

**ILLICIT TRADE**

**Man, 18, arrested as police recover 20 kg of elephant tusks**

*Officials said the seizure shows elephants are still being killed despite a ban on the international trade of ivory*



by **CYRUS OMBATI**  
Chief Crime Reporter

Nyanza

02 April 2024 - 21:00



**In Summary**

- A rise in demand for ivory in the East continues to fuel illicit trade of elephant tusks
- To stop the menace, Kenya is using high-tech surveillance equipment such as drones to curb poaching



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*POACHING: A KWS officer sets illegal stockpiles of elephant tusks on fire at Nairobi National Park.  
Image: /FILE*

An 18-year-old man has been arrested and 20 kg of elephant tusks valued at Sh2 million recovered at a roadblock in Loruk, Baringo county.

The suspect had stashed the tusks in a gunny bag when he was arrested on March 31, police said.

Police said he was arrested in in Loruk trading centre in a public service vehicle.

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He will be arraigned and charged with being in possession of wildlife trophies of endangered species contrary to section 92 (4) of the Wildlife Conservation Management Act 2013.

Officials said the seizure shows elephants are still being killed despite a ban on international trade of ivory.

A rise in demand for ivory in the East continues to fuel illicit trade of elephant tusks.

To stop the menace, Kenya is using high-tech surveillance equipment such as drones to curb poaching.

Kenya Wildlife Service is also working with communities to get intelligence on poachers.



This means 55 elephants are killed everyday or one elephant is killed every 26 minutes with.

Kenya has a population of more than 36,000 elephants.

On April 30, 2016, the government set ablaze 105 tonnes of elephant ivory and 1.35 tonnes of rhino horns.

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta led world leaders and conservationists in burning the remains of 6,500 elephants and 450 rhinos that had been killed.

Parliament has also passed strict anti-poaching laws and the government has beefed up security in parks to stop poaching, which threatens the vital tourism industry.

### Three arrested in Narok with elephant tusks worth Sh2.7m

DCI said they were arrested at Kisiriri area in Narok North with 27kg of ivory.

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### Policeman among two arrested with elephant tusks in Nairobi

They had tried to sell the trophies to KWS officials who had posed as potential buyers

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