



**FORUM:** United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

**TOPIC:** Eliminating the Poaching and Trafficking of Protected Animal Species

**STUDENT OFFICER:** Maria Agapi Bouga

**POSITION:** Deputy President

---

## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Hello delegates!

My name is Maria Agapi Bouga and in this year's AMLMUN I will be serving as the Deputy President of UNEP. I am 16 years old and I go to Arsakeio Lykeio Psychikou. This is my first time chairing and I am so excited to meet each one of you and share this amazing journey with you! I would describe myself as a really social and positive person whose one goal is to constantly gain new experiences and try everything! I find pleasure in debating and public speaking and I hope you will share my passions too, once you join the MUN world!

I always thought that recycling mattered, even when my friends didn't, and I always kept my trash in order to later throw it in a bin, even when the people next to me threw it in the ground. Most people think that one person will not make a difference to the environment. On the contrary, I strongly believe that an individual's effort does matter and this planet will not survive for long, unless we act immediately. Subsequently, I'm so happy I have the chance to chair the UNEP committee, as we will discuss global environmental issues and find solutions, while gaining environmental consciousness.

For me, MUN is not just an ordinary programme. It is a way to express yourself through debate and fruitful dialogue and an opportunity to meet new people from all over the world. And the most important of all, MUN is the key to step out of your comfort zone, become part of something bigger and challenge yourself! My goal is to ensure that every one of you will feel comfortable to express themselves through respectful dialogue and I really hope I can contribute to make your MUN experience unforgettable!

Feel free to ask me anything and don't hesitate to contact me if you're facing any difficulties! My email is [tzenidou70@gmail.com](mailto:tzenidou70@gmail.com)

Kind regards,

Agapi Bouga

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The second largest threat to the future of the world's most endangered species, after habitat destruction, is illegal animal trafficking. This kind of wildlife crime is one of the most profitable illicit markets in the world, much like illegal drugs and weapons markets, since it generates approximately \$20 billion every year.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, in 2025, the number of threatened species identified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources stood at over 18,000.<sup>2</sup> The protection of endangered species that are constantly poached and trafficked lies under the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more specifically the target 15.7, "Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products".<sup>3</sup>

Well-known species, such as elephants or rhinos, are the center of interest of international criminal networks. However, the targets are not limited to distinctive animals, as less-known species such as sea turtles are in serious danger. The whole process of illegal trafficking consists of a very complex chain of actors, including poachers, intermediaries and consumers. The role of the poachers is just the start of this well-organized crime, since traffickers take action later to move the wild animals, or parts of them, across international borders where they finally arrive to consumers. There is a wide range of demand, with the reasons for supply being the possession of unique jewelry, the desire for exotic pets or traditional medicine methods, among others. In order to protect the ecosystems of the wild animals, this chain needs to be broken. Although efforts have been made, the criminal groups behind the trade are still operating, while remaining unpunished due to weak legislations, light sentencing and restricted resources. Moreover, as global demand grows, the exploitation of the endangered species can lead to the extinction of their entire population.

An even more devastating fact is that the animals are not the only ones who are being exploited. Criminal groups often take advantage of the local people in order to undertake illegal actions such as the poaching of wild species. Additionally, locals who protect or live in close proximity to endangered animals or plants are threatened by poachers and hunters who are frequently armed with guns or other weapons that are used to kill, capture, or collect wildlife. Along with the wildlife disruption, comes

---

<sup>1</sup>From *Poaching, Trafficking, to Demand. Wildlife Crime Explained* | WWF, [www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/wildlife/wildlife-crime/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/wildlife/wildlife-crime/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>2</sup>From *Poaching, Trafficking, to Demand. Wildlife Crime Explained* | WWF, [www.statista.com/chart/17122/number-of-threatened-species-red-list/#:~:text=In%202025%2C%20the%20number%20of%20threatened%20species%20identified,Nature%20and%20Natural%20Resources%20stood%20at%20over%2018%2C000](https://www.statista.com/chart/17122/number-of-threatened-species-red-list/#:~:text=In%202025%2C%20the%20number%20of%20threatened%20species%20identified,Nature%20and%20Natural%20Resources%20stood%20at%20over%2018%2C000). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>3</sup> "Goal 15 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *United Nations*, [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15#targets_and_indicators). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

the financial damage on local communities, as they often rely on eco-tourism and due to the depleted animal numbers, tourists choose not to visit countries with unique wildlife, such as African nations. Another consequence of poaching is that human habitats and agriculture are directly affected by unpredictable environmental changes caused by ecosystem imbalances. Subsequently, wildlife crime and specifically poaching and trafficking of protected animal species poses a great threat to nature and the rule of law.



Elephant Ivory Bangle<sup>4</sup>



Tortoise shell hair comb<sup>5</sup>

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Poaching

“The catching and killing of animals without permission on someone else's land”<sup>6</sup>

### Trafficking

“The activity of buying and selling something illegally”<sup>7</sup>

### Endangered Species

“Any species that is at risk of extinction because of a sudden, rapid decrease in its population or a loss of its critical habitat”<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> *From Poaching, Trafficking, to Demand. Wildlife Crime Explained | WWF, [www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/wildlife/wildlife-crime/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/wildlife/wildlife-crime/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.*

<sup>5</sup> *From Poaching, Trafficking, to Demand. Wildlife Crime Explained | WWF, [www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/wildlife/wildlife-crime/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/our-work/wildlife/wildlife-crime/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.*

<sup>6</sup> “Poaching.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/poaching#google\\_vignette](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/poaching#google_vignette). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>7</sup> “Trafficking.” *Trafficking Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.Com*, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/trafficking?q=trafficking](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/trafficking?q=trafficking). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>8</sup> *Endangered Species | Definition, Causes, Examples, & Facts | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/science/endangered-species](http://www.britannica.com/science/endangered-species). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.



### Wild Animal

“An animal that lives in natural conditions and is not cared for by humans”<sup>9</sup>

### Gamekeeper

“A person whose job is to take care of wild animals and birds that are kept especially for hunting”<sup>10</sup>

### Ivory

“The hard yellowish-white substance that forms the tusks of some animals such as elephants, used especially in the past to make decorative objects”<sup>11</sup>

### Ranger

“A person whose job is to protect a forest or natural park”<sup>12</sup>

### Biodiversity

“The number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally, or the problem of protecting this”<sup>13</sup>

### Fauna

“All the animals that live wild in a particular area”<sup>14</sup>

### Flora

“All the plants of a particular place or from a particular time in history”<sup>15</sup>

### Black Market

“The illegal trading of goods that are not allowed to be bought and sold, or that there are not enough of for everyone who wants them”<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup>“Wild Animal.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wild-animal](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wild-animal). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>10</sup> “Gamekeeper.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gamekeeper](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gamekeeper). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>11</sup> “Ivory.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ivory?q=IVORY](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ivory?q=IVORY). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>12</sup>“Ranger.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ranger](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ranger). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>13</sup>“Biodiversity.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/biodiversity?q=Biodiversity#](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/biodiversity?q=Biodiversity#). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>14</sup> “Fauna.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>15</sup>“Flora.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/flora](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/flora). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>16</sup> “Black Market.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/black-market](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/black-market). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Historical Background

The crime of poaching goes way back in history and has taken many different forms throughout the centuries. Until the 20th century, the main reason poachers stole wild animals or fish was for survival, since the majority of them were underprivileged farmers. When the medieval period started in Europe, poaching became a serious crime and anyone who attempted to hunt or fish in the lands of the feudal lords was sentenced to imprisonment. Moreover, the protection of animals such as deer, wild boars and other species started to take legal terms. In the 17th and 18th century, the shooting and hunting rights on the private property of the landowners were restricted by law. Hence, hiring gamekeepers on privately owned lands became more and more common, in order to preserve the wildlife. During the 18th and 19th century, poaching became more specialized, with poachers establishing organized rings, which were often engaged in brutal conflicts with the gamekeepers.

One of history's most characteristic examples of illegal poaching and trafficking is the exploitation of elephant ivory. In the 1980s, the population of African elephants was reduced to half by poachers seeking ivory. The illicit trade of elephant ivory was banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1990. However, up until today, ivory trade continues in the black market, with Asia being the centre of illegal ivory markets. In the 21st century, ivory continues to be a material for creating figurines and other aesthetic objects by skilled craftsmen. Popular ivory products such as the white tops of piano keys ("ivories") and white billiard balls have been replaced by equivalents made of plastics or other synthetic materials.



Ivory necklace, Lega culture, Congo region, Africa, 1901–30; in the Indianapolis Museum of Art. <sup>17</sup>

### Modern Poaching

The poaching and trafficking of endangered animal species today continues to operate in legal as well as black markets, posing a significant threat to wild animals protected in wildlife preserves or national parks. Many species are facing extinction or

---

<sup>17</sup> *Elephant* | *Description, Habitat, Scientific Names, Weight, & Facts* | *Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/animal/elephant-mammal](http://www.britannica.com/animal/elephant-mammal). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.



have been limited in range, with the biggest problems located in the African continent. More specifically, species such as rhinoceros, which are hunted for their horn, and African elephants, which are slaughtered for their ivory, have been depleted due to the difficulty of enforcing legislations. Furthermore, the Bengal tiger of India, the gorilla of central Africa, the Asian and African pangolins, are all species which are constantly poached by illegal hunters, while their populations have declined dramatically during the 21st century. Furthermore, pet trade poses a serious threat to many types of parrots. Lastly, the illegal collection of tropical fish puts their population in grave danger, with river poaching being the main cause of the depletion of stocks of fish in many areas. All the aforementioned animals have been listed as endangered or critically endangered species.

Animals are not the only ones susceptible to poaching, as plants are illegally logged from many areas. When valuable trees such as rosewood or mahogany are destroyed in an area, not only do the poachers cause the elimination of the tree species, but they also evoke great problems to the animals that depend on them.

### Why Animals Are Poached

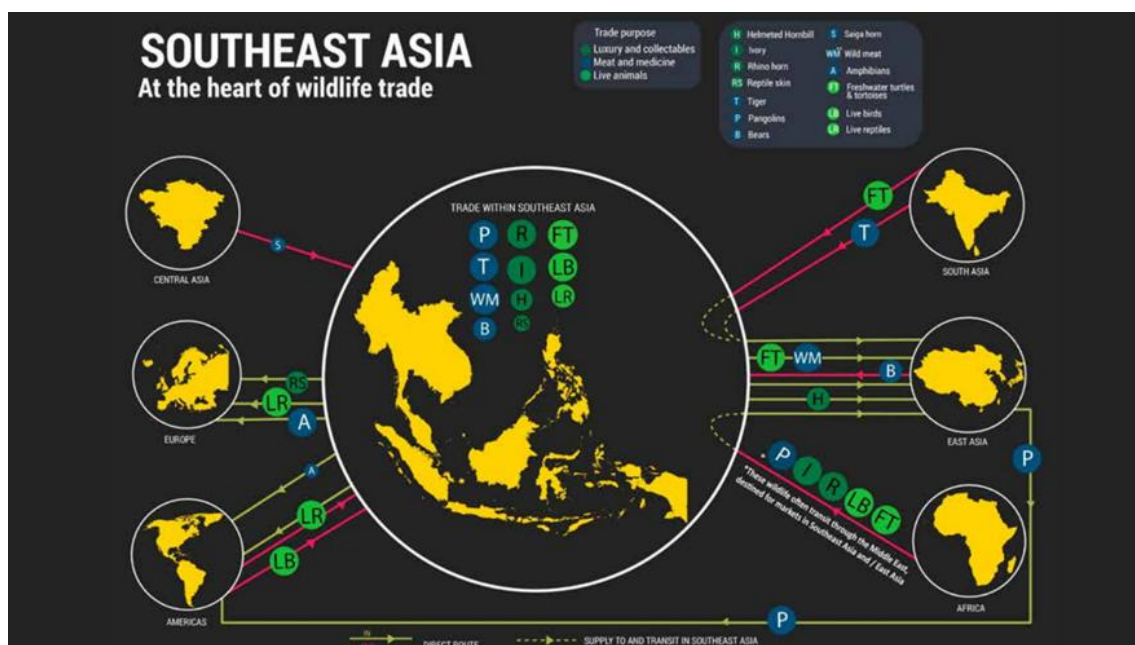
Millions of individual animals are killed or captured from their natural habitat, so that their poachers can sell them in local markets or profit off them in the global wildlife trade. This mode of exchange has mainly increased in Asia, in e-commerce and social media websites. The global black market for wildlife is one of the largest illicit industries in the world, worth an estimated \$7–23 billion annually.<sup>18</sup> Despite awareness campaigns and previous international efforts, this illicit trade persists because of the high demand. Every year, animals are being hunted, trafficked, and sold like commodities with consumers demanding animal parts, such as ivory and rhino horns to pangolin scales and exotic birds. This well-organized global network is fueling corruption, threatening global health, and undermining years of environmental progress.

On the one hand, animals are being sold as exotic pets, such as birds, reptiles, and primates. On the other hand, slaughtered ones have commercial value as food, jewelry, decor or traditional medicine. For instance, in Africa the meat of apes, snakes and other species is considered a delicacy. Poachers also kill animals to prevent them from ruining crops or striking livestock. Lions and elephants in Africa, as well as wolves, coyotes, and other predators in North America and beyond are targeted for this exact reason. Furthermore, in many places of the world traditional medicine was used as a means of healing for many centuries, as part of their cultural practices. Animal-derived

---

<sup>18</sup> "The Global Black Market Destroying Our Wildlife in Silence." *The Environmentalist View: The Global Black Market Destroying Our Wildlife in Silence*, [www.environmentalistview.com.ng/wildlife-insight/the-global-black-market-destroying-our-wildlife-in-silence](http://www.environmentalistview.com.ng/wildlife-insight/the-global-black-market-destroying-our-wildlife-in-silence). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

ingredients are used for traditional medicines leading to a major concern towards wildlife populations. For instance, in China, for Traditional Chinese Medicine or TCM, as many as 36 species are used, such as rhinos for their horns, tigers for their bones, bears for their bile, and pangolins for their scales.<sup>19</sup> Unfortunately, numerous species are led to the brink of extinction due to overhunting and trafficking.



Summary of trade flow relationships between Southeast Asia and other regions (TRAFFIC Report: Southeast Asia: At the heart of wildlife trade, 2020)<sup>20</sup>

## The Effects of Poaching

The effects of poaching are devastating for wildlife. It is one of the main reasons why many species face extinction. More than 100,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory between 2014 and 2017, while more than a thousand rhinos are slaughtered for their horns each year.<sup>21</sup> The methods used by poachers to kill or capture animals fail to comply with animal welfare standards. Exotic pet trade not only reduces the population of these animals, but it also affects their welfare. Animals may survive the transportation, even if they suffer being stuffed into boxes and away from their natural habitat, but they will certainly endure a plethora of hardship in their new unnatural living conditions. Unfortunately, humans are affected too, with rangers around the world being killed at a high rate, an example being 600 rangers who, whilst protecting wildlife in Africa, were killed by poachers between 2009 and 2016. Over the last decade,

<sup>19</sup> Mitra, Aditya. "Healing Traditions, Hurting Wildlife?" *Wildlife SOS*, 6 Jan. 2026, news.wildlifesos.org/healing-traditions-hurting-wildlife/. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>20</sup> "Wildlife Heroes: Thailand X Lao PDR Cross-Border Innovation for Wildlife Conservation." *UNDP*, www.undp.org/thailand/blog/wildlife-heroes-thailand-x-lao-pdr-cross-border-innovation-wildlife-conservation-0. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>21</sup> "Poaching Animals, Facts and Information." *Animals*, www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/poaching-animals. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

about 1,000 rangers have died in the line of duty in Africa alone.<sup>22</sup> Biodiversity loss is another major consequence of poaching, threatening ecosystem functions. For instance, the slow reproduction rate of vulnerable species such as bull elephants has led to a severe gender imbalance. There are also indirect impacts on non-target animals who are captured with the desired animals, an obvious example being species such as turtles, dolphins, and juvenile fish caught in the nets of the fishermen.

### Case Study: Dian Fossey's Attempt at Protecting Gorillas in Africa

Dian Fossey was a woman who dedicated her life to eliminating poaching, while studying gorillas in Rwanda. She had a deep passion for Africa's nature and travelled to the continent in 1963. Rwanda was and still is home to the Virunga group of mountain gorillas. There were about 475 individuals in the early 1960s, but their numbers were dwindling due to poaching and habitat loss. In the early 1980s the population dropped to about 254 individuals.<sup>23</sup> Fossey did everything she could to gain their trust, unlike other researchers in her time, who viewed gorillas as violent creatures. She was the first to introduce mountain gorillas to the world, as she appeared in National Geographic magazine in 1970.

Dian's conflict with the poachers took up a big part of her life, with many reports stating her extreme and sometimes questionable methods. After Digit, her favourite gorilla was killed by poachers, she suffered from depression and was even more dedicated to fighting the poachers. However, her mistrust and hate towards the locals didn't let her act efficiently and participate in projects and organisations to save the mountain gorillas. Her tragic death remains a mystery, as she was murdered on the 26th of December in 1985 and the investigation was poorly handled. There are many opinions on this unsolved murder with many claiming the poachers were responsible for her death, while others dismiss this possibility completely. The sure thing is that after her tragic end the number of mountain gorillas increased and her figure became one of the most important in the history of combating wildlife crime. Dian Fossey serves as a powerful case study for animal poaching, highlighting the severe dangers of illegal wildlife trade and the personal dangers faced by wildlife defenders, whilst representing the evolution from passive research to active conservation.

---

<sup>22</sup>"Wildlife, Forest & Fisheries Crime Module 1 Key Issues: Implications of Wildlife Trafficking.": [www.unodc.org/cld/pt/education/tertiary/wildlife-crime/module-1/key-issues/implications-of-wildlife-trafficking.html](http://www.unodc.org/cld/pt/education/tertiary/wildlife-crime/module-1/key-issues/implications-of-wildlife-trafficking.html). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>23</sup>Aveling, Conrad, and Alexander H. Harcourt. "A Census of the Virunga Gorillas: Oryx." *Cambridge Core*, Cambridge University Press, 24 Apr. 2009, [www.cambridge.org/core/journals/oryx/article/census-of-the-virunga-gorillas/CAFC2BE4392AC0F0CE348A6680320921](http://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/oryx/article/census-of-the-virunga-gorillas/CAFC2BE4392AC0F0CE348A6680320921). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.



## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### Brazil

In the nature-protected Ribeira Valley in the middle of the Atlantic rainforest, in the southern part of Brazil, poaching and illegal animal trade are thriving. Captured animals, mainly birds, are sold to Europe and South America, provided they survive the transport. Animals that are traumatized by traps, poisons, nets, cramped containers and torturous transports are confiscated by the Brazilian Environmental Police, but due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure, they are not able to take care of them. Moreover, the biodiversity of the Amazon forest portion of Maranhão, which is a state in northeastern Brazil, is in great danger from illegal animal trafficking. The smuggling of species such as monkeys, exotic birds, reptiles and native mammals poses an important threat to their future. There are also reports from indigenous people of invasions and destruction of habitats by illicit hunters.

### Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The DRC is the most biologically diverse country in Africa and one of the most important biodiversity centers in the world. Massive levels of poaching are driven by armed conflict, poverty, and the demand for illegal wildlife products in the forests of Congo. The Congo Basin is the second largest rainforest globally and home to Africa's highest concentration of species, yet poaching has led to significant biodiversity loss. The conflict in the eastern part of the country has led to a "wartime economy" around illegal trafficking and poaching, with rebels having occupied areas and blocking park patrols, in order to allow poachers free rein. Since the M23 (March 23 Movement) rebel group in 2021, there has been a 50% decline in wildlife in the Virunga National Park, whilst between 2022 and August 2024, 50% of species in the Virunga National Park were lost.<sup>24</sup> Subsequently, every minute on the east side of the country, endangered species, tourists, and national park employees alike are in danger.

### Tanzania

Tanzania has made a remarkable effort against the illegal poaching of endangered species. A series of coordinated efforts, from law enforcement and cross-border intelligence sharing to new tools like drones and surveillance equipment, are behind this significant turnaround in the country's wildlife preservation. Thanks to an integrated approach led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Tanzania is steadily turning the tide. In the Ruaha–

---

<sup>24</sup> Abulu, Latoya. "Poaching Intensifies in M23-Occupied Areas of Virunga National Park." *Conservation News*, 1 May 2025, [news.mongabay.com/2025/04/poaching-intensifies-in-m23-occupied-areas-of-virunga-national-park/](https://news.mongabay.com/2025/04/poaching-intensifies-in-m23-occupied-areas-of-virunga-national-park/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

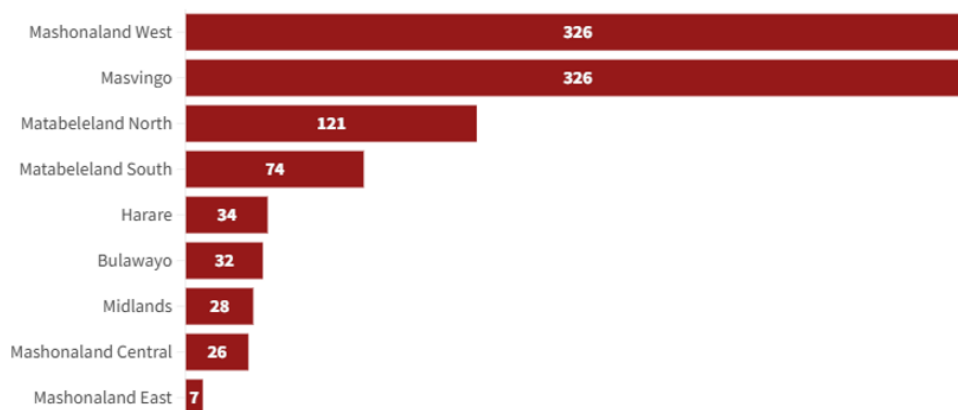
Rungwa landscape, elephant poaching has dropped by an impressive 95.8%, with just one case reported in 2024, and fortunately lion poaching has been completely halted in the country.<sup>25</sup>

## Zimbabwe

Environmental crimes, such as poaching and illegal wildlife trade continue to afflict Zimbabwe's Matabeleland province in the south-west of the country. In 2023, courts around the country heard more than 1,300 cases related to wildlife crimes. The majority was based in some of the country's biggest national parks, including the Hwange National Park. On May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024, detectives from the Crime Investigation Department confronted three alleged poachers on the outskirts of the capital city, Bulawayo.<sup>26</sup> They were charged with illegal possession of five pieces of elephant tusk and a pangolin skin, and are set to appear in court soon.

### 2023 Wildlife Crime Court Cases Across Zimbabwe

More than 900 cases were heard in courts across the country



Source: Zimbabwe National Prosecuting Authority, #WildEye Southern Africa

A Flourish chart

### 2023 wildlife crime court cases across Zimbabwe<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "From Poaching to Protection: Tanzania's Wildlife Is Thriving Again." UNDP, [www.undp.org/tanzania/stories/poaching-protection-tanzanias-wildlife-thriving-again#:~:text=Tanzania%20is%20making%20remarkable%20strides%20in%20its%20fight,from%20the%20Global%20Environment%20Facility%20%28GEF%29%20through%20UNDP](https://www.undp.org/tanzania/stories/poaching-protection-tanzanias-wildlife-thriving-again#:~:text=Tanzania%20is%20making%20remarkable%20strides%20in%20its%20fight,from%20the%20Global%20Environment%20Facility%20%28GEF%29%20through%20UNDP.). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>26</sup> Reporter, Staff. "Silent Extinction: Zimbabwe's Hotbed of Environmental Crime." CITEZW, 14 June 2024, [cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/#:~:text=In%20the%20shadows%20of%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20environmental%20management%20lies,Matabeleland%20province%20in%20the%20south-west%20of%20the%20country](https://cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/#:~:text=In%20the%20shadows%20of%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20environmental%20management%20lies,Matabeleland%20province%20in%20the%20south-west%20of%20the%20country.). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>27</sup> Reporter, Staff. "Silent Extinction: Zimbabwe's Hotbed of Environmental Crime." CITEZW, 14 June 2024, [cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/#:~:text=In%20the%20shadows%20of%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20environmental%20manag](https://cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/#:~:text=In%20the%20shadows%20of%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20environmental%20manag)



Nevertheless, data from court records indicate Zimbabwe has made significant progress in combating wildlife crimes. Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a significant role in the preservation of Zimbabwe's biodiversity. According to David Cain, a tech expert and senior patent attorney, with tools that use facial recognition technologies to identify individual animals, particularly those most threatened by poaching, like elephants and rhinos, AI can be used to help monitor species movements and provide evidence for prosecuting wildlife crimes.<sup>28</sup>

### International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Wildlife crime is a priority focus for INTERPOL. The organisation, above other goals, seeks to combat organised crime groups and criminal networks that threaten the planet. INTERPOL has responded to the challenge by making their Environmental Security unit an integral part of their wider Organized Crime Directorate. Their specialists work closely in order to identify and track networks of environmental crime and break the complicated transnational supply chain. INTERPOL is a founding partner of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and their work identifying and targeting the criminals that traffic protected animal species and plants spans the globe. INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization coordinate Operation Thunder, a month-long annual operation involving law enforcement agencies from over 130 countries worldwide. Almost 20,000 alive animals, including big cats, primates, pangolins, reptiles and birds, and hundreds of thousands of protected animal parts and derivatives, trees, plants, marine life and arthropods were captured in 2024 by this operation. Moreover, 365 arrests were made by the participating agencies, identifying a number of criminal networks.<sup>29</sup>

### International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

IUCN was created in 1948 and is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, with more than 1,500 Member organisations and 19,000 experts. This diversity and expertise makes IUCN the global authority on the status of

---

ement%20lies,Matabeleland%20province%20in%20the%20south-west%20of%20the%20country.  
Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>28</sup> Reporter, Staff. "Silent Extinction: Zimbabwe's Hotbed of Environmental Crime." *CITEZW*, 14 June 2024, [cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/#:~:text=In%20the%20shadows%20of%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20environmental%20management%20lies,Matabeleland%20province%20in%20the%20south-west%20of%20the%20country.](https://cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/#:~:text=In%20the%20shadows%20of%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20environmental%20management%20lies,Matabeleland%20province%20in%20the%20south-west%20of%20the%20country.) Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

<sup>29</sup> "Focus: Wildlife Crime." *INTERPOL*, [www.interpol.int/Resources/INTERPOL-Spotlight/Spotlight-Issue-1-Organized-Crime/Focus-Wildlife-crime#:~:text=Along%20with%20illegal%20mining%20and%20pollution%2C%20forestry%20and,traffic%20protected%20fauna%20and%20flora%20spans%20the%20globe.](https://www.interpol.int/Resources/INTERPOL-Spotlight/Spotlight-Issue-1-Organized-Crime/Focus-Wildlife-crime#:~:text=Along%20with%20illegal%20mining%20and%20pollution%2C%20forestry%20and,traffic%20protected%20fauna%20and%20flora%20spans%20the%20globe.) Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.<sup>30</sup> IUCN has access to an extensive network of organisations and scientists that makes effective conservation action possible. IUCN also supports local organisations and conservation practitioners through IUCN Save Our Species (SOS), the IUCN's flagship species conservation funding initiative to protect threatened species, restore critical habitats and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems worldwide. Another big step taken by IUCN is the establishment of The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species.

### World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

WWF was established in 1961, aiming at securing the funding necessary to protect places and species that were threatened by human development. Local leadership in conservation is a high priority for WWF, as they have understood that conservation efforts led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, governments, and other local actors are far more effective, resilient, and sustainable. They focus their efforts on species whose protection influences and supports the survival of other species or offers the opportunity to protect whole landscapes or marine areas, such as tigers, rhinos, whales and marine turtles. Over the past 60 years, WWF has been part of successful wildlife recovery stories ranging from southern Africa's black rhino to tigers across Asia, helping to protect rich and varied ecosystems while ensuring people continue to benefit from nature.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| DATE                            | EVENT                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> May 1900       | The Convention for the Preservation of Wild Animals, Birds and Fish in Africa (London Convention of 1900) was signed                                         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> October 1948    | The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) was established in the French town of Fontainebleau, becoming the first global environmental union |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> September 1961 | World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was founded                                                                                                                 |
| 1964                            | The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was established                                                                                                      |

<sup>30</sup> "About IUCN." *IUCN*, 4 May 2026, [iucn.org/about-iucn](https://www.iucn.org/about-iucn). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September 1968 | The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was adopted in Algiers                                                                            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1975       | The CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) entered into force                                                               |
| 1997                            | The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) was established by the Conference of the Parties to CITES                                                                       |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2015      | The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/314 was adopted after 3 years of diplomatic efforts, becoming the first resolution aimed at combating wildlife trafficking |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2010  | The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) was established                                                                                              |
| 2011                            | Nepal achieved 365 days without any rhinos, tigers or elephants poached.                                                                                                     |

## RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES is an international agreement between governments, aiming at ensuring that international trade of wild animals and plants is legal, sustainable and traceable, and does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild. The organisation is also responsible for regulating international trade in over 40,000 species of wild animals and plants, while covering their import and export.<sup>31</sup> In 1975 the CITES Trade Database was established, becoming the most comprehensive and authoritative database on international trade in wildlife, where the Parties report annually their official trade records.

---

<sup>31</sup> What Is CITES? | Cites, [cites.org/eng/disc/what.php](https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.



## United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 69/314

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/314 was the first resolution aimed at combating illicit wildlife trafficking.<sup>32</sup> It urged all member states to make the poaching and trafficking of endangered species a crime and encouraged them to take effective measures in order to prevent the problem of environmental crimes, while raising awareness and engaging in international cooperation. This Resolution marked the first time that the 193 UN Member States have agreed to increase their joint effort to combat the poaching and illegal trade in protected species of wild fauna and flora. Although it was not legally-binding, this UNGA Resolution carried political weight and clearly reflected the international concern over the serious and widespread effects of the aforementioned transnational crimes.

## African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources is a multilateral regional environmental treaty signed by independent African States under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity in 1968.<sup>33</sup> The Convention aims at conserving, utilizing, and developing irreplaceable natural resources through both individual and collective actions committed by the parties.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is the collaborative partnership of five inter-governmental organizations. The participatory members of the ICCWC are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's (CITES) Secretariat, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank Group (WBG) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Their goal is to strengthen criminal justice systems and build long-term capacity among authorities to address wildlife crime.<sup>34</sup> A great example of ICCWC's efforts to combat poaching and illicit trafficking of wild animals was last year's Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting. Law experts and other governmental agencies, along with ICCWC partner

---

<sup>32</sup> A/RES/68/304 General Assembly 68/304. Towards the Establishment of a Multilateral Legal Framework for Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes. 2014.

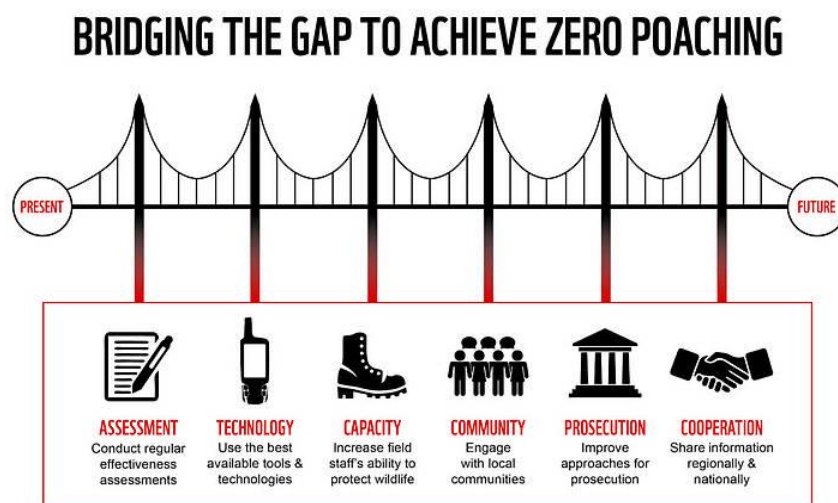
<sup>33</sup> "African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources." *ICLRC Biodiversity Legal Database*, [biodiv.iclrc.org/instrument/41](https://biodiv.iclrc.org/instrument/41). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>34</sup> "Who We Are." *ICCWC*, 5 Dec. 2024, [iccwc-wildlifecrime.org/who-we-are#:~:text=The%20International%20Consortium%20on%20Combating%20Wildlife%20Crime%20%28ICCWC%29,long-term%20capacity%20among%20authorities%20to%20address%20wildlife%20crime](https://iccwc-wildlifecrime.org/who-we-are#:~:text=The%20International%20Consortium%20on%20Combating%20Wildlife%20Crime%20%28ICCWC%29,long-term%20capacity%20among%20authorities%20to%20address%20wildlife%20crime). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

agencies and a range of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations worked to develop strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and specimen trafficking.

### Zero Poaching toolkit

The “Zero Poaching” is a call to the 13 countries with tiger population to stop their trafficking by adopting the Zero Poaching toolkit. There are 6 Zero Poaching pillars; Assessment, Technology, Capacity, Community, Prosecution and Cooperation.



#### Zero Poaching toolkit<sup>35</sup>

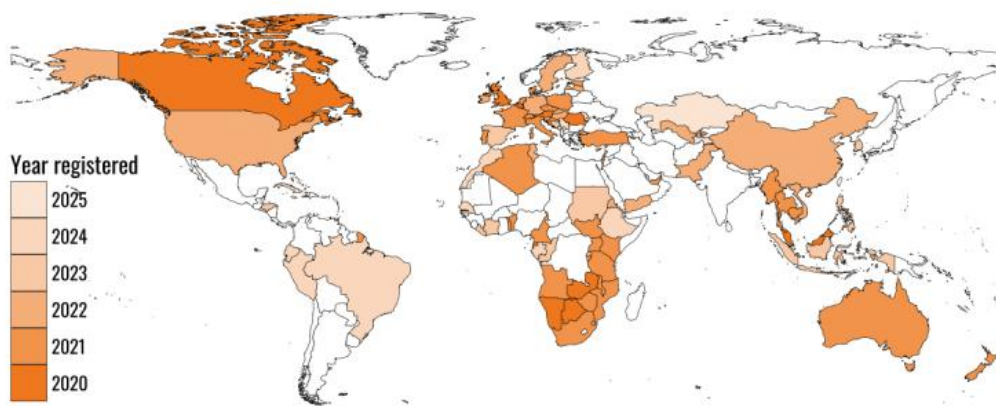
Assessing how effective existing enforcement activities are, using the most up-to-date technology and increasing the ability and motivation of anti-poaching staff to protect wildlife are fundamental actions in order to successfully implement the Zero Poaching Toolkit. In addition, recognizing how to best include local communities in protection efforts and discouraging poaching activity through well-functioning judicial-criminal processes and cooperative anti-poaching efforts at national and international levels are key steps to achieve zero poaching.

Nepal is an extraordinary example which proves that Zero Poaching is actually possible, having implemented it successfully twice between 2011 and 2014. Moreover, in February 2015, Nepal hosted the first ever Zero Poaching Symposium, which was attended by representatives from all 13 tiger range countries. It was the first time poaching in Asia had ever been so comprehensively and practically addressed.

<sup>35</sup> *Zero Poaching Toolkit* | WWF, [tigers.panda.org/news\\_and\\_stories/stories/zero\\_poaching\\_toolkit/](https://tigers.panda.org/news_and_stories/stories/zero_poaching_toolkit/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

## Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)

The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) is the world's most comprehensive database program on illegal ivory trade, mandated by CITES. TRAFFIC, a non-governmental organisation whose goal is to create a world free of illicit wildlife trade, collects, manages and analyses ETIS data on globally reported poaching of elephants and seizures of ivory to inform CITES processes. ETIS contains over 45,000 seizure records from over 100 countries spanning more than 35 years.<sup>36</sup> Some of ETIS objectives are recording levels and trends of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens, assessing whether observed trends are linked to measures taken under the auspices of CITES and building capacity in elephant range States and countries.



Global coverage of ETIS Online data providers has steadily grown since 2020<sup>37</sup>

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Training Rangers

Unfortunately, poaching not only poses a threat to animals but it also puts wildlife rangers in great danger. On a daily basis, rangers, who attempt to protect wildlife, put their lives at risk. An effective and possible solution is training them, using advisors, instructors and experts. This training can include mentoring and capacity-building services in areas that suffer from poaching, such as the Afrotropical realm. This effort has already been started by organisations, but in order to succeed, it requires the help of the law enforcement department, resources and a vast number of people

---

<sup>36</sup>"Etis." TRAFFIC, [www.traffic.org/what-we-do/thematic-issues/trade-monitoring/elephant-trade-information-system/](http://www.traffic.org/what-we-do/thematic-issues/trade-monitoring/elephant-trade-information-system/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

<sup>37</sup>"Etis." TRAFFIC, [www.traffic.org/what-we-do/thematic-issues/trade-monitoring/elephant-trade-information-system/](http://www.traffic.org/what-we-do/thematic-issues/trade-monitoring/elephant-trade-information-system/). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.



interested in becoming wildlife rangers. Lastly, in order to attract more individuals, the salaries of the rangers need to be raised, as they ought to be paid respectfully for their challenging job.

### **Strengthening the law**

Strengthening law enforcement is another vital element in the fight against poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. Transnational illicit wildlife trafficking is controlled by criminal syndicates. In combatting them, authorities are pushed to their limits—and their national borders. That is why, alongside strengthening national structures, cooperation between authorities and countries has a particularly important part to play. Investigating authorities and enforcement agencies are given practical training and back-up for their operations. Monitoring data and evaluations serve as key bases for procedures and decisions. If traffickers are successfully detained and prosecuted, the trials of high-level actors must be consistently monitored and corruption efforts thwarted. This requires training and mentoring for state prosecutors and judges, preparation of witness statements and observation and reporting of the trials. The pressure must be maintained after a successful conviction in order to ensure sentences are enforced. In this way, Malawi was able to eliminate a syndicate of international relevance.

### **Raising Social Awareness**

Poaching and trafficking are mainly driven by consumer demand. Many consumers consider elephant ivory, rhino horns, exotic pets and generally illicit wildlife products normal purchases. The goal of awareness campaigns is the shift in the consumer's mindset. Education will lead to a deep understanding of the impact and the consequences of poaching to wild animals, plants, humans and the biodiversity of this planet. Social media is an impactful means of spreading awareness too. Hashtags such as #ZeroPoaching do have the power to inform people about the environmental crisis of poaching.

### **Supporting Local Communities**

Even if government and big organisations' efforts are vital, what many individuals don't realize is that local people can contribute to combatting wildlife crime too. Involving them in wildlife preservation is crucial in order to tackle poaching. Ecotourism and sustainable agriculture are both alternative sources of income and ideal for local communities. Through ecotourism, more local people are getting involved in preserving the wildlife, rather than disturbing the ecosystem. Moreover, sustainable agriculture protects the biodiversity of this planet, as fewer harmful pesticides are used and wild animals are protected. In order to protect the endangered species and avoid exploitation, we need to show to local communities that they can benefit from conservation, provided they have the required knowledge of their ecosystems and they interact with the environment directly.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abulu, Latoya. "Poaching Intensifies in M23-Occupied Areas of Virunga National Park." *Conservation News*, 1 May 2025, [news.mongabay.com/2025/04/poaching-intensifies-in-m23-occupied-areas-of-virunga-national-park/](https://news.mongabay.com/2025/04/poaching-intensifies-in-m23-occupied-areas-of-virunga-national-park/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

Aveling, Conrad, and Alexander H. Harcourt. "A Census of the Virunga Gorillas: *Oryx*." *Cambridge Core*, Cambridge University Press, 24 Apr. 2009, [www.cambridge.org/core/journals/oryx/article/census-of-the-virunga-gorillas/CAFC2BE4392AC0F0CE348A6680320921](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/oryx/article/census-of-the-virunga-gorillas/CAFC2BE4392AC0F0CE348A6680320921). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Biodiversity." *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/biodiversity?q=Biodiversity#](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/biodiversity?q=Biodiversity#). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Black Market." *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/black-market](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/black-market). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Elephant | Description, Habitat, Scientific Names, Weight, & Facts." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/animal/elephant-mammal](https://www.britannica.com/animal/elephant-mammal). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Fauna." *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fauna). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Flora." *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/flora](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/flora). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Gamekeeper." *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gamekeeper](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gamekeeper). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Goal 15 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *United Nations*, [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15#targets_and_indicators). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

"How Does Poaching Affect Humans and Society?" *Biology Insights*, 1 Sept. 2025, [biologyinsights.com/how-does-poaching-affect-humans-and-society/](https://biologyinsights.com/how-does-poaching-affect-humans-and-society/). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

"'Her Behaviour Could Be Extreme': The Woman Who Gave Her Life to Save the Gorillas." Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Ivory." *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ivory?q=IVORY](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ivory?q=IVORY). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Ivory | Definition, Uses, Trade, Products, Color, & Facts." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Locally Led Conservation." *WWF*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

Mitra, Aditya. "Healing Traditions, Hurting Wildlife?" *Wildlife SOS*, 6 Jan. 2026, [news.wildlifesos.org/healing-traditions-hurting-wildlife/](https://news.wildlifesos.org/healing-traditions-hurting-wildlife/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.



“Poaching.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/poaching#google\\_vignette](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/poaching#google_vignette). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Poaching | Description, History, Examples, & Control.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Poaching Animals, Facts and Information.” *National Geographic*, [www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/poaching-animals](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/poaching-animals). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Ranger.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ranger](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ranger). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

Reporter, Staff. “Silent Extinction: Zimbabwe’s Hotbed of Environmental Crime.” *CITEZW*, 14 June 2024, [cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/](https://cite.org.zw/silent-extinction-zimbabwes-hotbed-of-environmental-crime/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Species Conservation Action.” *IUCN*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Trafficking.” *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/trafficking?q=trafficking](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/trafficking?q=trafficking). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Training Rangers: The Solution to Wildlife Crime.” *Pelorus Travel*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Wild Animal.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wild-animal](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wild-animal). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Wildlife, Forest & Fisheries Crime Module 1 Key Issues: Implications of Wildlife Trafficking.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/cld/pt/education/tertiary/wildlife-crime/module-1/key-issues/implications-of-wildlife-trafficking.html](https://www.unodc.org/cld/pt/education/tertiary/wildlife-crime/module-1/key-issues/implications-of-wildlife-trafficking.html). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Wildlife Heroes: Thailand X Lao PDR Cross-Border Innovation for Wildlife Conservation.” *UNDP*, [www.undp.org/thailand/blog/wildlife-heroes-thailand-x-lao-pdr-cross-border-innovation-wildlife-conservation-0](https://www.undp.org/thailand/blog/wildlife-heroes-thailand-x-lao-pdr-cross-border-innovation-wildlife-conservation-0). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Zero Poaching Toolkit.” *WWF*, [tigers.panda.org/news\\_and\\_stories/stories/zero\\_poaching\\_toolkit/](https://tigers.panda.org/news_and_stories/stories/zero_poaching_toolkit/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“About IUCN.” *IUCN*, 4 May 2026, [iucn.org/about-iucn](https://iucn.org/about-iucn). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.” *ICLRC Biodiversity Legal Database*, [biodiv.iclrc.org/instrument/41](https://biodiv.iclrc.org/instrument/41). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

“Conflict and Conservation: How War Is Devastating the DRC’s National Parks.” *Change The Chamber*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.



"CITES." *What Is CITES?*, [cites.org/eng/disc/what.php](https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

"Explore Endangered Species and Wildlife Profiles Worldwide." *WWF*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Focus: Wildlife Crime." *INTERPOL*, [www.interpol.int/Resources/INTERPOL-Spotlight/Spotlight-Issue-1-Organized-Crime/Focus-Wildlife-crime](https://www.interpol.int/Resources/INTERPOL-Spotlight/Spotlight-Issue-1-Organized-Crime/Focus-Wildlife-crime). Accessed 21 Aug. 2026.

"From Poaching to Protection: Tanzania's Wildlife Is Thriving Again." *UNDP*, [www.undp.org/tanzania/stories/poaching-protection-tanzanias-wildlife-thriving-again](https://www.undp.org/tanzania/stories/poaching-protection-tanzanias-wildlife-thriving-again). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"From Poaching, Trafficking, to Demand. Wildlife Crime Explained." *WWF*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts." *WWF*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Seventy-Five Years of Experience." *IUCN*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"The Role of Local Communities in Wildlife Conservation." *Discover Wild Science*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"The United Nations General Assembly Adopts the First-Ever Resolution on Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife." *eBulletin*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"UN Adopts Resolution to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trafficking." *AP News*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"United Nations General Assembly Resolution A-RES-69-314." *Wikimedia Commons*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Who We Are." *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)*, 5 Dec. 2024, [icwc-wildlifecrime.org/who-we-are](https://icwc-wildlifecrime.org/who-we-are). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Etis." *TRAFFIC*, [www.traffic.org/what-we-do/thematic-issues/trade-monitoring/elephant-trade-information-system/](https://www.traffic.org/what-we-do/thematic-issues/trade-monitoring/elephant-trade-information-system/). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"TRAFFIC | Our Organisation." *TRAFFIC*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"What Is Zero Poaching?" *WWF*. Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.

"Endangered Species | Definition, Causes, Examples, & Facts." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/science/endangered-species](https://www.britannica.com/science/endangered-species). Accessed 20 Aug. 2026.