

Community Voices, Latin America and the Caribbean

30 September to 2 October 2019, Lima, Peru

Event Report

Community Voices, Latin America and the Caribbean

Perspectives on responses to illegal wildlife trade and
anti-poaching efforts, and opportunities for sustainable use



Author information

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About the event

For more information about this report, or the Community Voices initiative, visit www.iied.org/whos-listening-community-voices-illegal-wildlife-trade, or contact: Dilys Roe, dilys@roe@iied.org

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Group photo, Community Voices, Lima October 2019 (SERNANP)

Acronyms

CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CIMA	Centre for Conservation, Research and Management of Natural Areas, Peru
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and local communities
INTE-PUCP	Institute for Sciences of Nature, Territory and Renewable Energies, Peru
IUCN SULi	International Union for Conservation of Nature Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
NRDDB	North Rupununi Development District Council
ONCFS	French National Agency for Wildlife
SERNANP	National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State, Peru
SRDC	South Rupununi District Council
SWM	Sustainable Wildlife Management
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

Overview

The First High-Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade (Lima Conference) was held on 3 and 4 October 2019 in Lima, Peru. The conference was the first time leaders from the region had come together to discuss the poaching and wildlife trade crisis. This event stemmed from discussions at the London Conference on illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in October 2018, which was the fourth in a series seeking to increase international efforts to tackle IWT. And like other international policy forums, these conferences acknowledged the need to involve local communities who live alongside wildlife in anti-poaching efforts.

Despite commitments made during these forums, countries have largely been slow to promote community-based approaches as a key part of their strategy to tackle IWT, favouring methods such as increased law enforcement instead. But local people are often best placed to protect the wildlife they live alongside. As such, this approach overlooks the essential role Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) play in fighting IWT.

Immediately prior to the Lima Conference, IIED and partners: International Union for Conservation of Nature Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (IUCN SULi), Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Project Guyana, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado (SERNANP), Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Instituto de Ciencias de la Naturaleza, Territorio y Energías Renovables (INTE-PUCP), USAID and TRAFFIC, organised an event that brought IPLC representatives to Lima. This was the second 'Community Voices' event¹ convened by IIED where representatives could discuss their role in tackling IWT, share their experiences with each other and prepare a joint message for the Lima Conference

The three-day Community Voices event focussed on the impact of IWT on local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the opportunities for sustainable use and legal trade in anti-poaching efforts. On the first day, over 20 community representatives and experts presented their perspectives of what works, what doesn't and why in terms of community involvement in combating IWT.

On the second day, participants split into two groups to deliver further presentations and to reflect on success factors as well as ongoing challenges. The two groups also discussed ways of continued collaboration in the region.

On the third day was an opportunity for the community representatives to agree on a set of key messages for the Lima Conference. These messages were developed into a Community Statement, to be presented by Noemí Fernandez Saavedra from Peru in a plenary session on the second day of the Lima Conference. Meanwhile, other participants at the Community Voices event reflected on commitments made to date and what needs to be done to support communities to sustainably manage their wildlife and reduce poaching.

The Community Voices event was attended by over 20 community representatives as well as over 50 other support NGOs, donor agencies and academia.

¹ The first Community Voices event was held in October 2018 in London <https://pubs.iied.org/17633IIED/>

Agenda

Monday 30 September 2019

What	Who
9.00-9.10 Welcome	Enrique Flores (Rector of Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina)
9.10-9.20 Introduction to the event	Marcos Pastor (SERNANP)
9.20-9.40 International commitments on IWT and communities, including an analysis of progress	Rosie Cooney (IUCN SULi)
9.40-10.30 First panel - Community experiences: Impacts of IWT and anti-IWT efforts on communities	Facilitator: Lily Rodriguez (CIMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aldo Espinoza: Participation of the Lucanas community in the sustainable management of vicuña fibre in the Pampa Galeras National Reserve Barbara D'Achille, Peru Santiago Mayhua: Management of wild populations of vicuñas in Apolobamba and the impact of illegal trafficking in Bolivia Ronel Ijuma: Management initiative for sustainable use of river turtles in Pacaya Samiria National Reserve Nabil Carahuasari: Community-based conservation as a strategy to prevent illegal trafficking of turtles in the Colombian-Peruvian Amazon
10.30-10.40 Coffee break	
10.40-11.00 A theory of change for engaging communities in tackling IWT – four key pathways	Rosie Cooney (IUCN SULi)
11.10-11.50 Second panel - Empowering and incentivising communities in tackling IWT: Ensuring the benefits exceed the costs	Facilitator: Inés Arroyo (IUCN SULi) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Bodmer: Wildlife Management in Loreto, 1950-2019 Fermin Aricuya: Sustainable management of the arapaima in Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru Eduardo Cavinass: Management of the spectacled caiman by the Tacana people, Bolivia Marina Montoya: Wildlife management by communities
11.50-12.30 Third panel - Community efforts and initiatives to tackle IWT	Facilitator: Richard Bodmer (IUCN Species Survival Commission) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francisco Ruiz: Sustainable use as a conservation tool – the management of yellow anaconda in Argentina Juan Sandi: Integrating indigenous knowledge into the sustainable use of wildlife in the Pucacuro National Reserve

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Javier Mojica: Protecting turtles on the pacific coast of Nicaragua Marco Ribera: Operación Jaguar, Bolivia
12.30-12.45 Summary of key points	Rosie Cooney (IUCN SULi)
12.45-13.00 Overview of People not Poaching learning platform	Olivia Wilson-Holt (IIED)
13.00-14.00 Lunch break	
14.00-14.50 Fourth panel - Managing wildlife and reducing illegal wildlife trade by communities in special tenure entities	Facilitator: Pierre Foy (INTE-PUCP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marcos Coutinho: Crocodilian management, Brazil Vivienne Solis Rivera: Human rights and conservation in marine coastal communities, Costa Rica Leonardo Sánchez: Caribbean sharks education programme, Venezuela [via video link]
14.50-15.40 Fifth panel - Managing wildlife and reducing illegal wildlife poaching by local communities	Facilitator: Anita Arrascue (INTE-PUCP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Mahadeo: Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, Guyana Tony Rodney, Immaculata Casimero and Jaqueline Allicok: Community driven and sustainable wildlife management, Guyana Luis Enrique Martínez Hernández: Community bird monitoring programme, Mexico
15.40-16.00 Coffee break	
16.00-17.30 Community discussion and perspectives	Rosie Cooney (IUCN SULi)

Tuesday 1 October 2019

What	Who
8.30-9.00 Introduction to the meeting	Marina Rosales (SERNANP/IUCN SULi)
9.00-9.20 IUCN SULi strategy 2019-2021	Rosie Cooney (IUCN SULi)
9.20-10.00 SULi Regional Strategy 2019-2021 for Latin America and the Caribbean	Marina Rosales (SERNANP/IUCN SULi)
10.00-10.30 Coffee break	
10.30-13.00	

Parallel groups	
Group 1 - Wildlife trade: Sustainable legal wildlife trade and illegal trade.	<p>Coordinator: Marina Rosales (SERNANP/IUCN SULi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corsino Huallata Ibarra: Sustainable use and illegal trade of vicuña fibre and products in Bolivia • Juan Carlos Sueiro: Local fishing community strategies to combat illegal trade of marine wildlife in Peru • Marina Rosales: Illegal trade in pets in Latin America and the Caribbean • Juan Carlos Heaton: Ecotourism strategy to combat IWT in Peru • Kantuta Lara Delgado: Conservation strategies based on community management of wildlife
Group 2 - Subsistence Hunting/wildmeat	<p>Coordinator: Nathalie Van Vliet (CIFOR/IUCN SULi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Rodney: Community voices messages on subsistence hunting and wildmeat – Results from the First Regional Community Representatives' workshop on subsistence hunting and wildmeat • Richard Bodmer: Sustainable models from Peru • Cecile Richard Hansen and Raphaëlle Rinaldo: Subsistence hunting in French Guiana: Between ecology and politics • Anders Sirén: Governmental vs. grassroot actions for conservation of hunted wildlife in Ecuadorian Amazonia • Juarez Pezzuti: Hunting rights and legislation in Brazil • Pedro Constantino and Andre Antunes: An overview of subsistence hunting and wildlife co-management in Brazilian Amazon • Benito Gonzales: Guanaco meat production in the Chilean Patagonia under a human-wildlife conflict crisis and sustainable use parameters
13.00-14.30	
Lunch break	
14.30-17.00	
Parallel groups: Discuss and agree the Latin America and the Caribbean regional strategy on anti-IWT efforts through sustainable use and legal trade	

Wednesday 2 October 2019

What	Who
9.00-12.30 Stream A - Identify and discuss the challenges in increasing community involvement in efforts to tackle illegal wildlife trade, and develop a Community Statement to the Lima Conference	Community representatives only
Stream B – Supporting effective community-level responses to illegal wildlife trade	Open session
12.30-14.00 Lunch break	
14.00-16.30 Feedback from streams A and B and confirming the Community Statement to the Lima Conference	
16.30-17.00 Final conclusions and closing speech	Pedro Gamboa (Head of SERNANP) and Gabriel Quijandría (Environment Vice-Minister)
17.00 onwards Cultural event and cocktails	

Summary of presentations

Below is a summary of presentations and perspectives given throughout the event. Key areas of discussions and outcomes were:

- Communities throughout the region rely on wildlife as an economic resource but are frequently lacking the rights to be able to benefit from sustainable use.
- They recognise their traditional and cultural role in protecting their environment but are facing increasing challenges from extractive industries and climate change.
- Many successful anti-poaching initiatives are community-led from the bottom up, but for these to be sustainable it is important to closely collaborate with government agencies.
- Communities will continue to work together in the region but require support to amplify their voice in decision making and to have their role in wildlife management recognised.

Monday 30 September 2019

The conference was opened by Enrique Flores, Rector of Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, before Marcos Pastor from SERNANP gave an introduction to the event.

Rosie Cooney from IUCN SULi then gave a presentation outlining **what commitments on community engagement have already been made at previous international policy forums on IWT**. Rosie discussed why it is necessary to involve communities in anti-poaching initiatives, rather than relying on law enforcement and demand reduction, and what progress has been made against these commitments to date.

The first panel '**Community experiences: Impacts of IWT and anti-IWT efforts on communities**' was opened by Aldo Espinoza, the community wildlife management representative of the Lucanas community in Peru. Aldo has twenty years of experience in working with communities on vicuña management and discussed how, until 1994, communities weren't able to benefit from the vicuña. This meant high poaching rates, but eventually the communities managed to lobby congress to change regulations so they could harvest the vicuña fibre. Aldo highlighted the fact that the communities were living in poverty next to one of the world's most expensive fibres. Nowadays, communities carry out the *chaccus* – the process of catching and shearing live vicuña – and sell the fibre to Italy. The income earned has so far supported education programmes and community infrastructure. Illegal hunting has largely reduced but the community is still lacking the equipment to process the fibre effectively.

Participants next heard from Santiago Mayhua, representative of communities in Apolobamba, Bolivia. Like Aldo, Santiago represents communities involved in the management of vicuña. In Apolobamba, the communities self-organised into an association to manage the *chaccus* of vicuña and the population has now grown to over 12,000, from 96 in 1964! Another success story came from Ronel Ijuma and the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve in north-east Peru. In 2005, a long-standing conservation programme of river turtles began to include communities in management plans. The communities subsequently formed an association and in 2016 updated these plans, which now include sustainable harvest quotas. In 2018, 11,000 turtles were freed along the river and the communities earned nearly 20,000 Peruvian soles income from legal trade. Community patrols take place in four different areas, although Ronel highlighted that poaching is still a problem, especially as poachers sell products at lower prices in the market. Overall, sustainable management has improved the quality of life for communities involved.

The last panellist, Nabil Carahuasari, community wildlife management representative from El Progreso on the Colombian/Peru border, also spoke about the sustainable use of river turtles. Traditionally, Indigenous communities have always consumed river turtles without affecting populations, but growing urbanisation has led to rapid declines in the population. Motivated by traditional knowledge passed down from their grandparents and parents, the communities initiated an environmental education programme to raise awareness of the necessity of taking care of their habitat. They also began patrolling the beaches, and between 2009 and 2019 didn't lose any nests or mother turtles to poaching.

The programme has instilled a sense of pride in the communities, and as they benefit from sustainable use, they have a reason to take care of their natural resources.

Before the next panel we heard again from Rosie Cooney on a **theory of change for reducing IWT through community engagement**. Rosie spoke about the need to ensure the net benefits of conservation outweigh the net benefits of poaching for IWT in order to succeed. She also outlined four enabling conditions for interventions at the community level to reduce IWT: 1. Strengthen disincentives for illegal behaviour; 2. Increase incentives for stewardship; 3. Decrease costs of living with wildlife; 4. Support non-wildlife based livelihoods.

First to present on the second panel '**Empowering and incentivising communities in tackling IWT: Ensuring the benefits exceed the costs**', was Richard Bodmer, who works in the Loreto region of Peru with the Tamshiyacu Tahuayo community. Richard spoke about the effects over-hunting had on wildlife populations before the first meeting of CITES in 1974, which introduced management for the first time and massively reduced illegal activities. Richard highlighted that in the Amazon, community management is *the* mechanism for conservation, resulting in reduced poaching and increased income from sustainable use.

Next up was Fermin Aricuya from Pacaya Samiria National Reserve in Peru. Fermin works with communities to sustainably manage paiche (arapaima) and since 2013 has partnered with other organisations to set sustainable quotas of this freshwater fish. Income for the communities from sustainable harvest has increased from 41,000 in 2010 to 223,000 Peruvian soles in 2016, enhancing the understanding that the communities need to protect this resource that forms the basis of their livelihoods.

Eduardo Cavinaz, a community representative from Bolivia, was next to present on the sustainable use of spectacled caimans. Back in the late 1990s, there was widespread illegal hunting of the species. However, the Tacana community had identified these caimans as a key economic resource, prompting the development of management plans to implement a sustainable harvest programme. Harvest quotas are set based on scientific information captured through continued monitoring and all families benefit due to a rotational programme design. A successful commercialisation strategy, selling both meat and hides, has delivered benefits back into the community, which Eduardo stated was due to responsible management and scientific evidence.

The final speaker on this panel was Marina Montoya from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Marina highlighted that not everything illegal is unsustainable and that trade can allow communities to have benefits of wildlife exceed costs. In Loreto, Peru, communities can benefit from hunting species with a good conservation status to sell the meat to restaurants in Lima. Marina noted, however, ongoing difficulties with authorisation, meaning it is necessary to work alongside regional authorities to obtain necessary permits.

The third panel '**Community efforts and initiatives to tackle IWT**', kicked off with a presentation by Francisco Ruiz, from Programa Curiyú in Argentina, on the sustainable use programme for the yellow anaconda. In 2001, after widespread illegal hunting of the species, the government with Fundación Biodiversidad implemented a management programme to allow local populations in Formosa Province to carry out sustainable and controlled harvest. Ongoing research ensures that harvest quotas of yellow anacondas don't affect the population and communities benefit from income from the sale of skins to Europe. Sustainable harvest quotas are similarly used as a management tool in the Pucacuro reserve, Peru, as Juan Sandi (community representative) described in his presentation on traditional subsistence hunting. After years of uncontrolled resource extraction, communities in the reserve developed a wildlife management plan. Under the plan, only certain species are hunted and communities support park rangers by keeping records. Communities are guaranteed protein and also generate income from products sold to restaurants in Lima, with help from SERNANP.

Onto the marine environment next as Javier Mojica, who works with Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Nicaragua, spoke about conservation efforts for the leatherback turtle. Since 2008 FFI has supported night monitoring on important nesting beaches as well as incubating eggs to give infant turtles the best

chance of survival. Javier highlighted how important it's been to incentivise the communities; local people are rewarded for finding and informing FFI on nest locations. An environmental education programme also ensures that people are aware of which eggs are leatherback turtles. Involving children in education and collaboration with other institutions, such as the army, have contributed to the success of this project.

The final panellist was Marco Ribera, who presented on the work of Operation Jaguar in Bolivia, a project run by IUCN Netherlands. Jaguar numbers are believed to have reduced by 50-60% across the continent, leaving fragmented populations. Human-wildlife conflict and increasing expansion of cattle ranching are primary factors, so it is particularly important to create awareness in communities of threats to the species. Illegal wildlife trade in jaguar parts is also on the rise, so the project has selected areas where they can work with Indigenous People to create local informant networks and build their capacities and skills. It is also hoped that ecotourism can bring benefits to communities living in areas where jaguars are found.

The morning session ended with a **summary of key points** from Rosie Cooney, plus Olivia Wilson-Holt from the International Institute for Environment and Development gave a brief presentation on the **People not Poaching** online platform.

The afternoon kicked off with the fourth panel, **'Managing wildlife and reducing illegal wildlife trade by communities in special tenure entities'** and a presentation from Marcos Coutinho (National Centre for Research and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians) on crocodilian management in Brazil. Marcos discussed how crocodiles are often killed in retaliation for human-wildlife conflict, and addressed the need to empower communities to manage the species and their environment using traditional knowledge. In some areas, communities have been trained to sustainably manage caimans to trade their meat and skins, with indicators used to monitor population trends.

Next to speak on this panel was Vivienne Solis Rivera (IUCN SULi), who presented on human rights and conservation in the coastal communities of Costa Rica. Costa Rica has ten times more sea than land area and Vivienne has been working to involve coastal communities – particularly women and younger generations – in decision making to ensure responsible fishing. These communities hold valuable traditional knowledge, which has been used to form management processes for sustainable catch practices and Costa Rica now has 16 marine areas under community management. It is hoped this will reduce illegal fishing, as communities are both susceptible to, and receptive of, overfishing.

The last speaker on this panel, Leonardo Sanchez from the Caribbean sharks education programme in Venezuela, presented via video link. In the coastal communities of Venezuela, extreme poverty has fuelled the illegal capture of whale sharks for their fins. One fin can provide five times more money than a monthly salary, and Leonardo justified poaching as a means to survive. He discussed how their strategy includes going from house to house trying to earn trust before conducting workshops and other activities to find solutions to humanitarian needs. The programme therefore involves generating alternative sources of income, for example through dive tourism. Long-term donor funding has been essential to success and the programme has dramatically reduced poaching.

For the fifth and final panel of the day **'Managing wildlife and reducing illegal wildlife poaching by local communities'** participants heard a series of presentations from Andy Mahadeo, Tony Rodney, Immaculata Casimero and Jaqueline Allicok from Guyana. Andy, from the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, began by discussing how people engage in illegal trade due to limited other options, as well the need to improve regulatory frameworks to ensure communities and conservation are supported at the national level. Tony and Immaculata, who represent the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), highlighted the important role of the SRDC, who are a legally recognised institution in Guyana with a strong voice in decision making. The communities of the SRDC are careful about protecting their resources and monitor resource use. Subsistence hunting is an important traditional way of life, but they respect animals during breeding season and only kill what they need. Jaqueline, representing the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), discussed the management plans of the NRDDB, including their focus on tourism. She mentioned the need for devolved rights and

decision making, using the example of the arapaima, which is still illegal to harvest despite being an important economic resource for communities.

Last to speak was Luis Enrique Martínez Hernández from the community bird monitoring programme in Mexico. Parrots are in decline in Mexico due to capture for the illegal pet trade, so the programme created a surveillance committee to track and locate certain species. Monitoring is undertaken by members of local communities, who are trained on how to use the equipment. Originally the communities were given financial incentives, although this has become difficult to uphold due to funding shortfalls. Some communities do continue to monitor the birds without any rewards, however.

Day one wrapped up with an open discussion on community perspectives and thoughts from the day's presentations.

Tuesday 1 October 2019

Day two began with an overview of **the IUCN SULi strategy**, presented by Rosie Cooney. Rosie outlined the position and role of SULi within IUCN, along with the vision and mission of the group. She emphasised the importance of regional meetings and ongoing objectives, including building knowledge, boosting local voices, and influencing practice and policy.

Marina Rosales then delivered the **results of a survey** sent to all participants prior to the event. Results showed that participants perceive the most important actions for combatting IWT to be increasing synergies between local communities and other actors, improving governance, and providing better incentives for wildlife stewardship.

After a coffee break, participants split into two groups:

1. Wildlife trade
2. Subsistence hunting and wildmeat.

Corsino Huallata Ibarra (South American Camelid Specialist Group) kicked off group one presentations on the **commercialisation of illegally traded vicuña fibre in Bolivia**. Vicuña fibre fetches high prices in tourist markets across the country, but problems remain with traceability of fibres that originate from illegally hunted individuals. Juan Carlos Sueiro from SERNANP then **discussed the strategies of local fishing communities to combat illegal trade of marine wildlife in Peru**. These include better traceability of catch, the restriction of irregular imports, regulations on the size of nets and no-take periods for threatened species.

Marina Rosales spoke about the **illegal trade in pets in the region**. She highlighted how rarer species are more likely to generate a higher value in illegal pet markets, such as records of falcons selling for 100,000 USD dollars per individual. The problem is amplified by ineffective and corrupt border controls, so there is a need to improve information exchange between countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Next up Juan Carlos Sueiro gave a second presentation on **tourism management in protected areas in Peru**. He discussed the tourism vision of SERNANP, which is for tourism in protected areas to contribute to biodiversity conservation, provide citizens with the opportunity to enjoy and value their natural heritage, and to contribute to local economic sustainability. Juan discussed the opportunities and challenges for community involvement in several national parks across the country.

The final presentation of group one was given by Kantuta Lara Delgado from WCS on **conservation strategies based on community wildlife management**. She discussed how sustainable management of natural resources is the link between conservation and community development, as well as the importance of pursuing ventures that both contribute to biodiversity and support rights over territories.

Simultaneously, Tony Rodney began group two presentations with the **results of the First Regional Community Representatives' workshop** on subsistence hunting and wildmeat, held a couple of weeks earlier in Guyana. Tony stressed that resources are the riches of the communities, and their

heritage. Wild meat and hunting form the business of their livelihoods, but they are increasingly affected by adverse impacts such as logging, mining and climate change. He discussed the recommendations from the workshop, including upholding policies that include IPLCs as well as Free Prior and Informed Consent. Nathalie Van Vliet added that communities need recognition of their territory and rights to use their lands and resources.

Richard Bodmer presented next on **sustainable models from the Loreto region of Peru**. He discussed how subsistence hunters in the region only target species that are adapted to predation and that hunting can remain sustainable by keeping within limits. The benefit of subsistence hunting is that communities are incentivised to conserve the forests and other habitats, which Richard described as the only way to approach conservation.

Next up were Cecile Richard Hansen and Raphaëlle Rinaldo from ONCFS, the French National Agency for Wildlife, who presented on **political ecology in French Guiana**. Over 60% of the population live on the coast and although mining is a growing threat in the country, the forest remains in a well-preserved state due to limited logging. As all citizens are labelled as French, there are however no specific rights for the 5% Indigenous population and therefore few regulations on hunting. Although this is due to be addressed, Cecile and Raphaëlle stressed the importance of conserving the forest through community engagement and sustainable development. In particular, they noted the need to understand hunting behaviour and for the inclusion of hunters in any future policy making.

Anders Sirén spoke next on the **actions of government versus grassroots organisations in the Ecuadorian Amazon**. Representing over 1,000 people in five Indigenous hamlets, Anders discussed how declines in many traditionally hunted species had led to concerns amongst Indigenous populations, who were unsure how to manage the problem. In 2003 local initiatives, such as a ban on the export of wild meat for commercial purposes and a traditional hunting festival, were implemented with success. The communities still face problems, however, with a 300% tax on ammunition in place since 2008, and a growing mining and oil extraction presence, threatening both traditional hunting practices and the state of the forests.

The next presentation focussed on **hunting rights and legislation in Brazil**, as Juarez Pezzuti (RedeFauna – Research Network for Wildlife Diversity, Conservation and Use in the Amazon) spoke of the deliberate neglect of the government in recognising hunting rights and needs, as well as neglecting human rights for IPLCs. It's a complex issue where rules have changed a lot over the years, leaving communities feeling insecure about what they can and cannot do, which in turn promotes illegal activities. The discussion continued as Pedro Constantino and Andre Antunes, also from RedeFauna, **gave an overview of subsistence hunting and wildlife co-management in the Brazilian Amazon**. Pedro and Andre also made reference to legal uncertainty and conflict between people and parks. They stressed that if communities stopped hunting, 90% of their salary would be needed to buy protein, but given many conservationists still view subsistence hunting as negative due to declining biodiversity, tensions continue to grow.

Last to present in group two was Benito Gonzales (President of the South American Camelid Specialist Group), who provided an overview of **guanaco meat production in Chilean Patagonia**. Although guanacos are endangered in other parts of the Andes, they have a sustainable population in Chile and are hunted for their meat. Growing numbers of guanacos have however led to conflict with ranchers, amplified by sustainable quotas being higher than the number usually harvested due to volatile markets. Benito highlighted the importance of the sustainable development triangle in guanaco management – the three points being economic development, social development and protection of the environment.

In the afternoon, the **parallel groups brainstormed ways to continue collaboration in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Discussion included deciding on roles and priorities, the best ways to communicate, who their audience should be, and important events. Establishing a regional SULi network was a critical point, given its visibility and ability to lobby government and other high-level decision makers. Many participants also discussed the personal commitment needed from each individual to provide SULi with information and data to be able to raise the profile on important issues.

Outcomes included the formation of a new and active WhatsApp group, a decision on the next meeting and a possible further publication on sustainable use and legal trade as effective anti-poaching strategies. Additionally, participants discussed pushing the Convention on Biological Diversity to revisit their bushmeat group.

Wednesday 2 October 2019

In the morning of day three, participants were split into a closed session for community representatives and an open session for all others including those from support NGOs, academia and government bodies.

In the **closed session community representatives discussed their priorities and needs for sustainably managing wildlife**, as well what support they required from other institutions. They also discussed the important role communities play in reducing illegal wildlife trade. These key messages were then developed into a Community Statement, to be presented in a plenary at the First High-Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade on Friday 4th October.

At the same time, participants in the **open session discussed the lack of regional commitments on reducing IWT**, and the fact that most action so far has come from civil societies not governments. Priorities were found to be the need to clarify and strengthen legal frameworks, recognise community rights for the sustainable use of wildlife, as well as recognise informal systems of community management.

There was concern for the lack of attention on sustainable livelihoods and the limited understanding of reasons behind hunting. Additionally, there is a growing need to consider the impact of unintended consequences and of climate change on communities. Participants also noted that most examples of effective community-based conservation were led by communities themselves and developed from the bottom-up. It was recommended that authorities engage with and support community-based conservation and, where appropriate, promote transboundary community collaboration.

Participants also recommended that any community involvement in law enforcement should include the whole community, build trust slowly, be transparent and be based on equitable benefit sharing. There is an additional need to differentiate between communities as law enforcers and communities working with law enforcement agencies.

Discussion then focussed on supporting information sharing and the need to have a framework in place to inform communities of policies affecting access to their lands and natural resources. An open process for consultation with civil societies and communities was suggested as a potential way to do this. Finally, the open session participants addressed human-wildlife conflict, and the need to consider actions to improve prevention measures, rather than rely on post-conflict responses.

After lunch, all participants got together to provide any final perspectives and experiences, and to confirm the Community Statement. The event was closed by Pedro Gamboa (SERNANP) and Gabriel Quijandría (Environment Vice-Minister).

Community Statement to the First High-Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade on Friday 4 October 2019, Lima, Peru

Full statement (Spanish)

Nosotros, los pueblos indígenas y de las comunidades locales, somos aliados estratégicos en combatir el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre y les solicitamos que nos escuchen y reconozcan nuestro rol primordial. Nosotros no somos actores sino sujetos de derecho. Nuestros territorios albergan una vasta población de vida silvestre que deseamos proteger para nuestros hijos y nietos. Nosotros somos la primera línea de defensa contra el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre. Muchos de nosotros estamos manejando nuestra vida silvestre en nuestros territorios y hemos contribuido en forma exitosa a reducir el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre. Estamos trabajando cada vez más en forma colectiva con otras comunidades en el manejo de vida silvestre.

Nosotros somos quienes estamos sintiendo los impactos directos de la comercialización ilegal de vida silvestre a causa de las incursiones en nuestros territorios con el propósito de llevarse nuestra madera, nuestros peces, nuestra carne de monte, especies que usamos como parte de nuestra cultura, como fuente de ingreso, medicina y otros usos. En el mercado, los productos ilegales compiten injustamente con nuestros productos legales de uso sostenible de vida silvestre.

Somos nosotros, en nuestras comunidades, quienes deberíamos beneficiar del uso sostenible y del comercio legal de vida silvestre y de sus productos, estamos protegiendo y manejando nuestra vida silvestre y sus hábitats, pero el comercio ilegal nos está robando.

El uso sostenible de vida silvestre es importante para nuestras culturas, nuestros modos de vida, nuestra seguridad alimentaria, nuestros ingresos, y para educar a nuestros hijos. El uso sostenible es fundamental para detener el uso y comercio ilegal de vida silvestre. Queremos fortalecer la gestión comunitaria de vida silvestre y llamar a los gobiernos a reconocer nuestras normas consuetudinarias y a empoderarnos legalmente para seguir y fortalecer nuestro rol en la conservación. Seguimos desarrollando planes de gestión para prevenir la reducción de las especies, parar el uso no sostenible e ilegal, manejar el uso y comercio de vida silvestre en forma sostenible y proteger y conservar nuestra vida silvestre y sus hábitats para nuestros hijos y nietos. Estos planes de manejo requieren de mayor apoyo.

Exigimos la intervención efectiva de nuestros gobiernos, y solicitamos alianzas con las ONGs, los donantes y los expertos para fortalecer nuestras habilidades existentes y capacidades en la gestión de la vida silvestre, para monitorear la vida silvestre y asegurar su uso sostenible, en manejar las cadenas de valor, y dar valor agregado al procesamiento de los productos, y la comercialización.

Somos poseedores de conocimiento importante heredado de nuestros ancestros. Queremos compartirlo y queremos que sea reconocido e integrado en el manejo. Necesitamos apoyo para educar y pasar este conocimiento a nuestros hijos y nietos.

La organización es crítica para un manejo comunitario sólido. Necesitamos instituciones fuertes en todos los niveles: asociaciones y emprendimientos comunitarios que trabajen juntas para asegurar los beneficios de la vida silvestre, entes nacionales que representen nuestros intereses y redes a lo largo de la región. El apoyo es indispensable para lograr este objetivo.

Las leyes y políticas nacionales que nos involucran deben:

1. respetar las leyes y políticas internacionales como la ILO 169
2. ser desarrolladas a través de una consulta proactiva y en consenso con los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades respetando sus derechos de autodeterminación y CLPI
3. ser inclusivas con nosotros
4. apoyarnos y reconocernos, así como fortalecer los derechos comunitarios para manejar la vida silvestre, prevenir conflictos o reducir los costos de vivir con la vida silvestre.

Algunos de nosotros sentimos los impactos de la aplicación estricta de la ley en cuanto a comercio ilegal de vida silvestre, cuando nosotros estamos utilizando nuestras prácticas tradicionales para proveer a nuestras familias.

El comercio ilegal de vida silvestre es un crimen sobre la vida silvestre y un crimen hacia nosotros. En este momento, la batalla está siendo perdida. Con nosotros, se puede ganar. Llamamos a nuestros gobiernos y a todos los colaboradores presentes aquí a reconocer y respetar nuestros derechos y nuestro rol en combatir el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre.

Full statement (English)

We, the indigenous peoples and local communities, are key strategic allies in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and we call on you to listen to us and recognise and respect our important role. We are not stakeholders, we are rights-holders. Our lands hold vast wildlife populations that we want to safeguard for our children and grandchildren. We are the first line of defence against poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Many of us are successfully managing wildlife on our lands and have successfully reduced poaching and IWT, and increasingly we are working collectively with other communities in wildlife management

We are the people who currently feel the direct impacts of illegal wildlife trade, with incursions onto our territories to steal our timber, our fish, our wild meat, species that are important for culture, for income, medicine and other uses. Our legal, sustainable wildlife products face unfair competition in the market from illegal products – sometimes stolen from our own lands.

It is us – our communities - that should benefit from sustainable use and legal trade of wildlife and wildlife products – we are protecting and managing our wildlife and habitats, and poaching and IWT is stealing from us.

Sustainable use of wildlife is important to our cultures, our livelihoods, our food security, for income, and to educate our children. Sustainable use is fundamental to stopping illegal use and trade of wildlife. We want to strengthen community management of wildlife, and call on governments to recognise our customary practices, and to legally empower us to continue and strengthen our role in conservation. We continue to develop management plans to address species declines, stop unsustainable use and illegal use, manage wildlife use and trade sustainably and protect and conserve our wildlife and habitats for our children and grandchildren, and these management plans need further support.

We urge the effective intervention of our governments and request partnerships with NGOs, donors and experts to strengthen our existing skills and capacity in wildlife management, in monitoring wildlife and ensuring use is sustainable, in managing value chains, in value-adding and processing of wildlife, and in marketing.

We hold important knowledge from our ancestors. We want to share this, and we want our knowledge to be recognised and integrated into management. We need support to educate and pass our knowledge on to children and grandchildren.

Organisation is critical for strong community management. We need strong institutions at every level – we need community associations and enterprises to work together to secure greater benefits from wildlife, national bodies to represent our interests, and networks across the region. We need support to achieve this.

National laws and policies that affect us need to:

1. respect international laws and policies such as ILO 169
2. be developed with proactive consultation and agreement with indigenous peoples and local communities respecting their rights to self-determination and FPIC
3. be inclusive of us
4. support us, and recognise and strengthen community rights to manage wildlife, prevent conflicts or reduce the costs of living with wildlife.

Some of us feel the impacts of heavy-handed enforcement against IWT, when we are following traditional practices or providing for our families.

Wildlife crime is a crime against wildlife and a crime against us. Right now, the battle is being lost. With us, we can win. We call on governments and all partners here to recognise and respect our rights and our role in combating IWT.

Participant list

Name	Organisation
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Aldo Espinoza	Community Representative, Peru
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Amalia Añez Dosantos	Community Representative
Anders Siren	Community Representative, Ecuador
Andre Pinassi Antunes	RedeFauna
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Francisco Ruíz	Community Representative, Argentina
Gabriel Quijandría Acosta	Environment Vice-Minister
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Jacqueline Ramirez Chavez	SERNANP
Janer Caro Catashunga	Peru

Jaqueline Allicok	Community Representative, Guyana
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Just before the 'First High-Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade' in October 2019, IIED, IUCN SULi, SWM Project Guyana and partners convened a three-day 'Community Voices' event. It brought together over 20 community representatives from across Latin America and the Caribbean, and over 50 representatives from NGOs, donor agencies and academia. The event provided a forum to share perspectives on responses to illegal wildlife trade and anti-poaching efforts, and to discuss how sustainable use and legal trade of wildlife may complement more traditional responses. This report summarises the proceedings and presents the 'Community Statement' of key messages developed by the participants to inform discussions at the High-Level Conference.



Event Materials

Biodiversity; Natural resource management

Keywords:
Illegal wildlife trade, wildlife crime,
poaching, community-based
approaches, Latin America



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