Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Case Study: Togo

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Why does Wildlife Biodiversity matter?
- Role in Ecosystem/Ecosystem services
- Human Security

Elephants
- Seed Dispersal
- Dung
- Water
- Habitat modifiers

Westgate Mall Attack
- Nairobi Kenya
- Sept 2013
- 67 dead
- 175 injured

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.
- John Muir
Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora

• 1975: Global treaty to ensure international trade does not threaten fauna and flora survival
• Secretariat in Geneva; 183 Parties
• Meetings: CoPs, SC, AC, PC
• Protection: 3 Appendices
• Each Party
  – Enacting legislation
  – Management Authority
  – Scientific Authority
• Permitting System
• “Teeth” – power to suspend trade

What happens if a species is listed in CITES Appendices

• **Appendix I**: Species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Commercial trade is prohibited.

• **Appendix II**: Species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. Trade is allowed with export permit.

• **Appendix III**: Species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation and as needing the cooperation of other parties in the control of trade. Trade is permitted with export permit or certificate of origin.
Exports of all wildlife per year from Togo
Exports of wildlife from Togo by Taxa

- **Invertebrates**
  - Importer reported quantity: 500000
  - Exporter reported quantity: 100000

- **Birds**
  - Importer reported quantity: 0
  - Exporter reported quantity: 500000

- **Mammals**
  - Importer reported quantity: 0
  - Exporter reported quantity: 0

- **Reptiles**
  - Importer reported quantity: 2500000
  - Exporter reported quantity: 1500000

- **Orchids**
  - Importer reported quantity: 0
  - Exporter reported quantity: 0

Legend:
- Blue: Importer reported quantity
- Red: Exporter reported quantity
Challenges

• There is no Scientific Authority
  — in violation of convention

• Trade is not done sustainably
  — alleged captive breeding/ranching (injuries, parasites)
  — species are disappearing from their habitats (collectors moving further to find source)

• Scorpion and Cape parrot already under CITES suspension.
• Ball pythons & Calabar ground boa moving that way after CoP17

• As trade is suspended in Togo wildlife moves illegally via porous borders to Benin, Ghana, or Burkina Faso. (continue to collect scorpions)

• Need for management plans or actual captive breeding centers to achieve sustainability and to be removed from trade suspensions.
• Permits issued to only individuals following sustainable practices
Uncontrolled Trade: Fetish Market

Claimed to be collected in Benin
Legislation & Penalties

- Many W & C African countries are not implementing CITES properly – not in Legislation – Countries (25+ yrs) not in category 1 of National Legislation Project must comply or face suspension

- Stronger penalties for violations involving wildlife crimes

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Year joining CITES</th>
<th>LP Category</th>
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<td>Congo</td>
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• [www.fws.gov/international/](http://www.fws.gov/international/)
• [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)