The Peruvian Government's Strategy Against Wildlife Trafficking: From Intelligence Operations to Strict Law Enforcement

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Abstract:

Purpose:
This paper aims to contribute to the literature on wildlife conservation by analyzing the enforcement of organized crime laws as a strategy to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Peru and protect biodiversity.

Methodology:
This study employs qualitative descriptive analysis to explore the dynamics of illegal wildlife trafficking in Peru and assess the application of organized crime laws as a mitigation strategy. The research uses secondary data from NGO and INGO reports, academic articles, and government publications from 2018 to 2023.

Findings:
This study finds that illegal wildlife trade in Peru, driven by market demand and local economic dependency, involves organized criminal networks that threaten biodiversity, necessitating the application of organized crime laws and international collaboration to address the issue.

Implication:
These findings contribute to the implications is that to tackle illegal wildlife trade in Peru, strengthening law enforcement against organized crime, developing more effective policies to reduce market demand, and enhancing international cooperation are necessary to protect biodiversity and prevent illegal exploitation of wildlife.

INTRODUCTION

Illegal wildlife trade in Peru has become a complex and urgent issue, threatening the survival of endemic species and disrupting vital ecosystems. Despite the Peruvian government's efforts to protect biodiversity through regulations and the ratification of international conventions such as CITES, illegal trade practices remain rampant and continue to evolve. In recent decades, these trade networks have become increasingly organized and involve multiple countries, causing harm not only to endangered species but also to local ecosystems and the well-being of communities. With rising demand for wildlife products, such as jaguar body parts and other Amazon species, the government's challenge in addressing this widespread illegal activity has grown significantly.

The increasing illegal wildlife trade not only affects species populations but also contributes to habitat destruction and human rights violations. The criminal networks involved in this trade often use brutal and damaging methods, causing immense suffering to the animals that become victims. For instance, the jaguar population in Peru has decreased dramatically by 20-25% over the past 30 years and can now be found in only around 51% of its historical geographical range. It illustrates that weak law enforcement and a lack of public awareness regarding the negative impacts of wildlife trade are key factors exacerbating this issue.

Applying organized crime laws is crucial to addressing the serious challenges of illegal wildlife trade. Classifying wildlife trade as organized crime enables authorities to strengthen law enforcement and impose harsher penalties on those involved in these trade networks. International collaboration and enhancing law enforcement capacities are essential in tackling this problem. Without decisive and systematic action, illegal wildlife trade will

continue to pose a significant threat to biodiversity, ecosystems in Peru, and the security and welfare of its communities.

Literature Review. The Consumption of Wildlife-Origin Products and Implications for Demand Reduction in Amazonian Peru the researchers T.P. Moorhouse, A. Elwin, P.E. Perez-Peña, D. Perez, S. Solis, L. Zari, dan N.C. D'Cruze by Global Ecology and Conservation Vol 48. The consumption of wildlife-origin products, including bushmeat, wild animal parts, and derivatives like remedies, is a significant ecological and economic concern in Amazonian regions, particularly in markets such as the Belén market in Iquitos, Peru. Moorhouse et al. (2023) explore this issue by surveying 265 residents who regularly visit the market to understand the patterns and satisfaction levels associated with purchasing such products.

A critical finding of the study is the widespread dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the market, such as hygiene, personal safety, and the layout of the stalls. Over 80% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with cleanliness, while a significant proportion cited safety concerns. However, despite these concerns, many respondents were generally content with the products and services offered, with particular satisfaction directed toward the market's opening hours and the availability of various goods. It suggests that while there are clear grievances about the market's infrastructure, the demand for wildlife-origin products persists, indicating a complex consumer behavior that blends satisfaction with the market environment and the products themselves.

Regarding the types of wildlife products consumed, the study indicates that many respondents regularly purchase bushmeat. Notably, while most respondents reported purchasing bushmeat, most did so on a relatively infrequent basis, with only a small proportion of individuals buying it during every visit. Lowland paca, collared peccary, and deer were the most commonly consumed species. The findings suggest a preference for certain types of wildlife, with lowland paca being the most frequently purchased item. Similarly, purchasing wild animal eggs, particularly from turtles and tortoises, also revealed frequent, albeit less consistent, consumption patterns.

Multiple factors, including cultural norms, availability, and price, could influence this consumption behavior. Interestingly, higher education-level respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the market's hygiene and safety issues, indicating a higher awareness of public health concerns. Despite these concerns, many respondents indicated they would continue purchasing wildlife-origin products, including bushmeat, if available. It points to a deeper issue of demand that could be challenging to address solely through public health campaigns or regulatory measures.

The likelihood of purchasing wildlife-derived products also varied with demographic factors such as age and gender. Older respondents were more likely to purchase certain types of bushmeat, such as agouti, deer, and paca, whereas younger individuals were less inclined to make such purchases. Gender differences were also evident, with males more likely to purchase remedies from wild animal parts, such as anaconda fat, than females.

Moorhouse et al. (2023) argue that understanding the patterns of wildlife product consumption is crucial for developing effective strategies to reduce demand for these items. They emphasize the need for targeted interventions considering the wildlife trade's ecological and ethical concerns and the sociocultural and economic factors driving demand. The study advocates for community-based approaches involving education, alternative livelihoods, and strengthening market regulations to curtail the trade in wildlife products.

This research adds to the growing body of literature addressing wildlife consumption and trade, underscoring the difficulty in balancing conservation efforts with local economic and cultural practices. Similar findings can be observed in studies of wildlife trade in other parts of the world, where demand for wildlife products is often deeply embedded in local traditions and economic practices. Hence, successful demand reduction strategies must account for these complexities and focus on long-term behavioral change rather than merely regulatory enforcement.

The second literature review from the article Rough Trade: Animal Welfare in the Global Wildlife Trade by Sandra E. Baker et al. (2013) examines the significant and expanding wildlife trade, focusing on the animal welfare

impacts of this trade from 2006 to 2011. The study reveals a significant gap in the literature regarding welfare considerations, with animal welfare seldom being discussed or documented in the context of wildlife trade. The research highlights that animals involved in the trade are often subjected to harm, including physical injuries, malnutrition, stress, and fear, with particular concerns around animals used as pets, in entertainment, or for traditional medicine. The paper emphasizes the need for a more comprehensive understanding of welfare impacts, particularly in the international and illegal sectors of the wildlife trade. The authors advocate for more rigorous, evidence-based research on the welfare of live animals and integrating animal welfare considerations with conservation efforts to create better trade practices. They also point to the potential benefits of cooperation between conservationists and welfare advocates in addressing these concerns.

This research is relevant to my research on the protection of wildlife and the regulation of wildlife trade, specifically concerning the illegal wildlife trade and its impact on animal welfare. It offers valuable insights into the complexity of the global wildlife trade, which may parallel the illegal trade in endangered species and the animal welfare issues I am examining. While my research focuses on the legal and enforcement aspects of wildlife crime in Peru, this literature review underscores the importance of animal welfare within the context of wildlife conservation and trade, making it a crucial component to understanding the broader implications of wildlife crime, especially as they relate to human welfare, ethical concerns, and legal frameworks for animal protection.

The Global Wildlife Trade article by Sandra E. Baker et al. (2013) analyzes the types of wildlife trade and the welfare issues animals face.

This study categorizes wildlife trade into legal and illegal practices, with international trade reported more frequently (59%) than domestic trade (41%). It also identifies this trade's main drivers: luxury goods, traditional medicine, pets and entertainment, and food and culture. Mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians are most involved in this trade, with mammals being reported most often. Regarding animal welfare, the study highlights critical issues such as food and water deprivation, environmental challenges, disease and injury, behavioral restrictions, and anxiety or pain. Food and water deprivation, environmental challenges, disease/injury, behavioral restrictions, and anxiety/pain.

Table 1. The Reporting from Global Wildlife Trade by Sandra E. Baker et al. (2013) examines the significant and expanding wildlife

Type of Wildlife Trade	Category
Types of Wildlife Trade	Trade is legal and illegal; international trade is reported more often (59%) than domestic trade (41%).
Main Drivers of Trade	Luxury goods (36%), traditional medicine (25%), pets/ entertainment (22%), food, and culture
Species Involved	Mammals (46%), reptiles (24%), birds (19%), amphibians (11%). Mammals are reported 2-4.
Welfare Categories Assessed	Food and water deprivation, environmental challenges, disease/injury, behavioral restrictions, anxiety/pain.

Source: Statistik type of wildlife trade from research Global Wildlife Trade by Sandra E. Baker et al. (2013) examines the significant and expanding wildlife.

In 2020, more than 80% of the top companies across 52 countries surveyed by KPMG had sustainability reporting, including high-performing regions like North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, and Latin America (KPMG, 2020). Though there is evident uptake in sustainability reporting, very few companies report on biodiversity loss; one-quarter of companies from high-risk sectors disclose Biodiversity (KPMG, 2020). Other

studies have highlighted and supported the lack of Biodiversity reporting across many organizations. Boiral (2016) argued that Biodiversity largely remains underreported across many organizations. The wildlife trade, a complex global issue, is generally categorized into two major forms: legal and illegal. International trade is more frequently reported (59%) than domestic trade (41%), highlighting the transnational nature of the issue. The illegal trade, which includes smuggling and the sale of endangered species, continues to be a significant concern due to its impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Legal trade, on the other hand, although regulated by various international treaties like CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), still poses challenges in terms of enforcement and ensuring sustainable practices.

Wildlife trade's main drivers are luxury goods, traditional medicine, pets and entertainment, and food and cultural practices. Luxury goods, such as animal furs and ivory, contribute to a considerable share (36%) of the trade, while traditional medicine also plays a significant role, accounting for 25%. The demand for exotic pets and entertainment purposes, such as wildlife performances, adds another layer of complexity to the issue. Additionally, wildlife trade for food consumption and cultural practices further fuels this global phenomenon, especially in regions where such practices are deeply rooted.

Species involved in wildlife trade are diverse, with mammals being the most commonly traded (46%), followed by reptiles (24%), birds (19%), and amphibians (11%). Mammals are often reported in a range of illegal trades, particularly those species in high demand for their fur, bones, or exotic pets. Reptiles, including tortoises and snakes, are primarily sought after for their skins or as pets, while birds are traded for their feathers, meat, or companion animals. Though less traded, Amphibians are increasingly at risk due to habitat destruction and the pet trade.

Welfare issues associated with the wildlife trade are profound and multifaceted. Animals involved in trade often experience significant suffering, including food and water deprivation, environmental challenges, disease, injury, and behavioral restrictions. The stress of transport and captivity leads to high levels of anxiety and pain, significantly compromising animal welfare. These factors underline the importance of addressing the ethical concerns of wildlife trade and the ecological consequences of unsustainable practices. Addressing these welfare issues is crucial for developing policies and regulations that promote humane and sustainable wildlife trade practices.

METHODS

This study employs a Descriptive Qualitative method to analyze the illegal wildlife trade in Peru. The primary focus of this research is to understand the trade dynamics, its impact on endangered species, and the government's law enforcement efforts. A descriptive qualitative method was chosen because it provides an in-depth portrayal of complex social phenomena without needing primary data collection through surveys or interviews gathered from credible secondary sources, including reports from NGOs and NGOs.

Data Collection. This research depends on secondary data from various credible sources, primarily focusing on research reports, surveys conducted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and academic publications. Secondary data is integral to this study as it provides a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the illegal wildlife trade without requiring direct fieldwork or primary data collection. Through these secondary sources, the study aims to capture a wide range of perspectives on the issue, ensuring a robust foundation for analyzing the complex dynamics of wildlife trade and its broader implications. These sources offer crucial insights into the patterns of wildlife trafficking, the actors involved, and the impact of such trade on biodiversity, ecosystems, and local communities. One critical data source for this research includes reports from NGOs and INGOs, such as those published by World Animal Protection, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and other conservation-focused organizations. These reports are essential for understanding the current state of wildlife

trade, as they often provide detailed analyses of trade trends, tracking systems, and their effects on endangered species. The reports also explore the enforcement mechanisms in place and the gaps in policy and law that allow the illegal trade to persist. Through such documents, the research can identify key factors influencing wildlife trafficking, including economic, political, and social drivers, while also evaluating the efforts made by international organizations and governments to combat these challenges. In addition to reports from NGOs and INGOs, the study draws upon academic articles and journals, which provide theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence regarding the wildlife trade. Previous research in these scholarly sources offers an in-depth examination of the causes and consequences of wildlife trafficking and its ecological and sociological impacts. These academic works often explore the intersections between environmental conservation, law enforcement, and ethical considerations, offering a multidimensional perspective. By analyzing these publications, the study will gain insight into the broader trends in wildlife trade and critically assess the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions to mitigate the adverse effects of wildlife trafficking. This academic literature serves as a vital resource for constructing a well-rounded analysis of the issue, helping to inform the findings and recommendations of the research.

Data Analyz. Data analysis for this research will be carried out systematically by categorizing and interpreting the information obtained from secondary sources. It involves organizing the data into distinct themes and patterns, allowing for a detailed examination of the various factors that influence wildlife trade dynamics, particularly illegal trade. The analysis will focus on identifying key drivers behind wildlife trafficking, such as economic, political, and social motivations, as well as the role of enforcement mechanisms and international cooperation. Furthermore, the study will explore the relationships between these factors and how they collectively contribute to the persistence of illegal wildlife trade in Peru. By examining the available data, the research will evaluate the effectiveness of the measures and strategies implemented by the government and other relevant authorities to combat illegal wildlife trade. This evaluation will involve assessing the legal frameworks in place and the actual enforcement of these laws. The study will also consider the role of NGOs, INGOs, and other stakeholders in addressing wildlife trafficking and how their efforts align with or complement government actions. In doing so, the research will explore the strengths and weaknesses of current anti-trafficking initiatives, offering a critical perspective on their success in curbing illegal wildlife trade.

The results of this comprehensive data analysis are expected to yield a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Peru in tackling illegal wildlife trade, as well as the potential solutions that can be implemented to address these challenges (Widiatmoko et al., 2023). By identifying patterns and gaps in the current approach, the research will contribute valuable insights into protecting biodiversity and strengthening law enforcement efforts in the region. This analysis will help inform policy recommendations for more effective wildlife conservation strategies and emphasize the importance of a coordinated, multi-faceted approach that includes government intervention, international collaboration, and public awareness campaigns. Through this approach, the study aims to provide actionable recommendations that can significantly contribute to the protection of endangered species and the long-term sustainability of Peru's natural environment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The final results of this study indicate that illegal wildlife trade in Peru has become a complex and pressing issue over the past several decades. Although the origins of this trade are difficult to trace, there has been a significant increase in wildlife trafficking activities since the late 20th century. During the 1990s, the trade became more organized, evolving into transnational networks that involved various countries, contributing to the rapid growth of illegal wildlife trade in the region. The Peruvian government's commitment to protecting biodiversity is evident through its ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1975, along with other protective measures to preserve the country's diverse flora and fauna. However, despite these regulations, illegal wildlife trade continues to thrive, posing a serious challenge for the

government and environmental organizations. This situation underscores the need for more effective enforcement of wildlife protection laws and stronger international cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking. Illegal wildlife trade in Peru threatens endangered species, disrupts local ecosystems, and negatively impacts communities. The trade-in of both flora and fauna leads to the depletion of native species, which in turn jeopardizes the ecological balance that many communities depend on for their livelihoods.

Furthermore, this illicit activity often undermines conservation efforts and the economic potential of sustainable tourism, which could otherwise benefit local populations. Removing species from their natural habitats diminishes biodiversity, affecting agriculture, forestry, and other sectors closely tied to the health of ecosystems. As such, the consequences of illegal wildlife trade extend far beyond the immediate harm caused to individual species, creating long-term environmental and socio-economic repercussions for the country. Given these challenges, the study calls for a more comprehensive approach to addressing illegal wildlife trade in Peru, focusing on strengthening law enforcement, increasing public awareness, and fostering greater international collaboration. Effective strategies should involve a multi-faceted approach, which includes improving the capacity of local authorities to detect and prevent wildlife trafficking, enhancing the role of NGOs and INGOs in monitoring and reporting wildlife crime, and encouraging international partnerships to target transnational smuggling networks. Additionally, addressing the root causes of wildlife trafficking, such as poverty and lack of education, is essential for reducing the demand for illegally traded species. Ultimately, the findings highlight the urgent need for enhanced policy implementation and a coordinated effort to protect Peru's rich biodiversity, ensuring that the environment and local communities feel conservation benefits.
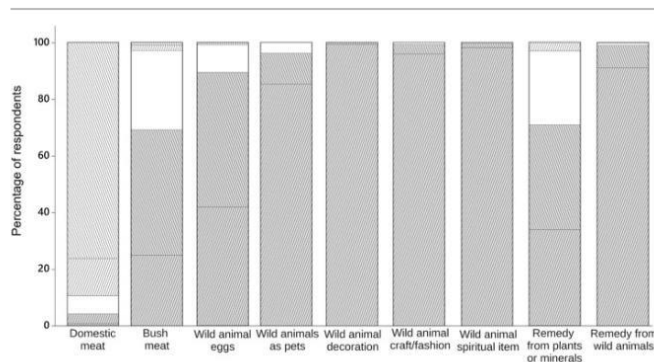
Illegal wildlife trade in Peru threatens endangered species and harms local ecosystems and communities. The presence of criminal networks involved in this trade results in the loss of endemic species, habitat destruction, and disruptions to ecosystem balance. Furthermore, this trade contributes to human rights violations and security concerns in the regions involved. In this context, it is crucial to analyze the application of organized crime laws in addressing the issue of wildlife trafficking in Peru. Strong law enforcement and international cooperation are essential to halting these illegal practices and protecting biodiversity, a vital heritage for future generations. In addition to the severe environmental and social consequences, the illegal wildlife trade in Peru also undermines local economies and national security. Exploiting wildlife for illegal purposes disrupts sustainable industries, such as eco-tourism, which heavily depend on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity (Oskar et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the trade fosters corruption and criminal networks, destabilizing regions, causing ecological damage and compromising public safety and governance. The absence of robust enforcement mechanisms and insufficient international cooperation allow these illicit activities to flourish, exacerbating the problem. Consequently, affected communities' economic and social fabric weakens as they are deprived of sustainable livelihoods and face increased insecurity. A comprehensive approach is essential to mitigate these effects, including stricter regulations, effective enforcement strategies, and strengthened international collaboration to combat wildlife trafficking.

Factors Influencing Wildlife Trade. Illegal wildlife trade in Peru has significantly impacted the populations of endemic species, including the jaguar, the largest cat in the Americas. The high demand for jaguar body parts for traditional and commercial purposes has made it a primary target for hunters and illegal traders across Latin America. Research shows that jaguars are often killed in brutal ways, with multiple shots causing severe suffering to the animals. Over the past 30 years, jaguar populations have declined drastically by 20-25%, occupying only about 51% of their historical geographic range. Although the trade in jaguars and their body parts is banned in urban areas of Peru, a 2021 report by World Animal Protection indicated that jaguar body parts have become some of the most expensive items sold in the black market, such as in the Belén Market. However, the issue of illegal trade is not limited to jaguars. Hundreds of Amazonian species are illegally traded in this region, including primates, ocelots, sloths, boas, paca, caimans, and parrots. Approximately 9% of the species sold in the black market are endangered. Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Peru is largely driven by domestic consumer demand,

particularly in urban areas like Belén, but international trade networks also influence it. International wildlife traders seek these species to meet consumer demand across different parts of the world. As the activity of illegal trade increases, the government of Peru and the international community must collaborate in law enforcement and conservation efforts to protect endangered species and prevent further damage to the biodiversity of the Amazon.

The wildlife trade in Peru, particularly in the belén Market, reveals a complex dynamic related to animal welfare, conservation, and human health. A survey conducted in Iquitos revealed that although most respondents held negative views on the impacts of wildlife trade, particularly concerning animal welfare and conservation, the consumption of wild animal meat remains high. About 75.1% of respondents reported buying wild animal meat, although only 3.0% did so regularly. It indicates that, despite awareness of the negative consequences of wildlife trade, there is also a dependence on animal products that can be difficult to eliminate. When information about the negative impacts of wildlife trade was shown, more than half of the respondents indicated they might reduce their purchases of wildlife products in the future. However, respondents tended to focus more on market order and cleanliness issues rather than directly addressing the sale of wildlife itself. It suggests that repeated educational campaigns are necessary to reduce demand for wildlife products, but structural reforms in the market must accompany these. Without concrete actions to improve safety and cleanliness, demand reduction campaigns may not be sufficient to change consumer behavior in Iquitos.

Source: by T.P. Moorhouse, A. Elwin, P.E. Perez-Peña, D. Perez, S. Solis, L. Zari, and N.C. D'Cruze on the Consumption of wildlife-origin products by residents at the largest wildlife market of Amazonian Peru:

Figure 1. Wildlife Data is a common product type in the Belén Market

Based on the survey results of T.P. Moorhouse, A. Elwin, P.E. Perez-Peña, D. Perez, S. Solis, L. Zari, and N.C. D'Cruze on the Consumption of Wildlife-origin Products by Residents at the largest wildlife market of Amazonian Peru: Is there scope for demand reduction? Published in Global Ecology and Conservation regarding the Belén Market in Peru, it can be concluded that domestic meat, particularly chicken, dominates the purchasing choices of respondents, with a high frequency of consumption—89.4% of them purchasing it on every or most visits. It indicates a strong preference for locally produced products, which may reflect consumer confidence in the quality and freshness of domestically sourced meat. Meanwhile, although 75.1% of respondents also purchased wild-caught animal meat, few did so consistently, with the majority admitting to purchasing it "occasionally" or "rarely." The purchase of wild animal meat such as majaz, sajino, and venado shows demand for these products, although at lower rates than domestic meat. This phenomenon may be attributed to factors such as availability, awareness of sustainability, or regulations governing the purchase of wild animal meat, which may influence consumer behavior and product choices (Drae et al., 2024).

Wildlife trade in Peru involves several countries, most of which are local. However, it is estimated that around 20% of the animals seized by Peruvian authorities are destined for international markets. According to reports from InSight Crime and various investigations, China is the largest market for plants and animals trafficked from Peru, followed by the United States. The high demand from these international markets drives illegal trade practices, with the jaguar (Panthera onca) being one of the most prominent examples. The jaguar, an iconic species of American wildlife, is often targeted by traffickers. In China, body parts such as teeth, skin, and bones are sometimes sold as jewelry or charms. Research published in Conservation Biology indicates that the illegal trade in jaguar body parts has been increasing, likely linked to Chinese investments in Central and South America. Furthermore, criminal organizations are involved in this trade, with jaguar teeth fetching prices as high as US$3,000 in Asia. In 2021, Bolivian authorities captured five individuals involved in jaguar trafficking, believed to be part of an international criminal network operating in Peru, Brazil, and Vietnam.

Government Efforts in Combating Wildlife Trafficking in Peru. The Peruvian government faces a serious challenge regarding illegal wildlife trafficking, which not only threatens the survival of species but also harms the local economy that depends on legal trade practices. To eliminate this illegal activity, the government has implemented several strategic measures. First, they recognize the importance of proper handling techniques during wildlife seizures. Proper handling, from seizure to transfer to the relevant authorities, is crucial for ensuring the survival of endangered species. With an estimated 400 species of fauna and flora endangered in Peru, efficient and effective wildlife rescue actions are needed to protect the country's biodiversity. A significant initiative in law enforcement is Operation FLYAWAY, proposed by the United States during the 12th meeting of the National Contact Points of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) for South America. This operation aimed to target international illegal wildlife trade and involved the participation of several countries, including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and European countries, such as Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain. Operation FLYAWAY took place from February to July 2015 and was divided into three phases: pre-, operation, and post-operation. From June 17 to 26, national surveillance was intensified during the operation phase to combat smuggling and illegal trade practices. Through this international collaboration, Peru sought to strengthen its law enforcement capacity and reduce the impact of illegal trade that harms ecosystems and the local economy.

The Peruvian government has taken significant steps to combat illegal wildlife trafficking by classifying the practice as an organized crime. This move is part of a national strategy introduced in 2017 to reduce illegal wildlife trade. Through this initiative, Peru seeks to strengthen law enforcement and impose harsher penalties on those involved in wildlife trafficking. By enforcing prison sentences ranging from 11 to 20 years for those found guilty, Peru aims to tackle international criminal networks involved in this trade, including the smuggling of body parts of endangered animals. Classifying wildlife trafficking as an organized crime also provides authorities with the opportunity to use more advanced investigative methods, such as wiretapping and undercover investigations, to apprehend perpetrators and uncover larger networks. Additionally, Peru has been active in international forums such as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), committing to address this issue on a broader scale. Despite challenges in law enforcement and implementation, these measures mark significant progress in protecting species and enforcing laws against illegal trafficking, establishing Peru as a regional leader in the fight against environmental crime.

The Peruvian government has taken strategic steps to combat international wildlife trafficking by organizing conferences emphasizing interstate collaboration and public awareness. In these conferences, Peru aims to encourage producer and transit countries to cooperate in addressing the illegal trade that harms biodiversity. These meetings involve government representatives, non-governmental organizations, environmental experts, and civil society, facilitating comprehensive discussions on existing challenges and solutions. Through these forums, Peru hopes to strengthen a shared commitment to treat wildlife trafficking as a serious crime that receives proper attention and handling from all relevant parties. In order to reinforce tangible actions against wildlife trafficking,

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the Peruvian government integrates the outcomes of these conferences into the development of policies and law enforcement strategies. Emphasis is placed on stricter regulations and enhancing law enforcement capacity, ensuring decisive actions can be taken against perpetrators. Additionally, these conferences serve as platforms to promote effective local initiatives, such as the "If you buy, you are an accomplice" campaign, which aims to change consumer behavior and raise public awareness about the negative impacts of wildlife trafficking. Through these efforts, Peru is committed to protecting biodiversity and playing an active role in global efforts to combat environmental crime.

CONCLUSION

The data on illegal wildlife trade in Peru shows that significant challenges still need to be addressed despite the government's strategic measures to address the issue. While wildlife trafficking has been classified as organized crime and stricter penalties have been implemented, illegal practices continue to grow, driven by high domestic and international demand. Efforts such as Operation FLYAWAY and hosting international conferences offer hope for enhancing cross-border collaboration and strengthening law enforcement. However, the Peruvian government must focus strongly on public education and consumer behavior change for greater success. Educating the public about the negative impacts of wildlife trade and raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity protection can help reduce the demand for illegal products. Close cooperation between the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil society will also create sustainable solutions to combat wildlife trafficking. With strong commitment and coordinated actions, Peru can set an example for other countries in the fight against environmental crime and in preserving biodiversity for future generations.

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