

Trade in live birds from Africa:

scale and scope of trade in non-CITES listed birds

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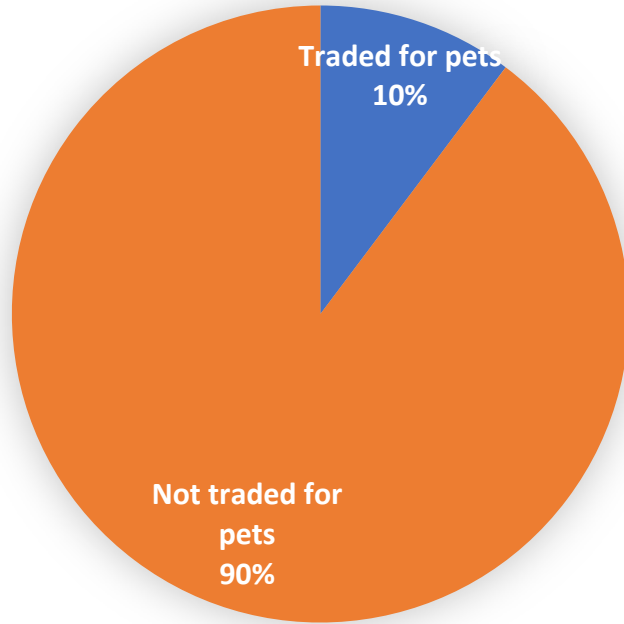


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Birds recorded as traded for pets



IUCN Red List and CITES data
Source: Scheffers *et al.* 2019

Why?

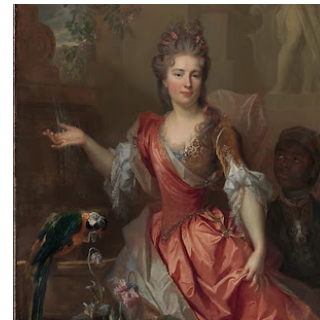
People have diverse motivations



Companionship



Exhibition



Prestige/Status



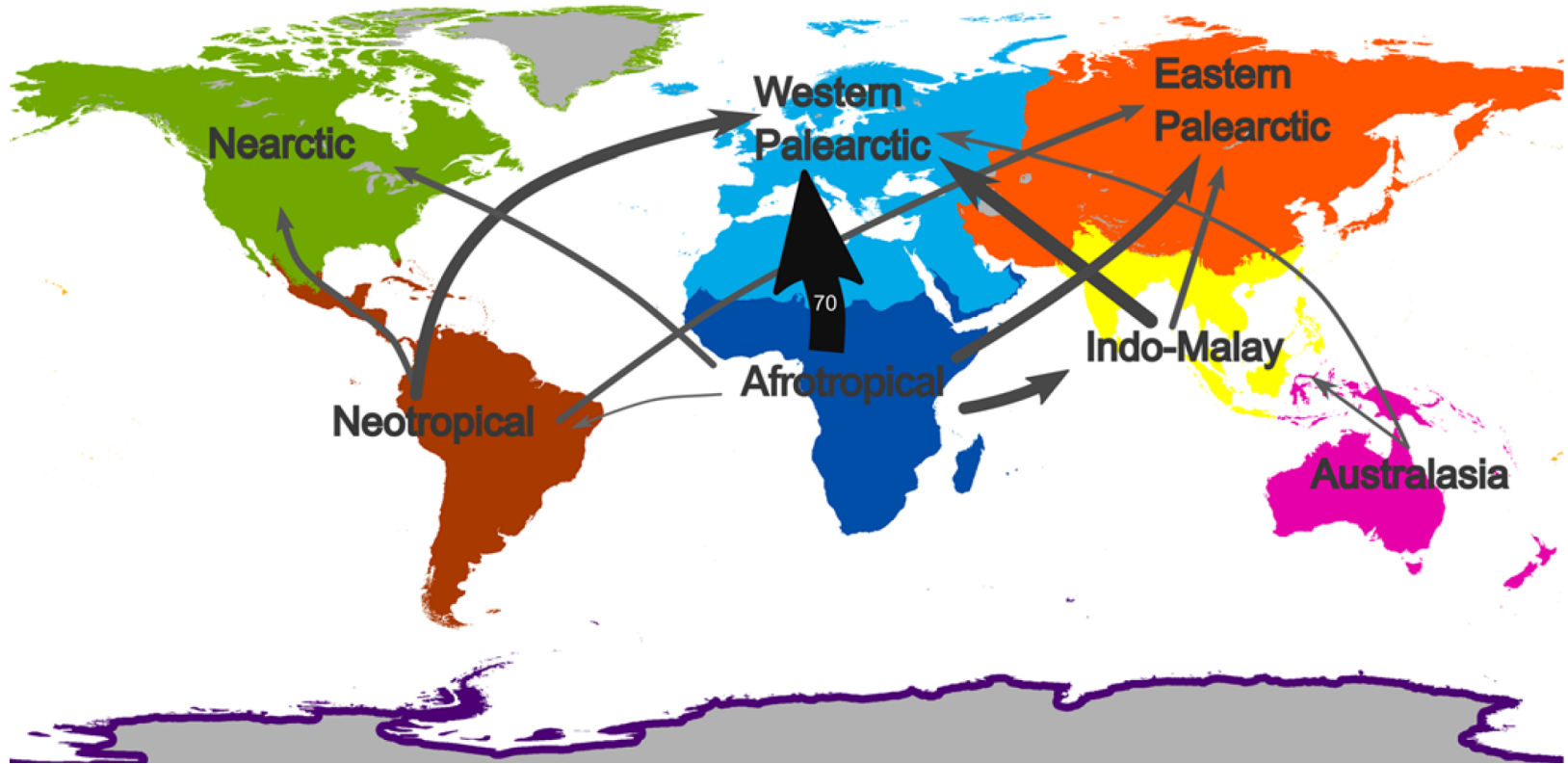
Competition

Why does it matter?

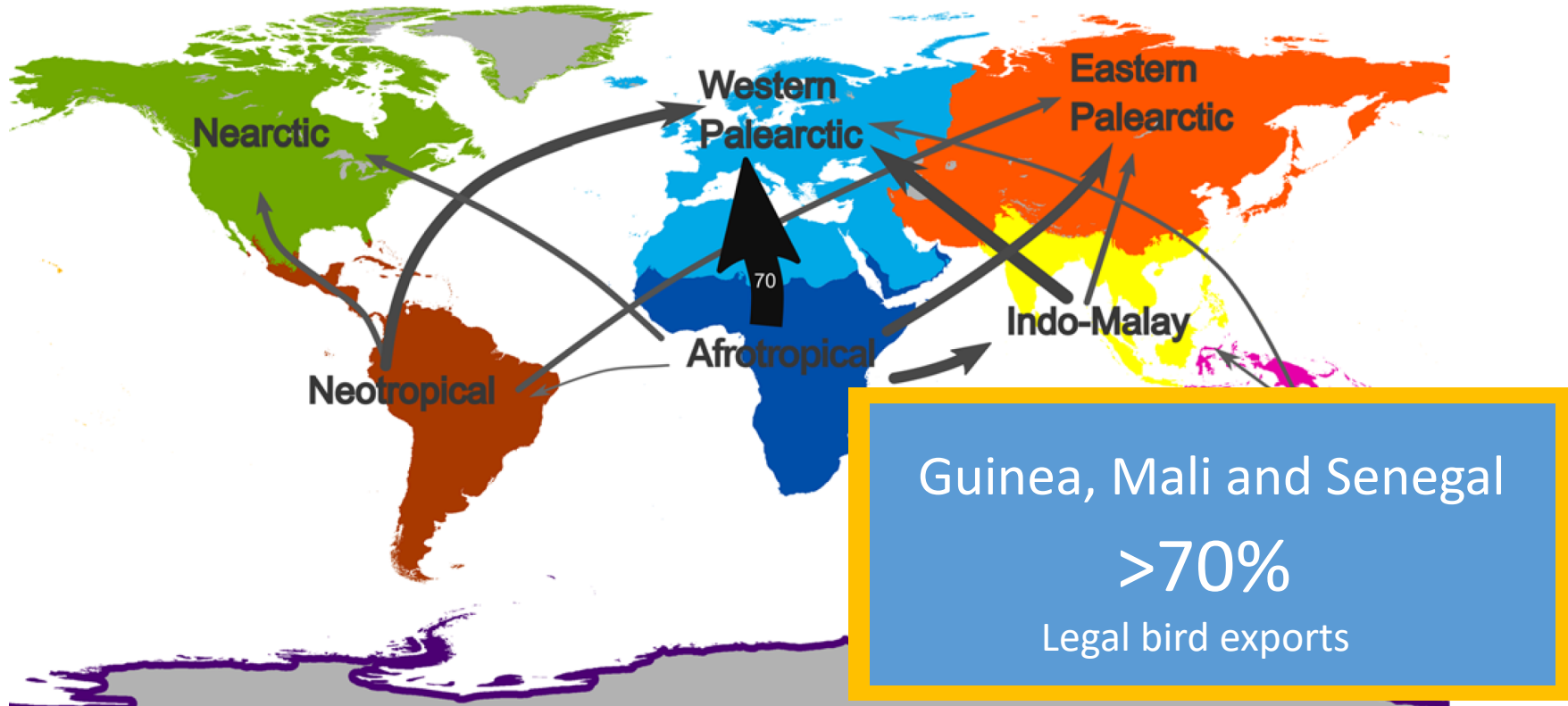
- **Biodiversity loss**
 - Extinction
 - Ecosystem function & services
- **Infectious diseases**
 - Human health
 - Conservation
 - Food production
- **Invasive species**
 - Loss of native species
 - Farming, infrastructure
- **Animal welfare**



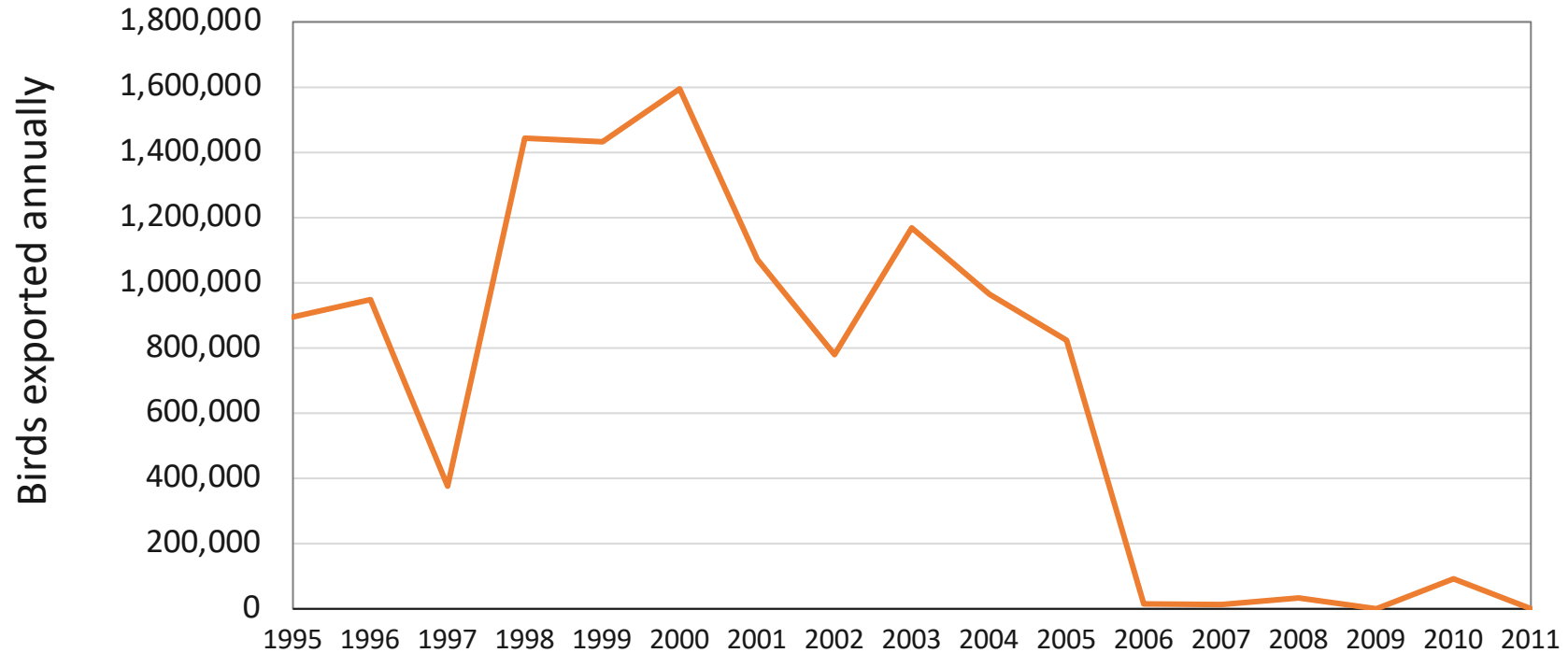
Global trade in CITES-listed birds 1995-2005



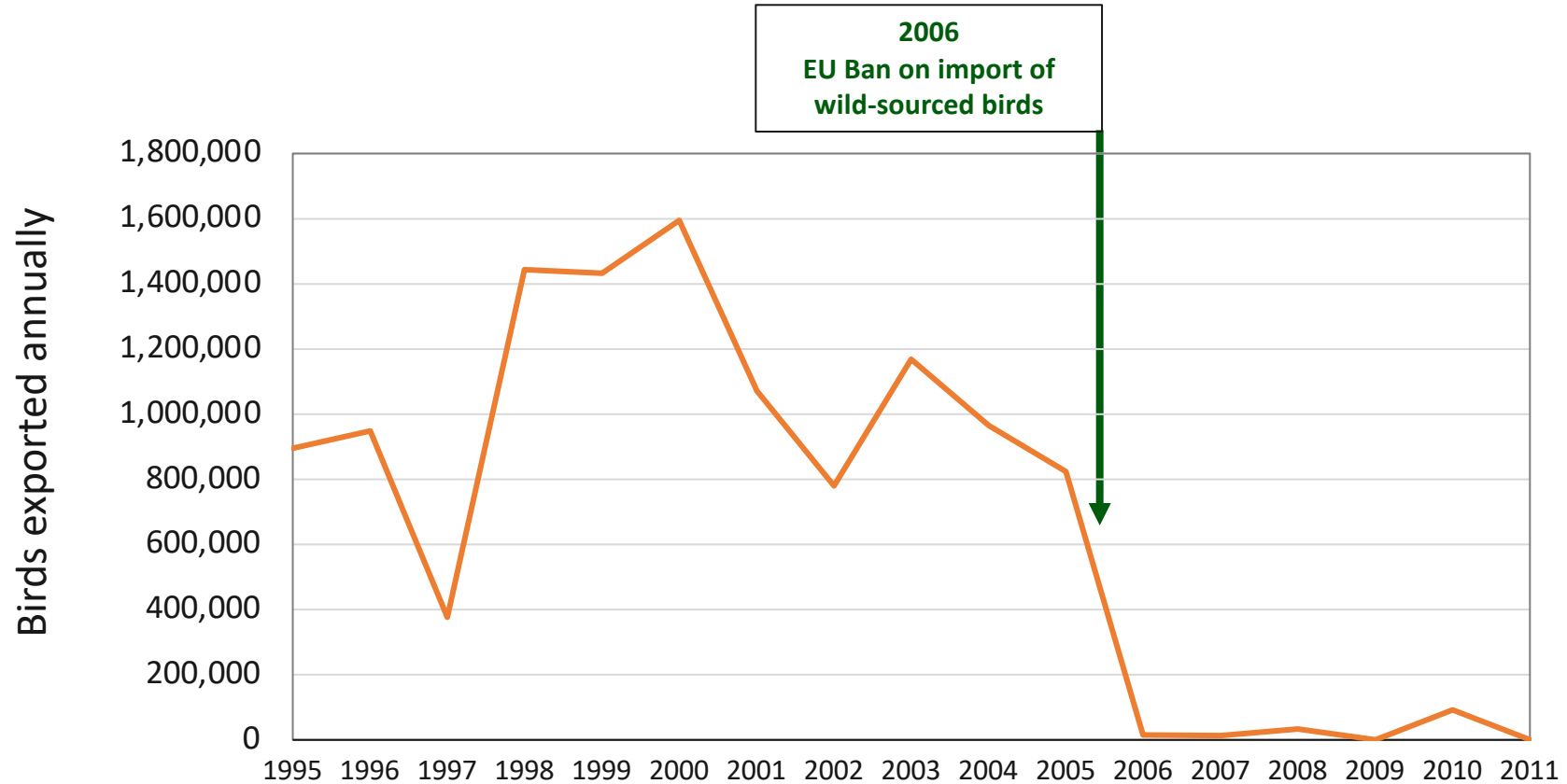
Global trade in CITES-listed birds 1995-2005



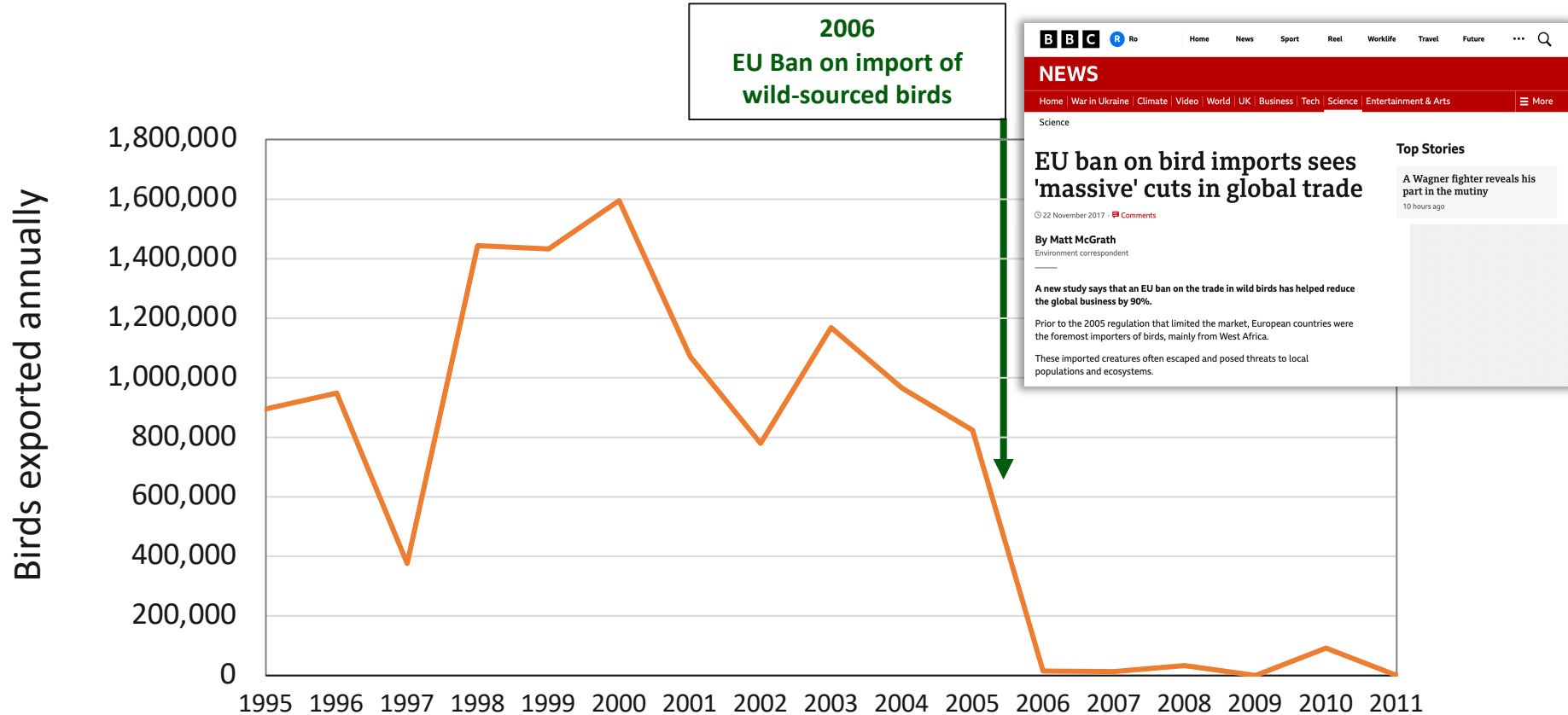
Exports of CITES-listed African birds 1995-2011



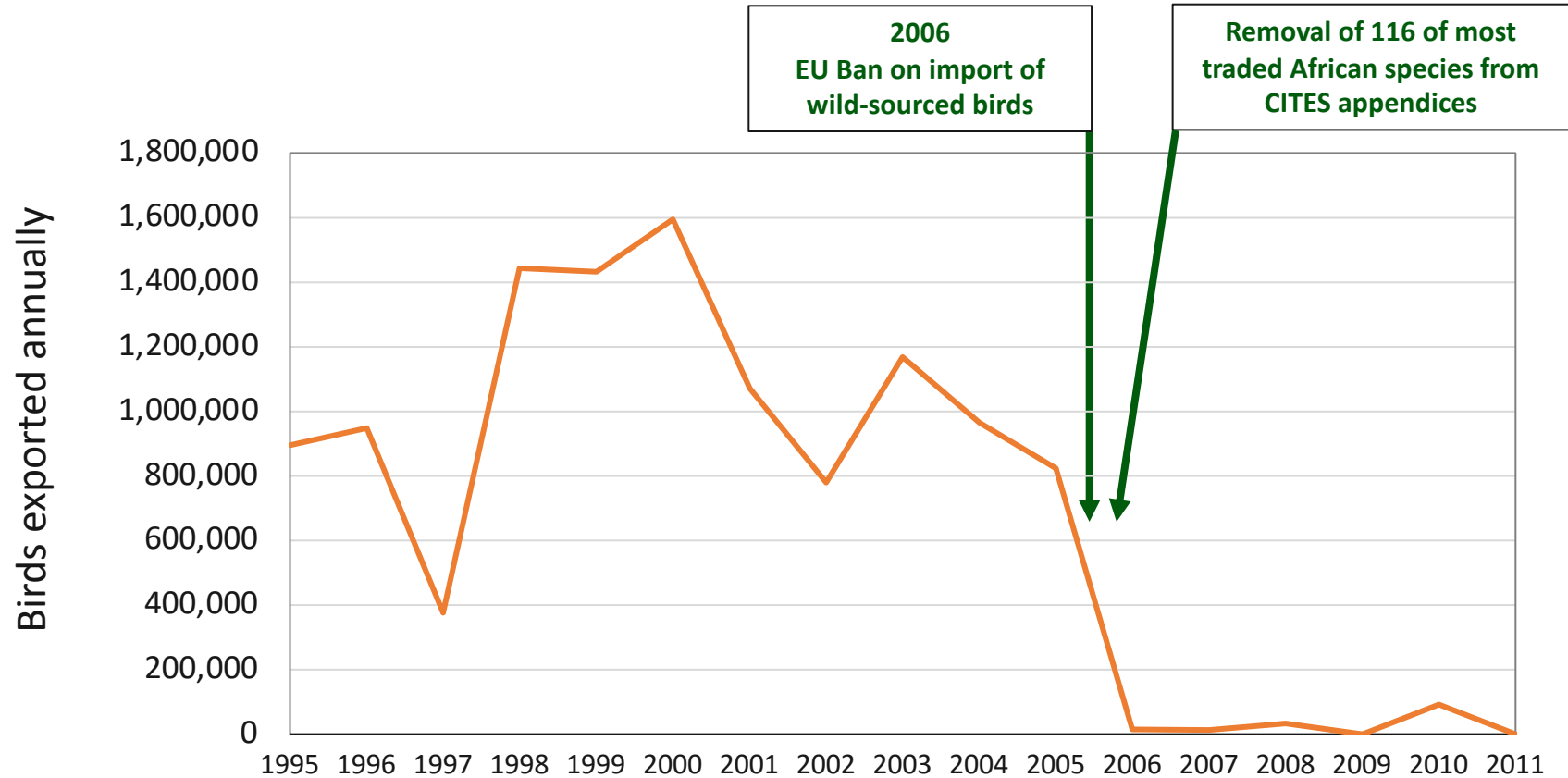
Exports of CITES-listed African birds 1995-2011



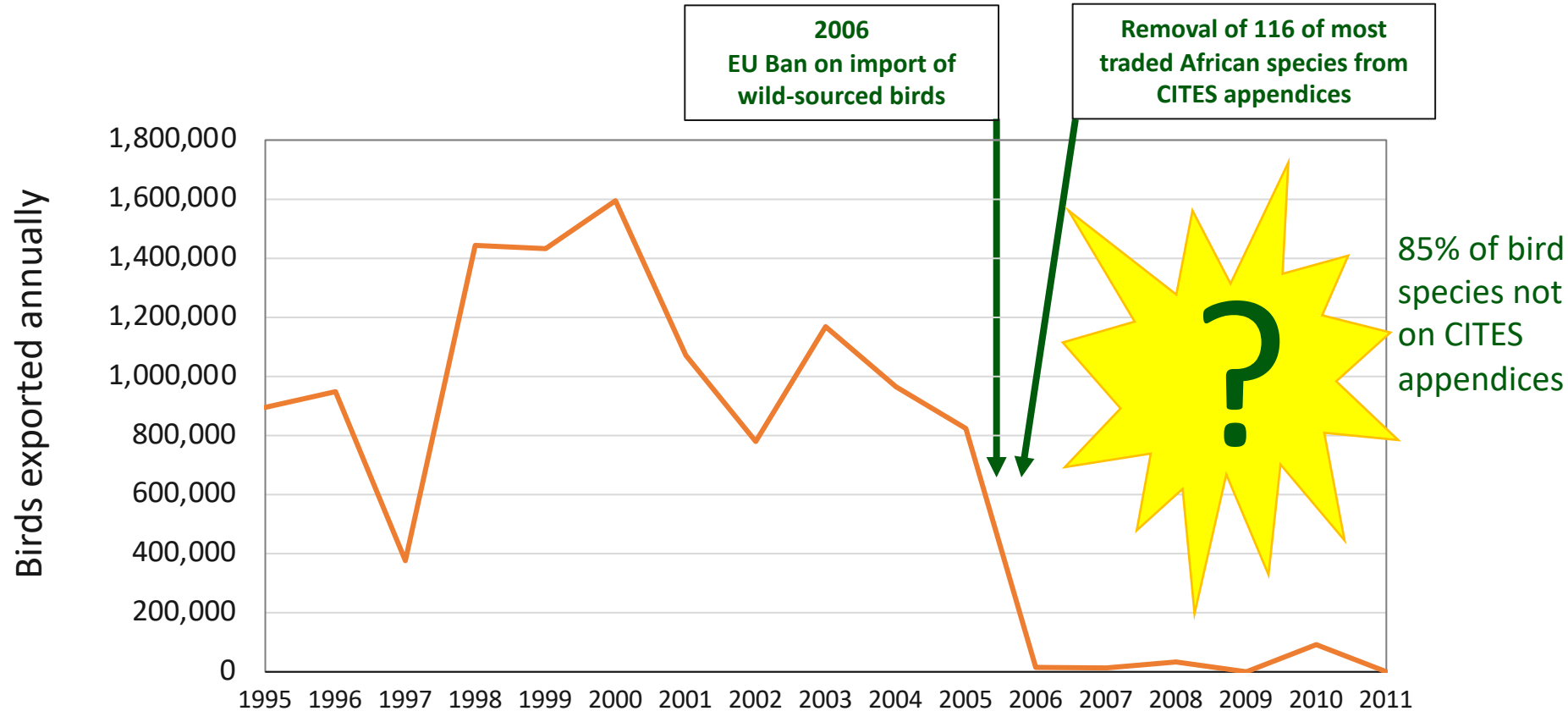
Exports of CITES-listed African birds 1995-2011



Exports of CITES-listed African birds 1995-2011







Exports of CITES-listed African birds 1995-2011



Approach 1: Insights via social media

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Live wild bird exports from West Africa: insights into recent trade from monitoring social media

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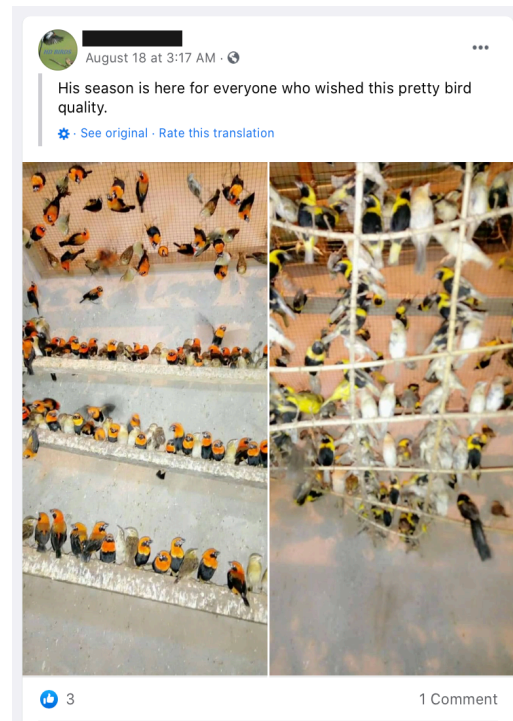
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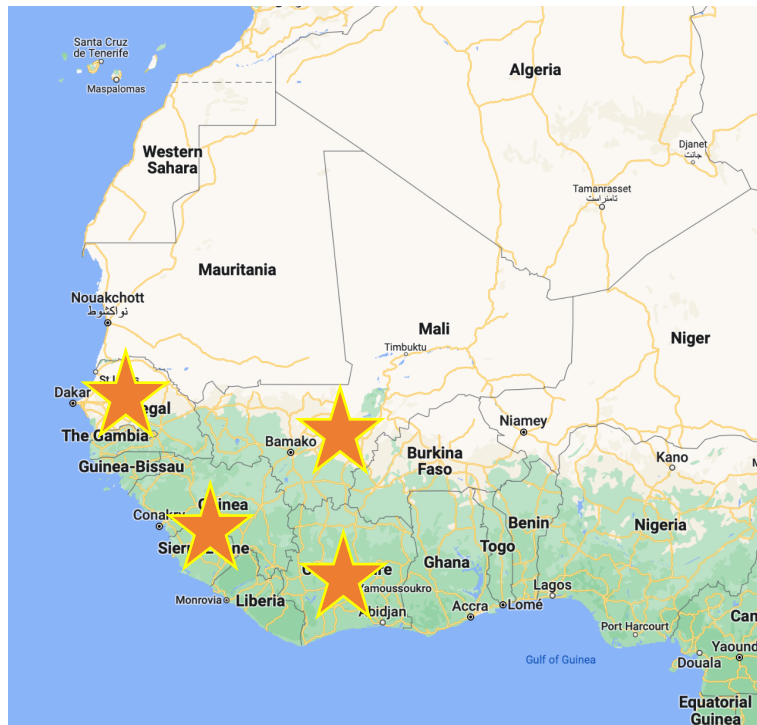
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Approach 1: Insights via social media

Methods

- Intelligence-based sample
- 11 traders active in West Africa
- 2016 -2020
- Posts with photos and videos inferred as intent to sell (Davies *et al.* 2022. *Cons. Biol.* 36(2) e13858)
- Data: species, quantities, engagement, trade routes



Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results

- 427 posts, 83 species from 26 families

Approach 1: Insights via social media

Top 15 species



Approach 1: Insights via social media

Top 15 species



Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results

- 83 species from 26 families



Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results

- 83 species from 26 families
- 2 species for which trade not recorded previously



Adamawa Turtle Dove
(*Streptopelia hypopyrrha*)



Four-banded Sandgrouse
(*Pterocles quadricinctus*)

Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results

- 83 species from 26 families
- 2 species for which trade not recorded previously
- Illegal trade and Threatened species



African Grey parrot **EN, CITES I**
(*Psittacus erithacus*)



Black crowned crane **VU, CITES I**
(*Balearica pavonina*)

Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results

- 83 species from 26 families
- 2 species for which trade not recorded previously
- Illegal trade and Threatened species
- Invasive species: 42 species in Global Avian Invasions Atlas (GAVIA)



Rose-ringed parakeet
(*Psittacula krameri*)



Pin-tailed whydah
(*Vidua macroura*)

Approach 1: Insights via social media

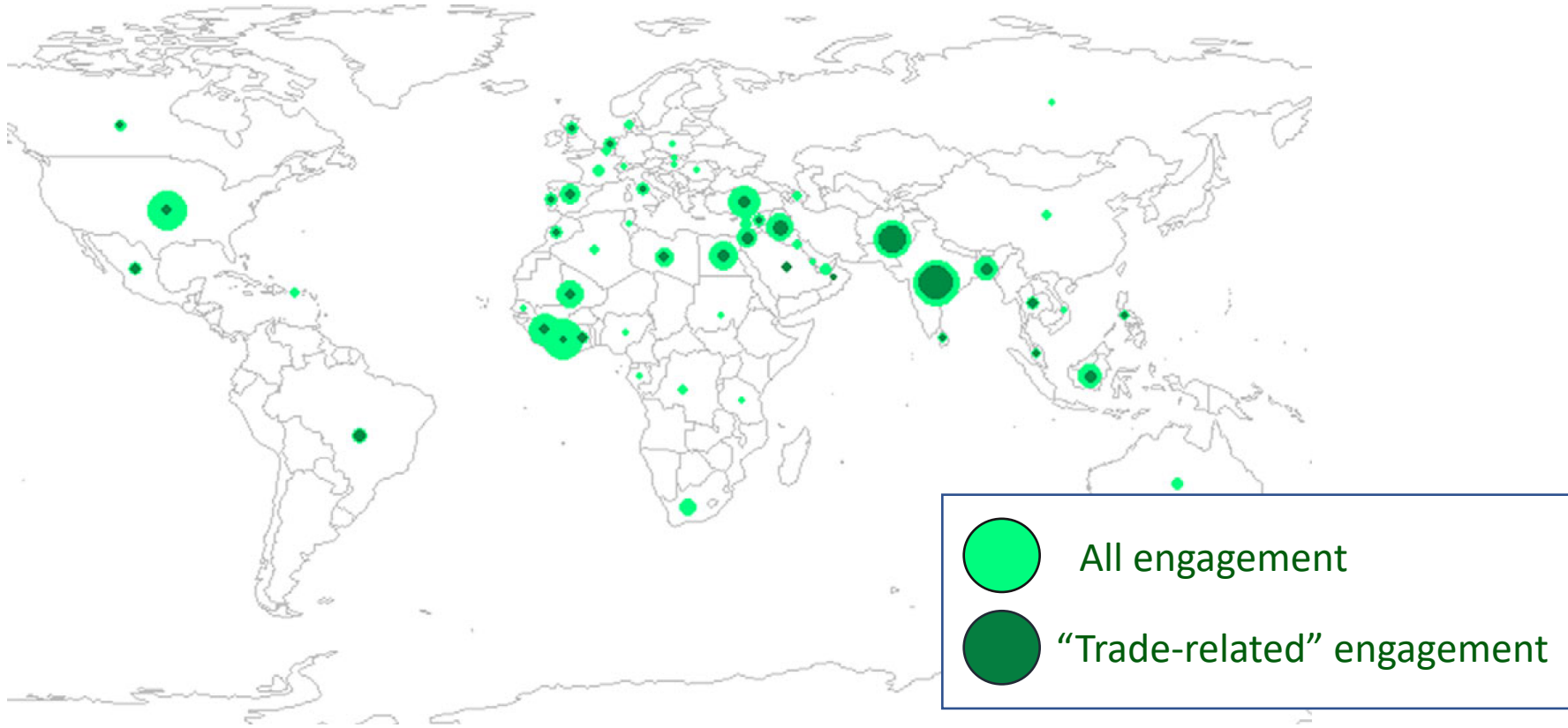
Results

- 83 species from 26 families
- 2 species for which trade not recorded previously
- Illegal trade and Threatened species
- Invasive species: 42 species in Global Avian Invasions Atlas (GAVIA)
- Disease risks: 9 species in World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)



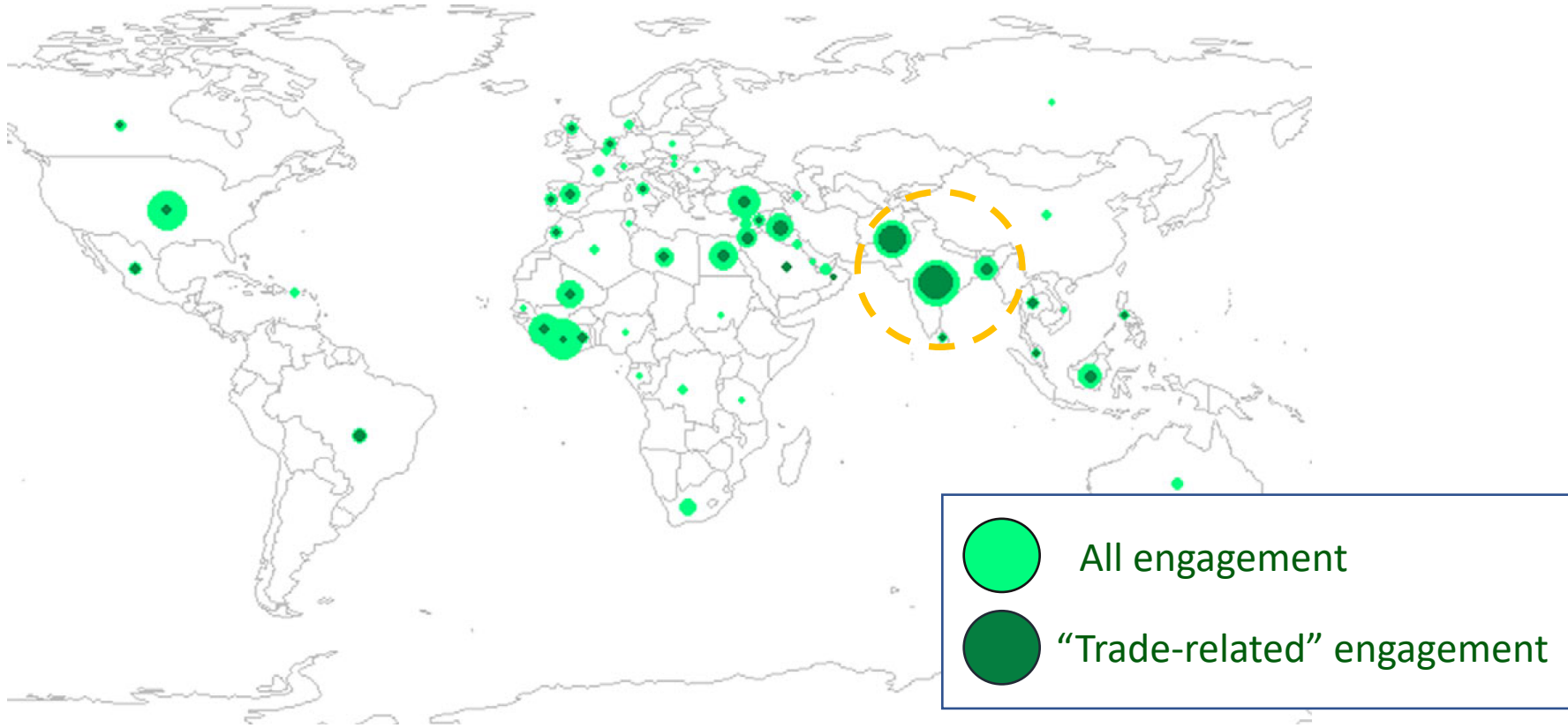
Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results: **Geographical distribution of post engagement**



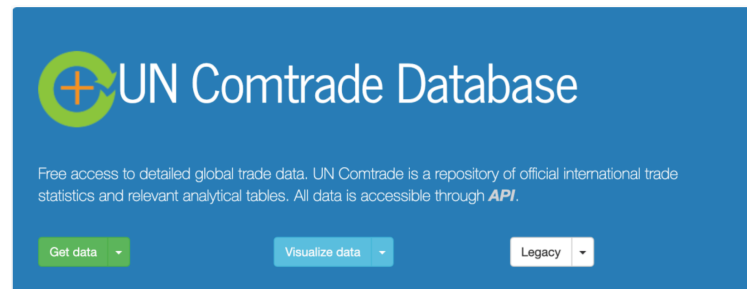
Approach 1: Insights via social media

Results: **Geographical distribution of post engagement**



Approach 2: Insights via customs data

- UN Comtrade data - submitted by all UN Parties to World Customs Institute
- HS Code 10639 (live birds excluding most CITES species including raptors, parrots, ostriches, emus and live poultry)
- Hong Kong and Singapore
- Species-level data from Hong Kong (Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)



Alisa Davies^a, Astrid Andersson^b, Rowan O. Martin^{a,d*}, Sam Inglis^c, Caroline Dingle^b (in review)

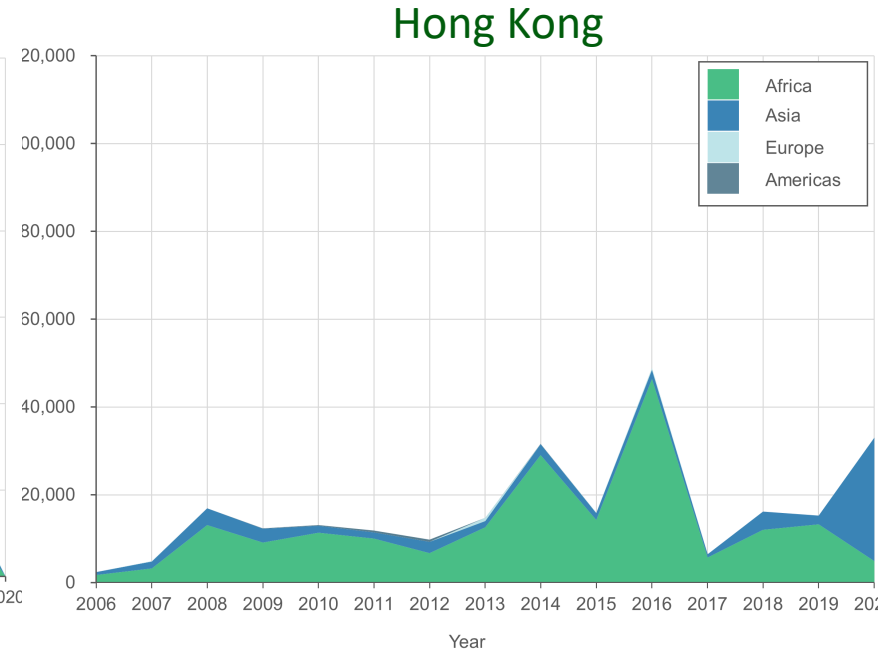
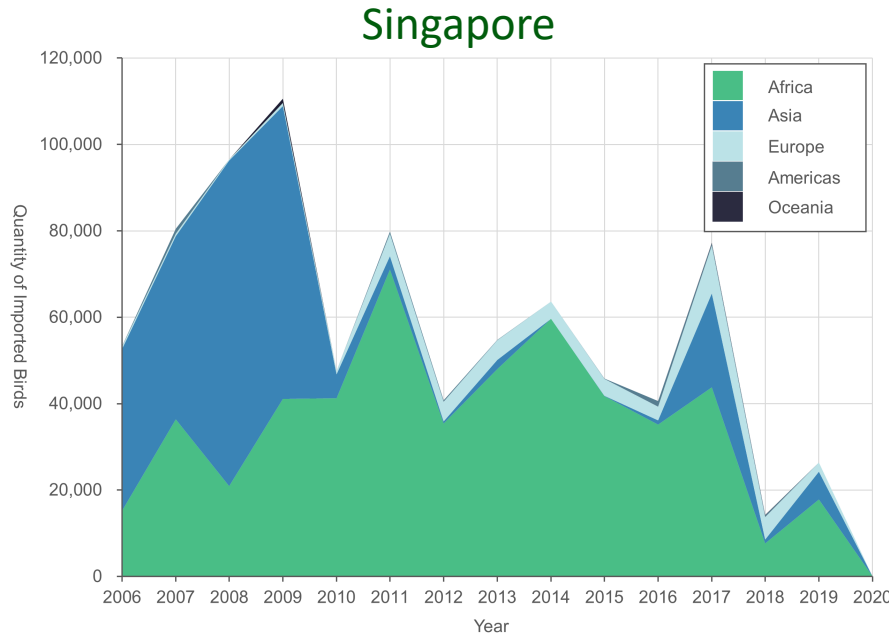


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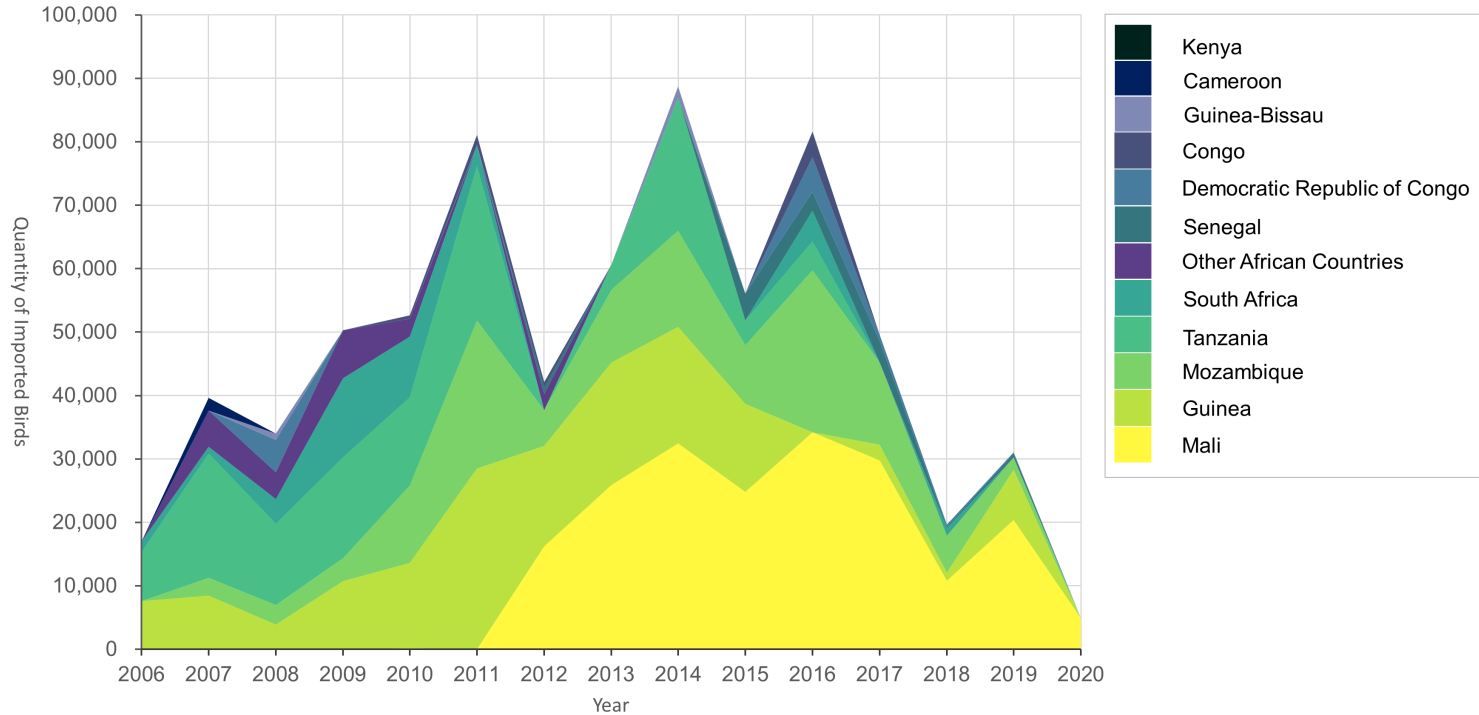
Approach 2: Insights via customs data

Results: Imports of live birds 2006-2020 by region



1,085,326 imported 70% from Africa

Results: Imports of live birds from Africa by region



Approach 2: Insights via customs data

Results: Species imported into Hong Kong

- 132,905-147,908 birds imported 2015-2020
- 34 species
- All songbirds
- Dominated by 6 species are *Crithagra* spp. accounted for 95%
- Market surveys in Hong Kong have previously excluded Canaries as assumed captive bred



Discussion & Conclusions

- Africa is a major and underappreciated source of live birds, Asia important destination
- Little monitoring of trade and its impacts
- Multiple harms including biodiversity loss, disease risks invasive species
- Legal and illegal trade overlap

Towards achieving sustainable, safe, equitable and humane trade for birds:

- Adding more African birds to CITES appendices – monitoring and scrutiny
- National governments should review policies on imports & exports of wild birds
- Blanket bans (e.g. EU ban) among policy tools that should be considered



Thanks to all collaborators!

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