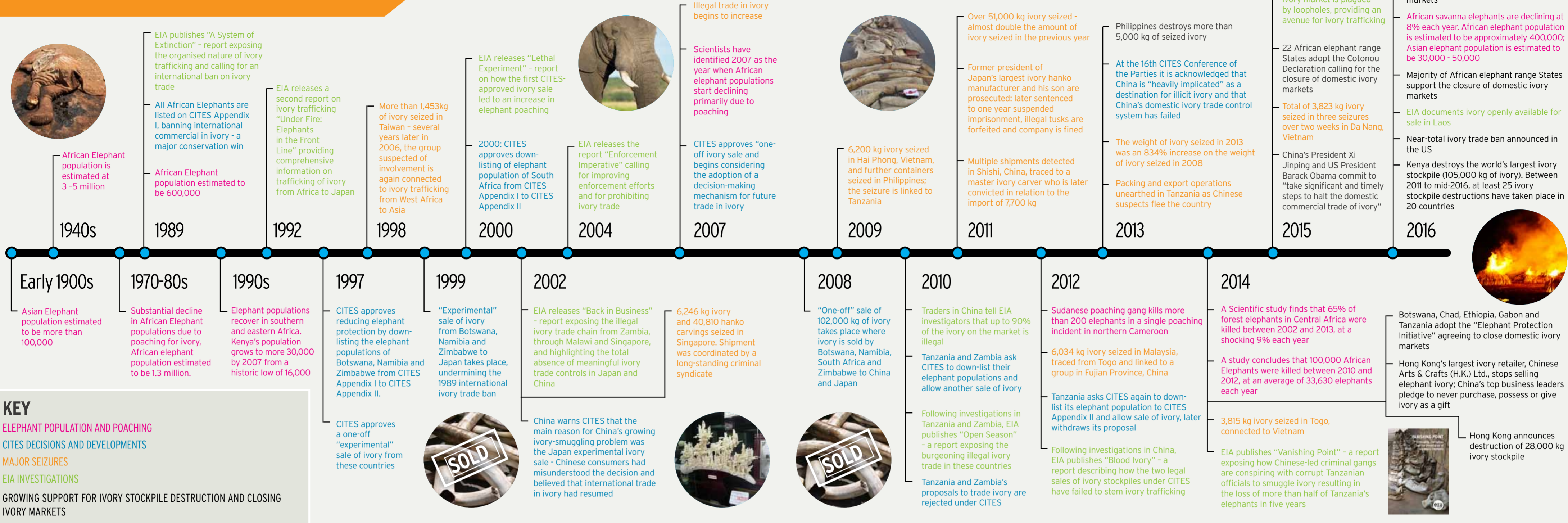


IVORY TRADE TIMELINE



MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT RANGE STATES SUPPORT CLOSURE OF DOMESTIC IVORY MARKETS.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORLD GOVERNMENTS:

- SUPPORT the closure of domestic ivory markets at the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties.
- REJECT any proposals that would enable future international trade in ivory at the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties.
- INVENTORY AND DESTROY all Government-held ivory stocks after conducting appropriate forensic analysis and when no longer required for prosecution.
- STRENGTHEN the criminal justice response to elephant poaching and ivory trafficking to ensure that appropriate penalties are imposed against high-level ivory traffickers and corrupt officials implicated in the ivory trade, including the recovery of proceeds of crime.
- CREATE a deterrent for consumers to stop buying ivory products through public awareness campaigns and stigmatising the purchase and possession of ivory.



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For additional information, please visit: <https://eia-international.org/illegal-trade-seizures-ivory>. EIA reports and data on ivory trade are available at: <https://eia-international.org/report-category/elephants>

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Close Domestic Ivory Markets to Secure the Future of Elephants

- Poaching for the ivory trade is one of the most significant threats to the survival of wild elephants.
- It is estimated that an average of 33,630 elephants were killed each year between 2010 and 2012.
- African savanna elephants have declined by 30% between 2007 and 2014 primarily due to poaching. Forest elephants in Central Africa have declined by 65%.
- Categorized as 'Endangered', Asian Elephants have a population estimate of only 30,000 - 50,000.
- During 2007 - 2014, over 273,000 kg of ivory were seized globally; equivalent to ivory from more than 40,000 elephants. Nearly three-quarters of this ivory was seized in 2011 - 2014.
- Large amounts of ivory continue to be trafficked from Africa to Asia by organised criminal syndicates, working with corrupt government officials. Between 2015 to mid-2016, there have been 24 large-scale ivory seizures (≥ 500 kg).
- The international trade in ivory was prohibited in 1989 under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Despite the fact that the ivory trade is resulting in the rapid decline of elephant populations, efforts to re-open the 1989 international ivory trade ban have never stopped; in 1999 and 2008 two "experimental" "one-off" auctions of ivory were authorised under CITES.
- The main centre of demand for ivory is China, and demand also exists in Japan and in several countries in South-east Asia. Parallel legal domestic ivory markets exist in China, Japan, Thailand, Laos and other countries.

Any legal trade in ivory stimulates demand for ivory products and undermines enforcement efforts. The greatest contribution we can make for elephants is to close all domestic ivory markets and end any discussions on legalising future international trade in ivory.

Since the 1980s, EIA investigations have exposed the role of organised criminal syndicates involved in poaching and large-scale ivory trafficking. Here are extracts from EIA's covert investigations into the illegal ivory trade.

Domestic legal ivory markets can provide significant loopholes that are exploited by criminals to launder illegal ivory. If we are to recover and secure elephant populations, legal domestic ivory markets must be closed.

2000, China

TRADER describing ways to circumvent the ivory trade ban by claiming that the ivory is antique or old ivory:

"I can say that I bought them 10 years ago but I did not make the application [to register the ivory] at that time. Very natural indeed."

2010, China

EIA: How much of the raw materials available in the market is legal?

TRADER: Not even 10%.

Traders are aware of CITES discussions and anticipate growth of the ivory market due to CITES decisions.

2000, China

TRADER (describing the anticipated impact on his business of the down-listing of elephant populations from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II and CITES-authorized ivory auctions):

"Was it last year the United Nation[s] allowed Japan to import 60 tonnes of raw ivory? ... we have been longing for this opportunity. Its African elephants protection has been downgraded from category one to two. In this trend, the relaxation will get more and more...If the relaxation continues, the ivory market, especially for craft items like what we have, will bloom vastly. It is almost impossible that our products will be stagnated in market."

Corruption is a key driver of ivory consumption which enables criminals to facilitate global ivory trafficking from source to market.

2010, Zambia

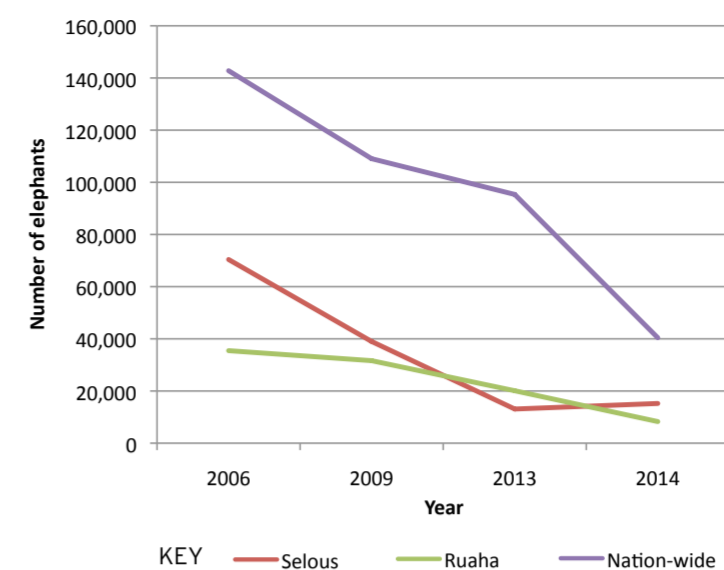
TRADER: "I went inside [prison] but I came out...I just have to pay money."

2014, Tanzania

TRADER (describing how they bribe Customs officers to smuggle ivory out of Tanzania):

"They already arrange for it not to go through the scanners. They pretend to scan it. You have measures, they have counter measures...this is done by the Customs. ... [it costs] 70 dollars a kilo. They arrange all of it for you."

DRAMATIC DECLINE IN TANZANIA'S ELEPHANT POPULATION, 2006-2014



Large-scale, organised ivory trafficking is decimating elephant populations and undermining the rule of law.

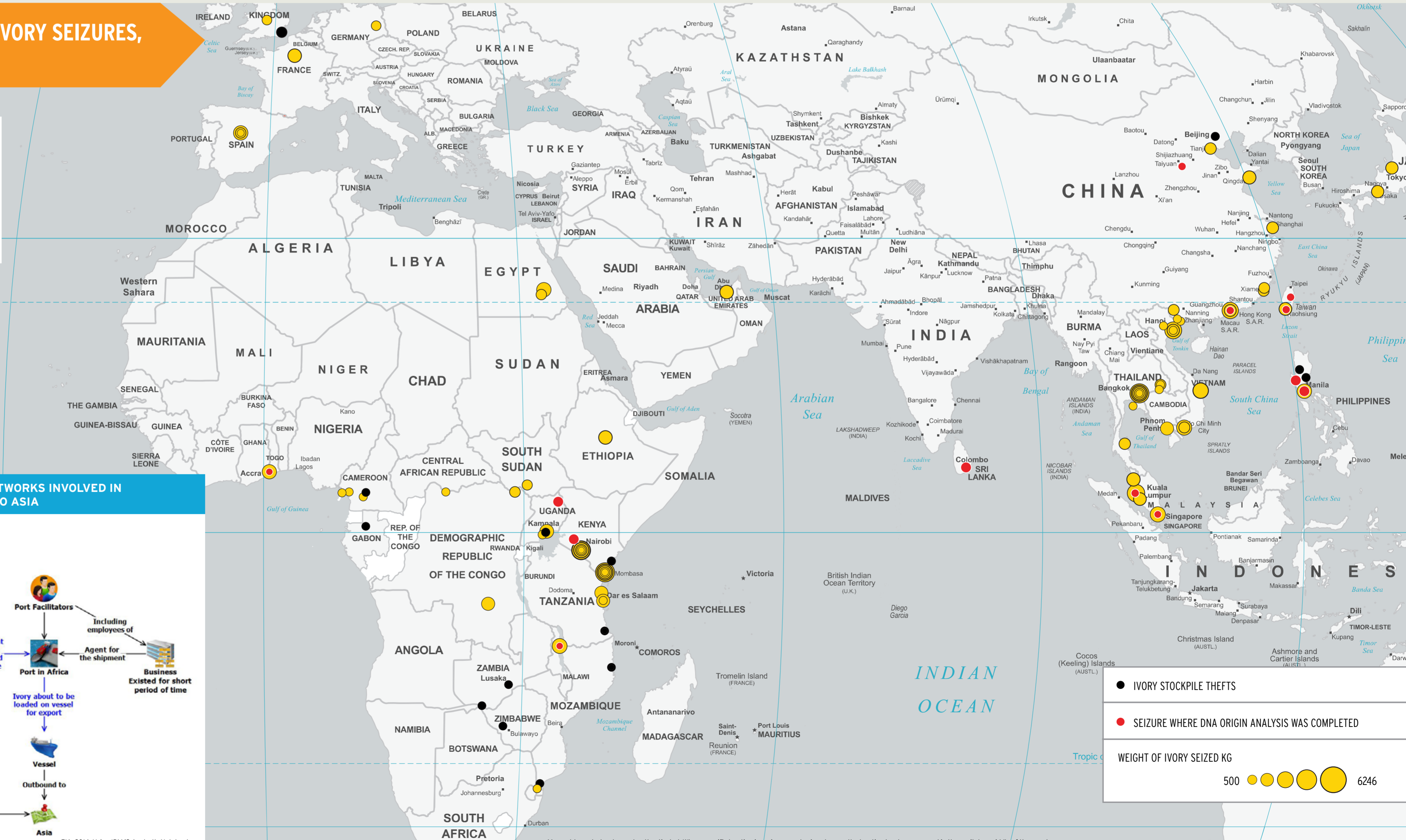
2014, Tanzania

TRADER (describing the failure of law enforcement to seize large-scale shipments of illegal ivory):

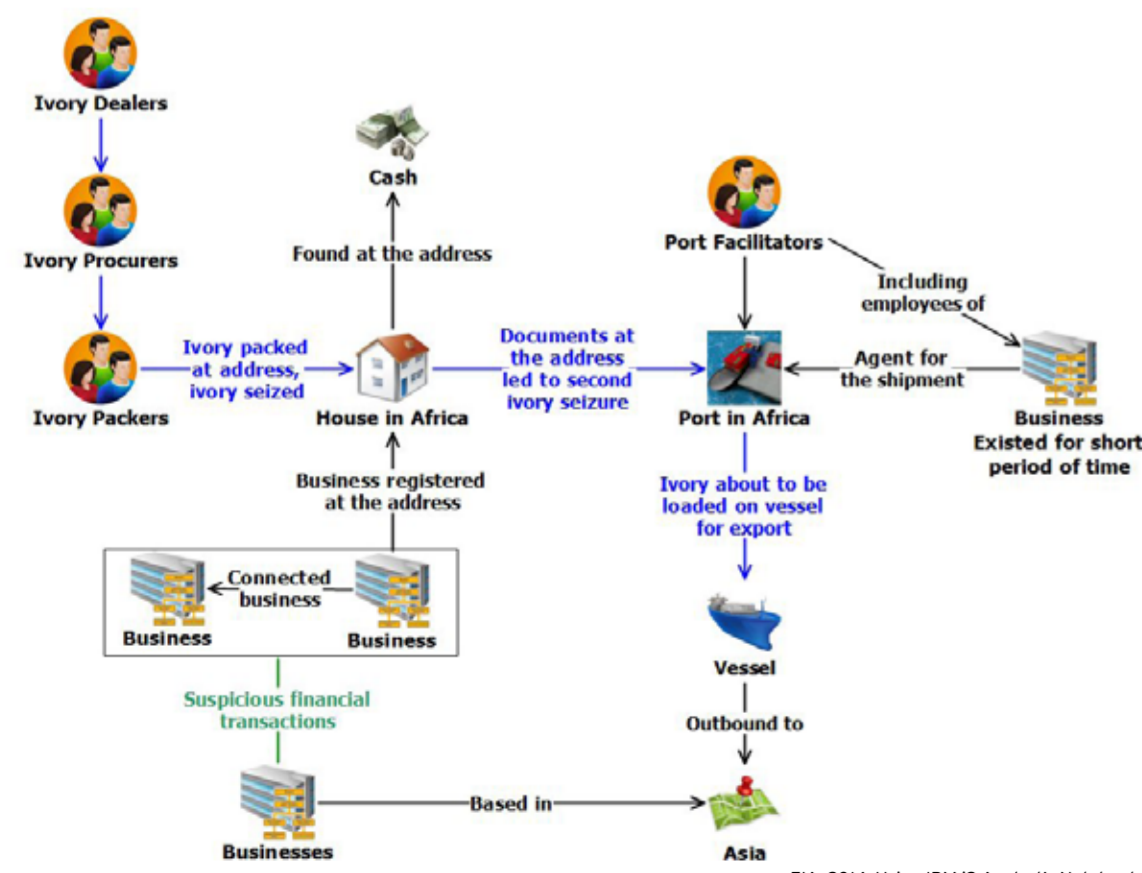
"They didn't even catch 10% of them ... Out of 20, they only caught them once ... You know last year [2013] there is a boss that did 10-20 containers and they didn't even catch one!"



LARGE SCALE ELEPHANT IVORY SEIZURES, 2000 TO MID-2016



CASE-STUDY: ORGANISED CRIMINAL NETWORKS INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING OF IVORY FROM AFRICA TO ASIA



EIA. 2014. Using IBM i2 Analyst's Notebook.

Map not to scale, borders not authenticated. Where specific location in a given country is unknown, the location has been mapped in the capital or middle of the country.