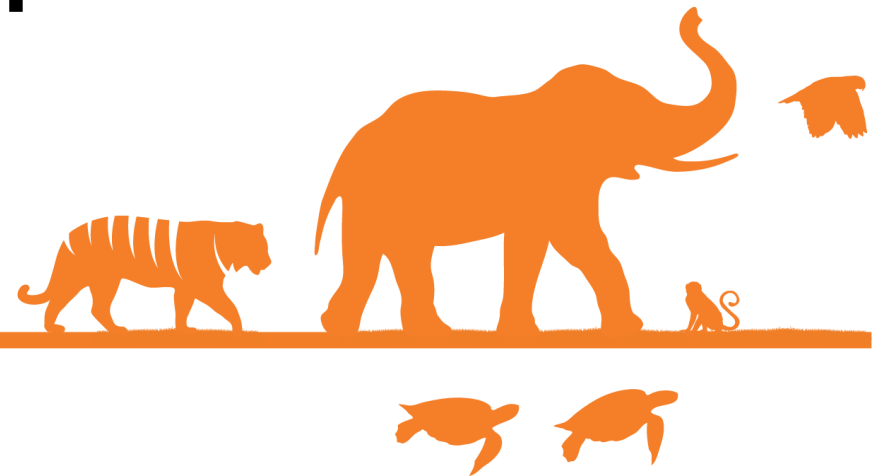




# Most traded wildlife spp. from Africa

## Big 5 and little 5



**Dr. Patrick Muinde – Research Manager**

@MoveTheWorldAF

PatrickMuinde@worldanimalprotection.org

We are **World Animal Protection**



# Our vision

A World where Animals  
Live free from Cruelty and  
Suffering



We are **World Animal Protection**



# Our Mission

We Move the World to  
Protect Animals





## New strategic goals (2020-2030)

1. Transform global food systems
2. End cruel exploitation of wildlife, and protect their habitats



# Introduction

- Africa is home to highly diverse range of wildlife
- Most people hope to see big 5 in Safari's
- We present a different 'Big 5' & 'Little 5' - most traded (legally) wildlife from Africa
- This hurts & damages Africa biodiversity



# Introduction – global trade in wildlife

- Estimated to be worth \$30.6-42.8 billion annually
- Legal = \$22.8 billion e.g. SA countries estimates \$340M
- Illegal = \$7.8-20 billion



# Key drivers for the trade



## Drivers of demand - importing countries

1. Beliefs in medicinal and health values (TM)
2. Affirmation of status
3. Online marketing
4. Trophy hunting
5. Opportunistic buying and gift giving

## Drivers of supply - exporting countries

1. Criminal cartels to finance illegal activities
  2. Income generation - Source of revenue
  3. Unstable governments, corruption, lack of alternative economic opportunities
  4. Challenges in law enforcement
-

# Study Objectives



1. To highlight the top legally traded species from Africa
2. To highlight the top illegally trafficked animals  
according to media data, 2017 (seizure info)





# Methodology -Study Countries & Data Sources



## Study Countries (49)

- West, Central, East & Southern Africa

## Data source

- CITES WCMC database 2011-2015
- Meltwater media, 2017

## Taxonomic classes (CITES Database)

Aves (Birds)

Amphibia (amphibians)

Mammalia (mammals)

Reptilia (reptiles)

---

# Study Methods



## Live animal trade – Cites

Exports reported as 'live' (for all proposes & all source codes)

Source codes – Captivity, Ranched, Wild, Unknown, Confiscated specimens and pre-convention specimens

Appendix classification (I,II,III)

## Appendix I

Trade permitted only under exceptional circumstances

## Appendix II

Non-detriment finding, and export permit are required for trade

## Appendix III

One Party has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling trade



# Study Methods



## Skin trade analysis - CITES

- Species recorded as 'whole skins' for all purposes and all sources' codes
- Each 'whole skin' reportedly presumed to represent an individual animal.



## Media data analysis

- Media articles obtained from meltwater ([www.meltwater.com](http://www.meltwater.com))
- Articles included if search terms 'Africa' and 'illegal wildlife trade'
- We screened the articles for the first species cited and extent of news coverage
- Picked species and type of trade (live or derivative)
- Total number of articles per each species were totalled.



# CITES results – Little 5



## The most traded species as live animals– little 5

1. Ball python - 591,830 individuals
  2. African grey parrot - 289,006 individuals
  3. Emperor scorpion - 277,233 individuals
  4. Leopard tortoise - 188,507 individuals
  5. Savannah monitor lizard - 170,057 individuals
-

# 1. *Python regius* - Ball python



- Single most traded CITES species
- Source: W (19%), R (68%), C(9%)
- Export countries: Togo (42%), Ghana (41%) & Benin (17%)
- Import countries: USA (55%), Europe (21%), Asia (19%)



Credit: Getty images



Credit: World Animal Protection

## 2. *Psittacus erithacus* - Africa grey parrots



- Most traded bird species
- Source: C(90%), W (10%)
- Export countries: SA (88%), DRC (9%)
- Import countries: Asia (88%), other Africa countries (11%), Europe (1%)



Credit: Getty images



Credit: World Animal Protection

# CITES results - Big 5



## The most traded species as derivatives - Skin – Big 5

1. Nile crocodile - 947,315 crocodile skins
  2. Cape fur seal - 243,014 Cape fur skins
  3. Hartmann's mountain zebra - 9,344 zebra skins
  4. African elephant - 8,027 skins
  5. Common hippopotamus - 4,866 hippo skins
-

# 1. *Crocodylus niloticus* - Nile Crocodile



- Source: **C (57%)**, R (38%) & W (5%)
- Export countries **SA (43.4%)**, Zimbabwe (24.7%), Zambia (17.2%), Mozambique (7.4%), Kenya (3.1%), Malawi (2.3%), Botswana (1.2%)
- Import countries: **Asia (61.6%)**, Europe (26.2%), Africa (8%), USA (1.6%), Mexico (1.4%)



Credit: World Animal Protection



Credit: Creative Commons



## 2. Arctocephalus pusillus ssp. Pusillus - Cape fur seal



- Source: **W (100%)**
- Export countries: **Namibia (98.3%), SA (1.7%)**
- Import countries: **Turkey (68%), Hong Kong (15%), China (12%)**



Credit: World Animal Protection



Credit: World Animal Protection



How many in total?

**More than 1.5 million live animals** where legally exported between 2011 - 2015 according to the CITES trade data. Common destination USA.

**Over 1.2 million animal skins** where legally exported between 2011-2015 according to the CITES trade data. Common destination Asia.



# Wildlife crime

## Africa's top 5 most trafficked wild animals



# Media hits methodology



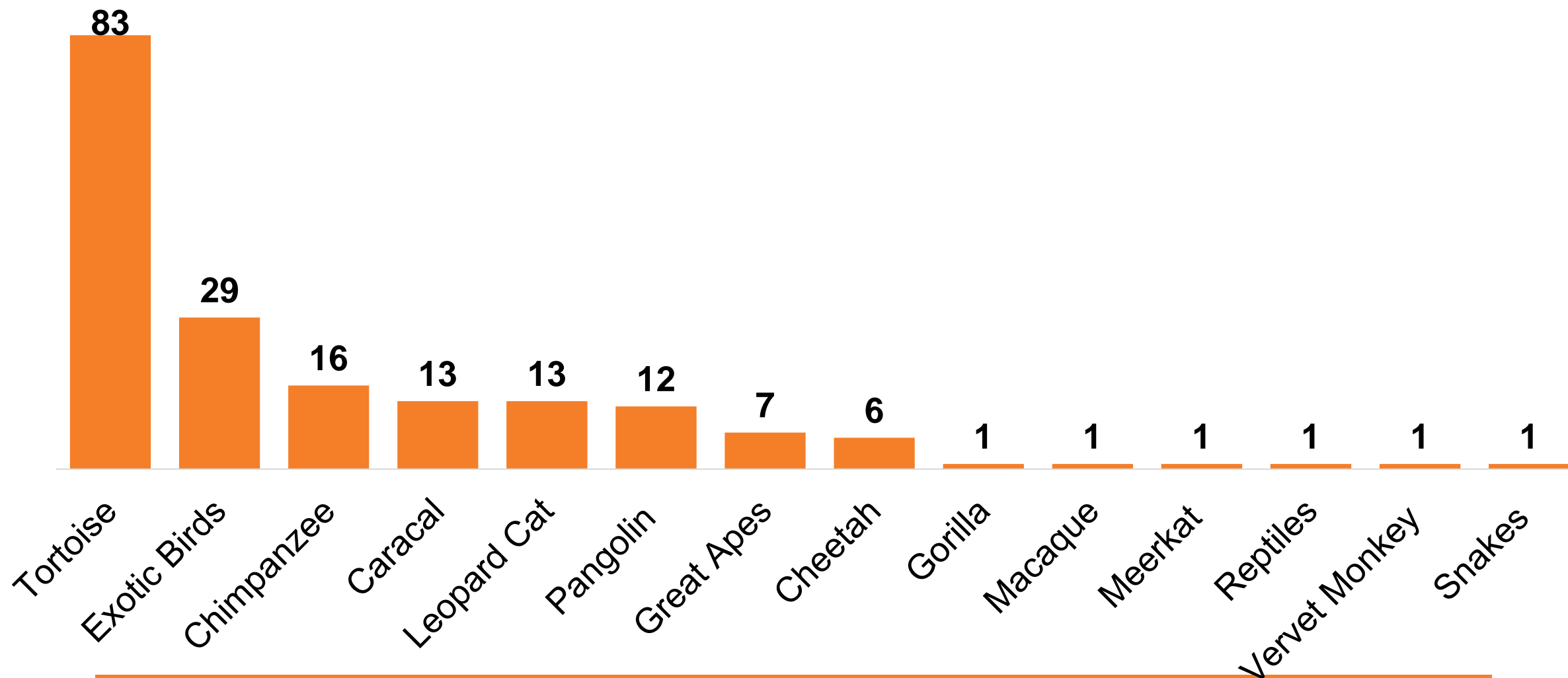
- We used search terms 'wildlife trade' and 'Africa' to generate the first set of data
- We identified **6,953 media** hits for the above search terms
- Each URL (link) as a separate data point
- We read the headline and opening text to gather data
- We picked the name of first species mentioned
- Identified if 'live' or 'derivative' trade



# Illegal trade in live animals



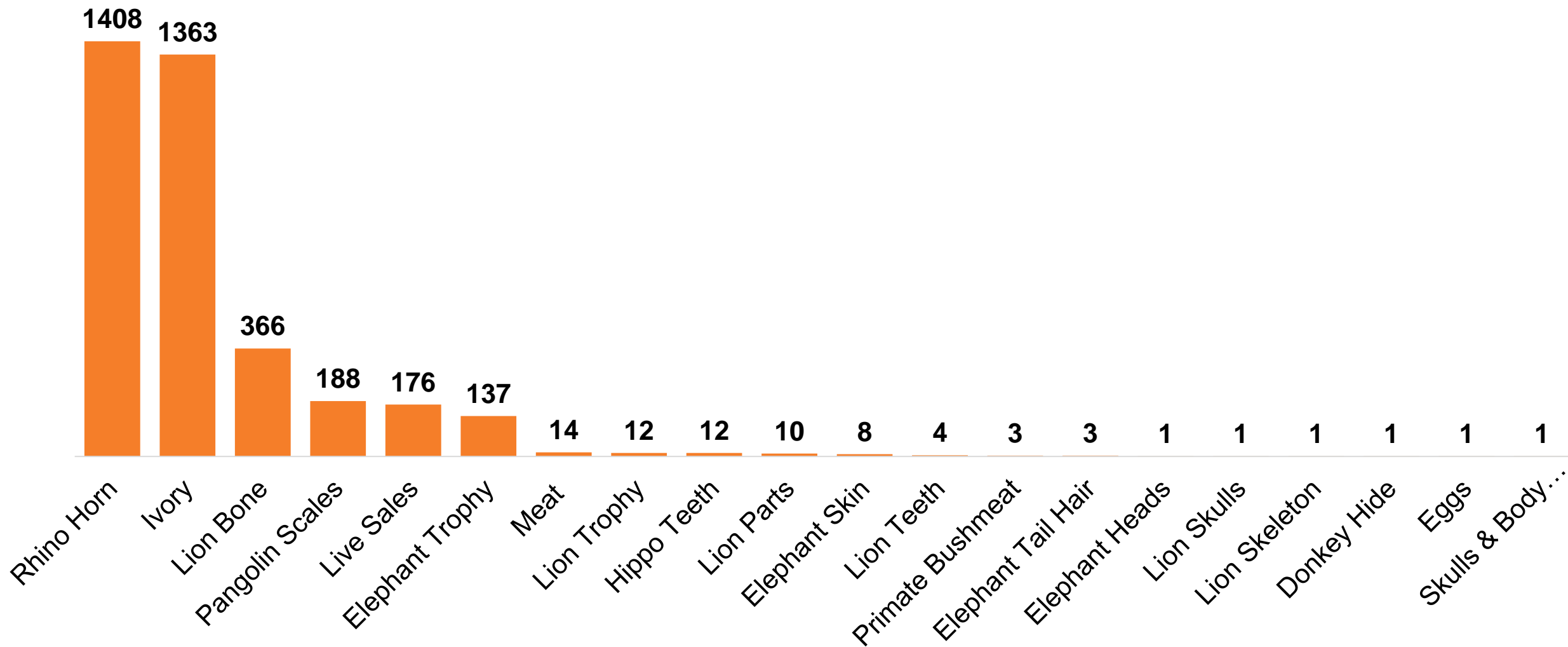
Type of Trade: Live Sales



# Illegal trade in wildlife derivatives



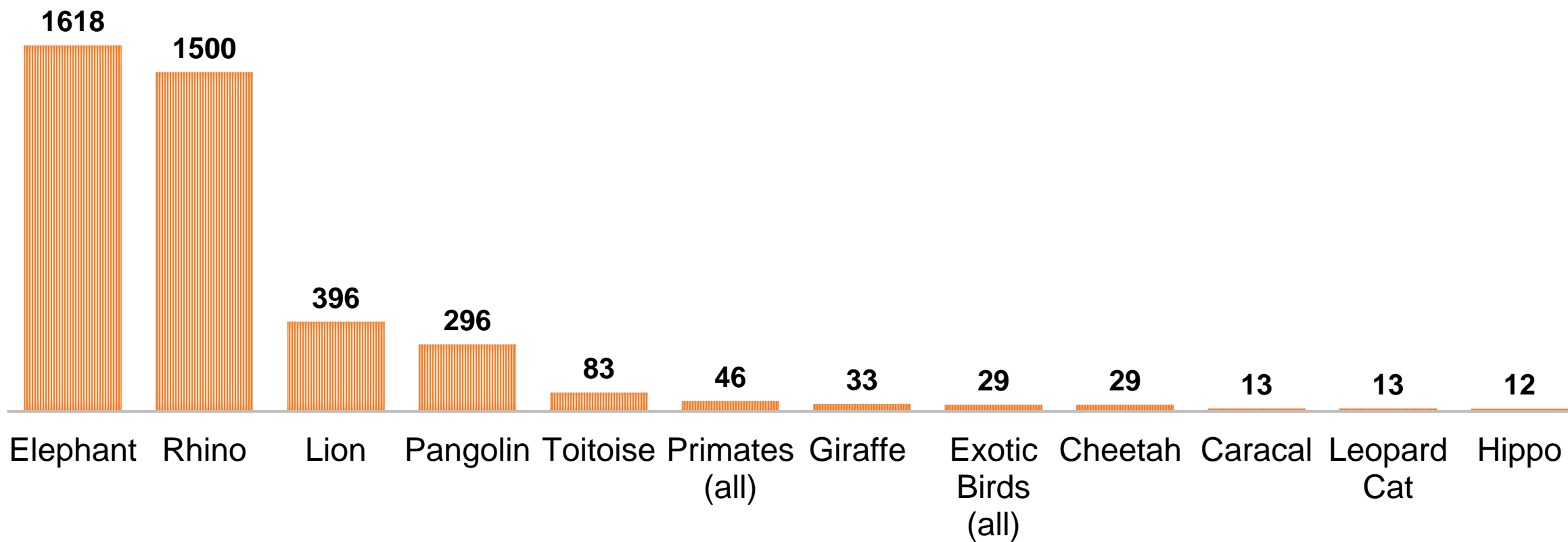
## Derivatives



# Africa's top 5 most trafficked animals



## MEDIA HITS



# 1. African elephants

- Poached for tusks used to produce ivory ornaments and jewelry
- Those injured while fleeing endure painful injuries and even death elsewhere



Credit: World Animal Protection



Credit: Digital Visions



## 2. Rhino



- Only predators are human. Used for traditional medicine and for carvings
- Despite a CITES ban on commercial trade in wild sourced rhino parts, poaching and trade on the black market still continues e.g. 1,028 rhinos killed in 2017 in South Africa alone



Credit: World Animal Protection



Credit: World Animal Protection

## 3. Giraffe

- Threats: hunting, deforestation, civil unrest and loss of land
- Some sub-species uplisted to CITES Appendix II
- Parts used to produce artefacts



Credit: World Animal Protection



Credit: Creative Commons

## 4. Pangolins

- Most trafficked mammal in the world
- These shy animals undergo tortuous and agonizing deaths
- Their keratin skills highly valued in traditional asian medicine



Credit: Adobe Stock



Credit: World Animal Protection

## 5. Lions

- Initially spread across Africa, but now 80% found in eastern and southern Africa.
- Though no natural predators, their population has dropped by 41% in the past 21 years.
- Human - wildlife conflicts (Retaliatory killing - poisoning) & bones for traditional Asian medicine



Credit: World Animal Protection



Credit: Alamy

# Traded Species and their listing in CITES



**3/10** of the legally traded species are listed in CITES Appendix I:

- African grey parrot
- African elephant (II in some countries)
- Nile crocodile (II in some countries)



Credit: World Animal Protection

---

# Traded Species and their listing in CITES



**8/10** of the legally traded species are listed in CITES  
Appendix II:

- Ball python
- Emperor scorpion
- Leopard tortoise
- Monitor lizard
- Nile crocodile (I in some countries)
- Cape fur seal
- Mountain Zebra
- Elephant (I in some countries)
- Hippopotamus



Credit: Getty Images

# Conclusion - End wildlife exploitation



- Captivity is one of the major sources. However, wild animals don't experience a life worth living in these facilities
- A good number is also sourced from the wild and ranches - primary breeding population. These depletes wild population

**It is all cruel and decimates the wild population**

- Consumptive use of wildlife for commercial purposes is an out-dated concept that will not be enough to conserve Africa's wildlife
-

# Conclusion - End wildlife exploitation



Reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets

Interim guidance  
12 April 2021



COVID-19  
RESPONSE



**PREVENTING THE NEXT PANDEMIC**

**Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission**

Its high biosecurity risk business

- > 60% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic
- > 70% of emerging infectious diseases are thought to originate from wildlife





Thank you

