would like to develop this work further (see Fig. 3).

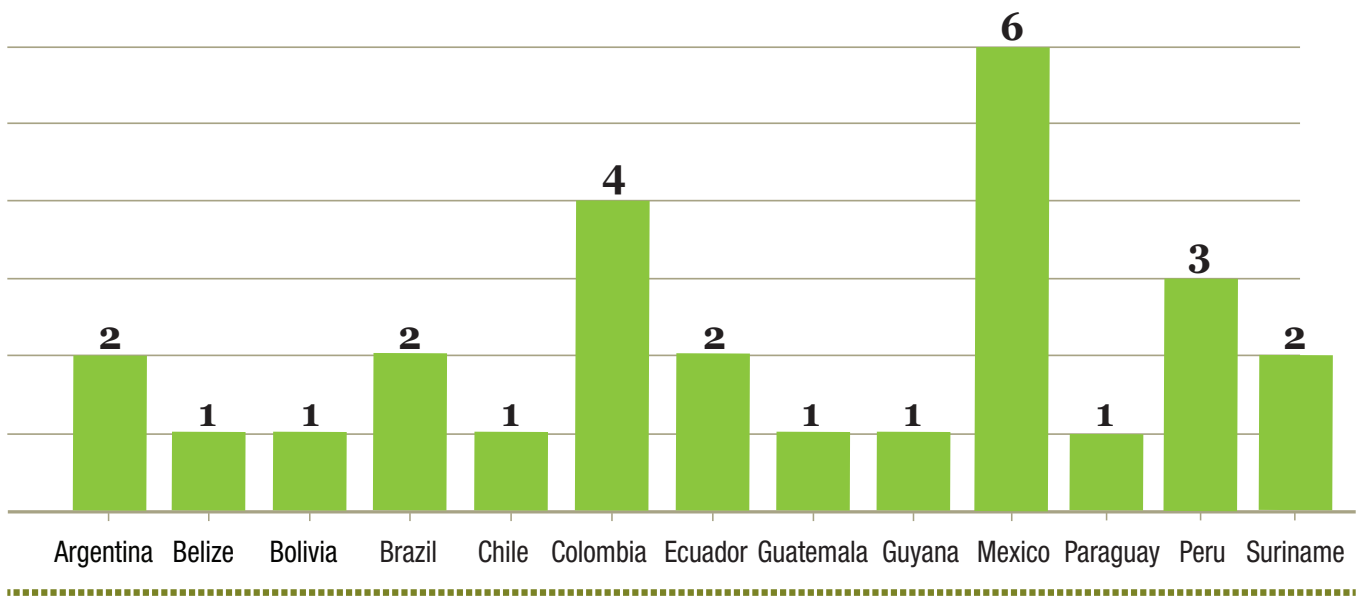


Figure 2. Number of online survey responses received from each WWF country office.

According to the responses, the main challenges WWF staff face (or perceive) when trying to address wildlife crime are a lack of 1) funding and 2) experience and expertise (Fig. 3), despite the fact that 50% of the participants mentioned they have some previous experience or knowledge on wildlife crime issues. It is important to note that responses to this (and other questions) could have been affected by the differing interpretations of what “wildlife crime” encompasses.

Based on discussions with, and survey responses from, the various LAC WWF country offices, it appears that in the region in general “wildlife crime” is interpreted as only covering illegal trade of large terrestrial fauna or alternatively as any type of crime that may in turn negatively affect wildlife (such as pollution of rivers or mining). It is therefore very important that the LAC Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub ensures a clear definition and explanation thereof is accessible and used by all.

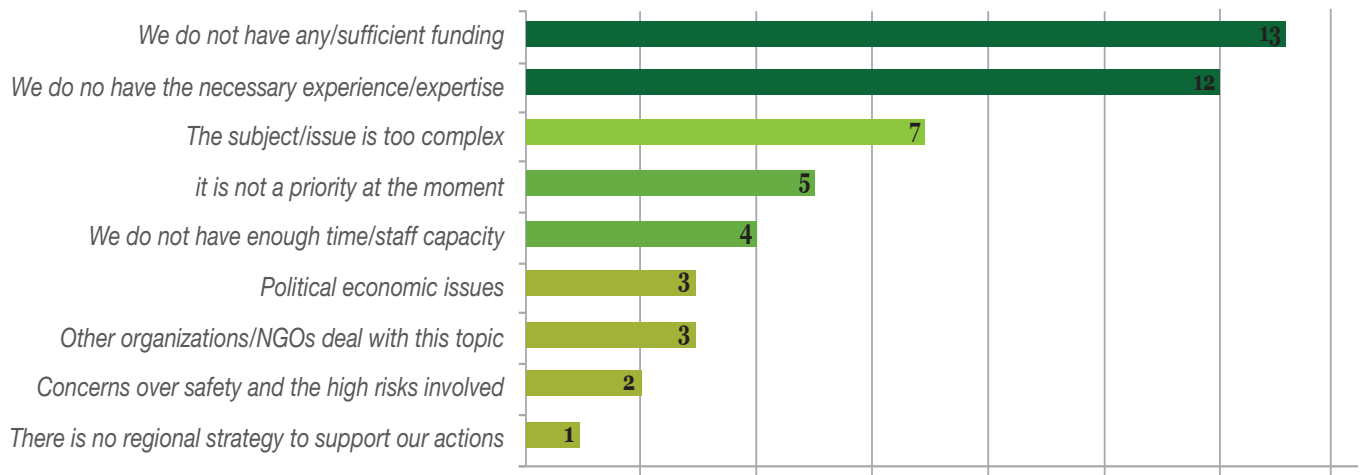


Figure 3. The main challenges WWF staff face when trying to develop or implement wildlife crime projects in LAC.



When asked how a Hub might best support their work, participants particularly valued fundraising, capacity-building and regional coordination (see Fig. 4). The need to build regional capacity in the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) was specifically noted; only two participants out of the 27 (7%) mentioned that they are currently using SMART, and 33% were not familiar with the tool at all.



Figure 4. Perceived value of a Counter-Wildlife Crime Hub to LAC WWF offices.



C. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF REGIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME WORK, KEY ACTORS, AND GAPS

Based on existing studies and expert opinion, a number of knowledge gaps/ additional priorities for future WWF wildlife crime work in the region were identified:

TAXA (domestic, regional and international trade in):

- Live animals for the pet trade (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians)
- Freshwater species, including river dolphins and ornamental fish
- Mammals killed for bush meat (and links to subsistence hunting)

TOPICS (improved understanding/implementation of):

- Sustainable livelihoods, levels of/relationships between subsistence and legal/illegal commercial use
- Legislation, enforcement and penalties
- Regional communication and collaboration with relevant authorities such as through the development/participation of/in TWIXes and regional WENs
- Public awareness and the role of civil society in reporting wildlife crime
- Collection and analysis of harvest and trade data to provide “hard facts” on the scope and scale of illegal trade in the region
- Gender perspectives of wildlife crime in Latin America to help build more effective strategies.

International partners, who are currently, or have shown interest in working on wildlife crime issues in the region are listed in Table 2. In addition to these, a comprehensive list of national and local partners is being compiled, including national NGOS and other Civil Society Organizations and research institutions dealing with conservation, human rights and civil rights issues, national government authorities (including CITES authorities, police, customs, protected area ministries and anti-corruption agencies) and indigenous peoples, local communities and associations.

Wildlife crime is defined as the illegal harvest or trade of fauna or flora, as well as the planning, financing, transporting, and laundering of illegal proceeds of such trade.



Further research is needed to expand on these priorities and possible partners to identify suitable entry points, with the aim of developing a regional wildlife crime work plan by the end 2023. It was also concluded that future decision making with regards to regional wildlife crime work would benefit from a number of short scoping studies focusing on analyzing available data and information to clear up some of uncertainties regarding whether “often-quoted” issues are really major concerns and/or are already being addressed by other stakeholders.

INTERNATIONAL NGOS	IGOs/REGIONAL BODIES/ REPRESENTATIVES/AGREEMENTS	MEDIA	RESEARCH/OTHER
Conservation International (CI)	Andean Community	Dialogo Chino	American Bar Association (ABA ROLI)
Defenders of Wildlife	CAFTE-DR (Dominican Republic- Central America Free Trade Agreement)	Insight Crime	C4ADS (Center for Advanced Defense Studies)
Earth League International (ELI)	Central American Customs Union/ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL)	Mongabay LATAM	Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLAL)
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Reuters	Ecojust
Freeland (Brazil)	European Commission		Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS)
Flora and Fauna International (FFI)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)		Transparency International (TI)
ReWild	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)		United for Wildlife (UfW)
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	Interpol		Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC)
Oceana	Mercosur		
Panthera	Organization of American States (OAS)		
TRAFFIC	South America Wildlife Enforcement Network (SUDWEN)		
World Conservation Society (WCS)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)		
	USAID		
	U.S Fish & Wildlife Service		
	United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)		
	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)		
	World Customs Organization (WCO)		

Table 2. Existing and potential international partners for wildlife crime work.





Credit: Santiago Gilbert / WWF.

Photo. Jaguar skin derived from hunting due to the conflict with ranchers.



The need to build regional capacity in the use of SMART was specifically noted.

Additional staff capacity and funds, potentially supported by a volunteer/intern program, and collaboration with academic institutions and other partners would be needed in order to carry out such scoping studies, which could include:



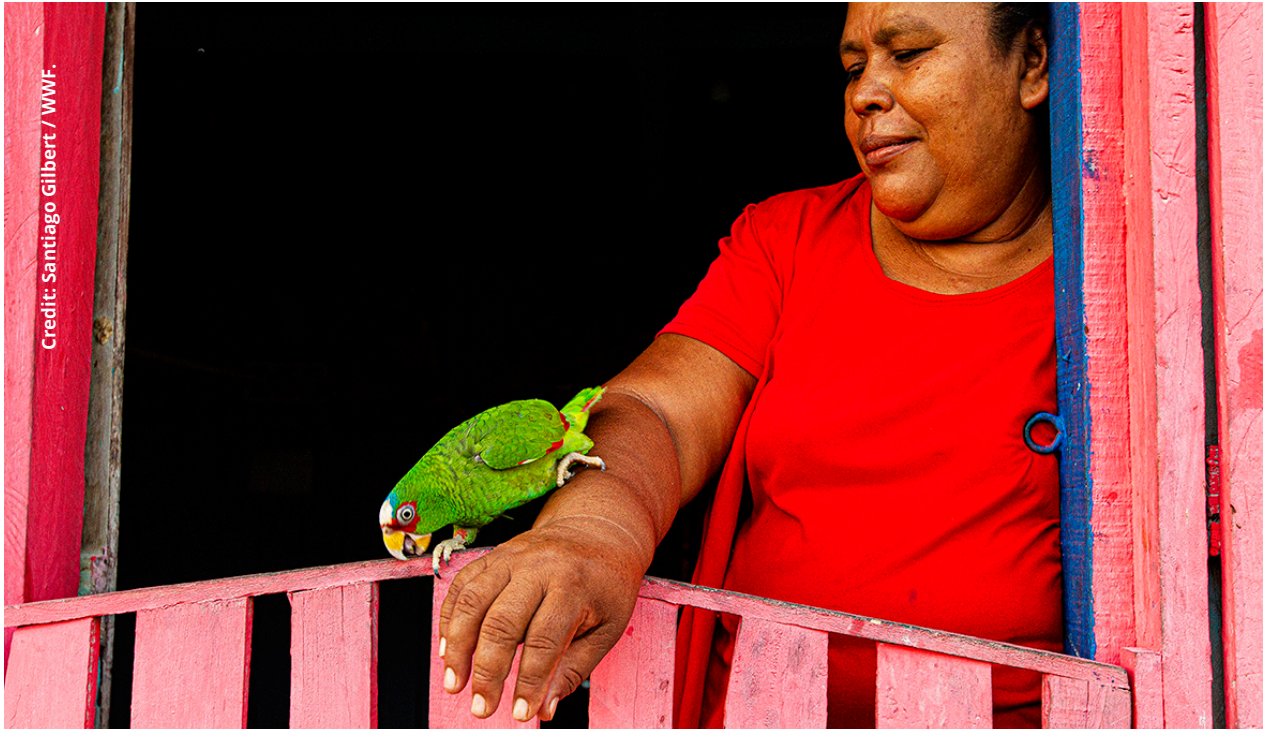
- a regional political economy analysis to understand the drivers of political will, or lack thereof, and the effects of politics and power on regional illegal wildlife trade;
- a short online trade study focusing on two of the principal online sales platforms in the region (Mercado Libre and Facebook);
- a brief analysis of publicly available seizure data for the LAC region contained within the TRAFFIC WiTIS database;
- a compilation of relevant legislation in the region (covering harvesting, national and international trade); and/or
- analysis of UN Comtrade Customs data for trade in shark commodities to and from the region.

D. LAC COUNTER-WILDLIFE CRIME STRUCTURE

The LAC Counter Wildlife Crime Hub is currently being coordinated by Renata Cao from WWF-Mexico, with supervision by Rob Parry Jones (Head, Wildlife Crime ACAI, WWF International). The current Core team of experts includes:

- WWF-Brazil: Felipe Spina (lead for counter wildlife crime technology/anti-poaching-SMART) and Osvaldo Gajardo (rangers' specialist);
- WWF-Ecuador: Maria Inés Rivadeneira (gender and human rights expert) and Esteban Falconí (law enforcement expert),
- WWF-Mexico: Sandra Petrone (regional coordinator for the jaguar initiative) and Lucía Ruiz (advocacy expert/PCA ACAI coordinator)
- WWF International: Tamara Leger (supporting human rights and gender issues)
- WWF US: Rohit Singh (supporting anti-poaching - the URSA ranger agenda, SMART implementation).

Other “Active Hub Members” (internal or external) are any WWF or external experts whose participation in Hub activities becomes relevant at a given moment depending on the topic, geographical scope of discussions and support needed. Active Members can become “Passive Members” when the issues being discussed are not relevant to the field of expertise of a member.



Credit: Santiago Gilbert / WWF.

Photo. Woman with white-fronted parrot (*Amazona albifrons*) in the Mayan Jungle. In Mexico, it is subject to special protection (Pr) by NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 and classified as Least Concern (LC) by the IUCN red list. Local communities have a very close relationship with Nature and most of the time they are unaware of the legislation that applies to wildlife.

E. LAC COUNTER-WILDLIFE CRIME HUB FOCAL POINTS

WILDLIFE CRIME HUB-LAC FOCAL POINTS				
COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	EMAIL	TOPIC
ARGENTINA	Karina Schiaffino	AP Terrestres Specialist	karina.schiaffino@vidasilvestre.org.ar	Jaguar-rangers-antipoaching
	Maria Szephegyi	Coordinator of the Coastal-marine Landscapes Program	maria.szephegyi@vidasilvestre.org.ar	IUU Fishing
BOLIVIA	Lila Sainz	Species Focal Point	lsainz@wwfbolivia.org	SMART - IWT
BRAZIL	Felipe Spina	Conservation Analyst	felipeavino@wwf.org.br	SMART-Monitoring-technology Regional
	Marcelo Oliveira	Wildlife Conservation Director	marcelo@wwf.org.br	IWT-River dolphins
	Osvaldo Gajardo	Conservation Analyst	osvaldogajardo@wwf.org.br	Rangers Regional
CHILE	Mariann Schiaffino	Cono Sur Alliance Coordinator	mariann.breu@wwf.cl	Regional IUU Fishing
	Valesca Montes	Fisheries Manager	valesca.montes@wwf.cl	IUU Fishing
COLOMBIA	Joaquin Carrizosa	Amazon Coordinator	jecarrizosa@wwf.org.co	IWT
	Johana Herrera	Forest Officer	jmherrera@wwf.org.co	Illegal logging
	José Saulo Usma	Fresh Water Specialist	jsusma@wwf.org.co	IWT
ECUADOR	Alaniz Vergara	Program Officer ACU	avergara@wwfus.org	Amazon Regional
	Bernardo Ortiz	Gobernanza de los RN (TNRC)	bernardo.ortiz@wwf.org.ec	IWT
	Esteban Falconi	Legal Specialist (TNRC)	esteban.falconi@wwf.org.ec	Legislation, corruption governance
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Globally, illegal wildlife trade is worth an estimated 23 billion US dollars annually, according to UNEP and Interpol, and much of it is run by organized crime. The LAC region is experiencing a notable rise in organized crime, including the illegal harvest and trade of wildlife.





**LATIN AMERICA ACTION PLAN
COUNTER WILDLIFE CRIME HUB**
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