OUT OF AFRICA:
Byting Down on Wildlife Cybercrime
CONTENTS

1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2
2 | BACKGROUND 4
3 | RESEARCHING ONLINE WILDLIFE TRADE IN AFRICA 5
4 | KEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE 7
5 | METHODOLOGY 9
6 | CITES AND WILDLIFE CYBERCRIME 10
7 | OUR PARTNERS 11
8 | INTERNET USE IN AFRICA 13
9 | SUMMARY RESULTS 14
10 | RESULTS BY COUNTRY 19
   SOUTH AFRICA • NIGERIA • IVORY COAST • KENYA • TANZANIA • UGANDA • ETHIOPIA
11 | CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 29
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has been researching the threat that online wildlife trade poses to endangered species since 2004. During that time, our research in over 25 countries around the globe has revealed the vast scale of trade in wildlife and their parts and products on the world’s largest marketplace, the Internet - a market that is open for business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Whilst legal trade exists in respect of many species of wildlife, online platforms can provide easy opportunities for criminal activities. Trade over the Internet is often largely unregulated and anonymous, often with little to no monitoring or enforcement action being taken against wildlife cybercriminals. In addition, cyber-related criminal investigations are complicated by jurisdictional issues, with perpetrators in different geographical locations and laws differing from country to country. This poses a serious threat to the survival of some of the world’s most iconic species and the welfare of individual animals.

This research is part of a broader project to address wildlife cybercrime in Africa, funded by the US government’s Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The wider project included researching trade in elephant, rhino and tiger products over the ‘Darknet’; providing training on investigating wildlife cybercrime to enforcers in South Africa and Kenya; ensuring policy makers addressed the threat of wildlife cybercrime through adopting Decision 17.92 entitled Combatting Wildlife Cybercrime at the CoP17 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Johannesburg 2016; carrying out a review of legislation as it pertains to wildlife cybercrime; and providing training to online technology companies to assist with the effective implementation of their policies.

Research focused on online marketplaces and social media platforms utilised by traders stating they were based in Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. In most cases, this meant focusing on trading platforms based in those specific countries, but researchers also identified traders stating they were based in South Africa using international Alibaba and eBay sites.
In total, IFAW researchers identified 990 endangered and threatened wildlife advertisements across 33 online marketplaces and three social media platforms during a six-week period across seven African countries. Sellers offered for sale a total of 9,481 specimens of animals which are listed on Appendix I and II of CITES or that are protected by national or provincial laws in the relevant country/jurisdiction. The total value of all such goods for sale was approximately US $5,828,608.

Although crocodiles and alligators (a species not endemic to Africa) make up over two thirds of specimens for sale, elephant, snake and parrot specimens were also offered for sale in significant numbers – with elephant hair items, rather than ivory, making up the bulk of elephant product advertisements. A total of 123 cat specimens - including products and live animals - were also identified, as well as 27 rhino specimens including live white rhinos and black and white rhino horn for sale.

Our research reveals that South Africa and Nigeria have significant levels of trade in these protected species, with 718 and 219 advertisements respectively totalling 9,357 wildlife specimens for sale, with a corresponding higher risk of facilitating illegal wildlife trade. In contrast, the Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia had very little wildlife for sale.

Online marketplaces make up the majority of trade identified in this research, hosting 887 advertisements (90 per cent). Whilst representing a much smaller amount of trade than traditional online marketplaces, social media platforms are also being used to host wildlife trade in South Africa, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast. The scale may be higher than this report indicates, as trade on these platforms is particularly hard to identify and quantify.

Although it is not possible to tell how many of the total specimens recorded were being traded legally or illegally, 33 information logs representing 392 advertisements in total from this research were handed over to national enforcers for further investigation, identifying traders stating they were based in South Africa, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast. Researchers used a number of indicators to identify potential breaches of legislation, for example instances of CITES Appendix II listed species being offered for sale internationally without any reference to CITES permits. Whilst this in itself is not against the law as there is no legal requirement to reference permitting online, this may provide a reason to research a particular advertisement further.

Whilst wildlife trade continues to threaten the future of many of the world’s most endangered species and African consumers gain growing access to the Internet and social media, it is essential that online platforms and governments take action to raise consumer awareness and tackle the challenges of online wildlife trade. This includes supporting improved enforcement efforts, engaging with online technology companies and strengthening national legislation to help combat wildlife cybercrime.
Since the development of the Internet and its transformation of our ways of communicating and carrying out business, the situation facing the world’s wildlife has deteriorated significantly. Alongside pressures from habitat destruction, human/wildlife conflict, climate change and wildlife trade, the Internet poses an additional challenge to the future of endangered species.

Whilst legal trade exists in respect of many species of wildlife, online platforms provide easy opportunities for criminals to advertise their illegal products. Trade over the Internet is often largely unregulated and anonymous, often with little to no monitoring or enforcement action being taken against wildlife cybercriminals. In addition, cyber-related criminal investigations are complicated by jurisdictional issues, with perpetrators in different geographical locations and laws differing from country to country. Online trade inevitably becomes offline trade when the product is shipped from the trader to the buyer, at which point it becomes subject to traditional enforcement methods used to detect and monitor crime. Whilst some enforcement agencies are yet to develop strategies to address wildlife cybercrime they may be focusing on disrupting the supply chain through seizures at ports of entry and exist.

In order to understand the nature of the threat posed by online wildlife trade IFAW has been carrying out research on this issue since 2004. Over that time, our research of over 25 countries around the globe has revealed the vast scale of trade in wildlife and their parts and products on the world’s largest marketplace, the Internet - a market that is open for business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. IFAW’s 2008 report Killing with Keystrokes identified 7,122 advertisements offering trade in endangered wildlife over a six-week period across eight countries. A follow up report Wanted - Dead or Alive: Exposing Online Wildlife Trade in 2014 found 9,482 similar advisements offering a total of 33,006 endangered wildlife specimens for sale in 16 different countries, worth nearly US $11 million. As a result of that survey, 1,192 intelligence files – almost 13 per cent of advertisements - were submitted to law enforcers for further investigation into potential criminal activity. Both reports found significant numbers of elephant products and exotic birds as the specimens most widely offered for sale over the Internet, with the latter report also finding reptiles and their products in a quarter of all advertisements.

A growing number of online platforms are adopting policies specifically targeting wildlife cybercrime, but there are still many companies not meeting this basic standard. This poses a serious threat to the survival of some of the world’s most iconic species and the welfare of individual animals. As more parts of the world gain access to technology and connectivity along supply chain routes, the Internet offers a thriving platform for buyers and sellers to trade illegal wildlife specimens. IFAW reports on this trade have led to an acknowledgement by many governments, enforcement agencies and online technology companies that online wildlife crime is a significant problem.
This report outlines the results of IFAW’s research into online wildlife trade over online marketplaces and social media platforms across seven African countries. The purpose of IFAW’s research in Africa was to:

- Measure the scale and nature of the trade across both online marketplaces and social media platforms utilised by traders in Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. This included sites hosted in those countries as well as international sites utilised by traders stating that they were based in those countries. Researchers classed traders as operating in a particular country based on the seller location details provided in each advertisement.

- Assess whether the growth in Internet access across the continent has corresponded with wildlife criminals using the internet to facilitate their illegal trade.

- Identify advertisements and posts, and thereby traders, who could potentially be in breach of national and/or international conventions and therefore worthy of further investigation by national enforcers.

- Identify countries where wildlife cybercrime could be a potential risk for endangered wildlife and therefore where there is the greatest need for enforcement capacity and knowledge as well as the need for clear, robust legislation addressing online wildlife crime and the increased engagement of the online companies themselves.

---

Social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were included in this research after our review of the online wildlife trade in China as presented in IFAW’s report *Wanted - Dead or Alive* revealed a shift away from selling wildlife products via online marketplaces to more private online forums and social media platforms. Baidu Tieba (Bar), an online public forum, for example, was responsible for 55 per cent of trade in China in that survey, hosting 1,154 advertisements. That investigation also showed that a good proportion of sellers used social media as the main method of contact between sellers and buyers.

As in previous surveys, IFAW researchers focused on online marketplaces and forums on the ‘Surface Web’ where sites are freely available to the public. Outside of the scope of this research is the threat posed to wildlife by the ‘Darknet’, a part of the Internet which is hidden and anonymous, and which disguises the identity and location of users. Many illegal activities, such as trade in drugs, weapons and child pornography have moved onto the Darknet where perpetrators have a greater level of anonymity than over the surface web. Research into any illegal wildlife trade on the Darknet will be addressed in a separate project led by INTERPOL.

In total, IFAW researchers identified 990 advertisements in seven different African countries across 33 online marketplaces and three social media platforms over a six-week period. Sellers offered 9,481 specimens of live animals and parts and products, with crocodiles and alligators making up over 76 per cent of posts. Elephant parts and products were the second most common specimens for sale, including 765 elephant hair bracelets and a number of ivory items. One hundred and twenty-three cat specimens, including products and live animals, were offered for sale. Researchers also identified 27 rhino specimens offered for sale, including live white rhinos and black and white rhino horn. The total value of all goods for sale was approximately US $5,828,608.
77% of specimens offered in all adverts were for crocodile and alligator species.

38% of adverts offered elephant products for sale.

33 information logs handed to enforcers due to suspected illegality. The logs included 392 advertisements.

9,481 total number of wildlife specimens found for sale.

36 number of online marketplace and social media platforms surveyed.

$5,828,608 total cost of all items found.

92% / 8% total parts and products of wildlife specimens compared to number of live animal specimens for sale.
Total number advertisements
990

1. Appendix I/II: 501 (50.61%)
2. Appendix II: 253 (25.56%)
3. Appendix I: 191 (19.29%)
4. Other (Appendix III and domestic legislation): 45 (4.54%)

Total specimens
9,481

1. Appendix I/II: 8,184 (86.32%)
2. Appendix II: 867 (9.14%)
3. Appendix I: 346 (3.65%)
4. Other (Appendix III and domestic legislation): 84 (0.88%)
5 METHODOLOGY

FAWA's research in Africa took place during the middle of 2016 and in 2017 across seven countries, looking at both free wild animals and their derivative parts and products of species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendices I and II. The research also included several other species of national concern which are protected by CITES Appendices II or national or provincial laws, as identified by local wildlife conservation experts. The research was carried out in four phases:

- **Phase one - preparation**
  Identifying the lead online marketplaces, social media platforms, species and associated search terms, as well as languages that would be included in the search criteria.

- **Phase two - selection and familiarisation**
  Selecting the terms identified in phase one through applying them in a pilot study and refining the criteria as required. This also provided an opportunity for discontinuing research in countries where the scale of the trade was negligible.

- **Phase three - research**
  Systematically researching the targets for a period of six weeks, ensuring all data was recorded in a standardised format.

- **Phase four - analysis and reporting**
  Analysing the research results to identify trends and traders who may require further investigation by enforcement authorities. Where researchers identified that a trader could be in breach of applicable laws, an information log was created and submitted to a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) at a national enforcement agency.

Researchers aimed to only record advertisements that were posted in the two months prior to the date of each survey, although with some websites this was more difficult when no data was provided for other advertisements were first posted.

In order to gather as complete a picture of trade as possible, FAWA researchers recorded both the number of advertisements posted on relevant sites across the survey period, as well as the number of species and specimens offered for sale in those advertisements. One single advertisement may offer multiple and different kinds of animals for sale, which poses a challenge when representing data in the summary tables of this report. Multiple species offered in one advertisement are clearly represented in the ‘Total specimens’ data column in the summary tables, but may be under-represented in the ‘Total advertisements’ column, as we have had to select just one species to represent each advertisement.

In a previous survey by FAWA, researchers identified a number of ‘scams’ that were not included in the survey results. These are false advertisements that were commonly offered live lizards, prawns and cats for sale, aiming to solicit funds from an unsuspecting buyer for something that doesn't exist. These were particularly an issue for researchers on Nigerian websites. False advertisements are often identified through the use of poor language or repeated phrasing, the offering of many different species of animals and eggs for sale or offering specimens that are considerably under-valued, as well as the use of stock photos. Efforts have been made to identify possible scam traders and therefore exclude their advertisements from this research.
CITES controls international trade in wildlife - or their parts and products - through a system of permits or certificates for species listed on the Convention’s appendices, to ensure that trade does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild. Trade that takes place without the required certificate or permit is illegal.

CITES is not self-executing, therefore member states must ratify the convention and transpose the convention into national legislation for it to be implemented by enforcers at the national level. Some countries go over and above the requirements of the CITES convention when they create their national legislation. CITES does not govern domestic trade in endangered species; however, countries can place restrictions on their domestic trade by creating national legislation designed for this purpose.

However, compared to conventional marketplaces, distinguishing legal trade from illegal trade is particularly challenging over the Internet, especially given the vast amount of electronic traffic. Items cannot be examined in person and there is usually little, if any, supporting documentation such as CITES or other national or provincial permits or certificate numbers provided to indicate that the trade is legitimate. Sellers are also not required by law to state in an advertisement that such documentation may be required at the point of sale. Sometimes the item may be disguised as another product, such as ivory being described as ‘ox bone’, while the traders’ identity may not be immediately obvious. Items offered on the Internet can be purchased by either local or international traders and therefore it can be challenging to identify whether CITES or other domestic legislation governs the sale.

IFAW has been championing the issue of wildlife cybercrime on the global stage at meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES since 2007. At CITES CoP17 hosted in Johannesburg in 2016, the Parties adopted Decision 17.92, tabled by Kenya, on Combatting Wildlife Cybercrime. This aims to bring together governments, enforcers and online technology companies in a common mission to save wildlife.

The Decision encourages Parties to establish best-practice on any enforcement taken to address illegal online wildlife trade, including working with INTERPOL to establish guidelines for investigations. It also encourages members to ensure they have relevant legislation in place to address this issue and to increase their engagement with online marketplaces and social media platforms.
7 | OUR PARTNERS

In addition to bringing this issue to the attention of policy-makers through IUCN, IFAW also works tirelessly around the clock to help prevent illegal wildlife trade.

1. Supporting enforcement by building their knowledge and expertise. This has included working with NGOs and partners to provide training to enforcement officers including police, specialized wildlife units, customs officials, and veterinary officials from over 20 African countries including Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon and South Africa. Results of peer and post-assessments of individuals who have undergone the training show an increase in overall score on research techniques ranging from around 50-60 per cent to 80-90 per cent.

2. Providing information to online technology companies that will inform the development of stronger policies and assist with their successful implementation. Results from previous IFAW research have led to many online marketplaces introducing new and strengthened policies to make their customers more aware of the risks of protecting endangered wildlife. This includes:

   - In 2009 Alibaba, the world’s largest business-to-business site for traders, agreed to ban all online postings of elephant ivory, rhino horn, shark fins and other protected wild animal and plant species.
   - In May 2012, based on information provided by IFAW, Alibaba—the world’s largest Chinese language search engine—shut down 18 specific wildlife trading forums called ‘bar’ by its users. Tiger bones ran from bar on Alibaba and removed over 340,000 postings of endangered species in illegal trade.
   - In 2009, eBay banned the sale of all ivory items on its platform.
   - In 2013, eBay banned the sale of ivory and all other products made from endangered species from its online marketplaces.
   - In 2014, the Chinese company Tencent—out of the largest internet companies in the world and owner of WeChat and QQ—announced Tencent

for the ‘Plan to Say No to Wildlife Trade’ which includes a commitment to educate users on all of its microblogging platforms about specific conservation and endangered wildlife trade. Build monitoring capacities of staff with wildlife conservation and species identification knowledge and remove infringing listings on WeChat.

   - In 2014, seven companies— namely eBay, Etsy, Gumtree, Microsoft, Pinterest, Tencent and Facebook adopted a global, standardized wildlife policy framework in collaboration with IFAW, including IFAW’s tips for shopping guidelines for consumers, identify prohibited products and eliminate the loopholes that make it easy for criminals to traffic wildlife online.

3. Identifying and supporting governments in strengthening legislation. The Czech Republic took this policy area by creating a specific legal targeting online wildlife trade. Our work identifying the threat of online illegal wildlife trade was key to strengthening legislation in China and France. The law in the United Kingdom is also currently being amended to address the risk posed to wildlife online.

4. Working with computer experts to develop technical solutions. IFAW has shared our knowledge and expertise with academics in order to support the development of data mining tools. New York University is in the process of developing their ‘Enforcement Gap Interface’ (EGI), a cutting-edge tool that uses a computer vision algorithm to mine hundreds of Internet sites for advertisements potentially containing illegal wildlife and wildlife products. The Cornell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (CICE) and the University of Kent created a tool that automates the search for potentially illegal ivory sales online. These data-mining tools are highly innovative and more work still needs to be carried out to identify if and how these tools can be used in practice by enforcement, academics, NGOs and online technology companies.
IWF's research into wildlife trade has contributed to multiple arrests and seizures by enforcement agencies. These include:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with support from research provided by IWF and other NGOs, documented illegal wildlife transactions during the course of Operation Wild Net. As a result of the broad-scale investigation, state and federal prosecutors ultimately filed over 600 charges. Officers seized the parts of endangered cats such as Black-footed Felids, leopards, and jaguars; live migratory birds and migratory land mammals; sea turtle shells and sea turtle skin; ivory, whale teeth, and pangolin and wildlife ivory.

- Law enforcement officials from the Australian Department of Environment recorded illegal ivory products with an estimated value of up to AUD 380,000-500,000 based on intelligence provided by IWF.

- Russian enforcement authorities carried out three controlled takedown of a leopard, a polar bear and a tiger skin leading to the house arrest of a suspect.

- French customs officials, following initial information from IWF on leopard products being offered for sale online by a certain trader, went on to seize four elephant tusks from the same trader.
Across Africa, challenges with access to the Internet, its affordability and the quality of service means that whilst the continent’s proportion of the global population is 15 per cent, its percentage of global Internet users is only six per cent. But access in certain regions is growing fast: continent-wide, Internet penetration levels are around 20 per cent and rising, although rates differ hugely from country to country. Mobile subscriptions are just under 70 per cent and mobile broadband access accounts for more than 90 per cent of Internet subscriptions. Work is now taking place to improve the current conditions in which Internet subscribers in Africa can pay up to 30 or 40 times more for Internet access than users in developed countries².

South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya have comparatively high Internet access rates, which may in part explain why these countries were identified as the top three for online wildlife trade of the countries surveyed. Given the significant growth in mobile communications and Internet penetration across the continent, trade in wildlife may be brought to a much larger market in the not distant future.

Reptiles
Looking at the total number of specimens offered for sale across all 990 adverts identified by researchers, reptiles were by far the most common species identified in trade at 82 per cent. This included 7,263 crocodile and alligator specimens (77 per cent of total specimens) and 497 snake specimens (five per cent of specimens). The majority of these reptile specimens were parts and products rather than live animals. Crocodiles and snakes were the most numerous specimens for sale by traders stating they were based in South Africa and Nigeria, bolstered by individual wholesale traders in South Africa offering large quantities of Nile crocodile belts, wallets and bags for sale. Captive-breeding of crocodiles for the leather industry is legal in South Africa, which could explain this high figure. South African sellers also offered 122 live snakes for sale, including many Dumeril’s boa and ball python specimens.

Mammals
Mammals were featured in over half of all advertisements identified in this survey, and were the second most numerous specimens offered for sale, considering the total number of items offered across all advertisements. Elephant products were the highest number of mammal specimens for sale, with 876 specimens offered in advertisements. This included South African sellers offering 765 elephant hair bracelets as well as a number of ivory jewellery items, sculptures and whole tusks. Without access to the physical product, researchers were unable to verify whether the bracelets were made from genuine elephant hair.

In total, 123 cat specimens were offered for sale including live lions, tigers, cheetahs and caracals. Lion, cheetah and leopard products such as skin and taxidermy were also listed in adverts, as well as lion claws.
Researchers also found 54 giraffe, 41 primate, 30 whale and 27 rhino specimens including live white rhinos and black and white rhino horn for sale.

Ivory and suspected ivory advertisements
Ivory derives from the teeth and tusks of various animals including elephant, hippo, whales, walrus and narwhal.

In this report, we have categorised all ivory items under their relevant species category - i.e. as elephant, hippo, whale specimens, etc. However, a small additional category of ‘suspected ivory’ advertisements and specimens includes items which traders identified as ivory and items which, in our informed belief, are likely to be made up of ivory, but where in both instances we have been unable to identify the species the ivory came from.

In total, IFAW identified 63 ivory and suspected ivory advertisements including 28 identified as elephant ivory, 14 as whale ivory, four as walrus ivory, one as hippopotamus ivory and 16 advertisements where we were not able to identify the species. We also identified a few examples of where traders may be seeking to disguise their ivory through the use of code words such as ‘ox bone’ or ‘faux ivory’.

Ivory only featured in six per cent of advertisements – a very small amount compared to other IFAW research of non-African countries. However, ivory items represent some of the most expensive items for sale in this survey.

Birds
Birds were the third most common species to feature in advertisements and the third most numerous in terms of specimens offered across all advertisements.

In terms of total bird specimens for sale, parrots were the most common with 386 birds. Almost all the advertisements were for live animals including cockatoos, macaws, Meyer’s parrots, African grey and Senegal parrots, as well as more unusual species such as Red, White and Yellow-tailed black cockatoos.

Researchers also identified a small number of live ostriches and birds of prey. African grey parrots were uplisted to Appendix I at CITES CoP17 and now therefore receive a higher level of protection than at the time of this research.

Molluscs and fish
IFAW researchers also found a small number of advertisements for protected fish species including live CITES Appendix I-listed Asian Arowana fish and sawfish products as well as live mollusc advertisements for giant clam shells.

African grey parrots

While social media platforms have expanded in recent years, Facebook remains the most active with 71 per cent of users posting at least once per month across all social media platforms.

The social media posts identified by researchers are likely to be an underestimate of actual items for sale on all social media platforms. Social media is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as ‘websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking’. Such applications are focused on communication and, unlike online marketplaces, are not specifically designed to facilitate online trade, although some marketplaces are introducing trading forums. Therefore, measuring the scale and nature of wildlife trade across these diverse platforms is much more challenging.

Communication over these platforms takes many forms with a variety of different privacy settings, making a standardised search method much harder to apply in practice. For example, users can communicate to anyone with internet access, or selected ‘friends’ or ‘followers’ or via closed groups. They may choose to communicate using untraditional language (such as using the hashtag sign followed by a series of words) or they may only communicate using an image. Identifying when an item is being offered for sale or when the item is being traded is also far less clear than over online marketplaces. Often determining the location of an item for sale is very difficult unless the seller provides details or a post is ‘geo-tagged’, i.e. the location of the trader is tagged in the post, which is unusual, thereby making searching for wildlife advertisements very time-consuming.

IFAW has worked with experienced law enforcers to help ensure that their offline investigative experience can be applied to the online environment, in order to best identify wildlife traders operating over social media platforms.

Advertisements handed over to enforcers:
In total, 33 information logs representing 392 advertisements were shared with national enforcers across the countries studied. One information log can include multiple advertisements posted by one seller; therefore, the scale of potential illegality is more significant than the information logs total would suggest.

In addition to assessing trends in the online trade to inform future advocacy and policy, IFAW’s priority in this research was to identify traders who may be worthy of further investigation. The bar for providing information logs for enforcers was set high, given the resources required for a follow-up criminal investigation. Therefore, the information logs focused on traders of which there was potential evidence of illegality.
I. Animals and products available for sale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total ads</th>
<th>Per cent ads</th>
<th>Total specimens for sale in ads</th>
<th>Per cent specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>24.75%</td>
<td>7798</td>
<td>82.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>56.36%</td>
<td>1244</td>
<td>13.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>17.98%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>4.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molluscs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.51%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>990</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
<td><strong>9481</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Country summary for animals and products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No of ads</th>
<th>No of specimens for sale in ads</th>
<th>Live animal specimens</th>
<th>Parts and product specimens for sale</th>
<th>No of online marketplace platforms</th>
<th>No of social media platforms</th>
<th>Information logs provided to enforcers</th>
<th>Value in US $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>8452</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>8030</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$3,876,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$1,947,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$3,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>9481</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>8755</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>33**</td>
<td>$5,828,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This total figure represents the three social media platforms included in the scope of this research, i.e. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
** As one information log may represent multiple advertisements, this figure equates to 392 advertisements.

3. CITES Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITES listing</th>
<th>Total ads</th>
<th>Total specimens for sale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITES Appendix I</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITES Appendix I/II</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>8184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITES Appendix II</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITES Appendix III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non CITES</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>9481</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 | RESULTS BY COUNTRY

South Africa

Table 10.1: Sales data for South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total information log provided to advertisers. 100 equals to 100% advertisements.
Total value of ads in N$ 100 = 10 000 000 000
Total value of ads in local currency. 100 = 10 000 000 000 (South African Rand)

Table 10.2: Sales data for South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A busy online market

Traders stating they were based in South Africa posted, by far, the most advertisements during this survey with 716 advertisements identified, offering a total of 6 952 wildlife specimens for sale. The majority of these were parts and products rather than live animals - 90 per cent.

Some of these advertisers were posted by South African traders or other trade outside of the country such as www.aflor.com and www.aflor2.com, offering their lines for international sale to those regions. For such international trade to go-ahead legally, these traders would need to possess a relevant CITES permit. It would also be an offence under South African law to offer CITES-listed species for sale which were not legally acquired.

Proving the legality of products for sale online is challenging, with no physical access to the item and no documentation provided about the animal, part or product. As in other countries in this survey, some sellers make no mention of providing a certificate of documentation. The CITES permits for a site located under the

19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total specimens</th>
<th>Rare or endangered species</th>
<th>Total specimens</th>
<th>Total % of</th>
<th>Total % of</th>
<th>Total % of</th>
<th>Total % of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahlase</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam monkeys</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blunns hanging</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calf</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocodile anti-agents</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>900000</td>
<td>900000</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephants</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>36.00%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Espan rice</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Python</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacock</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horn</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspended out</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lizard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptile</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhinoceros</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monkey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squirrel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All categories are only for advertisements where we were not able to identify which species or trade form derived from.

Threatened in Protected Species (TSPS) Regulations published in Government Notice 9552 in Government Gazette 29067/1, on 23 February 2007 must with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 107 of 2004. The majority of these are to traders selling elephant hair trinkets.

**Elephant and reptile products dominate trade**

When looking at the number of advertisements, rather than the total number of specimens offered for sale, elephants were the species most commonly featured, occurring in 80% of the advertisements and representing just over half of the trade. Traders—selling to be based in South Africa offered slick elephant items for sale, a large proportion of which were elephant hair trinkets.

The majority of the TSPS trinkets offered for sale by traders were offered overseas, as the international site particularly the USA. The trade dominated the market with 296 advertisements, along with other traders, he or she claimed that the elephant items were collected after being shot in the wild. Expert opinion is that this is not a possible account. However, we should note that we were unable to verify whether these items were trade from genuine elephant items, as we did not have access to the physical product.

As a result of information provided by FWE, these was an increased interest from foreign authorities selling elephant hair out of South Africa. Since this action was taken, FWE researchers carrying out spot
Clouds have not found any elephant hair bracelets on online sites. Other elephant advertisements identified included one on www.alibaba.com offering up to 50 elephant teeth trophies per month, with six mentions of CITES permits, while a second offered for sale 50 elephant tusks weighing 1000kg, with an asking price of US $6.8 million.

Looking at the overall number of specimens offered across all South African advertisements, crocodiles dominate the sales, representing 87% of trade. Only 3% of advertisements were posted for crocodile and alligator hunting. There are not a specific demand for African parts and products but those represent 9,967 specimens, many for sale on www.alibaba.com, a site that supplies businesses as well as individual consumers. One company in the southern Cape region offered international buyers a total of 4,200 units of little crocodile products including trophies, hats, wallets and ties, but made no reference to their advertisements' CITES and TACERS permits that would be necessary for an international sale to go ahead. The large volume of items for sale is perhaps reflective of South Africa's strong business in legally farming captive bred crocodiles for the leather industry.

Worldwide posted the largest number of advertisements in this survey with 45% per cent of trade at online marketplaces, Outdoors was the second most popular site with 47% advertisements representing 10 per cent of trade. Teddys on the site posts 7 adverts and suggested vero advertisements including for curry, soups, and breweries as well as several whole elephant tusks, which the traders asserted in the advertisements were legal. One seller also offered two five cheetahs, also for sale, with no mention of any permits required to sell.

Rhinoceros were the third most common specimen for sale in this survey with 10% per cent of trade, none of which are quite rare and highly valuable. This included one advertisement for Rock, White and Yellow-tailed Black Ocelots, an animal indigenous to Australia and international trade of which is highly restricted under CITES.

EHW also identified a number of websites selling wildlife hunting packages and hunting trophies. One website sold five rhinos with a value reaching based on age of the rhino and size of the horn. Researchers also identified one advert where a South African seller offered a capacity of 600 lion naps for 5,000 each.

**Social Media**

Fifty-one posts in total were identified on South African Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts with Facebook hosting the most trade totaling 59 posts. Two-thirds of the 52 specimens for sale on social media posts were for live animals rather than wildlife products (32 per cent). The most common items for sale were items, particularly that Africa's own on Facebook. Nearly all of these specimens were thought to be captive bred due to high demand for the distinctive colour and pattern of these animals, which fetch many thousands of dollars.

The South African hunting companies used social media to advertise 15 white live rhinos and 14 live lion cubs for sale, using Twitter to link to their websites. A legal trade in live rhinos and lions is permitted within South Africa, as well as the keeping of wildlife, providing relevant provincial and national permits are in place. The same company also posted eight advertisements for four giraffes, rhinos, lion and lion cubs or their own websites during the survey.

Another hunter on Facebook advertised the sale of one white and one black rhino horn, although the seller stated that these were legally harvested and monitored, as well as not being too export suitable of South Africa, trade in rhino horn within the country was prohibited at the time of this survey.

Posts identified on Facebook were mainly for live animals promoted in open groups or online communities or a particular subject—in this case, generally related to trading in exotic animals, and mammals. The group were open, i.e. anyone with an interest can join without the need to be moderated, rather than those that are private so closed. Advertisements on Instagram included their personal accounts as well as in international markets and the intelligence data was submitted to local authorities for law enforcement.
South Africa: Trade in emerging commodities

In addition to the anti-dumping, anti-subsidy, and products limitation measures in this report, South Africa also implemented safeguard measures on soybean oil, titanium dioxide, and glass fibers. The safeguard measures were applied to imports of these products from non-SA countries.

### Nigeria

| Commodity Code | Import Value | Safeguard Measures
|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1001.10.90.10  | $1,000,000   | Yes
| 1001.10.90.90  | $500,000    | Yes
| 1001.10.80.00  | $1,000,000   | No

### Table 1: Commodity Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity Code</th>
<th>Import Value</th>
<th>Safeguard Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1001.10.90.10</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001.10.90.90</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001.10.80.00</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Data Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>Avg Value</th>
<th>Std Dev</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Import</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguard</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. [Source link](#)
2. [Data table](#)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Live specimens</th>
<th>Non-live and preserved specimens</th>
<th>Total specimens</th>
<th>Total no. of species</th>
<th>Live animals sold</th>
<th>Non-live and preserved animals sold</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total $ 000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bird of prey</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rats</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snakes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles and amphibians</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All categories in this table are not applicable where the species are not able to be identified, which occurred at some level. The data is based on a sample size of 210 advertisements.

Nigeria hosted the second-highest volume of trade in this research, with 210 specimens offered in 60 advertisements, all at a total sale price of almost two million U.S. dollars.  
**Most animals and products made up the majority of trade.**
Most of the specimens for sale in Nigeria were animal parts and products, rather than live species (79 per cent). Reptiles were the most common species identified, with 40 per cent of all specimens offered for sale. Of these, most were crocodiles and alligator products such as shoes, leather goods, and remedies, etc. The 36 snake species offered for sale were all python species, including rock and Burmese pythons.  
Birds were the second most common type for sale, including 50 sick birds - mainly African green and Senegal parrots - offered by sellers in 73 advertisements. Dinosaur fossils were also offered for sale. Nigerian extinct populations are listed in Appendix A for UNEP.  
Researchers found a much higher volume of primates for sale in Nigeria than in South Africa, with 59 advertisements offering 30 Appendix II live primate specimens for sale including monkeys, apes, and population.  
Nearly two-thirds of specimens identified are listed on CITES (Appendix II: 65.5 per cent), with the remaining third primarily made up of species that are split listed between Appendices I and II.  
**Online marketplaces were more popular than social media.**
In South Africa, online marketplaces hosted the majority of trade identified in this survey (60.47 per cent). The most popular online marketplace was www.adauka.com.ng, classified site hosting 73 advertisements representing over a third of overall.
Repeat sellers

Several sellers posted multiple advertisements across online marketplaces and social media including a Lagos-based seller with 11 advertisements for parrots, many African goods and a company linked to the oldest veterinary surgeon above which posted an additional eight advertisements on online marketplaces.

Another seller, which appears to be a luxury goods store, offered 27 advertisements for 87 specimens of marine reptile products including lizards, snakes and crocodile skin bags, shoes and smalls. One seller boasting to be a veterinary surgeon, offered 20 different live specimens for sale including eagles, parrots, snakes, penguins and tortoises.

Nigerian online marketplaces

Seventy seven species were offered for sale on Nigerian websites. Only one of the traders offering a sale for sales reported the item was an animal.

Over 90% of the total value of items for sale in Nigeria was represented by three subspecies of elephant ivory items for sale, one of which the seller claimed to be a 4000-year-old elephant bone carving, advertised for the equivalent of US $1,998,000. This appears to be an excessive figure for such an item and should be treated with caution.

Researchers also identified a large number of scams (false advertisements) on Nigerian sites.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>New speciemen</th>
<th>Live specimen</th>
<th>Total specimen</th>
<th>Total postings</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lizards</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibians</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table information may not be complete as exacting is in tabulation.*
*Total value of sale is total currency, 10,000 base-sellings (US dollars).*

### Social media - sell online marketplaces - facilitation trades

The Ivory Coast was the only country in this research where no evidence was found of any wildlife trade on traditional online marketplaces, but social media was found to facilitate trade.

Facebook is the most commonly used social network for buying and selling wildlife in the Ivory Coast. Instagram and Twitter social networks are little known and little used for sales, and no wildlife posts were found on those platforms.

Twentieth wildlife posts were identified on Facebook offering a total of 86 specimens for sale, many of them for wildlife-derived materials rather than live ones. The most common species for sale were lions (50%), but this was mostly due to one seller offering 20 lion skins (45%).

### Botwond and traditional medicine sales - as nationally protected species

A total of 17 sellers were responsible for the 97 posts identified in this research. Of these, only two were the most prolific. One was an individual who claimed on his user profile Facebook page to be a traditional healer and practitioner with a variety of animal skins, bones, and live animals for sale, including pangolin skins, giant crocodile, lampreys, and live crocodile. The seller posted five advertisements in total and claimed to use animal products to make medicines and potions to help people with mental, emotional, and health problems.

Another seller who appeared to be a single female posted nine advertisements for pangolins, crocodiles, and other wildlife products for consumption as a general public purchasing and selling for the page, which has almost 100,000 members. Another trader posted the advertisements on his own sales page for selling/buying and other trades.

The most common batwond species killed for consumption in the Ivory Coast feature on CITES Appendix I and II. Researcher included advertisements for greater cane rats also offered as bushmeat, as well as a giant forest hog, as these species are protected under the Law of Ivory Coast wildlife protection and hunting regulation. Most for bushmeat reflect an increasing demand since the end of the Ebola crisis in the country. The majority of sellers were based in Abidjan, the economic capital of the Ivory Coast.
Three advertisements were identified through the app, including one elephant statue with ivory tusks, one for African grey parrots, and an undetermined number of other live specimens including pelicans and oryx antelopes for sale (this last item was noted but not included in the final data due to uncertainty about the species and number). Additionally, the majority of advertisements identified on Cell Africa were for items not available in this region.

### Kenya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>0.42 (T50 2019)</th>
<th>0.46 (T40 2020)</th>
<th>0.53 (T30 2021)</th>
<th>0.58 (T20 2022)</th>
<th>0.28 (T10 2023)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2.44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortoise</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tanzania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>0.32 (T50 2019)</th>
<th>0.37 (T40 2020)</th>
<th>0.40 (T30 2021)</th>
<th>0.42 (T20 2022)</th>
<th>0.27 (T10 2023)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>1.97</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortoise</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
<th>Total (in Excel)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uganda**

- **QFO Estimation**

  - **QFO Apparatus 1**: 0
  - **QFO Apparatus 20**: 0
  - **QFO Apparatus 9**: 0
  - **QFO Apparatus 6**: 0
  - **Max QFO**: 0

  - **Total**: 0

**National**

- **QFO Apparatus**: 0
- **QFO Apparatus 20**: 0
- **QFO Apparatus 9**: 0
- **QFO Apparatus 6**: 0
- **Max QFO**: 0

- **Total**: 0

**Ethiopia**

- **QFO Estimation**

  - **QFO Apparatus 1**: 0
  - **QFO Apparatus 20**: 0
  - **QFO Apparatus 9**: 0
  - **QFO Apparatus 6**: 0
  - **Max QFO**: 0

  - **Total**: 0

**National**

- **QFO Apparatus**: 0
- **QFO Apparatus 20**: 0
- **QFO Apparatus 9**: 0
- **QFO Apparatus 6**: 0
- **Max QFO**: 0

- **Total**: 0

---

*Note: All categories are only for advertisement purposes only and are not able to identify which specific data was from the Excel file.*

Total information not provided in Ethiopia.

Total value of QFO in US$ is 0.00.

Total value of QFO in Local Currency: 0.00 (Uganda)

0.00 (Ethiopia)
East African trade

Bird trade in Tanzania, very little trade in other East African countries.

Of the East African countries researched, Tanzania had the largest number of advertisements with 28 advertisements identified offering 39 wildlife specimens for sale. Of these, the majority were on two websites: tanzania-marketplaces - [www.advertising.com](http://www.advertising.com) and [www.sold.co.tz](http://www.sold.co.tz).

In Tanzania, the wild birds were for the most common species offered for sale with 18 advertisements offering 46 birds for sale, none of which made any reference to the legality of the sales. Fischer’s turacos and Meyer’s parrots were the most common wild birds identified for sale on Tanzania websites. These species are commonly traded and are indigenous to certain African countries, but are also commonly captive-bred.

The second most common species for sale in Tanzania were reptiles, with six live terrariums offered for sale and six reptile skin products.

Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda each held one website where any trade was identified. Four advertisements were recorded on Tanzania’s two cross-referenced with Tanzania websites, offering 15 live parrots for sale with no reference to any legal documentation.

No traders from East Africa were found using national Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms.
CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This report reveals that wildlife trade is taking place over online marketplaces and social media platforms in Africa, where a growing number of people have access to the world’s largest marketplace - the Internet. In total, researchers identified 990 advertisements selling 9,481 specimens of endangered and threatened wildlife in seven countries over a six-week research period. Although crocodiles and alligators made up over two-thirds of specimens for sale, elephant, snake and parrot specimens were also offered for sale in significant numbers - with elephant hair items rather than ivory making up the bulk of elephant product advertisements identified.

Our research has shown that South Africa and Nigeria have significant levels of online trade with 718 and 219 advertisements respectively totalling 9,357 wildlife specimens for sale worth US $5,824,018, with a corresponding higher risk of facilitating illegal wildlife trade. In contrast, Tanzania, Uganda, the Ivory Coast and Ethiopia had very little wildlife for sale online.

Whilst representing a much smaller amount of trade than traditional online marketplaces, social media platforms are being used to host wildlife trade in South Africa, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast. The scale may be higher than this report indicates as this trade is particularly hard to identify and quantify.

Although it is not possible to tell from the information available to our researchers how many of the total specimens recorded were being traded legally or illegally, 33 information logs representing 392 advertisements in total from this research were handed over to national enforcers for further investigation, regarding sellers stating they were based in South Africa, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast.

Many of the platforms IFAW identified during this research do not offer explicit information to traders about the laws around trade in protected wildlife, in contrast to eBay, Gumtree and Alibaba, which do offer such guidance. Given that wildlife trade continues to threaten the future of many of the world’s most endangered species and African consumers have growing access to the Internet and social media, it is essential that online platforms and governments take action to raise consumer awareness and tackle the challenges of online wildlife trade. This includes supporting improved enforcement efforts and national legislation to combat wildlife cybercrime.
Recommendations

If we are to crack down on the growing threat of wildlife cybercrime across the African continent, governments, policy makers, online technology companies and enforcers all have key parts to play and should:

**Improve enforcement efforts by:**

- Increasing capacity and knowledge through targeted training of wildlife and cybercrime experts and building collaborative enforcement networks to share best practise.
- Carrying out targeted investigations and operations, ensuring that offline cases are linked to online cases where relevant.
- Creating a wildlife cybercrime position in wildlife enforcement agencies that has access to both cybercrime units and intelligence analysts.
- Supporting the implementation of CITES Decision 17.92 Combatting Wildlife Cybercrime by accessing and feeding best practises through INTERPOL’s Global Complex for Innovation and the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).
- Ensuring enforcement officers are encouraged and consulted in the development of more robust legislation.
- Working in partnership with IFAW and other NGOs which can provide information in support of criminal investigations.
- Working with online technology companies to access useful information on traders, and ensuring digital evidence is preserved in line with cybercrime legislation requirements.

Ensure that online marketplaces and social media companies are not a platform for the trade in endangered species, by:

- Pro-actively raising awareness of the threat posed to the survival of endangered wildlife by providing easy to find information on the illegal trade in elephants, rhino, tigers and other protected animals.
- Introducing and implementing clearly communicated and easy to find effective policies that explicitly ban illegal online wildlife trade on their platforms and sign up to the standardised wildlife policy framework.
- Supporting the implementation of CITES Decision 17.92 Combatting Wildlife Cybercrime by sharing best practises with the CITES Secretariat and ensuring policies are effectively implemented.
- Supporting law enforcers in their investigations.

Ensure national legislation protecting endangered wildlife specifically addresses the unique threat posed by online wildlife crime through:

- Placing the legal burden of proof on the seller to provide any necessary supporting documentation and incorporating a requirement for the inclusion of permitting information in all advertisements for CITES-listed species.
- Ensuring enforcers have sufficient powers to carry out an investigation.
- Making the offer of a restricted animal, their part or product for sale an offence.
Funded in 1969, IFAW saves animals in crisis around the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals and advocates for the protection of wildlife and habitats.

For more information, visit www.ifaw.org

Australia
Belgium
Canada
China
France
Germany
India
Japan
Kenya
Netherlands
Russia
South Africa
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America

Author:
Jo Hastie

Acknowledgements:
Charles MacKay (MK Wildlife Consultancy)
Ian Knox (MK Wildlife Consultancy)
Landry Mahi
Damaris Thompson (INL)
Jimmiel Mandima (AWF)
Adam Pires (EWT)
Claire Patterson-Abrolat (EWT)
Ashleigh Dore (EWT)
Rikkert Reijnen (IFAW)
Stephen Kinyua (IFAW)
Steve Njumbi (IFAW)
James Isiche (IFAW)
Christina Pretorius (IFAW)

Dr Joseph Okori (IFAW)
Neil Greenwood (IFAW)
Celine Sissler-Beinvenu (IFAW)
Mia Crnojevic (IFAW)
Aurore Morin (IFAW)
Daina Bray (IFAW)
Alice Atieno Ougo (IFAW)
Ibrahim Mohammed Abdullah (IFAW)
Ndungu Kamande Samuel (IFAW)
Kamau Teresia Wanjeru (IFAW)
Joy Asato Meglasson (Freeland)
Tania McCrea-Steele (IFAW)

Design and Production:
Flame Design

Printing:
Viking Print