

# ALLIANCE FOR WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

Summary of progress and results 2019 - 2020



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# ALLIANCE FOR WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

Summary of progress and results 2019 - 2020

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# 1. Presentation of the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests



The Andean-Amazon countries are home to an unparalleled biological and cultural diversity, providing key environmental goods and services to local inhabitants and others. However, this diversity faces a growing threat posed by the illegal and unsustainable extraction of wildlife and timber that has an impact on the survival of many species, undermines national security and good governance and can be devastating for the region.

Considering this situation, the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests was formed, or the Alliance as mentioned hereafter, a regional action funded by the European Union and implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

**General objective of the Action:** Enhance civil society engagement to strengthen law enforcement and cooperation with and among authorities in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and the two tri-border areas with Brazil (Colombia – Peru – Brazil and Peru – Bolivia – Brazil), to combat wildlife and timber trafficking.

**Specific objectives:** Through unprecedented collaboration and cooperation, the Alliance seeks to:

- **Improve a common understanding of the dynamics of wildlife and timber trafficking in the region**, generating diagnoses for the countries and their border zones about emerging trends and priority species to strengthen the fight against existing illegal trade.
- **Develop collaboration mechanisms between civil society and government agencies** to improve law enforcement and control and surveillance systems to address wildlife and timber trafficking, by promoting regional and international.
- **Inform and engage civil society allies in the promotion and development of actions in cooperation with authorities** to combat wildlife and timber trafficking, keeping them informed, aware and engaged, as key actors in these efforts.



**Duration:**

4 years, starting in 2019.

**Beneficiaries:**

- Authorities: in charge of law enforcement, prosecution and implementation.
- Civil society: including local communities, indigenous people and civil society organizations (CSOs).



## 2. Main achievements and results of the Action, by the second year of implementation

Following up, we present the main results, achievements and progress reached in the framework of the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests to December 2020.





## 2.1. Improving a common understanding of wildlife and timber trafficking dynamics



The Action has compiled, systematized and analyzed information about wildlife and timber trade, legal and illegal, which has allowed the building of national diagnoses for border areas and other reports on new trends and modalities, such as online wildlife trafficking. This information will have a regional scope in order to increase attention in international spaces and will be disseminated to more than 200 government authorities and civil society partners in the countries where the Alliance has been working.

The completed reports are:



- National diagnostic reports on legal and illegal wildlife trade for Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, which, added to the information from Bolivia, will be inputs for the preparation of a **«Regional diagnosis of wildlife trafficking in the Andean-Amazon countries»** to be disseminated in 2021.
- National reports with recommendations on cooperation mechanisms in traceability systems, platforms for dialogue and agreement, and forest monitoring, control and surveillance systems in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, which will be inputs to the report on **«Regional Systematization of Actions on Forest law enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) of the European Union and other related initiatives»**, which will be disseminated in 2021.
- National reports of existing assessments on illegal logging and trade in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru that focus on the current situation and trends of illegal logging and include proposals for strategies and recommendations to address this problem, improve traceability systems and promote appropriate forest certification schemes. All reports will be used as inputs for the preparation of the regional report on **«Existing Assessments on Illegal Logging and Trade»**, which will be disseminated in 2021.
- Report on the findings of the investigation on online wildlife trafficking in online platforms used in China, which evidenced a high supply and demand of species from Andean-Amazon countries. Likewise, online sales platforms were assessed in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. The results will be part of the first diagnosis **«Use of social networks and online platforms for wildlife trafficking»** to be disseminated in 2021.



- Reports of binational and trinational borders of countries where the Action is being implemented, which will serve as inputs for the **«Regional Diagnosis on wildlife trafficking in Colombia-Ecuador, Ecuador-Peru, Colombia-Peru- Brazil and Bolivia-Peru-Brazil border areas»** to be disseminated in 2021. Details of these reports are listed below:

**Colombia:** «Report on trends in trafficking of wildlife species in the border areas of Colombia - Ecuador and Colombia – Peru - Brazil».

**Brazil:** «Diagnosis report of wildlife trafficking in the border areas of Colombia – Ecuador, Colombia – Peru - Brazil».

**Ecuador:** «Diagnosis of wildlife trafficking in the border areas of Ecuador-Colombia and Ecuador-Peru».

**Peru:** «Diagnostic report of wildlife trafficking in the border areas of Peru-Ecuador, Peru – Colombia – Brazil and Peru - Bolivia - Brazil».

- Reports on the comprehensive analysis of the legal component of wildlife trafficking in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru were completed. Adding the reports from Brazil and Colombia, all the reports will be used as inputs for the preparation of a **«Comprehensive Analysis Report on the Regional Legal Component of Wildlife Trafficking in the Andean-Amazon countries»**, which will be released in 2021.

In addition to this, the information generated about wildlife trafficking at the country level in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, and border areas from Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and Peru has been shared with national authorities, as well as the information collected about online trafficking, as part of a joint review and validation process for the necessary research and actions at the country level.

In support of the National Forest and Wildlife Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (SERFOR), a side event was held to present and invite country delegations to participate in the **«First High-Level Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Americas»** at the Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva in 2019. With the information collected in the assessments, the Action is making progress in supporting the authorities to prepare proposals for inclusion and amendments to the CITES appendices for CoP19 to be held in 2022. As part of the assessments, the following species have been identified as requiring attention due to their high commercial pressure: the Matamata tortoise (*Chelus fimbriata*), frogs of the genus *Dendrobates*, the kambó frog (*Phyllomedusa bicolor*), as well as some species of freshwater stingrays of the genus *Potamotrygon*.





## 2.2. Developing collaboration mechanisms between civil society and government agencies



The Action has undertaken various efforts with government and civil society allies, seeking regional and transnational collaboration, beyond the countries where the Alliance is implemented.



### For the Americas region level:

The Alliance provided technical assistance to achieve the **Lima Declaration**, within the framework of the «*First High-Level Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade for the Americas*» in 2019.



### At regional level:

The Action organized a regional dialogue entitled «*Strengthening actions against wildlife trafficking in the Andean - Amazon countries*» in November 2020. With the purpose of sharing the results of the investigations on wildlife trafficking carried out within the framework of the Action to the government allies in the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, in order to propose regional collaboration to combat this crime.





### At binational level:

In **Peru and Colombia**, the Action supported the SERFOR and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minambiente) to update the proposal of the «*Binational Strategy for the prevention and management of forest wildlife and flora resources*» in the cross-border integration zone.

In **Colombia and Ecuador**, progress has been made in the definition of a binational protocol for the prosecution of (fauna, flora, hydrobiological and fishing resources) trafficking crimes. This protocol is being reviewed and adjustments are being incorporated, is expected to be signed in 2021. Besides, support was provided for the organization of the II Binational Meeting for the implementation of the «*Binational Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Wildlife and Flora trafficking in the Colombia-Ecuador Border Integration Zone*», held in Colombia in September 2019.



### At countries level:

In **Bolivia**, technical assistance was provided to achieve a new collaboration mechanism between civil society and the Bolivian government by establishing the «*National Alliance for Jaguar Conservation and Protection*».

In **Ecuador**, the Action supported the official implementation of the **Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)** application, as the national tool for the control and surveillance of crimes against wildlife, through a ministerial agreement of the Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador (MAAE).

Regarding the processes for **strengthening the capacities of relevant authorities and agencies staff** in the Andean-Amazon countries, during 2019 and 2020 the following national and binational processes are highlighted:

**+280**  
people trained in  
2019 and 2020.



- Colombia-Ecuador: **binational training on environmental crimes on the internet and social networks** aimed at the Technical Investigation Corps-CTI and Criminal Investigation and INTERPOL Directorate of the National Police-DIJIN (Colombia), and the Judicial Police (Ecuador), with a total of 25 participants.
- Bolivia: **training on confiscated species database management** with representatives of institutions that generate or receive information on wildlife trafficking, with a total of 34 participants.
- Ecuador: **workshops for the implementation of the SMART application** with technicians from the Cuyabeno Wildlife Production Reserve (Colombia - Ecuador - Peru trinational Corridor) and workshops to strengthen technical capacities for the National Environmental Protection Unit (UPMA) on biology, basic reptile and amphibian management and trafficking modalities, with a total of 34 participants.
- Peru: support for the training of national and international prosecutors during the *«I International Congress on Environmental Crimes»* of the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Offices (FEMA). In addition, training was provided on the reactivation of the forestry sector, related activities and biosafety protocols with a focus on rights and territorial security; and training for the Peruvian National Police's Environmental Protection Directorate on **investigative techniques for crimes against wildlife and general wildlife concepts**. On the other hand, a course was held at the National Superintendency of Customs and Tax Administration (SUNAT) on the **protection of terrestrial wildlife** (fundamentals, legislation, trade and use modalities, and procedures for animal welfare). A total of 181 people have participated in these training.



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Capacities have also been **strengthened at the community level** by country:

- Bolivia: worked on strengthening capacities of 15 people during a **training on community forest management** within the framework of the Bolivian System for Certification of Forests and Incentives (SBCBi).
- Ecuador: provided two theoretical and practical **training workshops on the control and sustainable management of forest resources** to the Achuar community of Copataza and its area of influence with a group of community park rangers from 4 communities. It was possible to have 10 people from the Copataza, Wisui, Chumpi and Santiak communities trained to deal with local and regional forest problems, monitoring them. As a result of these workshops, 150 people strengthened their capacities.



- Peru: held a first «*Training on the COVID-19 Prevention, Surveillance and Control Plan in forestry operations*» workshop aimed to technicians from Amazon indigenous organizations and providers of technical assistance to native communities.

The Action has also worked on the **use and promotion of digital tools** to facilitate the registration, systematization and exchange of information on commercialized species, in accordance with international norms and regulations.

 **3** countries and **2** digital tools being implemented.

For the **wildlife component**, support began for the implementation of SMART in:

- Colombia: Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Southern Amazon Region of Colombia (CORPOAMAZONIA) and the Minambiente have agreed to use SMART to improve the recordkeeping on the wildlife trafficking in border areas.
- Ecuador: the working plan to strengthen capacities and implement SMART was developed, and the MAAE was supported in the preparation of a Ministerial Agreement to make it official as a national tool for the control and surveillance in the fight against domestic wildlife trafficking, which was made official in August 2020 through agreement No. MAAE-2020-09. As a result of this joint work, 11 protected areas have been prioritized to implement the tool.
- Peru: the implementation of SMART has been agreed and the roadmap has been defined with the different SERFOR Directorates involved, such as the Information Directorate, Control Directorate and the Technical Forest and Wildlife Administration (ATFFS) of Lima, and a pilot exercise of use with this last unit has been started.

For the **timber component**:

- Colombia: in 2019 the Action supported the development and dissemination of «Xylotron», a tool for the automatic identification of timber species based on artificial intelligence techniques. Likewise, it contributed with the renovation and launch of the web page <https://elijamaderalegal.com/> in coordination with the Intersectoral Agreement for Legal Timber (PIML), to promote recognition schemes, in order to encourage the supply and consumption of timber from a legal source.
- The Action defined the conceptual model to promote collaboration mechanisms in the Andean-Amazon countries, seeking to strengthen or develop the following tools in each country (i) outline to recognize legal timber in Colombia, (ii) due diligence protocols and the Timber Agreement in Peru, and (iii) legality control module in critical trafficking areas in Bolivia.



## 2.3. Reporting to our allies of civil society and engaging them in supporting authorities' actions



The Action disseminated information on wildlife and timber trafficking, progress of activities—together with authorities and civil society-, awareness campaigns for social networks, infographics, videos, and articles.

### 2.3.1. Mechanisms used and number of people who receive information produced by the Action:

During 2020, the following were achieved:

**+2,8million**  
people reached.

**2**  
countries disseminating  
protocols for forest  
reactivation.

**4**  
campaigns  
on counter  
wildlife  
trafficking.

**20**  
journalists  
trained.

**1**  
video on capacity  
building with  
indigenous  
communities.

**3**  
virtual events.

These progresses were made through:

- [Newsletter N°1](#) and [Newsletter N°2](#) of the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests, with 287 subscribers belonging to government entities and CSOs mapped by the Action.
- More than 685 posts in social networks related to the Action, with a reach of 2,864,307 people in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.





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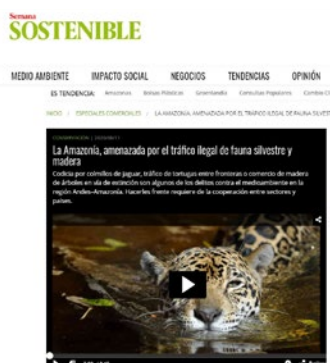


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- Awareness campaigns on social networks reached 951,239 people, with the aim of making visible the common threat of wildlife trafficking and its impact on ecosystems and public health.
  - Peru: [The other quarantine](#).
  - Ecuador: [More Life, Less Trafficking](#).
  - Bolivia: [Species vulnerable to trafficking](#).
  - Regional: [JaguarYou?](#)
- Workshop on coverage of wildlife and timber trafficking, in coordination with the Fundación Gabo, which strengthened the approach of 20 journalists from the main media in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. This workshop was disseminated through [a webinar opened](#) to the public and posts on social networks on wildlife and timber trafficking, reaching 529,009 people and 9,629 views.
- Materials adapted to the opportunity to disseminate information on diseases of zoonotic origin (such as the current case of COVID-19), as a risk associated to wildlife trafficking.
- Presence in the media, as well as digital channels of government agencies and CSOs:
  - More than 60 publications in digital media through press management and interviews.
  - [Publication of an article about the Alliance](#) in the special edition Amazon: Sustainable Development axis of the *Semana Sostenible* magazine, in coordination with other regional initiatives funded by the European Union.
- Virtual events in coordination with partners from the government sector, as well as the European Union delegations:
  - In Bolivia: in June 2020 the virtual event [«Conservation of biodiversity in Bolivia: ensuring ecosystems' and people's health»](#) was held, reaching 50,263 people and with 6,400 views.
  - In Ecuador: in September 2020, the virtual event [«On the trail of wildlife and timber trafficking»](#) was held, reaching 13,790 people and with 5,340 views.
  - Regional: in November, the virtual event [«Conservation of the jaguar, opportunities and challenges from the international articulation»](#) was held, within the framework of the International Jaguar Day, with the participation of panelists representing the CITES Secretariat, the Europe Latin America Technical Assistance Programme against Transnational Organized Crime (El PACCTO) and experts from WCS, reaching 22,416 people and with 4,137 views.



- In the context of the pandemic, the Action has collaborated with government agencies in the development of communication materials for the reactivation of the forestry sector and the adoption of sanitary measures:
  - In Peru, together with SERFOR and cooperating agencies, an [infographic](#) and publications on social networks on COVID-19 surveillance, prevention and control protocol for the reactivation of the forestry sector were disseminated, accompanied by [the dissemination of a series of training workshops](#) to local and indigenous communities.
  - In Colombia: the production of an [animated video for the forestry sector](#) was coordinated with the Minambiente and the PIML.
- Within the framework of the Action, in Peru there is a [video summarizing the Indigenous Territorial Governance Training Program](#), with outstanding testimonies from the participants. The dissemination of this material reached more than 11,400 people and had more than 3,600 views.



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### 2.3.2. Empowerment of indigenous organizations and rural communities, and engagement mechanisms by countries:

  
**182**  
people trained  
in Ecuador and  
Peru.

- In **Ecuador**, members of the Achuar community of Copataza were trained, and it was possible to have people from the **communities of Copataza, Wisui, Chumpi and Santiak** trained to address forest problems, also monitoring those issues.
- In **Peru**, an **Indigenous Territorial Governance Training Program (PFGTI)** was developed, including trainings about community rights and monitoring. The PFGTI with the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East of Peru (ORPIO) in coordination with the Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDSEP) and the Training Program for Bilingual Teachers of the Peruvian Amazon (FORMABIAP) has trained 32 participants from 8 native communities of Loreto on territorial governance, law, gender and on the control and surveillance of their territories.

**2**   
self-declarations  
from indigenous  
organizations in  
Bolivia.

- In **Bolivia**, **self-statements against wildlife trafficking** have been promoted, which establish the commitment to adopt and promote measures to confront this crime by (i) two indigenous organizations that together represent 43 communities of the department of La Paz; (ii) two community-based tourism ventures, and finally, (iii) the Sustainable Tourism Council of the Rurenabaque Destination: Madidi-Pampas.
- In **Colombia**, a first **identification of the needs** of the Association of Traditional Authorities and Councils of Indigenous Peoples of the Municipality of Leguízamo and Alto Resguardo Predio Putumayo (ACILAPP) was made for a training on forestry issues, to be held in 2021.

On the other hand, during 2020, the Action has made progress in defining a **civil society engagement plan** whose objective is to contribute to informing these partners and engaging them in supporting authorities' actions to combat wildlife and timber trafficking.




## 2.4. Visibility of the Action



International events which allowed to present the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests objectives to partners and key allies:

- **Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of CITES**, held in Geneva in August 2019. By supporting a SERFOR side event on the problem of wildlife in the Andean-Amazon countries and launching a **promotional video of the First High-Level Conference for the Americas**, with more than 9,000 views.
- «**First High-Level Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade for the Americas**», held in Peru in October 2019. Through:
  - **Side event of presentation** of the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests.
  - **More than 20 publications** in local and international press media on the subject.
  - **A photographic exhibition on wildlife trafficking** in Andean-Amazonian countries.
- **Expo Amazónica**, held in Peru, in August 2019, with a presence at the **Timber Pavilion**.
- «**III Congress of Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean**», held in Peru in October 2019, with a participation in the European Union Pavilion.

Additionally, there is an **institutional video of the Action**, which has had more than 13,900 views in the countries where the Alliance for Wildlife and Forests is implemented.

 **WCS Ecuador publicó un video en la lista de reproducción Alianza por la Fauna Silvestre y los Bosques.**  
16 de noviembre de 2020 · 🌐

#AlianzaFaunaYBosques | Te contamos que en esta semana se realiza el #TallerRegionaldePeriodistas, una iniciativa de Wildlife Conservation Society y WWF junto a Fundación Gabo, que busca brindar nuevos conocimientos y herramientas a 20 periodistas de la región para mejorar la cobertura en temáticas de #TráficodeFaunaSilvestre y #Madera.

¡Juntos por la #VidaSilvestre y los #Bosques! ❤️💙  
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Destacados Recientes

Investigación y visibilizar el tráfico de fauna silvestre y madera

Taller virtual de cobertura de tráfico de fauna silvestre y madera

¿Qué necesitas para postular?

Taller virtual de cobertura de tráfico de fauna silvestre y madera

Fundación Gabo, WCS y WWF se unen para formar una iniciativa en la



El Comercio

Yovana Murillo, coordinadora de Tráfico y Salud de Fauna Silvestre en la organización Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), señaló a Mongabay Latam la importancia de reforzar las capacidades de las fiscalías para que puedan investigar casos de tráfico de especies silvestres como crimen organizado.

El Perú fue uno de los primeros países en elaborar esta estrategia y ahora está en camino a vincular este delito al crimen organizado. "Tenemos un trabajo muy estrecho con la Fiscalía Especializada en Materia Ambiental (FEMA) y estamos cerca de dar el paso a esa tipificación", aseguró el director del Serfor, Alberto Gonzáles-Zuñiga, a Mongabay Latam.



Nombre Proyecto: Alianza por la Fauna Silvestre y los Bosques

Objetivo(s): Mejorar el involucramiento y participación de la sociedad civil para fortalecer la aplicación y cumplimiento de la ley, así como la cooperación con y entre las autoridades de Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia y Perú y, en la medida de lo posible, en las fronteras con Brasil, para combatir el tráfico de fauna silvestre y madera.

Mapa ubicación: Zona de intervención: Perú, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia y las dos fronteras triples Brasil-Colombia-Perú y Bolivia-Brasil-Perú.

Monto del proyecto: 5.5 millones de euros.

Periodo de ejecución: 4 años a partir del 2 de enero del 2019

Resultados e impactos:
 

- Identificación y contacto con 96 agencias gubernamentales y 75 organizaciones de la sociedad civil relacionadas al combate del tráfico de vida silvestre.
- Recopilación y sistematización de 10 bases de datos de información sobre el comercio ilegal y legal de fauna silvestre en la región, entre los años 2010-2018.
- Brindar información en la COP CITES 2019, la Primera Conferencia de las Américas sobre el Comercio Ilegal de Vida Silvestre y la ExpoAmazónica Perú 2019.

Aliados / Socios: WCS

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