



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

INFORMAL SESSION FOR THE 24TH MEETING OF THE
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
FEBRUARY 2020

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

AGENDA ITEM 3 ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

In order to effectively drive the transformation of our relationship with nature, we need to use the strength of multilateralism to address all key challenges and threats driving climate change, nature loss and pollution. Illegal exploitation of natural resources is a major threat to biodiversity, undermining human health, socio-economic development and posing major security risks to people and states. The Earth has lost over 60% percent of its wildlife in the past 40 years. Up to 50% of timber supplies in some areas are sourced illegally. One third of global fish catch comes from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and thousands of species are at the brink of extinction due to transnational organized wildlife crime. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that wildlife crime is a threat not only to the environment and biodiversity, but also to human health, economic development and security. Wildlife trafficking, which by definition does not go through proper sanitary and phytosanitary controls, can potentially lead to the spread of zoonoses, such as SARS-CoV-2 that caused the COVID-19 pandemic. Illegal mining can also be a gateway for illegal logging and other crimes that affect the environment.

UNODC recommends integrating measures to address illegal exploitation in the post-2020 biodiversity framework response.