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- The Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management is responsible for, among other things, care for nature and forest management in Suriname. This task is performed by the Suriname Forest Service and its Nature Conservation Division, as well as the green foundations of the Ministry. The Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management is the CITES Management Authority and the RAMSAR Management Authority in Suriname.
- In the beginning of 2023, it was reported by our Interpol counterpart that two of the most powerful jaguar trafficking networks in South America has been detected in Suriname. The networks, called “SA1” and “SA18,” operate in Suriname and are directed by overseers from China. The investigation on this matter provided detailed information on both networks, their trafficking routes, their operational methods, and details on the convergence of this trafficking with other serious crimes, including human trafficking, illegal mining and money laundering. Jaguar trafficking not just as a simple crime against wildlife, but as a crime that is in the hands of dangerous people who are also involved in other serious crimes.
- Since 2019, experts from Earth League International (ELI) have been dedicated to mapping the mechanisms and structure of the entire criminal chain involved in the jaguar trafficking industry, from the highest link — which includes the leaders of the networks — to the traders, transporters and sellers. With this information, these experts have published several preliminary reports to explain the dynamics of these crimes in four Latin American countries: Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Suriname. In March 2023, they [published](#) a final report on their research.<sup>1</sup>
- The investigation provides evidence of two of South America’s strongest and most evolved wildlife trafficking networks. Suriname acknowledge this problem as this has been confirmed in the recent cases of Sri Lanka<sup>2</sup> and Togo.<sup>3</sup>  
These networks operate on a cross-border and international level. This presents challenges because these types of crimes are more complex than what the authorities can handle, which makes is more challenging for enforcement agencies to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- Addressing the illegal trade of wildlife in Suriname presents several challenges due to its complex, multifaceted nature. *One of the current challenge Suriname is facing in combatting wildlife trafficking is the Interconnected Criminal Network.* Suriname recognized that effective collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, and other stakeholders crucial is in combatting wildlife crime.
- In this regard, various activities have been undertaken that can contribute to combating the illegal trade of wildlife in Suriname and in the world.
- For example, an MOU has been concluded between the State of Suriname, represented by the Minister of Justice and Police, the Minister of Land Policy and Forest Management, and Conservation International Suriname with the aim of cooperation in the field of enforcement,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.iucn.nl/app/uploads/2023/04/Operation-Jaguar-final-report\\_March-2023.pdf](https://www.iucn.nl/app/uploads/2023/04/Operation-Jaguar-final-report_March-2023.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sundaytimes.lk/240107/news/330-birds-in-suspicious-suriname-cargo-handed-over-to-importer-until-probe-concludes-544280.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rfi.fr/br/%C3%A1frica/20240221-pf-tenta-resgatar-quase-30-animaais-silvestres-brasileiros-a-preendidos-no-togo>

control and supervision of compliance with legal provisions regarding illegal wildlife trade, providing technical support and capacity building in accordance with national legislation and international commitments. This MOU outlines that parties must combat the illegal trade in wild animals and plants and exercise control thereof with the application of the associated sanctions and appropriate safeguards to put a stop to this phenomenon.

- Suriname has endorsed the Compliance assistance program 2022-2023 (CAP 2022-2023) on February 20, 2022. In this regard the CITES Secretariat support Suriname to revised the legislation regarding CITES related matters and capacity building within the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. Suriname is in the process of establishing a formal committee/working group to ensure smooth collaboration between policy, permit management, SA, fisheries and forestry management, and other relevant agencies ad appropriate. This national CITES committee mentioned above should help in integrating the CITES Scientific Authority in the CITES work in Suriname and assist with the transfer of information and knowledge.
- Suriname participate in the SUDWEN, SIG-Jaguar (Freeland Brazil) and SIG-reptiles (Freeland Brazil). Suriname also works closely with IFAW and Panthera when it comes to capacity building and judicial training for enforcement agencies.
- There is also intensive cooperation with the US Embassy and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). Every year a number of training courses are provided for game wardens and other enforcement and judicial institutions in El Salvador. Via the US Embassy, the International Conservation Chiefs Academy (ICCA) also provides training in the United States to enforcement agencies in Suriname in order to strengthen the enforcement network against illegal wildlife trade.
- Suriname is also a party to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), which was founded last year by India, working together to protect big cats.
- The Leaders of State Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) has made a declaration during their meeting in the city of Belém do Pará, on August 9, 2023, (Belem Declaration). One of the matters arising from this declaration is cooperation in the field of Police, judicial and intelligence cooperation in the fight against illicit activities, including environmental crimes (points 61-67). In this context, a working group on Public Security and Transboundary crime will be established.
- Furthermore, the Surinamese Police recently established an environmental Crime UNIT (police officers who receive direct directives from the Public Prosecution Office) that falls directly under the Public Prosecution Office.