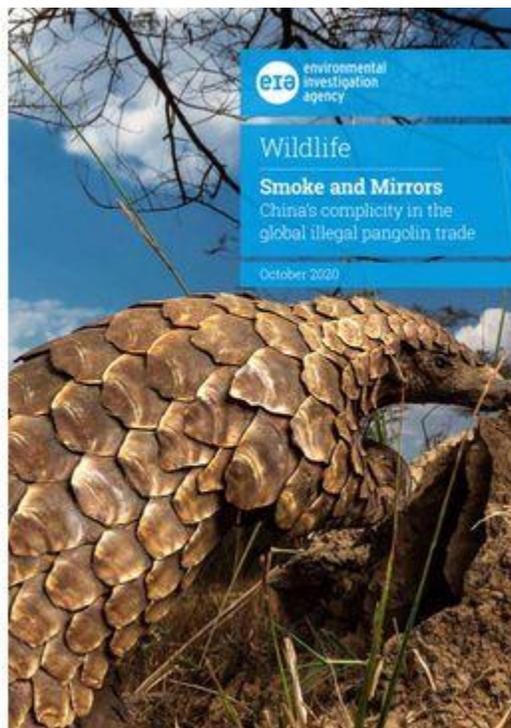


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## China's smoke screen for ieternagogs Scales still in use

22 October 2020 | [Environment](#)



1.



Françoise Steynberg

Four months ago, Chinese state media announced that magma cubes had been removed from traditional medicine lists, but research contradicts that this approach is actually being applied.

According to a report entitled "Smoke and Mirrors" from the Environmental Research Agency (EIA) published this month, food maggot products are still used in traditional medicine.

The EIA report found, among other things:

- 221 companies have licenses to sell ieternagóskubbe products;

- 56 of these companies actively advertise online medicinal products that are believed to contain ietermagô products;
- A total of 64 products list ietermagô as an ingredient advertised on manufacturers' websites;
- Six of these products are available on e-commerce sites such as eBay and Taobao (owned by Alibaba).

According to EIA, one of the companies has been identified as China's largest traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) pharmaceutical company, China Beijing Tong Ren Tang Group Co. Ltd. The company has subsidiaries worldwide and its shareholders include large European and US investment funds.

The other Chinese companies according to the EIA are Tianjin Zhongxin Pharmaceuticals Group Co. Ltd., Hangzhou Zhuyangxin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Shenyang Dongling Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. Ltd.

The EIA believes now is the time for China to close down its legitimate food market.

"Now is the time for true leadership of the Chinese government to eradicate consumer demand for traditional Chinese medicine containing products of protected species," the report said.

"The findings in the report indicate that Chinese's legitimate trade in yummy magma cubes in medicine has a high potential to fuel the crisis of global yummy magma smuggling."

According to the EIA report, the trade in ietermagogs poses a health risk to humans, especially after the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus.

In February 2020, China announced regulations banning the eating of wild animals as a health measure to protect human health.

Role players in China are calling for an extension of the ban on eating game, as well as the medicinal use of game to prevent future pandemics and protect biodiversity.

#### SUGGESTIONS

Proposals in the report are that the Chinese government should ban the acquisition, sale or possession of all parts and products of ietermagogs and other endangered species - including for medicinal purposes.

"The Chinese government must also destroy all piled-up stockpiles of cannabis shells," the EIA said.

"Penalties for pharmaceutical companies and hospitals that illegally acquire or sell food stalls should be clearer."

The EIA also believes that China needs to better investigate and prosecute transnational criminal syndicates and work more closely with countries from where and through which magma cubes are smuggled.

In Namibia, according to the weekly wildlife crime report of the Namibian police and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, suspects in connection with food magma smuggling are arrested almost weekly.

Last Tuesday, Messrs. Uaninazo Muheke and Mavetumbuavi Mutambo on Opuwo were allegedly arrested with a food maggot in their possession.