

## ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE TRAVEL & TOURISM SECTOR

# ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Travel & Tourism is an integral part of our global economy. It facilitates the international travel of **over 1.4 billion** people each year, creates jobs for **over 320 million** people, and generates 10.4% of the world's GDP. Unfortunately, it has also been used unknowingly, and at times deliberately, to facilitate the purchase and trade of illegal wildlife<sup>1</sup> products.

Trade in endangered wildlife and their parts and products has reached crisis proportions for many species, including elephants, rhinos, pangolins, tigers and rosewood. Demand for the rare has fueled an international poaching and trafficking surge that is threatening the survival of some of our world's most iconic species and travel destinations.

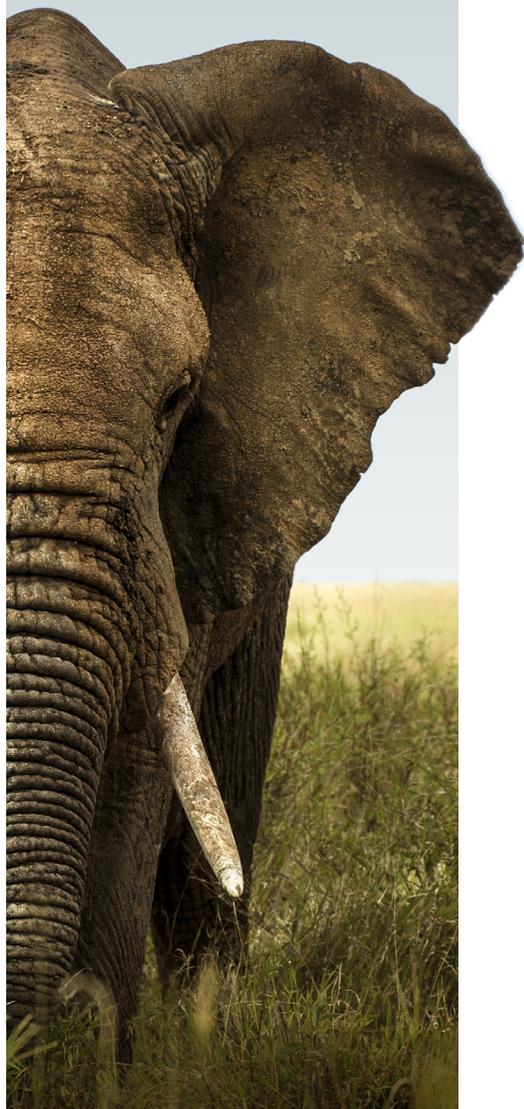
Recognising the potential of the Travel & Tourism sector to create positive change, since 2018 **more than 100 companies** have come together to sign the 'Buenos Aires Travel & Tourism Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade', a commitment to take a stand against wildlife trafficking.

Signatories to the Declaration have agreed to 'adopt or encourage the adoption of a zero-tolerance policy regarding illegal wildlife trade'. Since many companies and organizations in the Travel & Tourism industry share common destinations, travelers, and suppliers, adopting a harmonised policy will help amplify the global impact.

*To this end, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) have come together to support the Travel & Tourism Sector in their efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade.*

### Corporate Illegal Wildlife Trade Zero Policy Statement

[Company] supports the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and strictly condemns and prohibits any form of trade or promotion of wildlife or wildlife parts or products that is contrary to international and/or domestic law.<sup>2</sup>



## **Illegal wildlife trade is defined for purposes of this policy guidance document as the trade in wildlife that is illegal under international and/or domestic law.**

This policy includes the use, consumption, sale or promotion<sup>3</sup> of these activities for live animals and plants whose trade is prohibited under international and/or domestic law, or parts or products derived from those animals or plants. This policy does not cover domestic or farm animals such as cats, dogs and chickens or animals or plants that are legally harvested.

International trade in species or parts or products of those species that are included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is prohibited, with only very few, specific exceptions. International trade in species or parts or products of those species that are listed in Appendix II of CITES is permitted provided the proper certificates or permits are first obtained. If not, it is illegal.

There are a series of exceptions to these prohibitions and restrictions on international trade in species listed under CITES, such as some non-commercial trade, some captive-bred animals or artificially propagated plants or certified ranched animals. Such exemptions usually need to be authenticated by an official permit or other approved document. The specific rules need to be checked with the local CITES Management Authority in each country.

### **Inclusion of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Zero Tolerance Policy**

Following best corporate practices, the Illegal Wildlife Trade Zero Tolerance Policy should be integrated into existing corporation rules and remediation protocols.

- Employee code of conduct
- Supplier code of conduct
- Annual reports and investor filings (e.g., annual sustainability/CSR reports.)
- Remediation Protocols: investigation of allegations, establishing corrective actions, and escalation protocols.<sup>4</sup>

### **Communication Strategy**

An illegal wildlife trade communication toolkit is in development and will be provided to all signatories to the Declaration.

For more information on the Buenos Aires Declaration please visit: [www.wttc.org/IWT](http://www.wttc.org/IWT)

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, the term wildlife will be used to describe both fauna and flora.

<sup>2</sup> Wildlife Trade Laws (not a comprehensive list)

• Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES)  
• EU Wildlife Trade Regulations  
• US Endangered Species Act

<sup>3</sup> Promotion - activity that supports or provides active encouragement from employees to guests to find wildlife or their parts and products that is prohibited from trade under international law.

<sup>4</sup> Sample Employee and Supplier Code of Conducts, with Remediation Protocols are available upon request.

