



Committee on Development

2016/2076(INI)

24.6.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking
(2016/2076(INI))

Rapporteur: Brian Hayes

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the protection of biodiversity is important for sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor development; whereas conversely, the involvement of local communities can be crucial for success in such protection;
 - B. whereas wildlife protection can, however, have a considerable price for local communities, as some species are dangerous to humans or can destroy plantations and other property or kill livestock; whereas confronting armed poachers can be utterly risky;
1. Supports the B4Life flagship initiative on biodiversity protection, implemented in particular via the European Development Fund and the Development Cooperation Instrument, as well as objective 1.2 of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking relating to rural communities; calls on the Commission to ensure that relevant actions are consistent with the fundamental poverty reduction objective of EU development policy, reflect the potential of local communities to contribute to wildlife protection, and include creative solutions, adapted to local conditions, to human-wildlife conflicts;
 2. Stresses the need to responsibly manage the risks associated with combating poaching, which is often perpetrated by heavily armed and well-organised criminal groups;
 3. Calls for actions that enable local actors to directly benefit from engaging in wildlife protection, reduce the costs of living with wildlife, and, in parallel with measures to discourage illicit wildlife-related activities, improve possibilities of earning a living without such involvement;
 4. Calls for a step change in intelligence-gathering, lawmaking and law enforcement in relation to wildlife trafficking in EU Member States and other destination and transit countries.