



What are the environmental, economic, social and criminal impacts of wildlife trafficking and illegal logging?

HOW TO ENFORCE EU LEGISLATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING
WORKSHOP FOR JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS
Madrid, 20-22 April 2016

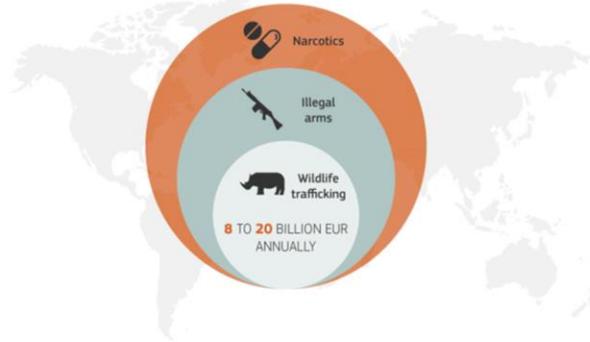
Helge Zeitler – European Commission (DG Environment)



THE SCALE OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Wildlife trafficking is a serious criminal activity, and it's on the rise

Wildlife trafficking is globally **third only behind narcotics and illegal arms trade**



THE SCALE OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Wildlife trafficking is a serious criminal activity, and it's on the rise

The vast majority of the remaining 20,000 rhinoceros in the world live in South Africa, where poaching has significantly increased in recent years, endangering the very survival of this species

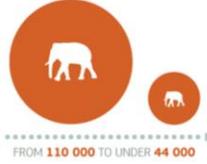


2007 = **13** RHINOCEROS
ILLEGALLY KILLED



2014 = **1200** RHINOCEROS
ILLEGALLY KILLED

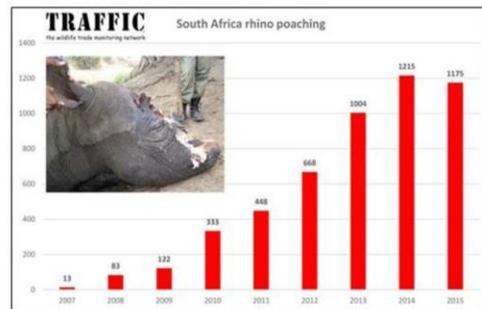
The elephant population has fallen by more than 60% in Tanzania over the last five years



The global demand for wildlife parts, in particular in Asia, has increased so much that **i.e. white rhino horns can be worth as much as two times their weight in gold**

New scale of wildlife trafficking

- *Poaching for rhinos has boomed with about 1300 animals killed/year in Southern Africa*



New scale of wildlife trafficking

Beyond iconic animals, many more species are affected by wildlife trafficking, for example sharks, great apes, big cats, pangolins, corals, turtles, tortoises, lizards, catci, orchids, animals used for bushmeat, reptile skins, tropical timber or wood used for charcoal





Scale of illegal timber and fish trade

- estimated volume of **illegal timber** from the nine countries producing the largest amounts of tropical timber at over 80 million m³ in 2013

-Global losses from **IUU fishing** are estimated to be between \$10 and \$23.5 billion per year.

Between 11 and 26 million tonnes of fish are caught illegally per annum, which corresponds to at least 15% of world catches.



Drivers of wildlife trafficking

- *In countries of origin: poverty; poor governance; lack of resources to enforce the rules; low priority among decision-makers*
- *In countries of destination: steep increase of demand for wildlife products in some Asian countries from wealthier middle and upper classes; lack of awareness on the impact of wildlife trafficking; insufficient control by enforcement agencies*



IMPACTS OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

BIODIVERSITY

Wildlife trafficking threatens the survival of some of Earth's most iconic species.



Poaching has caused:

- The Western Black rhinoceros to be declared **extinct in 2011**



- The world's tiger population to fall from **100 000** a century ago **to under 3500 today**





Environmental impacts of wildlife, fish and timber trafficking

- *A threat to biodiversity (together with habitat loss, land degradation, invasive alien species, climate change...)*
- *A factor impacting climate change (in case of illegal logging as forests represent carbon sinks)*
- *A threat to food security in some instances*



Economic & social impact

- Illegal trade is undermining legal global wildlife trade (estimated at USD 323bn in 2009, including timber, fish (not from aquaculture), wild animals and plants).
- Depriving governments of revenues and taxes.
- Depletion of fishing stocks leads to job losses



IMPACTS OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

ECONOMY

Wildlife trafficking undermines legal trade, with a devastating effect on local economies. Communities are deprived of income through tourism, and governments are deprived of the taxes they rely on.

The **total inbound tourism expenditure** generated at the Serengeti-Ngorongoro destination in Tanzania is **USD 500 million per year** – over half of Tanzania's earnings from tourism. If **wildlife trafficking continues** on the current scale, this revenue will **shrink significantly**.





Links with governance

- *Wildlife and timber trafficking thrives in fragile countries where its links to corruption undermine the rule of law*
- *In some parts of Africa, organised wildlife criminals partner with militia or terrorist groups threatening peace and stability*



The role of the EU in Legal and Illegal Wildlife Trade



EU and legal trade in wildlife products: some facts and figures

- EU as an important market for, and exporter of legal wildlife trade products. EU trade in **wildlife products** (including timber, fish (excluding aquaculture) wild animals and plants): approx. EUR100 billion
- EU accounts for nearly 20% of global **timber** market
- EU is the world's **largest importer of fishery products**
- For **CITES-listed animals** (excluding caviar extract), the value of EU imports in 2013 was estimated at EUR582 million, and the value of EU exports at EUR1.4 billion (most importantly live plants, leather products (1.2 million reptile skins imported into the EU), live animals (one million individual animals imported into the EU; 133,000 live birds exported from the EU in 2013) and caviar.



How much is EU affected by wildlife trafficking?

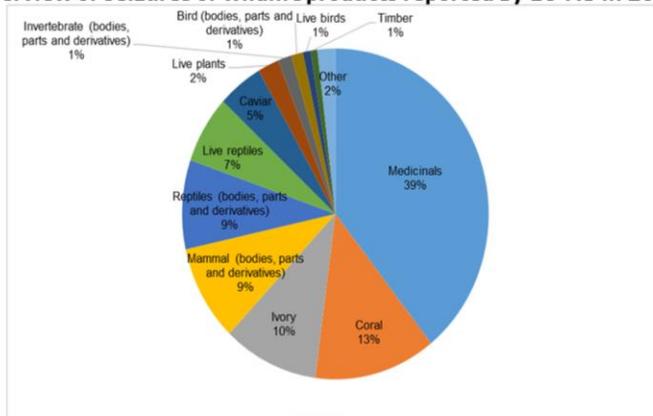
Wildlife trafficking is not only undermining EU core values and principles (sustainable development, rule of law, peace and stability) abroad...

... it is also directly affecting the EU as a big market for legal and illegal wildlife products, a transit area and even a source region for the export of illegal wildlife products



EU as market, transit and source region for illegal wildlife products

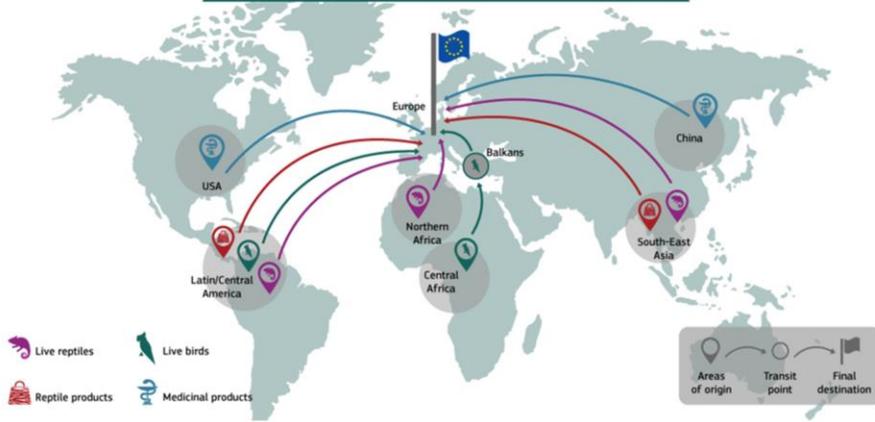
Overview of seizures of wildlife products reported by EU MS in 2014





ROUTES OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

EU AS FINAL DESTINATION MARKET





Main commodities exported illegally to the EU (1)

- **Medicinal products derived from plants** (such as costus root, American ginseng, orchids, agarwood, African cherry, hoodia and aloe) **and animals** (seahorses, musk deer, pangolins);
- **Live reptiles**, especially tortoises, but also lizards, chameleons, snakes, iguanas and geckos. Over 6000 live reptiles were seized at the EU borders during the period 2011-2014
- **Reptiles bodies, parts and derivatives** (over 9600 individual items seized for the period 2011-2014). Majority: reptile skin and leather products from snakes, crocodiles and lizards



Main commodities exported illegally to the EU (2)

- **Live birds and eggs** (over 500 specimens seized 2011-2014), mostly parrots smuggled from Africa or Latin America to Europe via transit countries, as well as birds of prey
- **Mammal bodies, parts and derivatives** (skins in particular), including bears, wolves, big cats and bush meat
- **Live plants**, primarily involving orchids, cacti, euphorbias and cycads (78,000 seized during the period 2011-2014)
- Other commodities frequently traded illegally into the EU include **corals, caviar, timber products, dead birds and invertebrates** (bodies, parts and derivatives).

EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



German CITES Management Authority

Seizure of nearly 380 live specimens of *Geochelone elegans*.

As the country of origin could not be identified the specimens need to be placed in adequate facilities

EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



In February 2014 two passengers were intercepted by Border Force Officers at London Heathrow Airport on arrival from the Bahamas. A search of their luggage resulted in the detection of thirteen (13) San Salvador Rock Iguanas (*Cyclurus rileyi*) Annex A / Appendix I, one of which was dead on arrival They were concealed within socks in one of the passengers suitcase.



EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



23/04/2012

Burundi -> Czech Rep. with transit in Brussels

Border Inspection Post, Brussels-Zaventem

EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



A shipment of 70 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*), 49 senegal parrots (*Poicephalus senegalus*) and 510 african finches (*Serinus mozambicus*, *Mandingoa nitidula*, *Lagonosticta senegala*, *Uraeginthus bengalus*) was stopped on 15 July 2014 at a border crossing point between Romania and Hungary. (Source EU-Twix)

EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



In September 2013, a shipment of 600 *Agalychnis callidryas* (Red eyed treefrog) was seized by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) at Amsterdam Airport. This species, and all species of *Agalychnis*, is listed at CITES Appendix II, Annex B 338/97 in 2010. The shipment was accompanied with a CITES export permit from Nicaragua and CITES import permit from the Netherlands as captive-bred but investigations show that they were of wild origin

EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



15 Lynx skins (*Felis Lynx*) Appendix A, seized by Estonia at the Estonia-Russia border in February 2014

EU as a **destination** for wildlife products of illegal origin



*Pre EUTR: Approx.
20% of EU timber
imports estimated to
be of illegal origin*

Our department got informed that afrormosia / assamela timber was arriving at the Antwerp harbour without CITES certificate. After investigation it turned out that the timber was systematically falsely cleared as Iroko. Iroko and Afrormosia are two timbers which contain similarities. Differences can only be found by magnifying glass and odour when the timber is wet. (Source Belgium customs alert sent to EU Twix in June 2014)



ROUTES OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

EU AS TRANSIT POINT





The EU as a transit place for illegal wildlife products

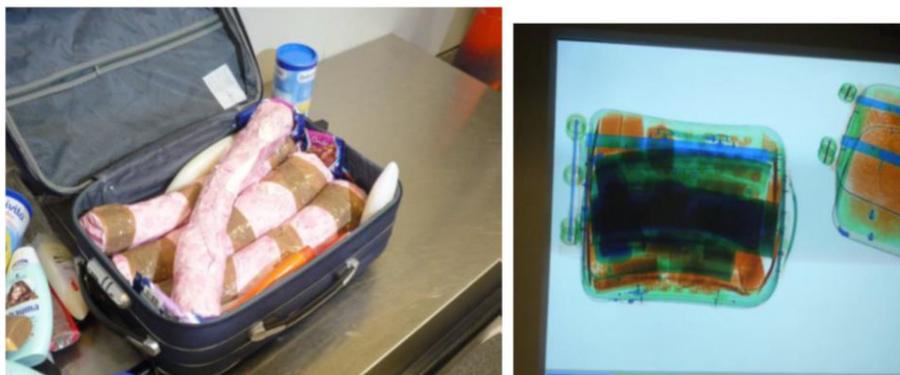
- **Ivory:** *between 2011 and 2014 around 4500 ivory items (tusks, carvings, pieces of ivory, etc.) and an additional 780 kg (approx.) of ivory were seized by EU MS, mostly in transit from Africa to Asia*
- **Rhino horns:** *in transit from South Africa to Vietnam through "pseudo-hunters" ring*
- **Pangolins, seahorses** *and many other products*

EU as a **transit place** for wildlife products of illegal origin – rhino horns



22 rhino horns seized in the Czech Republic

EU as a **transit place** for wildlife products of illegal origin - ivory



Authorities at the Václav Havel Airport Prague seized illegal **33.05 kg of ivory** during an attempt for illegal export from Prague to Vietnam. The ivory were concealed inside a luggage of Vietnamese man living in CR and travelling to Hanoi. The luggage was suspicious about the weight and was inspected by x-ray. The case was happened at 28th January 2014. The ivory has been confiscated and the offender was already convicted to one year imprisonment (suspended sentence on 3 years). (Source EU-Twix, document sent by the Czech Environment Inspectorate on 9 June 2014). About 200 seizures of ivory done in the last 11 months (August 2013 – June 2014), totalling 250 kg and 1700 specimens

EU as a transit place for wildlife products of illegal origin - ivory



On the left: 50 bangles, 29 beaded necklaces and 4 beaded bracelets, **all painted black**, seized at Paris Roissy airport in September 2014, destination was Vietnam, origin Angola, weight 10kg

On the right: 5.34 kg of **African Elephant** ivory items were detected in a Fedexparcel sent from a private person in Nigeria to a private company in Lao PDR. Seizure done in France in december 2014

EU as a **transit place** for wildlife products of illegal origin – pangolin scales



10 kg pangolin scales seized in May 2014 on arrival at the **UK's** Heathrow airport from Nigeria, destined for China



ROUTES OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

EU AS EXPORTING REGION





Wildlife trafficking from and in EU

- *Illegal exports from the EU: most serious current problem is illegal trade in eels, with an estimate of about 20 tonnes illegally shipped to Asia every year. Glass eels more valuable than ivory*
- *Illegal capture and trade within the EU: live birds smuggled throughout the EU*

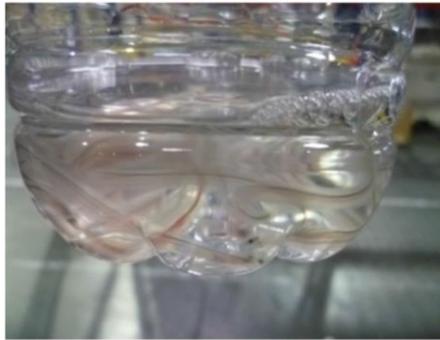


Illegal export of wildlife products from the EU - eels



200 kg of live glass eels seized at Paris airport, France, July 2010, origin was Spain and final destination was China

Illegal export of wildlife products from EU - eels



Seizure of 120kg of glass eels in Paris Roissy airport in February 2015 – cargo declared as originating from the UK and with destination Hong Kong



**EU is part of the problem of
illegal trade in natural
resources –**

**to which extent is it part of the
solution?**