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ANNEX V

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme on Global Challenges (Planet) for 2023-2026

Action Document for Combatting wildlife trafficking

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Combatting wildlife trafficking OPSYS number: ACT-61938 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Global
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Global Challenges thematic programme 2021-2027 ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p>The action will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The specific objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean), Expected result 3 (Enhanced international cooperation to halt biodiversity loss, promote and incentivise the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems of global value, and combat wildlife and timber trafficking) of the multiannual indicative programme Global Challenges;- The specific objective 4 (Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance), Expected result 2 (Wildlife trafficking and sustainable use are addressed through policy reforms, law enforcement and the promotion of alternative livelihoods) of the regional multiannual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa;- The specific objective 1 (Support for regional cooperation on environmental challenges), Expected result 1 (Improved structured cooperation in the framework of regional organisations) of the regional multiannual indicative programme for Asia and the Pacific.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	

¹ Decision C(2021)9157

6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<u>Global Challenges MIP²: Priority area 2 (Planet)</u> <u>Sub-Saharan Africa MIP³: Priority area 3 (Green Transition)</u> <u>Asia and the Pacific MIP⁴: Priority area 1 (Regional integration and cooperation)</u> Sector 410 (General environment protection)			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 15 (Life on land) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities),SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	41010 Environmental policy and administrative management			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Multilateral organisations – 40000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

² Decision C(2021)9157

³ Decision C(2021)9373

⁴ Decision C(2021)9251

11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 48 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 48 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 15 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 as follows:</p> <p>14.020241 : EUR 15 000 000 (Global Challenges - Planet)</p> <p>And for an amount of EUR 23 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024 subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths, as follows:</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 3 500 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 3 500 000 (East and Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 3 000 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>14.020130: EUR 3 360 000 (Middle East and Central Asia)</p> <p>14.020131: EUR 3 840 000 (South and East Asia)</p> <p>14.020132: EUR 800 000 (Pacific)</p> <p>14.020241 : EUR 5 000 000 (Global Challenges – Planet)</p> <p>And for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2026, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years</p>

	<p>following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths, as follows:</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 3 500 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 3 500 000 (East and Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 3 000 000 (Southern Africa)</p>
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	<p>Indirect management with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Interpol</p> <p>Indirect management with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <p>Indirect management with an entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1</p>

1.2 Summary of the Action

The illegal trade of wildlife is a business that is global, lucrative, and extremely widespread, with nearly 6,000 species of fauna and flora affected, and a value estimated at USD 1 to 2 trillion per year from illegal logging, fishing and wildlife trade. It threatens endangered species of extinction, destroys the natural capital on which the most vulnerable and poorest people depend for their livelihood, feeds on local conflicts and the fragility of countries while further contributing to sustaining corruption and supporting criminal activities.

The Specific Objective of this action is to reduce the trafficking in wildlife and forest products globally, with a focus on serious and organized crimes aligned with gender and human rights-based approach (HRBA). It will thus contribute to (i) halting the extinction of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, (ii) the preservation of healthy and functional ecosystems and (iii) the strengthening of the rule of law, aligned with international gender and human rights standards.

It will support multi-agency cooperation and coordination at various levels for gathering and exchanging information along the supply chains, involving source, transit, and destination countries, conducting investigations, and ensuring the prosecution of criminal networks. It will support the strengthening of national police, judicial and border control systems through an approach combining assistance to the handling of specific cases and targeted support in a whole-of-a-system approach to some strategic countries of Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America that play an important role in the illegal trade of wildlife as either source, transit or destination such as for instance Nigeria, Cameroun, Vietnam, Lao PDR or China. It will also strengthen regional and inter-regional cooperation procedures and systems, including the monitoring of the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE) at the level of the African continent, which is used as an indicator of the level of poaching of this species and illegal trade of ivory. It will establish a rapid response mechanism to ensure that long term protection efforts are not put at risk by a sudden surge in poaching due to a shift of criminal activities, the effect of natural disasters or any other unexpected external factor.

Implementation will rely on strengthening the partnership between the actors involved in fighting wildlife trafficking, including the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), civil society organisations, and EU Member States' law enforcement agencies, thus strengthening the position of the EU as a centre of expertise and a global reference in the fight against organized crime, aligned with international gender and human rights standards. It will ensure synergies with other regional EU-funded interventions, such as EMPACT and El Paccto 2.0 programmes, and possible other national initiatives such as in China or Liberia.

It will provide a continuity to previous EU's actions against wildlife crime, including support to the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), the Monitoring of the Killing of Elephants and other Endangered species (MIKES) program and the Rapid Rescue Facility.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

This action will contribute directly to the external dimension of the European Green Deal, which relies on actioning partnerships and EU global leadership in multilateral fora, to achieve the ambition of a green transition in a global and connected world. It will more particularly contribute to the objective of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030⁵, (especially to its fourth pillar on EU support to biodiversity globally), which is a core part of EU Green Deal and aims at putting the EU's biodiversity on the path to recovery but also acknowledges that protecting biodiversity is a global challenge and announces an ambitious agenda for global biodiversity, making biodiversity a priority of the EU's external action. The strategy recognizes that illegal wildlife trade contributes to the depletion or extinction of entire species and affirms that it is a human, economic and environmental duty to dismantle it, reinforcing the commitment made by the EU and its Member States in the European consensus on development to address wildlife poaching, illegal trade in wildlife and timber and the illegal exploitation of other natural resources.

This action will more particularly contribute to the implementation of the EU revised action plan against wildlife trafficking, adopted in November 2022. It will strengthen the positioning of the EU as a major player in the fight against wildlife trafficking, and beyond that in the fight against organised crime. It will support partnerships with partner countries and law enforcement agencies in line with EU values and the principles of the Global Gateway.

In doing so, it will also respond to the European Parliament's call to step up the fight against illegal trafficking of wild fauna and flora and eliminate it altogether⁶, and will support the implementation of the convention on the international trade of endangered species (the CITES convention), to which the EU is a party, as well as the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Framework on Biodiversity (GBF), and in particular its target 4 (halt the human-induced extinction of threatened species), target 5 (ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal and ensure that management and use of wild species are sustainable), and its gender action plan (targets 22 and 23).

The Action will contribute to the realisation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 GAP III, in particular to its thematic area of engagement "Climate change and environment" It is also directly relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

2.2 Problem Analysis

The International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) underlines the detrimental effects that the illegal trade of wildlife and forest products has on the levels of biodiversity worldwide. Indeed, the illegal exploitation of species can greatly weaken wild populations, and in some cases drive them to extinction⁷. It is a key factor on biodiversity loss on the global scale and has serious impacts on the health of ecosystems and therefore impacts their contribution to regulating the climate. Biodiversity loss affects women, girls, boys, and non-binary persons differently, and has severe intergenerational consequences, with the younger generations inheriting the irreversible results of environmental degradation⁸.

The illegal trade of wildlife and forest products is considered as one of most lucrative criminal activities in the world. According to UNODC, no country in the world goes unaffected, and there is a wide variety of species involved⁹. The World Bank estimates the economic value of illegal logging, fishing, and wildlife trade at about USD 1 to 2 trillion per year, with more than 90% coming from the estimated value of ecosystem services that are not currently priced by the market. In particular, the loss of keystone species has a direct impact on the storage of carbon and global climate. The role of African elephants for instance, in increasing carbon stocks of savannah and

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions COM(2020) 380 final

⁶ [MEPs call for an end to all illegal trade in wildlife by 2025 | News | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁷ IPBES, 2019. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

⁸ Human Rights and Biodiversity, key messages. www.ohchr.org.

⁹ UNODC, 2020. World Wildlife Crime Report.

forest ecosystems has been clearly demonstrated¹⁰. Even if selective, illegal logging of precious trees has a multiplied impact on forest ecosystems, through the prospection and opening of large swathes of forest to settlements, the logging of additional trees to float dense logs, the increased likelihood of fires, etc. This multi-billion transnational illegal trade is operated by international criminal organisations and is on par – in scope and revenue – with human and drug trafficking.

The illegal trade of wildlife species also has considerable socioeconomic impacts. It can destroy the livelihood of local communities living in biodiversity rich environments from the direct exploitation of natural resources or related industries (nature-based tourism for instance). Gender is seldom considered in the governance of wild species, leading to inequities in the distribution of costs and benefits from their use. Securing women's participation in decision-making leads to better resource governance outcomes, sustainable livelihoods, and resilience¹¹.

It can have devastating impact on people's health through the dissemination of zoonotic diseases. It also represents a threat to the security of societies, at all levels, as increasingly cases of convergence with the trafficking of other commodities comes into light¹². Wildlife trafficking benefits from corruption but it also contributes to feeding corruption practice, weakening good governance and the rule of law in many countries, and supporting further criminal activities. Numerous examples exist of sexual exploitation, prostitution of women and sex trafficking facilitating personal and commercial IWT (Illegal Wildlife Trade) transactions on local to global scales. Making visible the ways that gender-based violence is deployed in IWT opens pathways for challenging and changing these dynamics.¹³

Wildlife trafficking is fuelled by the persistence of the demand for wildlife products in many countries for multiple uses (pharmaceutic, food, pets, etc) as well as for rare exotic hardwood. In the meantime, it is facilitated by a series of factors, from local to national, regional, and international levels. These include:

- Weak law enforcement in areas where wildlife and forest crime occur. Criminal networks have developed a capacity to quickly adapt and shift their source of supply to other places and/or commodities when surveillance is strengthened in a given area – or suddenly decreases due to an unexpected situation;
- Lack of staff adequately trained in order to develop the requested expertise and skills in specialist investigation techniques, such as controlled delivery, forensics, money laundering. This is all the more necessary as illegal trafficking tends to be merged and hidden in legal trade flows, with traffickers using more and more diffused approaches thanks to the development of the Internet and small-parcel services;
- Porous borders and weak, often ineffective, border controls;
- Poor inter-agency working, with some reluctance to cooperate and share information between agencies;
- Lack of judicial follow up and of application of meaningful deterrent sanctions;
- Lack of appropriate legislation to address wildlife crime offences and to facilitate cross-border collaboration;
- Insufficient cross border collaboration across the criminal chain between and along the supply chain, between source, transit, and destination countries.

Many stakeholders face difficulties in grasping the full dimension, including the gender perspective, and long-term implications of wildlife and forest crime. The above weaknesses are often brought about by increasing levels and extent of corruption practices associated with wildlife trafficking (in some cases up to the very high level). Corruption is perceived as one of the most important facilitators of illegal wildlife trade¹⁴. It can take a wide variety of forms, from rangers accepting bribes from poachers to look the other way, to political donations in return for fewer controls, to confiscated illicit wildlife products “leaking” from official stockpiles, or companies paying off officials to allow illegal shipments to pass through ports or forging official documents.

Main stakeholders to be covered by the action include:

- National law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are at the frontline of the fight against wildlife trafficking. Here, the configurations in terms of specialization and levels of de-concentration vary greatly from one country to another. They can include customs offices, police departments, intelligence services, wildlife management

¹⁰ Berzaghi, F. et al, 2023. s ([Megaherbivores modify forest structure and increase carbon stocks through multiple pathways | PNAS](#))

¹¹ The thematic assessment report on The Sustainable use of wild species. IPBES

¹² UNODC, 2020. Ibid.

¹³ Report Summary Gender and Illegal Wildlife Trade overlooked and underestimated. July 2021.

¹⁴ TRAFFIC, 2020. Corrupting trade: an overview of corruption issues in illicit wildlife trade.

authorities, environmental protection agencies, etc. They are responsible for detecting and investigating cases, arresting criminals, and seizing products illegally harvested or traded. Their work and efficiency in addressing wildlife crimes – and more generally environmental crimes is often hampered due to multiple internal and external factors, including lacking or insufficient inter-service coordination.

- Justice system actors (including prosecutors, judges, and defence counsels) are equally important to ensure that criminals are prosecuted, trialled, and sanctioned with proportionate penalties effectively implemented. Justice system actors are prone to encountering similar difficulties as law enforcement agencies. Existing legislations often present inconsistencies and loopholes, which limit their effective implementation. Jurisprudence on environmental crimes is often scarce.
- Policy and lawmakers are key actors for raising the profile of the fight against wildlife crime in the national agendas and for creating a momentum.
- Regional organisations are instrumental to foster regional collaboration between countries to increase their capacity to fight against criminal activities through e.g., harmonization of legislations, exchange of information on criminal investigations or proceedings, sharing of best practices and possibly agreements on mutual legal assistance (MLA) and judicial assistance, extradition of suspects, confiscation of assets, etc. In this way, several Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have supported the establishment of dedicated networks between law enforcement agencies (Wildlife Enforcement Networks, WENs) and/or judicial cooperation networks.
- The International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) plays an important role in the global fight against wildlife trafficking; The Consortium represents a unique partnership of five intergovernmental organisations aiming at strengthening criminal justice systems and providing coordinated and cohesive support at national, regional, and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime. It brings together Interpol, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank Group, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the CITES Secretariat. ICCWC builds on the mandates, skills, resources, and expertise of its members, to provide countries that are party of the CITES convention with the tools, services, capacity building and technical support needed to address wildlife crime and bring the criminals involved to justice.
- Environmental defenders and civil society organisations (CSOs) (including women's human rights organisations, youth organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities) and media initiatives, operating at local, national, and/or international levels play an important role in raising awareness, in mobilizing expertise to support capacity development and innovation, in developing surveillance and alert capacities, in pushing public authorities, administrations and private operator for stronger accountability. Thanks to their anchoring in local communities and societies, they have been playing an important role in collecting intelligence on wildlife crimes. Main difficulties and challenges encountered by these organisations are the lack of coordination among themselves, the unpredictability of funds, the difficulty, in some countries, to collaborate with law enforcement authorities, the difficulty to collaborate with international organisations in some other cases, and the protection of their sources. Gender equality, diversity and inclusion also make the work of conservation organisations smarter and more effective, improving organisational thinking, planning and outcomes¹⁵.
- Indigenous people and local communities in and around protected areas, whose livelihoods are precarious, who do not necessarily perceive the importance of wildlife and forest conservation or are not benefiting enough from ecosystem services and legal trade to outweigh short term gains from trafficking.
- Consumers who sustain the demand for illegal wildlife products as 'medicinal' or 'cosmetic' products, 'luxury' food, pets, status markers, etc bear an important responsibility in the persistence of illegal wildlife trade. Lack of awareness, customs and social norms are important drivers. Men and women consume and purchase different wildlife products, for different purposes. Demand reduction efforts will be amplified by taking such gender differences into account as well as the role that women can play in influencing behaviours regarding the use of wildlife.¹⁶
- The private sector can also play an important role in facilitating international transactions linked to illegal wildlife trade, in particular the transport sector, the banking sector and Internet platforms.

¹⁵ Report summary Gender and Illegal wildlife trade overlooked and underestimated. July 2021

¹⁶ Report summary Gender and Illegal wildlife trade overlooked and underestimated. July 2021

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to contribute (i) to the halting of extinction of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, (ii) to the preservation of healthy and functional ecosystems and to the maintenance of the services these ecosystems deliver for local communities, including climate regulation, and (iii) to the strengthening of the rule of law globally, aligned with international gender and human rights standards.

The Specific Objective of this action is to reduce the international trafficking of wildlife and forest products, in particular by criminal networks, aligned with gender and HRBA approach. The Outputs to be delivered by this action and contributing to the above Specific Objective are:

1. International cooperation between law enforcement agencies and judiciary authorities at regional and inter-regional levels is improved, and this cooperation effectively tackles the international dimension of the criminal networks involved in wildlife trafficking;
2. The capacity of national authorities and agencies to enforce more consistent and proportionate legislations addressing wildlife trafficking is improved in key partner countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America;
3. The demand for illicit wildlife products in key destination markets is reduced with a gender-responsive approach;
4. The protection of specific species of interest under the CITES convention is reinforced across their range states;
5. High value ecosystems are protected from emerging threats.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1 aim at fostering transborder collaboration between law enforcement agencies and national justice systems, to increase their capacity to detect, investigate and prosecute cross border criminal networks involved in wildlife trafficking with gender perspective. Indicative activities include:

- Promote and support the organisations of targeted joint and/or coordinated operations at various scale and facilitate the exchange of information (though e.g., Border Liaison Offices) to detect and deter wildlife crime, and collect useful information to trace the criminal networks at work and identify their *modi operandi*;
- Support cross border, regional and inter-regional law enforcement collaboration through Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs), other similar regular or case-specific mechanisms, as well as the development of Mutual Legal Assistance agreements (MLAs), to facilitate the exchange of intelligence on wildlife crime and international cooperation on ongoing investigations (e.g., joint investigative teams, exchange of information and evidence, tracking of cross border financial flows, etc)
- Support cross border, regional and inter-regional prosecutorial and judicial collaboration (possibly including judicial assistance agreements);
- Support harmonization of practices through the development of standard procedures aligned with international gender and human rights standards;
- Strengthen the capacities and networking of forensics facilities as well as the use of forensics in wildlife crime investigations, including development of relevant identification tools.

Activities relating to Output 2` aim at increasing the capacity of key countries playing an important role in the trafficking of wildlife products as source, transit and/or destination of illegal wildlife products, to detect, investigate, prosecute, trial, and sanction such wildlife crimes, including applying appropriate sentencing. Indicative activities include:

- Support the undertaking of national assessments in key countries and regular – gender sensitive - monitoring of their capacity to address wildlife and forest offences and the development of action plans to address the main identified gaps.

- Support the review and strengthening of national legislations relevant to combatting wildlife crime, to improve compliance with international commitments (such as the provisions of the CITES convention, the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime [UNTOC] and the United Nations convention against corruption [UNCAC]) and effectiveness, through e.g. dispositions asset forfeiture, mutual legal assistance
- Support gender-balanced capacity development of law enforcement agencies – including their responsibilities as duty-bearers – on various topics such as border controls, crime scene management, crime investigation, investigation of financial flows, data exploitation from electronic devices and financial records, evidence gathering, case preparation, etc. through training, training of trainers, twinning, mentoring and/or case-specific assistance;
- Support collaboration of law enforcement agencies with global and regional platforms such as the forthcoming Global Knowledge Support Service and informant networks;
- Strengthen the capacity of the civil society (including women’s human rights organisations, youth organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities and media initiatives, as much as possible) to conduct action-oriented research on wildlife crimes, support the government’s action through mentoring, legal assistance, etc and strengthen accountability (with court monitoring for instance and development of case-law electronic databases);
- Encourage and assist national authorities to foster inter-agency collaboration through inter-agency committees, units or taskforces .
- Increase the awareness of prosecutors and the judiciary on wildlife crime and its linkage with serious transnational organized crime, and strengthen their capacity to deal with such cases including through the mobilization of cross border cooperation mechanisms (e.g., formal legal assistance or extradition requests) and the confiscation of criminals’ assets;
- Support the implementation of national and gender-sensitive anti-corruption measures to combat corruption associated with wildlife crime, including the monitoring of courtrooms.

Activities relating to Output 3 aim at developing and implementing a gender-responsive approach in key markets of illegal wildlife products, to foster behaviour change regarding the demand for such products. Indicative activities include:

- Supporting gender-responsive consumer research on target groups (involving women, men and young people), to understand the drivers of their behaviour and the barriers to changing their behaviours;
- Support the development of gender-responsive behaviour change interventions, applying behavioural psychology theories and techniques; with sex-disaggregated data, and gender sensitive indicators when possible)
- Support the implementation of such targeted, interventions in close collaboration with the relevant national authorities.

Activities relating to Output 4 aim at supporting the implementation of CITES’ MIKE programme among African elephant range states. Indicative activities include:

- Provision of training to African elephant range states’ rangers (involving women) on the monitoring and reporting of the illegal killing of elephants in MIKE sites and in other relevant areas for elephant management;
- Support to collaboration and timely information sharing among African elephant range state representatives at regional and sub-regional levels; with gender and HRBA approach.
- Updating and maintenance of relevant databases – such as the ones existing on the illegal killing of elephants, the illegal trade of ivory and other elephant specimens and the population of African elephants (ETIS)– to support decision-making and action for the conservation of elephant through CITES meetings and other appropriate mechanisms and fora;
- Assessment and field test of the feasibility of applying MIKE mechanism to the other CITES-listed species in Sub-Saharan Africa (such as big cats for instance) and start building similar networks as for elephants.

Activities relating to Output 5 aim at providing emergency financial assistance to support swift reaction in unexpected situations threatening wildlife conservation efforts, through a “rapid response” mechanism.

Indicative activities include:

- Disseminating information on the rapid response mechanism and its *modus operandi* among potential users;

- Continuous monitoring through networks of informants of key biodiversity-rich landscapes and areas of interest, to detect at early-stage situations that may trigger the need for an emergency intervention (early warning);
- Rapid assessment of the eligibility and relevance of received applications, through screening and independent review;
- Conducting due diligence on the capacity and security of selected beneficiaries 'right holders for emergency grants, aligned with international gender and human rights standards;
- Monitoring the implementation and closure of emergency grants with a gender and HRBA approach and providing support and assistance when needed.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

The action is not likely of a significant negative impact on the environment. On the contrary, it seeks positive impacts on biodiversity and will contribute to climate change mitigation by protecting keystone species, which play an important role for maintaining diverse and high-carbon content ecosystems. African elephants for instance contribute to increasing carbon stocks through selective browsing and dispersal of seeds and thus contribute to climate mitigation at a globally relevant scale.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This action takes into account the roles that women (girls, boys, young people and person with disabilities) can assume the wildlife trafficking supply chain, as possibly offenders, defenders, influencers, observers, whistle-blowers, victims or right holders¹⁷. The project will promote and take into account gender mainstreaming aspects wherever applicable. While the action will not have any direct influence on the recruitment policy of partner countries' law enforcement agencies and judiciaries, gender perspective will be considered in capacity development activities, including by ensuring to the maximum extent possible, equal gender representation among participants and resource persons in the course of the project implementation. A specific attention will be given to the role that youth and women can play in (i) influencing behaviour change regarding the use of illegal wildlife products, and (ii) impact of wildlife trafficking on women both as actors in the value chain and victims.

By enhancing gender equality, visibility is given to women's roles in managing environments and actively engages them in conservation efforts. At the same time, it also improves the effectiveness of projects by incorporating gender-informed analysis of the actors and drivers of illegal wildlife trade.¹⁸

The Action will contribute to the realisation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 GAP III, in particular to its thematic area of engagement "Climate change and environment" It is also directly relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Human Rights

¹⁷ Agu H. U. and Gore M.L., 2020. Women in wildlife trafficking in Africa: a synthesis literature. Global ecology and conservation 23(2020).

¹⁸ World Bank blogs (WORLD BANK.ORG)

Human rights are of relevance in this programme. A common pitfall in fighting wildlife crime is to focus law enforcement efforts on indigenous people and local communities and anti-poaching interventions, over-amplifying their contribution in comparison to the role of (often foreign) demand markets and criminal networks involved in the collect, the transport and retailing of illegally harvested wildlife products. Also, in situation where the accountability of law enforcement officers is insufficient, anti-poaching operations may be conducted without respect to the individual rights and integrity of the members of local communities and indigenous people. The Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit used by the ICCWC consortium assesses in particular the consideration given to human rights in the training of wildlife and forest law enforcement officers. The program will also ensure that this aspect is systematically incorporated in the training provided to all the actors of the criminal chains in beneficiary countries, as obligations and responsibilities of duty-bearers. This action will apply the working principles of the rights-based approach throughout the design and implementation of the intervention as well as an intersectionality approach

Human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, as well as a gender responsive approach, will remain at the heart of the EU's response.¹⁹ The action will be taken into account the principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation, transparency, accountability and respect to all human rights

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that no specific activity is particularly targeting persons with disabilities or intended to increase the participation of these persons in law enforcement agencies or national judiciary systems.

Reduction of inequalities

When addressing wildlife and forest crime, inequalities often steam from (i) the disproportionate emphasis given to the role played by local communities, and (ii) from the insufficient attention paid to the incentives provided by criminal individuals and networks, to the role of armed bandit groups, and to the laissez-faire attitude of corrupted officials.

Democracy

This action will contribute to improving the rule of law in partner countries through its contribution to improving environmental legislation frameworks, strengthening the capacities of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges, dismantling criminal networks and fighting corruption and impunity.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Wildlife trafficking thrives in contexts of conflicts and sensitivity to conflicts. Fragile countries and countries in a situation of crisis are often targeted by criminal networks, which take advantage of the failures of weak governments and administrations to develop their criminal activities, often with the complicit support of corrupt elites. The illegal exploitation of wildlife and forest products is often an important source of income of rebel groups. Furthermore, evidence have shown how criminal networks involved in wildlife trafficking are also often dealing in other illicit commodities. Therefore, by combatting organized crimes through the angle of wildlife crime, fighting corruption, and strengthening the capacity of national institutions, this action will contribute to building the stability, peace and resilience of partner countries.

Disaster Risk Reduction

This action will contribute to address emergency situations occurring in key landscape of conservation and development, providing relief and rehabilitation to ensure that longer term conservation and development goals are not jeopardized It will therefore contribute to linking relief, rehabilitation, and development, in line with the EU LRRD approach and aligned with gender and HRBA approach.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

¹⁹ EU [Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024](#).

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	New pandemic outbreak preventing the organisation of cross border activities	Low	High	Shift to online meetings
	Natural disasters or armed conflicts jeopardizing conservation efforts in conservation areas and increasing the risk of poaching	Medium	Medium	Use of the existing rapid response mechanism, which continuation is expected to be supported by the present programme
Planning, processes and systems	Lack of adequate legal instruments in partner countries and/or at regional level to support efforts from law enforcement agencies and the judiciary	Medium	High	Whole-of-system approach to tackle these weaknesses and shortcomings
	Gap between the time required for institutional and legal reforms on the one hand and the need for immediate action on the other hand	Medium	High	Mixed approach to support short term and medium-term results
People and s	Low perception of the seriousness of illegal wildlife trade within national authorities and across the criminal chain, undermining the achievement of expected results, particularly in a demand-driven approach	Medium	High	Concerted demarches from International Organisations and political dialogue from EU Delegations. Identification of “champions” at national and regional levels to promote awareness at policy and managerial levels.
	High level of corruption across the supply chain undermining the achievement of expected results	High	High	Coordination with FPI action on Environmental crimes (AAP 2023) and other EU-funded anti-corruption actions to synergize interventions
	High turnover of staff in public administrations decreasing the effectiveness of capacity development efforts	Medium	Medium	Focus on training of trainers approaches, (involving women and young people) easily accessible self-training tools, inter-institutional twinning, and collaboration programmes
	Criminal organisations shifting their activities to new source	High	High	Global wildlife crime monitoring by Interpol and

	and/or transit countries as enforcement improves in countries of intervention			UNODC through joint control operations such as Thunder and analysis of CITES illegal trade database, with capacity for adjustment in the choice of focus countries during the course of implementation. Use of the rapid response mechanism intended with the present programme to address unexpected surge of poaching in countries affected by the shift of criminal activities
	Insufficient coordination of actors and interventions designed to tackle wildlife trafficking	Low	Medium	Synergy between actors and interventions is sought through the extended partnerships the programme will foster
	CSO's possible interference or lack of expertise in criminal investigations undermining the receivability and legality of the collected evidence and the chance of success of possible legal actions	Low	Medium	Careful selection of partner CSOs, (including women's human rights organisations, youth organisations, and media initiatives according to their legal expertise and collaboration agreement with national law enforcement agencies
	Life threat for environmental defenders involved in fighting wildlife crime, including women and young people	High	High	Prevention through protection of sources and possible linkage with EU-funded personal protection programmes
Communication and information	Legitimacy of the Commission to support demand reduction campaigns with a gender perspective in partner countries challenged	Medium	High	Activities to be conducted by civil society organisations, in close collaboration with local organisations and national wildlife authorities of the concerned countries In very last resort, derogation to the obligation of displaying the source of the funding for such campaigns

Lessons Learnt:

The action will build on the lessons learnt from previous actions implemented through CITES, UNEP, the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) as well as civil society organisations.

Past interventions combatting wildlife trafficking have shown the need to intervene on the whole criminal chain to ensure that offences lead to investigations, and then to the arrest, prosecution, trial, sentencing of the criminals involved, and the sentences actually enforced. In too many cases, efforts stop with the seizure of illegal products or the arrest of poachers.

The ICCWC consortium has encountered an increasing success in the organisation of joint control operations at regional, inter-regional and global scale, which have been instrumental in the launch of numerous multi-disciplinary regional and transcontinental investigations and the uncover of transnational criminal networks. The prosecution of these cases remains nevertheless the responsibility of national jurisdictions, which are often ill-equipped to deal with transnational cases and procedures that will ensure the receivability of evidence and testimonies in court. In this perspective, the ICCWC consortium's approach to combine assistance to dealing with specific cases with support to strengthening national and cross border systems and procedures in focus countries and regions is highly relevant. The experience has nevertheless demonstrated that it takes time to initiate a change of mindset towards wildlife crime, build trust between agencies within and between countries, establish clear and operational communication systems.

CSOs have also actively and effectively contributed in combatting wildlife crime. At global level, a handful of NGOs such as the Environmental Investigation Agency, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Justice Commission have played an important role in collecting and analysing open-source data and using networks of informants to identify major routes and orient or initiate investigations. The EAGLE network for instance, a coalition of NGOs working on investigating wildlife crime in Africa has been instrumental to the uncover of the Kromah network²⁰. CSOs have had good successes in supporting innovative approaches in the fight against wildlife trafficking, such as applying social sciences and behaviour change approaches to reduce the demand for wildlife products, partnering with the private sector to support responsible practices or developing methods to track wildlife crime on the Internet.

CSOs have proven very effective in complementing the efforts of the ICCWC consortium. The mobilization of expertise from a wide range of actors, including International Organisations, CSOs and EU Member State agencies, and the coordination of efforts (including with other initiatives such as EI PAcCTO 2.0²¹, EMPACT and Fighting Organized Crime under the Foreign Policy Instrument, as well as other initiatives designed as national level²²), is essential or achieving impact in the fight against wildlife crime.

African elephants still being one of the major species targeted by wildlife crime²³ the monitoring of the population and illegal killing of elephant through CITES' MIKE programme remains relevant, thanks to its continental approach, which complements numerous site-specific interventions. It also allows to capture emerging aspects that affect the management of the elephant population, such as the impacts of climate change and the increase of human-wildlife conflicts on the mortality of elephants. MIKE programme has been successful in progressively extending its coverage²⁴ but the need for further training remains due to the high turnover rotation of rangers, which would require adopting new approaches, such as the training a trainer and peer-to-peer learning, for instance. Recent improvements in the transmission of data thanks to the use of electronic communications also allows to envisage this monitoring as a tool to alert on the resurgence of elephant poaching in specific areas.

The Rapid Rescue Facility previously funded by the EU has been useful in providing swift financial support to conservation actors, to prevent or limit the effects of unexpected, urgent, and critical threats to ecosystems and local livelihoods in key protected areas. The capacity to leverage funds from private philanthropies, which was

²⁰ <https://intpolicydigest.org/moazu-kromah-and-the-case-of-the-west-african-ivory-cartel/>

²¹ ACT-61436

²² Such as for instance the "Support for the EU's Circular Economy, Wildlife Protection and International Development Policies in China" (act-62074)

²³ It is estimated that between 2010 and 2018, an average of 17,000 african elephants have been poached annually (UNODC, 2020. World Wildlife Crime Report, p 50)

²⁴ Currently 69 designated MIKE sites in 32 African elephant range states

expected when launching the Rapid Rescue Facility, has nevertheless proven limited. The consecutive requirement to find co-financing sources prior to funding actions has been detrimental to the speed of response.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

This action proposes to intervene in five complementary areas to combat illegal wildlife trade, with a focus on serious and organized crimes at national and international level.

If support is provided to organize joint enforcement operations at various levels, and open-source data and information provided by environmental defenders is strategically analysed, then serious wildlife crimes will be identified, and investigations will be triggered with the concerned law enforcement agencies.

If law enforcement agencies and prosecutors are assisted in various ways in the process of conducting their investigations, applying forensic technologies, and sharing information on cases of common interest, then they increase their capacity to identify organized networks and gather evidence that will allow the prosecution of these cases.

If international cooperation at various levels between the actors of the criminal chain (area 1 linked to output 1) and case-specific assistance to national entities is complemented by interventions at national level in countries that play an important role globally in illegal wildlife trade (“focus countries”), to improve their systems (the two latter corresponding to area 2 linked to output 2), then the capacity to dismantle criminal networks will be strengthened, because this will help addressing the loopholes that otherwise could impede law enforcement and will contribute building long term capacity.

If African range states are supported to continue the monitoring and reporting on the illegal killing of elephants in line with the requirement of the CITES’ MIKE programme and if data on elephant population and the trade of ivory and elephant parts is sustained (area 4 linked to output 4) then African range states will keep having strategic information to assess the situation of the elephant population at continental level and the criminality associated to ivory trafficking globally.

If the above is verified and if in the meantime action is taken,

- i. to allow quick reaction if criminal networks tend to shift their operations to other sources or if the protection of a given area is weakened by external and unexpected causes (area 5 linked to output 5), and;
 - ii. to change consumers’ behaviour regarding their demand for wildlife products (area 3 linked to output 3),
- then the action will contribute to sustainably reduce wildlife trafficking.

The above intervention logic will be efficient because the action will intervene on both the supply and demand sides. It is assumed that the action will be completed by other interventions that contribute (i) to strengthen surveillance and anti-poaching in protected areas and key landscapes for conservation and development, (ii) to support economic development with gender sensitive approach to reduce the incentive for local communities to engage in poaching activities, with gender and HRBA approach as well as (iii) to assist countries and communities to benefit from the legal and sustainable trade of wildlife products.

The focus countries mentioned above will be selected according to their regional importance in wildlife trafficking, assessed through a multifactor approach combining information on seizure from CITES’ database on illegal wildlife trade, criminality indexes and qualitative assessments. The nature and level of involvement in these countries will be adjusted to their readiness to fight wildlife crimes, with the possibility to vary the level of engagement and selection of countries during the course of implementation, as the situation evolves. The action will also harness the possibility to use best-performing countries as regional “champions” to foster emulation and peer-learning between countries.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g., including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	- To contribute to halting of the extinction of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, to the preservation of healthy and functional ecosystems and the services they deliver local communities, and to the strengthening of the rule of law globally aligned with international gender and human rights standards.	1 Red list index (proportion of species threatened with extinction, disaggregated by amphibians, mammals and birds) [GERF 1.7, SDG 15.5.1]	1 41% (amphibians), 26% (mammals), 14% (birds) [2022]	1 No less than 41% (amphibians), 26% (mammals), 14% (birds) [2030]	1 IUCN and BirdLife International	Not applicable
Outcome	Reduced international trafficking in wildlife and forest products, in particular by criminal networks	1.1 Global scores for fauna crimes 1.2 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked [SDG indicator 15.7.1]	1.1 4.63 [2022] 1.2 TBD [2023]	1.1 No more than 4.63 [2029] 1.2 TBD [2029]	1.1 GI-TOC Global Organized Crime Index 1.2 UNODC	Additional resources are mobilized to support the wider implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework
Output 1	Improved international collaboration between law enforcement agencies and judiciary authorities, to effectively address the international dimension of the criminal networks involved in wildlife trafficking.	1.1.1 Number of cross border cooperation mechanisms and agreements established with the support of the programme . 1.1.2 Number of arrests resulting from cross-border investigations conducted with the support of the programme.	1.1.1 0 [2023] 1.1.2 0 [2023]	1.1.1 TBD [2029] 1.1.2 TBD [2029]	1.1.1 / 1.1.2 Implementing partner reports	The action is completed by other interventions contributing to (i) support anti-poaching activities in key landscapes for conservation and development, (ii) support local economic development to reduce the incentive to engage in illegal harvesting activities, and (iii) assist countries and communities to benefit from the legal and sustainable trade of wildlife products
Output 2	Improved capacity of national authorities and agencies to enforce more consistent and deterrent legislations addressing wildlife trafficking, in key partner countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America.	1.2.1 Number of countries supported by the EU to strengthen their capacity to fight wildlife crime 1.2.2 Number of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, participating in events on climate action and environment justice, disaggregated at least by sex and	1.2.1 0 [2023] 1.2.2 0 [2023]	1.2.1 TBD [2029] 1.2.2 TBD [2029]	1.2.1 Implementing partner reports 1.2.2 Implementing partner reports	

		possibly disaggregated by role: participant or speaker. [GAP III Outcome 1.5.Climate change and environment.]				
Output 3	Reduced demand for illicit wildlife products in key destination markets with gender-responsive approach	1.3.1 % of population with a stated preference for illegally sources products of target species in focus destination countries. (with data disaggregated at least by sex and age)	1.3.1 Baseline to be collected as part of the inception of implementation [2024]	1.3.1 Reduction of 25% from baseline [2029]	1.3.1 Implementing partner reports	
Output 4	Reinforced protection of specific species of interest under the CITES convention across their range states	1.4.1 Number of African sites reporting on the monitoring of the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE) 1.4.2 Proportion of illegally killed elephants (Continental PIKE) in African range states 1.4.3 Number of MIKE sites reporting on the illegal killing of other endangered species	1.4.1 61 [2021] 1.4.2 0.4 [2021] 1.4.3 0 [2022]	1.4.1 63 [2029] 1.4.2 0.4 [2029] 1.4.3 10 [2029]	1.4.1 / 1.4.2 / 1.4.3 MIKE reports	
Output 5	High value ecosystems protected from emerging threats	1.5.1 Number of sites benefiting from emergency grants 1.5.2 Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (ha) [GERF 2.9]	1.5.1 0 [2023] 1.5.2 0 [2023]	1.5.1 12 [2029] 1.5.2 TBD [2029]	1.5.1 Implementing partner reports 1.5.2 Implementing partner reports	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 78 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures²⁵.

4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

Outputs 1, 2 and 3 of the action

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) within the framework of a multi-partner contribution agreement, representing the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). This implementation entails the outputs 1, 2 and 3 of this action. The envisaged entities have been selected using the following criteria: a) the international mandate of both organisations to assist countries in combatting wildlife crime and addressing corruption, b) the capacity and experience acquired by these organisations, individually and as members of the ICCWC consortium, in fighting wildlife and forest crimes, c) the capacity of these organisations to mobilize their member countries and fostering regional and inter-regional collaboration, d) the capacity of these organisations to partner with civil society organisations. The choice of the ICCWC consortium, represented by UNODC and Interpol, is justified by the recognition its members receive globally for their action against wildlife trafficking and their capacity to mobilize partner countries to work on issues of common interest at global and inter-regional level. It demonstrates the EU commitment to support international partnership and to strengthen the implementation of the CITES Convention. Interpol is also a key implementer for the coordination of inter-regional investigations, which has the capacity to receive and share information on ongoing cases.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the following criteria: a) the experience in fighting environment and more particularly wildlife crime, b) the internal resources and in-house expertise in the law enforcement and justice sector, d) the capacity to mobilize and coordinate expertise and resources from other partners, including civil society organisations and EU-Member States institutions. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entities or their replacement fail for some part of the activities to be, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

²⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

Output 4 of the action

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), represented by CITES Secretariat. This implementation entails the output 4 of this action. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: a) the international mandate of the organisation on environmental issues, including biodiversity, b) the long-lasting and satisfactory experience in implementing the CITES' MIKES programme, c) the fruitful relationship developed with elephant range states during the previous phases of the MIKES programme. Implementation through CITES Secretariat is justified by the exclusive mandate it received by its parties, including the EU, to develop and implement the MIKE programme.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

Output 5 of the action

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: a) the experience in the management of biodiversity protection and conservation interventions, b) the experience and capacity in the management of small grants, c) the previous experience in funding rapid interventions in emergency situations. The implementation by this entity entails the output 5 of this action.

If negotiations with candidate entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case part of the activities corresponding to Outputs 1, 2, 3 and/or 5 and envisaged under indirect management as foreseen in section 4.3.1 cannot be implemented in indirect management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, implementation of these activities might change to direct management (grants), without a call for proposals. The direct grant(s) to non-governmental organisation(s) and/or non-pillar assessed international organization(s) without a call for proposals are justified in accordance to article 195(f) of the Financial Regulations, because:

- Activities related to outputs 1, 2 and 3 require specific technical competences in the handling of informant networks, police investigation and environmental legal matters as well as in the delivering of capacity building for police and justice administrations;
- Activities related to output 5 require established contacts with a vast network of conservation operators globally and proven competences in the management and administration of a large number of financial supports to third parties.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)		
	2023	2024	2026
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3			
Outputs 1, 2 and 3 composed of			
Indirect management with UNODC and INTERPOL - cf. section 4.3.1 [<i>Global, SSA and AsiaPac funding</i>]	15 000 000	12 000 000	10 000 000
Output 4 composed of			
Indirect management with UNEP - cf. section 4.3.1 [<i>SSA funding</i>]		5 500 000	
Output 5 composed of			
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.3.1 [<i>Global funding</i>]		5 500 000	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision		
Totals	15 000 000	23 000 000	10 000 000

The budget and scope of the action may need to be reviewed following the outcome of the mid-term review of the programming expected in the spring 2024.

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Each of the three components of this action will be supervised by a distinct Steering Committee, composed of representatives of the European commission and the implementing partner(s). These Steering Committees will meet at least once a year to review the activities and results/outputs achieved and to define the work plan for the next year.

Participation to the Steering Committee of the first component, dealing with output 1, 2 and 3, will be extended to the driver of the operational priority on environment of the EU-funded EMPACT and El PAcCTO programmes, to ensure full synergy with these programmes. It will regularly reassess the situation of wildlife trafficking at global level to adjust the list of focus countries as necessary.

In these focus countries, the overall steering will be completed by regular meetings – or calls – to monitor specific progress at country level and ensure the coordination of interventions. These country review and coordination meetings – or calls - with involved the representatives from the EU Delegation, the national authorities and the implementing partners. They will ensure that program implementation runs smoothly, monitor progress at country level and propose corrective actions where necessary.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

The relevant implementing partners will be responsible for data collection, analysis and monitoring of each component of the action. The measuring of indicators at outcome and impact levels will be independent from the present action.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principles of gender equality and human rights-based approach. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex whenever possible and meaningful.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the action, a mid-term evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants.

It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to assessing the relevance and opportunity to launch a new phase of the action.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination²⁶. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

Evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

²⁶ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

- Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;
- Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);
- Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Indirect management with UNODC and INTERPOL (outputs 1, 2 and 3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Indirect management with UNEP (output 4)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Indirect management with an entrusted entity (output 5)

Appendix 2 BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS BY CONTRACT

Indicative Budget Components	Potential implementing partner	EU contribution (amount in million EUR)	Budgetary years and budget lines				
			2023	2024			2026
			GC	GC	SSA	AsiaPac	SSA
Outputs 1, 2, 3	UNODC and INTERPOL (ICCWC)	37	14,5		4,5	8	10
Output 4	UNEP / CITES	5,5			5,5		
Output 5	Entrusted entity	5,5	0,5	5			
TOTAL		48	15	5	10	8	10