



# Oxford Martin Programme on the ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE



Issue 1: April 2017

## trading ideas newsletter

As many of you already know, we recently launched the [Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade](#), and now we're excited to invite you to read our first *Trading Ideas* quarterly e-newsletter. *Trading Ideas* provides a space for everyone working on the illegal wildlife trade to share information about their conservation projects and research and connect with one another.

We hope that you will share your feedback and contributions as *Trading Ideas* continues to grow and develop into a newsletter by wildlife trade conservationists and researchers.

You've been signed up to our mailing list in the hope that you will find the articles interesting, but should that no longer be the case simply click 'unsubscribe' at the footer of any email.

Please share this with whomever you feel may be interested, colleagues or friends. Enjoy!

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## Events

Save the dates for our first **Wildlife Trade Symposium** in Oxford, UK, co-hosted by the Oxford Martin School, San Diego Zoo Global and TRAFFIC!

**September 25, 2017: Conference** themed on wildlife (plant and animal) products traded for medicinal value. Presentations will be given by a diverse set of speakers from academia, NGO, business and government. There will also be an open call to submit poster abstracts.

**September 26-27, 2017: Short courses** designed to develop the necessary skills for tackling the wildlife trade. Learn how use practical tools and apply specialized methodologies to your work. **Workshops** aimed at showcasing new ideas and providing a forum for discussion and collaborative opportunities within the wildlife trade sphere.

Please contact [Nafeesa Esmail \(nafeesa.esmail@zoo.ox.ac.uk\)](mailto:nafeesa.esmail@zoo.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in:

- Facilitating a short course on your area of expertise within wildlife trade
- Using our symposium as a forum to explore an issue within wildlife trade
- Sponsorship

Schedule, registration and further details will be available soon so watch this space!



## Articles

### **How do we Understand Illegal Wildlife Trade?**

*Jacob Phelps, Lecturer, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University*

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Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) involves thousands of species, different types of products, diverse actors and networks, yet are often treated as very similar, with lessons drawn from experiences of a small number of charismatic species. This demands a framework that can be used to evaluate IWT's diversity to improve conservation research and planning.

### **Wildlife Trafficking and Security: Myths and Realities**

*Cathy Haenlein, Research Fellow, Royal United Services Institute*

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RUSI's latest Whitehall Paper interrogates a number of the main security narratives associated with poaching and wildlife trafficking, from terrorist financing to organised crime and the threat to human security in source areas in Africa.

### **Understanding complexities of the world's biggest shark and ray fishery: A new case study under the Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade**

*Hollie Booth, Sharks and Rays Advisor, South East Asia, Wildlife Conservation Society*

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In collaboration with WCS Indonesia, further research is being carried out on the Indonesia shark and ray trade chain, from exploitation to consumption, including products and species traded legally and illegally to inform conservation interventions and assess impacts.

### **Addressing Illegal Wildlife Trade: The power of supportive collaborative efforts, capacity building and local involvement**

*Elizabeth Oneita Davis, David O'Connor and Jenny Anne Glikman, Research Associates, San Diego Zoo Global*

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Commitment towards ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam through local collaboration can help to increase impact.

### **Taking Stock of Stockpiles**

*Michael 't Sas-Rolfes, Research Associate, Oxford Martin Programme on Illegal Wildlife Trade*

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Despite attempts to eliminate all supply and demand of endangered species products through trade bans and related measures, residual levels of legal supply, consumer demand and even legal trade remain a fact of life – and their effect on conservation efforts remains contested. This issue is best addressed through evidence-based policy, grounded in careful and appropriate research.

### **Probing the Elephant in the Room**

*Vian Sharif, Research Associate, Oxford Martin Programme on Illegal Wildlife Trade and Alexander Rhodes, Managing Associate, Mishcon de Reya LLP*

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The need to understand motivations and psychological drivers of consumers' desire to acquire and own illegal wildlife products and the influences upon them, like the media and tools commonly employed in commercial marketing campaigns, has come to the fore as a potential means of reducing consumption.



## Articles

### How do we Understand Illegal Wildlife Trade?

Jacob Phelps ([jacob.phelps@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.phelps@gmail.com)), Lecturer, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University

The term “wildlife trade” usually conjures up images of dead elephants, rhinoceros and tigers that are poached by organised criminal gangs for use in traditional Asian medicines, but there is far more to understanding wildlife trade.

A small number of charismatic species has been the narrow focus of most conservation efforts, funding, news and public attention. In reality, wildlife trade involves thousands of species and a wide range of products, from food to cosmetics to building materials. Even for a single species, this can involve very different products. For example, rhino horns are traded not only as medicines, but also as ornaments for carving. Unsurprisingly, these different species, products and situations involve different types of trade, including distinct roles for the harvesters, intermediaries (middlemen) and consumers involved.

Moreover, while wildlife trade is mostly portrayed as inherently illegal and nefarious, most wildlife trade is legal—including types of fishing, harvest of non-timber forest products, logging, and hunting for recreation and for meat. Even cases that may be ecological unsustainable are often legally permitted. In contrast, Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) specifically involves the harvest, trade and use of wildlife in ways that contravenes environmental regulations, such as protected area rules or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

However, these types of nuances and diversity of contexts, products and actors are often overlooked, limiting our ability to design strong conservation projects. For example, the conservation lessons and policies designed to protect rhinoceros in Southern Africa may yield relatively few insights for people trying to protect parrots in Central Africa.

Our [research group](#) based at the Lancaster Environment Centre, works on a broad range of IWT issues, including the trade of wild ornamental orchids globally, edible frogs in Southeast Asia, aquarium fish in the Philippines, wildlife harvest within protected areas in Venezuela, and the lives of people arrested for IWT within Nepal’s prisons. Across this wide range of situations, we have struggled to identify ways of to systematically studying, understanding and discussing IWT.

In our [recent paper in \*Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment\*](#), we propose some tools and terms that can help to address this challenge.



*This common hill mynah (Gracula religiosa) chick was harvested from the wild in Myanmar and illegally traded to supply the pet trade in Thailand. Although classified as “Least Concern” by the IUCN Red List, many bird species are under intense threat from IWT. Credit: Jacob Phelps*



Summarised in this [video](#), our framework helps researchers and practitioners to distinguish among different IWT species, products, actor roles and network structures, and can be applied in most contexts.

HARVESTER	INTERMEDIARIES	CONSUMERS
Subsistence (e.g. food, cultural)	Logistician	Medicinal
Specialist commercial	Specialized smuggler	Ornamental
Opportunist (e.g not primary objective)	Government colluder	Cultural
Local guide	3rd party (e.g. commercial airline)	Gift
Rule abuser (e.g. undereporting catch)	Processor	Investment
Bycatch	Launderer	Recreational
Recreational (e.g. game hunting)	Vendor	Animal Food
Reactionary (e.g. antagonistic response to wildlife)		Construction materials
		Fuel
		Food

We distinguish among a huge diversity of actors potentially involved in IWT (Table 1) and argue that broad labels like “poacher”, “middleman”, and “criminal” fail to reflect the diverse realities and drivers of IWT. For example, IWT harvesters include local poor residents who occasionally, and opportunistically harvest wildlife to sell illegally as a supplementary livelihood. However, they also include people who have legal rights to harvest wildlife (e.g., from a timber concession), but abuse those rights by exceeding their legal quotas. Both cases represent IWT, and recognising these differences is essential to responding with tailored conservation interventions.

Research on the ground highlights that IWT is much more complex and diverse than is commonly recognised, and that we cannot base policies on lessons learned from single charismatic species or on popular myths about illegal trade. We need grounded research to specifically define products, characterise the people involved and understand the networks that link them, in order to create targeted interventions that are fair, realistic and effective. We hope that our framework will be tested and refined with a range of other contexts, and will help us to make comparisons, draw lessons and develop monitoring approaches across all IWT work.

Table 1: Adopted from Phelps et al. Front Ecol Environ 2016; doi: 10.1002/fee.1325



## Articles

### **Wildlife Trafficking and Security: Myths and Realities**

*Cathy Haenlein (CathyH@rusi.org), Research Fellow, Royal United Services Institute*

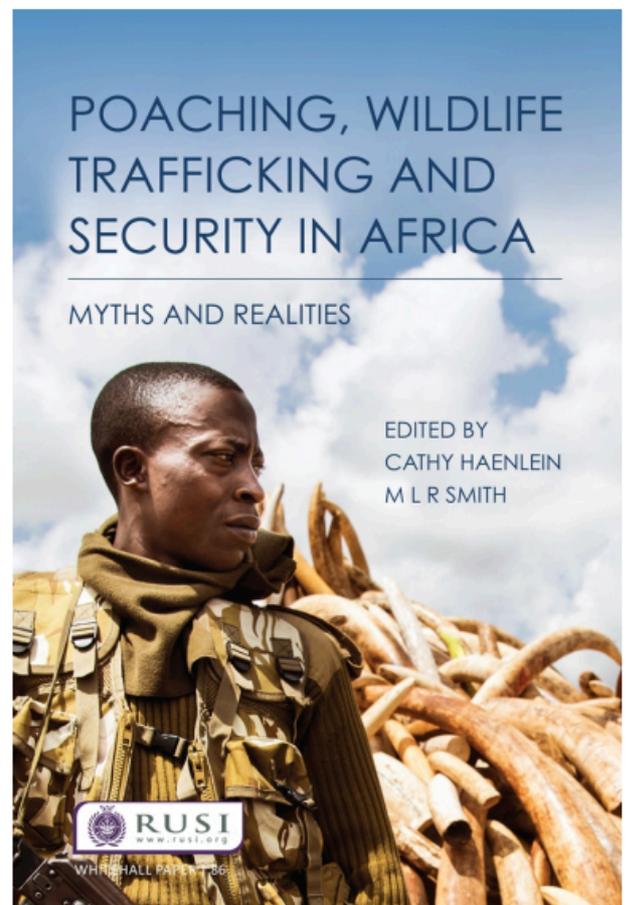
In January, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and King's College London's Marjan Centre [launched the Whitehall Paper Poaching, Wildlife Trafficking and Security in Africa: Myths and Realities](#). The [book's](#) aim is to assess the impacts of poaching and wildlife trafficking not only on endangered species, but also on the security of human communities. During preliminary investigations, the authors noted a lack of scholarly research in this area and the resultant rise of a series of unproven yet popular narratives. It is these narratives that the paper seeks to dissect, exposing the real evidence that underpins them.

In doing so, the book analyses the 'myths and realities' pertaining to four core narratives. These include poaching and wildlife trafficking acting as threats to human security, as drivers of conflict, as funders of terrorism, and as a focus for organised crime. Though focusing on source and transit countries in Africa, parts of the analysis are also relevant to states affected by IWT further downstream. Of greatest note here is the book's focus on 'myths and realities' around organised crime – a key factor throughout the supply chain.

A dedicated chapter, by Tim Wittig of the University of Groningen, explores the validity of the narrative of 'kingpin'-led crime groups supposedly dominating IWT. Instead of a centralising mafia or transnational criminal organisation exercising control throughout the supply chain, Wittig provides evidence of a more horizontally integrated criminal ecosystem comprising multiple localised and functionally specialised elements collaborating as opportunity dictates – a finding with important implications for law enforcement strategies. He also highlights overlaps with other crime types – pertaining especially to international drugs trafficking and contraband smuggling. This is in contrast to a more widespread perception of wildlife trafficking as an isolated crime type.

This and the book's other chapters aim to provide the most detailed analysis yet of the range of security threats posed by poaching and wildlife trafficking in Africa. In doing so, the book looks to provide a foundation for those looking to address the threat posed to both biodiversity and human communities. An extension of this analysis further along the supply chain could provide similar insight to practitioners and policy makers.

Of particular note to the Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, it is also possible that empirically based findings of this nature could present another useful tool in efforts to influence consumer demand for illegal wildlife products.



*Credit: Royal United Services Institute*



## Articles

### Understanding complexities of the world's biggest shark and ray fishery: A new case study under the Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade

Hollie Booth ([hbooth@wcs.org](mailto:hbooth@wcs.org)), Sharks and Rays Advisor, South East Asia, Wildlife Conservation Society

Komodo National Park in western East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia, attracts tourists from all over the world to experience world-class scuba diving. Luscious reefs and tumultuous currents create a diverse, breath-taking environment, home to healthy populations of charismatic marine megafauna. Dive tourists are almost guaranteed to get up-close and personal with several shark and ray species, but it's the 4m wide manta rays, soaring across the shallow, sandy banks of 'manta point', that are the biggest attraction. O'Malley et al., (2013) estimated tourists to spend over 10 million USD/year on diving with manta rays in Indonesia.

Approximately 500km east of Komodo National Park, in the fishing village of Lamakera, manta rays hold a completely different value. Lamakera is a relatively isolated, underdeveloped corner of the archipelago, where access to employment opportunities and infrastructure is limited, and with peak annual landings of up to 2,400 individuals in the early 2000's, it is considered the world's top manta ray hunting location. Small-scale manta ray fishing has operated in Lamakera for centuries, providing a source of sustenance and trade for the community, but growth and modernisation of fishing fleets coupled with a surge in demand for manta ray gills in Traditional Chinese Medicine markets has led to dramatic intensification of manta ray exploitation for commercial trade. Mantas are slow-growing and long-lived, making them highly vulnerable to overexploitation, and annual catch in Lamakera has been gradually declining since the early 2000's, despite increases in fishing effort, indicating a population crash.



*Indonesian authorities seize a shipment of dried manta ray gills. Credit: Paul Hilton for WCS*

The stark contrast between these two sites within the same province in Indonesia illustrates the diversity of use and value of sharks and rays in Indonesia; the influential role globalisation and international markets play in shaping our relationships with nature; and the complexities and trade-offs involved in delivering conservation solutions. Recognising this, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is working to support shark and ray conservation in Indonesia through a multi-faceted approach from policy, regulation and law enforcement to outreach and livelihood-focused interventions.



Specifically for manta rays, WCS assisted the Indonesian government to develop a ministerial decree to protect manta rays throughout the entire country in 2014, which has been followed by support for enforcement of this decree by investigating and arresting traders in illegal manta ray products, and dismantling illegal trade syndicates; working with partners to develop options for livelihood diversification in manta fishing communities; and monitoring changes in trade and exploitation to assess the impact of regulation and enforcement. Preliminary impact assessment results suggest the regulation is influencing manta ray exploitation rates in at least one site where socialisation and enforcement has been clear and consistent, but the nature and magnitude of the country-wide impact is not yet clear ([Booth et al. 2016](#)). Perhaps more importantly, this process is revealing valuable lessons in the challenges of implementing, monitoring and evaluating wildlife protection regulations in dynamic and complex contexts. In particular, there is no 'one size fits all' approach: effective shark and ray conservation requires multiple interventions, adapted to the motivations and interests of local groups and circumstances.

Moving forward, WCS is working with government and research partners to develop integrated data collection systems for understanding the magnitude of exploitation and trade of all shark and ray species throughout Indonesia. In partnership with the [Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade](#), researchers will explore:

*What is the magnitude of illegal shark and ray trade in Indonesia, and how has illegal trade changed as a result of law enforcement? Who are they key consumers of shark and ray products, in Indonesia and internationally? What are consumer characteristics and motivations, and how can we design behaviour change interventions to encourage responsible consumption?*

Research outputs will be used to inform the design, evaluation and adaptation of practical conservation measures to encourage responsible consumption of sharks and rays, which we hope will contribute to restoring healthy populations of sharks and rays, which can deliver both ecological and socioeconomic benefits for Indonesia.

See [here](#) for more information on WCS Indonesia and our other conservation programs.

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## Addressing Illegal Wildlife Trade: The power of supportive collaborative efforts, capacity building and local involvement

*Elizabeth Oneita Davis ([elizabeth.davis@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.davis@bristol.ac.uk)), David O'Connor ([DOConnor@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:DOConnor@sandiegozoo.org)) and Jenny Anne Glikman ([JGlikman@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:JGlikman@sandiegozoo.org)), Research Associates, San Diego Zoo Global*

In 2014, [San Diego Zoo Global \(SDZG\)](#) began collaborating with [Free The Bears](#), a number of universities and governments in SE Asia to address wildlife trade. The aim was to develop a framework that could be effectively and easily used by diverse organizations, regionally to gather data on the public knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, preferences, influences and consumption patterns of wildlife products. With a core set of questions, and the use of complementary methods (in-person surveys and semi-structured interviews), data collected from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos can be analysed together to begin to provide a better regional picture of the dynamics and drivers of wildlife trade consumption. Not only will this inform the development of demand change interventions, but this will also allow researchers to track



outcomes of such efforts to gauge efficacy over time. There are numerous researchers and organizations gathering data across the region, but unfortunately the data is not necessarily sharable.

We began with preliminary surveys about bears and use of bear parts in northern Laos from Lao nationals, Western tourists, and Chinese tourists. The goal of these surveys was to understand perceptions of bears in northern Laos, as well as to understand what aspects of the questionnaire worked, and did not work, in a Southeast Asian context. Results thus far indicate that knowledge about the link between bear part usage and decline in bear populations is low among Lao people, but high among Chinese tourists visiting Laos. It is possible that this greater knowledge of use and impact on bear populations is what has caused Chinese tourists to cite their preferred bear bile type as synthetic, rather than from wild bears, though further investigation is needed.

Lessons learnt informed an improved and refined questionnaire which is currently being used in surveys in Cambodia, again on bears and bear parts. At the same time, semi-structured interviews also took place in Phnom Penh, resulting in qualitative data that will complement the results found in the quantitative survey. Preliminary results identify bear part use to be among middle to upper-middle status Cambodian individuals, particularly when an individual has a connection or affinity towards Chinese individuals. Bearskin was heavily cited as a product in use, but the lack of wildlife trafficking data for bearskin highlights the need to explore this further.

SDZG and Animals Asia is also surveying Traditional Medicine Practitioners in Vietnam to understand traditional medicine practice involving bear products, through mail-in surveys. Although a different methodology, these surveys complement the work performed in Cambodia and Laos.

In collaboration with Free The Bears, Animals Asia, TRAFFIC Vietnam and the [Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) (OMP-IWT), we will build on the work from Laos and Cambodia with public attitude surveys across Vietnam on bears and bear part usage, as well as on tiger part and saiga horn usage.



*Conducting an interview in Stung Treng province, Cambodia. Credit: Thona Lim*

The OMP-IWT case study on bear bile in China aims to include core elements of the SDZG SE Asia bear surveys, working towards gaining a regional understanding. Greater refined mixed-methods research will be imperative for truly understanding the trends and patterns we isolate in IWT. The OMP-IWT is sure to be a dynamic research-to-action body, utilizing complementary mixed-methods applications and catalysing collaborations.



## Articles

### Taking Stock of Stockpiles

Michael 't Sas-Rolfes ([michael.tsas-rolfes@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.tsas-rolfes@ouce.ox.ac.uk)), Research Associate, Oxford Martin Programme on Illegal Wildlife Trade

The rapidly growing awareness of the serious extent to which illegal and unsustainable wildlife exploitation threatens the conservation of many endangered species is certainly timely. Yet amidst the current fervour for combatting illegal wildlife trade, the use of certain policy measures may be confounded by the

continued existence of residual legal activities that potentially complicate both enforcement and efforts to change consumer behaviour. For this reason, many activists prefer an [uncompromising approach](#): total prohibition of all forms of legal supply, consumptive use and trade of endangered species products, supported by simple demand reduction messaging to consumers of the 'just say no' variety. However, this extreme approach may be neither realistically achievable nor even desirable.



*Semi-intensive rhino breeding operation in South Africa. Credit: Michael 't Sas-Rolfes*

At present, legal supply – and even some legal trade – of certain endangered species products persists. For example, significant numbers of [tigers](#), [lions](#), [bears](#) and even [rhinos](#) are maintained in commercial captive breeding operations in countries such as China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and South Africa, yielding considerable volumes of marketable products. Residual legal trade in [antique elephant ivory](#) and [rhino horn artefacts](#) also persists in many countries and some elephant and rhino range states continue to accumulate official stockpiles of raw ivory and rhino horn. Attempts to curtail these activities through international pressure have met with obvious resistance from certain countries and powerful interest groups within them, including numerous persistent consumers. It seems likely that captive live specimens and product stockpiles will continue to challenge policy-makers for the foreseeable future.

Before investing substantial resources in trying to eliminate such residual supply sources, policy-makers should carefully consider the extent to which these in fact threaten wild populations of endangered species. [One hypothesis](#) holds that the existence of any commercial captive breeding operations and saleable stocks of endangered species products both stimulates demand for illegal, wild-harvested products of those species and provides cover for illegal activity. However, as an alternative hypothesis [captive populations](#) and [product stockpiles](#) may provide a critical 'buffer' role, shielding wild populations from certain forms of illegal exploitation by meeting persistent residual demand or acting as a deterrent to coordinated overexploitation aimed at '[banking on extinction](#)'.

The answer as to which hypothesis is correct may vary with species, geography and circumstance: [there are numerous factors that must be considered](#), including whether consumers might co-operate in [discerning between supply sources that are legal, ethical and sustainable and those that are not](#). Careful examination of multiple cases may result in a deeper understanding of some of the typical critical factors and risks. Using contemporary techniques such as [participatory modelling](#) and [scenario analysis](#), the Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade will seek to assess conditions under which [policy decisions are robust to uncertainty](#). We intend to draw on existing accessible data to engage with difficult decisions relating to [rhino poaching](#) and [lion bone trade policy](#) and hope to learn broader lessons that might apply to issues such as residual elephant ivory trade and the management of accumulating stockpiles of endangered species products subject to persistent consumer demand.



## Articles

### Probing the Elephant in the Room

*Vian Sharif (vian.sharif@gmail.com), Research Associate, Oxford Martin Programme on Illegal Wildlife Trade and Alexander Rhodes (Alexander.Rhodes@Mishcon.com), Managing Associate, Mishcon de Reya LLP*

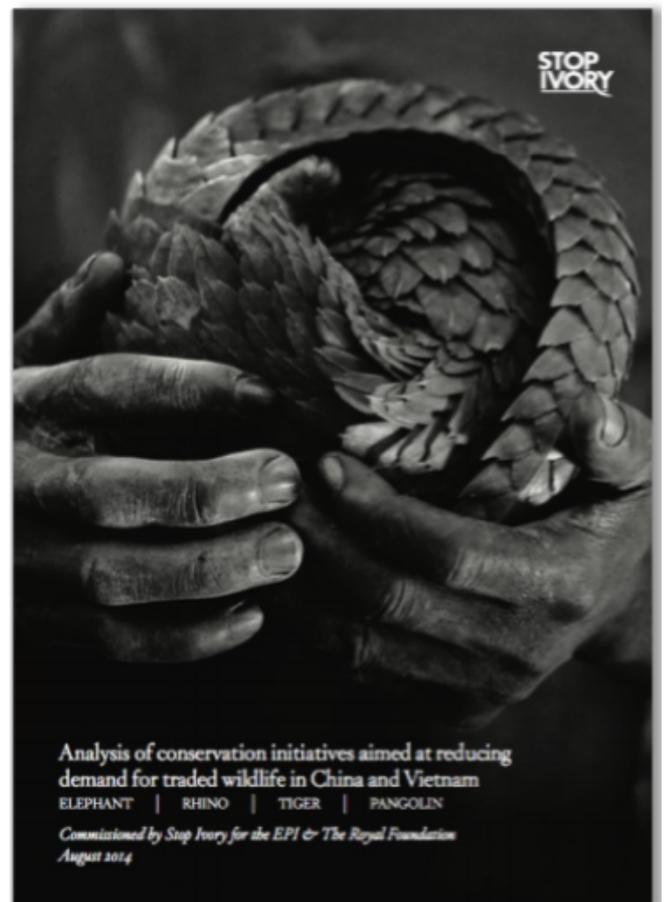
At first glance, the imminent extinction of the world's most iconic species – for example, the black rhino – primarily looks like a challenge for conservation science. Yet, with rhino horn prices anecdotally exceeding \$60,000 per kilogram on global black markets in recent years, at the heart of this issue is the behaviour of the buyer willing to pay prices higher than the street price of cocaine or gold to acquire it. Crucially, the need to understand the motivations and psychological drivers of consumers' desire to acquire and own illegal wildlife products and influences upon them, like the media and tools commonly employed in commercial marketing campaigns, has now come to the fore as a potential means of reducing consumption.

Our report, Analysis of conservation initiatives aimed at reducing demand for traded wildlife in China and Vietnam, commissioned by Stop Ivory for the Elephant Protection Initiative & The Royal Foundation aimed to set out for the first time in one central resource a summary and analysis of the major 'demand-side' initiatives carried out between 2004-2014 in two key consumer markets, China and Vietnam, for elephant, rhino, tiger and pangolin products. The report provides an overview and analysis of their findings and outputs, and also includes the compilation of a searchable database of these initiatives by mapping existing campaigns, educational initiatives and market interventions used to initiate changes in key audiences, for example consumers or policy makers.

By comprehensively scoping the activities taking place to address demand in consumer countries for illegal wildlife, we aimed to present the cumulative knowledge gathered by these initiatives in one open source resource made available to any organisation wishing to access it. We wanted to build an understanding of the most effective interventions to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products, and for this knowledge to contribute to the production of tools and guidance to support governments, nongovernment organisations (NGOs) and others in developing their campaigns.

Through making this data available to all, we aim to provide a resource for those planning interventions, and the potential for discussion around future collaborations and interventions to achieve conservation impact in as efficient and effective manner as possible.

You may access the full report [here](#).



*Credit: Stop Ivory*



## Updates and Announcements



Oxford Martin Programme on the

**ILLEGAL  
WILDLIFE  
TRADE**

### **Call for Conservation Evidence on interventions on Wildlife Trade of Endangered Species:**

The University of Cambridge, in collaboration with the Oxford Martin Programme on Illegal Wildlife Trade, are planning to undertake a [Conservation Evidence](#) project to identify and gather evidence of interventions that have been or could potentially be implemented to tackle all stages of the illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade.

An initial list of interventions has been drafted, but we are looking for feedback and especially welcome the addition to the list of any interventions to reduce trade in protected species that we have missed. Please view the list [here](#) or contact [Nancy Ockendon \(no200@cam.ac.uk\)](mailto:nancy.ockendon@cam.ac.uk) for further information or any contributions you would like to make.

### **Vacancies at Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade:**

We are recruiting for two exciting new positions!

*Post-doctoral Research Associate:* This fixed term, 2-year position in Intervention Design and Evaluation is an exciting opportunity to have a major impact on improving methods and outcomes in the field of conservation science, specifically consumer behavioural change of wildlife products. The post holder will be responsible for leading a discrete research area as well as providing guidance to other programme researchers. Please see [job advert](#) and apply by: May 31, 2017.

*Programme Assistant:* This role will provide critical support to the programme's engagement and outreach activities, specifically in communications and events organization and coordination. This is a great opportunity to be part of and promote an exciting new programme! Please email [Nafeesa Esmail \(nafeesa.esmail@zoo.ox.ac.uk\)](mailto:nafeesa.esmail@zoo.ox.ac.uk) to express your interest and for further details.

### **New IUCN SSC sub-group on the global orchid trade established:**

The majority of species traded are plants and orchids are one of the main taxonomic groups. This includes the international horticultural industry, ingredients in traditional medicines, high-end cosmetics, and edible products. Every orchid species is listed in the CITES, accounting for >70% of all species listed by the Convention.

Recognizing the importance of this trade and the conservation implications of unsustainable exploitation, in October 2016, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Orchid Specialist Group established a new sub-group focused on the global orchid trade. The sub-group aims to generate and coordinate expert inputs on the trade of orchids and their derivatives, to inform domestic regional and international conservation and sustainable use efforts. This includes engaging with policy makers, practitioners and the public to provide information and expertise and raise the profile of orchid trade.

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## **Questions, feedback or want to trade your ideas? Contact us.**

We'd be happy to share your wildlife trade work or highlight your event with our network!

*Trading Ideas*, the newsletter of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade is edited by Nafeesa Esmail with advice provided from Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland.

[www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/research/programmes/illegal-wildlife-trade](http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/research/programmes/illegal-wildlife-trade)

[nafeesa.esmail@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nafeesa.esmail@zoo.ox.ac.uk)