



ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME DIRECTIVE: CLOSING LEGAL GAPS

REGIONAL REPORT - MARCH 2026

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INTRODUCTION

A new legal framework

In 2024, the EU adopted [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1203 on the protection of the environment through criminal law](#).

The Directive builds on the first Environmental Crime Directive (ECD) from 2008. Following the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, which expanded the EU's competence in criminal matters, the revision of the Directive became imperative.

In the new Directive, the number of offences covered doubled, with more than twenty environmental offences included in its scope. In addition, the legislation includes specific sanction levels for offenders and provides a comprehensive set of provisions aimed at supporting competent authorities in tackling environmental crime.

The Member States have **until 21 May 2026 to transpose the new Directive** into their national law.

Wildlife crime

Globally, wildlife populations have decreased by 73% since the 1970's. In Europe, they had already experienced severe decrease long before that period, which persists today at a rate of decline of 35%.¹ Among the main drivers of this loss, is species overexploitation to which wildlife crime directly contributes.¹

Wildlife crime is a form of environmental crime. It encompasses any breach of national, regional, or international law that protects wild animals and plants. This includes illegal wildlife trade, but also the illegal killing, poisoning or poaching of wildlife, as well as the unauthorised alteration or destruction of habitats.

Although wildlife crime is often perceived as an issue affecting other continents, it is prevalent in the EU. This misconception largely stems from the fact that, in Europe, most **cases go undetected, while those that are investigated rarely lead to prosecution and effective penalties.**² It is also important to recognise that, in Europe, wildlife crime affects both native and foreign species, that are illegally brought into the region.

In 2023, the Member States **seized over one million specimens of protected wild animals and plants.**³ This is just the tip of the iceberg as seizures capture only a fraction of the actual scale of this illicit market, which itself only represent one aspect of wildlife crime.

Towards an effective transposition

To inform the transposition process for the Environmental Crime Directive, WWF carried out legislative analyses, between April 2025 and February 2026, in ten Member States comparing current national laws with the provisions of the new Directive. These analyses provide **valuable insights into existing gaps that these countries must address during the Directive's transposition, with a specific focus on wildlife crime.**



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In the following sections, the methodology and overall outcomes of the analyses are presented. The report subsequently highlights six key areas that Member States should prioritise during the transposition process and concludes with a set of recommendations to support the transposition of the Directive.

METHODOLOGY

WWF carried out legislative analyses comparing current national laws pertaining to wildlife crime with the new provisions of the Environmental Crime Directive in ten Member States (**Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden**). These countries were selected based on the presence of WWF offices working on wildlife crime.

Wildlife crime was defined as **violations of the Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as of the Wildlife Trade Regulations**, as per ECD Article 3(2) subparagraphs (n), (o), and (q).

These analyses were carried out to support the transposition process by the Member States. As such, the focus was on articles needing to be enshrined in the law (**Articles 3 to 15**). The remaining articles were not included as they can often be implemented directly, without requiring incorporation into specific legislation.

This report focuses on **six categories, which we consider to be of the highest priority for the transposition**. This includes criminal offences, penalties for natural persons, liability and sanctions for legal persons, jurisdiction, protection of environmental defenders, and access to information and justice.

Alignment with the ECD was assessed through a set of 47 questions, with Member States scored on a scale from 0 (no alignment), 0.5 (partial alignment) to 1 (full alignment). The total score was used to determine the alignment of each country with the new Directive.

The initial analyses were carried out, pro bono, by three law firms: Cerha Hempel (Austria), Covington & Burling LLP (Bulgaria, France, and Italy) and Hogan Lovells (Croatia, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden). WWF would like to warmly thank these three law firms for their support. The analyses were further reviewed by WWF experts.

In addition to this report, national briefings, available upon request, were prepared for dissemination in each of the ten focus countries. They provide detailed information on gaps that each Member State must address during the transposition process, beyond the six priority areas highlighted in this report.

Recognising that environmental criminal law is a complex and layered area of law, WWF remains open to adjusting the results of the analyses should additional information be made available.



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OVERALL ASSESSMENT
























































































































Member States must amend their national laws to ensure compliance with European Directives. The Environmental Crime Directive is no exception. The transposition process will enable Member States to comply with former provisions that were poorly enshrined in their national laws, as well as introduce the numerous new provisions found in the Directive.






According to the analyses, currently **none of the assessed Member State's legal frameworks are fully aligned with the provisions of the Environmental Crime Directive**. The transposition period is therefore

essential to address these gaps and ensure full compliance with the Directive across the EU.

Overall, Member States tend to be already well aligned when it comes to provisions related to inciting, aiding and abetting, aggravating and mitigating circumstances, as well as limitation periods. However, **important gaps were identified with regards to the definition of offences, the sanction framework, the protection of environmental defenders, and access to information and justice**. The following section provides a detailed assessment of these areas.

Extent of legislative changes needed to align with the ECD according to the analyses

	 AT	 BG	 HR	 FR	 DE	 IT	 RO	 SK	 ES	 SE
Criminal offences										
Inciting, aiding and abetting, & attempt										
Penalties for natural persons										
Liability & sanctions for legal persons										
Aggravating & mitigating circumstances										
Freezing & confiscation										
Limitation periods										
Jurisdiction										
Investigative tools										
Protection of environmental defenders										
Access to information & justice										

-  Minimal adjustments needed
-  Minor adjustments needed
-  Moderate adjustments needed
-  Important adjustments needed
-  Major adjustments needed



DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Criminal offences

The number of environmental offences covered by the Environmental Crime Directive more than doubled compared to the initial legislation adopted in 2008. Wildlife crime was among the few offences that the previous Directive already included, so the revision primarily enables to complement and strengthen existing provisions.

To be compliant with the previous Directive, the Member States already had to criminalise, at least partly, violations of the Birds and Habitats Directives and of the Wildlife Trade Regulations. Nonetheless, this was not always transposed adequately by the Member States, especially with regards to the criminalisation of conducts carried out with serious negligence. For the transposition, efforts should therefore focus on addressing this gap, as well as introducing new elements from the Directive, such as:

- New categories of species benefitting from protection
- New conducts requiring criminalisation
- New elements defining unlawfulness

Serious negligence

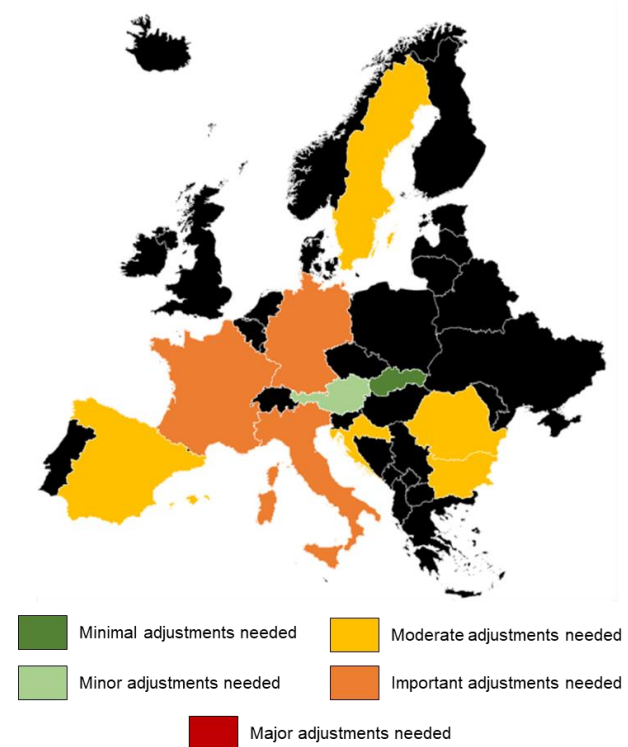
The ECD provides that all the offences listed in Article 3 be criminalised if carried out intentionally or with at least serious negligence. As mentioned above, this requirement was already included in the 2008 Directive.

In several countries, this is possible only when provided for by the law. In **Italy**, there is no provision related to serious negligence for wildlife crime, while in **Bulgaria, France, Germany, and Romania** there is, but not for all the wildlife-related offences covered by the ECD.

Besides, several countries have no definition for serious negligence (**France, Germany, Spain, and Sweden**), potentially creating inconsistency in its application.

New categories

The revised Environmental Crime Directive includes new categories of species that should benefit from protection, and for which specific conducts should be criminalised.



This includes Annex V species of the Habitats Directive when they are subject to similar measures as Annex IV species. It also includes the import of Annex C species of the Wildlife Trade Regulations.

For now, none of these categories are enshrined in the legislation of **Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, and Sweden**. **Italy** is not aligned when it comes to Annex V of the Habitats Directive, while **Romania** is not aligned for Annex C of the Wildlife Trade Regulations.

New conducts

New conducts have been introduced that require criminalisation such as the selling or offering for sale specimens of protected species of the Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as the disturbance of Annex II animals of the Habitats Directive.

None of these new conducts is currently criminalised in **Austria** and **Croatia's** legislation. **Germany** and **Spain** are not aligned for the selling and offering for sale of protected species, while **Bulgaria, Italy, and Slovakia** need to amend their national laws to include the disturbance of protected species.

New elements defining unlawfulness

Non-negligible quantities

Criminal law is meant to address the most serious and harmful offences. As such, the Directive requires the criminalisation of unlawful conducts. Unlawfulness is defined differently for each environmental offence. For wildlife crime, the main concept is that of “non-negligible quantity”. It was already used in the previous Directive. However, since it lacked a clear definition, it was interpreted very unevenly within and between the Member States.⁴ This is addressed by the new ECD in Article 3(8), which provides specific criteria to define “non-negligible quantity”, such as: the number of items concerned, a regulatory threshold, the conservation status of the species, and/or the cost of restoring the environment.

Most Member States already use concepts similar to “non-negligible quantity”, apart from **France**, which has no equivalent in its legislation. **Even in countries where this concept exists, though, it is often vague, does not apply to all relevant wildlife-related offences, and is interpreted inconsistently.** Slovakia and Austria are the only exceptions. The latter developed guidance on criteria and thresholds to define unlawfulness, which can serve as a good example for other Member States.⁵ However, these concepts alone are not sufficient, especially when they are too

restrictive. For example, in Slovakia, social values are assigned to protected species, but these are set so low that cases almost never reach the threshold for prosecution under criminal law. Hence, **Member States need to define unlawfulness, with appropriate and well-designed thresholds as per Article 3(8).**

Significant deterioration/disturbance

When it comes to the deterioration of habitats or the disturbance of protected species, unlawfulness depends on how significant these conducts are. Contrary to the previous example, the Directive does not define this concept further. Some separate guidance exists to help Member States implement the Habitats Directive, but not specifically from a criminal law perspective.⁶

Countries like **Bulgaria, Italy** or **France** do not even use such concept in their national law, while **Austria, Croatia, Germany, Slovakia**, or **Sweden** only use it for one of the conducts covered (either habitat deterioration or disturbance). **Most Member States have no definition for it either.**



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Penalties for natural persons

Among the shortcomings identified by the European Commission with the previous Directive were the lack of a harmonised approach to sanctioning environmental crime, and low levels of penalties for natural persons compared to other serious crimes.⁴

Article 5 of the Directive provides penalty levels for natural persons and associated accessory measures.

Penalties

One of the major reforms introduced by the Directive is the imposition of minimum penalties for natural persons. Indeed, the previous Directive only requested that Member State establish penalties, without providing any indicative levels. This is addressed in the new Directive.

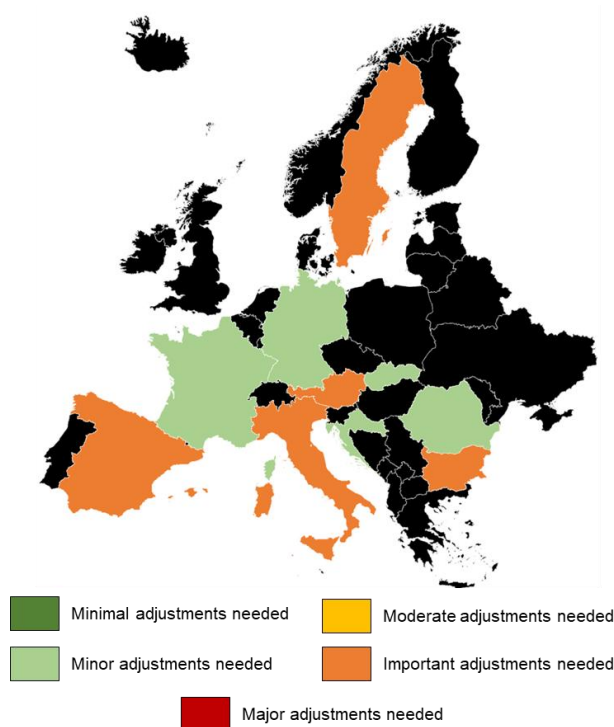
The ECD provides that wildlife crime should be punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least three years.

It is worth noting that the initial proposal included a penalty of up to four years of imprisonment, which would have aligned the Directive with the United Nations definition of serious crime.⁷ The penalty level was lowered during the negotiation process between the European Commission, the Member States, and the European Parliament.

Austria, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden currently provide for lower penalty levels than the three years prescribed by the ECD for all or at least some of the wildlife-related offences covered by the Directive.

France is aligned with the Directive, except for cases related to the significant disturbance of protected species, which are currently only punishable by fines.

As indicated in the previous section, some Member States do not yet criminalise all the wildlife-related offences, so they must **ensure that new offences introduced into national laws are also provided with appropriate penalty levels, in line with Article 5 of the Directive.**



Accessory penalties and measures

Article 5 of the Directive not only provides for penalty levels but also lists a number of accessory penalties and measures that Member States must enshrine in their national laws. These are meant to complement primary penalties and make the law more effective in tackling environmental crime.

Accessory penalties and measures tend to be scattered across multiple pieces of legislation. This makes it challenging to assess which ones are available and whether they apply to wildlife crime more specifically.

The possibility to impose a fine for wildlife crime is available in all the Member States, and most of them also provide for the withdrawal of hunting licenses when wildlife crime was committed. However, the **rest of the provisions of Article 5(3) seem to be seldom available for wildlife crime across the assessed Member States.**

Liability and sanctions for legal persons

Environmental crime is often associated with and committed for the benefit of legal persons. As such, sanctions must be available not only for natural persons, but also for legal persons. The assessment done by the European Commission prior to the revision of the ECD noted that sanctions for legal persons diverge significantly across the Member States and that they are too low to be dissuasive.⁴

Article 6 of the ECD specifies the cases for which the criminal liability of legal persons apply. Article 7 provides for the sanction levels as well as the accessory sanctions and measures that should be provided for legal persons committing environmental crime.

Liability of legal persons

The previous Directive already established the circumstances under which legal persons may be held liable for environmental crime. As such, Article 6 is very similar to the provisions that existed in the former legislation.

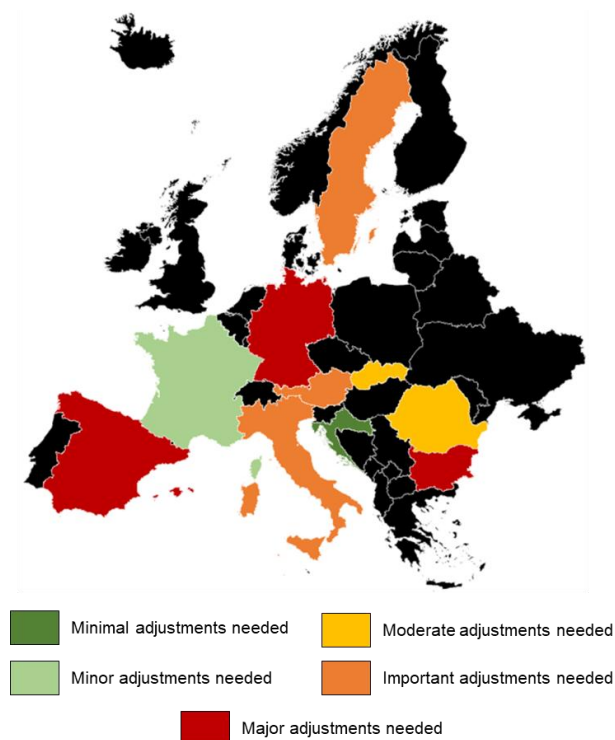
The Directive does not require that Member State establish criminal liability for legal persons, instead, it requires that, whichever system the Member State uses, it aligns with the provisions of the ECD. In fact, numerous countries still do not allow for the criminal liability of legal persons in their national laws even though criminal convictions tend to have a stronger effect, compared to administrative ones, since they carry stronger legal consequences and societal condemnation.

Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, and Sweden do not allow for the criminal liability of legal persons. **Spain** only allows it in cases provided for by the law, and wildlife crime is not amongst them.

Sanctions for legal persons

The inclusion of specific fine levels for legal persons is a new provision of the Directive. Two approaches are proposed to Member States to decide on the fine levels: fixed amounts or a percentage of the company's turnover.

For wildlife crime, the maximum level of fines should be no less than EUR 24 million or 3% of the total worldwide turnover of the legal person in the business year preceding the commission of the offence or the business year preceding the conviction.



Using a percentage of the legal persons turnover represents a more proportionate and effective approach, which is common in other areas of the law (e.g. competition law), but **none of the assessed Member State use such a system for wildlife crime.**

Regardless of the fine system used by the assessed Member States, **none of them currently have sanction levels aligned with the provision of the ECD under Article 7(3).**

Accessory penalties and measures

Similarly to the provisions for natural persons, the ECD provides for accessory penalties and measures for legal persons in Article 7(2). Here again, it was challenging to assess which ones are available in Member States national laws, and whether they apply to wildlife crime.

Most Member States provide for some accessory penalties/measures, but none include them all. Interestingly, the **obligation to establish due diligence schemes could not be found in any of the legislation assessed**, while the **obligation to restore the environment or compensate for the damage caused is also rarely enshrined in national laws.**



Jurisdiction

Harmonising the jurisdiction over environmental offences across the EU can provide useful benefits to cross-border collaboration⁴, especially since environmental crimes are often transnational (e.g. illegal wildlife trade). As such, being able to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes beyond the traditional jurisdiction is extremely important.

This is covered by Article 12 of the new ECD, which provides for specific situations that warrant the establishment of jurisdiction by Member States. It includes both mandatory and optional grounds for jurisdiction. Given, the cross-border nature of environmental crime, they are equally essential to close any gaps that criminals might exploit.

Mandatory provisions

Article 12(1) includes four situations in which Member States must establish jurisdiction.

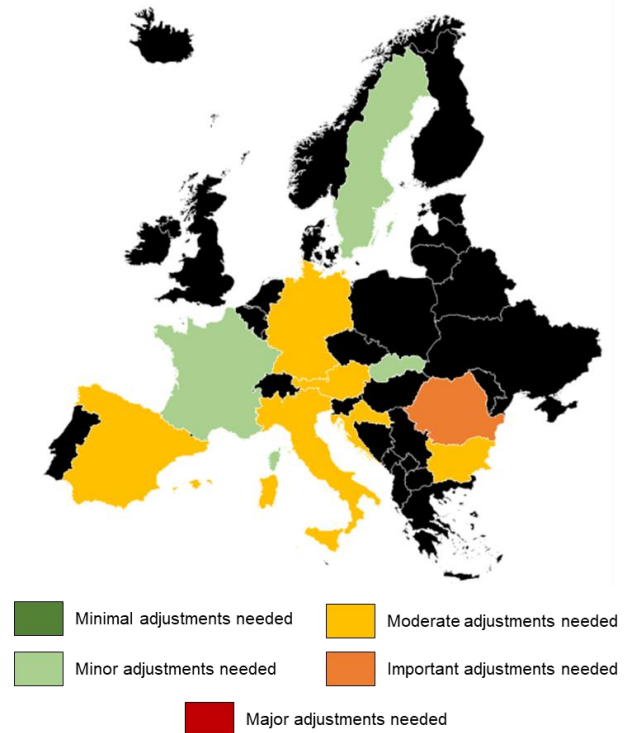
All the Member States are aligned with the first two provisions relating to environmental offences committed in whole or in part of their territory or committed on board a ship or an aircraft registered in the Member State concerned or flying its flag.

The ECD also calls for the establishment of Member States' jurisdiction when the damage, which is one of the constituent elements of the environmental offence, occurred on their territory. It is particularly relevant for offences committed abroad, but with repercussions on the national territory (e.g. pollution, illegal killing of migratory/transboundary species). This provision was not found in the Criminal Codes of **Bulgaria** or **Spain**.

Finally, the Directive also requires Member States to establish jurisdiction when one of their nationals is the offender. In **Italy** and **Spain**, this provision is possible under very strict conditions, significantly narrowing its application. In **Austria**, **Croatia**, **France**, **Germany**, and **Romania** the offence must also be criminalised under foreign law. This dual criminality requirement limits the ability of the justice system to tackle environmental crime (e.g. waste trafficking), and the EU from taking responsibility for the actions of its citizens.

Optional provisions

Article 12(2) outlines situations where Member States may establish jurisdiction, in which case they should notify the European Commission.



In addition, to covering actions committed by nationals, Member States can extend their jurisdiction to environmental offences committed by residents. Such provision does not exist in the legislation of **Austria**, **Bulgaria**, **France**, and **Spain**. In **Croatia**, this is contingent on the offence being also criminalised in the country where it was committed.

According to Article 12(2), Member States can extend their jurisdiction to cover environmental offences committed for the benefit of a legal person established on their territory. This is not available in **Austria**, **Bulgaria**, **France**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Spain** and **Sweden**. In **Croatia** and **Romania** this provision exists with a dual criminality condition.

Member States can also explore extending their jurisdiction to offences committed against one of their nationals or residents. It is not available in **Austria** and **Spain**. In **Croatia** and **Germany**, it exists, but with a dual criminality condition. For **Bulgaria**, **France**, **Germany**, and **Romania** it only applies to offences committed against citizens, not residents, while both **Italy** and **Slovakia** enable it under very strict conditions.

Finally, jurisdiction can be extended to situations where the offence has created a severe risk for the environment of the Member State. This **provision could not be found explicitly in any of the assessed Member States**.

Protection of environmental defenders

[Directive \(EU\) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law](#) provides specific protection to whistleblowers, i.e. individuals reporting unlawful activities in a work-related context. This Directive applies to the Environmental Crime Directive, as per Article 14.

In addition to referring to the Whistleblower Protection Directive, Article 14 of the ECD also instructs Member States to provide support and assistance to any person reporting environmental offences, providing evidence, and/or cooperating with competent authorities.

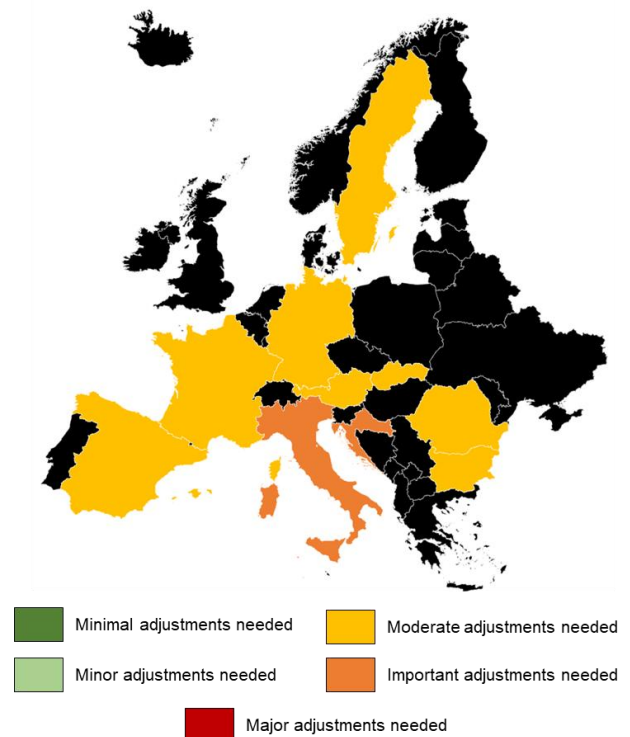
Indeed, many individuals and/or organisations that contribute to the fight against environmental crime, often referred to as environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs), do not meet the definition of a whistleblower. Yet, EHRDs support the fight against environmental crime by detecting and reporting offences, monitoring the implementation of existing laws, providing expertise and support to competent authorities, raising awareness, etc. As such, they are filling a critical gap and require adequate protection since they are most exposed and at risk from intimidations, threats, and violence.⁸

Protection of whistleblowers

All the assessed Member States have transposed the Whistleblower Protection Directive in their national laws.

The analyses did not include an assessment of the alignment of the Member States with the Whistleblower Protection Directive. However, according to the European Commission, several Member States are not compliant with the provisions set out in the EU law.⁹

As such, there seem to be persistent gaps with regards to the implementation of this Directive. For example, **Slovakia** was included in the January 2026 infringements package of the European Commission for its lack of compliance with the Whistleblower Protection Directive.



Protection of EHRDs

Apart from the requirements related to whistleblowers, most Member States provide protection and assistance to victims and witnesses of criminal offences.

However, **in none of the Member States assessed could legislation be found that would provide specific protection and assistance to persons reporting environmental offences or assisting with their investigations**, who do not fit the definition of a victim or witness.

Access to information and justice

The EU and its Member States are Parties to the [Aarhus Convention](#). This Convention, adopted in 1998, protects the right to a healthy environment by focusing more specifically on access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice.

Article 15 of the ECD builds on the provisions contained in the Aarhus Convention, with a specific focus on procedural rights in proceedings and access to information about the progress of these proceedings.

Since nature cannot represent itself, and because this area of criminal law remains substantially under-prioritised and under-resourced, such rights are fundamental to uphold the rule of law.

Procedural rights in proceedings

According to the analyses, only four countries (France, Italy, Romania, and Spain) provide procedural rights to NGOs in proceedings concerning wildlife crime. **Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Slovakia, and Sweden do not provide such rights yet.**

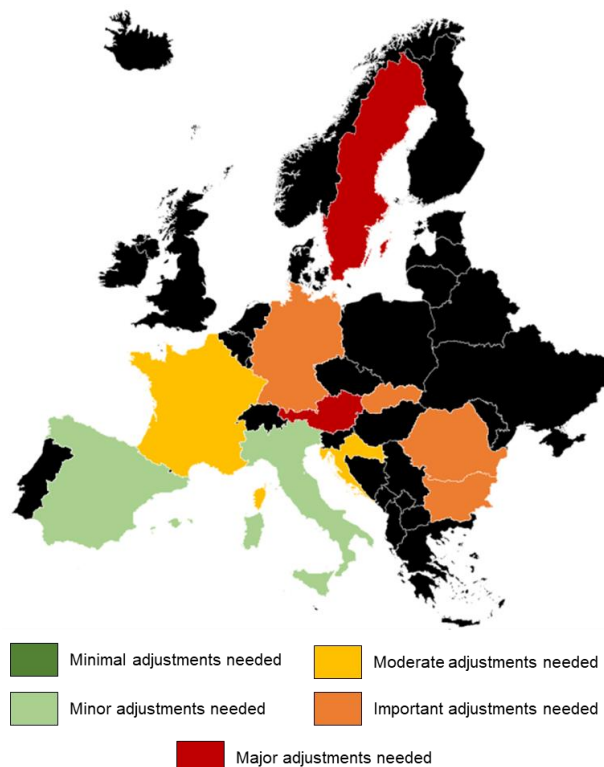
It is important to recognise that the existence of these procedural rights does not always guarantee their effective implementation in practice. Restrictive definitions or criteria, filing fees, access to legal aid, or adverse costs can prevent the full application of these rights (see this example about **Italy**).¹¹

Access to information

None of the assessed Member States provide full access to information about wildlife crime proceedings. Often, access to information is only allowed for persons directly involved in the case, such as victims or offenders.

In some countries, like Austria or Sweden, special requests can be filled to obtain information on the progress of proceedings, but criteria are very strict, which means that they are rarely granted. Some countries, such as Romania, Spain or Sweden, publish the results of proceedings once they have been concluded.

These findings are aligned with the European Commission 2025 Environmental Implementation Review,¹² which concluded that participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice has been insufficient across the Member States.





RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Member States must transpose the Environmental Crime Directive by the agreed deadline of 21 May 2026

As of February 2026, most of the assessed Member States have either not yet started or only just started their transposition process. Given the complexity of environmental law and of national processes to amend and/or adopt legislation, there is a significant risk that Member States will fail to meet the agreed deadline.

Environmental crime is not on hold during the transposition of the Directive. These undue delays undermine the EU's ability to tackle environmental crime promptly and effectively. This could also have cascading effects on other important deadlines set by the Directive, notably with regards to the adoption of national strategies or the collection of statistical data.

2. Member States must transpose the Directive in a robust and comprehensive manner

The ECD includes provisions that must be transposed into national laws, as well as provisions that may be transposed, at the discretion of the Member States, depending on their compatibility with existing laws.

The transposition process provides a perfect opportunity to demonstrate a high level of ambition to tackle environmental crime. As such, Member States should strive to transpose the Directive as comprehensively as possible, especially when it comes to accessory penalties and measures, aggravating and mitigating circumstances, or jurisdiction.

3. Member States must criminalise all wildlife-related offences thoroughly

As demonstrated in the "Criminal offences" section, Member States need to amend their national laws to ensure compliance with the ECD, whether provisions stem from the previous Directive or were newly introduced (e.g. serious negligence, criminalising the import of Annex C species of the Wildlife Trade Regulations).

The concepts and criteria associated with unlawfulness (e.g. negligible quantity) should be defined clearly in national laws. In consultation with experts (including civil society), Member States should develop guidance to help authorities use these concepts in practice, as illustrated by the Austrian example.⁵

The Directive only establishes minimum rules, hence Member States can show leadership by going beyond those basic requirements. This would be particularly relevant in the case of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing). IUU fishing is not covered by the Directive despite being a major form of environmental crime with high economic and environmental costs. Member States should make use of the transposition process to add serious infringements of the EU Common Fisheries Policy as a criminal offence in their national law.

4. Member States must provide strong penalties and sanctions against environmental offenders

Member States need to increase the level of penalties and sanctions currently provided in their national laws for environmental offences to, at the very least, align with the requirements of the ECD.

The United Nations defines serious crimes as conducts constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years.⁷ Such level is often required for competent authorities to use special investigate tools and access international judicial cooperation instruments. Member States should therefore align their penalty levels with the UN definition.

Given the severity of environmental crimes and their negative impacts on the economy, human health, and the environment, all Member States should consider extending criminal liability to legal persons. Sanctions based on the percentage of a legal person's turnover should be preferred as they represent a more proportionate approach. Alignment with the European Parliament position,¹³ which proposed a maximum fine of at least 10% of the average worldwide turnover over the three business years preceding the decision should also be considered. EU law already provides sanctions of a similar magnitude for offences less serious than environmental crime.

5. Member States must protect environmental defenders

Member States should make sure that new provisions are included in relevant legislation to protect and support persons who report environmental crime or support investigations. Support and assistance measures should be defined further by the Member States, in consultation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. civil society, academia, etc.).

Besides, these persons must be protected from persecution, including unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings as per [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1069 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings](#).

6. Member States must guarantee access to justice and information

The European Commission and the Council of the European Union recognise that public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice are essential to successfully implement environmental laws.^{10 12}

Given the specificity of environmental crime, Member States should provide procedural rights to the public concerned for all the offences covered by the Directive, regardless of whether such rights already exist in other areas of the law.

While it is legitimate to regulate access to justice and information, conditions should not be so restrictive as to undermine the effective application of these rights.



CONCLUSION

The World Economic Forum recently published a report highlighting the global risks likely to affect the planet in the future.¹⁴ Environmental risks rank as the most significant threat in the long term. It is therefore critical for the EU and its Member States to step up their efforts to tackle environmental crime, which directly contributes to these risks, while also indirectly contributing to broader economic and societal risks.

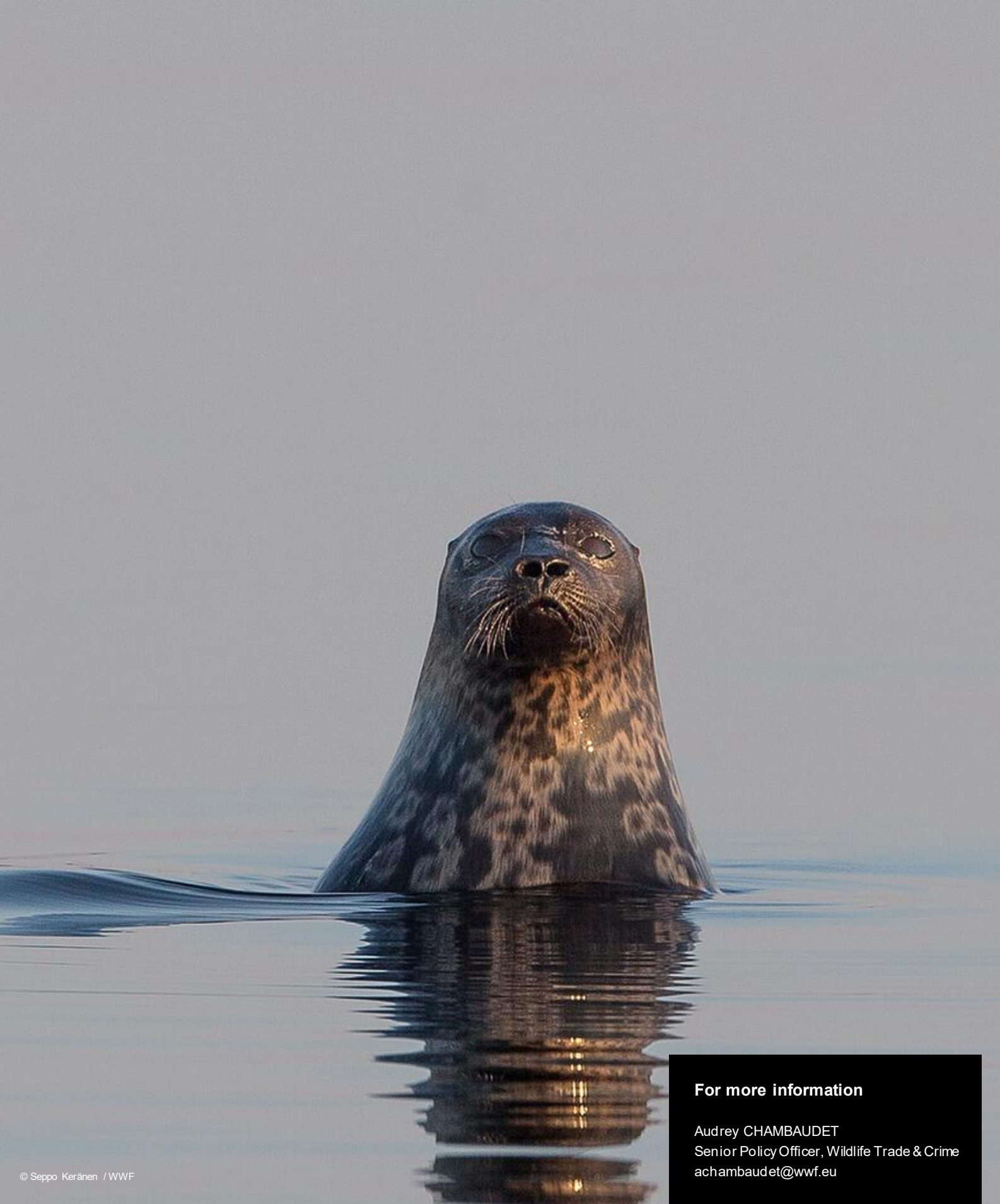
Environmental criminal law is a multi-layered and complex field. This report identified existing gaps in ten Member States legislation that must be addressed to ensure compliance with the new Directive. Although this report focused specifically on wildlife crime in six priority areas, Member States should strive to transpose all the provisions of the Directive ambitiously.

The transposition of the Directive is the first necessary step in ensuring that environmental crime is properly tackled across the EU. Nevertheless, strong laws are only as effective as the implementation and enforcement that accompany them. This has been a persistent area of weakness in the EU. As such, Member States, with the support of the European Commission, will also need to allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to the fight against environmental crime if they want this Directive to achieve its goals. In this respect, the implementation of Articles 21 and 22 of the Directive, related to national strategies and statistical data, will prove highly valuable to gain a deeper understanding of environmental offences and establish clear frameworks to tackle these crimes.

WWF will continue to closely monitor progress with the transposition and implementation of the Directive and stands ready to support the EU and its Member States throughout these processes.

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