



# **NATURE CRIME ALLIANCE**

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Last Updated: 25 October 2022**

### **Preamble**

Nature crime<sup>1</sup> occurs when individuals or criminal networks illegally exploit natural ecosystems to extract natural resources. The prevalence of nature crime and associated corruption and criminal behavior constitutes a serious barrier to progress in tackling climate change, slowing biodiversity loss, reducing the risk of future zoonotic pandemics, and achieving sustainable, peaceful, and equitable human development.

The Nature Crime Alliance brings together diverse stakeholders from governments and non-government entities committed to halting nature crime. Stakeholders who wish to participate in the Alliance and contribute to its collective mission are expected to adhere to the following Guiding Principles:

#### **1. Combat Nature Crime and Associated Criminal Activities**

Participants commit to take appropriate action within their own mandates and to support cooperative activities to combat nature crime and associated criminal activities, as well as address the underlying drivers of nature crime. This includes, inter alia:

- supporting the investigation and prosecution of criminal leaders and syndicates involved in nature crime and related organised crime;
- developing, implementing, and advocating for policies, regulations, and strategies aimed at tackling nature crime and/or addressing its underlying drivers; and
- deploying financial, technical, and human resources to build capacity to tackle nature crime and promote effective law enforcement.

#### **2. Conserve Natural Ecosystems and Protected Species**

Participants commit to conserve natural ecosystems, acknowledging the role they play in sustaining life on Earth.

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<sup>1</sup> Nature crime includes illegal logging, illegal mining, illegal fishing, illegal wildlife trade, and the illegal conversion of forests and wetlands for agriculture and other uses.

Participants commit to take appropriate actions to safeguard species and prevent the export or import of protected species.

### **3. Respect Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Participants commit to comply with and implement relevant national law and international obligations, including those concerning internationally recognized human rights as appropriate. This may include taking affirmative steps to prevent, investigate, punish and redress human rights abuses through effective policies, legislation, regulations and adjudication.

Participants commit to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and recognise the legitimacy of traditional and indigenous knowledge, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, relevant national legislation, treaties, and other agreements, including the concept of free, prior and informed consent.

### **Process for the Guiding Principles and Becoming a Participant of the Nature Crime Alliance**

Governments, civil society and academic organisations, Indigenous Peoples organisations, local community organisations, companies, financial institutions and foundations can apply to become Participants in the Nature Crime Alliance. Those interested in becoming Participants in the Nature Crime Alliance should demonstrate competence related to the mission and objectives of the Alliance and must:

- affirm adherence to these Guiding Principles;
- provide a statement of support which outlines their contributions and commitments to tackling nature crime (e.g., relevant policies, partnerships, strategies or programmes, or a commitment of financial resources);
- designate a point of contact(s)/focal point(s);
- accept that individuals participating in the Nature Crime Alliance will abide by its code of conduct.

Applications are reviewed by the Nature Crime Alliance Secretariat and its Steering Committee. The Nature Crime Secretariat will notify applicants of the outcome of this process by email as soon as possible [and no later than three months after receipt of an application].

Individuals are not eligible to apply, though the Secretariat may invite individuals who have relevant expertise to participate in one or more of the Nature Crime Alliance's working groups.

## **Suspension or Withdrawal from the Nature Crime Alliance**

Participants who enact new policies, strategies or activities that are clearly in contravention to the Guiding Principles can be suspended from the Alliance. The process for triggering a suspension is that:

- [Three or more] Participants raise a concern to the Secretariat;
- The Secretariat notifies the Participant that a review process is underway;
- A Review Committee is established to collect and assess relevant information and makes a recommendation to the Secretariat and Steering Committee;  
and
- The Participant is notified by email the outcome of the review process.

If a Participant wishes to withdraw from the Nature Crime Alliance, they can do so in writing to the Nature Crime Alliance Secretariat at [secretariat@naturecrimealliance.org](mailto:secretariat@naturecrimealliance.org).