



Wildlife Crime

(<https://cdn.nmh.com.na:2083/S3Server/aznamibia/uploads/images/2024/05/21/310241.jpg>)

ENVIRONMENT ([HTTPS://WWW.AZ.COM.NA/UMWELT](https://www.az.com.na/umwelt))

ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS "REMAINS IMMENSE"

UN report quantifies the extent of the global wildlife trade - and draws a sobering conclusion

Ellanie Smit

2 DAYS AGO 22 MAY 2024 - 2024-05-22 00:05:00

By E. Smit, edited by O. Steinbach

Despite efforts to curb the trade in endangered species such as elephants, the illegal trade in wild animals continues unabated worldwide.

This is according to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which takes stock of global anti-poaching efforts. The report highlights that wildlife trade has not declined significantly enough over the past two decades, which is why it calls for better enforcement of existing laws, including anti-corruption measures.

True, tangible successes have been achieved in the fight against trade in some known species. Both cross-border cooperation and the prosecution of poachers have improved. Nevertheless, the scale of the illegal trade remains immense, affecting thousands of animal and plant species and spanning more

than 160 countries and regions. "There is an urgent need to do more to address both chronic and new challenges," the report says. Between 2015 and 2021, illegal trade in around 4,000 plant and animal species was detected. The most commonly traded species included corals (16%), crocodiles (9%) and elephants (6%). During the reporting period, law enforcement authorities seized 13 million items totaling more than 16,000 tonnes.

A national study in Namibia in 2021 estimated the expenditure needed to curb the illegal wildlife trade in the country at about N\$250 million per year. The study added that poverty may be a driving factor in the decision to poach for some people, but poachers do not necessarily act out of desperation. Two research studies in southern Africa, in which convicted poachers in Namibia and South Africa were interviewed, came to similar conclusions. As part of the Namibian study, 45 male offenders who were imprisoned for illegal trade in wild animals were interviewed. Most offenders were poachers or traders in the lower end of the supply chain, with limited knowledge of the market they were supplying. According to the report, they were either fully or partially employed, mostly in agriculture, and poached or traded only occasionally and on an opportunistic basis.

Poaching (/search?query=Wilderei)

COMMENT



Allgemeine Zeitung 2024-05-24

No comments were left for this article

PLEASE LOG IN TO LEAVE A COMMENT

➔ [Klicken Sie hier, um sich einzuloggen](#)

RELATED POST