



Brussels, Monday, 22 March 2019

Re: European Parliament plenary vote on report concerning the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), WCS EU, Conservation International Europe and Wetlands International European Association, we welcome 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).

As conservation organisations, we believe that the NDICI should play a critical role in promoting inclusive sustainable development and fighting climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss globally.

Overexploitation of natural resources and environmental crime, including wildlife trafficking, are causing extensive damage to our oceans and terrestrial ecosystems, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At the same time, it deprives communities and indigenous peoples of their sources of food, livelihoods, and cultural values, thereby increasing their vulnerability and insecurity.

The compromises found on the AFET/DEVE joint report represent a significant improvement to the European Commission proposal.

We support the improved language on environment, climate and biodiversity throughout the text, which now includes specific references to wildlife crime, international biodiversity-related treaties, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, we strongly support the inclusion of **an ambitious target (i.e. 45%) for climate and environment related expenditure for NDICI as a whole (Recital 28) and in the EFSD+ part (Art. 26). The target includes 30% specifically for climate change and 15% for environment, biodiversity and fight against desertification.** This will be instrumental in stepping up much needed investments that contribute to climate action and environmental protection and, at the same time, deliver multiple benefits across a broad range of sectors.

We also praise the **alignment in the NDICI with the Paris Agreement**, which excludes fossil fuels related investments, and the requirement to not support actions that cause harm to the environment (Art. 24.)

We endorse the AFET/DEVE joint report and urge MEPs to support the compromises at the plenary vote on March 26th.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Arnaud Goessens (agoessens@wcs.org) and Eleonora Panella (epanella@ifaw.org) if you require additional information.

Yours Sincerely,

Staci McLennan
EU Office Director, IFAW

Janice Weatherley-Singh
Director, EU Strategic Relations, WCS EU

Herbert Lust
Vice-President and Managing Director, Conservation International Europe (CI)

Cy Griffin
European Programme Manager, Wetlands International European Association