

Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí, Manta, Ecuador. FAHMI (orcid.org/0000-0003-3199-7467) *Research Center for Oceanography, The National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia.* ADRIANA GONZALEZ PESTANA (orcid.org/0000-0001-9510-3966) *Facultad de Biología Marina, Universidad Científica del Sur, Lima, Peru.* SEBASTIAN HERNÁNDEZ MUÑOZ (orcid.org/0000-0002-2908-6050) *Biomolecular Laboratory, Center for International Programs and Sustainability Studies, Universidad Veritas, San José, Costa Rica, and Sala de Colecciones, Facultad de Ciencias del Mar, Universidad Católica del Norte, Coquimbo, Chile.* GUIDO LEURS (orcid.org/0000-0002-9111-3902) *Conservation Ecology Group, Groningen Institute for Evolutionary Life Sciences, University of Groningen, Groningen, and Department of Coastal Systems, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Texel, The Netherlands.* BENAYA MEITASARI SIMEON (orcid.org/0000-0001-5745-8360) *Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia*

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

EU Court of Justice rules that NGOs have the right to challenge forest management plans through the courts in Poland

On 2 March 2023, the Court of Justice of the EU ruled, in [Case C-432/21](#), that the exclusion in Polish legislation of the possibility of legal proceedings against forest management plans violates EU law. The Court stated that Poland was in breach of its obligations as a Member State of the EU because it had excluded in its legislation the possibility for environmental organizations to appeal against forest management plans. The Court concluded that conservation organizations must have the right to challenge forest management plans in court, especially if changes within forest ecosystems involve major human intrusion. The Court decided that species protection under the Bird and Habitat Directives of the EU takes precedence over local forest management.

In a joint communication, the Polish Ministry of Climate and Environment and the National Forests, which manages c. 80% of Poland's 9.2 million ha of forests, stated that the right to appeal forest management practices had already been respected. It was also stated that future court verdicts based on the EU Court of Justice decision would lead to the collapse of forest management throughout the country and consequently the collapse of the Polish timber industry.

The court decision will allow NGOs to at least partially control cutting in areas of natural value, especially in those areas where forest management blocks the founding or expansion of national parks. In recent years there has been systematic destruction of the most valuable forest areas in Poland, particularly in the Carpathian Forest. This forest, which covers the Bieszczady Mountains and

Przemysł Foothills in south-east Poland, is a refuge for species such as the brown bear, grey wolf, lynx, wildcat, golden eagle, Eurasian pygmy, eagle and Ural owls and the Eurasian three-toed woodpecker. NGOs have been campaigning for several decades for the enlargement of the Bieszczady National Park and the establishment of the Turnicki National Park in the Przemyskie Foothills.

This new ruling of the EU Court of Justice follows an [April 2018 verdict](#) by the Court concerning the Białowieża Primeval Forest, which highlighted failure of forest management in Poland to respect the Bird and Habitat Directives. It can only be hoped that the state authorities, as in the case of the verdict on the Białowieża Primeval Forest, will, after initial resistance, adhere to this latest ruling.

IGNACY KITOWSKI (orcid.org/0000-0001-8308-5588, ignacyk@autograf.pl) *University College of Applied Sciences in Chełm, Chełm, Poland.* GRZEGORZ PITUCHA (orcid.org/0000-0002-4415-9385) *University of Rzeszów, Rzeszów, Poland.* AGNIESZKA SUJAK (orcid.org/0000-0001-5616-3827) *Poznań University of Life Sciences, Poznań, Poland*

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

TikTok facilitating songbird trade in Indonesia

Throughout Southeast Asia, songbirds are sought as pets, ornaments, for prayer releases, and particularly as competitors in singing competitions. In 2017, as a result of increased demand for wild-caught birds, the IUCN declared an Asian Songbird Extinction Crisis, with Indonesia a critical hotspot. The internet has provided new avenues for the exploitation, trafficking and sale of songbirds, including via the online marketplace OLX in Indonesia (Fink et al., 2021, *Applied Geography*, 134, 102505). The use of internet technology in the songbird trade is fast-moving and difficult for conservationists to address. Here we report evidence that TikTok (ByteDance, Beijing, China) is being used for advertising and facilitating trade in protected and threatened species of Indonesian birds.

Indonesia has c. 110 million TikTok users. In early 2021, TikTok joined the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, releasing a guideline that 'any content that depicts or promotes the poaching or illegal trade of wildlife is not allowed on our platform and will be removed when identified', with 74% of this content allegedly removed before receiving any views (Koçak, 2021, *TikTok*, 16 June 2021). However, TikTok has been used to promote content from owners of exotic pets in the USA, some of which could be illegally sourced (Faheid, 2021, *National Public Radio*, 4 July 2021), and the UK TikTok site has been used to share images of illegal badger-killing trophies and organize attacks on badgers (Gatten, 2022, *The Telegraph*, 29 November 2022).