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Angola joins call for a new global agreement to prevent and combat wildlife crime

Washington D.C., September 21 – In response to the devastating impact of wildlife crime to the securities of communities, ecosystems and wildlife, the President of Angola has announced that Angola [will join with Gabon and Costa Rica](#) in calling for a new international agreement to prevent and combat wildlife crime.

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime (EWC) congratulated President João Lourenço on his leadership and farsightedness, in calling for a fourth protocol on wildlife crime under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

The proposed Protocol against wildlife trafficking, would sit under the international criminal law framework, alongside agreements against human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms. Signifying global recognition of the devastating scale, nature and consequences of wildlife crime.

The World Bank [estimates global](#) illegal logging, fishing and wildlife trade at \$1-2 trillion a year. Due to the trades, governments in source countries are also believed to forego an estimated \$7-12 billion in potential fiscal revenues each year, and the UN IPBES tells us that 1.7 million undiscovered viruses are thought to exist in wild animals, about half of which could spillover to people.

In response to the President's statement, John Scanlon AO, Chair of EWC, commended his extraordinary environmental leadership.

"Angola has some of the richest and most diverse wildlife resources of any country in Africa, with iconic species, unique biological diversity and landscapes. The illicit trafficking of wildlife threatens to strip this beautiful country, and many others, of these precious sovereign resources, and of the opportunity for its people to prosper from their sustainable use. EWC stands ready to support Angola, Costa Rica and Gabon in their visionary endeavor and encourages all States to heed their call".

"Today's announcement from H.E. João Lourenço proves once again Angola's fierce commitment to nature conservation. The illicit trafficking of wildlife is causing economic, security, health and social impacts that will be felt for generations to come, if brave leaders all over the world do not act now." added Susan Herman Lylis, International Conservation Caucus Foundation.

The announcement was made at the International Conservation Caucus Foundation U.S. Congressional International Conservation Leadership Awards Dinner, which was held in Washington D.C. September 20th. The Government of Angola also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with conservation organisation African Parks to develop and enter into a 20-year-long management agreement for the rehabilitation, management and financing of Luengue Luiana and Mavinga National Parks.

Angola has been committed to fighting illicit wildlife trafficking for over a decade, working with international partners to strengthen its legal system, increase investigation and prosecution capacity, and end the ivory trade.

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The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime is an initiative of organizations working on wildlife crime and trade related issues and is hosted by the Hong Kong based [ADM Capital Foundation](#), chaired by [John Scanlon AO](#) and with a Steering Group comprising the [African Wildlife Foundation](#), the [Born Free Foundation](#), [Freeland](#), the [Global Environmental Institute](#) the [International Conservation Caucus Foundation Group](#), and [The Food and Land Use Coalition](#) (represented by [SYSTEMIQ](#)). More information on the Initiative, including its Steering Group, the organizations that have signed up as Champions of the Initiative, and its Special Advisers and Supporters, can be found on the [EWC website](#).

