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# BULLETIN UPDATE

**Bulletin | 1 October 2024**

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

**This Edition of the Monthly Bulletin:**

**1) identifies publicly available datasets to improve risk screening for United for Wildlife Members and Partners**

2) provides resources to improve understanding of the illegal trade in non-charismatic species

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## Open Source Offender Data



### 1. **United for Wildlife Southeast Asia and Australasia Chapter- OSINT Tracker**

Wildlife trafficking offender data is collated by the SEA Chapter and updated monthly for the United for Wildlife Taskforce. This data features details on nearly 400 arrests of individuals alleged to be trafficking wildlife globally over the past twelve months.

Download: [Alleged offender data](#)

### 2. **[Environmental Investigation Agency](#) Media Monitoring Programme (MMP)**

The Media Monitoring Programme helps financial institutions to curb the huge money flows associated with wildlife and environmental crimes such as the illicit trades relating to elephants, pangolins, rhinos, Asian big cats and totoaba fish, as well as timber from illegal logging.

The programme aims to compile information from a range of open media sources naming individuals implicated in wildlife crime. This information is provided to financial institutions to assist with due diligence and Know Your Customer checks to help them avoid doing business

with wildlife traffickers. The MMP therefore provides a framework for effective information-sharing with the financial sector, facilitating improved due diligence and risk monitoring.

Access a sample offender dataset [HERE](#), and learn how to sign up to receive the data directly to your inbox [HERE](#).

### **3. OxPeckers- #WildEye**

Oxpeckers is a [data-driven journalism](#) organization which sources, aggregates and analyses data to help track and expose eco-offences across international borders.

**Mapping environmental crime:** Use Oxpeckers' [#WildEye system](#) to track seizures, arrests, court cases & convictions across the globe.

Sign up to receive up to date alleged offender data [HERE](#).

### **4. ADM Capital Foundation's Wildlife and Landscapes Programme: Seizure Alerts**

Sign up to the ADM-CF '**Seizure Alerts**' mailing list to receive insights into the efforts of the Hong Kong Government in combatting the illegal wildlife trade, analysis from ADM-CF's 'Wildlife Product Seizures' (WiPS) database and overviews of trade data (e.g., CITES Trade Database).

Sign up to the mailing list [HERE](#). Read recent Seizure Alerts [HERE](#).

### **5. TRAFFIC: TimberStats**

[TimberStats](#) is a new, interactive, data-driven platform that will aid law enforcement and governments in monitoring the timber trade and detecting illegal shipments.

TimberStats [catalogue of over 120 free and open datasets](#) offers information on logging permits, wildlife trade, public officials' assets, and government contracts. These datasets could be vital for identifying corruption red flags.

Email TRAFFIC with inquiries, or to request training on how to utilize the data: [timberstats@traffic.org](mailto:timberstats@traffic.org)

Learn more about the program [HERE](#).

Download the dataset [HERE](#).

HOME INFO RESOURCES

# TimberStats

An interactive, data-driven platform to aid law enforcement and governments in monitoring the timber trade and detecting illegal shipments.

**NICFI** Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative

**TRAFFIC**

This tool is funded by Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), hosted by TRAFFIC and developed by M.A.P Scientific Services.

**ANNUAL TRADE STATISTICS DASHBOARD**

**ANNUAL TRADE DISCREPANCIES DASHBOARD**

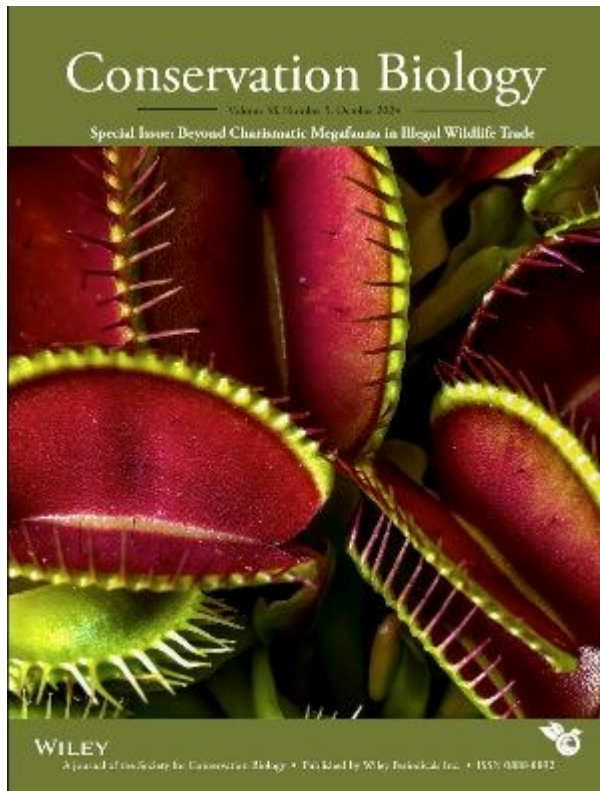
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## Special Feature: Trafficking in non- charismatic species



According to the most recent [United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime World Wildlife Report](#), the illegal wildlife trade impacts at least 4,000 species of flora and fauna. While the focus often remains on charismatic megafauna, traffickers exploit wildlife species ranging from rare cacti to flying squirrels, and increasingly utilize online platforms to locate new sources of wildlife and identify new markets. To better inform Task Force Members and Partners on trends, typologies, and modus operandi related to the trade in non-charismatic species, this

Special Feature highlights important research and scholarly work in addition to United for Wildlife publications.



**Conservation Biology: Volume 38, Issue 5: Special Issue: Beyond Charismatic Megafauna in Illegal Wildlife Trade"**

This journal focuses on often overlooked species in the illegal trade, highlighting the need for broader conservation efforts to protect a wider range of animals affected by the trade.

Download the issue [HERE](#).



[Monitor Conservation Research Society \(MCRS\)](#), a **United for Wildlife Partner**, focuses on **lesser-known species and issues in wildlife trade**.

Recent publications include:

[Trade in Native Birds At Chatuchak Weekend Market, Bangkok, Thailand](#)

[A newly emerging trade in New Guinea's butcherbirds \(Cracticinae\) in Indonesia](#)

[Live owls in Japanese pet stores and cafés: Volumes, species, and impediments to effective trade monitoring](#)

[The Trade of Porcupines in Malaysia With International Trade Links](#)

[Observation of threatened pinyon jays \*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus\* in the EU pet market](#)

Read more MCRS publications [HERE](#).





### [TRAFFIC Publications](#)

TRAFFIC, a United for Wildlife Partner, is an international NGO which monitors the wildlife trade, focusing on preserving biodiversity and sustainable legal wildlife trade while working against unsustainable illegal [wildlife](#) trade. They report on a diversity of wildlife products and geographies, from [caterpillar fungus in India](#) to [CITES-listed species in the EU](#).

Read TRAFFIC reports on:

[Mammals](#)

[Birds](#)

[Marine Species](#)

[Invertebrates](#)

[Reptiles and Amphibians](#)

[Flora](#)

[United for Wildlife ALERTS Library](#)

**Since 2020 United for Wildlife has shared more than 200 Alerts with Task Force Members and Partners. A selection of Alerts focused on non-charismatic species are linked below.**

[Sea cucumber trafficking hotspots in Southern India and Sri Lanka](#)

[Pet trafficking, including bats and primates with high disease risks, prevalent in Japan](#)

[Million dollar flying squirrel trafficking ring supplying wild animal cafes in South Korea, convergence with pandemic risk](#)

[Threatened seahorse populations at increased risks from illegal export to supply traditional Chinese medicine](#)

[Reptile and amphibian trade fairs hubs for live animal trafficking in Europe](#)

[Giant Clam trafficking in the Philippines linked to organized crime; possible ivory replacement](#)

[SINGAPORE illegal bird trade thrives online](#)

[Leopard skins and parts trafficking INDIA](#)

[Live great ape trafficking accelerating](#)

[Shark squalene IWT risk exposure](#)

[Live hornbill trade Philippines](#)

[Red siskin trafficking VENEZUELA](#)

[Lemur tortoise seizure THAILAND MADAGASCAR](#)

[Bat decor wildlife trafficking pandemic disease risks](#)

**All of the publicly available United for Wildlife Alerts can be accessed [HERE](#).**





## **ORGANIZED CRIME**

[Inside Argentina's Biggest Wildlife Trafficking Bust](#), Insight Crime

[SANParks | Almost a million plant species poached in the last five years \(video\)](#), SABC News

[Western Cape gang monitor \(South Africa\)](#), Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

[Liberia: Grand Gedeh Wildlife Trafficking 'Kingpin' Amadou Bah Arrested](#), Front Page Africa

## **PANDEMIC DISEASE**

[Possible Cluster of Human Bird-Flu Infections Expands in Missouri](#), The New York Times

## **CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND EXTINCTION RISK**

[Conservationists decry drought-hit Namibia's plan to cull national park wild animals for meat](#),

Daily Maverick

[Sri Lanka completes first elephant census since 2011 amid uncertainty](#), Mongabay

## **LIVE ANIMAL TRAFFICKING**

[Data Sources: Trafficking Baby Gorillas \(video\)](#), ARTE

[Officials seize exotic animals at Türkiye's Pazarkule border, including kangaroos and parrots](#),

Türkiye Today

[Man gets 9 months' jail for smuggling arowanas into Singapore](#), CNA

[Australian wildlife-smuggling trade laid bare in first detailed study tracking global animal sales](#),

ABC

[New Study Urges Caution Over Growing Trade in Captive-bred parrots](#), World Animal

Protection

[Unveiling Japan's Owl Trade: Volume, Diversity, and Conservation Implications](#), Monitor

Conservation Research Society

[Smuggler With 195 Star Tortoises Arrested Along Indo-Bangladesh Border](#), NDTV

[Accused reptile trader faces 500-plus charges](#), Star Journal

## ONLINE ILLEGAL TRADE

[‘You could single-handedly push it to extinction’: how social media is putting our rarest wildlife at risk](#), The Guardian

[The Shocking Journey Of Lizard Penis Into People’s Homes](#), Forbes

[Digital Black Markets Threaten Costa Rica’s Unique Wildlife](#), Tico Times

- 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 on the site (i.e. Facebook) or 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](#)

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

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## TAKING ACTION

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



**SINGAPORE: Wildlife Trade Offences to Be Included As Serious Offences Under the Organised Crime Act 2015**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will be including wildlife trade offences as serious offences in the Schedule of the Organised Crime Act 2015 (OCA) with effect from 30 August 2024. The OCA was enacted in 2015 to empower law enforcement agencies with additional levers to deal with organised crime activities in Singapore. MHA, in consultation with the Ministry of National Development, has decided to include wildlife trade offences as serious offences in the Schedule of the OCA. The Annex lists the specific offences which will be included in the Schedule.

International wildlife trafficking operates through a sophisticated cross-border supply chain. There is a risk that OCGs in Singapore could get involved in the trade. The inclusion of wildlife trade offences as serious offences in the Schedule of the OCA is thus a proactive measure to enhance deterrence, and empower the authorities to enforce against and cripple the operations of these OCGs, should such activities emerge in Singapore in the future.

Read the full press release [HERE](#).

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# Resources Index

Training, Tools, Data, and  
Information



Updated monthly by the Intelligence Sharing System (ISS), 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. Access the Resources Index [HERE](#). To contribute an entry, email the ISS [HERE](#).

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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.

Any and all company or individual decisions and the consequences of those decisions made based on or informed by this information are the sole responsibility of the persons and organizations making such decisions.

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**Contact**

For questions or additional data/analysis relevant to this Bulletin and the Alerts, please reply to this message or contact your relevant United for Wildlife Taskforce points of contact:

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