Illegal trade in wildlife

Database: CAB Abstracts <2000 to 2014 Week 05>
Search Strategy:
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
1         illegal*.mp. [mp=abstract, title, original title, broad terms, heading word]
2         trade/ or domestic trade/ or international trade/ or trade in animals/ or trading/ or traded/
3         wildlife/ or wild animals/ or endangered species/ or protected species/ or wildlife conservation/ or wildlife
management/
4         1 and 2 and 3

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<1>
Accession Number
20143262734
Author
Roe, D.; Milledge, S.; Cooney, R.; Sas-Rolfes, M. ‘t; Biggs, D.; Murphree, M.; Kasterine, A.
Title
The elephant in the room: sustainable use in the illegal wildlife trade debate.
Source
Publisher
International Institute for Environment and Development
Location of Publisher
London
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Illegal transnational wildlife trade is currently attracting considerable international attention. This is partly
due to conservation concerns but also to suggestions of links with organised crime and militant groups. The
attention afforded to this issue is much needed and the various international initiatives that have emerged
rightly take a multi-faceted approach. But they tend to emphasise law enforcement and demand reduction,
with considerably less focus on effective incentives for community-based and private sector management. In
particular, the role of sustainable use as a tool for both conservation and local development has generally
been overlooked. Wildlife is one of the strongest assets for many rural communities, and depleting it through
illegal trade removes potential income. But tackling illegal trade in ways that further restrict sustainable use
can limit communities' options even more. Addressing wildlife crime effectively means developing
approaches that protect wildlife for poor people not from poor people.
Publication Type
Bulletin.

<2>
Accession Number
20143051336
Author
Baker, S. E.; Cain, R.; Kesteren, F. van; Zommers, Z. A.; D’cruze, N.; Macdonald, D. W.
Title
Rough trade: animal welfare in the global wildlife trade.
Source
Wildlife trade is a big and burgeoning business, but its welfare impacts have not been studied comprehensively. We review the animal welfare impacts of the wildlife trade as they were reported in the literature between 2006 and 2011. Rarely was the term welfare mentioned, evidence of welfare impact documented, or welfare improvement recommended. Literature focused on mammals and on animals killed on site, for luxury goods or food, and for traditional medicine. Welfare impacts may be underreported, particularly in international, illegal, and wild-caught trade and trade in reptiles. Greater attention should perhaps be paid to the welfare of animals traded alive and in larger numbers (e.g., birds, reptiles, amphibians) and to those—including mammals—potentially subject to greater impacts through live use (e.g., as pets). More evidence-based research is needed. Animal welfare should be integrated with wider issues; collaboration between conservationists and welfarists and the development of health and welfare levers to influence trade offer benefits to both people and wildlife.

Illegal wildlife imports more than just animals - Baylisascaris procyonis in raccoons (Procyon lotor) in Norway.

In autumn 2011, 11 illegally imported animals were seized from a farm in southern Norway. These included four raccoon dogs (Nyctereutes procyonoides), four raccoons (Procyon lotor), and three South American coatis (Nasua nasua), all considered alien species in Norway. An additional two raccoons had escaped from the farm prior to seizure. The seized animals were euthanized and postmortem examination revealed that the four raccoons had moderate to high numbers of the zoonotic nematode Baylisascaris procyonis in their intestines, ranging from 11 to 115 nematodes per small intestine, with a mean of 53. The identity of the nematodes was confirmed using molecular analysis of ITS-1, ITS-2, cytochrome C oxidase 1, and 18S. Echinococcus multilocularis was not detected in any of the 11 animals. Toxocara and Toxascaris sp. eggs were detected in the feces of two raccoons, and two coatis had coccidia oocysts (80 and 360 oocysts per gram). Domestic dogs and other wildlife on the farm had potential access to the animal pens. Given that the eggs can remain infective for years in the environment, local veterinary and health authorities will need to remain vigilant for symptoms relating to infection with B. procyonis.
Costs and benefits of the presence of leopards to the sport-hunting industry and local communities in Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique.

We assessed economic gains from sport hunting and poaching of leopards (Panthera pardus), costs of leopard depredation of livestock, and attitudes of people toward leopards in Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique. We sent questionnaires to hunting concessionaires (n=8) to investigate the economic value of and the relative importance of leopards relative to other key trophy-hunted species. We asked villagers (n=158) the number of and prices for leopards poached in the reserve and the number of goats depredated by leopard. Leopards were the mainstay of the hunting industry; a single animal was worth approximately U.S.$24,000. Most safari revenues are retained at national and international levels, but poached leopard are illegally traded locally for small amounts ($83). Leopards depredated 11 goats over 2 years in 2 of 4 surveyed villages resulting in losses of $440 to 6 households. People in these households had negative attitudes toward leopards. Although leopard sport hunting generates larger gross revenues than poaching, illegal hunting provides higher economic benefits for households involved in the activity. Sport-hunting revenues did not compensate for the economic losses of livestock at the household level. On the basis of our results, we propose that poaching be reduced by increasing the costs of apprehension and that the economic benefits from leopard sport hunting be used to improve community livelihoods and provide incentives not to poach.
Four species of iguanas occur in Galapagos. All of them are included in the red list of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. In Ecuador, attempting to remove wildlife from the Galapagos Islands is a serious environmental crime, punishable under Articles of the Ecuadorian Criminal Code. On July 2012, a tourist was arrested in Galapagos while trying to illegally transport four iguanas out of the province. The four iguanas, confiscated by the authorities of Galapagos National Park, needed rapid taxonomic identification and determination of geographic origin for the purposes of repatriation. The phylogenetic analysis of the Cytochrome b sequence data contributed to the unequivocal molecular taxonomic identification of the four confiscated iguanas, each of which belonged to the species Conolophus subcristatus. The genetic data unambiguously indicated that the four confiscated iguanas had been subtracted from the same population, currently distributed in Baltra and Seymour Norte. The use of molecular tools proved crucial for the rapid assessment of the population of origin. Such a rapid assessment was possible because a large genetic database was already available for Galapagos iguanas. It is recommended that genetic programs be developed for the complete genetic characterization of wildlife in Galapagos as well as in other areas of endemism worldwide.

Publication Type
Journal article.

<6>
Accession Number
20133289253
Author
Asprilla-Perea, J.; Serna-Agudelo, J. E.; Palacios-Asprilla, Y.
Title
Diagnosis on illegal seizure of wildlife in the department of Choco (Colombian Northern Pacific). [Spanish]
Source
Publisher
Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas y Ambientales
Location of Publisher
Bogota
Country of Publication
Colombia
Abstract
Choco department belongs to the eight places with the major illegal wildlife commercial trade and wildlife confiscation registered in Colombia. Nevertheless, there is no clear statistic about species frequently involved; a serious assessment about wildlife decommissions (processes and management) have not been carried out. This Information could be used as tool to support implementation of resource management or as conservation strategy. This study describes seized wildlife in the department of Choco during six years (2005-2010), based on an intensive revision from official databases of environmental authorities and interviews with officials. The results showed that 80% of the seized wildlife is composed of birds and mammals. Trachemys callirostris callirostris (turtle lco-tea) was the most seized species (161 individuals corresponding to 22.2% of illegal wildlife seized). The municipality of Quibdo is the geographical area of Choco department where the highest number of individuals and species were confiscated. No established routes for illegal wildlife trafficking were found. In terms of conservation the majority of confiscated species (80.6%) are in a category of threat according to criteria established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species. Fish, bird and mammal species seized in Choco department are under the highest increased level by the UICN criteria.
Publication Type
Journal article.
Accession Number
20133188577

Author
Shamsur Rahman, M.; Abdullah-Al Mamun; Maksudur Rahman; Hossain, M. B.; Minar, M. H.; Maheen, N. J.

Title
Illegal marketing of freshwater turtles and tortoises in different markets of Bangladesh.

Source

Publisher
IDOSI Publications

Location of Publisher
Dubai

Country of Publication
United Arab Emirates

Abstract
A survey study was conducted to evaluate the trading and marketing structure of freshwater turtles and tortoises in different markets of Bangladesh during April to September 2011. Data were collected through questionnaire interviews and focus group discussions. The market chain from producers to consumers passes through a number of intermediaries: agents/suppliers, wholesalers and retailers. Based on a sample of 40 traders from the six different markets, four were retail markets and the other was wholesale markets. The daily supply of freshwater turtles and tortoises in Tatibazar of Old Dhaka; Krisnapur Bazar of Gopalganj Sadar; Pathkelbari Bazar of Gopalganj Sadar and Takerhat of Rajoir under Madaripur district were estimated as the following 0.24-0.27 mt, 0.09-0.11 mt, 0.06-0.07 mt and 0.07-0.08 mt respectively. Retail markets sat on each hut day. Aratders or wholesalers of Baidyabazar under Sonargaonupazila of Narayangonj and Madhabdi of Narshingdi Sadar were collected daily at an average of 20-25 kg and 15-20 kg freshwater turtles and tortoises respectively. It was estimated that 60-70% of freshwater turtles and tortoises supplied in the markets were softshell turtles such as Lissemyspunctata, Aspidereteshurum and the other remaining part was hard shell (30-40%). The price of Lissemyspunctata varied from Tk. 400-450/kg, Aspidereteshurum Tk. 450-650/kg, A. gangeticus Tk. 400-450/kg, Moreniapetersi Tk. 250-300/kg, Kachugacteak Tk. 200-250/kg and Geoclemyshamiltonii Tk. 200-250/kg were found during the study period. Although Bangladesh government has banned turtle trade both locally and internationally from 1998, but turtle trade inside the country is continuing as before. At present people who got this business through heredity are involved in turtle trading. Turtle traders run their business through networking and coordination among each other and in great confidentiality; they rarely operate as individuals. Early study reported eighteen species of freshwater turtle and tortoise were involved in marketing during 1980-1998. During the present study only six species were found in different markets. This depicts the precarious situation of the freshwater turtles and tortoises in Bangladesh. Strict execution of laws regarding trade control; captive breeding; conservation education and awareness both at national level and community level; scientific and social research; establishment of turtle hatcheries and protection of nesting sites will help to save this threatened species from extinction.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20133182297

Author
Lyons, J. A.; Natusch, D. J. D.; Shepherd, C. R.

Title
The harvest of freshwater turtles (Chelidae) from Papua, Indonesia, for the international pet trade.

Source

Publisher
Cambridge University Press

Location of Publisher
The international trade in wildlife is currently one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. One group, the turtles, has experienced far-reaching population declines and extinctions because the majority of animals are sourced from the wild. The island of New Guinea has the highest diversity of freshwater turtles (Chelidae) in the Australasian region and large numbers are harvested from the Indonesian province of Papua to supply the international pet trade. A total of 264 of these turtles representing six species were recorded between December 2010 and March 2011 while gathering information about wildlife trade in the Indonesian province of Papua. Most were juveniles, although a substantial number of large adults were also harvested. None of the species recorded are CITES-listed. Despite one species not being allocated an annual harvest quota, it was observed being traded. Illegal and unregulated trade coupled with a lack of basic ecological data for these species can have a severe impact on wild populations. We present recommendations for law enforcement and conservation of these species.

Title
Devastating decline of forest elephants in central Africa.

Abstract
African forest elephants-taxonomically and functionally unique—are being poached at accelerating rates, but we lack range-wide information on the repercussions. Analysis of the largest survey dataset ever assembled for forest elephants (80 foot-surveys; covering 13,000 km; 91,600 person-days of fieldwork) revealed that population size declined by ca. 62% between 2002-2011, and the taxon lost 30% of its geographical range. The population is now less than 10% of its potential size, occupying less than 25% of its potential range. High human population density, hunting intensity, absence of law enforcement, poor governance, and proximity to expanding infrastructure are the strongest predictors of decline. To save the remaining African forest elephants, illegal poaching for ivory and encroachment into core elephant habitat must be stopped. In addition, the international demand for ivory, which fuels illegal trade, must be dramatically reduced.
Title
Source
Publisher
Routledge
Location of Publisher
Philadelphia
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
This paper addresses the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn that now poses an existential threat to most rhino species. The current rhino horn trade and the kinds of networks involved in the trade are described. The persistence of illegal wildlife trading and concept of resilience are explored. Possible sources of resilience, both internal and external to the networks involved, are examined. The implications for how the trade should or could be dealt with and for future research are considered.
Publication Type
Journal article.

Title
The live bird trade in Brazil and its conservation implications: an overview.
Source
Publisher
Cambridge University Press
Location of Publisher
Cambridge
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Brazil's rich biological and cultural diversity makes it an exceptional location for examining the commerce in live wild birds and its implications for conservation. This paper catalogues the live bird species being traded in Brazil, characterises the trade in these animals, and discusses the implications for avian conservation. In spite of being illegal, capturing and selling birds is still a very common practice in Brazil and involves many actors who make up part of a large commercial network that distributes wild animals to every corner of the country. Our survey revealed that at least 295 bird species are illegally sold as pets in Brazil, with estimates derived from this data pointing to a total of more than 400 species - about 23% of the number of extant bird species in the country. Of the bird species recorded, two were classified as "Critically Endangered", nine as "Endangered", six as "Vulnerable", and 19 as "Near Threatened" according to the most recent IUCN Red List. Most of the species recorded in this study as being widely bought and sold (including on the international market) are not listed by CITES even though many of them are in fact threatened. In light of the widespread illegal trade in wild birds in Brazil and the conservation implications for the species involved, there is an urgent need for actions that can control these activities. Steps should be taken to address the illegal traffic directly and these must include monitoring, law enforcement, effective sentencing (including deterrent sentences), targeting end-users, captive breeding, and education at all levels, taking into account the cultural, economic, social, and ecological aspects of the human populations involved.
Publication Type
Journal article.
Accession Number
20133077582
Author
Shanee, N.
Title
Trends in local wildlife hunting, trade and control in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, northeastern Peru.
Source
Publisher
Inter-Research Science Center
Location of Publisher
Oldendorf
Country of Publication
Germany
Abstract
The Amazonas and San Martin regions in northeastern Peru compose a central part of the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, considered one of the highest conservation priorities worldwide. Many of the area's species have been identified as requiring urgent conservation measures by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and International Primatological Society, as well as being protected under Peruvian law. In this study I present data about wildlife traffic and local wildlife use in Amazonas and San Martin, collected between April 2007 and December 2011. I highlight the trends in, and causes of, illegal trade. I examine the limitations on, and opportunities for, the authorities controlling these practices in the context of national and international pressures and the process of governmental decentralization. The most hunted orders were Psittaciformes (n=1497) and Primates (n=279). Animals were mainly found in the hands of traffickers (57%), usually on the way from the neighbouring region of Loreto to the coast. Endangered species were mainly kept as tourist attractions in recreation centres, hotels, or restaurants. Wildlife authorities suffer from a severe lack of specialized personnel, resources and rescue centres, and an often contradictory and inadequate legal framework. I also found a great difference in operation and efficiency between the 2 regions, suggesting that local and regional politics, rather than international pressures and agreements, influence control of species extraction, making fauna in San Martin and Amazonas vulnerable to frequent political changes.
Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20133049516
Author
Magalhaes, A. L. B. de; Sao-Pedro, V. A.
Title
Illegal trade on non-native amphibians and reptiles in southeast Brazil: the status of e-commerce.
Source
Publisher
Universidade de Sao Paulo
Location of Publisher
Sao Paulo
Country of Publication
Brazil
Abstract
In order to determine the extent of potentially illegal trade, a study of the offerings of non-native amphibians and reptiles currently available through the internet and social media outlets in southeastern Brazil was conducted. Species were surveyed in the social network Orkut from mid-2006 to mid-2012. A total of 17
community forums were accessed to determine the availability of species for sale. The absolute and relative frequencies of non-anonymous dealers selling amphibian and reptile species in 3 cities of southeastern Brazil (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais state; Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro state; and Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo state) were calculated as well as anonymous dealers. The cities studied were the centres of the Brazilian pet trade. 49 non-native species (3 frogs, 2 salamanders, 16 lizards, 26 snakes and 2 turtles) were detected during the 7-year survey period. Corn snakes, milk snakes, central bearded dragons, ball pythons and African clawed frogs comprised the largest percentage of e-commerce trade. 17 species identified in the survey were considered endangered. Sao Paulo was the city with the greatest demand, and anonymous dealers were the ones that most negotiated animals. The results suggested that a complete ban on pet-traded species via e-commerce would be ineffective. The reasons for a lack of compliance with existing Brazilian law were discussed.

**Publication Type**
Journal article.

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**Accession Number**
20133043647

**Author**

**Title**
Digital surveillance: a novel approach to monitoring the illegal wildlife trade.

**Source**
PLoS ONE; 2012. 7(12):e51156. 36 ref.

**Publisher**
Public Library of Sciences (PLoS)

**Location of Publisher**
San Francisco

**Country of Publication**
USA

**Abstract**
A dearth of information obscures the true scale of the global illegal trade in wildlife. Herein, we introduce an automated web crawling surveillance system developed to monitor reports on illegally traded wildlife. A resource for enforcement officials as well as the general public, the freely available website, http://www.healthmap.org/wildlifetrade, provides a customizable visualization of worldwide reports on interceptions of illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products. From August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011, publicly available English language illegal wildlife trade reports from official and unofficial sources were collected and categorized by location and species involved. During this interval, 858 illegal wildlife trade reports were collected from 89 countries. Countries with the highest number of reports included India (n=146, 15.6%), the United States (n=143, 15.3%), South Africa (n=75, 8.0%), China (n=41, 4.4%), and Vietnam (n=37, 4.0%). Species reported as traded or poached included elephants (n=107, 12.5%), rhinoceros (n=103, 12.0%), tigers (n=68, 7.9%), leopards (n=54, 6.3%), and pangolins (n=45, 5.2%). The use of unofficial data sources, such as online news sites and social networks, to collect information on international wildlife trade augments traditional approaches drawing on official reporting and presents a novel source of intelligence with which to monitor and collect news in support of enforcement against this threat to wildlife conservation worldwide.

**Publication Type**
Journal article.

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**Accession Number**
20123321712

**Author**
Conrad, K.

**Title**
Trade bans: a perfect storm for poaching?
Abstract

Since CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ratification 40 years ago, trade bans have emerged as a principle conservation tool for endangered species. While trade bans have been successful in helping to stabilize populations of certain species, evidence for others suggests that such bans are proving less effective. Looking at three species, the author identifies and explores a conflux of forces that, in the context of a trade ban, may result in an increase of illegal trade, further threatening a species already at risk. These forces include (1) inelastic demand and high profit potential, (2) long history of trade, both legal and illegal, coupled with strong cultural affiliation, (3) ambiguous property rights, (4) negative economic incentives for conservation due to human-animal conflict, and (5) inadequate enforcement. Termed a "Perfect Storm", these forces combine to accelerate the demise of the species. In essence, a trade ban hands a monopoly on commerce to the black market. It is even possible that the trade ban protects the illegal market against competition, suggesting that other conservation tactics warrant consideration. The author concludes that legal, regulated trade needs to be fully investigated using fields of science that have evolved during CITES lifetime to determine if it is a viable tactic for conservation when such conditions exist.

Source
Tropical Conservation Science; 2012. 5(3):245-254. 38 ref.
Publisher
Mongabay.com
Location of Publisher
San Francisco
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
Since CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ratification 40 years ago, trade bans have emerged as a principle conservation tool for endangered species. While trade bans have been successful in helping to stabilize populations of certain species, evidence for others suggests that such bans are proving less effective. Looking at three species, the author identifies and explores a conflux of forces that, in the context of a trade ban, may result in an increase of illegal trade, further threatening a species already at risk. These forces include (1) inelastic demand and high profit potential, (2) long history of trade, both legal and illegal, coupled with strong cultural affiliation, (3) ambiguous property rights, (4) negative economic incentives for conservation due to human-animal conflict, and (5) inadequate enforcement. Termed a "Perfect Storm", these forces combine to accelerate the demise of the species. In essence, a trade ban hands a monopoly on commerce to the black market. It is even possible that the trade ban protects the illegal market against competition, suggesting that other conservation tactics warrant consideration. The author concludes that legal, regulated trade needs to be fully investigated using fields of science that have evolved during CITES lifetime to determine if it is a viable tactic for conservation when such conditions exist.
Publication Type
Journal article.
facilitated by poor monitoring and enforcement at key trade hubs. As a first step to combatting illegal trade, and to better understand the effects of harvest on wild populations, we recommend the need for increased monitoring and enforcement, improving the knowledge base of species traded and educating consumers about the effects their demand for pets has on these species.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
2012209254
Author
Karesh, W. B.; Smith, K. M.; Asmussen, M. V.
Title
The unregulated and informal trade in wildlife: implications for biodiversity and health.
Source
Publisher
OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)
Location of Publisher
Paris
Country of Publication
France
Abstract
The global trade in wildlife provides disease transmission mechanisms that not only cause outbreaks of human disease but also threaten livestock, international trade, rural livelihoods, native wildlife populations and the health of ecosystems. In addition to providing a direct route for the threat of disease introduction, over-exploitation of wildlife for trade is the greatest threat to biodiversity after degradation and loss of habitat. The illegal wildlife trade is considered the second-largest black market after narcotics, valued at US$ 20 billion per year, and includes more than 13 million mammals, birds and reptiles extracted from ecosystems globally. At the local population level, this causes a mean decline of 60% to 70% in wild populations and facilitates the introduction of alien invasive species. Eighty-seven percent of countries have officially reported the illegal trade of wildlife or wildlife products. Notable disease outbreaks resulting from wildlife trade have resulted in hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of economic damage globally. Detailed assessments of the impact of the far more insidious disease transmissions that are slowly devastating wildlife populations in many parts of the world have yet to be made. Rather than attempting to eradicate pathogens or the wild species that may harbour them, a practical approach would include decreasing the contact rate among species, including humans, at the interface created by wildlife trade. Wild animals are captured, transported and sold either live or dead, and co-mingled throughout this process, which functions as a system with major hubs rather than evenly distributed supply systems among countries, suppliers and consumers. These focal points for distribution and sales provide control opportunities to maximise regulatory efforts, as has been demonstrated with domestic animal trading systems (processing plants, wholesale and retail markets, for example). Focusing efforts at markets to regulate, reduce or, in some cases, eliminate the illegal trade in wildlife could provide a cost-effective approach to decreasing disease risks for humans, domestic animals, wildlife and ecosystems.
Publication Type
Book chapter
Conference paper.

Accession Number
20123160073
Author
Franco, B. A. de; Mendonca, F. F.; Oliveira, C.; Foresti, F.
Illegal trade of the guitarfish Rhinobatos horkelii on the coasts of central and southern Brazil: genetic identification to aid conservation.

Source

Publisher
Wiley-Blackwell

Location of Publisher
Oxford

Country of Publication
UK

Abstract
Among the diverse species of guitarfish, Rhinobatos horkelii is endemic to the south-west Atlantic and is primarily found off the Brazilian coast. The IUCN has classified this species as being in critical danger of extinction owing to widespread exploitation. Currently, this species is protected under Brazilian conservation laws. However, the morphological similarity of R. horkelii to other species precludes effective protection from fishing. Guitarfish samples were obtained from fishermen in different regions along the Brazilian coast and were identified using a genetic forensic method (multiplex-PCR). The analysis showed that 56% of the samples analysed were from R. horkelii, 25% from Rhinobatos percellens and 19% from Zapteryx brevirostris confirming that R. horkelii continues to be caught, despite conservation legislation. These results stress the need for effective conservation measures and may help to alert others to the occurrence of R. horkelii poaching. In addition, this work aims to establish an effective method of species identification to help prevent poaching of protected species such as R. horkelii.

Publication Type
Journal article.

A stakeholder perspective into wildlife policy in India.

Source

Publisher
Wiley-Blackwell

Location of Publisher
Hoboken

Country of Publication
USA

Abstract
We investigated perceptions of wildlife policy and issues through questionnaires (n=148) administered to policy makers, conservation scientists, individuals representing non-government organizations (NGOs), and field officials, who implemented government policies and enforced laws. We found significant differences among attitudes of stakeholders identifying major threats to wildlife, the use of science, the role of poaching in conservation, and the composition of species illegally traded. Policy makers and field officials differed in their views with NGOs and scientists on community response to wildlife policies and the varying threat perceptions to different species due to poaching and illegal trade. We noted ambiguity among stakeholders about sustainable use principles in India. Policies must be more effective in conservation and the process of making policy must be broad-based and participatory if wildlife conservation is to advance on the subcontinent.

Publication Type
Journal article.
Human conflict generally has substantial negative impacts on wildlife and conservation. The recent civil war (1995-2006) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) resulted in a significant loss of wildlife, including elephants, due to institutional collapse, lawlessness and unbridled exploitation of natural resources such as minerals, wood, ivory and bushmeat. We used data from distance sampling surveys conducted before and after the war in a protected forest, the Okapi Faunal Reserve, to document changes in elephant abundance and distribution. We employed Generalized Additive Models to relate changes in elephant distribution to human and environmental factors. Populations declined by nearly fifty percent coinciding with a major increase in elephant poaching as indicated by reports of ivory trade during the war. Our results suggest that humans influenced elephant distribution far more than habitat, both before and after the war, but post-war models explained more of the variation. Elephant abundance declined more, closer to the park boundary and to areas of intense human activity. After the war, elephant densities were relatively higher in the centre of the park where they were better protected, suggesting that this area may have acted as a refuge. In other sites in Eastern DRC, where no protection was provided, elephants were even more decimated. Post-war dynamics, such as weakened institutions, human movements and availability of weapons, continue to affect elephants. Survival of remaining populations and recovery will be determined by these persistent factors and by new threats associated with growing human populations and exploitation of natural resources. Prioritizing wildlife protection, curbing illegal trade in ivory and bushmeat, and strengthening national institutions and organizations in charge of conservation will be crucial to counter these threats.

<21>
Accession Number
20123014171
Author
Edmunds, K.; Roberton, S. I.; Few, R.; Mahood, S.; Bui, P. L.; Hunter, P. R.; Bell, D. J.
Title
Investigating Vietnam's ornamental bird trade: implications for transmission of zoonoses.
Source
EcoHealth; 2011. 8(1):63-75. 40 ref.
Publisher
Springer
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
Investigating Vietnam’s ornamental bird trade: implications for transmission of zoonoses.
Global wildlife trade is financially lucrative, frequently illegal and increases the risk for zoonotic disease transmission. This paper presents the first interdisciplinary study of Vietnam's illegal wild bird trade focussing on those aspects which may contribute to the transmission of diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1. Comparing January 2009 data with that of May 2007, we found a five-fold increase to 9,117 birds on sale in Hanoi. Ninety-five percent of Hanoian bird vendors appear unaware of trade regulations and across Vietnam vendors buy birds sourced outside of their province. Approximately 25% of the species common to Vietnam's bird trade are known to be HPAI H5N1 susceptible. The anthropogenic movement of birds within the trade chain and the range of HPAI-susceptible species, often traded alongside poultry, increase the risk Vietnam's bird trade presents for the transmission of pathogens such as HPAI H5N1. These results will assist in the control and monitoring of emerging zoonotic diseases and conservation of Southeast Asia's avifauna.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20123000869
Author
Lyons, J. A.; Natusch, D. J. D.
Title
Wildlife laundering through breeding farms: illegal harvest, population declines and a means of regulating the trade of green pythons (Morelia viridis) from Indonesia.
Source
Biological Conservation; 2011. 144(12):3073-3081.
Publisher
Elsevier Ltd
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Wildlife breeding farms have been promoted to aid biodiversity conservation by alleviating the pressure of harvest on wild populations. There is, however, growing concern that many breeding farms are being used to launder illegally caught wildlife. Surveys of wildlife traders in the Indonesian provinces of Maluku, West Papua and Papua were conducted between August 2009 and April 2011 to assess the trade of the green python (Morelia viridis), the species currently exported in the largest numbers from Indonesia declared as captive-bred. In total, 4227 illegally collected wild green pythons were recorded during surveys and high levels of harvest were found to have depleted and skewed the demographics of some island populations. Snakes were traced from their point of capture to breeding farms in Jakarta where they are to be exported for the pet trade, confirming the reports of wildlife laundering. Extrapolation of monthly collection estimates provided by traders revealed that at least 5337 green pythons are collected each year, suggesting that at least 80% of the green pythons exported from Indonesia annually are illegally wild-caught. The results of examination of 139 eggshells from five python species suggest that reptilian eggshells may be used as proof of provenance for each individual reptile exported. This method, in addition to the evidence that breeding farms play a significant role in the illegal exploitation of wildlife, allows conservation managers to begin to adequately monitor, regulate and determine the role of breeding farms in the conservation of wild populations.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20113392303
Author
Parr, J.
Title
Illegal wildlife trade: a need for institutional mapping - a response to Bennett.
Source
Oryx; 2011. 45(4):480-481. 5 ref.
Publisher
Cambridge University Press
Location of Publisher
Cambridge
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
This article discusses the need to conduct institutional mapping at national levels to tackle illegal wildlife trade more effectively. Focus is given on the current situation in Asian countries where there is an increasing trend in illegal poaching and trade of wild animals.

<24>
Accession Number
20113311091
Author
Mashele, S.
Title
Application of analytical tools in the conservation of the African elephant (Loxodonta africana).
Source
Publisher
Pakistan Agricultural Scientists Forum
Location of Publisher
Lahore
Country of Publication
Pakistan
Abstract
There is a great need to characterize African elephant ivory for controlling poaching and implementation of national and international laws. In this study, Ivory samples (117) from South African and Namibian sources were analysed for elemental presence using UV laser magnetic sector inductively coupled plasma-mass spectroscopy (ICP-MS). A total of forty five elements were detected. The analysis of variance was carried out over 13 regions. The concentration of elements showed statistically significant differences (p<0.0001) between ivory obtained from different regions. The discriminant analysis was employed to determine whether the existing data can be correctly classified into their region of origin. The data suggested that various elements from distinct ecological regions can present in different concentrations. The relationship of these elements may lead to the establishment of characteristic elemental patterns, unique for each ivory source. This study indicates that chemical analysis of ivory could be beneficial in tracing the source of illegal ivory. This knowledge may play a role in the conservation of the elephant herds.
Publication Type
Journal article.

<25>
Accession Number
20113302092
Author
Kaleta, T.; Szymanska, A.
Title
Confiscation of live exotic animals in Poland by custom service during 1998-2008 period in accordance with EU law and CITES.
On the basis of provided documentation from the Polish Custom Service authors examined the confiscation of live animals in Poland during the first period of enforcing CITES and EU law. Nearly 8000 animals from 126 transports were confiscated during 1998-2008 period. Poland turned out to be mainly target country for smuggled animals and animals were transported predominately from Czech Republic and Ukraine. Birds and reptiles species were animals the most frequently uncovered by the custom officers. The cases of smuggling live fishes and amphibians were not recorded. The greatest numbers of confiscated animal in one baggage was noted in the case of chelonians. The pattern of illegal trade was to some degree convergent with the results of the study of Polish online market with animals performed by NGO PTP "Salamandra".
Adapting to changing poaching intensity of yellow-shouldered parrot (Amazona barbadensis) nestlings in Margarita Island, Venezuela. (Special Issue: Adaptive management for biodiversity in an uncertain world.)

Source

Publisher
Elsevier Ltd

Location of Publisher
Oxford

Country of Publication
UK

Abstract
The yellow-shouldered parrot (Amazona barbadensis) is listed in Venezuela as Endangered and internationally as Vulnerable, primarily due to poaching for the illegal pet trade. Various interventions have been implemented to reduce poaching (increasing the population from 700 in 1989 to 1600 in 2009), but poaching pressure is still high, and is ever-changing, requiring an evolving response. Between 2000 and 2003, our only intervention was environmental education in schools: in the short term, unsurprisingly, it had no impact on poaching, which reached 100% of nestlings in monitored nests. From 2004 onwards, we implemented a set of new field interventions. In 2004, 24 h field surveillance decreased poaching to 56%. In 2005, the addition of foster nests and a pilot test of "assisted breeding" brought the figure down to 18%. In 2006, assisted breeding was expanded, achieving 0% poaching. In 2007, poachers raided our "secure" site, and took 34 nestlings, bringing poaching up to 60%. A pilot study of artificial nests offered promising results. In 2008 and 2009, the addition of patrolling by local police reduced poaching to 16% and 1%, respectively. During 2004-2009, nestling poaching averaged 25%. Ensuring parrot recruitment in the future will require a combination of the strategies employed to date; in the short term, expanding the use of artificial nests to increase availability of nesting sites in easily-patrolled areas has the most potential to build on past successes.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Title
A study of the parrot trade in Peru and the potential importance of internal trade for threatened species.

Source

Publisher
Cambridge University Press

Location of Publisher
Cambridge

Country of Publication
UK

Abstract
During a period of 12 months in 2007 and 2008, a study of the parrot trade within Peru was carried out. In this study, 20 main wildlife markets were visited in eight cities in order to estimate the number of parrot species and individuals traded legally and illegally within a year. The study also gathered extra information from vendors and customers through informal interviews about the trade process. Additionally we contracted one person in two markets between February and May 2008 to monitor how many species and individuals entered the trade. During the study, four threatened species (the 'Endangered' Gray-cheeked Parakeet Brotogeris pyrrhoptera, the 'Vulnerable' Military Macaw Ara militaris, the 'Vulnerable' Yellow-faced Parrotlet Forpus xanthops and the 'Near Threatened' Red-masked Parakeet Aratinga erythrogenys) and one additional species listed in CITES Appendix 1 (Scarlet Macaw Ara macao) were found being traded. Thirty-
four species were recorded in total, 33 of which are native to Peru (representing 63% of the 52 known Peruvian parrot species) and one of which (Monk Parakeet Myiopsitta monachus) is native to Bolivia and Argentina. Our results show that even for the seven species which can be legally traded in Peru, the number of individuals being traded can greatly exceed the numbers that can officially be traded legally. We directly counted 4,722 parrots for sale and using a measured detection rate of 3% we estimate a total market size in the cities surveyed of between 80,000 and 90,000 individuals. As our surveys sampled only 8 out of Peru’s 24 departmental capitals and there are also other large cities, these numbers are likely to represent only a part of the total trade in Peru. To the best of our knowledge this is one of the first detailed studies of the internal trade in a source country for the international parrot trade. Our results suggest that such internal trade is likely to be a significant conservation issue that has previously been largely overlooked.

Publication Type
Journal article.

<29>
Accession Number
20103362547
Author
Title
Employing participatory surveys to monitor the illegal killing of elephants across diverse land uses in Laikipia-Samburu, Kenya.
Source
Publisher
Wiley-Blackwell
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Levels and trends of illegal killing of elephants are measured by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme in sites across Africa and Asia. In the mostly unprotected Laikipia-Samburu MIKE site in northern Kenya, elephant mortality data were collected using both standard law enforcement monitoring procedures, relying on patrolling, and participatory methods involving local communities. Qualitatively, traditional patrolling techniques were more successful in protected areas whereas participatory approaches provided more information outside protected areas, where elephant were most at risk from ivory poachers. A minimum of 35% of the 389 verified carcasses during 2001-2003 were illegally killed. In this baseline study, land uses ranked from highest to lowest by the proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) were community conservation areas, government trust lands, forest reserves, private ranches, settlement areas and national reserves. PIKE trends derived from traditional and participatory data sources were similar across years and indicate elephants were at greater risk in regions outside government or privately patrolled areas. We suggest that PIKE is a useful index for comparing levels and trends in illegal killing of elephants, and that carcass ratios and presence/absence of tusks are useful proxy indicators of mortality and its causes.
Publication Type
Journal article.

<30>
Accession Number
20103253048
Author
Rosen, G. E.; Smith, K. F.
Title
Summarizing the evidence on the international trade in illegal wildlife.
Source
EcoHealth; 2010. 7(1):24-32. 44 ref.
Publisher
Springer
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
The global trade in illegal wildlife is a multi-billion dollar industry that threatens biodiversity and acts as a potential avenue for invasive species and disease spread. Despite the broad-sweeping implications of illegal wildlife sales, scientists have yet to describe the scope and scale of the trade. Here, we provide the most thorough and current description of the illegal wildlife trade using 12 years of seizure records compiled by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. These records comprise 967 seizures including massive quantities of ivory, tiger skins, live reptiles, and other endangered wildlife and wildlife products. Most seizures originate in Southeast Asia, a recently identified hotspot for future emerging infectious diseases. To date, regulation and enforcement have been insufficient to effectively control the global trade in illegal wildlife at national and international scales. Effective control will require a multi-pronged approach including community-scale education and empowering local people to value wildlife, coordinated international regulation, and a greater allocation of national resources to on-the-ground enforcement.
Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20103204718
Author
Shepherd, C. R.
Title
Illegal primate trade in Indonesia exemplified by surveys carried out over a decade in North Sumatra.
Source
Endangered Species Research; 2010. 11(3):201-205. 27 ref.
Publisher
Inter-Research
Location of Publisher
Oldendorf/Luhe
Country of Publication
Germany
Abstract
The illegal and unsustainable trade in primates is increasingly recognized as an urgent threat to their conservation. From 1997 to 2008, 66 surveys were conducted at bird markets in Medan, North Sumatra, where primates are sold openly. In total, 1,953 primates of 10 species were observed, the most common of which were the long-tailed macaque Macaca fascicularis (774 ind.), the greater slow loris Nycticebus coucang (714 ind.) and the pig-tailed macaque M. nemestrina (380 ind.). Six of the species observed are totally protected in Indonesia, yet were openly traded. Trade in the remaining 4 species is regulated through a harvest and trade quota system, but no quotas are allotted for them to be traded as pets. Therefore, all trade in primates observed in these markets is deemed illegal. The Indonesian authorities should be encouraged to take action against this illegal trade in Medan. Markets selling illegal wildlife should be closed down, and individuals found illegally trading in primates should be prosecuted.
Publication Type
Journal article.
Accession Number
20103085737

Author

Title
Elephants, ivory, and trade.

Source
Science (Washington); 2010. 327(5971):1331-1332. 27 ref.

Publisher
American Association for the Advancement of Science

Abstract
This paper discusses the trade decisions made by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in which Tanzania and Zambia are petitioning that CITES downlist the conservation status of their elephants to allow sale of stock piled ivory. However, just 2 years after CITES placed a 9-year moratorium on future ivory sales, elephant poaching is on the rise. The petitioning countries are major sources and conduits of Africa's illegal ivory. This petition highlights the controversy surrounding ivory trade and broader issues underlying CITES trade decisions. With illegal wildlife trade in all species worth tens of billions of dollars annually, CITES must link decisions on legal trade in vulnerable species to (i) the species role in its ecosystem (Ecological impacts), (ii) adequate controls on exploitation that can be verified by independent and effective monitoring programs, and (iii) the petitioning (Tanzania and Zambia) country's record in combating illegal trade.

Publication Type
Journal article.

Accession Number
20103050948

Author
Maldonado, A. M.; Nijman, V.; Bearder, S. K.

Title
Trade in night monkeys Aotus spp. in the Brazil-Colombia-Peru tri-border area: international wildlife trade regulations are ineffectively enforced.

Source
Endangered Species Research; 2009. 9(2):143-149. 35 ref.

Publisher
Inter-Research

Abstract
This study describes significant levels of trade in 2 or possibly 3 species of night monkeys (Aotus nancymaae, A. vociferans and A. nigriceps) from the Brazil-Colombia-Peru tri-border area. All 3 countries are Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and there is no documented trade in night monkeys among these 3 countries in the CITES trade database. However, interviews with 43 traders/collectors in 11 communities in the 3 countries suggest that for the period 2007-2008, ca. 4000 night monkeys were traded, representing a monetary value of over USD 100
000 for the traders and intermediaries. The interviewees indicated that the animals were sold to a biomedical laboratory in the tri-border area on the Colombian side of the border. The international nature of the trade and the large volume of night monkeys being traded indicate a violation of, and a failure to adhere to, international trade regulations. In order to conserve these important species, we suggest cooperative action from environmental and conservation authorities and the respective CITES Management Authorities in Colombia, Peru and Brazil to curb the trade, and urge the Colombian authorities to investigate the illegal importation of night monkeys by a biomedical laboratory in the border area.

Publication Type
Journal article.

<34>
Accession Number
2009332690
Author
Woodford, M. H.
Title
Veterinary aspects of ecological monitoring: the natural history of emerging infectious diseases of humans, domestic animals and wildlife. (Special Section: Dr. W. J. A. Payne 90th birthday commemorative issue.)
Source
Tropical Animal Health and Production; 2009. 41(7):1023-1033. many ref.
Publisher
Springer
Location of Publisher
Dordrecht
Country of Publication
Netherlands
Abstract
Proliferation of disease pathogens capable of affecting humans, domestic livestock and wildlife increasingly threatens environmental security and biodiversity. Livestock and wild animals in proximity to human beings are often in the chain of transmission and infection. Globalization of industrial livestock production (especially poultry upon which so much of the burgeoning human population depends) often permits transcontinental disease spread. Rapidly expanding (and often illegal) international trade in wild and domestic animals and their products are increasingly involved in the emergence of new diseases that may have the ability to transmit among humans, livestock and wildlife. Rapidly increasing urbanization has led in many places to overcrowded townships that rely on "bushmeat" for sustenance and has contributed to the emergence of virulent zoonotic pathogens. The emergence and proliferation of pathogens are exacerbated by anthropogenic transformation of natural landscapes in order to increase agricultural and livestock production. This paper posits that data gathered by veterinary ecologists should be interpreted and used by other disciplines. The importance of a thorough knowledge of the "natural history" (ecology) of the disease agent and its human, domestic and wild hosts is stressed.
Publication Type
Journal article.

<35>
Accession Number
20093202330
Author
Berg, T. van den
Title
The role of the legal and illegal trade of live birds and avian products in the spread of avian influenza.
Source
Publisher
Office International des Epizooties
Abstract

The panzootic of the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza has become an international crisis. All parts of the world are now considered at risk due to trade globalisation, with the worldwide movement of animals, products and humans, and because of the possible spread of the virus through the migration of wild birds. The risk of introducing notifiable avian influenza (NAI) through trade depends on several factors, including the disease status of the exporting country and the type of products. The highest risk occurs in the trade of live birds. It is important to assess and manage these risks to ensure that global trade does not result in the dissemination of NAI. However, it is also important that the risk of infection is not used as an unjustified trade barrier. The role of the regulatory authorities is thus to facilitate the safe trade of animal products according to international guidelines. Nevertheless, the balance between acceptable risk and safe trade is difficult to achieve. Since the movements of poultry and birds are sometimes difficult to trace, the signature or 'identity card' of each isolated virus can be very informative. Indeed, sequencing the genes of H5N1 and other avian influenza viruses has assisted greatly in establishing links and highlighting differences between isolates from different countries and tracing the possible source of introduction. Recent examples from Asia, Europe and Africa, supported by H5N1 molecular fingerprinting, have demonstrated that the sources of introduction can be many and no route should be underestimated.

Publication Type
Journal article.