



COMMODITIES NEWS

NOVEMBER 8, 2021 / 9:01 PM / UPDATED A DAY AGO

Congo seizes \$3.5 mln of ivory, rhino horn and pangolin scales

By Hereward Holland



KINSHASA, Nov 8 (Reuters) - Authorities in Democratic Republic of Congo have seized \$3.5 million worth of ivory, rhinoceros horn and pangolin scales in a joint operation with United States officials, the U.S. embassy in Kinshasa said on Monday.

Two wildlife traffickers were also arrested in the United States on Nov. 4, following a more than two-year investigation between the two countries and global police agency Interpol.

Congolese law enforcement recovered almost a ton of ivory and 34 kg of pangolin scales in several locations in the capital Kinshasa, the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

Congolese officials expect to seize upwards of 60 tons of ivory in further operations, said Olivier Mushiete, the head of Congo's Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN).

"We are putting down an international network of traffickers that are mainly from Congo," Mushiete told Reuters by telephone. "We have already reached up to 20 tons in total. It's not over yet. There will be more operations in the coming days."

NOW READING Congo seizes \$3.5 mln of ivory, rhino horn and pangolin scales

Stocks hold the line on record highs, inflation eyed

2 HOURS AGO

Wall Street's record run loses steam, GE surges on split

2 HOURS AGO



Congo seized 20.9 tons of ivory from 2015 to 2019, up from only 7.8 tons over the previous 16 years, according to statistics collected by the Environmental Investigation Agency.

“Illicit wildlife trafficking... robs the DRC of its natural treasures and also serves to finance armed groups and terrorists,” said Mike Hammer, U.S. ambassador in Kinshasa. (Reporting by Hereward Holland; Editing by Nellie Peyton and Alex Richardson)

Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.

MORE FROM REUTERS



00:51

01:23

