



# Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Latin America & the Caribbean

Resources to address Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in the LAC region have been scarce in comparison to those destined for other regions such as Asia and Africa

The Americas is the most biodiverse Continent on the planet

Approx.

- 33% mammals
- 35% reptiles
- 41% birds
- 50% amphibians

16% of earth's surface

40% of world's biodiversity

And a high degree of endemisms



LAC is a source, consumer and transit region



Potential dispersion of infectious disease or trans-border movement of invasive species due to inefficient controls and enforcement



Totoaba bladder, Mexico



Vaquita

Some Latin American species are in high demand both regionally and internationally





## Challenges

- IWT not treated as a serious crime
- Inadequate laws and sanctions
- Weak law enforcement, prosecutorial and judiciary capacities
- Lack of coordination and cooperation among authorities and between countries
- Crime cases rarely go beyond seizures or extremely low sanctions





## Challenges contd.

- Under-resourced and reluctant to change institutions
- Repression instead of prevention
- National priorities not considering environmental considerations



- Increase in demand by Asian communities



Sea cucumber

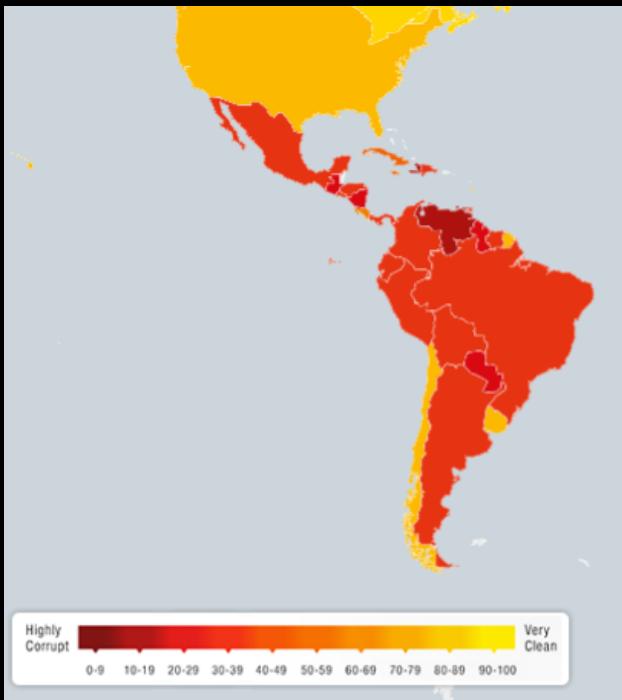


Rosewood



Sea horses

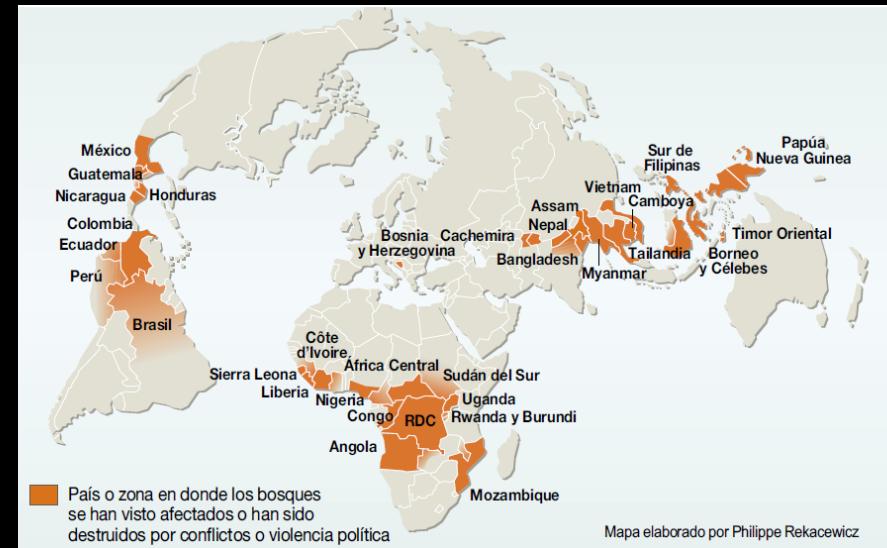




# Corruption

Darker = more corrupt

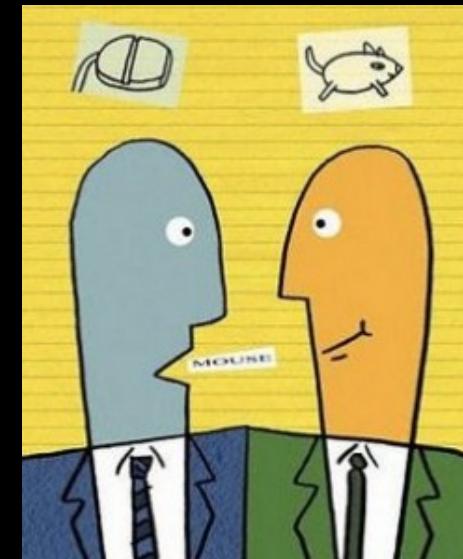
# Armed conflicts



- Borders that difficult effective and efficient controls



- Cultural and language diversity





With over 40 countries and overseas territories in LAC, gaps and needs vary, as well as actors, commitment, resources and capacities, which requires for the development of approaches on a case by case basis



Thank you!

Adrian Reuter