

Wildlife Trade Script

What is Wildlife Trade?

1. Wildlife crime is a big business.

a. Run by dangerous international networks, wildlife and animal parts are trafficked much like illegal drugs and arms.

b. Experts at TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, estimate that the business runs into billions of dollars.

2. Some examples of illegal wildlife trade are well known, such as poaching of elephants for ivory and tigers for their skins and bones.

a. However, countless other species are similarly overexploited, from marine turtles to timber trees.

3. Wildlife trade escalates into a crisis when an increasing proportion is illegal and unsustainable—directly threatening the survival of many species in the wild.

4. These biofact items we have are from the Amazon.

a. In the Brazilian Amazon, wild species are trapped in the forest by indigenous people gold prospectors, peasants, farmers and cowboys, who complement their income through this illegal activity.

b. These people are often encouraged by traffickers to hunt endangered species and to sell them their skins and other products.

What gets caught?

1. Birds:

a. Birds in the Amazon are prime targets for traffickers.

b. Some are sold live, while others are killed to supply feathers, skins, eggs and other body-parts. Eggs are also traded.

2. Reptiles:

a. These animals are highly valued for their skins. Crocodile, snakes and lizard skins are used for shoes, handbags, clothes, suitcases, belts, etc.

b. Live reptiles are also popular pets. In the past ten years, the world demand for reptiles by pet shops, educational and scientific institutions, zoos, aquaria, as well as for food, has dramatically increased.

3. Mammals:

a. Of all mammal species from the Americas that are traded, 95% are found in Brazil, one of the major suppliers of primates.

How to Help Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade?

1. Ask before you buy
2. Stick to certified products
3. Choose sustainable, eco-friendly pets
4. Eat only sustainable seafood
5. Petition your local government to stop or restrict legal ivory trade
6. Pledge your support
7. Report any illegal wildlife trade