

## **RIO DECLARATION ON CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

We, government representatives of the countries listed below, with the support of The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales and relevant international organisations, met in Rio de Janeiro on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and agreed on the urgent need to reinforce our collective action to tackle the threat of crimes that affect the environment.

Crimes that affect the environment pose a growing threat to the wellbeing and safety of communities and societies, the incomes of governments and the integrity of the global economy and financial system. They also hinder our efforts to tackle the triple planetary crisis resulting from climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Such crimes in violation of national laws and regulations, include but are not limited to illegal logging, illegal land use change, illegal mining and mineral trafficking, illegal fishing, waste trafficking, pollution and wildlife trafficking. Meanwhile, crimes that affect the environment, and their perpetrators, threaten rangers, environmental officials, individuals, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

In the past year, important progress has been made in elevating the importance of crimes that affect the environment in multilateral forums, including under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) the Bogota Declaration of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, and the G20 Cape Town Ministerial Declaration on Crimes that Affect the Environment. Governments are also taking action at the local, national and international level. However, as the devastating impact of crimes against the environment grows, so must our ambition in developing the capacities, frameworks and networks and collaboration to combat them.

For this reason, governments, with the support of relevant international organisations and partners, recognising respective national circumstances, priorities, capabilities and national sovereignty, commit to work individually and collectively to:

- Raise the visibility of crimes that affect the environment within political agendas, positioning the issue as a global priority that impacts both economies and societies,
- Establish the interconnections and convergence between crimes that affect the environment with other global priority agendas, to drive a more integrated response.
- Drive forwards new and existing multilateral instruments to enhance global cooperation.
- Strengthen national responses, including by respecting national legislation on crimes that affect the environment and by putting in place measures that prevent the entry of natural resources sourced illegally elsewhere.
- Galvanise more focused and effective action on persistent enablers and related crimes including, corruption, bribery, illicit financial flows, abuse of parallel legal supply chains, through cooperation that enhances national institutional capacities and legal frameworks.

- Recognise the role, importance and need to partner with rangers, environmental officials, individuals, Indigenous Peoples and local communities to combat such crimes and their need for support and protection.
- Promote collaboration between governments, private sector actors, international and civil society organisations to address crimes that affect the environment.
- Seek to advance discussion and enhance global cooperation on tackling crimes that affect the environment at international forums, including UNEA-7; the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCAC CoP; the 35<sup>th</sup> CCPCJ; the 15<sup>th</sup> UN Crime Congress; the 13<sup>th</sup> UNTOC COP.

The Rio Declaration is supported by:

|                                    |                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Governments</b>                 | Brazil                                                           |
|                                    | Colombia                                                         |
|                                    | Costa Rica                                                       |
|                                    | Democratic Republic of Congo                                     |
|                                    | France                                                           |
|                                    | Gabon                                                            |
|                                    | Germany                                                          |
|                                    | Indonesia                                                        |
|                                    | Kenya                                                            |
|                                    | Malawi                                                           |
|                                    | Nigeria                                                          |
|                                    | Norway                                                           |
|                                    | Panama                                                           |
|                                    | Peru                                                             |
|                                    | Republic of Congo                                                |
|                                    | South Africa                                                     |
|                                    | Suriname                                                         |
|                                    | United Kingdom                                                   |
| <b>International Organisations</b> | Interpol                                                         |
|                                    | International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)            |
|                                    | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)                 |
| <b>NGOs</b>                        | Campaign for Nature                                              |
|                                    | Conservation International                                       |
|                                    | Fauna & Flora                                                    |
|                                    | Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) |
|                                    | Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime                          |
|                                    | International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)              |
|                                    | International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL)                |
|                                    | Rare Conservation                                                |
|                                    | Re:wild                                                          |
|                                    | WildAid                                                          |
|                                    | The Nature Conservancy (TNC)                                     |
|                                    | Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)                              |
|                                    | Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC)                                |
|                                    | World Resources Institute (WRI)                                  |
|                                    | World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)                                 |
|                                    | Zoological Society of London (ZSL)                               |