

## WHY IS WILDLIFE TRAFFICKED?

Like most other black markets, the ultimate driver is money. Organized criminal networks are earning between \$7-23 billion USD a year from trade in trafficked wildlife. Demand to buy, own or use wildlife and wildlife products is exploited, cultivated and fostered by criminal enterprises.

The trade supplies six main markets: timber; food; medicine; pet trade, zoos and collections; trophies, decorations and luxury items.

**“\$7-23 Billion”**

ESTIMATED AN ANNUAL VALUE OF WILDLIFE CRIME



**Timber trade**  
(illegal logging and timber trafficking)



**Food**  
(wild-sourced food includes most fish that we eat, and some meat of wild animals)



**Medicine**  
(used as ingredients under misapprehension of medicinal benefits)



**Pet trade**  
(illegal trade of live animals and eggs)



**Zoos and collections**  
(illegal collections of live or preserved wildlife, including flora)



**Trophies, decorations and luxury items**  
(Ivory, furs, skin, heads, tail and other body parts all have demand markets)

**WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS THE ILLEGAL CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN ANIMALS OR PLANTS.**

## WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS A GLOBAL ISSUE

GLOBAL HOTSPOTS FOR AIR TRAFFICKED ILLEGAL WILDLIFE SEIZURES:



WILDLIFE IS TRAFFICKED IN VARIOUS STATES FROM LIVE ITEMS TO FINAL PRODUCTS:



WHOLE

PART

PROCESSED

POACHING AND OVER-HARVESTING TO SUPPLY THE ILLEGAL TRADE IS DRIVING MANY WILD SPECIES TOWARDS EXTINCTION



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CAN ALSO LEAD TO

- INCREASED ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION
- THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY
- UNDECLARED REVENUE AND TAXES = LOST GOVERNMENT INCOME
- RISKS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY & HUMAN HEALTH
- ECONOMIC RISKS INCLUDING LOSS OF TOURISM INCOME



RANGERS ON THE FRONTLINE OF PROTECTING WILDLIFE DESTINED FOR ILLEGAL TRADE FACE DAILY THREATS TO THEIR OWN LIFE. IN THE PAST DECADE, 100 ON AVERAGE HAVE BEEN KILLED EACH YEAR.<sup>3</sup>

## REGULATION

LEGAL TRADE IS WORTH MORE THAN USD 320 BILLION PER YEAR, REGULATED BY:

### NATIONAL LAW

Every country has laws designed to protect some wild animals and plants from over harvesting.

### CITES

CITES is the United Nations' 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora'. It aims to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of wild animals and plants. The convention is signed by more than 180 countries.

### CITES:

Anyone who imports, exports or re-exports any CITES-listed specimen requires a permit which must be presented when they cross a border.

CITES regulates international trade in over 35,000 wild plants and animals which are listed in one of three Appendices according to the degree of protection they need.

CITES APPENDIX

#### Appendix I

Species which are threatened with extinction. Commercial trade in these is rarely allowed.

#### Appendix II

Species which may become threatened if trade is not controlled. It also includes whole groups of species which look like those listed in Appendix I and II.

#### Appendix III

A country can list a species in Appendix III if they want help to protect a species within their borders which is threatened by international trade.



Sources: <sup>1</sup> 'Flying Under The Radar', C4ADS, ROUTES 2017; <sup>2</sup> 'In Plane Sight', C4ADS, ROUTES August 2018. Cited: 1. www.savetherhino.org/rhino-info/poaching-stats. 2. Over the past ten years, over 20% of African Elephants have been lost (https://www.iucn.org/news/poaching-behind-worst-african-elfphant-losses-25-years-%E2%80%93-iucn-report) 3. The Thin Green Line. www.thinthegreenline.org

