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BULLETIN UPDATE

Bulletin | 6th February 2024

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



TASKFORCE ALERTS

United for Wildlife intelligence updates



Offender Data: Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Vietnam

TRAFFIC, a United for Wildlife Partner, compiled two datasets, derived from non-sensitive open-source information, to identify individuals and companies convicted, arrested, or suspected of wildlife crimes in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, and Vietnam as part of an ongoing project titled “[Leveraging Legality Along China’s Timber Supply to Reduce Deforestation](#).” Read more [HERE](#).

To find out more about the project, learn how to collaborate with TRAFFIC, and access the datasets, please [contact Fred Ellis](#), Wildlife Trade Analyst and Financial Specialist.



Myanmar Timber Trafficking Red Flags

Research conducted by the [Environmental Investigation Agency \(EIA\)](#), a United for Wildlife Partner, found that companies in the United States and the European Union are likely violating sanctions implemented against Myanmar's ruling regime by continuing to import teak from the country.

EIA developed key red flag indicators which aim to assist financial institutes with identifying potential suspicious transactions related to the illegal trade in Myanmar teak:

Read the full alert [HERE](#). Reach out directly to EIA [HERE](#) to request the red flag indicators.



HM TREASURY

UK: Sanctions against entities engaged in forced labor and human, drug, and wildlife trafficking

The United Kingdom Treasury announced new [sanctions](#) against Zhao Wei's Transnational Crime Organization (TCO) and the Kings Roman Group for involvement in forced labor schemes. The United States Department of Treasury [designated](#) the group in 2018 for drug trafficking, money laundering, bribery, and human and [wildlife trafficking](#). According to the [Environmental Investigation Agency](#) global financial institutions may be exposed to serious legal, financial, and reputational risk for transaction activity related to the TCO. Read more [HERE](#).



Democratic Republic of Congo: African Grey Parrot Trafficking Accelerating

In 2022 more than 14,000 wild caught African Grey Parrots originating in the DRC entered the illegal international trade, around 3 times previously documented volumes, according to knowledge sources, and the trade continues apace. Traffickers exploit air routes from Kisangani to Kinshasa to transport the parrots from [source locations](#) in central and eastern DRC for international export via West Africa to Lebanon, Turkey, and beyond. Conservationists express concern that traffickers may be shifting some exports to Goma because of its direct international flights and proximity to consolidation hubs

within DRC, increasing wildlife trafficking risks for international airlines serving the airport.
Read more [HERE](#).



ORGANIZED CRIME

[UK sanctions nine linked to cyber trafficking in Southeast Asia](#), The Record
[Cold-blooded and cruel': \\$1.2m of lizards caught for export](#), Sydney Morning Herald
[Chocolate boxes, chip tubes and birthday gifts with an illegal animal twist](#), Sydney Morning Herald
[Woman Pleads Guilty to Smuggling Endangered Sea Cucumbers through South Florida Airport](#), U.S. Department of Justice
[Elite appetite turns Bangladesh from source to consumer of tiger parts](#), Mongabay
[Still on the menu: Shark fin trade in U.S. persists despite ban](#), Mongabay
[Inside the Crime Rings Trafficking Sand](#), Scientific American

CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND EXTINCTION RISK

[18 of the most endangered animals in Asia](#), IFAW
[More than 160 elephants die in Zimbabwe, with many more at risk](#), The Guardian
[Birds of prey in Africa experiencing population collapse, study finds](#), The Guardian
[US national arrested in South Africa on wildlife trafficking, weapons charges](#), ABC News

LIVE ANIMAL TRAFFICKING

[Illegal wildlife trade in Singapore detected on Telegram doubled from 2021 to 2023: Report](#), Borneo Bulletin

[Exotic pet trade goes online, payments made through cryptocurrency: DRI](#), Times of India

[DNP arrests Vietnamese trio in Bangkok, saving 1,000+ animals from illegal trafficking](#), Thaiger

[Morocco Thwarts Illegal Trafficking of Reptiles at Marrakech Airport](#), Morocco World News

[Astrid Andersson - Wildlife Trade and Alien Invaders \(video\)](#), Hong Kong Free Press

DISEASE RISK

[Demand is fueling an illegal trade. But smuggled monkeys carry diseases that can disrupt experiments and lead to unreliable data](#), Nature

[Bushmeat markets flourish in Lagos amid rising illegal wildlife trade](#), The Guardian (Nigeria)

CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

[Flora / CAR conflict drives illegal logging and timber trafficking](#), ENACT





White Paper: Combatting Wildlife Trafficking with the Power of Collaboration

Effectively combating the systemic issues surrounding wildlife trafficking is critical on a macro scale to ensuring global security, economic stability and environmental health. Taking a stand against wildlife trafficking on a micro scale is imperative to business sustainability from a corporate accountability, compliance and brand reputation standpoint. In their new white paper, [LexisNexis Risk Solutions](#) details how increasing cooperation and concentrated coordination are helping highlight, and successfully disrupt, the financial connections fueling transnational wildlife trafficking. Read the white paper [HERE](#).



FINTRAC celebrates the United Nations World Wildlife Day

As part of Project Anton, this special event features speakers from Canada and abroad who are actively involved in combating the illegal wildlife trade and the illicit financial activities that fuel it including Scotiabank, United for Wildlife, the Global Conservation Corps, the Wildlife Justice Commission, and many more!

Save the Date: Monday, March 4, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET.

Please complete [this short form](#) to register your attendance.



Impact Guide and Internal Training Pack: Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in the Middle East North Africa Region

The Middle East North Africa (MENA) Financial Crime Compliance Group, with support from the United for Wildlife MENA Chapter Banking Group and [Emirates NBD](#), launched a new report launched at COP28 which explores wildlife trafficking across the region to raises awareness of the problem, the impact on the MENA region and how Financial institutions can fine tune their Financial Crime Compliance programs to disrupt these illegal practices.

English and Arabic versions of the program are available for download below or from the [MENA FCGG website](#):

- [IWT Training Slides Sept 2023- English](#)
- [IWT Training Slides Sept 2023- Arabic](#)

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE
ILLEGAL TRADE OF
WILDLIFE

FIU CONNECT
WILDLIFE
TRAFFICKING



ManchesterCF
Financial Intelligence

united
for
wildlife



ROYAL
FOUNDATION

OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS
OF CAMBRIDGE

ONLINE TRAINING FROM MANCHESTERCF - FIU CONNECT (WILDLIFE
TRAFFICKING)

ManchesterCF, a United for Wildlife Partner, has extended eight free licences to the FIU CONNECT (Wildlife Trafficking) training program to members of the Financial and Transportation Taskforces at United for Wildlife. The online training program advises participants on suspicious financial patterns consistent with the illegal trade of wildlife, and identifies detailed case studies, examples and red flag indicators.

Additional materials on the course, and other offerings from ManchesterCF are available below.

[FIU CONNECT \(Wildlife Trafficking\) sample - ManchesterCF](#)

[FIU CONNECT \(Wildlife Trafficking\) program overview - ManchesterCF](#)

To access the program, and to learn more about other ManchesterCF programs, contact ManchesterCF - sales@manchestercf.com

ManchesterCF provides financial intelligence training programs and advisory services to financial institutions, financial intelligence units and public-sector agencies worldwide. For further information, visit www.manchestercf.com

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SAMLIT
South African Anti-Money Laundering
Integrated Task Force

FINANCIAL FLOWS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA: AN UPDATED PERSPECTIVE



DECEMBER 2023

New Report: Financial Flows Associated With Illegal Wildlife Trade In South Africa: An Updated Perspective

Through detailed case studies and transaction analysis, SAMLIT's latest report sheds significant light on all aspects of trafficking syndicates and organised crime connected to wildlife trade in South Africa, including a substantially deeper understanding of the related financial flows. The best practices and lessons learned developed through the project are widely applicable, and can be easily adapted to other regional United for Wildlife Chapters. Access the report [HERE](#), and learn more about SAMLIT [HERE](#).



Wildlife Trafficking Regional Threat Assessment 2023

The United for Wildlife Intelligence Sharing System (ISS) developed this regional assessment in support of the Middle East North Africa (MENA) Chapter. Traffickers source rare wildlife, particularly birds and reptiles, from the region's biodiverse deserts

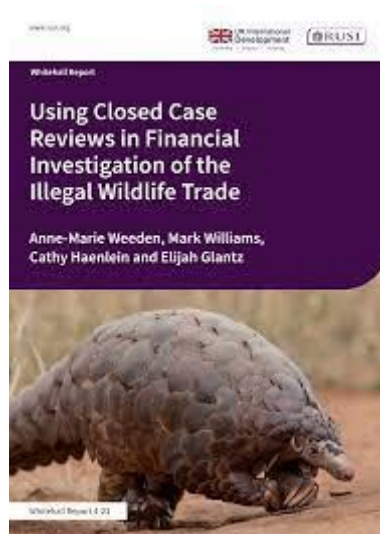
for pet markets in the region and Europe. Wildlife trafficked from Africa to Europe, the Middle East, and Asia transits the region including timber, ivory, rhino horn, and pangolin scales. Within the MENA region the Gulf States, particularly the United Arab Emirates (Dubai), are destination hubs for live animals trafficked from Africa, Asia and increasingly South America. Read the assessment [HERE](#).

Reach out to the ISS for assistance in developing a regional threat assessment [HERE](#).



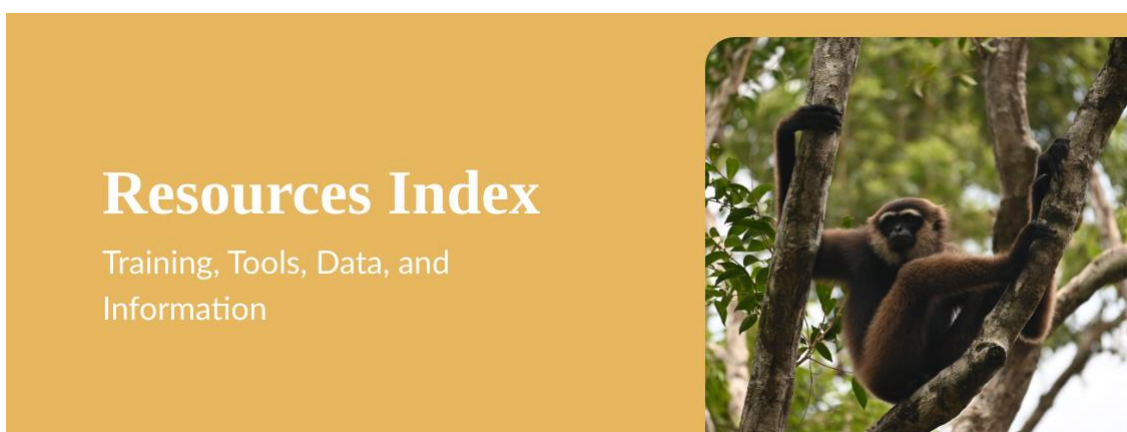
Species Victim Impact Statements: Giving a voice to unheard victims of environmental crime, [Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime \(GI-TOC\)](#)

GI-TOC, a United for Wildlife Partner, designed ‘species victim impact statements’ to give wildlife a voice to inform presiding judges of the harm caused to them by wildlife and environmental crimes from a variety of perspectives. This guide was designed to aid conservationists, civil society organizations and other interested parties responding to the illegal wildlife trade by explaining the background to species victim impact statements and their associated challenges, providing examples of their successful use in practice and offering guidance on how they can be developed and used in court. Access the report [HERE](#).



Using Closed Case Reviews in Financial Investigation of the Illegal Wildlife Trade, [Royal United Services Institute \(RUSI\)](#)

In this new report, RUSI provides a best practice guide for the use of closed case reviews to support financial investigation in wildlife trafficking cases. This approach involves the retroactive analysis of previous IWT cases to identify fresh opportunities to gather and act on financial intelligence. Read the report [HERE](#).



Updated monthly by the Intelligence Sharing System (ISS), this curated list 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. Click the image to access the [Resources Index](#). To contribute an entry, email the ISS [HERE](#).

Download: [Alleged offender data](#) collated by the United for Wildlife Southeast Asia and Australasia Chapter

Access a sample offender dataset developed by the [Environmental Investigation Agency's](#) Media Monitoring Programme (MMP) [HERE](#), and learn more about the program [HERE](#).

This Bulletin was produced by Focused Conservation on behalf of United for Wildlife and the Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales.
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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.

Contact

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