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BULLETIN UPDATE

Bulletin | 5 November 2024

Bringing United for Wildlife Members and Partners the Latest Trends, Typologies, and Modus Operandi on the Illegal Wildlife Trade



TASKFORCE ALERTS

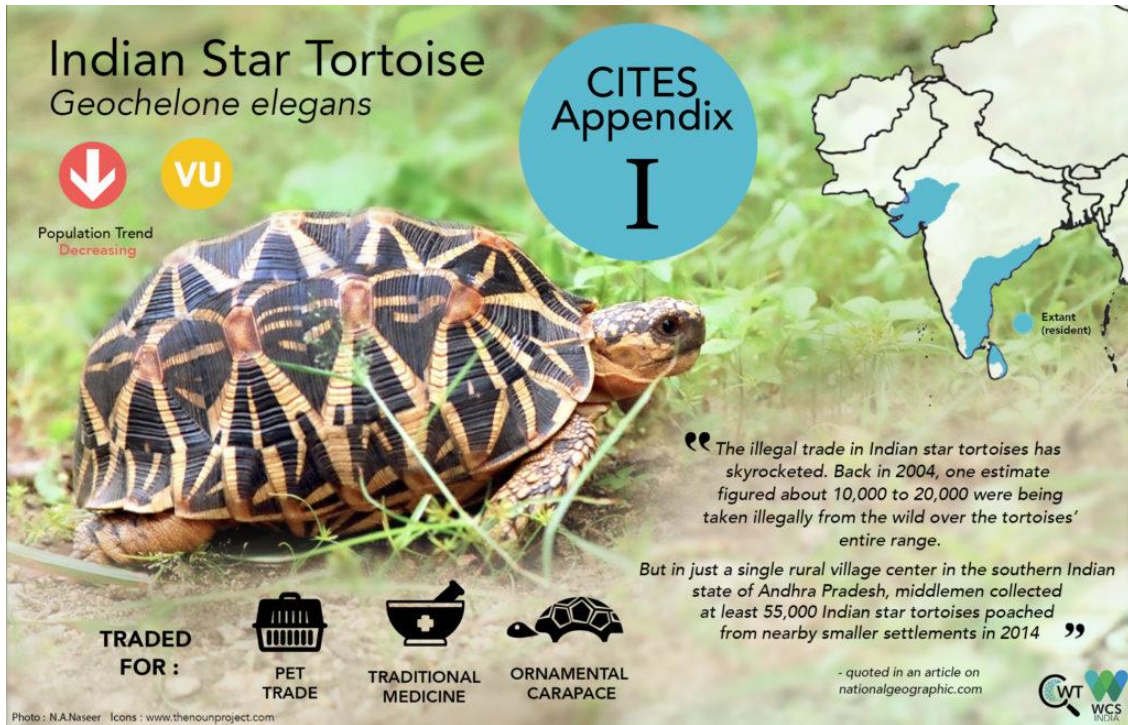
United for Wildlife intelligence updates



Democratic Republic of Congo: Recent parrot seizure suggests wildlife trafficking through air transport sector continues apace

DRC is a hotspot for the illegal trapping and trade in wild African grey parrots, involving well organised criminal syndicates that have established networks in exporting, transit and import countries. Grey parrot trafficking continues at concerning high levels, and new data suggests DRC's grey parrot population continues to decline. Within the past 12 months at least 12,000 Grey parrots have been transported to N'djili International Airport in Kinshasa, suggesting around 30-40 illegal shipments of parrots are being trafficked on flights through Kinshasa each year. ***Many are likely to be unknowingly carried by United for Wildlife Members.***

Read the full Alert [HERE](#)



Despite arrests, Indian star tortoise trafficking surges

Authorities in India and Malaysia coordinated to disrupt a network of tortoise and turtle traffickers referred to as the “[Ninja Turtle Gang](#)” in July and August 2024, resulting in the arrests of six traffickers in Malaysia- four Malaysians and two Cambodians- and the seizure of around 200 Indian star tortoises. The network was alleged to be supplying high value tortoises and turtles for the [pet trade](#) in Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, where [demand is reportedly rising](#).

Read the full Alert [HERE](#)



South Africa → China: CITES protected bird egg trafficking

Asia-based wildlife traffickers are actively sourcing eggs of rare birds, particularly parrots protected under CITES Appendix I and II, from unscrupulous breeders in South Africa. Reportedly, traffickers purchase eggs as close to hatching as possible to improve the birds' chances of survival. Eggs are likely strapped to a carrier's body or wrapped in soft cloth inside [metal boxes](#) or sophisticated [temperature control coolers](#) hidden within hand luggage. Recent cases suggest traffickers move the eggs through Taiwan or Hong Kong and then onwards to China on ferries or other passenger vessels. Within China any viable eggs are further incubated and hatched, then reared and sold to collectors.

Read the full alert [HERE](#).

[More United for Wildlife ALERTS](#)



ADM Capital Foundation: Wildlife and Landscapes Programme

Summaries of recent wildlife related seizures within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region which include insights into the efforts Hong Kong in combatting IWT, analysis from their 'Wildlife Product Seizures' (WiPS) database, and overviews of trade data from ADM-CF, a United for Wildlife Partner.

Download Recent Alerts:

[15 October: 50 EASTERN BOX TURTLES STOLEN \(CITES APP.II\)](#)

[10 October: SHARK FINS, SEA CUCUMBERS AND CHINESE MEDICINE SEIZED](#), (air transport, inbound from Indonesia)

[25 September: RECORD TONNE OF AGARWOOD SEIZED](#), (maritime container, inbound from Nansha, Guangdong, China)

[10 September: 762 KG OF ROSEWOOD LOGS SEIZED](#), (private vehicle)

[More Hong Kong Seizures](#)



CONVERGENCE REPORT

Latest information

ORGANIZED CRIME

[Warehouse raids in Nigeria lead to historic seizure of over 9.4 tonnes of stockpiled pangolin scales](#), Wildlife Justice Commission

[Panama Detains Macaw Egg Smugglers](#), MENAFN

[India's Most Trafficked Wild Animals: A Crisis in Biodiversity](#), The Siasat Daily

[5 tonnes of trafficked glass eels seized and new smuggling routes identified in global operation](#), Europol

[Wildlife traffickers' new routes](#), The East African

[Peruvian police seize 1.3 tons of shark fins](#), RTL Today

PANDEMIC DISEASE

[Risk Analysis of Zoonosis Along the Bushmeat Value Chain in Cameroon](#), TRAFFIC

CORRUPTION

[How Traffickers Got Away with the Biggest Rosewood Heist in History](#), YaleEnvironment 360

[Will Nepal's Elite Finally Be Held Accountable for Wildlife Crimes?](#), Foreign Policy

CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND EXTINCTION RISK

[Tanzania Pushes for More Elephant Hunting Permits Amid Controversy](#), iAfrica

[WWF report offers glimmer of conservation hope — yet warns of a planet in peril](#), Mongabay

[Small sharks, big problems: DNA analysis of small fins reveals trade regulation gaps and burgeoning trade in juvenile sharks](#), Science Advances

LIVE ANIMAL TRAFFICKING

[Does parrot farming protect wild species? Wildlife trade researchers review the evidence](#), The Conversation

[Uzbekistan: Attempt to smuggle 400 turtles prevented in Tashkent region](#), UZ Daily

[South Africa exports millions of creatures great and small in shadowy global wildlife trade](#), Daily Maverick

[Chennai Customs seize four Siamang Gibbons, 52 green iguanas from Malaysian passenger at airport](#), The New Indian Express

[A review of commercial captive breeding of parrots as a supply-side intervention to address unsustainable trade](#), Conservation Biology

[Thai nationals arrested for smuggling wildlife from Indonesia](#), Thaiger

NEW: RESEARCH AND TOOLS TO COMBAT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

[TRAFFIC calls for increased attention to Central Asia's wildlife trade](#), TRAFFIC

[How you can avoid buying trafficked plants](#), Kew Royal Botanic Gardens

[A review of shipping companies' carriage policies on international shark fin trade](#), WWF

[Mapping illegal trade routes of live cheetahs from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula](#), Conservation Biology

ONLINE ILLEGAL TRADE

[MONITORING ONLINE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE: INSIGHTS FROM Brazil and South Africa](#), Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

NOTE: If you encounter suspicious wildlife content online, such as ads or social media posts/videos for live animals or products for sale, report the content directly through the [Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online reporting form](#). For more information on which species to watch for, check out the details in this bulletin as well as the Coalition's [prohibited content policy](#).

The Coalition recently flagged the issue of taxidermied bats being sold online with relevant companies who have since prohibited them and removed associated content. If you see these popping up again, please help report directly on the platforms.

Want to join the Coalition? [Contact the team](#)



TAKING ACTION

News, success stories, and best practice from and for Taskforce members



NEW Free Online Course: [“Illegal Wildlife Trade - Introduction to Counter Wildlife Trafficking in Maritime Supply Chains”](#)

The e-course has been developed by the International Maritime Organization ([IMO](#)), in collaboration with the World Maritime University ([WMU](#)) and the World Wide Fund for Nature ([WWF](#)). The self-paced virtual course covers the concepts of illegal wildlife trade, concealment methods, red flag indicators and the possible measures that each actor in the maritime supply chain can take to help stop this illegal trade.

To register for the course, visit the [course page](#) on IMO’s e-learning platform.



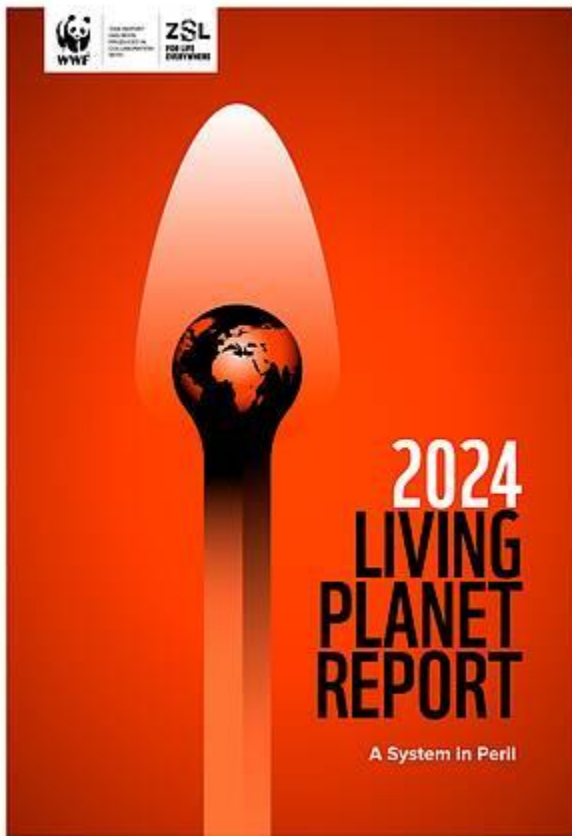
FREE Transport Sector Training Materials

[TRAFFIC](#) makes available [numerous resources](#) from a variety of partners, including United for Wildlife, to support the transport sector to counter wildlife trafficking and build employees capacity to prevent, detect and report the illegal wildlife trade.

These include training for

- Airlines- [ROUTES Partnership](#)
- Shippers- [Infographic](#) and [Key Preventive Measures](#)
- Ports- [PORTS & THE SUPPLY CHAIN ONLINE COURSE](#)
- Freight Forwarders- [FIATA-TRAFFIC digital course on the prevention of wildlife trafficking](#)

And MUCH MUCH MORE, accessible [HERE](#)



[WWF: Living Planet Report](#)

The latest edition of the Living Planet Report, which measures the average change in population sizes of more than 5,000 vertebrate species, shows a decline of 73% between 1970 and 2020. Importantly, the report notes that dangerous tipping points are approaching as the cumulative impacts of biodiversity loss drivers compound.

[Download the report](#)

Forging new partnerships to tackle environmental crime in Nigeria

[Environmental Investigation Agency \(EIA\)](#), a United for Wildlife Partner, has signed an historic agreement with Nigeria's leading agency responsible for tackling corruption in the public sector, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Crimes Commission (ICPC), recognising the need for increased transparency and accountability to address environmental crime. EIA has been working for almost five years in Nigeria and in West and Central Africa, developing the capacity of investigators, raising awareness and understanding among prosecutors and the judiciary, forging relationships with the public and private financial sectors and assessing and developing new endangered species legislation, in addition to supporting civil society organisations in the region.

[Read the full press release!](#)



[WWF: Nature's Technicians: The amazing ways in which wild animals maintain our world](#)

Nature's Technicians illustrates the vital roles that healthy wildlife populations play in a range of services crucial for our own existence—from seed dispersal, pollination, and pest control to soil maintenance, nutrient cycling, and flood mitigation—showing how they are the essential building blocks of functional ecosystems that are integral to the well-being of human societies.

The paper provides vital context to understand the larger harms related to biodiversity loss driven by wildlife trafficking.

[Download the report](#)

Offender Data

Publicly Available Information



DATA

1. Download: [Alleged offender data](#) collated by the **United for Wildlife Southeast Asia and Australasia Chapter**.
2. Access a sample offender dataset developed by the [Environmental Investigation Agency's](#) Media Monitoring Programme (MMP) [HERE](#), and learn how to sign up to receive the data directly [HERE](#).

Live Wildlife Seizures

Resources to identify and care for live animals



United for Wildlife collates valuable resources to aid in identifying wildlife in trade; safely handling and caring for seized live animals; and guidelines for repatriation or other actions.

[Download Live Animals Seizure Information](#)

Resources Index

Training, Tools, Data, and
Information

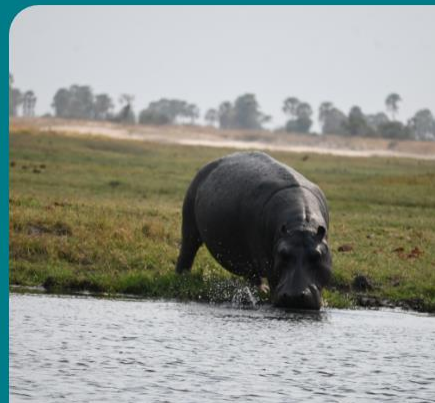


The Resource Index provides access to tools to increase understanding of corruption risks and IWT, the latest training for how to combat wildlife trafficking, red flag indicator compendiums, and more.

[Download the Resources Index.](#)

Regional Wildlife Trafficking Assessments

Supporting United for Wildlife Members and
Partners



United for Wildlife develops Regional Assessments in support of Members and Partners. These products are designed for analysts in the transport and finance sector to increase awareness and understanding of current wildlife trafficking trends and typologies, aid in developing and improving risk profile tools, and to enhanced due diligence processes and protocols.

Read assessments on the below regions:

[United Kingdom](#)

[North America](#)

[Middle East and North Africa](#)

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About

United for Wildlife Taskforce Intelligence Bulletins are joint monthly advisories for both Buckingham Palace and Mansion House Declaration Signatories on issues of high concern related to wildlife trafficking and the finance and transport sector, and are a core output of the Taskforce Information Sharing System.

Sharing

United for Wildlife Taskforce Bulletins are for limited distribution within the transport, finance, and law enforcement sectors only and should not be released publicly. We encourage you however to share these Bulletins with colleagues from within the finance and transport industries or law enforcement who may find them useful.

Disclaimer

This Bulletin is provided for information purposes only. The Taskforce has high confidence in the analysis and findings presented in this bulletin unless otherwise noted, and while every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy of this information, no warranty is made on the accuracy or reliability of this information.

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Contact

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