

**FOCUSED**  
CONSERVATION

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**wildlife**



# BULLETIN UPDATE

Bulletin | 5th September 2023

**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



### **UfW Alert 00133: Namibia: Succulent poaching surge**

Namibian authorities uncovered an extensive escalation in the illicit harvesting and trafficking of succulents, following a dramatic rise in succulent trafficking in South Africa. In 2022, investigations resulted in a number of arrests and the seizure of significant volumes of protected live plants in Namibia. Traffickers focus on high-value, rare, and endemic succulents, which typically occur at low densities in vast, arid landscapes, often outside protected areas. Areas with high levels of endemism near both Namibia's northern border with Angola and southern border with South Africa are at risk of transboundary succulent trafficking. Read [MORE](#)



**UfW Alert 00135: Brussels Airport: bushmeat trade increases risks to zoonotic disease, biodiversity loss**

[Newly published research](#) estimates that at least 4 tons of bushmeat transits Brussels Airport to markets in Europe each month. Overhunting to supply the bushmeat trade “[enables the spread](#) of [zoonoses](#) and emergence of novel infectious diseases” and contributes to biodiversity loss, including the extirpation and extinction of some species. Primate meat is amongst the most commonly seized African meat, posing an elevated risk of disease transmission due to the close genetic connections between humans and primates, according to [additional research](#). Read [MORE](#)



**UfW Alert 00136: DRC: Officials Designated for wildlife trafficking**

The United States Department of State (DOS) announced [visa restrictions](#) against three Congolese officials for involvement in wildlife trafficking. The officials “abused their public positions by trafficking chimpanzees, gorillas, okapi, and other protected wildlife from the Democratic Republic of Congo, primarily to the People’s Republic of China, using falsified permits, in return for bribes.” Read

[MORE](#)



**UfW Alert 00137: Sharks: Cosmetics industry exposed to illegal and unsustainable shark fishing**

A lack of traceability in the supply chain exposes squalene users to illegal and unsustainable shark fisheries. The cosmetics industry is the largest user of shark squalene, accounting for between 70-90% of the global squalene consumption. Because shark squalene is often marketed and sold as plant derived squalene, even companies moving away from animal products face significant marine species trafficking risks. Read [MORE](#)



**CONVERGENCE REPORT**  
Latest information

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## CONFLICT

[Falcon trafficking soars in Middle East, fueled by conflict and poverty](#), Mongabay

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## CORRUPTION

[DRC stockpiles fuel illegal wildlife trade](#), OXPECKERS

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## CORRUPTION

[Hippos had found refuge in Uganda's national parks. But that may be changing](#), National Geographic

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## INVASIVE SPECIES

[Major wildlife smuggling attempt foiled: DRI seizes 306 live exotic animals at Mumbai airport](#), Big News Network

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## PANDEMIC DISEASE RISK

[Examining the international bushmeat traffic in Belgium: A threat to conservation and public health](#), One Health

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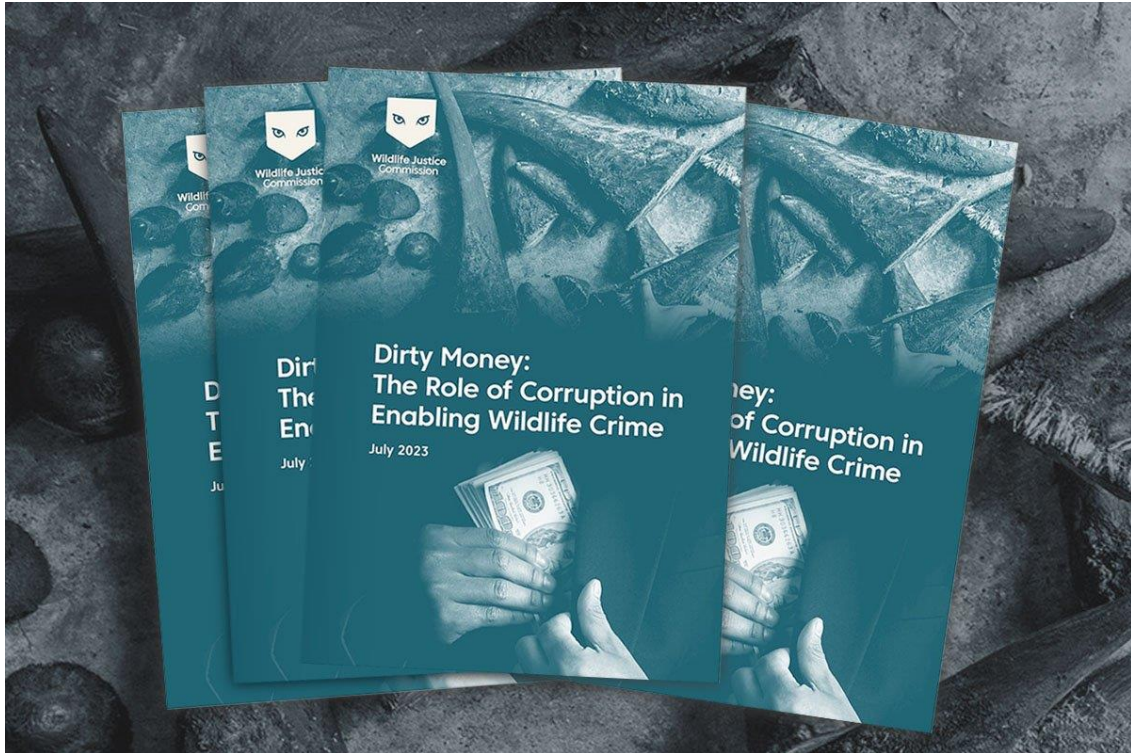
## TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

[Thailand Authorities Seize Over \\$1.4 Million Worth of Pangolin Scales](#), CTN News



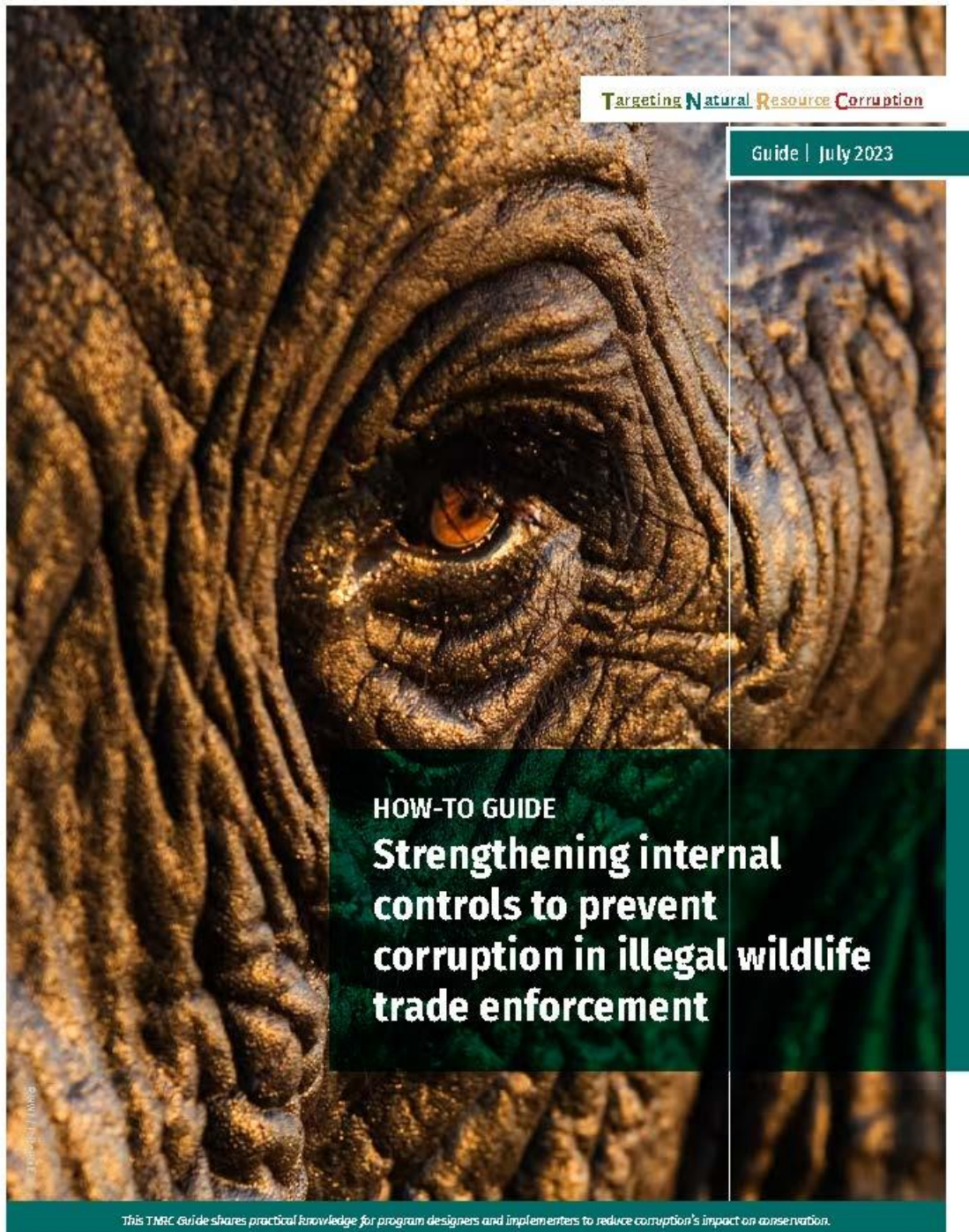
## TAKING ACTION

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



**[Dirty Money: The Role of Corruption in Enabling Wildlife Crime](#), Wildlife Justice Commission**

This report illustrates how corrupt acts occur in the wildlife crime context and depicts the crucial enabling function of corruption in real terms. Corruption greases the wheels of the illegal wildlife trade by facilitating the movement of wildlife shipments along all stages of the supply chain from source to market and serving criminal networks by obstructing the criminal justice response. Access the **[FULL REPORT](#)**



How-to Guide: Strengthening internal controls to prevent corruption in illegal wildlife trade enforcement, Basel Institute on Governance



This guide is for program managers and donors seeking to understand and evaluate the effectiveness of internal control systems in government agencies that enforce laws against illegal wildlife trade. Access the How-to Guide [HERE](#)



**Uniting the response? Challenges in international law enforcement cooperation in wildlife crime in Asia and Africa, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime**

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime investigated the disconnect between the theoretical and practical applications [or aspects] of international cooperation on wildlife trafficking, identifying factors that prevent countries from working together effectively to combat wildlife crime. To read more about the challenges and recommendations to overcome them, access the [FULL REPORT](#)

MODULE 1

TOOL 1

BEHAVIOR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS TO REDUCE  
DEMAND FOR WILDLIFE

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIENCE AND THEIR BEHAVIOR

Ada Sánchez-Mercado, María Daniela Pineda, Lisandro Moran,  
Arlene Cardozo-Urdaneta, Alejandro Díaz, Félix Moya.

**Provita: Behavior Change Campaigns to Reduce Demand for Wildlife**  
Provita, a new United for Wildlife Partner, developed training modules to inform the evidence-based design of behavior change campaigns focused on reducing demand for wildlife. The tools are summaries of the state of the art in behavior change campaigns and are based on the recommendations and best practices of leading institutions in the field. Access the first set of Modules [HERE](#)



## **Publicly Available Alleged Wildlife Crime Offender Data**

The United for Wildlife Southeast Asia and Australasia Chapter initiated a new effort to capture and share open source media data on alleged wildlife crime offenders across the region and worldwide. The data, which can be downloaded [HERE](#), will be updated on a regular basis to provide members with relevant information on wildlife trafficking risks and to enhance and improve screening tools.

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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**

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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