



THAILAND

PARTY TO CITES (1983) | UNTOC (2013) | UNCAC (2013) MEMBER OF INTERPOL | WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION | ASEAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (ASEAN-WEN)

TRANSIT • DEMAND

18 TONNES
IVORY SEIZED
SINCE 2010



TRANSIT

147.86 kg RHINO
HORN SEIZED IN OR
LINKED TO THAILAND
SINCE 2010



SOURCE

215 TIGERS SEIZED
OF WHICH 206
SUSPECTED
CAPTIVE SOURCE
SINCE 2000



TRANSIT

MORE THAN 2600
PANGOLINS
SEIZED SINCE 2010



TIGER TRAFFICKING THAI CONVICTIONS



215 MOSTLY LIVE & CARCASSES
OF TIGERS SEIZED SINCE 2000

COLLABORATION DR CONGO & THAILAND ARRESTED IN DR CONGO



THAILAND | INVESTING IN ENFORCEMENT

KEY INDICATORS¹

INTERPOL National Central Bureau has officer(s) dedicated to investigating wildlife crime

Multi-agency enforcement mechanism established to investigate wildlife crime

Financial intelligence unit includes wildlife crime on their portfolios

Assets and proceeds of crime seized in relation to wildlife crime cases since 2014

DNA analysis used in wildlife crime investigations since 2014

Government monitoring of online wildlife trade

Part of bilateral or multilateral agreements that specifically tackle transnational wildlife crime²

Participated in INTERPOL operations on wildlife crime since 2014

Participated in regional/international enforcement operations on wildlife crime since 2014³

Applied or declared intention to apply ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit

- **MoUs on illegal wildlife trade** have been adopted with Laos, Malaysia and Cambodia.
- Established **22 new ivory trade patrol teams and 11 joint task force teams** at key border areas, airports and seaports to aid detection and prevention of illegal wildlife and ivory trade.
- Scientific specialists, police, Customs and wildlife enforcement officers have participated in training courses since 2012 as part of the ARREST programme, a USAID initiative, in collaboration with ASEAN-WEN. This included a project with TRACE (Tools and Resources for Applied Conservation and Enforcement) on using **DNA analysis to assess origins** of seized elephant ivory.
- In 2015, DNA forensic scientists from Thailand and other South-East Asian countries met to standardise testing methods in wildlife forensics and established a **regional DNA database** of protected species in Southeast Asia.
- In October 2015, following a proposal submitted by the Royal Thai Police (RTP), ASEAN **Security Ministers signed a declaration** reinforcing commitment to combat cross-border crime, including wildlife and forest crime.
- **Fingerprint dusting** is regularly used on wildlife seizures with recovered fingerprints uploaded to the Customs and national digital fingerprint database which can be shared with INTERPOL.
- Thai Customs has deployed 27 large scale **x-ray units**, including 12 mobile units.
- The Department of Special Investigations (DSI), under the Ministry of Justice, has

included wildlife and forest crime as part of its mandate. This department has wide-ranging investigative powers which includes access to bank accounts and phone records.

- Despite having legislation enabling use of controlled deliveries, this **specialised investigation technique** has not been deployed in wildlife trafficking cases.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment signed an **MoU with the Anti-corruption Committee and DSI** in Jan 2016.

CASE FILES

Anti-money laundering legislation has been used in six cases concerning rosewood with authorities conducting raids at 20 locations across five provinces in the north-east of Thailand. These investigations into a Thai-Laotian rosewood syndicate revealed that the financial investment for the smuggling operation came from Laos and was brought into Thailand in US dollars, changed into Thai baht, deposited in a temporary account in a Thai bank and used to purchase rosewood. This syndicate also had links with a tour company and vehicle garages.

The Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) was awarded the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award (a joint initiative by UNEP and FREELAND) in 2015 for recovery of the proceeds of crime from a wildlife trafficking syndicate. In mid-2014, it was reported that in a civil case brought by the AMLO, assets worth over US\$36 million belonging to a wildlife trafficking syndicate were frozen; Daoreung Chaimas, alleged to be one of South-East Asia's biggest tiger traders, was a member of this syndicate. The efforts of the AMLO in this case were heralded as a breakthrough at the time of the seizure; however, in 2016 it was reported that the asset recovery court order was revoked.

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- There is no fulltime operational multi-agency enforcement unit, but the **Thai-Wildlife Enforcement Network** comprises 22 agencies, including prosecutors and judiciary.
- 38 wildlife checkpoints have been established to implement CITES and the Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act (WAPPA).

THAILAND | ENSURING EFFECTIVE LEGAL DETERRENTS

KEY INDICATORS¹

Legislation treats wildlife crime as a 'serious crime' as per UNTOC, ie, the maximum sanction applicable is not less than 4 years

Sentencing guidelines for wildlife crime have been disseminated

Known convictions for wildlife crime since 2014

Charges brought under ancillary legislation eg, anti-money laundering laws in wildlife crime cases since 2014

Has anti-corruption unit

Known convictions for corruption related to illegal wildlife trade cases since 2014

38/100 TI Corruption Perceptions Index 2015

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- New legislation has been proposed which will require **captive tiger** facilities to microchip all captive tigers and obtain tiger stripe pattern documentation and DNA samples.
- **Awareness-raising workshops** led by Thai judges have been conducted for judiciary and prosecutors on the severity of environmental crime.
- **A positive amendment to the Customs law** eliminated a major loophole which required a representative of the destination country to be present upon inspection of suspicious cargo in transit. According to Thai Customs, this change in the law resulted in an increase in the detection of wildlife trafficking. The amendment also increased penalties to up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine equivalent to four times the value of

the seized goods under the Customs law; the Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act, Thailand's primary wildlife trade legislation, prescribes penalties of up to four years for the same offence.

CHALLENGE

Under WAPPA, African elephants are the only non-native species that are protected. This loophole has compelled enforcement agencies to apply, where possible, other non-wildlife legislation to protect many non-native CITES-listed species. For example, Thai wildlife law does not cover rhinos as a non-native species, so the Customs law has been used to seize illegal rhino horn. Thus a vast number of non-native species, including CITES-listed species, continue to be excluded from WAPPA, exacerbating trade in them.

THAILAND | ERADICATING DEMAND

KEY INDICATORS¹

Prohibits trade in elephant ivory

Prohibits trade in parts/products of Asian big cats

Stockpiled ivory has been inventoried

Destroyed ivory stockpile since 2014

Destroyed other wildlife stockpiles since 2014

No known incidents of thefts of government-owned wildlife stocks

Government-led initiatives to reduce demand for wildlife products implemented since 2014

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- Since 2010, Thailand has seized over 18 tonnes of ivory. Only 2.7 tonnes of seized ivory was **destroyed** in 2015 and it is not clear whether a proper inventory and DNA analysis was done prior to the destruction.
- The Government has launched **campaigns to raise awareness** about illegal trade in ivory and other wildlife at international airports, key tourist attractions and trade hotspots such as Chatuchak Market, in Bangkok. Campaign materials were originally distributed in English and Thai and in 2016 were translated into Mandarin to target Chinese tourists.
- There are currently **1,450 tigers in captivity in Thailand**, many in facilities that are self-declared 'zoos' but which have nothing to do with



ABOVE: INVESTIGATIONS OF THAI TIGER TEMPLE SHOULD DISRUPT CRIMINAL NETWORKS © BANKS/EIA

conservation. In June 2016, Thailand seized 137 live tigers, thousands of tiger skin amulets, 70 preserved cubs and other tiger parts from the 'Tiger Temple' in Kanchanaburi Province, and announced it will investigate other captive tiger facilities implicated in tiger trade. The Tiger Temple seizure was a bold enforcement effort towards closing down a facility that has been repeatedly implicated in tiger trafficking. It has been reported that charges have been filed in this case and that investigations continue to explore links between the Temple and facilities in Laos implicated in the tiger trade. It is important to ensure the seizure is followed-up to ensure prosecution of those implicated in illegal wildlife trade and that relevant laws are amended to improve regulations of facilities keeping tigers.

- In 2015, **Thai Airways** supported by the Government launched a campaign against the illegal transportation of ivory.

CHALLENGE

For more than a decade, serious concerns have been raised about the regulation of ivory and captive elephant trade in Thailand. Thailand's domestic legal ivory market has been repeatedly exposed as a means for laundering illegal ivory. In 2015, the Elephant Ivory Act was adopted to improve regulation of the domestic ivory trade, following which about 220 tonnes of African and Asian elephant ivory collected from 44,000 individuals was registered for legal trade. Another open source of legal trade in ivory in Thailand is ivory obtained from registered domesticated elephants.

Registration of live captive elephants is not required until the elephant reaches eight years of age, which effectively avoids registration of the most vulnerable elephants exploited by the entertainment industry. This loophole enables laundering of wild-caught juveniles and infants. Thailand is seeking to reduce this loophole through legislative amendments requiring all live elephants to be registered by the age of three months instead of eight years; this amendment has yet to be proposed to the Thai Cabinet.