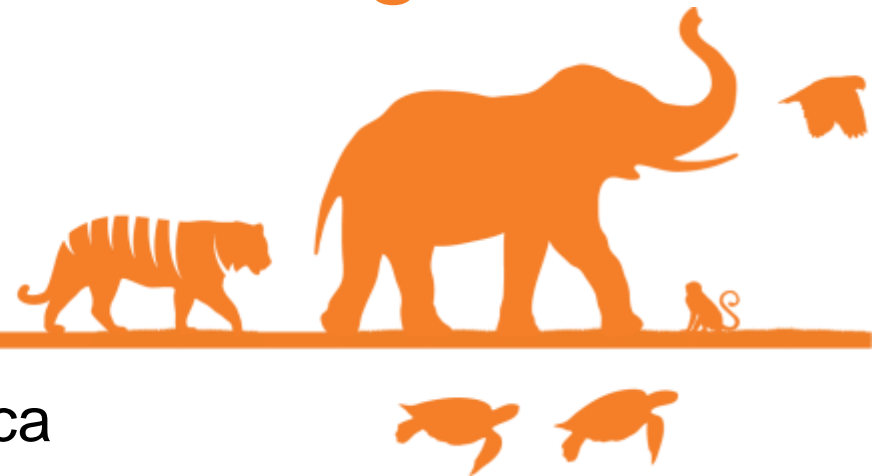




The role of aviation industry in fuelling global wildlife trade



Dr. Patrick Muinde – Research Manager, Africa

We are World Animal Protection



Our vision

A world where animals live free from cruelty and suffering

Our Mission

We move the world to protect animals



We move the world to protect animals



We are local

We are active in more than 50 countries. From our offices around the world, we work with local partners, animal welfare organisations, businesses and governments. We help people to find practical ways to prevent animal suffering worldwide.

We are global

We collaborate with national governments and the United Nations. We have formal relationships with international bodies including the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNEP, the Council of Europe and the World Organisation for Animal Health. We seek national and international policy change to improve the lives of millions of animals, because animal protection is a fundamental part of a sustainable future.

► Join us and find out more at worldanimalprotection.org

Our offices

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 Australia | 4 Costa Rica | 7 India | 10 New Zealand | 13 UK |
| 2 Brazil | 5 China | 8 Kenya | 11 Sweden | 14 USA |
| 3 Canada | 6 Denmark | 9 Netherlands | 12 Thailand | |

We were known as WSPA

(World Society for the Protection of Animals)
World Animal Protection is the operating name of World Society for the Protection of Animals. Company limited by Guarantee in England and Wales, registration No. 4029540. Registered Charity 1081849.



New strategic goals (2020-2030)

1. Transform global food systems
2. End cruel exploitation of wildlife, and protect their habitats





Introduction

- Globally, we've 3.6 billion (almost ½ of world's pop) social media users in 2020
 - While global estimate of wildlife trade is \$ 30.6-42.8 billion annually
 - \$ 22.8 billion legal, and \$ 7.8-20 billion illegal
 - Africa is home to world's most iconic species, and rich ecosystems
 - Trade of wild animals and their derivatives is happening at scale
 - CITES data (2011-2015) – 1.5 million live animals legally exported for exotic pet trade
-

Introduction – CITES Data 2011-2015



170,057 Savannah monitor lizard
Source: W (55%), R (36%), C (9%)



188,507 Leopard tortoise
Source: W (3%), C (97%)



227,233 Emperor scorpion
Source: W (65%), R (35%)



289,006 African grey parrot
Source: C(90%), W (10%)



591,830 Ball python
Source: W (19%), R (68%), C(9%)

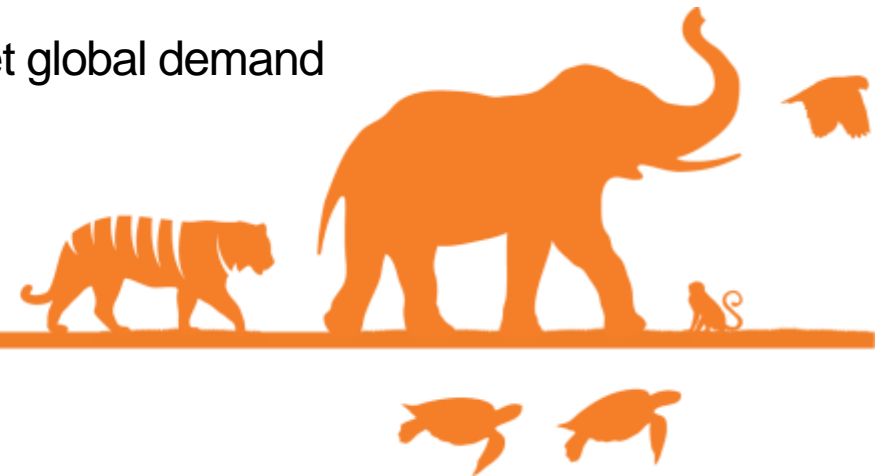


Africa's most traded species for exotic pet market



Objective

Systematic review of social media activities to demonstrate how airlines are fueling wildlife trade by enabling transport of live animals to meet global demand of exotic pets



Methodology – social media



- Focused on **social media users** known to be involved in wildlife trade in Togo, West Africa (2016-2020)
- **Looked at two Facebook accounts** (associated with a number of registered snake farms) openly advertising wildlife for sale online
- **Content in the accounts** (text, images and videos) provided data on the type of animal, volume, holding and shipping conditions, the source, destination, and route taken



Methodology – airlines involved

- An estimate of animal numbers was done in the **holding container images**
- On the shipping containers
 - We noted the contents of the **shipping label and Cargo tracking codes** – info on destinations, transit points, dates and airlines involved – this data was cross-referenced with publicly available databases of shipment records to confirm trades, airline, date and route
- We also tracked Airway bill numbers via **online air cargo tracking systems** (to obtain details of the route taken, weight and volume of the cargo)



Air cargo tracking system

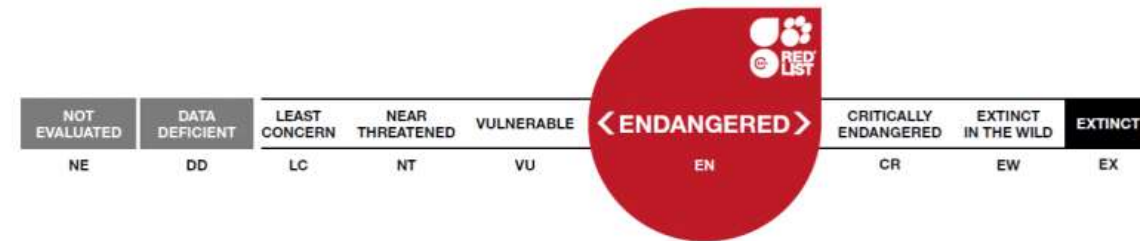
Methodology – wildlife species shipped



- We identified wild animal images and footages to the lowest taxonomic level, and to species level where possible
- The obtained data was assessed to identify the **conservation status, population, geographic distribution** and if traded under the protection of CITES
- Holding and shipping container photos were **assessed for welfare conditions** based on provision of space, water, and substrate (beddings), as well as hygiene levels

The IUCN Red List in a nutshell

The IUCN Red List Categories





Study findings



Study findings – at least 200 different species traded!



- A total of **911 Facebook** posts were assessed
- At **least 200 different wild animals** (including 187 vertebrates) were featured.
- Species in the trade included; Snakes, parrots, primates, lizards, tortoises and invertebrates such as scorpions, millipedes and tarantulas
- **Majority were reptiles** (70% of pre-shipment posts) and more than 90% of shipping posts
- Majority of the trade depended predominantly on native wildlife

Taxonomic group	No. of different spp	% of Species	% of FB posts
Birds	25	13	2
Mammals	36	18	7
Reptiles	102	51	52
Amphibians	24	12	3
Invertebrates	13	7	8

Study findings - Spp. threatened with extinction traded



- More than 7% were either vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered
- Highly unregulated – e.g. 75% of vertebrates were not listed in CITES appendices
- 54.5% of vertebrates classified as LC
- 44% of mammals and 75% of amphibians classified as LC or unknown /declining population

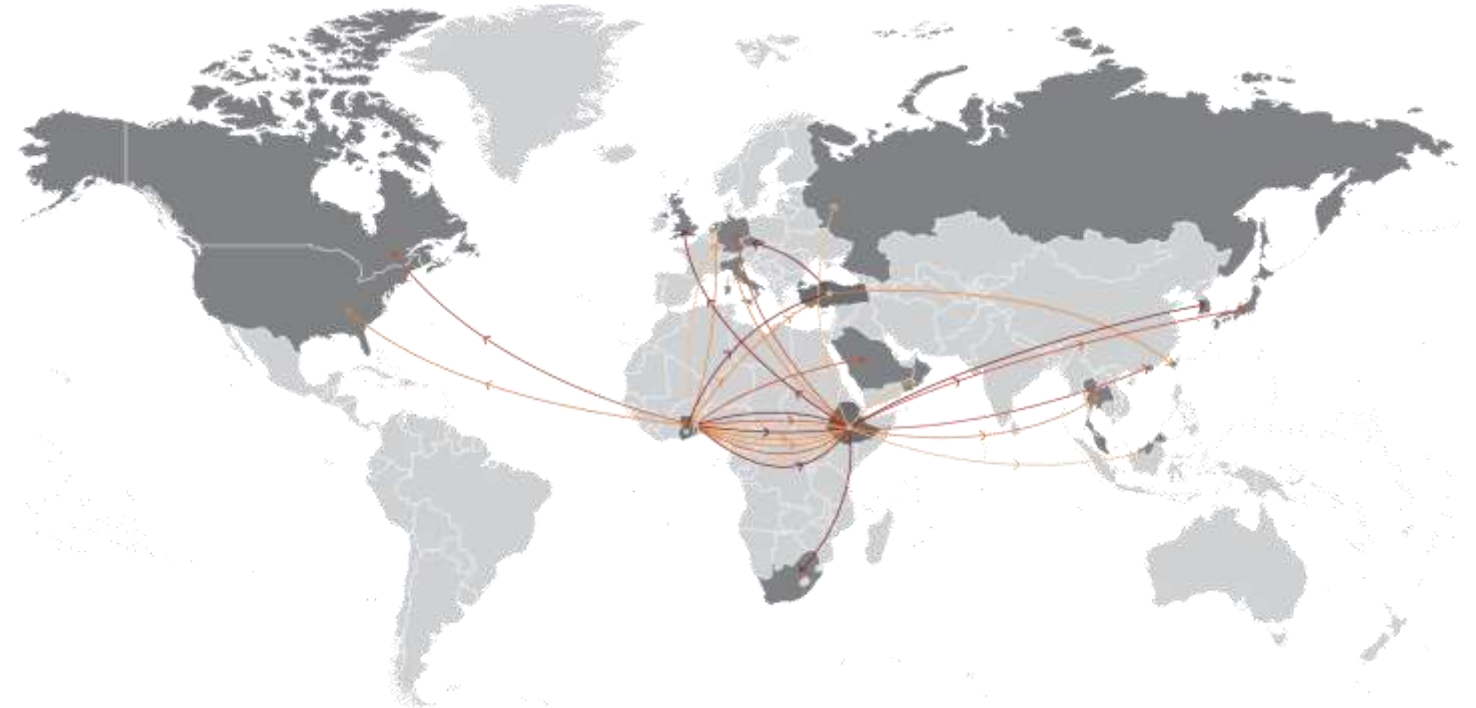
IUCN Red list	No. of Spp	% of Spp
Least concern	84	55
Not evaluated	53	34
Vulnerable	8	5
Endangered	1	1
Critically Endangered	2	1

Study findings - trade routes and airlines involved



- Live wild animals were shipped **up to 9 times per month to at least 18 countries!**
- Export countries in West Africa
- Destination countries in **North America, Europe, Asia and elsewhere in Africa**

In total six (6) airlines were featured



Trade routes map





Why trade is an issue?



Wildlife trade – implications on animal welfare



- **Wild animals are sentient beings**
- The **chain is cruel** from capture, restraint, transport and subsequent captivity life
- Most images showed **animals in barren containers, lacking water and in overcrowded conditions**
- **Welfare scores were found to be poor** for all factors – None provided shelter, 85% of posts provided no water; and lacked appropriate space.
- In the destination countries, the **owners are not fully aware of their welfare needs**
- **High mortality rates** – e.g., up to 60% for AGP



African spurred tortoise in shipping container

Wildlife trade – implications on conservation efforts



- Commercial trade of wildlife is one of the key drivers of species extinction
- **Lack of scientific data on wild population for sustainable consumption**
- A high proportion of species identified **have unknown or declining population**, and conservation status is unknown for over a third of the species
- **Ranches are sustained by wild-sourced animals** for breeding stock
- Some species e.g., turtles and tortoises are vulnerable to exploitation because of **late maturity and low reproductive output**
- Trade facilitates introduction of **invasive species** to new regions; genetic pollution



Tortoises in holding facility

Wildlife trade – implications on Public health



- Wild animals are thought to be the source of **at least 70% of all emerging zoonotic diseases**
- **Filthy, overcrowded** breeding facilities, and **close proximity** to other species including humans create opportunities for disease emergence
- **High risk animals were available for sale and export** e.g., bats, civets, primates, genets and mongoose
- Some of these species **previously played a role in transmission of SARS, MERS, Ebola.**



Wildlife trade – implications on Public health



- COVID 19 is recognised to have originated from wildlife
- WHO, OIE and UNEP 2021 guidance calling suspension of live wild mammal sales in traditional food markets as an emergency measure to curb pandemics



PREVENTING THE NEXT PANDEMIC

Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission

Reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets

Interim guidance
12 April 2021



Wildlife trade – implications on legality

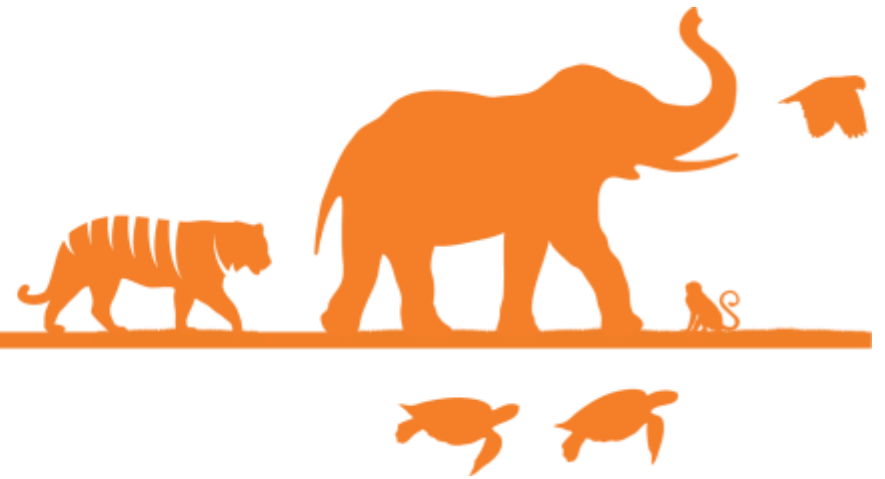


- Legal and illegal trade are not always easily distinguishable, and a **close complex relationship exists** between them
- Wildlife trade can be legal, illegal, or a combination of both, depending on how a species is classified as it moves through the market chain
- **Only a few species** identified are currently regulated under CITES. Some **shipments lacked required permits** or properly adhered to export quota
- **Only at international border** where CITES requires 'minimal delays', and proper care
- IATA comes to force when animals are loaded onto airline and **aim is to ensure surviving rather than thriving during transport**





In conclusion



Conclusion



- We need to **move people to livelihood alternatives** that do not exploit wild animals
- We need to **strengthen regulation** and enforce cross border-monitoring of wildlife trade
- We need to **reduce animal export quotas** – and in long term – end wildlife trade and protect wild animals in their habitats
- We urge airlines to **stop transporting wild animals** for commercial purposes



Thank you



“Wild animals across Africa, big and small, carry hefty prices on their heads. Just because it’s legal, doesn’t make it right”

“Any trade of wild animals is inherently cruel and puts our health and the world’s economy at risk”

