



Timeline of China and the (Illegal) Ivory Trade

2008- 2011

via Online News Publications
(savetheelephants.org)

2008

JUNE

Jumbo wars come to Kenya

By JOHN MBARIA, The East African

June 30, 2008

For Central African countries, the worry is that their diminishing elephant populations will disappear if the trade is allowed.

The raging conflicts in Congo, Chad and the Central African Republic have given poachers free rein to reduce the already small elephant numbers in the region. Central Africa is thus fearful that allowing China to partner in the limited ivory trade will worsen the poaching that is currently going on there.

<http://www.nationmedia.com/estafrican/current/Magazine/mag300620083.htm>

JULY

UN report raises doubts on China ivory supply

JOHN HEILPRIN, Associated Press

July 12, 2008

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — China's government lost track of 121 tons of elephant ivory over a dozen years that probably was sold on illegal markets, according to a previously undisclosed Chinese report to U.N. regulatory officials.

The "shortfall" in ivory described in the document between 1991 and 2002 — equal to the tusks from about 11,000 dead elephants — could provide fodder for representatives of a U.N. accord to reject China's attempt next week to gain permission to import more ivory.

...In its report five years ago to CITES, Chinese environmental officials disclosed that sellers in numerous cities "have been for years dealing commercially in ivory products despite the fact that these products did not come from approved/registered sources."

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jRFX5JZWhq_Zn6ajBHy-M_exHmiAD91RMHPOo

Black-market fears

BBC News, Geneva

July 14, 2008

Cites officials say China's enforcement of the laws on illegal trade in ivory are satisfactory.

But environmental groups disagree. They claim that elephant ivory is a booming black-market commodity worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and that China is the biggest customer.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7504909.stm>

UN body lets China import African ivory

By ELIANE ENGELER, Associated Press

July 15, 2008

GENEVA (AP) — A U.N. panel granted China permission Tuesday to import elephant ivory from African government stockpiles despite opposition from some countries and environmental groups.

"China has strived for this status for a long time," said Wan Ziming, a member of the Chinese delegation.

Wan said the Chinese would do their best to ensure that "illegal ivory cannot enter into the legal market."

The agency said more than 20,000 elephants a year are killed illegally in Africa and Asia for the ivory black market, and that Chinese nationals have been implicated in illegal ivory seizures in more than 20 African nations.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hqCwk_oEYT1TA7EM3Cp_OSNkgowQD91UEP5Oo

China's legal ivory trading status puts African elephants' fate in jeopardy

Greendiary.com

Jul 16 2008

China has the dubious status of being the center of the world's largest illegal ivory trade and environmentalists fear that even though the EU accepts that China had met the criteria established for trading legally held ivory stock, the entry of China into the market will provide a opportunity for the laundering of illegal ivory, and will encourage further poaching across Africa, where more than 20,000 elephants are slaughtered at the hands of poachers every year.

<http://www.greendiary.com/entry/china-s-legal-ivory-trading-status-puts-african-elephants-fate-in-jeopardy/>

NOVEMBER

South Africa auctions last of 'legal' elephant ivory to China, Japan mongabay.com

November 7, 2008

South Africa sold 47 metric tons of elephant ivory to Chinese and Japanese buyers for \$6.7 million in what was the final of four auctions sanctioned by CITES, an international agreement on the wildlife trade..."By permitting legal trade in ivory, we are only encouraging the laundering of stocks by poachers, thereby increasing illegal hunting activities," said Michael Wamithi, elephants program director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). "Allowing this exorbitant amount of ivory to flood the market, considering the level of elephant poaching occurring today, is just plain irresponsible."

<http://news.mongabay.com/2008/1107-ivory.html>

DECEMBER

5 December 2008

Harare — The decision by an international body to again allow some southern African countries to conduct once-off ivory sales has been attacked by an animal rights activist saying elephants are being threatened by poaching because of the breakdown in the legal and social order in Zimbabwe.

Johnny Rodrigues, chairperson of the Zimbabwe Conservation Taskforce (ZCTF), told IPS that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna's (CITES) allowance of trade in ivory only serves to encourage poaching, particularly in Zimbabwe.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200812050686.html>

Poachers Leaving Elephant Orphans

CBS

December 21, 2008

There are a record number of orphans at the orphanage right now because Daphne says the sale of ivory has been legalized for the first time in ten years. A few African countries have been given the right to sell their stockpiles - more than 100 tons of tusks to China and Japan - and conservationists point out that this is yet another blow to the elephants.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/12/19/60minutes/main4677338.shtml>

2009

JANUARY

British kill entire elephant herd (Zimbabwe)

Hunting parties are paying out thousands to kill elephants, including calves, in Zimbabwe
Daniel Foggo, The Sunday Times

January 18, 2009

Ivory from slaughtered elephants has been legally sold by the Zimbabwean authorities to China and Japan. Last November, Zimbabwe sold nearly four tons of ivory in a one-off sale permitted under international law, for £330,000.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5537002.ece>

Three charged with illegal possession of ivory (Kenya)

Claire Wanja, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

January 23, 2009

Three Chinese men were Friday charged with illegal possession of government trophies at Makadara law courts.

The suspects were seized with the illegal ivory at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport on Thursday.

Article at the following link:

<http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=55127>

Illegal poaching threatens one of the most cherished elephant populations (Chad)

By Eric Miller, MediaGlobal

January 23, 2009

23 January 2009 [MediaGlobal]: Zakouma National Park has long been revered as one of the most remarkable conservation areas in Africa, but illegal poaching threatens to ruin the legacy its wildlife restoration program. Located in the southern half of central Chad, the park has witnessed its cherished elephant population decline by over 99 per cent in the past thirty years.

<http://mediaglobal.org/article/2009-01-23/illegal-poaching-threatens-one-of-the-most-cherished-elephant-populations>

FEBRUARY

Chinese national arrested with ivory at JKIA (Kenya)

Claire Wanja, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

February 07, 2009

A Chinese national was Saturday morning seized with four bangles of ivory at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi.

Last month, three Chinese men were charged with illegal possession of government trophies at Makadara law courts.

The suspects were seized with the illegal ivory at same airport.

<http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=55425>

Report on Elephant Poaching and Ivory Trade in the Amboseli Area (Kenya)

Cynthia Moss, Amboseli Trust for Elephants

February 14, 2009

Other ivory trade points have also been reported to us. There are two Chinese road camps in the general area: one working near Emali and the other on the Namanga Road. We have been told by our informants that they are buying ivory, bush meat and dogs.

Article at the following link:

<http://www.elephanttrust.org/node/541>

Elephants under threat as illegal ivory price soars in Viet Nam

TRAFFIC press release

February 16, 2009

Recent seizures in and outside Viet Nam also suggest that most raw ivory is being supplied to China.

The main buyers of ivory were from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) and Thailand, local Vietnamese, American-Vietnamese and Europeans, in that order.

“This insidious illegal trade is further threatening the highly endangered elephants of Asia and must be stopped,” said Dr. Susan Lieberman, Director of the Species Programme for WWF-International.

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/2/16/elephants-under-threat-as-illegal-ivory-price-soars-in-viet.html>

China's Position on Ivory Trade

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

February 25th, 2009

The embassy feels sorry that there were several Chinese nationals found in possession of ivories in JKIA. ... They are actually distinct from smugglers we normally talk about. Anyway, they violated the Kenyan law out of ignorance and they have learnt their lessons.

However, the misdeeds by some individuals can not be interpreted as activities of the whole nation. We can not accept the groundless accusations by some NGOs that Chinese are behind the poachers.

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb/zwjg/zwbdt539005.htm>

Slaughter of the elephants: Legal ivory sale linked to poaching surge across Kenya's huge Tsavo National Park

By Michael McCarthy, Reuters

25 February 2009

An auction of legal ivory from animals like this South African elephant is thought to have encouraged poachers in Kenya

The second sale raised even more concerns, not least because, for the first time, China was being allowed to bid as a legal ivory buyer, alongside Japan. China not only has a potentially gigantic demand for ivory, but is already the home of a flourishing underground market. Conservationists feared that the unleashing of a massive Chinese demand for traditional and popular objects such as trinkets, name seals, expensive carvings and polished ivory tusks would itself give an enormous boost to the illegal trade, which is entirely poaching-based.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/slaughter-of-the-elephants-1631367.html>

MARCH

Tanzanian authorities profess to being unaware as: Vietnam seeks to auction smuggled elephant tusks

This Day // Tanzania

March 12 2009

As authorities in Vietnam move ahead with plans to auction elephant tusks smuggled from Tanzania worth a whopping \$29.41m (approx.40bn/-), the government in Dar es Salaam has said it is completely unaware of the whole situation....

It is now feared that an international smuggling network may have orchestrated the whole scam, with Vietnam probably just another point of transit.

<http://www.thisday.co.tz/News/5444.html>

APRIL

£20m of ivory seized as poachers return to their prey

The Independent

April 15, 2009

Campaigners believe the legal trade is being used as a disguise to smuggle ivory to China, where there is burgeoning demand for name seals, carvings and polished tusks and concern that newly introduced counter-trafficking measures are inadequate. Vietnamese officials said last week they believed the consignment seized in Hai Phong port from a Malaysian vessel was destined for China.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/16320m-of-ivory-seized-as-poachers-return-to-their-prey-1668855.html>

Massacre of the innocents: How starving families slaughter Zimbabwe's wild animals just to put food in their mouths

Sue Lloyd Roberts, Mail Online

15th April 2009

There have always been poachers who have no qualms about killing elephants and rhinos for their tusks, mainly for the Chinese market, where they are bought for their supposed aphrodisiac and

medicinal powers. But now the anti-poaching units who patrol hundreds of square miles of Zimbabwe's game parks are reporting that hungry locals are targeting the animals for their meat. Article at the following link:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1170089/Massacre-innocents-How-starving-families-slaughter-Zimbabwes-wild-animals-just-food-mouths.html>

Mary Rice: 'One-off' legal sale has done nothing to halt smuggling

The Independent

15 April 2009

And whilst we argue about the pros and cons of the ivory trade we are witnessing a new onslaught on African elephant populations – as well as the more beleaguered Asian elephants. As evidenced by the increasing numbers of large seizures of ivory, the involvement of trans-national syndicates means that we are dealing with highly organised international criminals cashing in on the widely publicised demand for ivory which was given credence by the second "one-off" legal sale of more than 110 tonnes of stockpiled ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to China and Japan.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/mary-rice-oneoff-legal-sale-has-done-nothing-to-halt-smuggling-1668854.html>

Activist exposed plot imperiling African park (Gabon)

Activist exposed plot imperiling African park (Gabon)

April 19, 2009

Essangui, the president and founder of the environmental group Brainforest, exposed secret agreements for a Chinese mine project that threatened Gabon's equatorial rain forests.

Article at the following link:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/18/MN59172M4B.DTL>

Ministry orders halt to elephant exports (Thailand)

APINYA WIPATAYOTIN, Bangkok Post

April 24, 2009

Wildlife Preservation Office director Chatchawan Pitdamkham said Thailand last year received 10 requests for elephants, most of them from China.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/15550/ministry-orders-halt-to-elephant-exports>

Illegal Chinese Quarry Devastates Communities and Wildlife Area (Kenya)

African Wildlife Foundation press release

Apr 28, 2009

Sinohydro Corporation located the quarry and a staff camp within a critical wildlife corridor extending from Amboseli National Park to Kimana Sanctuary to Tsavo and Chyulu National Parks. This corridor is vital to the survival of Amboseli's wildlife as well as tourism and income-generating enterprises benefitting the local communities.

Community members of Oloitoktok District, the African Wildlife Foundation, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, and other alarmed conservation groups are protesting the project, which is in direct violation of a Stop Order issued by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) on Friday of last week.

<http://awf.org/content/headline/detail/4241>

MAY

Chinese man gets three-year jail for smuggling ivory from Japan

www.chinaview.cn

May 23, 2009

CHONGQING, May 23 (Xinhua) -- A man in southwest China's Chongqing City was sentenced three years in prison for smuggling ivory from Japan, a local court said Saturday.

The man surnamed Cao who worked in Japan last May sold 1,510 grams of ivory worth about 62,900 yuan (9,200 U.S. dollars) to buyers surnamed Qin and Zhang through the taobao.com, an online sales Web site, according to Chongqing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-05/23/content_11424030.htm

JUNE

Zimbabwe: 55kg Ivory Intercepted At Airport

Tendai Rupapa, The Herald

3 June 2009

Kusuwo and Shambare allegedly connived with Cleopas Chidodo and three soldiers -- Simon Mazonde, Owen Bafana and a third only identified as Zvobgo, who were all still at large -- to facilitate the smuggling of 500kg of ivory from Zimbabwe to China.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200906030597.html>

Elephant-size loopholes sustain Thai ivory trade

TRAFFIC press release

June 19, 2009

The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) is one of the two formal monitoring systems for elephants under CITES, and holds more than 13,500 records of elephant product seizures that have occurred anywhere in the world since 1989. In the last analysis of the ETIS data, Thailand ranked with China, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria as the five nations most heavily implicated in the illicit trade in ivory globally.

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/6/19/elephant-size-loopholes-sustain-thai-ivory-trade.html>

GENEVA 6-10 July 2009: The 58th meeting of CITES Standing Committee assesses ivory sale

News Ahead

June 23, 2009

The sale is controversial because opinion is split on whether the sale will help or hurt efforts to stop elephant poaching.

Each sale is to consist of a single shipment per destination and may only go to China and Japan, whose internal controls on ivory sales comply with the required verification standards established by CITES for this one-off sale.

<http://www.newsahead.com/preview/2009/07/06/geneva-6-10-july-2009-the-58th-meeting-of-cites-standing-committee-assesses-ivory-sale/index.php>

JULY

Woman nabbed at Tanzania airport trying to smuggle ivory out to China

SAYUNI KIMARO, This Day

July 10, 2009

FOUR suspects, including a self-described Dar es Salaam businesswoman and three airport officials employed by the Government, have been arrested at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) for allegedly trying to smuggle ivory and other Government trophies to China. The woman, 27-year old Devota Kassolo, is said to have been caught with whole elephant tusks and carvings made from ivory stuffed into a suitcase and destined for the Far East.

<http://www.thisday.co.tz/News/6029.html>

Kenya seizes \$1 million Asia-bound rhino, elephant ivory

Ben Makori, Reuters

July 15, 2009

NAIROBI, July 15 (Reuters) - Kenyan wildlife authorities have impounded nearly \$1 million worth of elephant tusks and rhino horns smuggled by poachers from southern Africa and bound for illegal ivory markets in Asia.

It was one of Africa's biggest ivory hauls.

"In the last year we have witnessed an upsurge in poaching for trophies, especially elephants and rhinos," Kipng'etich said. "In the last year alone Zimbabwe lost 100 rhinos and South Africa 162. This to me is the tip of the iceberg."

Kipng'etich said the illegal shipment was bound for Laos, but that China was more likely to be the final destination.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSB113848>

AUGUST

Slaughter' fear over poaching rise

Andrew Luck-Baker, BBC News

August 6, 2009

The number of African elephants killed illegally for their ivory is rising steeply. There are reports of Asian dealers paying well in excess of US\$1,000 per kilo - such is the demand from the burgeoning population of consumers in China, for example, who can now afford ivory products.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8186773.stm>

China threatens to execute Zimbabwean drug and ivory smugglers

John-Chimunhu, ZimEye.org

August 12, 2009

A report in the British tabloid, The Daily Mail recently named defence minister Emmerson Mnangagwa among the culprits. The paper said wealthy Chinese were paying up to US\$250 000 for a single rhino horn. The buyers believe the horns have aphrodisiac properties.

<http://www.zimeye.org/?p=7998>

Shopping habits of China's 'suddenly wealthy'

Financial Times

August 21 2009

In some cases, traditional Chinese tastes, combined with the explosion in wealth during the past decade, have created a rapacious and unsustainable call for the body parts of endangered species. The manufacture of traditional delicacies, ornaments and medicinal ingredients has helped to cut swathes through populations of sharks, elephants, seahorses and other species across the world – and that demand is only expected to increase.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/9271a266-8d21-11de-a540-00144feabdco.html>

Smuggled elephant tusks hidden under snail shells (Vietnam)

Monsters and Critics

August 24, 2009

In March, Haiphong customs inspectors found more than 6 tons of elephant tusks in a container shipped from Tanzania.

Last Thursday, police in the central province of Thanh Hoa seized nearly 100 kilograms of elephant tusks hidden in the boot and chassis of a car headed for Hanoi.

Dao Thi Ngoc Van, a trafficking expert at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Hanoi, said most elephant ivory smuggled into Vietnam was ultimately destined for China.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1497005.php/Smuggled-elephant-tusks-hidden-under-snail-shells

Amid Legal Ivory Trade, Illegal Sales Grow

Pete Browne, The New York Times

August 25, 2009

A wildlife trade monitoring organization, Traffic, found tusks on sale in Vietnam for more than \$1,800 per kilo, and has identified Bangkok as home to Asia's largest market in illegal ivory. Seizures, though, indicate that most raw African ivory is ultimately destined for China, where owning ivory is associated with prosperity, and is traditionally viewed as a status symbol. Richard Leakey, the former chairman of the Kenyan Wildlife Service, said he believed that China's growing economy and the lifting of the ban on ivory sales have combined to drive increased poaching.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/25/amid-legal-ivory-trade-illegal-sales-grow/>

One - Off Ivory Sale, Chinese Workers Kindle Demand

REUTERS

August 31, 2009

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Elephant poaching is rising in Kenya due to demand from an influx of Chinese workers in Africa and a one-off sale of ivory, a Kenyan conservationist said.

More than 100 of Kenya's 38,000 elephants were killed for their tusks in the first six months of 2009 compared to 98 in all of 2008 and 45 in 2007, said Paula Kahumbu, director of Wildlife Direct, a Kenya-based non-government organisation.

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/08/31/world/international-uk-africa-elephants.html?
_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/08/31/world/international-uk-africa-elephants.html?_r=1)

SEPTEMBER

Zimbabwe's wildlife threatened by poachers

Thulani Mpfu, The National

September 07, 2009

Rhino horns and elephant tusks are smuggled to South Africa, Europe and China, while zebra and giraffe skins are sold in South Africa.

Rhino horns are used to make medicine and aphrodisiacs in Asia. In the Middle East they are used to make handles for ceremonial daggers.

Mr Rodrigues said a kilogram of rhino horn could fetch \$4,000 (Dh14,700), while an elephant tusk was worth between \$500 and \$2,000, depending on quality.

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090908/FOREIGN/709079854/1140>

Chinese in Kenya not involved in ivory poaching

China Daily

September 8, 2009

A Chinese official Monday denied allegations that demand for ivory from Chinese workers is a main contributor to rising elephant poaching in Kenya.

Locals have received orders from Chinese people working on a road in northern Kenya, she said. "I've been told up to 90 percent of seizures of ivory in this country are currently (from) Chinese nationals. To me, it's very clear that there's a link."

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-09/08/content_8664611.htm

Kenya seizes massive ivory haul

BBC News

September 30, 2009

Chinese influence

Officials say the sales have fuelled demand for ivory in Asian countries, especially China, contributing to a sharp increase in elephant poaching.

So far this year poachers in Kenya have killed 128 elephants for their ivory; last year 98 were killed.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8283078.stm>

OCTOBER

Kenya, Ethiopia authorities seize ivory stash

KATHARINE HOURELD, Associated Press

October 1, 2009

The most recent authorized sale was in 2007, when China and Japan were both allowed to buy the stockpiled ivory from Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Although Kenya was not included in the auction, Kipng'etich said he believes it fueled demand for illegal ivory.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ha4uKZ_wwJi0Sad9xBQouJrlBxpAD9B1OEI82

NOVEMBER

Tanzania provokes yet more controversy with EAC neighbors

eturbonews.com

November 3, 2009

Several ivory smugglers were recently nabbed in Dar es Salaam, while trying to ship ivory out of the country to presumable China, where the greed and hunger for ivory goes on unabated, fueling the increase in poaching in Africa.

<http://www.eturbonews.com/12579/tanzania-provokes-yet-more-controversy-eac-neighbors>

Rising affluence in China revives a banned trade in ivory

By JAMES POMFRET AND TOM KIRKWOOD, REUTERS

Nov 10 2009

Tucked into a grimy building in Guangzhou, a few Chinese master carvers chip away at ivory tusks with chisels, fashioning them into the sorts of intricate carvings of the type once prized by Chinese emperors.

A passion for ivory ornaments like these helped decimate African and Asian elephant populations before a 1989 ban on ivory trade. Now, the economic rise of China, along with a seemingly insatiable appetite for status symbols among the country's nouveaux riches, has renewed demand for African ivory.

<http://www.mydigitalfc.com/news/rising-affluence-china-revives-banned-trade-ivory-356>

Illegal ivory trade rising/New ETIS report from TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC Press Release

November 10, 2009

China, which along with Japan was an approved destination of the legal, CITES-sanctioned one-off ivory sale in 2008, faces a persistent illegal trade challenge from Chinese nationals now based in Africa. Ongoing evidence highlights widespread involvement of overseas Chinese in the illicit procurement of ivory, a problem that needs to be addressed through an aggressive outreach and awareness initiative directed at Chinese communities living abroad.

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/11/9/illegal-ivory-trade-rising.html>

Crime rings boost ivory smuggling

Richard Black, BBC News

November 11, 2009

The last year has seen a major increase in the illegal ivory trade, with more involvement from organised crime.

Figures compiled by Traffic, the agency charged with monitoring the trade, show a doubling in the volume of illegal ivory seized from 2008 to 2009.

Researchers believe most of it is poached in West and Central Africa, while China is the main destination.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8355527.stm>

Poachers kill 65 elephants, 30 rhinos in Zimbabwe: official

Agence France Presse

November 16, 2009

Last year, Zimbabwe auctioned four tonnes of ivory to buyers from Japan and China getting 487,162 dollars (380,268 euros). During the same period, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa sold a total of 102 tonnes of tusks.

<http://www.timesoftheinternet.com/129369.html>

Customs file complaint vs. ivory smugglers (Philippines)

Agence France-Presse

November 19, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Customs police on Thursday lodged a complaint against two suspects over the alleged illegal importation of about 3.5 tons of elephant tusks from Tanzania, the justice department said...Ivory tusks are usually carved into religious images, ornaments and mahjong tiles in Asia.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/metro/view/20091119-237221/Customs-file-complaint-vs-ivory-smugglers>

Africa: Illegal Ivory Trade Detrimental to Developing World

Ryan Dicovitsky, MediaGlobal

21 November 2009

ETIS indicates that between 2007 (the last time data was collected) and 2009, over 2,000 seizures of illegal elephant material were recorded by authorities, a sharp increase from years past. The increased rate of poaching, coupled with the large quantities of ivory in individual seizures, suggests that criminal networks are behind the trade and manipulating local populations to increase their profits. The ivory is primarily being harvested in African communities, then being shipped by Asian nationals to their home countries where there is a large market for the material.

Since criminals in poor African communities recruit locals to kill elephants and carry the ivory, and then ship the material overseas, the effects of the poaching may be "out of sight, out of mind" for those purchasing ivory in the Asian markets. Locals, however, face a different reality.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912040324.html>

Elephant-size bust: Officers seize a big tusk (China)

By Xu Fang, Shanghai Daily

November 25, 2009

SHANGHAI Customs officers have seized a smuggled tusk, the biggest they have ever caught through the mails at 1.4 meters long and 21.5 kilograms, officials said yesterday.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/sp/article/2009/200911/20091125/article_420595.htm

Oregon kayaker turns his extreme skills to conservation

Scott Learn, The Oregonian

November 25, 2009

Strict 1989 bans helped beat back the ivory trade. But the rising middle class in China has boosted demand, as has a thirst for ivory gun and knife handles in the United States.

The booming demand, coupled with falling elephant populations, has increased ivory prices ninefold since 2004, Wasser said. Meantime, international funding for elephant protection has dropped.

Since 1989, researchers estimate the number of elephants has fallen from more than 1.3 million to fewer than 470,000, and poachers are killing nearly 10 percent of the population each year.

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/11/oregon_kayaker_turns_his_extre.html

Nearly 2 tons of ivory seized in eastern Africa

TOM MALITI, Associated Press

November 30, 2009

Dahia told journalists that the operation was coordinated by the international police organization and involved the wildlife authorities, police and customs departments of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Kenya Wildlife Service said it had arrested 65 people — three Chinese, three Tanzanians and 59 Kenyans — during the operation.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hCmqIkZOZ32MqxiM0ItMcW62TjDwD9C9SQFOo>

DECEMBER

More ivory nabbed, suspects arrested in Eastern Africa

By Wolfgang H. Thome, eTN Africa Correspondent

Dec 07, 2009

About 1.2 tons in total were in fact confiscated at airports, where the blood ivory was at times hidden among other cargo items readied for shipment and suspected to be destined for China and other ivory-hungry countries in the Far and South East.

Notably, three Chinese citizens were again among those arrested, while suspects from within the East African Community too were nabbed and produced in court for prosecution.

<http://www.worldtourismdirectory.com/news/863>

JANUARY

African Countries at Odds over Ivory Trade

Bridges Trade BioRes • Volume 10 • Number 1

22nd January 2010

The proposal, which was filed on 17 November 2009, seeks to “transfer the population of the African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*, from Appendix I to Appendix II” of CITES.

China and Japan would likely be the sole bidding countries if the ivory goes to auction, as the two countries have convinced CITES that their domestic regulations are capable of ensuring the ivory is not re-exported.

The African Elephant Coalition, a group of 21 member states opposed to the ivory trade, is arguing that the CITES panel charged with assessing the risk posed to elephants is downplaying the fact that auctions such as these can lead to increases in poaching.

<http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/68472/>

Africa: The Next Ivory Battle in the Making

Rolf D. Baldus, AFRICAN INDABA Newsletter

January/Februaray 2010

"We've seen this year a disastrous increase in poaching, smuggling and the seizure of illegal ivory," says Dr. Dietrich Jelden from the German Federal Office for Nature Conservation and head of the German CITES Authority. Others already speak of a return to the conditions of the eighties, when a wave of poaching swept the African continent. In the course of 2009 a lot of ivory was confiscated. The cause of this surge and the people behind it remain unknown. Currently nobody knows the reasons of the increase in smuggling.

<http://www.africanindaba.co.za/Newsletter/12.htm>

Four Chinese held for ivory trafficking (Republic of the Congo)

Independent Online

January 15 2010

Brazzaville - Congo police have arrested four Chinese nationals for illegal ivory trafficking after finding them with jewelry and other items made from the material, authorities said on Friday. The Chinese embassy in Brazzaville refused comment on the arrests.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=136&art_id=nw20100115175631661C207779

East African battle on sale of ivory to take centre stage at Brussels forum

By WALTER MENYA, Daily Nation

January 18 2010 at 21:00

Tanzania and its Southern African Development Community (SADC) partner, Zambia, sent a proposal to the COP 15 secretariat on November 17, 2009 seeking "to transfer the population of the African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*, from Appendix I to Appendix II". Tanzania and Zambia exploited a loophole in the moratorium that appeared to bar only those who were allowed to conduct a second one-off sale of 108 tonnes of ivory to Japan and China in 2007.

The secretariat has dismissed studies relating legal sale and heightened rate of poaching despite evidence to the contrary. Studies have shown, for instance, that Kenya has seen an increase in poaching, with 47 elephants killed in 2007, 145 in 2008 and 220 in 2009. Elephant populations have also deteriorated in Senegal, which now has less than 10, while Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad have less than 50 each.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/845178/-/vdp592/-/>

Crackdown on ivory smugglers as conservationists warn that wealthy buyers in US and Asia are putting fresh pressure on African herds

Jonathan Watts, Guardian

January 20, 2010

Conservation groups said Samart Chokechoyma was the first suspected trafficker to be arrested in south-east Asia, which has become a hub of the illegal trade that led to the seizure last year of 10 tonnes of African elephant ivory...Far greater quantities of smuggled ivory go undetected. The contraband is poached from reserves in Kenya and Uganda, shipped out of Entebbe, taken to Thailand for processing and re-sale, then sold to buyers in the US, China, the Middle East and elsewhere."Ivory smuggling is on the increase despite counter poaching operations and stiffer penalties," said Coulter. "This is not about trade bans. It's all about money."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jan/20/ivory-smuggling-ring-thailand>

Poaching is a retro fashion we can do without

Simon Barnes, Times Online

January 23, 2010

In 1988, after ten years of intense poaching, there were 32,000 elephants in the Selous. By 1998, numbers were back up to 67,000. The most recent counts, made last year, show that there are now 38,000

Much of the ivory goes to China and Japan. In Japan, if you want to prove you are a fully jumped-up member of the middle classes, you must stamp your name with a chunk of a dead elephant. DNA technology has established that great quantities of this ivory come from Tanzania.

The finger is well and truly pointed. Tanzania has established itself as the leading country for the illegal slaughter and export of ivory.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/simon_barnes/article6999136.ece

A unique chance to choke demand for ivory once and for all

Nick Herbert, The Independent

26 January 2010

Since the last sales in 2008 poaching has seen a sharp increase. The inclusion of China as a buyer of stockpiled ivory, supported by the UK Government, has been linked to this rise, and anecdotal evidence from China tells of a huge and growing market, with many believing the trade has now been legalised. Kenyan officials attribute this rise directly to the stockpile sales. Ministers in Tanzania admit sales they propose could lead to more poaching.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/nick-herbert-a-unique-chance-to-choke-demand-for-ivory-once-and-for-all-1878826.html>

THE BIG IVORY DEBATE: To sell or not sell (Tanzania)

Tom Mosoba , The Citizen

January 31, 2010

Cites was established to check practices that threatened endangered animals species across the world and in 1989 banned the sale and trade in ivory to protect the African Elephant whose population was under siege from marauding poachers. A growing demand for ivory in Japan and China was blamed for fuelling a smuggling syndicate worldwide.

The 'Times' this week wrote "Tanzania has established itself as the leading country for the illegal slaughter and export of ivory." It reported that up to 50 elephants were killed every month at Selous national reserve, and "the authorities are torching the carcasses to cover it up."

<http://thecitizen.co.tz/newe.php?id=17114>

FEBRUARY

Elephants in Crisis

bloodyivory.org

13 February 2010

As a devastating wave of elephant poaching sweeps across Africa, the Born Free Foundation is today calling upon the UK Government to lead its EU counterparts in strongly denouncing any measures that could lead to further trade in ivory and any more elephant deaths.

Some experts are warning that Africa is losing as much as 8% (36,000) of its elephants each year due to poaching for ivory. Zakouma National Park in Chad, Central Africa, is a prime example. In 2006, Zakouma's elephant population stood at 3,880. Today, just four years later, that number has been reduced to 617 and falling.

"We cannot sit back and let this slaughter continue." warned Will Travers, CEO of the Born Free Foundation. "Whole families of elephants are having their faces hacked off by organised criminal syndicates, in order for their tusks to be transformed into trinkets or chopsticks, predominantly to satisfy markets in the Far East.

<http://www.bloodyivory.org/news/elephants-in-crisis>

Kenya wildlife service scientist to testify before US Congress

Afrique en Ligne

February 15, 2010

Contacted, KWS communications officer, Mr. Paul Udoto, said Kenya was taking the threat to its elephant population, estimated to be 33,000, seriously as Tanzania and Zambia plan to petition the 15th conference of parties to allow them to sell their stockpiles to Japan and China.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/kenya-wildlife-service-scientist-us-congress-2010021544137.html>

Chinese men alleged to have tried to smuggle ivory

(Botswana) Khonani Ontebetse, Botswana Gazette

18 February 2010

Police are investigating two Chinese nationals, Wei Ma, 27, and Li Sen, 49, following an incident in which an ivory tusk was discovered at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (SSKA). The suspects are alleged to have attempted to smuggle the tusk to China. Information reaching The Gazette is that there is a new black-market trade in elephant tusks from tourism destinations such as Maun and Kasane.

SSKA Station Commander King Tshebo told The Gazette: "Yes I can confirm that we are investigating two Chinese aged 27 and 49. The first suspect has already appeared before the court.

When quizzed he claimed that he was given the ivory tusk by the second suspect to take to China on his behalf,” said Tshebo.

He said the two men are employed by the Tuwana Construction Company in Maun.

http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5532:chinese-men-alleged-to-have-tried-to-smuggle-ivory-&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2

Tanzania: Costs Now the Main Issue in Ivory Debate

Mike Mande, East African

22 February 2010

South Africa was allowed a one-off sale of its ivory stocks in 2007, alongside Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, during the 14th Cites conference in The Hague, Netherlands.

A report The EastAfrican had access to shows that the Tanzania government would be required to construct another two strong rooms at \$1 million each for storing the tusks if the proposal to sell the 89,848.74 kilogrammes of ivory is turned down by Cites.

The consignment of 108 tonnes was sold to Japan and China for a reported \$20 million.

The report adds that Tanzania would be able to fetch more than \$12 million if Cites allowed for sale the registered tusks and pieces in the Japan and China designated markets, and will not present further proposals to allow trade in elephant tusks from its population for six years after the date of the single sale.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201002230433.html>

Thailand govt seeks removal from CITES blacklist

Bangkok Post

February 23, 2010

Thailand is trying to persuade a UN wildlife trade watchdog to remove it from the blacklist of countries involved in the illegal ivory trade....Mr Jatuporn said police had seized more than two tonnes of smuggled ivory worth more than 50 million baht in the past two years, and there had also been foreign reports that exports of Thai products made from elephant tusks had been intercepted.

The illegal ivory trade in Thailand was raised at the 14th Cites conference at The Hague in the Netherlands in 2007.

Cites has since kept a close watch on Thailand after it was identified as a major route for trading in illegal ivory, alongside Congo and Nigeria in Africa.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/33344/govt-seeks-removal-from-cites-blacklist>

Thai customs seizes 2 tons of ivory

By MICHAEL CASEY, Associated Press

February 24, 2010

Ivory shipped to Thailand typically goes to carvers who fashion it into Buddhist statues, bangles and jewelry for sale to tourists or sale in other countries. Thailand is also a transit point for ivory forwarded to other markets like China.

The U.N. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species banned all international ivory trade in 1989. Traders in Thailand have thrived in part because the 1989 ban did not address domestic trade. That loophole allows them to deceive authorities by claiming their African ivory came from domestic sources—a tactic that is effective because it can be difficult without DNA testing to tell the difference between African and Asian ivory.

Authorities say 10 tons of African ivory was seized in Southeast Asia last year, including three seizures in Thailand.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_14467801?nclick_check=1

MARCH

China Fuels East African Elephant Poaching

Damian Robin, Epoch Times

March 30, 2010

China's influence in East Africa is fueling an upsurge in elephant poaching, gunrunning, and corruption according to a report on U.K. television Friday.

A Channel 4 reporter spoke to people in villages and cities, wildlife managers, rangers, government officials, and illegal ivory sellers in Kenya and Tanzania—all of whom said China is the main buyer of banned ivory.

Filmed secretly, sellers told the journalist from Unreported World that during a presidential visit from Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Jintao in 2009, two hundred kilos of ivory was bought by Chinese diplomats and taken out of Tanzania.

The sellers did not say if Hu knew of the trade, but did say that a prominent diplomat from the Chinese Embassy frequently bought large amounts of ivory from them.

He said he thinks movers are coming from China and the Far East to take bones and that they are in collusion with local authorities.

He said they could not get through the 15 to 20 policed roadblocks without help from “some very well-placed people.”

Chinese regime officials told Unreported World that they are against the illegal ivory trade and that Chinese diplomats did not illegally purchase or export ivory by misusing diplomatic immunity in 2009.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/32389/>

APRIL

Africa's gory tale

Gulfnews

April 17, 2010

Two decades after ivory trade was banned worldwide, poaching is still a gnawing problem on the continent, driving elephants to the brink of extinction.

The poachers are not small-time operators. Most elephants are slaughtered by organised gangs who ship huge quantities of ivory to lucrative markets in Asia, including Japan and particularly China, where it is used to make jewellery, carvings, chess sets, chopsticks and personal seals.

Poachers are also ruthless and violent criminals prepared to kill those who try to stop their lucrative trade. More than 20 rangers have been killed in Kenya alone since 1990, the year after the ivory ban was introduced.

The increase in poaching is reflected in a record number of ivory seizures. There were more than 2,000 hauls between 2007 and 2009, according to the Elephant Trade Information System. Most of the ivory is on its way to China. Recently, customs officers in Thailand seized a record two tonnes of China-bound ivory — 239 tusks — in crates labelled "mobile phone parts". Some of the more spectacular hauls last year included nearly 10 tonnes in two seizures in Vietnam; 3.3 tonnes in the Philippines; and three quarters of a tonne in Kenya.

"These are enormous quantities of ivory," Redmond says. "That's a lot of slaughtered elephants."

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/africa-s-gory-tale-1.611802>

MAY

Two tons of Kenyan elephant tusks seized in Vietnam

Agence France Presse

May 6, 2010

HANOI — Customs officials in Vietnam have seized two tons of elephant ivory tusks illegally imported from Kenya, state-linked media reported on Thursday.

The haul was destined for China, the reports said.

China is one of the world's biggest markets for ivory, which is traditionally used to make family seals for stamping documents, as well as decorative antiques.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g3VlvEpqgGYO3qH5Ac22ifQ7WKfw>

A nation of tragedies: the unseen elephant wars of Chad

Jeremy Hance, mongabay.com

May 12, 2010

Who is ultimately organizing and paying these militia-poachers no one knows. However, the ivory does not stay in Africa, but most likely ends up in far-away China, a nation known for a rich market of illegal wildlife goods.

http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0512-hance_chad.html

Asian ivory trade poses danger to African elephant

MICHAEL CASEY, WILLIAM FOREMAN and JASON STRAZIUSO, The Associated Press

May 15, 2010

PUTIAN, China -- Carefully, the Chinese ivory dealer pulled out an elephant tusk cloaked in bubble wrap and hidden in a bag of flour. Its price: \$17,000.

A surge in demand for ivory in Asia is fuelling an illicit trade in elephant tusks, especially from Africa. Over the past eight years, the price of ivory has gone up from about \$100 per kilogram (\$100 per 2.2 pounds) to \$1,800, creating a lucrative black market.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/15/AR2010051501886.html>

Are elephants more valuable dead or alive? The African dilemma

John Mbaria, InvestigateWest

May 17, 2010

A story on the threat the Chinese-induced ivory trade poses to elephants in Africa published in the Seattle Times Sunday partly underscored the big dilemma Africa faces as it tries to preserve the last of the wild populations of these venerable pachyderms.

<http://invw.org/node/1047>

Police seize \$1m in rhino horns, ivory

Independent Online

May 18 2010

Police seized \$1 million worth of rhino horns and ivory and shut down an illegal ivory factory in a sweep across southern Africa, international police agency Interpol said on Tuesday.

Ivory demand in Asia and political instability in Africa encourages poaching by international criminal rings, wildlife experts say.

Rhino horns are used in traditional Chinese medicine where many people believe it can cure arthritis and fever while ivory is used for carving into dagger-handles and other ornaments.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100518205029940C766195

Korean trader held over ivory haul (Kenya)

FRED MUKINDA, Daily Nation

May 23 2010

The haul was destined for China, but police are yet to establish where the most recent load was headed. A Kenya Wildlife Service official, Mr Frank Keshe, estimated the load's worth as more than Sh8 million in the black market.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Korean%20trader%20held%20over%20ivory%20haul%20/-/1056/924408/-/altbklz/-/>

Vietnam seizes cache of smuggled elephant tusks, third this year

Earth Times News

26 May 2010

Hanoi - Vietnamese customs inspectors have discovered more than a ton of elephant tusks hidden in a shipping container full of snail shells from Africa, an official said Wednesday.

It was the third seizure of elephant ivory this year and the sixth in the past two years at the northern port of Haiphong, a transfer point for smuggled ivory from Africa to the lucrative Chinese market.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/325580,vietnam-seizes-cache-of-smuggled-elephant-tusks-third-this-year.html>

Ivory sale row: Tanzania should first put its house in order

By Lucas Liganga, The Citizen

May 30, 2010

The hunger and greed for the "white gold", as ivory is also known, are largely fuelled by China and other south and far eastern countries, with little or no regard to conservation efforts in Africa, which are crucial to support and maintain wildlife and nature-based tourism.

<http://thecitizen.co.tz/sunday-citizen/40-sunday-citizen-news/2172-ivory-sale-row-tanzania-should-first-put-its-house-in-order>

JUNE

Africa's Elephants: On the Firing Line

by Susan Hack, Conde Nast Traveler

June 2010

Unlike the last poaching surge, the current one is being aided by cell phone networks and criminal syndicates that are providing some poachers with sophisticated equipment such as night-vision goggles, GPS locators, and satellite phones. The biggest new factor of all is China, one of the world's top ivory markets, which is investing heavily in African projects, including roads and other infrastructure that are facilitating the transport of ivory off the continent. More than 100,000 Chinese laborers in Africa are also fueling demand right at the source.

<http://www.concierge.com/cntraveler/articles/502593?pageNumber=1>

Chinese Woman Behind Bars for Trafficking in Wildlife Products (Republic of the Congo)

Agence Congolaise d'information

09 June 2010

BRAZZAVILLE, 09 June (ACI) – A well informed source says that a woman of Chinese nationality who was arrested at Pointe-Noire for trafficking in ivory, appeared last June 3 at the Chambers of correction of the Court of 1st Instance in the economic town of Congo.

The same source says that the Chinese trafficker was arrested last 20th May at Pointe-Noire for attempting to send a parcel through a travel agency which contained 4 ivory tusks and three other wood masks detected by a scanner installed at the airport of Maya-Maya on the arrival of these wildlife products in Brazzaville.

<http://www.savetheelephants.org/news-reader/items/chinese-woman-behind-bars-for-trafficking-in-wildlife-products-4orepublic-of-the-congo41.html>

Consequences of Legal Ivory Trade

Letters to the Editor

June 25, 2010

When the distinction between legal and illegal ivory is uncertain, increasing the legal supply raises the probability that more ivory will be provided through illegal trade. Illegal dealers will see an expanding market due to increased allowable trade, and will endeavor to maintain their share of that market. Moreover, growing demand for ivory will outstrip any potential sustainable legal supply given increasing purchasing power of Asian consumers and limited maximum growth rates of elephant populations, particularly when poaching is already mining populations of

progressively younger individuals. If seizures are assumed to represent $\leq 10\%$ of ivory shipped (11), the average 19,000 kg of annual ivory seizures over the past decade (9) would require 190,000 kg of “legal” ivory sold annually just to meet levels of demand presently supplied through illegal trade.

<http://www.savetheelephants.org/news-reader/items/consequences-of-legal-ivory-trade.html>

A woman and her elephants

Thomas H. Maugh II, Los Angeles Times

Cynthia Moss, a reporter turned research assistant, has been studying the animals in Africa for almost four decades. She speaks of their social life, mating, threats and smarts.

June 25, 2010

There's a big demand in China now, where there has never been before. China has been the carver's site, but [the Chinese] didn't buy it themselves. Now, with the growing middle class, they want ivory ornaments, jewelry, things like that, and so there is a huge demand.

What's the Chinese government's position?

They petitioned to become one of the legal buyers of ivory [from carcasses, confiscated ivory, etc.] and they got that permission the year before last. They've definitely encouraged ivory, because they've encouraged the ivory factories to open again. And of course, there is not enough [legal] ivory for the carvers. So it's very unfortunate they were given permission.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-cynthia-moss-20100625,0,6973417.print.story>

JULY

Thai customs make million-dollar Kenyan ivory seizure

Agence France Presse

July 16, 2010

Wildlife experts say Thailand is a commonly-used transit point for the illegal trafficking of animal parts...Since February Thai customs officials have intercepted three large hauls of ivory totalling 652 tusks, worth 228.3 million baht.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hazVlgOJ2PVGm_uloQu3sJfcm2GA

Attorney Goes Undercover in Kenya to Stop Slaughter of Elephants

Years spent volunteering for animal protection groups led to a special invitation to aid the Kenyan Wildlife Service

Douglas S. Malan, The Connecticut Law Tribune

July 21, 2010

But a change in international trade regulations in 2007 now allows for African countries to sell ivory to China and Japan. That has led to an increase in elephant poaching, and in Kenya, 240 elephants were killed last year, Bernhard said.

http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1202463735335&Attorney_Goes_Undercover_in_Kenya_to_Stop_Slaughter_of_Elephants

AUGUST

Chinese national jailed for ivory possession in Kenya

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

August 26, 2010

A Chinese national seized with a hand luggage containing 10 illegal worked ivory chopping sticks and two bangles has been jailed for 18 months barely a day after the weekend seizure of 2 tonnes of ivory and five rhino horns.

This was part of two more seizures of illegal ivory from Mozambique and Uganda made at Kenya's main airport in Nairobi in a week.

On Monday an unaccompanied cargo of two pieces of carved and raw ivory weighing 3.3 kg from Kampala, Uganda destined for Hong Kong, China was intercepted at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

The seizure is so far the largest elephant ivory recovery in Kenya in the recent past.

<http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=66052>

Congo police seize 116 elephant tusks, arrest 2 after truck crash in northeast

The Associated Press

August 25, 2010

KINSHASA, Congo — Police in northeastern Congo have seized 116 elephant tusks and arrested two men following a truck crash.

Illegal hunting of elephants in central and eastern Africa has intensified in recent years, with much of the ivory exported to Asia. Poachers also have taken advantage of the fact Congo suffered through back-to-back civil wars, and the country's volatile east remains mired in armed conflict.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hKkoaP7jLMtuUelsLWW5wKozPvCw>

SEPTEMBER

Top parks official accused of poaching (South Africa)

SYDNEY MASINGA, Mail and Guardian

September 10 2010

Meanwhile, 190 rhinos, including six endangered black rhinos, were reportedly poached across South Africa up to the end of August this year, compared with a total of 120 last year. Susie Watts, the spokesperson for British-based environmental NGO Co-Habitat, said the onslaught was deeply disturbing but not surprising, because the main market for rhino horns -- East Asia -- was enjoying an economic upswing. "Each wave of economic advancement in East Asia has resulted in a concerted attack on Africa's wildlife," she said in an interview.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-09-10-top-parks-official-accused-of-poaching>

Tanzania: Ivory Seizure Wake-Up Call to Wildlife Officials

The Citizen

11 September 2010

It's not flattering that our country has been linked to most of the trophies impounded recently in the Far East. The latest was shipped from Dar es Salaam Port. This has once again put Tanzania in the global spotlight as one of the countries notorious for the indiscriminate slaughter of elephants for the lucrative illicit ivory trade.

It is now globally acknowledged that the hunger and greed for the "white gold", as ivory is also known, is largely fuelled by the Chinese and other Asians. These merchants have little or no regard for conservation efforts in Africa, which are crucial for the wildlife and nature-based tourism.

The Hong Kong seizure of the \$1.4 million (nearly Sh2 billion) contraband does not only confirm the Cites fears, but also tarnishes our country's image in the eyes, of especially, the influential wildlife conservation lobby.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201009120006.html>

Chinese citizens risk imprisonment for ivory smuggling

TRAFFIC News

September 13, 2010

Beijing, China, 13th September 2010—Police in Congo said last week they had arrested three Chinese men carrying six suitcases full of elephant tusks.

The men were caught at Lumumbashi's airport while attempting to fly to Nairobi, Kenya. Last month, a Chinese citizen in Kenya was sentenced to 18 months in prison for illegal possession of wildlife products after 10 pairs of ivory chopsticks and ivory bracelets were discovered in his luggage.

These are among a number of cases involving Chinese citizens smuggling ivory out of Africa.

“In 2009, the Chinese government seized ivory products from citizens returning to China on 710 separate occasions—the highest number of reported ivory seizures in a single year by any country in the world”, said Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC's ivory expert.

In July and August 2010, several Chinese tourists returning from the 2010 World Cup in South Africa were found with African Elephant ivory in their possession by Chinese Customs officers. Although most Chinese travellers are aware of the laws and regulations relating to ivory, some decided to risk smuggling ivory into the country anyway.

“Recent years have witnessed an increase in international travel by Chinese nationals and travellers need to be aware of the laws controlling trade in ivory,” said Professor Xu Hongfa, Director of TRAFFIC's China Programme.

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2010/9/13/chinese-citizens-risk-imprisonment-for-ivory-smuggling.html>

Demand from wealthy makes elephants unfair game

JODY CLARKE, Mail and Guardian

September 13 2010

"We've witnessed a huge increase in volumes smuggled," said Patrick Omondi, the head of conservation at the Kenyan Wildlife Service.

It was hoped that the 2007 agreement by Cites - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species -- would squeeze out illegal ivory trading by allowing four African countries to sell stockpiles gathered over many years from dead animals. Instead, it reopened a window for smuggling into China, where ivory is a sought-after commodity for use in everything from medicines to ornaments.

"It's putting a huge increase on law enforcement. We've had to divert funding from programmes such as elephant research to elephant security," said Omondi. "That's hitting us."

Elephant poaching more than doubled in Kenya to 204 illegal killings in 2009, from 94 the previous year and 47 in 2007, while rhino killings nearly tripled to 13 deaths in 2009 from five the previous year.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-09-13-demand-from-wealthy-makes-elephants-unfair-game>

Tiger and elephant bone-smuggling ring nabbed (Vietnam)

Matt Steinglass, Independent Online

September 16 2010

Illegal trafficking in tigers, monkeys and other rare animals is widespread in Vietnam and China, where their bones and other body parts are often used in traditional medicine.

A kilogram of pure tiger-bone paste can sell for up to 5 000 dollars on the black market.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=143&art_id=nw20100916092520909C281591

KWS seeks outside help in war against poacher syndicate (Kenya)

STEVE MBOGO, Business DAily

September 16 2010

“The intention is to make our rangers among the best paramilitary trained forces in the world because they require such skills to protect wildlife from poachers, ... We have identified two forces – the US Marines and the Israeli Navy – and we are going to borrow their best practices.”

The development comes when Kenya is under siege from an international ring of poachers targeting elephant ivory and rhino horns for sale in the Asian markets.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Company%20Industry/KWS%20seeks%20outside%20help%20in%20war%20against%20poacher%20syndicate/-/539550/1011808/-/crsj2i/-/>

Ivory trade could make Vietnam's elephants extinct within a decade

The Guardian

21 September 2010

Huong is the beaming owner of Artcen Company, an "import-export" outfit specialising in crafted ivory products. And, like those of the SUV-driving government officials cashing in on foreign investor paranoia about missing out on "the next little China"

The country has quickly shifted from a transit point in the wildlife trade to a major end-consumer, now rivalling the richer Asian markets of Taiwan, South Korea, China and Japan.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/sep/21/vietnam-ivory-trade-asian-elephants>

Thai Customs seize four suitcases filled with ivory

TRAFFIC News Release

September 27, 2010

Although Ethiopia has made strides addressing illegal trade in ivory in recent years, its airport in Addis Ababa remains a major transport hub through which contraband ivory continues to move.

China, for example, made 139 ivory seizures in 2009 alone from Chinese nationals coming from Addis Ababa on Ethiopian Airways flights.

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2010/9/27/thai-customs-seize-four-suitcases-filled-with-ivory.html>

Vietnam arrests five for trafficking tiger, elephant bones

Monsters and Critics

September 29, 2010

Illegal trafficking in tigers, monkeys and other rare animals is widespread in Vietnam and China, where the bones and other body parts are often used in traditional medicine.

A kilogram of pure tiger-bone paste can sell for up to 5,000 dollars on the black market.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1587773.php/Vietnam-arrests-five-for-trafficking-tiger-elephant-bones

OCTOBER

Elephant poachers go hi-tech to stay ahead of rangers (Kenya)

By STEVE MBOGO, Business Daily

October 19 2010

“It is not about one or two countries. All African countries are affected,” he said. For example, in South Africa which has a technically -advanced law enforcement system, poachers use helicopters.

South Africa has lost 210 rhinos to poaching since January, compared to 122 for all of last year, authorities there said.

Black-market demand for rhino horns and ivory has risen because of a growing middle-class in east and south-east Asia, where they are believed to have medicinal properties.

A rhino horn for example costs approximately Sh4.8 million per kilogramme. Each horn weighs 2.9 to 3.7 kilogrammes. The attractive pricing is a major incentive to the poachers.

The poaching of rhinos in South Africa has become such a problem that a local charity has appealed to American musician, 50 Cent, to become a godfather of rhino in order to create global awareness against the vice.

The head of South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority's organised crime unit, Mr Johan Kruger, said all rhino poaching will in future be classified as organised crime.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Elephant%20poachers%20go%20hi%20tech%20to%20stay%20ahead%20of%20rangers/-/539546/1035304/-/ljyt91/-/>

Ivory smuggling busted at Hac Sá Beach (China)

Macau Daily Times

October 19, 2010

The Customs Service on Sunday busted the biggest ivory smuggling since the handover, involving an approximate value of MOP 10 million and seized pieces weighing about one tonne. However, no arrests were reported, local media reported yesterday.

<http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo/macau/18088-Ivory-smuggling-busted-Hac-Beach.html>

Ivory dealers arrested in Yaounde (Cameroon)

By Vincent Gudmia Mfonfu ,The Horizon newspaper

26 October 2010

A renowned conservation writer, Tom Clark have quoted some international media organ as having reported for example that, "illegal ivory trade is booming in Africa as market is Asia push up demands", adding that, this is where multi-million pound illegal trade begins."

<http://www.savetheelephants.org/news-reader/items/ivory-dealers-arrested-in-yaounde-40cameroon41.html>

4 Chinese arrested for ivory smuggling (South Africa)

PressTV

Oct 28, 2010

South African police has arrested four Chinese nationals on charges of illegal possession of ivory valued at about \$255,000 and bribery.

"On Wednesday, police received information about a house in Villa Rosa, Sea Point and when they got there they found 48 whole elephant tusks, 140 ivory chopsticks, abalone valued at 3500 rands and two shark fins," Police Spokesman November Filander said on Thursday.

Filander added that one Chinese man was arrested at the house and three others, who tried to bribe the police to get rid of the evidence, were arrested later, AFP reported.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/148688.html>

NOVEMBER

Kenya: 3 suspected poachers, 5 elephants killed

The Associated Press

November 1, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya -- The Kenya Wildlife Service says three suspected poachers have been killed after the poaching deaths of five elephants in two national parks over the last week.

That exchange follows the killings of two suspected poachers last week in Tsavo National Park. Four elephants were killed in Tsavo.

Poachers target elephants for their ivory tusks, which are commonly smuggled to Asia.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/01/AR2010110101445.html>

China's dangerous appetite for rare animals

By Kathleen E. McLaughlin, Global Post

November 1, 2010

Most recently, Africa has become a provider of smuggled animal parts to feed the Chinese hunger. In recent years, the ivory trade has boomed in China — particularly in Guangzhou, where even the airport has a shop that sells nothing but ornate carvings made from elephant tusks.

[http://www.minnpost.com/globalpost/2010/11/01/22839/
chinas_dangerous_appetite_for_rare_animals](http://www.minnpost.com/globalpost/2010/11/01/22839/chinas_dangerous_appetite_for_rare_animals)

Upsurge in elephant poaching (Namibia)

Chrispin Inambao, New Era

16 November 2010

The 10 cases reported to Munda this year exclude several incidents of commercial ivory poaching that took place in the Mamili National Park, Mudumu Game Park and Bwabwata National Park in Caprivi.

He said poachers sell the ivory removed from poached elephants to Chinese ivory merchants.

<http://www.newera.com.na/article.php?articleid=14091&title=Upsurge%20in>

Chinese in court for abalone, ivory (South Africa)

News 24

November 1, 2010

Cape Town - An elderly Chinese man and his young wife appeared in a Cape Town court on Monday for the alleged possession of dried abalone (perlemoen) and the carcasses of two protected African elephants.

Koon Man Lee, 61, and Huilin Wang, 32, both of Durbanville, Cape Town were released on R50 000 bail each, when they appeared in the Bellville Magistrate's Court before Magistrate Clive Linden.

Both face two charges related to the "illegal possession of 7 381 dried perlemoen, and the illegal possession of two African elephant carcasses, for their ivory tusks".

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Chinese-in-court-for-abalone-ivory-20101101>

Kenya Wildlife Agents Kill 2 Elephant Poachers

The Associated Press

November 26, 2010

Udoto said three others escaped with injuries. The gang is suspected of involvement in the killing of two elephants in the same area three weeks ago. Poachers target elephants for their ivory tusks, which are often smuggled to Asia.

Wildlife officials said elephant poaching has risen sevenfold in Kenya since a one-time ivory sale was approved in 2007 by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, for four African countries. Last year 271 Kenyan elephants were killed by poachers, compared with 37 in 2007 according to the KWS.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=131603725>

15 arrested for ivory smuggling in Gabon

Agence France Presse

November 28, 2010

Poaching is rife in Gabon's Minkebe National Park in the far north of the country, with nationals from nearby Cameroon often involved, the official said.

Estimates from 2005 showed there were about 22,000 forest elephants in the park. There is no estimate for the number in the whole country, 85 percent of which is covered with forest.

Most of the ivory poached in Gabon is smuggled to Asia, notably Japan and China, the official said.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gnONqfrf_yIypkEURh3j4TbS2QWA?docId=CNG.09d04cbac521adf4444ef2de49e0550d.10f1

Tanzania: Ex-French President Decries Poaching

Lucas Liganga, The Citizen

29 November 2010

Following the recent surge of the poaching of the tuskers in the Selous Game Reserve, one of the largest fauna reserves of the world located in south-eastern Tanzania, the government kick-started Operation Kipepeo in 2009 led by the police force.

Hundreds of tonnes of elephant tusks worth billions of shillings, said to originate from Tanzania, were recently seized in the Far East countries confirming a new wave of illegal hunting was sweeping across Africa. According to experts, increased smuggling of tusks, especially from Tanzania to the Asian countries, poses a threat to the survival of some 142,722 elephants whose number has picked up from just 33,620 in 1995.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201012010330.html>

DECEMBER

U.S. worried by China exports to Kenya

SARAH WAMBUI, Capital FM Kenya

December 8, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya, Dec 9- The United States Government is worried about the increasing trade relations between Kenya and China, a US Cable released by Wikileaks revealed on Thursday.

While making reference to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), he also accused the Chinese of being behind the increasing incidences of poaching in Kenya.

“The KWS noticed a marked increase in poaching wherever Chinese labor camps were located and in fact set up specific interdiction efforts aimed to reduce poaching. KWS also reports that 90 percent of the ivory smugglers detained at JKIA are Chinese nationals,” he alleged.

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/Kenyabusiness/US-worried-by-China-exports-to-Kenya-5178.html>

Central Africa: four-nation 'sting' operation busts wildlife smuggling ring

Charlotte Wilkins, The Observer

12 December 2010

In Gabon, undercover agents posing as smugglers picked up 16 dealers in possession of 150kg of illegal polished ivory. The haul, estimated to be worth about £90,000 on the international market and probably destined for China, the world's leading market for "white gold", was going via Nigeria, one of the main smuggling routes. All 16 were remanded in custody, having been refused bail following the operation, which focused on a hotel, a local market and a sculptor's studio following a long investigation as the result of a tip-off.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/dec/12/africa-wildlife-ivory-smuggling>

Tanzania: Nation to Sell Banned Ivory

James Mwakisyala, East African Business Week

13 December 2010

One wildlife stakeholder, who preferred anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said "This (sale) is totally illegal. Tanzania would have to change its legislation. Currently it's illegal to buy or sell ivory in Tanzania, and who will they sell it to? The Chinese? Again totally illegal as there is an international (elephant ivory) ban... Most bizarre, but clearly demonstrates total lack of understanding of the law."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201012131445.html>

KWS on the spot as poachers target private ranches (Kenya)

The Standard

December 21, 2010

"South Africa and Zimbabwe have similarly been affected by this rampant global rhino poaching. In 2009, the two nations lost more than 250 rhinos and the trend is escalating," says Njue. The illegal trade is fuelled by Asian demand for rhinoceros horns and a temporary lift on wildlife trophy ban that was granted to some African countries. "Illegal dealers took the advantage to prey on rhinos and they have been using Kenyans, and especially the poor youth, to engage in the dangerous trade," says Njue.

"The instability in Somalia is escalating poaching in Kenya, since the country is being used as a conduit for trophies," he adds.

He says Somalia dealers are believed to be using Kenyans to kill black rhinos in conservancies.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/InsidePage.php?id=2000025189&cid=259&story=KWS%20on%20the%20spot%20as%20poachers%20target%20private%20ranches>

Thai woman arrested in JKIA ivory bust (Kenya)

EVELYN NJOROGI, Capital News

December 26, 2010

Traffickers arrested this year are from Britain, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Korea, Singapore, Tanzania and Thailand.

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Thai-woman-arrested-in-JKIA-ivory-bust-10982.html#ixzz19XzDdu4f>

2011

JANUARY

Congo arrests Chinese ivory poacher

Agence France Presse

January 23, 2011

BRAZZAVILLE — Officials in Congo were on Sunday holding a Chinese national as he tried to smuggle 10 kilos (22 pounds) of ivory -- including five large elephant tusks -- out of Congo, a wildlife group said.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gHCgL2xsB82_9h6865_M5_hUEddQ?docId=CNG.4f8b988b9ebd1a5c9a9eba1574013bc8.eb1

Chinese citizen to face ivory-smuggling charges in Kenya

Monsters and Critics

January 18, 2011

Nairobi - A Chinese citizen was due to be appear in a Kenyan court Tuesday to face charges of attempting to smuggle 65 kilogrammes of ivory through Nairobi's international airport, the Kenya Wildlife Service said.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1612508.php/Chinese-citizen-to-face-ivory-smuggling-charges-in-Kenya

FEBRUARY

Tanzania: Bush Meat Hunting 'Threat to Wildlife, Forests'

Costantine Sebastian, The Citizen

19 February 2011

"Tanzania has an amazing conservation record, but the increase in human population, and other external pressures such as the increased demand for ivory and other animal products from China, means it will get harder and harder for the country to conserve the incredible natural riches it still has," Mr Jones, a biologist in the team which compiled the report, further noted.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201102210290.html>

Kenyan conservationists worried over rising ivory demand

By Otto Bakano, Agence France-Presse

February 13, 2011

Iain Douglas-Hamilton, the founder of London-based group Save the Elephants, said rising wealth in Asia was driving increasing demand for ivory, which is highly sought in Asia for use in traditional medicines and ornaments.

"I am exceedingly worried about the increase in poaching because I think it is linked to a more fundamental factor which is the increase in demand in China and other countries in the Far East and the increased ability in those countries to pay for ivory," he told AFP.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/technology/Kenyan+conservationists+worried+over+rising+ivory+demand/4273716/story.html#ixzz1DqSAIXSs>

China Ivory Demand Spurs Elephant Slaughter

Holly Williams, Sky News

February 09, 2011

Holly Williams, China correspondent

A Sky News special investigation has shown how China is driving demand for smuggled ivory from Africa, leading to a surge in the slaughter of endangered elephants.

"An investigation carried out by the [Environmental Investigation Agency](#) in 2010 found a booming underground trade in Zambia, where African traders have learned the Chinese word for ivory - xiangya."

Customs officials in Hong Kong last year found 384 tusks packed inside a container shipped from Tanzania and labelled "dried anchovies".

Meanwhile, in [Congo's](#) Lubumbashi Airport, three Chinese nationals were discovered carrying six suitcases packed full of tusks.

However, Sky News can reveal China's legal ivory trade serves as a front for the trade in trafficked tusks.

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/Chinas-Increasing-Demand-For-Ivory-Is-Leading-To-More-Attacks-On-Endangered-Elephants-In-Africa/Article/201102215926071?>

[lpos=World_News_First_World_News_Article_Teaser_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15926071_Chinas_Increasing_Demand_For_Ivory_Is_Leading_To_More_Attacks_On_Endangered_Elephants_In_Africa](#)

MARCH

Thai police raid secret ivory carving workshops

By Associated Press

March 30, 2011

"Thailand is both a transit point and destination for transnational ivory smuggling," said Missakawan. He said the country's skilled craftsman, mainly in Nakorn Sawan, make delicate pieces of carved ivory that sell inside Thailand or are exported to Europe, the United States, China and Hong Kong.

http://www.salon.com/wires/allwires/2011/03/30/D9M9I69O1_as_thailand_ivory_raid/

Mozambique: Six Inspectors Suspended Over Illegal Timber Exports

Mozambique News Agency

26 March 2011

The timber belonged to five companies owned by Chinese citizens - namely Mofid (89 containers), Tienhe (30), Pacif (20), Sinlan (15) and Alphaben (7). The containers were loaded onto the "Kota Mawar", a ship operated by SDV-AMI, a company registered in the Caribbean island of Antigua. The cargo was destined for China.

The illegal shipment came to the notice of somebody in the defence and security forces who ensured that it was aborted. When the containers were unloaded and checked, in addition to Class I hardwoods (which may not be exported unprocessed), the authorities found 126 elephant tusks. Elephants are a protected species, and the export of ivory is prohibited.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103260068.html>

African elephants victims of Thai trafficking

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

MARCH 21, 2011

Benefiting from its location, Thailand exports much of the ivory, rough or carved, to China -- where it is traditionally used in medicinal powders -- and Japan. But some also ends up in the United States and Europe.

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Africa/African-elephants-victims-of-Thai-trafficking-12120.html#ixzz1HF3RvVxd>

40kg of ivory seized in Paris

Wildlifewatch Editorial |

March 15, 2011

“Every year over thousands of elephants are poached for their ivory. What we are seeing in Paris is just a glimpse into one of the world’s largest illicit trades,” said Lesley O’Donnell International Fund for Animal Welfare EU Director.” It begins in Africa where organised militias and gangs poach elephants and sell on the ivory to fund their illegal activities and it leads to China, Japan, and indisputably, Europe.”

<http://www.wildlifewatch.in/species/elephants/6664.html>

African elephants at risk from Thai ivory trafficking

Posted on: March 14th, 2011

by [Lisa Davidson](#)

Experts believe much of the illegal ivory smuggled into Thailand ends up in China, either in tusk form or as carved artefacts, with powdered tusks used in traditional Chinese remedies. Japan is a willing partner in the murky and voracious trade, as is the West.

<http://news.carrentals.co.uk/african-elephants-at-risk-from-thai-ivory-trafficking-34243416.html>

Agony and Ivory

The Chinese lust for ivory has led to the vast killing of Africa's elephants. Is it too late to save them?

17 Mar 2010

The increase in poaching is reflected in a record number of ivory seizures. There were more than 2,000 hauls between 2007 and 2009, according to the Elephant Trade Information System. Most of the ivory is on its way to China.

China has long been the biggest market for ivory but there is growing evidence – and concern – that the Chinese are heavily involved in elephant poaching in Africa.

They have moved into Africa on a huge scale in recent years, building roads and other infrastructure – often in national parks – in return for minerals and timber needed to fuel their domestic boom.

Thousands of Chinese have left their homes to work on these huge projects worth billions of pounds. ‘The Chinese are buying up ivory, worked and raw all over Africa,’ says Esmond Bradley Martin, a leading ivory trade expert.

The Chinese government denies any links between increased elephant killings in Kenya and the influx of Chinese workers and says it is fighting to stop ivory smuggling.

Officials say that ivory seizures by Chinese customs officials have almost doubled in recent years. At just one airport, Baiyun airport in Guangzhou, southern China, customs officers had dealt with 138 cases of ivory smuggling, totalling more than 182kg, in the 12 months to August last year, up 90 per cent year on year.

Wildlife experts say the increase in killings is no mystery. They blame it squarely on a decision taken by Cites in 2007 to allow four countries to sell 105 tons of ‘stockpiled’ ivory – tusks

confiscated from poachers and removed from elephants who have died naturally – in what they described as a ‘one-off’ sale.

To the horror of conservationists, many countries – including Britain – argued that the sale would satisfy demand and reduce poaching.

In fact, it has had the opposite effect and led to a surge in elephant slaughter by poachers who launder their ivory through the legal trade. The decision to allow the sale led to China and Japan being approved as trade partners and demand for ivory, in China in particular, has soared. Last year, China approved 37 new retail ivory stores.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/7429847/Agony-and-Ivory.html>

APRIL

Is China killing Africa's elephants?

The number of poachings has increased dramatically, as has the Chinese demand for ivory.
Tristan McConnell, Global Post

April 7, 2011

NAIROBI, Kenya — Many blame China for the rise in elephant killings in Africa.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/africa/kenya/110406/elephant-poaching-ivory>

Thai customs seize two tonnes of ivory

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

April 1, 2011

BANGKOK, Apr 1 - Thai customs on Friday said they had seized two tonnes of ivory worth over \$3.3 million hidden in a shipment of frozen fish -- equivalent to more than 120 elephants killed. Experts say traffickers use Thailand to smuggle ivory, rough or carved, into neighbouring China -- where it is ground up in traditional medicine -- and Japan. But some also ends up in the United States and Europe.

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Thai-customs-seize-two-tonnes-of-ivory-12263.html#ixzz1IGq7h8bE>

