CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 8 February 2025

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON COMBATING WILDIFE CRIME (ICCWC) SIDE EVENTS: 'GLOBAL COOPERATION ON COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME' AND 'CITES ILLEGAL TRADE DATA AND 2024 WORLD WILDLIFE CRIME REPORT'

This document is submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 38.2 on the *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)*, and includes the presentations delivered during the ICCWC side events on 'Global Cooperation on Combating Wildlife Crime' of 3 February 2025 and on 'CITES Illegal Trade Data and 2024 World Wildlife Crime Report' of 4 February 2025.



Global Cooperation on Combating Wildlife Crime

Geneva, 3 February 2024 Side-event at CITES SC78











Opening remarks





Ivonne Higuero, **CITES Secretariat**



Cristina de Avila Secretary-General Head of Unit for Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism, DG Environment **European Commission**



Anuhu S. Mani **Assistant Comptroller of** Customs, Officer-in-Charge, **Nigeria Customs Service Special Wildlife Office**



Wan Ziming **Deputy Director General**, **NFGA China & CITES MA** China

Cindy Chimal Criminal Intelligence Analyst INTERPOL



Sinead Brophy **Programme Consultant** UNODC



Lisa Farroway Program Manager, **Global Wildlife Program** World Bank



Igor Jakupic **Programme Officer** WCO





Opening remarks













Collaboration through operations: Thunder 2024

Cindy Chimal, Criminal Intelligence Analyst, INTERPOL Igor Jakupic, Programme Officer, Environment Programme, WCO Anuhu S. Mani, Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Officer-in-Charge, NCS Special Wildlife Office







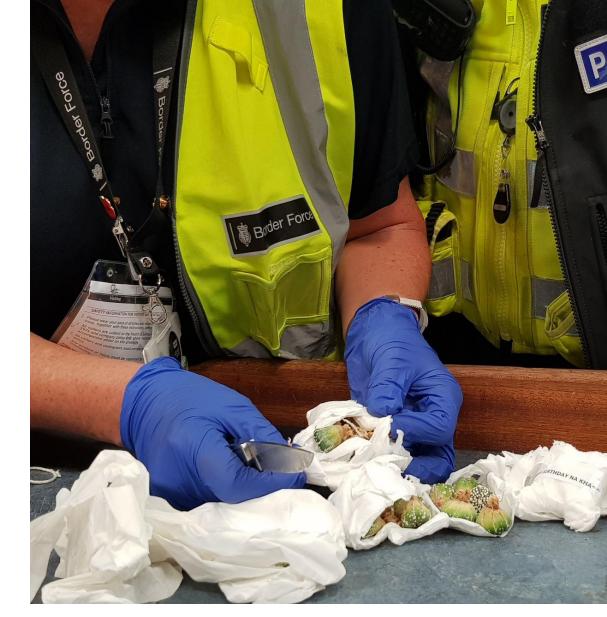




A coordinated global response to IWT

- Led by WCO & INTERPOL under ICCWC
 framework
- Focus: From seizure to prosecution, dismantling supply chains
- Targets entire criminal justice system: law enforcement, judiciary, financial crime units
- Intelligence-led, cross-border collaboration

WCO







Strengthening enforcement & criminal justice response

- Intelligence-driven operation: Real-time information sharing
- Capacity building: Training for law enforcement & judiciary
- Supply chain vulnerabilities: Targeting poachers to financiers
- Financial crime investigations: Following the money







How we track progress & success

- Seizures & arrests (disrupting criminal activities)
- International cooperation & intelligence sharing
- Prosecutions & convictions (legal follow-through)
- Trafficking network disruptions (breaking supply chains)
- Judicial engagement (stronger penalties & deterrence)







Future directions & strategic goals

- Cross-border Task Forces (stronger regional collaboration)
- Financial investigations & asset seizure (cutting off funding sources)
- Criminal justice system integration (ensuring full legal follow-through)
- Private sector partnerships (working with banks, logistics, e-commerce)
- Long-term monitoring











NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION THUNDER 2024







INTRODUCTION







²NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION THUNDER (CONT)

ON 18 NOV 2024 10 SACKS WERE SEIZED IN ADAMAWA THE OPERATION WAS JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN BY NCS AND WJC









NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION THUNDER (CONT)

18 DEC AN ADDITIONAL ON **30 SACKS WERE ARRESTED BRINGING THE TO 40 SACKS** WITH A TOTAL WEIGHT OF **2179KG. 1 PERSON** WAS **ARRESTED IN CONNECTION** WITH THE OPERATION









NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION THUNDER (CONT)

ON 10 DEC 2024, 6 AFRICAN **GREY PARROTS WERE RESCUED IN OPERATION ROKER AT KANO. ONE PERSON WAS ARRESTED IN** CONNECTION TO THE **OPERATION. THE OPERATION** WAS CONDUCTED BY THE NCS **AND FOCUSED CONSERVATION.**









NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION THUNDER (CONT)

ABOUT 10 LIVE AFRICAN GREY PARROTS WERE INTERCEPTED AT ABOUT 2100HRS OF WEDNESDAY 18/12/24 DURING A ROUTINE CHECK AT OBARO OWODE OUTSTATION











[•]<u>NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION</u> <u>THUNDER (CONT)</u>

TWO WATER TORTOISE WERE DETAINED AT THE TARMAC OF MMIA ON 27 NOV 24 UPON ARRIVAL FROM RWANDA KIGALI









NIGERIA CUSTOMS SEIZURES: OPERATION THUNDER (CONT)

ON SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 2025 AT ABOUT 0100HRS 20 LIVE RONSE RING PARAKEETS (GREEN PARROTS) WERE DETAINED ALONG OWODE-APA ROAD OWODE AXIS







Collaborative forums: WIRE

Sinead Brophy, Programme Consultant, UNODC

Ziming Wan, Deputy Director General, National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China (CITES MA)











Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement WIRE Forum

INFORMAL NETWORKS OF COOPERATION





WIRE

• <u>Aim</u>: Promote cooperation between African, Asian and Latin American countries

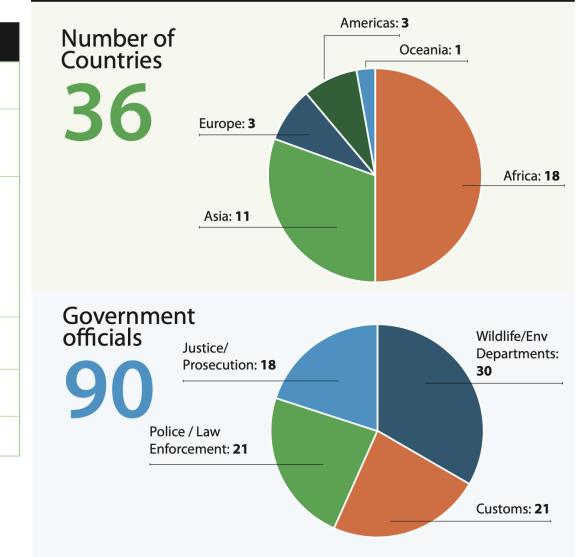
- 2016: WIRE 1 Police (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 2017: WIRE 2 Prosecutors (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 2017: WIRE 3 Customs (Hanoi, Vietnam)
- 2018: WIRE 4 Broad (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 2021: WIRE 5 Broad (Virtual with China Customs)
- 2022: WIRE 6 Broad (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 2023: WIRE 7 Broad (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- 2024: WIRE 8 Broad (Cape Town, South Africa)





WIRE-8

Composition of the participants



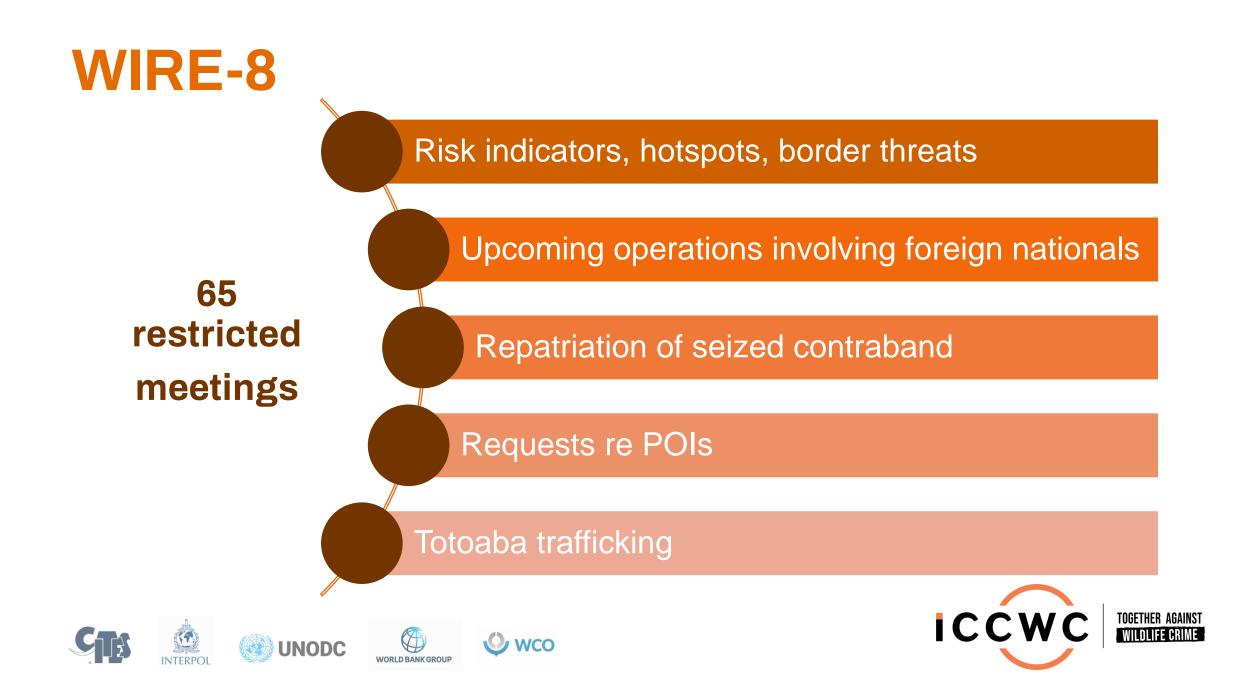
4-7 November 2024	Cape Town South Africa
Co-Host	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Partners	International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and United for Wildlife
Donors:	 » Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom » European Union » Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States » German Cooperation
Number of participants	140 { 93 Male 47 Female
Number of international and non- governmental organizations involved	2
Number of private sector entities involved	4











WIRE – Case example: HK & Peru





Monitoring & Request

Interception

Information Sharing

Investigation

Case Coordination

Prosecution









WIRE – Case example: Vietnam & Nigeria



Bilateral cooperation

Seizure

Vietnam Customs

International Support

Joint Investigation























Synergies between ICCWC and the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program

Lisa Farroway, Program Manager, Global Wildlife Program, World Bank













A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP **ON WILDLIFE** CONSERVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

GEF Funding \$359 million





WWF

UNEP

ADB





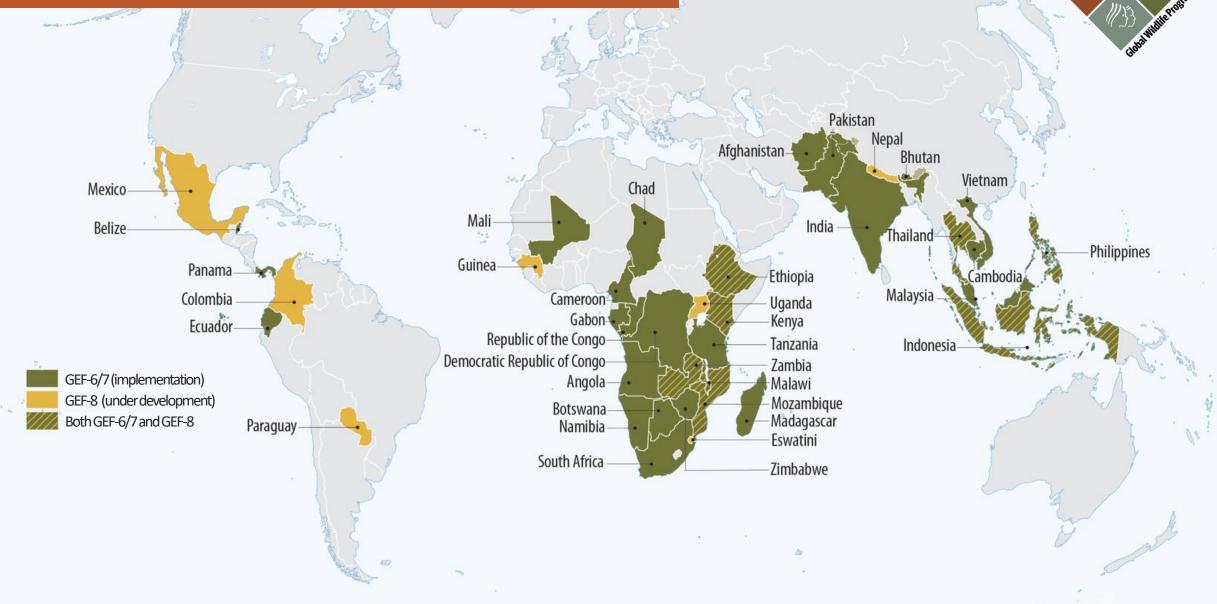




LEVERAGING SYNERGIES WITH



38 countries in GWP network



<u>ن</u> کر ا

















Closing remarks











Thank you

The ICCWC Vision 2030 is generously supported by



Find out more about ICCWC



iccwc-wildlifecrime.org
 @ICCWC_WFC
 facebook.com/iccwcwfc
 linkedin.com/company/iccwc/

Thank you





CITES Illegal Trade Data & 2024 World Wildlife Crime Report

Geneva, 4 February 2024

Side-event at CITES SC78











Opening remarks





Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General CITES Secretariat



Caroline Daisley Representative from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Speakers



Martin Rose Austrian CITES Management Authority Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology



Pia Jonsson Enforcement Support Officer CITES Secretariat



Katalin Kecse-Nagy Wildlife Crime Research Officer UNODC



Monica Zavagli Counter Wildlife Trafficking Specialist World Bank



Opening remarks













Operation Thunder 2024





Press release



The CITES Illegal Trade Database: Overview

Pia Jonsson, Enforcement Support Officer, CITES Secretariat







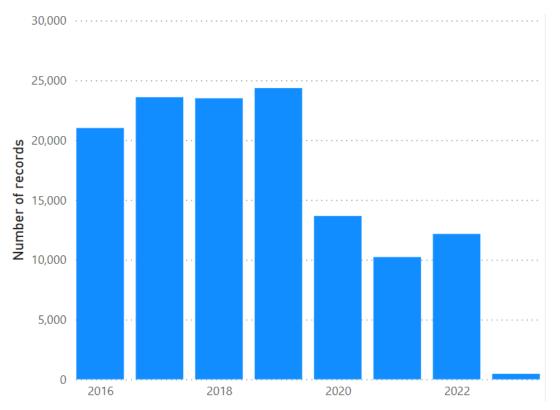




CITES Illegal Trade Database

- Maintained by UNODC on behalf of the CITES Secretariat
- Contains data on individual wildlife seizures made globally reported by CITES Parties in their Annual Illegal Trade Reports
 - Contains almost 130 000 seizure records.
- Unless specified otherwise by the reporting Party, the seizure data is available for research & analysis by CITES Parties & ICCWC partner organizations
- Specifically for elephant specimens, data is also shared with the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) to monitor the illegal ivory trade
- Dissemination platform launched at SC77
 - Notification to the Parties No. 2023/124 on CITES Illegal Trade Database dissemination platform







CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report

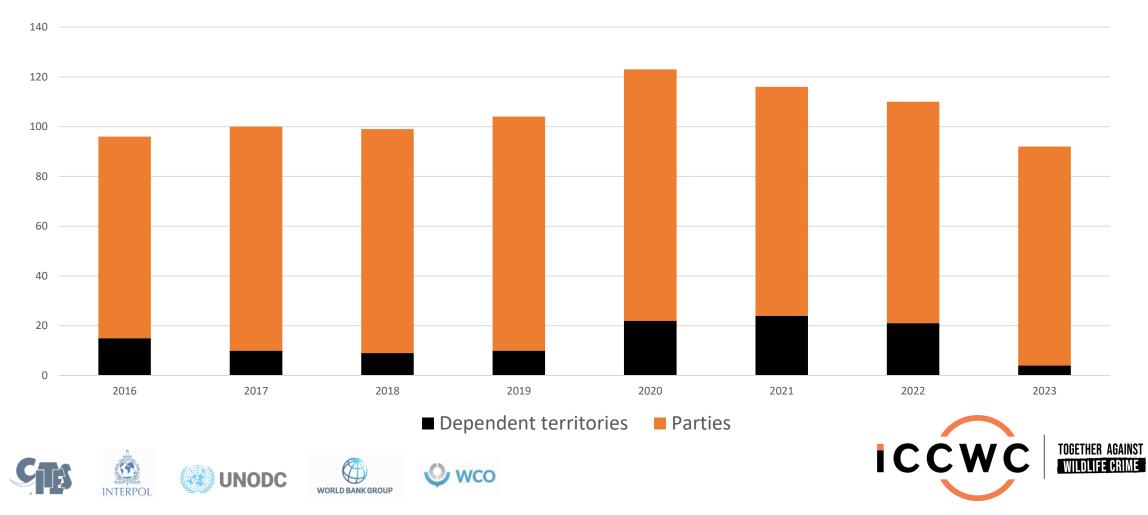
- At CITES CoP17 (South Africa, 2016), the CoP introduced a new mandatory Annual Illegal Trade Report
- Includes all seizures related to violations involving CITES-listed species, whether made at international borders or domestically
- **Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19)** on *National Reports* urges all Parties to submit an Annual illegal Trade Report to the CITES Secretariat by 31 October, covering data for the preceding year
- **Resolution Conf. 18.6** on *Designation and role of Management Authorities* urges Management Authorities to coordinate the preparation of the Annual Illegal Trade Reports by gathering seizure data



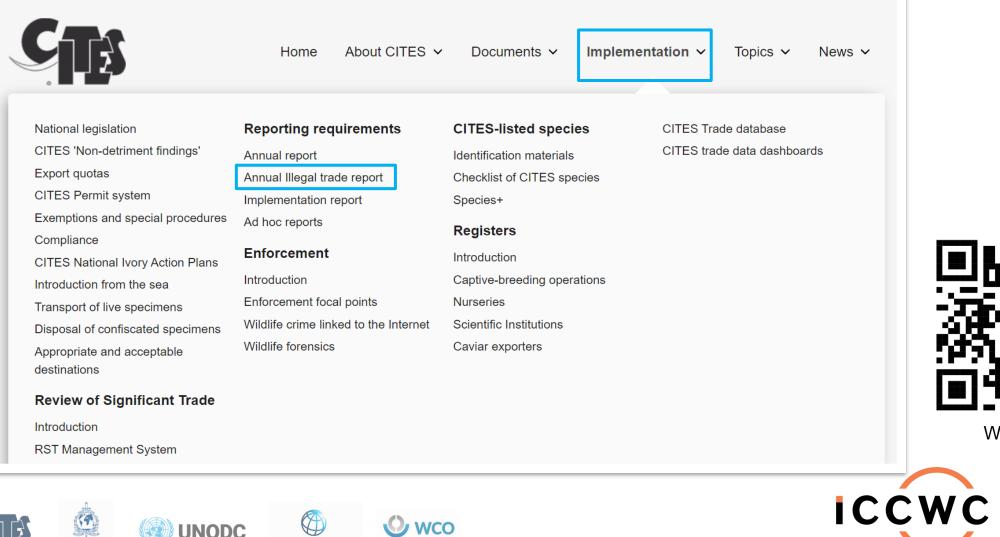




Number of Annual Illegal Trade Reports submitted by Parties and dependent territories (2016 - 2023)



Annual Illegal Trade Report webpage



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Template and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual illegal trade reports

Resolutions

- Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on National reports
- Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on
 Compliance and enforcement
- Resolution Conf. 18.6 on Designation and role
 of Management Authorities
- Decisions 18.75 18.76 on Annual illegal trade reports

Template Guidelines

How to prepare and submit an annual illegal trade report?

Each annual illegal trade report should **cover the period 1 January to 31 December**, of the year preceding the year in which it is submitted. The first annual illegal trade report for example, was due on 31 October 2017, covering data from 2016. The annual deadline for the submission of the illegal trade report is **31 October**.

Parties are encouraged to use the *standard* format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, and the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report, agreed by the Standing Committee, when preparing their reports. The annual illegal trade report should be submitted in electronic format (ideally using the standard format in Excel). Submission of PDF files should be avoided as these cannot be easily converted.

Reports should be sent to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, at reporting@cites.org, copy to info@cites.org

How will the data be used?

Unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party, the data collected in the CITES annual illegal trade report will be shared with the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to allow data to be used in ICCWC global research and analysis on wildlife and forest crime.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 16 in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on Compliance and enforcement, the Secretariat will, subject to available resources:

- analyse, in collaboration with ICCWC partners, the annual reports on illegal wildlife trade;
- share with Parties information relating to the analysis to support further enforcement activities; and
- submit a report at each meeting of the Standing Committee and the Conference of Parties based on the analysis and other relevant information available through ICCWC partners.

Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 (24 Nov 2023)

Annex 2: Guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual illegal trade reports









CITES Illegal Trade Database - added value for Parties

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UNODC

- Better understand the role of the Party in global and regional wildlife trafficking
- Identify sources, transit and destination countries
- Identify trends in wildlife trafficking at the regional and global level
- Support research, analyses, decision-making
- Helps develop appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime
- The value of the CITES Illegal Trade Database is becoming increasingly evident as more data is recorded in it





The CITES Illegal Trade Database: How to access & use the data

Katalin Kecse-Nagy, Wildlife Crime Research Officer, UNODC











CITES Illegal Trade Data may inform







SDG 15.7.1

Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

- CITES decision making to combat illegal wildlife trade based on this evidence
- UNODC World Wildlife Crime Reports
- UN Sustainable Development Goal Framework
 - https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf





Who could use the seizure data and for what?

CITES Management Authorities (MA)

- Inform national and international **policies**
- Inform CITES listing proposals
- Monitoring levels of detected cases of wildlife illegal trade
- Better **understand the role of the Party** in global/regional wildlife trafficking

Law Enforcement (LE) Authorities (e.g., Customs, police)

- Identify **blind spots** (e.g., what other Parties seize)
- Setting priorities
- Inform targeting
- Identify which countries to cooperate with

CITES Scientific Authorities (SA)

- Inform NDFs levels of known illegal trade
- Inform CITES listing proposals

Basis to assess and adapt - learning









Access to the CITES Illegal Trade Database dissemination platform

Welcome to the CITES Illegal Trade Database.







Credit: Alejandro Morgado (Unsplash)

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CITES Illegal Trade Database

Log in

Registration

Home

The CITES Illegal Trade Database contains data or individual wildlife seizures at the global level, as reported by CITES Parties through the annual illegal trade reports (AITR) since 2016. The AIT an annual data collection that gathers informat on individual wildlife seizure events, including the amounts seized, trafficking routes, taxon information, and mode of transport, amongst many other characteristics, for each reported event.

Database is available exclusively to governmental representatives of CITES Parties, including national CITES Management Authorities, as well as International Consortium on Combating Wild Crime (ICCWC) partner agencies, allowing for the dissemination of reported information in a restricted and secure environment.



Dissemination platform

Password-protected

Registration of users

Users verified by the CITES Secretariat

Users to confirm having read and agreed to the Terms of use

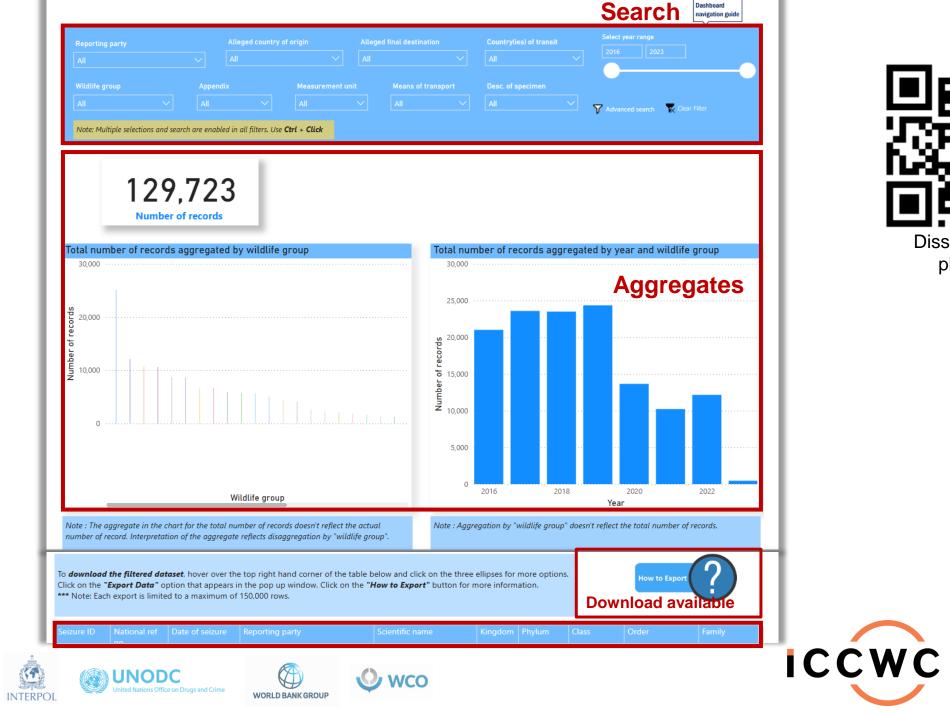












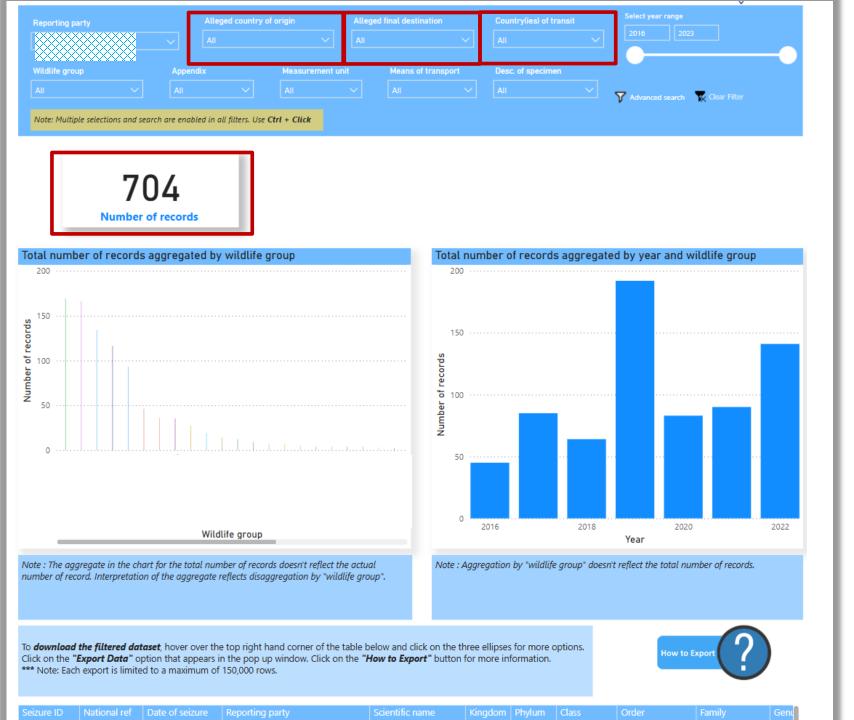








TOGETHER AGAINST Wildlife Crime



- Party X as alleged country of origin: 35 additional records
- Party X as alleged final destination: 44 additional records
- Party X as reported transit: additional 4 records

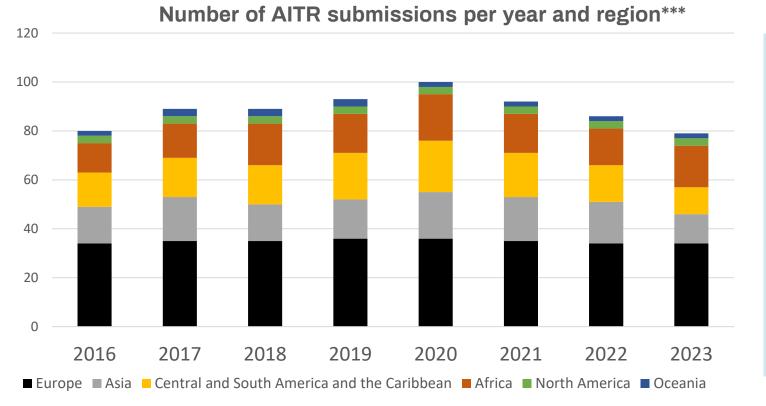
In total: 83 additional records



What we have achieved so far

- The Database contains over **129,000** seizure records*
- A total of 831 AITRs received for 2016-2024, covering 146 countries or territories**

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Number of AITRs allowed to be used by ICCWC, 2016-21



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Note: A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Certain countries and their territories report separately under CITES.

ICCWC

* Submissions received in 2024 (for 2023) are being processed, **Status as of 12/11/2024, *** Excluding dependent territories

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We rely on CITES Management Authorities as focal points for AITRs

Role of CITES MAs

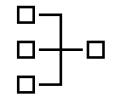
- Distribute reporting template to relevant law enforcement authorities
- Collate data from all relevant national authorities
- Liaise with the national authorities in the event of missing data

CITES context

- Next reporting **deadline**: **31 Oct** 2025 for 2024 data
- Reports should be sent to the CITES Secretariat at <u>reporting@cites.org</u>, copy to <u>info@cites.org</u>
- Mandatory
- Seizures for violations involving CITES-listed species, whether at an international border or domestically



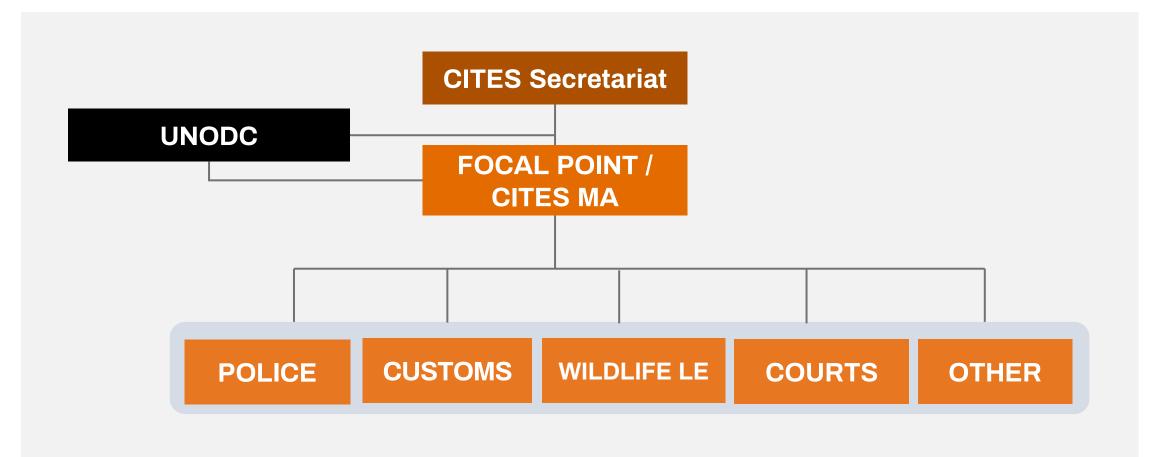




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Data Collection Process

Institutions involved in the data collections









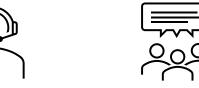
Webinars on CITES Illegal Trade Database and dissemination platform*

🕑 wco

Planned dates

- **19 March 2025** in English with **Spanish** interpretation
- 25 March 2025 in English with French interpretation

* In line with CITES Decision 19.80 b)



UNODC



Programme outline

Part 1 – Data users and providers

- What should be reported
- Possible uses of the data at the national level
- Roles of different authorities

Part 2 – Data providers

- Data collection template and guidelines
- Common reporting issues
- Q&A / Discussion



Questions?

Welcome to the CITES Illegal Trade Database.	
Wited Nations	Home Registration Log in
Resources * Contact Us	
Your name*	
Your email address*	
Subject*	
Message*	
h	
Send message Preview	

• Contact page:

https://citesdata.un.org/contact

 Contact at UNODC for the CITES Illegal Trade Database and the dissemination platform:

unodc-wildlifecrime@un.org









Showcasing the value of data: Findings of the 2024 World Wildlife Crime Report

Katalin Kecse-Nagy, Wildlife Crime Research Officer, UNODC











Report outline

Summary, conclusions and policy implications

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Characterizing wildlife trafficking

Chapter 3: The impacts and harms of wildlife crime

Chapter 4: What is **driving** wildlife crime patterns and trends?

Chapter 5: What works to decrease wildlife crime?

Case studies



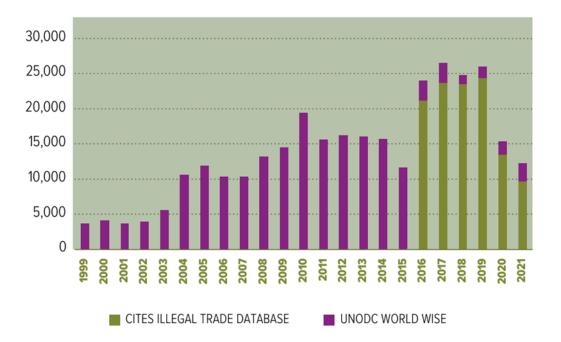




Information sources

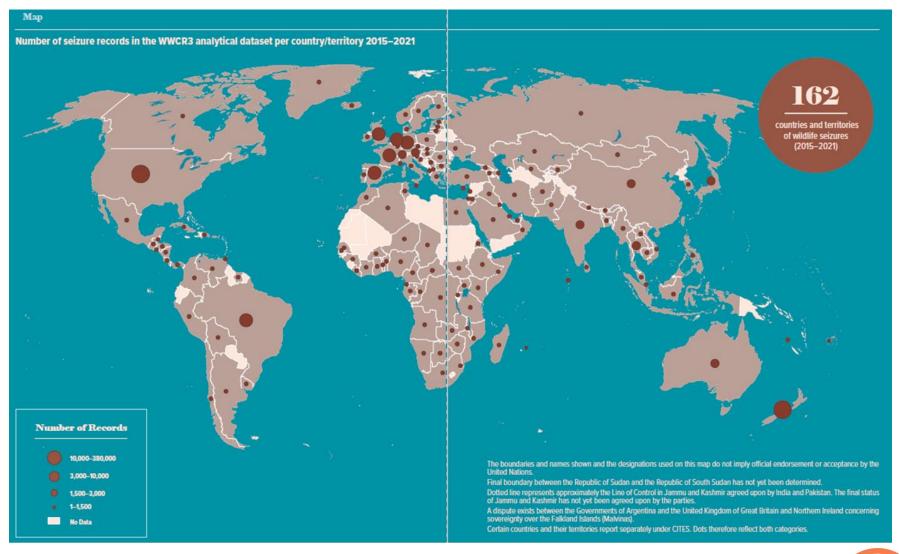
- Quantitative analysis:
 - Seizure data focusing on 140,000 records between 2015-2021
 - Triangulation with evidence e.g., on poaching, populations trends, prices, market developments
- Field research in Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria and Peru
- Corruption case review and expert interviews
- Expert survey of emerging issues
- Review of the growing body of academic literature on this topic

WCO





Wildlife crime remains a worldwide challenge









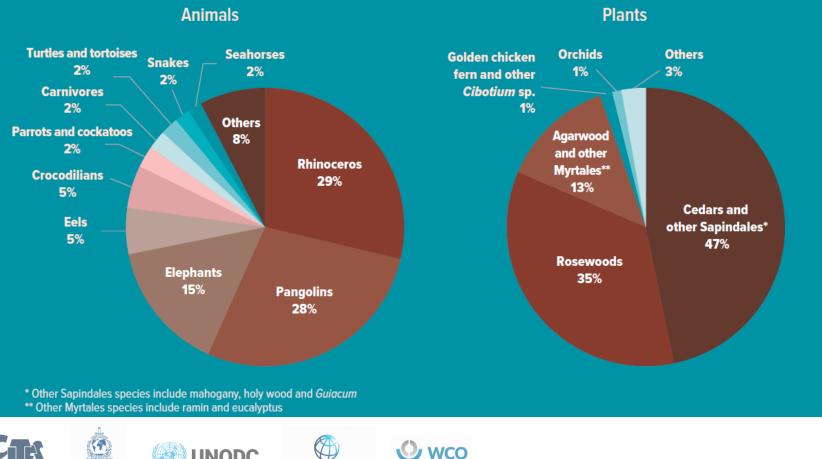




Diverse species

Species most affected

Just 15 broad markets comprised the bulk of the observed illegal wildlife trade during 2015–2021 based on standardized seizure index



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4000 species reported in seizures in 2015-2021

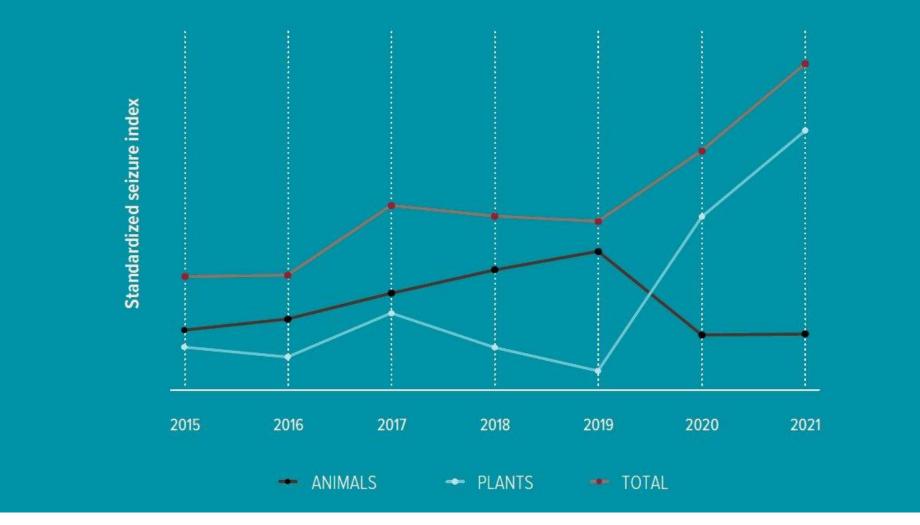




INTERPC



Recent global seizure trends 2015–2021



Source: CITES Illegal Trade Database and World WISE (WWCR3 analytical dataset)

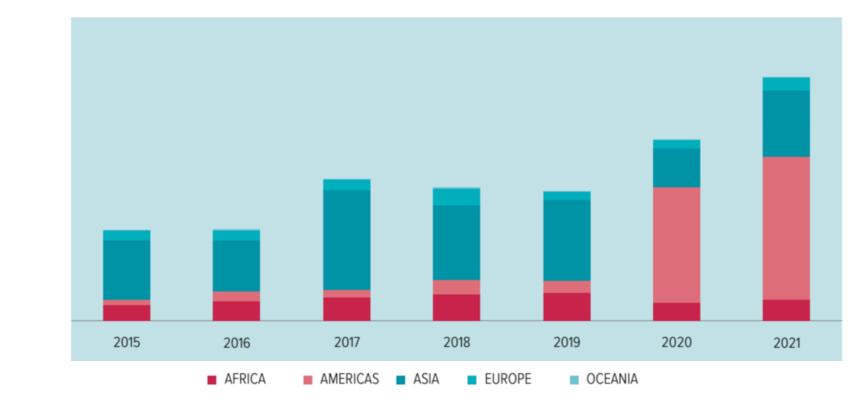








Regions where seizures were made aggregated by standardized seizure index 2015–2021



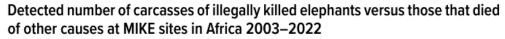
Source: CITES Illegal Trade Database and World WISE (WWCR3 analytical dataset)

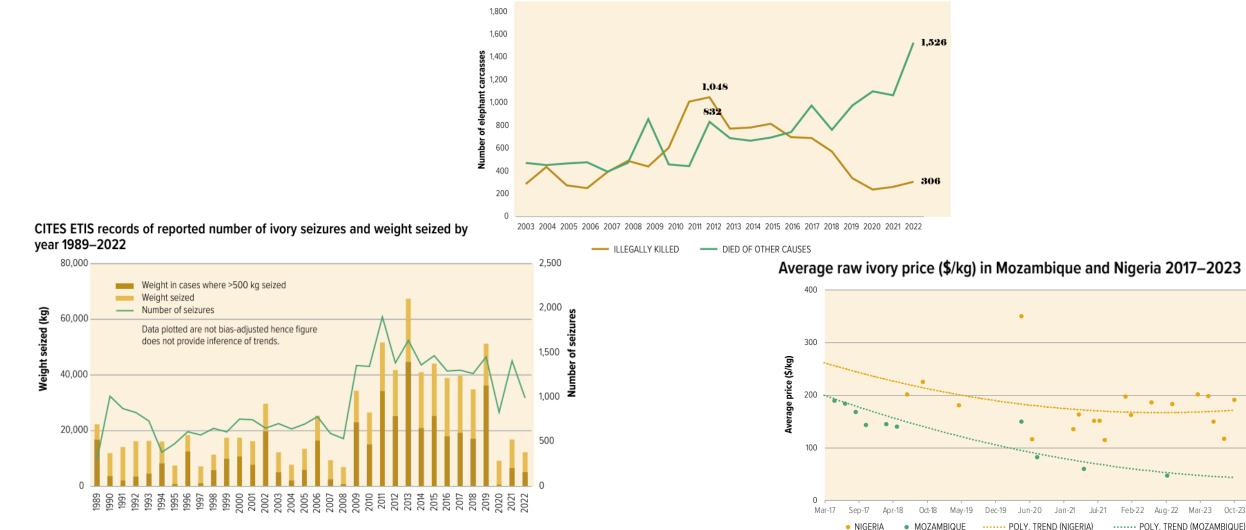


Standardized seizure index



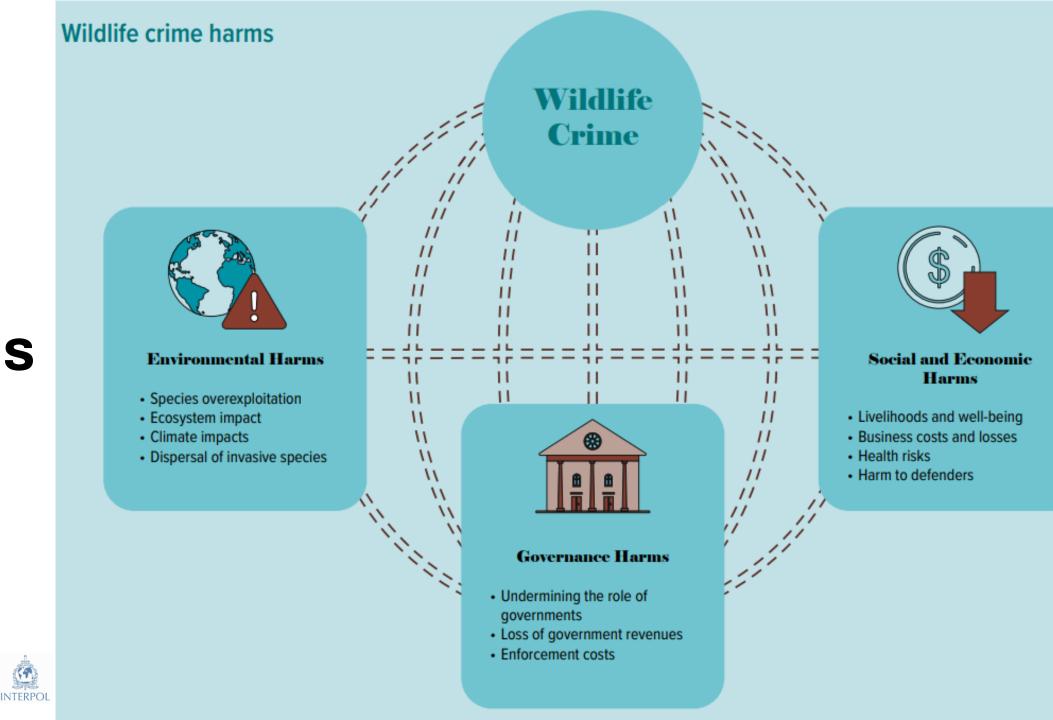
Some iconic markets declining: elephant ivory





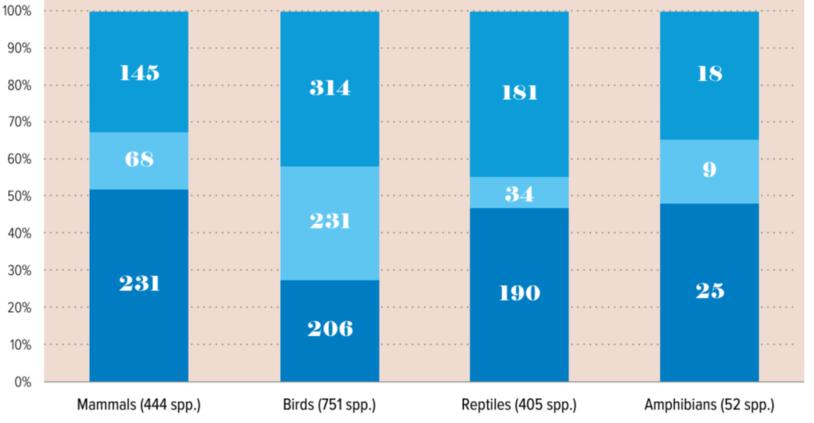
Source: CITES SC77 Doc. 63.1 (Rev. 2)36

Harms



Harms of wildlife crime

IUCN Red List conservation status of individual mammal, bird, reptile, and amphibian species recorded in seizures 2015–2021

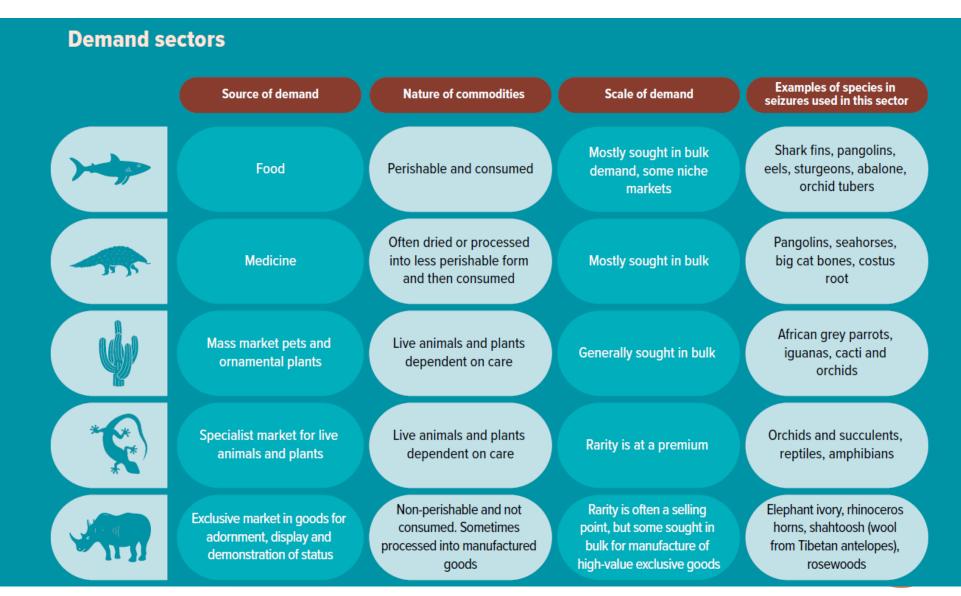


Source: CITES Illegal Trade Database and World WISE database, IUCN Red List database



THREATENED OR NEAR THREATENED LEAST CONCERN BUT DECREASING LEAST CONCERN, STABLE OR INCREASING

Markets with distinct characteristics and drivers



TOGETHER AGAINST Wildlife Crime

Seeking evidence of what works to reduce wildlife crime

- Multifaceted interventions at both demand and supply
- Arrests and seizures are part of the solutions, but these measures alone do not necessarily have long-term impact
- Strong coherence and harmonization across the trade chain
- Consideration to be given to the social and economic dynamics affecting the illicit economy of broader sectors rather than single species
- Predictive responses to species and geographical displacement
- More emphasis on collation and analysis of evidence on the results from WLT responses







Thank you!





Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database: Case examples from Austria

Martin Rose, Austrian CITES Management Authority, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology











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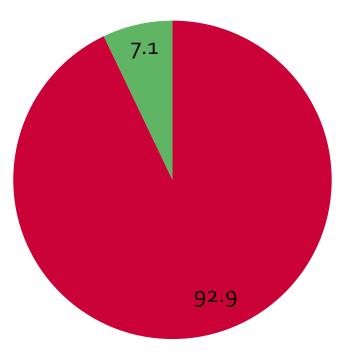
Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

The Surprise – Seizures by other Parties, Destination AT

Animals

Plants

Seizures by EU Parties in %



What we already knew, due to data from the European Union and TRAFFIC

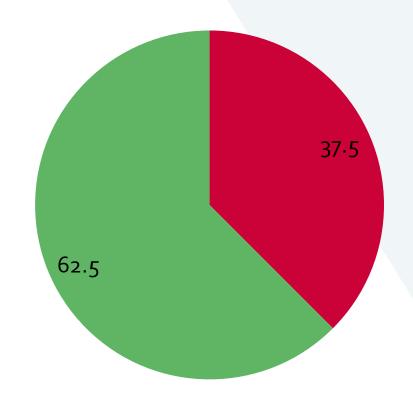
Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database

Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

The Surprise – Seizures by other Parties, Destination AT

7.1 92.9 • Animals • Plants

Seizures by EU Parties (%)



Seizures by NON-EU Parties (%)

Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database

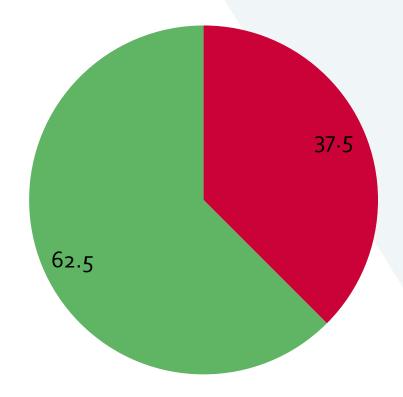
Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

The Surprise – Seizures by other Parties, Destination AT

Seizures by NON-EU Parties (%)

Including plant species we never seized in Austria





Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database

Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database

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💳 Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

The Accomplishment – Seizures with transit in AT

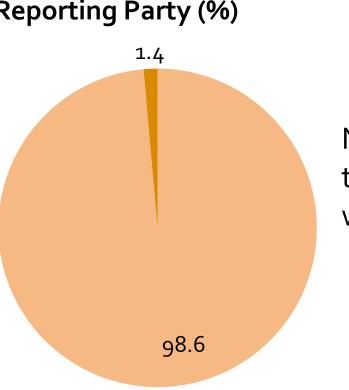
Reporting Party (%)

Note: Reporting on transit countries comes with many asterisks

Austria

Other Parties

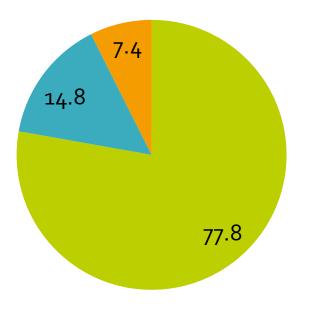
© BMF/Customs



Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

The Need for Refinement – Seizures by other Parties, Origin AT

Mode of transport (%)



Note: Reporting on the mode of transport is not included in all data points

AirMail

Road



Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database

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Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Example: Import eel meat (2020)



- At that time, import of eel meat was not a CITES control priority
- Seizures by other Parties
- Awareness of issue and *modus operandi*
- Targeted enforcement action with "controlled delivery"

Using the CITES Illegal Trade Database



Findings of the 2010-2023 Analysis of International Donor Funding to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade

Monica Zavagli, Counter Wildlife Trafficking Specialist, Global Wildlife Program, World Bank







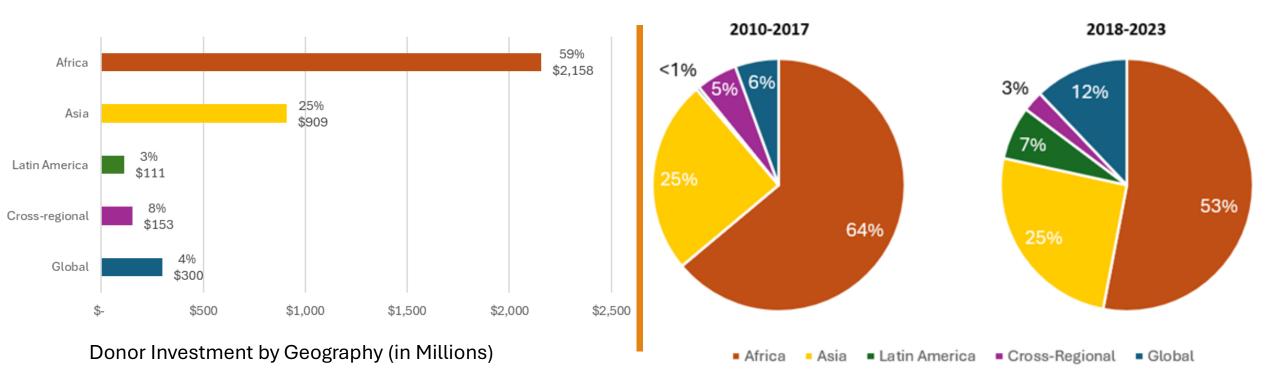






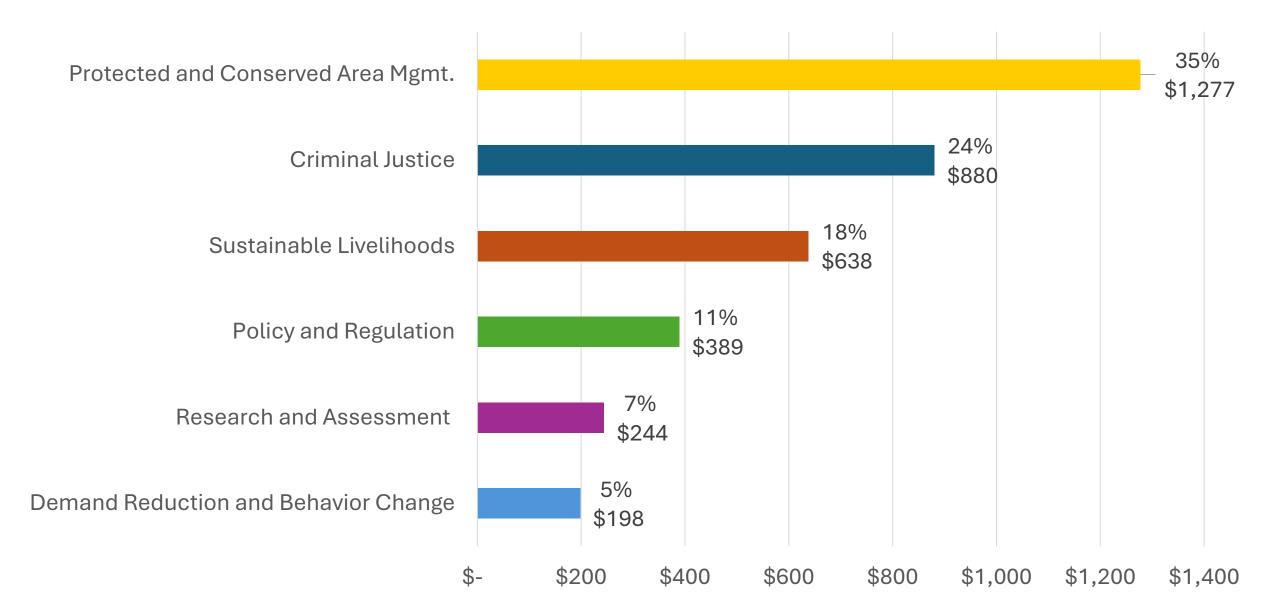
Analysis of International Donor Funding to **Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade 2010–2023**

- 3rd edition forthcoming under the Global Environment Facility-financed, World Bankled Global Wildlife Program
- Covers Africa, Asia, and for the first time – Latin America and the Caribbean
- 73 international donors invested over \$3.63 billion dollars in combating IWT during 2010-2023
- Annual average of \$269
 million
- 2024 WWCR findings used to help contextualize the analysis



- Investment in 89 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America and Caribbean
- ~ 60% of donor investment to Africa, 25% in Asia and 3% in LAC
- From 2018 investment reduction in Africa vs increased funding for Global and LAC region

Donor Investment by Intervention Category 2010-2023 (in Millions)



Regional Overview

	Africa	Asia	Latin America and Carribean
Top Recipient	 Tanzania The Democratic Republic of	 Indonesia Bangladesh Vietnam Lao People's Democratic	 Brazil Colombia Peru Ecuador
Countries	Congo Mozambique Namibia	Republic	
Top Funded	 Protected, Conserved Area	 Protected, Conserved Area	 Criminal Justice (39%) Protected, Conserved Area
Intervention	Management (41%) Sustainable Livelihoods	Management (37%) Criminal Justice (22%) Sustainable Livelihoods	Management (18%) Sustainable Livelihoods
Categories	(22%) Criminal Justice (21%)	(15%)	(17%)

Data is the compass that guides decision-making without it, we're navigating blindly

> For more information: gwp-info@worldbank.org















Closing remarks











Thank you

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