

ACT FOR
WILDLIFE

LED BY CHESTER ZOO

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

CHESTER ZOO IS WORKING TO COMBAT THE
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE AND **YOU** CAN TOO



WHAT IS ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE?

The illegal wildlife trade is one of the **GREATEST** threats to the future of wildlife today.

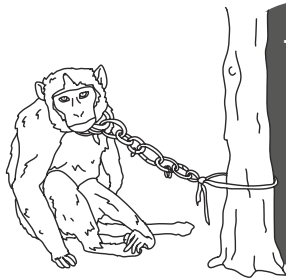
Illegal wildlife trade is the sale or exchange of wild animals or plants that are protected by **international trade law**.

Worldwide, over **35,000** species of wildlife are **legally protected** by trade law.

It can include live animals and plants or a range of products sought after by humans – including animal skins, medicines, luxury food, horns and other trophy parts or fashion items.

Illegal wildlife trade impacts thousands of species and is the fourth most lucrative international crime after drugs, arms and human trafficking and is worth \$19 billion annually!

Animals can also be **illegally kept as pets**.



The animals and plants that tend to be involved in the illegal wildlife trade are often already **highly threatened** and in danger of extinction. On top of that, the conditions in which the animals are captured or transported are often **horrific**.

Illegal trade can be happening here in the UK, online or overseas. It's impossible to list all of the endangered species here but some of the most frequently encountered illegal trade in the UK includes...

Birds of prey (eg. hawks, eagles, kites, buzzards, harriers, falcons and owls).

Threatened plants such as bluebells, snowdrops and orchids.

Overseas you may also see trade in bears, elephants, gibbons, marine turtles, orangutans, pangolins, rhinos, shingleback lizards, slow lorises, tigers or tortoises.

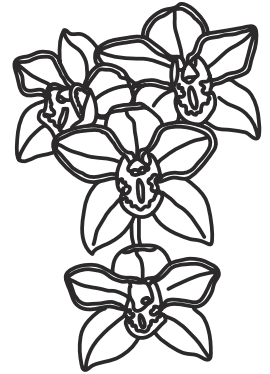
Reptiles such as tortoises, snakes and lizards.

WHAT IS WILDLIFE CRIME?

Wildlife crime is any deliberate action which breaks current laws governing the protection of the UK's wild animals, plants and habitats including:

- Hare coursing
- Deer poaching
- Badger persecution
- Bat persecution
- Egg theft / collection
- Bird of prey persecution
- Taking any wild animal or plant without permission from the land owner or without a scientific purpose

The UK National Wildlife Crime Unit was set up to contribute to the prevention and detection of crime by supporting UK wildlife crime enforcement.



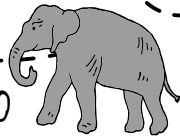
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE

7500kg pangolin scales smuggled from Nigeria to Hong Kong in 2016

In Russia 4500 bear paws were seized from 2000-2011

1200 tusks seized in Hong Kong in 2012 worth £2 million

An estimated 25,000 elephants were killed in 2015



48% of traditional shops in Malaysia sell bear gall bladders or bile products

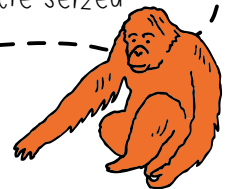


From 2009 to 2015 there was a 9000% increase in rhino poaching

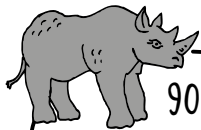


19,000 birds for sale over three days in Jakarta markets, 98% of which were taken from the wild

In 2014 114 orangutans were seized



90% of Eastern black rhinos disappeared in just three generations



11,255 marine turtle products were found on sale in China during 2012

100 rangers are killed each year protecting wild life

Between 1970-2012 global wildlife populations DECLINED by almost 60% on average

Illegal wildlife trade was one of the main drivers of this decline.

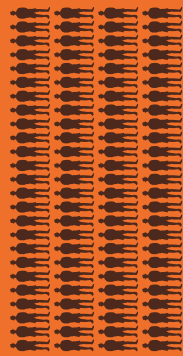
This is a huge GLOBAL issue



The illegal wildlife trade affects people too

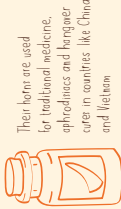
In Madagascar, £15 million of the country's income is lost from the illegal rosewood trade each year.

100 RANGERS KILLED each year protecting wildlife.



But it's **NOT** all bad news
We're **Acting For Wildlife** and working to **STOP** illegal wildlife trade. And there's something **YOU** can do **TODAY** that will help save these threatened species from **EXTINCTION**.

YOU CAN HELP...



Their horns are used for traditional medicine, aphrodisiacs and hangover cures in countries like China and Vietnam.

There's something YOU can do to help 'STOP' illegal wildlife trade

When you're ONLINE



Be careful what you share; your actions online can fuel the illegal wildlife trade.



- **Don't share** or like videos that encourage having wild animals as pets.
- **Don't post** photos or videos of yourself with wild animals saying they'd make good pets. This only fuels the demand for them.
- Only buy products from reputable websites. And **think about** the materials they're made from.
- **Don't buy** items made from animal skin, bone, horn or tusk. And avoid buying precious woods like mahogany without an FSC stamp.



When you're ABROAD



Avoid buying or bringing back any animal parts or plants.

- **Don't buy** any animals, animal parts or plants.
- **Don't take** shells, dried seahorses, coral or any other animal trinkets as souvenirs.
- Use the Wildlife Witness app to **safely report** any illegal wildlife trade you see in South East Asia.



When you're OUT AND ABOUT



Report suspicious behaviour such as taking or selling wild eggs, orchids or freshwater pearl mussels.

- **Don't take or buy** any protected animals or plants from the wild.
- **Help protect** illegally poached and sold species like hare, birds of prey, deer and fish by reporting these illegal activities.
- **Report** any illegal wildlife trade or UK wildlife crime to the police or to your local wildlife crime officer.



REPORTING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE AND WILDLIFE CRIME



Chester Zoo has teamed up with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) and TRAFFIC to give the best advice we can about how to identify crimes and how to report suspicious activity that is a threat to nature.

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

STEP 1: If you witness a wildlife crime in action then call the police immediately.

STEP 2: If you know that a wildlife crime may have happened in the past or have information about potential crimes taking place in the UK, overseas or online then you can report it through our website chesterzoo.org/illegal-wildlife-trade/

DOS AND DON'TS

As we are encouraging people to keep an eye out for any illegal wildlife trade activity and report anything suspicious you may see, we do want to make sure people keep themselves safe at all times. We've pulled together some 'Dos and Don'ts' of reporting illegal wildlife trade

DON'T put yourself at risk! Be sensible and discrete; don't make your report directly in front of the witnessed trade and only take photos if it's safe to do so.

DON'T buy wildlife products or try to set up a sale; animals could be taken from the wild to complete your order!

DON'T point out illegal items to the sellers or staff selling the products.

DO look out for the different types of illegal wildlife trade, for example:

- **Shops or markets** – be extra vigilant when at markets and / or shops. Keep an eye out for medicines, souvenirs, carvings, trinkets, jewellery and fashion items that may be made using wild animal products.

- **Restaurants** – look out for wildlife items on restaurant menus, at food stalls or at road side eateries. Dishes on the menu that are described as 'delicacies' may actually contain illegal wildlife!

- **Live animal displays** – live wildlife can be on display in shops, restaurants or bars. Exotic animals that are being used for 'tourist photos' might have been sourced illegally and roadside zoos and private collections may also be stocked by illegal trade.

- **Poaching** – taking wild animals from their natural habitat is illegal so if you're travelling to or near any forested areas keep your eyes peeled for any suspicious activity. If you spot any traps, snares or nets these are sometimes a sign that poaching is taking place. Don't touch them! Just record where you've spotted them, and make sure you include a description of the surrounding area.

DO be careful not to arouse suspicion, if you think something illegal is taking place follow the staying safe tips and then make a report.

DO steer clear of animals in markets and other public places that are used for a 'photo opportunity'. If the animal is being used as a selfie prop or to entertain people chances are they are not happy. It is likely these wild creatures are being kept as pets and often mistreated with the aim of making them be able to be around humans like you.

DO get out there! When done well eco-tourism provides an alternate income for local communities that would reduce their reliance on other activities that may impact wildlife or habitats.

DO be mindful of your surroundings. Leave no trace. Take nothing from the environment (coral while diving in the ocean).

DO reduce demand for illegal wildlife parts and products by encouraging others to ask questions and get the facts before buying any wildlife or plant product

DO lend your eyes to the Wild – download Wildlife Witness and report any incidents of illegal wildlife trade that you may see.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a powerful tool to bring about positive changes for wildlife.

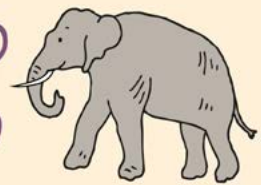
By being more conscious of what you 'like' and share on social media you can actually help to reduce public demand for the illegal trade of wild animals.

We've created a video introduction, especially for teenagers, to learn how everyday online habits can have an impact of wildlife.

chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/illegal-wildlife-trade-social-media/



HOW CAN YOU HELP STOP WILDLIFE CRIME ONLINE?



BE CAREFUL what you share!
Your actions online can fuel the illegal wildlife trade.

DON'T SHARE or **LIKE** videos that encourage having wild animals as pets.

ONLY buy products from reputable websites. And think about the materials they're made from.

DON'T BUY items made from animal skin, bone, horn or tusk. And **AVOID** buying precious woods like mahogany without an FSC stamp.

DON'T POST photos or videos of yourself with wild animals saying they'd make good pets. This only fuels demand for them.

TURN OFF your location and geo-tag if taking pictures of wild animals on holiday and sharing them on social media – poachers use these platforms to locate wild animals.

SING FOR SONGBIRDS

One specific challenge which Chester Zoo is working to address is the songbird crisis in South East Asia. Beautiful and rare birds are being captured and trapped by local people in Indonesia to be used either in singing competitions or kept in cages as a status symbol.



Forests are falling silent



Birds whose beautiful songs were common in the forests of Indonesia are *disappearing* at an **ALARMING** rate.

The trade in wild songbirds has reached **CRISIS** point – pushing many species of bird to the edge of *extinction!*

Beautiful birds are being taken from the wild to be sold on local bird markets as part of the illegal wildlife trade, with over **1.3 MILLION** being caught every year.

Most of the time the conditions the birds are kept in on the bird markets is *heart breaking*.



Sing for Songbirds is a Chester Zoo campaign to take action to combat this crisis. We're acting for wildlife by directly supporting projects in South East Asia, and by raising awareness and fundraising here in the UK.

We have loads of information and resources on the Chester Zoo website for people to find out more and get involved and there's lots of opportunities for people to see these beautiful songbirds around the zoo.

chesterzoo.org/singforsongbirds

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

There are loads of fantastic ways you can raise money to help protect songbirds.

Here are some ideas to get you started...

GET ACTIVE FLY LIKE A SONGBIRD



Fly over the obstacles by taking part in a trail running event like Tough Mudder.



SING IT...LOUD!

THE X-TINCTION FACTOR

- Hold a singing competition, flock together in a choir, sing a duet or even branch out as a solo act and see WHO CAN SING LIKE A SONGBIRD the best.
- Pick bird themed songs and sing for parents and friends. You can raise money in ticket sales to the competition and have a bird related prize for the winners.



SONGBIRD STORIES

Create a book of songbird stories - have a **creative writing challenge** and with some friends put together a book of tales of songbirds in an Indonesian rainforest.



RAISE AWARENESS WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR STORIES MEMORABLE!

GET CREATIVE

PHOTO COMPETITION



Take a photo of a British Songbird like this noisy Song Thrush

Hold a photo competition, who can take the **best pictures of British songbirds.**

£1 per entry and auction off the pictures afterwards.



RUUUUUUUUNNNN...

Fly past the competition in a 10k or sponsored fun run.



PUT YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS TO GOOD

USE AND TRY MAKING AN

ORIGAMI BIRD!

Who can make the best designed birds. Have a paper bird throwing competition, whose bird can fly the furthest distance.



SPONSORED SILENCE

Sssshhhhhhhhh...

It's all about Singing for Songbirds, but can you lend the songbirds your voice for the day and take part in a sponsored silence.

CHALLENGE TASKS

Pick a species affected by the **illegal wildlife trade** that you would like to take action to help

Describe the characteristics of that animal/plant and the habitat in which they live

Explore why that animal/plant is important for a healthy ecosystem and what might happen if they continue to decline or go extinct

Explain the threats they are facing and how it's affecting their population

Review the work that Chester Zoo is doing to combat the illegal wildlife trade

Apply what **you** have learnt and develop a project to take action to help

As an individual/
class/school/
family/community

Share your story, let other people know what you've been doing and how they can take action too

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT THESE LINKS;

chesterzoo.org/illegal-wildlife-trade/

chesterzoo.org/singforsongbirds/

chesterzoo.org/schools/resources

(search Illegal Wildlife Trade and Sing for Songbirds)

SHARE YOUR PROGRESS WITH US

#IllegalWildlifeTrade

#SingforSongbirds

 @LearnatCZ

 @chesterzoo

 volunteers@chesterzoo.org

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