

The EU policy context and the revision of the Wildlife Action Plan

LIFE SWIPE Workshop - 28/06/2022



DG Environment F3

Policy Context

- **Sustainable Development Goals** and in particular target 15.7 on illegal wildlife trade
- **European Green Deal**
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**
- **Profound impacts of wildlife trafficking on biodiversity**, including :
 - weakening wild populations, in some cases leading to extinction
 - by-catch or habitat depletion
 - cascading effects of removal of keystone species, affecting ecosystem services, destroying important carbon sinks, affecting the health and balance of land and water

Wildlife Action Plan

- Adopted in 2016 the WAP set out a roadmap for the EU strategy against wildlife trafficking - 3 priorities, 32 actions
- WAP evaluation and revision is a key deliverable of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Prevention	Enforcement	Global Partnership
Reduce demand	Implementation of legislation	Use diplomatic tools
Reduce supply	Training of the enforcement chain	Strengthen development support
Engage with business sectors	Focus organised crime	Use trade policy leverage
Address corruption	Stronger role for Europol/Eurojust	Address links with security
Engage local communities better	Use of EU cooperation instruments	International law enforcement cooperation

Key positive outcomes

Raising the **profile of wildlife trafficking** as a priority issue among a wide range of policy-makers, law enforcement agencies, and stakeholders in the EU.

More **enforcement measures** in the EU, such as enhanced cross-border investigations, notably against trafficking of ivory, eels, reptiles and birds.

Increased **EU funding** for capacity-building and international action against wildlife trafficking

Strong EU proposals against wildlife trafficking in multilateral forums (notably under CITES)

The **mobilisation of EU and Member States' diplomatic networks** in many third countries

A **ban on EU trade** in raw and worked **ivory** (with limited exceptions)

Some challenges

Trading routes and species concerned **changing over time**

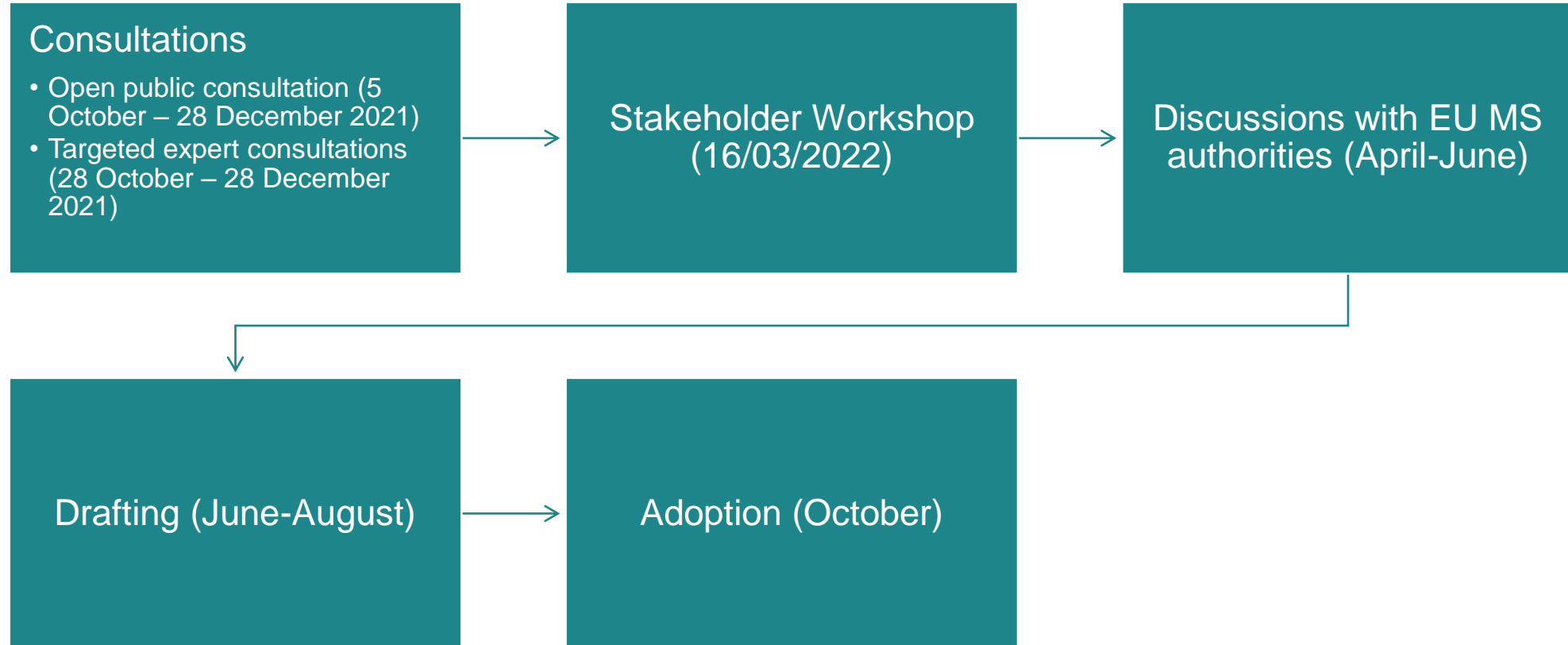
Connections between wildlife trade and the **spread of zoonotic diseases**

Impact of wildlife trafficking on **local communities**

Increasing **online trade** and related use of small-parcel services

Lack of capacity in many of the relevant agencies and authorities, worsened by the pandemic and related restrictions

Revision of the Wildlife Action Plan - process



Some proposals and ideas gathered so far

Funding: ensuring continuous support to the fight against illegal wildlife trade

Prevention: stronger focus on decreasing demand in the EU and elsewhere

Digitalisation: respond to the shift of the wildlife trade to online platforms, but also use opportunities that digital tools offer (e-permits, online trainings, databases)

A wider multi-stakeholder approach – exchange of information, knowledge sharing and coordination with stakeholders, including regular involvement of private sector

Facilitating enforcement, including increased focus on judiciary and prosecutors, building networks, peer-to-peer exchanges, training – in the EU and outside

Stronger framework for monitoring and evaluation, including at national level – e.g. via national action plans

Recurrent issues to be considered: positive list for exotic pets, additional UNTOC protocol, stricter rules on hunting trophies, law criminalizing all trade of illegally sourced wildlife

Revised Action Plan

- 2022-2026
- Evolution and not a revolution
- Comprehensive approach, updating and responding to new challenges and trends
- Implemented by the Commission, EU Member States, and relevant agencies such as Europol and CEPOL
- Taking into account issues raised in the consultations
- In line with all relevant strategies and coherent and complementary to other instruments: Environmental Crime Directive, Digital Services Act, Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, etc.

THANK YOU

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