

*CalsMUN 2020*  
*Historical Influences*



**Research Report**

**Forum:** Commission on Crime  
Prevention and Criminal Justice

**Issue:** Wildlife Trafficking and Trade

**Chairs:** Louisa Handel-Mazzetti and  
Deepshikha Dey



## Personal Introduction

### Louisa Handel-Mazzetti

Hi everyone! I'm Louisa, a 17-year-old student at Utrecht University where I study History and International Relations. Some of you might recognize me from previous MUNs or CalsMUN 2019 where I was deputy Secretary General. In my free time I try to do as much as possible. I currently work in a political organization and am doing an internship in the Eerste Kamer for the same party. Next to that, I try to do as much MUNs as possible. Not only are these highly interesting, they also



provide me with a lot of new friends and also experience that companies like a lot ;). The CCPCJ has topics that are very close to my heart. Firstly, corruption and organized crime in politics. Politics is very important to me and I hate the thought that democratic principles are endangered by the corrupting of minds by false promises. Secondly, wildlife trafficking and trade. I believe that this is important to everyone, since our biosphere is the most important to all of us. Like corruption, the trafficking of wildlife happens due to the corrupting of minds by empty promises.

All of this is so serious, but in general I'm not too serious. You can come to me for weird vine references whenever you want.

I hope to see you all in January and enjoy fruitful debates about your great resolutions!

### Deepshikha Dey

Hello! My name is Deepshikha Dey and I am 18 years old. I currently study Economics and Business Economics at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Last year I graduated from Cals College, but I am not quite ready to let go of CalsMUN. I am very excited to attend already the fifth conference! I have been to every single CalsMUN as an admin, delegate and two time organizer. In order to make my list complete, I will be your deputy chair this year. I am looking forward to watching you debate and see what kind of solutions you will come up with. This should not be too difficult with our two very interesting topics.





## CalsMUN 2020

At previous CalsMUN's, I have seen many first-time delegates and I therefore expect a lot of you this year as well. I want all of you to know that Louisa and I will always be there to help you out and answer all of your questions!

Seeing as Louisa has claimed the Vine references, you can always come to me for TikTok references ☺.

See you in January !!!!!!!!! <3



### Introduction

The illegal wildlife trade involves the illicit harvest of and trade in live animals and plants and products derived from them. These are often obtained by hunters and poachers. It is an international network estimated to be a multibillion US dollar industry. Wildlife is traded in many forms, such as pets, leather, traditional medicine and ivory.

The trade is often very unsustainable and a threat to important ecosystems. It endangers many species and even pushes endangered species toward extinction. These endangered species are often the biggest target for poachers, seeing as their rarity gives them great economic value. The trade also often has a negative impact on a country's resources.

One of the reasons that the industry thrives is that it is poorly monitored. The wildlife is put into a certain category and are often not being checked.

### The Committee

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established by the Economic and Social Council in order to function as a policymaking body to improve national and international crime as well as the fairness and efficiency of criminal justice systems.

### Definition of Key Terms

#### Wildlife Trafficking

Trafficking is the act of buying or selling illegal goods, in this case wildlife. Wildlife involves live or dead animals and plants.

### General Overview

The illegal wildlife trade is globally active with connections to every continent. However, it is believed that the problem is most severe in Southeast Asia. This is due to the weak border controls and link to important Chinese markets. This makes the risk of trafficking very low and the profit very high. In Asia, one of the most significant places that contributes to the illegal trade is Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok, Thailand. The airport has made numerous headlines when it comes to animal trafficking. The airport provides a great link with many



direct flights to Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East. Within Asia the demand for endangered species is also high as they are often used as traditional medicine.

The trade is also very active in Africa. Wildlife is traded within countries, but also internationally and mainly involves African elephants, rhinoceros, leopards and lions. Morocco is one of the most used ways to traffic animals into Europe, because of their border with Spain.

In South America, hunting for animals mainly takes place because of the high demand for Amazonian animals in the United States. These exotic pets are intended as pets, but are very difficult to capture. It often involves killing the mother animal and hoping that the target does not die as well. Many animals die and only few are successfully captured.

On various continents indigenous people are negatively impacted by the illegal wildlife trade. They are sometimes falsely accused or are being evicted from their lands to make place for protected nature reserves.

Because of traffickers wishing to hide the wildlife, the animals often travel in poor conditions. This results in extremely low survival rates.

The world has already seen many ecosystems that are being destroyed due to e.g. overfishing and this will continue to happen if wildlife is not stopped.

## Major Parties Involved

### Organisations

#### World Wildlife Fund

WWF is an organisation that focuses on the wellbeing of animals around the world, like taking measures to tackle illegal wildlife trade and poaching. For example, WWF is working on closing legal and illegal ivory markets across Asia. The organisation also has partnerships with technology companies for the development of ways to detect poachers. Furthermore, WWF has partnerships with social media companies to track online trade.

#### Wildlife Alliance

This organisation has worked together with the Cambodian government and set up its own law enforcement team, called the WRRT. This 'animal police unit' investigates the transnational illegal wildlife trade and attempts to take it down. It has saved over 70,000





animals and arrested over 3000 traffickers. Just like WWF, the Wildlife Alliance is looking more into social media since a lot of illegal trade takes place on Facebook.

## Countries

### Kenya

Much of the poaching on elephants and rhinos is being done in Kenya and its neighbouring countries Tanzania and Uganda. Poor people often work for big and rich poachers and only get a small percentage of the money. After earning some money, these people often use their weapons to join terrorist groups. Kenya has many national parks and protected areas, still wildlife poaching, and trafficking is a huge problem. This is due to the very high demand for ivory and rhino horn in China. The national parks have rangers trying to protect the animals. Nevertheless, they do not have enough people to be able to fight this so-called war.

### China

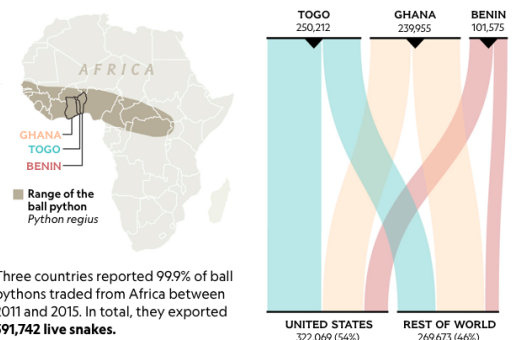
In China there is a huge demand for ivory and rhino horns. People see it as luxury items and are willing to pay a lot of money for it. Before 2017, China had a legal government regulated ivory trade. However, this only made the ivory trade worse. Sellers could now easily possess lots of ivory, even though the government set a limit. This big demand in China led to the poaching of thousands of elephants in countries all over Africa. Another problem is that the business provides so much money, that even politicians and the police can often not be trusted. Now that China has implemented a ban on ivory and has taken active steps to change the peoples view on ivory, it seems to have lowered the demand a little. Still, the illegal trade remains enormous.

### United States of America

In the USA, there is a high demand for exotic animals as pets or skins. Many of these animals come from West Africa. In the picture on the right, it is shown that more than 50% from exported animals from Togo, Benin and Ghana ends up in the USA.

#### Africa's most traded

The ball python is legally exported from Africa more than any other species listed by CITES, which monitors wildlife trade. The snake's popularity as an exotic pet drives demand, especially from the U.S.



RILEY D. CHAMPINE, NG STAFF. SOURCE: WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION; IUCN



## Timeline of Key Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Event</b>
<i>September 2015</i>	Tanzania's most ruthless elephant poacher, Boniface Maliango, was arrested and later sentenced to 12 years of prison. He was operational in Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia.
<i>December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017</i>	China implements a ban on ivory, which has a huge impact on the ivory trade.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Since China has implemented its ban, a strong decrease of 65% was seen in prices. Additionally, there has been a huge decline in ivory entering China. Although this is a giant step forward, lots of elephants are still being killed every day. Sadly, this new ban of China will not help the poaching and trafficking of other animals.

## Possible Solutions

One of the biggest problems that fuels the trafficking of wildlife is the gigantic demand for ivory and exotic animals. They have a certain status and image. If this image were to be changed, the demand will decrease. We have already seen this happen in China, when the government made advertisements about how cruel the ivory trade is. If other countries would do this too, the status of these products and animals could change.

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