



2019
Activity Report

We Stand for Wildlife®



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The Wildlife Conservation Society European Union Office (WCS EU) is a Belgian NGO based in Brussels, affiliated to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a global conservation organisation with field programmes in more than 55 countries across the globe.

Learn more: brussels.wcs.org

WCS EU Mission

WCS EU works at the nexus of biodiversity and development cooperation to further our mission to save wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. WCS EU provides technical, scientifically-informed inputs to government policy-makers and other key stakeholders to influence the development cooperation and environmental policies and programmes of the European Union, and the Belgian government. WCS EU raises awareness and fosters dialogue, emphasising the urgent need to protect biodiversity as a foundation for sustainable development and a healthy planet, which supports agriculture, fisheries, food security, water access, and climate resilience.

WCS EU is committed to working to improve the health of ecosystems and the wildlife they support, to benefit communities, in line with the commitments made under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving sustainable economic development and flourishing human development, depends on a healthy and resilient environment. Biodiversity loss, particularly in vulnerable regions, fuels conflict, displacement, and migration pressures, undermining stability. WCS EU supports WCS country programmes, to protect biodiversity, improve ecosystem health and resilience, and benefit local communities over the long-term, including in many least developed countries. WCS acts as a technical and science-based partner to governments, including through the delivery of rights-based conservation programmes in both terrestrial and marine environments.

Learn more: www.wcs.org

Policy and Visibility



INFLUENCING EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

Post-2020 EU budget

On 22nd March, WCS EU and other NGOs sent a letter to all MEPs welcoming the AFET/DEVE joint report on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and urging them to support the joint report at the plenary vote on 26th March. [Read more](#)

On 14th May, WCS EU and other NGOs wrote to all EU Foreign Affairs Ministers to request their support for an ambitious Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), highlighting that the NDICI should play a critical role in promoting inclusive sustainable development and fighting climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss globally, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Read more](#)

EU Parliament Election

On 1st April, WCS EU launched its manifesto for the 2019 European Parliament election, calling on the MEP candidates to pledge to support policies that halt biodiversity loss, halt deforestation, stop illegal trade in timber and wildlife, tackle climate change, protect the oceans. [Read more](#)

CBD Post-2020 Framework Event

WCS EU hosted a reception on 28th October for officials from the European Commission and EU Member State governments involved in UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) negotiations. WCS's Dr. Tom Evans made the case for a new post-2020 CBD target related to ecosystem integrity.

COMBATING DEFORESTATION

The FGMC Programme

The Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) Programme funded by the UK Government aims to address forest and wildlife crime and illegal deforestation in the Mekong, Central Africa, and Indonesia, and also aims to improve international and national governance frameworks and business standards for intact forests, climate and biodiversity. WCS EU staff, Janice Weatherley-Singh, Director, and Arnaud Goessens, EU Policy Manager, are engaged in the implementation of activities.

EU public consultation on deforestation

On 25th February, WCS EU submitted a response to an EU public consultation aiming to gather information and views on potential EU action against deforestation and forest degradation. [Read more](#)

On 23rd July, the European Commission published a Communication on "Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests" as a basis for the development of EU action to protect and restore forests and other natural ecosystems. As a response, WCS EU and other NGOs developed a joint briefing providing a set of concrete measures and initiatives, including new legislation, to reduce the EU's footprint on forests globally. [Read more](#)



COUNTER-WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

EU Domestic Ivory Trade

On 28th January, the EU organised a stakeholder meeting to bring together EU Member States, experts, policy makers and organisations, to discuss whether further restrictions on ivory trade would be warranted at the EU level and, if so, which measures would be suitable. [Read more](#)

On 6th February, WCS EU and other NGOs sent a response to DG Environnement regarding the European Commission non-paper on elephant ivory trade in the EU and possible additional measures. [Read more](#)

On 22nd February, WCS EU congratulated the Belgian Senate for passing a resolution calling on the European Commission to urgently implement a general trade ban in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns throughout the EU.

[Read more](#)

EU Environmental Crime Directive

On 3rd April, WCS EU submitted comments to the roadmap and proposal to evaluate the EU Environmental Crime Directive, advocating for EU Member States to treat wildlife crime as a serious crime. [Read more](#)

CITES COP18

In June, WCS shared a position statement with all Parties on species and implementation and strategic issues in preparation for the 18th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP18) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17-28 August 2019. WCS also developed several factsheets on Saiga antelopes, and sharks and rays. [Read more](#)



Supporting Field Implementation through Funding and Partnerships



Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme is a major international initiative that aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. It is being funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). The initiative is coordinated by a dynamic consortium of four partners, namely the FAO, CIFOR-ICRAF, CIRAD, and WCS. The SWM Programme is developing innovative, collaborative, and scalable new approaches to conserve wild animals and protect ecosystems, whilst at the same time improving the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities who depend on these resources. Projects are being piloted and tested with governments and communities in 16 participating countries. [Read more](#)

WCS EU staff, Caroline Abid, Chief of Party SWM Programme and Arnaud Goessens, EU Policy Manager (SWM R1 Focal Point), are engaged in the direct implementation of the SWM Programme by WCS (with which we are affiliated), through WCS's country programme offices in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo (RoC), Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

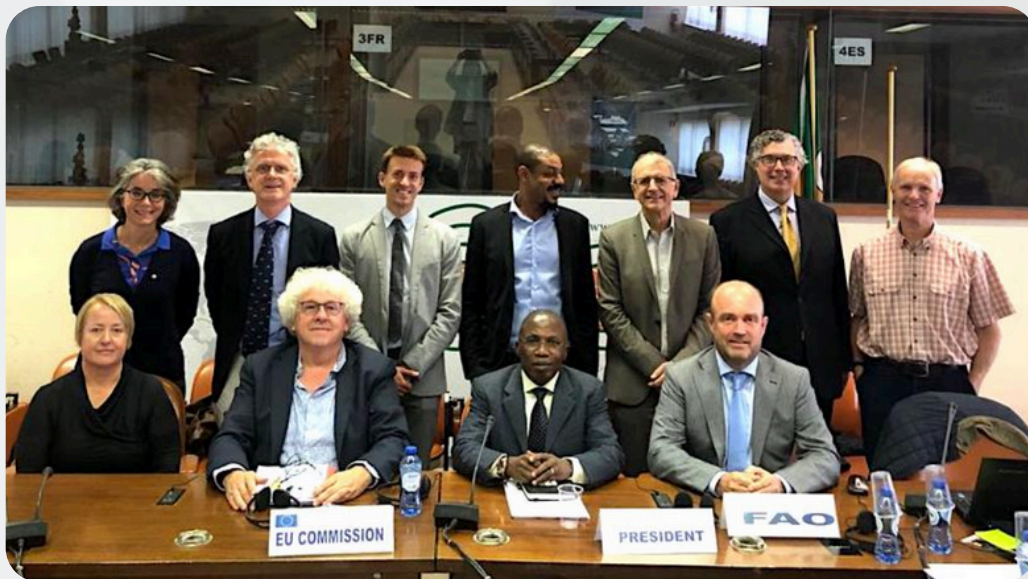
The year 2019 marked the launch of field implementation across SWM sites, with a focus on foundational activities aimed at fostering community engagement and gaining a comprehensive understanding of the local context. These efforts were essential for developing tailored, sustainable wildlife management solutions.

- **DRC:** The team initiated the groundwork for the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol. Additionally, several contextual studies were conducted, focusing on value chains, socioeconomic conditions, and bushmeat consumption trends.
- **Congo:** The programme was officially launched during the year despite local constraints.
- **Madagascar:** The programme began with the negotiation and signing of the FPIC protocol with 10 communities. This was followed by initial livelihood support activities, including the rehabilitation of fish farming basins. The official programme launch, supported by Malagasy officials, took place in May.
- **PNG:** SWM efforts focused on implementing the FPIC protocol, with agreements signed with three communities within the Bismarck Forest Corridor. Key milestones included establishing tree nurseries in SWM communities and conducting community training on nursery management. These activities provided access to new livelihood resources, such as timber and crop trees, while contributing to forest restoration.



Ecological monitoring is among the various contextual studies established by the SWM programme. Here, it is being conducted within the hunting zone of the Eboyo-Bapukeli community, located in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in DRC © Thomas Nicolon /FAO

On 25th September 2019, the partners of the SWM Programme gathered in Brussels for the second Steering Committee meeting.



Top to bottom, left to right: Myrto Arvaniti (FAO), Filippo Saracco (European Commission), Arnaud Goessens (WCS EU), Motooa Rammoneng (ACP), Alain Billand (CIRAD), John Fa (CIFOR), Conrad Aveling (Agreco), Tiina Vahanen (FAO), Philippe Mayaux (European Commission), Olusola Ojo (ACP), Hubert Boulet (FAO)



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