

**Consuming Wild Life: The Illegal Exploitation of Wild Animals
In South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia**

A Preliminary Report

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It is not possible here to name all those who assisted and, due to the preliminary nature of this document, not all information supplied has been included.

It is hoped that much of the information can be included in a more comprehensive study which will be undertaken in the near future.

Pictures courtesy of Johan Kuus, Douw Grobler, Mike Cadman and Michele Pickover.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of the Parties
HIP	Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park
KNP	Kruger National Park
NSPCA	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SAPS	South African Police Services
SANParks	South African National Parks
TRAFFIC	The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
WRSA	Wildlife Ranching South Africa
ZAWA	Zambia Wildlife Authority
ZCTF	Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force



PREFACE

The illegal killing of wild animals poses an urgent threat to their survival and involves enormous cruelty, untold suffering, pain and death for individual animals, family groups and social networks. The *raison d'être* for this report was, therefore, to attempt to get an overview of the current scale of illegal killing of wild life in South Africa and the southern African region more broadly.

This Report represents the groundwork – a foundation to build on. The need for further research is extensive. However, this preliminary investigation clearly reveals a startling picture – one of enormous suffering, an inability by state agencies to adequately monitor the illegal killing of wild animals, a lack of centralised statistics and data, an uncoordinated response from authorities, insufficient enforcement and a general way of thinking that promotes killing instead of protection and respect.

South Africa and its neighbours have flourishing illegal wild animal markets and in South Africa, particularly, this is compounded by its geographical location and relatively sophisticated infrastructure. Indeed, poaching is taking place in an increasingly organised scale. Africa has seen the unprecedented annihilation of wild animals as a result of poaching and it is being fuelled by the profits that are made by commercial wildlife traffickers (often to satisfy consumer demand abroad) and uncontrolled commercial exploitation. This is part of a global problem which according to Interpol is worth some US\$12 billion a year. Throughout Africa, money is the driving force of this illegal trade and it is motivated by greed and aided by corruption, inadequate ranger staffing, public attitudes to wildlife, lack of public awareness, lack of data and lack of adequate law enforcement.

There are three general categories of consumptive use of wild animals: commercial trophy hunting, illegal poaching (including subsistence hunting), and commercial farming. Nearly all illegal poaching is commercial. For purposes of this report 'poaching' is defined as hunting wild animals for food and entrepreneurial exploitation, including the bushmeat trade for local and urban trade, trafficking (locally and cross-border) and trade in live animals and body parts. The traditional medicines market is an important component in the illegal wildlife trade. The killers come in a variety of forms: they may be local people, they may be using snares, they maybe using guns or they may be the lowest link in a massive international mafia chain of wildlife trade that is today almost as big as the drug trade. Poachers are thus often highly organised armed gangs and hardened criminals. Methods of poaching include: shooting, snaring (using wire, cables etc.), gin traps, poisoning and the use of packs of dogs.

It is generally believed that wild animals are safe in Reserves. However, research has revealed that many of the reserves in southern Africa are heavily targeted by armed poachers. Of concern is that in some instances the park rangers themselves are poaching. A recent research study undertaken by Professor Greg L. Warchol shows "numerous instances of rangers poaching for bushmeat, elephant ivory and rhino horn. In a Kruger National Park-sanctioned 'culling' effort, rangers authorised to kill

120 impala illegally killed an additional 60 for sale to a local butcher shop. One Kruger ranger was arrested for shooting 20 white rhinos and another admitted to killing at least 46 over 12 years to pay his gambling debts.”

Poaching, trafficking and the bushmeat trade continue to thrive and expand in the region because there are flawed efforts to combat it. In particular, it is as a result of:

- The ‘sustainable’ and consumptive use context, i.e., the belief that animals are a resource to be used rather than protected. An illegal activity occurs within a framework where the same activity (killing for food or for profit), is legal. The key to this problem is that animals are seen as property, whether the property of the landowner, of governments or of rural communities. This commodification of sentient beings implies their exploitation.
- Inadequate leadership from government – insufficient priority is being given to wildlife crime. Protecting wildlife is often viewed as a low priority.
- Poor conceptualisation and implementation of non-consumptive poverty relief and development projects.
- Wildlife laws are too weak, ambiguous and contradictory.
- Prosecutors and magistrates are often unfamiliar with wildlife laws.
- Strong enforcement and compliance is lacking.
- Low levels of staffing and capacity.
- Lack of effective anti-poaching strategies, nationally and regionally.
- Effective public awareness-raising is wanting.

This report strongly indicates that urgent action is needed. It is imperative that authorities in the region address this grave situation and take effective steps to prevent wildlife crime and protect wild animals in the region so as to:

1. Create and coordinate long-term programmes and strategies at a national and regional level;
2. Reduce national demand;
3. Mitigate poaching activities;
4. Expose the extent of poaching and trade;
5. Gather intelligence for future analytical reports and to identify enforcement priorities;
6. Determine what animals are being targeted.

Animal Rights Africa therefore recommends that governments in the region need to implement the following strategies:

- Establish national and regional Wildlife Crime Databases.
- Review policies and legislation.
- Review policy of ‘sustainable use’ and consumptive use.
- Ensure that legislation and judicial systems support prosecutions and higher penalties.
- Build capacity, increase numbers, train and support rangers.

- Forge partnerships; between government agencies, with NGOs and inter-governmentally.
- Actively seek participation of civil society.
- Promote public awareness and education which is aimed at protecting and respecting animals in the wild.
- Investigate non-consumptive ways of addressing hunger.

Michele Pickover

Animal Rights Africa



1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this report is to draw together poaching statistics from South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia in an effort to create an overview of the scale of illegal killing of wildlife and trade in wildlife body parts in the region.

Many factors contribute to the widespread illegal killing of Africa's wild animals. Large numbers of animals are killed for commercial gain by traffickers, often working with international criminal networks, who supply local and international markets with meat, ivory, rhino horn and traditional medicines. Many other animals are killed by poor people who are sometimes termed subsistence hunters. Other animals are killed by relatively well off individuals hunting in protected areas or without the necessary permits or permission of landowners. Meat and body parts from illegally killed wild animals are available in many parts of southern Africa, including in South Africa.

A variety of methods are used to slaughter the animals. Firearms, indiscriminate wire snares and gin traps, hunting dogs and poison are all the tools of the poachers and cause the agonising death of tens of thousands of animal annually.

The illegal killing of wild animals for meat, the so-called use and trade of 'bushmeat', is believed to be one of the greatest direct causes of the decline of wild animals in Africa. The increasing demand for bushmeat is also driving high rates of poaching. According to a CITES (Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) resolution, poaching and illicit trade in bushmeat constitute the greatest threat to the survival of wildlife species.

In some areas poaching may result in the decline, or even the disappearance, of entire populations of animals. Heavy poaching of small, isolated or fragmented populations of a threatened species can result in local extinction. In small very threatened populations total extinction could result,

Poaching has a devastating knock-on impact on biodiversity and with rapidly increasing human populations placing ever greater pressure on natural 'resources' the situation will become more severe unless urgent action is taken. It is clear that access to accurate and comprehensive poaching statistics is essential for those seeking to develop appropriate strategies to combat this widespread scourge.

In compiling this report relevant regional government departments, national parks authorities and provincial parks authorities (only applicable in South Africa) were approached and asked if they could supply statistics relating to poaching.

For the purposes of this report those approached were only contacted by telephone, e-mail or fax. Although this report focuses on mammals, reptiles and birds there is also extensive illegal use of marine resources, freshwater fish and plants.

It is common cause that poaching of wildlife is widespread across southern Africa and regularly takes place across international boundaries, however, no organisation or governmental body keeps a central database of statistics relevant to the region.

The piecemeal nature of the data storage is further compounded in **South Africa** where records and details of poaching information are spread out amongst all nine provinces, SANParks (South African National Parks) and the South African Police Services (SAPS). Relevant provincial conservation officials meet two or three times a year but there is no central data base where all the provincial poaching statistics and information can be viewed simultaneously.

It should be noted here that despite repeated requests for information over a period of several weeks, authorities in **Namibia, Botswana** and **Zimbabwe** had not provided any statistics at the time of writing this document. Two South African provinces, **Limpopo** and the **Eastern Cape**, also failed to provide any information at all.

Even given the patchy nature of the information made available for this report it is clear that large numbers of animals are killed by poachers across the region annually and that elephants and rhino are regularly targeted for their ivory and horns. No-one was able to provide an accurate assessment of the numbers of animals killed by snares outside of formally protected areas and on private land. Apprehending and prosecuting those responsible for snaring is extremely difficult unless the poacher is caught with the dead animal.

2 POACHING OF RHINOS

The region holds the largest rhino populations in the world. The international demand for rhino horn has ensured that rhinos are regularly killed by poachers in southern Africa.

2.1 South Africa

South Africa has argued at CITES that its vigorous and proactive anti-poaching efforts have kept rhino populations stable and therefore the rhino should be down-listed. Figures obtained for this report show that rhino poaching is far from being eliminated.

- At least 70 rhinos have been killed in Kruger National Park (KNP) alone since 2001, including 17 in 2006 and a further four so far this year (2007).
- Criminals in possession of 44 rhino horns have been arrested and, in most cases convicted, in the Free State in past two years (2005-2006),

although some of the horns were old and may not come from recently killed animals. Some of those arrested were foreign nationals.

- Current figures from the KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Crime Working Group show that there are at least 10 cases involving the killing of rhinos and illegal possession of rhino horn listed as “Outstanding or Finalized Cases,” although one of these dates back to 1999.
- In August 2006 several people were arrested in different parts of the country after being linked to the illegal killing of at least 14 rhinos. At one stage two of the men posed as tourists to the Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park (HIP) and killed rhinos during their visit.
- It was reported that some of the rhinos may have also been killed in the KNP or in provincial parks in Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. (Limpopo failed to provide any poaching statistics and the statistics provided by Mpumalanga made no reference to rhinos.
- In May 2005 five rhinos were poisoned at a waterhole in the Nwanedi Nature Reserve in Limpopo. A wide variety of other wild animals were killed and poachers removed the horns from all five rhinos.
- In the Western Cape three cases involving the illegal possession of four rhino horns were reported in 2004.
- In North West two rhinos, a mother and a calf were killed in 2005.



2.2 Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force, (ZCTF) a non-governmental conservation group, reports that rhino populations in that country have declined rapidly in recent years due to heavy poaching.

The ZCTF estimates that:

- Only eight of the 40 black rhino living in the Matusadona National Park seven years ago are still there;

- Only 21 of the 50 black rhino found on the Midlands Conservancy in 2000 are still there;
- The rhino population on Gourlay Ranch in Matabeleland dropped from 48 to 26 before the animals were relocated to the Bubi Ranch.

Media reports, confirmed by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority, also show that poachers killed one rhino in Chizarira National Park in October 2006 and another two in Hwange National Park in January 2007. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority disputes the figures used by the ZCTF but have offered no statistics of their own.

2.3 Zambia

Zambia did not report any rhino losses but the country's rhino population plummeted to almost nil after intensive poaching in the 1980s and consequently only a very small number of rhinos have been reintroduced in some parks.

2.4 Namibia

Namibian wildlife authorities say that no rhinos were poached in that country in the last year.

2.5 Botswana

Botswanan wildlife authorities had not responded to requests for information at the time of writing.

3 ELEPHANT POACHING

Media reports indicate increasing amounts of elephant poaching in **Zimbabwe**. In October 2006, 11 elephants were killed in the Chizarira National Park and in January this year a further 17 elephants were killed in the Hwange National Park.

In January the state controlled Herald newspaper in Harare reported that the Director of the Zimbabwean Parks and Wildlife Authority Dr Morris Mtsmabiwa said that his department would intensify anti-poaching operations because poaching, especially of species such as elephant and rhino, had been a "major worry" and had cost the country millions of dollars. A report compiled by the governments of Kenya and Mali (see below) indicates that considerable amounts of illegal ivory may be sourced from Zimbabwe.

The **Zambian** Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) reported they confiscated 146 elephant tusks in 2006 and 156 in 2005. They did not specify how many carcasses had been found by park authorities.

Researchers from the University of Washington in the United States of America reported in February 2007 that DNA tests showed that most of the ivory from a massive 6.5 ton seizure made in Singapore in 2002 came from Zambian elephant populations.

The seizure, the second largest in the history of the trade, represented between 3,000 – 6,500 elephants.

The DNA studies, conducted by Dr Samuel Wasser indicated that with nearly 100 per cent certainty the ivory originated from savanna elephants (*Loxodonta Africana*), primarily from *Zambian* elephant populations.

South African authorities did not report any elephant poaching in the last year.

Namibian and **Botswana** authorities did not provide any statistics for this report.

Nevertheless other reports make it is clear that elephants, many from the southern African region, are being killed in considerable numbers to support the illegal ivory trade.



In a submission that will be presented to the CITES CoP14 (Conference of Parties 14) in the Netherlands in June this year **Kenya** and **Mali** claim that nearly 41 tons of ivory have been confiscated in different parts of the world in the last two years. This is the largest amount of ivory recovered between CITES COPs since elephants were first listed on Appendix 1 in 1989.

“Clearly, many thousands of elephants are dying annually to supply the illegal ivory markets. Among the most recent seizures are 3,000 kg in Osaka, Japan, in August 2006 and 1,500 kg in France in November 2006, while over 5 tonnes were seized in two shipments in Taiwan in July,” the report states.

The report estimates that 41,043 kg has been confiscated in two years.

“Using an average tusk weight of 3.68 kg and 1.88 tusks per elephant, these seizures equate to 5,932 dead elephants,” the report states. “If enforcement authorities seize 15% of illegal shipments of ivory (a generous estimate), the figures indicate that nearly 274 tonnes of ivory were in trade and that approximately 39,550 elephants (or possibly more considering the need to supply the domestic markets) have been poached since CoP13. (2005)”

The report claimed that ivory is sometimes smuggled through the Beit Bridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe. Some 250 kg of ivory sourced from Zimbabwe had been confiscated in South Africa in 2005/06.

A further 7 000 kg of ivory believed to be from Zimbabwe and 6 638 kg believed to be from Zambia had been confiscated in various parts of the world in 2005/06. (See **Annexure A**)

Several southern African countries, including, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe are expected to request permission to sell some ivory stocks at this years CITES conference (CoP 14).

4 OTHER POACHING

Large numbers of other mammals and birds are killed throughout the region for meat and other trade.

Antelope are regularly killed throughout the region but smaller animals including springhares and porcupines also fall victim to poachers’ wire snares, dogs and guns. Grain laced with poison is sometimes used to kill birds such as guinea fowl, blue cranes and variety of ducks and geese for food.

Large numbers of rodents and other small creatures are also regularly caught for food.



From the figures provided by various sources it is clear that the situation is catastrophic in **Zimbabwe**. Tens of thousands of animals have been killed since the government's ill-fated land resettlement policy was initiated in 2000.

In **Zambia**, ZAWA statistics show that in 2006 officials confiscated just over 12 tons (12 057 kilograms) of illegal "game meat" or bushmeat.

In 2005 11 957 kilograms was confiscated.

On March 15 2007 The Times of Zambia reported that six poachers had been arrested with 91 kilograms of bushmeat in Chiyuni in the Lower Zambezi area.

"ZAWA public relations manager Maureen Mwape, said in Chilanga yesterday that ZAWA was concerned about the rampant poaching going on in the Lower Zambezi National Park as the practice depleted wildlife and the country loses its tourist attraction," the report stated.

There is a lucrative market for bushmeat, particularly buffalo, in Lusaka and the larger towns in Zambia.

A TRAFFIC report, Food for Thought: The utilization of wild meat in eastern and southern Africa, published in 2000 concluded that bushmeat plays an important role in determining wildlife status in many areas.

"Hence, bushmeat motivated hunting is believed to constitute a major impact on wildlife populations in many survey areas, but its importance in relation to other environmental issues is hard to differentiate," the report stated.

"Regardless, bushmeat demand plays an important role in determining wildlife population status in all survey areas (South Africa was not surveyed). Such impacts are likely to increase as human populations rise and demand for bushmeat increases."



The extent of the bushmeat trade is unknown in **South Africa**, although wildlife meat, much of it from illegally hunted animals, is often available in rural areas bordering the KNP and elsewhere.

In February 2007 KNP rangers told the Sunday Independent's (Johannesburg) Eleanor Momberg that poachers sell impalas at prices ranging between R100 and R200 an animal.

Momberg reported that one ranger claimed that poaching would continue because some communities believed they were simply continuing a tradition and it was a way to get food.

Louise Joubert, founder of Sanwild, a wild animal rehabilitation centre in Limpopo Province, said that snaring and other forms of poaching are rampant in the province.

“Most of the poaching takes place by means of wire snaring and hunting with dogs and has gone beyond subsistence poaching,” Joubert reported. “The poaching takes place on a regular basis and animal products and meat are sold commercially”.

A spokesman for the South African Police Service (SAPS), Director Phuti Setati, Section Head, Media Relations, said that while poaching does take place it cannot be considered part of the bushmeat trade as elsewhere in Africa.

“It should be clearly and categorically mentioned that there is no bushmeat trade in South Africa,” he said.

5 SNARES AND TRAPS

The use of snares is the most common method of poaching in South Africa but firearms are also widely used. Dogs are also used to flush out wild animals which are later killed with firearms, spears or axes.



In **Mpumalanga** alone the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority removed 15 000 snares in 2006.

Gary van den Berg of Wildlife Ranching SA, (WRSA) an organisation that represents a large number of wildlife farmers in South Africa, said that poaching was widespread on these farms but many farmers did not report incidents because of the time consuming and costly process required to get cases to court.

Rick Allen of the Wildlife Unit of the National Council for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) in Johannesburg agreed that snaring was a major problem on all land in South Africa.

“The use of snares is widespread throughout the country. They are set inside protected areas, on farms and even in open spaces in cities,” Allen said. “Any area that may have wildlife, no matter how small, is targeted and poachers even set snares in the Melville Koppies Nature Reserve right in the middle of Johannesburg.”

Last year Professor Rudi van Aarde of the University of Pretoria reported that he noticed seven elephants in the Mapungubwe National Park that were missing parts of their trunks, most likely due to injuries caused by snares. The elephants were part of two herds totalling 151 animals.

Wildlife farmers and conservation organisations in **Zimbabwe** have removed hundreds of thousands of snares since land invasions began in 2000.

Snares are also widely used in protected areas in **Zambia**, with ZAWA officials and private organisations regularly removing large numbers of the traps from protected areas and other land.

Despite calls to ban vicious and indiscriminate traps, such as gin traps - a sprung set of steel jaws with serrated teeth that annually maims and tortures countless animals or condemns them to an agonising death - they continue to be constantly used by farmers in the region to trap animals perceived as "vermin" (including caracal, jackals, honey badgers and leopards) on their properties. When set, a gin trap is often fastened to a heavy pole or log to prevent it from being dragged away by the trapped animal and it works by snapping shut on an animal's leg, crushing muscle and sinew and bone, and then pinioning the animal until it is shot dead, released or, in many cases, left to die of hunger, thirst, or its injuries. Because they are so freely available, they are also often used by poachers.

6 EXAMPLES OF POACHING AS A THREAT TO SPECIFIC SPECIES

In some areas specific species are particularly threatened.

- The Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Blue Swallow and Oribi Working Group reports that the single largest threat to the oribi is the sport hunting of the animals with dogs. Recent population estimates indicate that the total population of oribi in South Africa is likely to be between 2500 and 4500 individuals. Steven Evans of the Working Group states that this form of hunting, if left unchecked, is the single

largest factor likely to drive the oribi population to extinction in South Africa.

The sport-hunting is usually undertaken by wealthy people who place bets on which dog will catch an oribi first. The dogs are allowed to devour the oribi. Evans reports that good hunting dogs sell for up to R4000 and that the sport is “big business”. People often travel from urban areas to participate in “hunts”. “It is not only oribi that are targeted but also common (grey) duiker and in some cases, anything that runs when chased,” Evans states. According to Evans says it is difficult to collate figures on the hunting but all 13 distinct Oribi sub-populations in South Africa ranging from 24 individuals to as many as 1500 are affected.

- In a 2005 study undertaken by Birdlife Botswana researchers showed that there is widespread poaching of Kori bustards, both for the domestic market and export to South Africa and elsewhere. The birds are killed with snares or guns. Birdlife Botswana reported that, “we also found evidence of illegal cross border trafficking in live bustards. Up to 10 at a time are smuggled into South Africa where they are sold as a delicacy to wealthy individuals or exported outside Africa.”
- The International Crane Foundation / Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership – African Cranes, Wetlands and Communities, reported that over two seasons, 41 Grey Crowned Cranes and 43 Blue Cranes were confiscated in South Africa. The birds were being held illegally as pets, for food, or used in the illegal trade market. It is believed that these figures represent only a small segment of the total number of birds used for these purposes.

7 TRADITIONAL MEDICINE MARKETS

A variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, marine species and plants are sold in traditional medicine markets and shops across the region. Many species sold at these markets only occur in protected areas but nevertheless are openly sold.



Authorities in **South Africa** report regular poaching of vultures from the Mkhuze Reserve and other reserves in KwaZulu-Natal for the traditional medicine markets in Johannesburg and Durban.

Cora Bailey of Community Lead Animal Welfare (CLAW), an organisation based in Roodepoort, reported that she regularly visits traditional medicine shops in Johannesburg, Soweto and other areas, and sees many species for sale, including live baboons, which is illegal. At one shop in Soweto pieces of elephant skin was offered for sale, which is also illegal.

Traders at the Mai Mai market in downtown Johannesburg say that they regularly travel to other parts of the country, and sometime outside the country, to source stock.

During a recent visit to Mai Mai, which is run by a company owned by the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, researchers noted a wide range of animal parts and skins for sale including African rock python, pangolin, hippopotamus, honey badger, Cape buffalo (horns), Burchell's zebra, eland, African wild cat, vervet monkey, Chacma baboon, black shouldered kite and a wide range of other species (including domestic dog).

(See Annexure B for a full list).



8 STATISTICS AND DATA

8.1 South Africa

Poaching statistics are kept by a variety of national parks and wildlife departments (and provincial authorities in South Africa) across the region but,

as stated previously, no organisation or governmental body keeps a central data base of statistics relevant to the region or the country.

All poaching related case numbers are linked to the SAPS database.

In South Africa, where private wildlife farmers hold more land than do SANParks, many instances of snaring or subsistence poaching are not reported because of the time and cost of engaging in the laborious legal process required to obtain a prosecution. (According to a study by the University of North West, SANParks land comprises some 3.7million hectares – this has increased slightly recently with the addition of new parks – but nearly 14.7 million hectares is privately owned.)

8.1.1 Data from SANParks

SANParks, the custodians of the renowned KNP and twenty one other national parks spread across the country do not have a centralised system to record poaching data.

In response to requests for poaching statistics from all National Parks in South Africa the Corporate Communications division at SANParks head office in Pretoria stressed that some poaching statistics are not easy to access. “Since we do not have a central recording process the information is not readily available for some of our parks.”

They point out that no fewer than six national parks have, “No centralised data base – information is not readily available because of different recording process”.

The parks for which SANParks head office could provide no statistics are the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park, Mountain Zebra National Park, and Mapungubwe National Park. Table Mountain National Park, the West Coast National Park and the Agulhas National Park.

While it is not doubted that many hard working and diligent anti-poaching staff and park managers do indeed compile comprehensive statistics the inability of SANParks head office to gain access to this information is alarming.

8.1.2 Data from provincial authorities

Nearly all provincial officials contacted, as with SANParks, were willing to help but efficiency levels varied greatly. Some provinces supplied fairly large amounts of information quickly but others failed to respond at all.

In **Limpopo** no fewer than five senior officials were contacted, each referring the researcher to someone else. Eventually two officials, one from the Limpopo Tourism and Parks and the other from the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism each insisted the other was the relevant person.

Neither provided any statistics.

As a result this report contains no official data from Limpopo which is particularly worrying because animal rights and welfare organisations, wildlife farmers and media reports all indicate that wildlife poaching, and the use of snares, is widespread in the province.

According to the University of the North West study mentioned above, half of all South Africa's wildlife farms are in the Limpopo province.

The **Eastern Cape** could also provide no statistics due to bureaucratic and logistical difficulties. This is South Africa's second largest province and has a large number of wildlife reserves and private ranches.

Some other provinces had difficulty in accessing all relevant statistics quickly.

8.1.3 South African Government: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

DEAT does not keep statistic relating to poaching. The Director of Communications at DEAT, Blessing Manale, said that statistics were kept by SANParks and the provinces.

8.1.4 South African Police Services (SAPS)

The SAPS response for statistics relating to 2006 reads as follows:

“A total of sixty (64) suspects have been arrested for various offences under the endangered species act. All are involved in protracted court cases and convictions had as yet not been attained. 55 kg of Ivory/elephant tusks, forty-nine (49) Rhino horns, six (6) live lions and several lion skins, eighty-four (84) live lions – not properly kept, one (1) lion cub – no permit – smuggled from Botswana, two (2) wild birds, one (1) crab, a truckload of cycads trees and a sizeable number of abalone (eighty-nine incidents) were confiscated.

Poaching or dealing in Endangered Species, is classified under organised crime. According to the Organised Crime Project Investigations (OCPI), two-hundred-and-seventy-three (273) organised crime groups are known to be operating in South Africa. Of these 273 projects, 1227 cases were registered and 986 of these taken to court. It means 35% of the organised projects registered were taken to court. As a target of 20% had been set for the period under review, the SAPS achieved its target”

It is not clear if all these cases are reflected in provincial reports.

8.1.5 Non-Government Organisations

- WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature), Stellenbosch – Director of Conservation Rob Little said that his organization did not have poaching statistics for southern Africa.
- TRAFFIC Regional Director Tom Milliken said that although the organization maintained large databases on rhino horn and elephant ivory there were no comprehensive statistics about other wildlife poaching available.
- The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) - Conservation Director Brian Havenga said that WESSA did not maintain a data base of poaching statistics.
- Wildlife Ranchers SA – WRSA spokesman Gray van den Berg said the organization has no comprehensive poaching figures.

8.2 Statistics from Neighbouring States

The Zambia Wildlife Authority responded quickly and supplied considerable amounts of information dating back three years.

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority failed to respond to requests for poaching statistics despite telephonic and e-mail requests. The lack of response is disappointing because it would be useful to compare official figures against the others available which show widespread decimation of Zimbabwe's wildlife.

At the time of writing Namibia and Botswana had not provided information. In both cases officials confirmed that statistics were kept but were unable to obtain permission to release the information.



Strips of hippo skin and fat drying in the sun for use as shambocks. *Mai Mai Market Johannesburg*

9 STATISTICS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS AUTHORITIES

Where possible a few cases are listed as provided by authorities and are used to give a small sample of the type of poaching incidents dealt with by officials.

These reports merely reflect the information provided by officials. Time constraints did not allow an exhaustive investigation into the many worrying issues contained in the reports. Every report raises issues which require further investigation if a thorough understanding of poaching trends in the region is to be achieved.

9.1 South Africa

9.1.1 SANParks

Kruger National Park

Poaching statistics 2004-2006

(The heading on the left is the category of poaching incident recorded).

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>FIREARMS*</i>	8	23	16
<i>DOGS</i>	31	81	48
<i>SNARES</i>	56	351	111
<i>POISON</i>	0	6	1
<i>FISHING</i>	3	23	11
<i>OTHER</i>	3	16	7
<i>TOTAL</i>	101	500	194

* The column "Firearms" includes the rhino poaching incidents listed below

RHINO POACHING 2004-2006

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	4	17	11	7	10	17	4

Garden Route Region (Tsitsikamma, Knysna and Wilderness)

Tsitsikamma National Park (Stats from 2004 to February 2007)

In the Tsitsikamma Indigenous Forest area staff remove approximately 10-15 snares per month (more or less 150 per annum). 2-3 Bushbuck or Bush pig carcasses are found per annum on average. Regular contraventions of the Marine Living Resources Act take place.

Knysna National Park (from 2006 to date)

No snares or mammal poaching reported.

Regular contraventions of the Marine Living Resources Act take place.

Wilderness National Park (Farleigh section)

SANParks state that rangers have never apprehended poachers but reports from the public indicate that bushbuck, bush pig and sometimes Chacma baboons are shot on a regular basis. (Exact period not specified.)

Regular contraventions of the Marine Living Resources Act take place.

Arid Region (Augrabies; Namaqua; Kgalagadi; Vaalbos & |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld)

(Specific dates not specified.)

Augrabies Falls National Park

About 15 snares and traps were confiscated in the Augrabies Falls. Baboons were believed to be the primary target.

Namaqua National Park

No poaching incidents recorded.

Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park.

No centralized database – information is not readily available.

|Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld

No poaching incidents were recorded.

Frontiers Region (Camdeboo, Addo Elephant, Mountain Zebra, Karoo)

Camdeboo National Park.

In the four months ending January 2007 park staff confiscated about 100 snares and recovered the carcasses of 12 kudu and four other unspecified small animals. A red hartebeest was also killed illegally.

Addo Elephant National Park

SANParks say that no poaching incidents have taken place in Addo over the last number of years.

Mountain Zebra National Park

No centralized database – information is not readily available.

Karoo National Park

One kudu cow was killed with a rifle in 2002 and one kudu bull was stoned to death in 2007.

Seven feral dogs were shot between 2002 – 2007.

Twenty five snares set for birds and small mammals were removed.

Northern Region (Marakele, Golden Gate, Mapungubwe)

Marakele National Park

No poaching incidents recorded.

Golden Gate Highlands National Park

SANParks reported “The western section of the park is bordered by a few farms with no poaching problems worth mentioning.”

Mapungubwe National Park

No centralized database – information is not readily available.

Cape Cluster (Table Mountain National Park, West Coast, Bontebok and Agulhas)

Table Mountain National Park

No centralized database – information is not readily available.

West Coast National Park

No centralised database – information is not readily available.

Bontebok National Park

Officials report finding two or three snares every few months.

These snares are usually set to kill porcupines and grysbok.

Agulhas National Park

No centralized database – information not readily available.

9.1.2 Eastern Cape

No statistics available at time of writing.

Official cited various logistical and interdepartmental problems.

9.1.3 KwaZulu Natal (KZN)

The central data recording system manager provided the following list of poaching incidents recorded by KZN Wildlife Authorities since 2000.

Poaching incidents reported

2000 – 40

2001 – 423

2002 – 1 983

2003 – 1 751

2004 – 1 321

2005 – 936

2006 – 729

2007 (January) – 59

Total incidents – 7242.

KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Working Group

The KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Crime Working Group provided a list of 873 “Outstanding and Finalised cases.” Some of these are included in the list of “poaching incidents reported” shown above.

Of the 873 cases at least 175 concerned illegal hunting, snaring, possession of wildlife body parts (such as rhino horn) and other cases relating to mammals, birds and reptiles.

The majority of cases relate to the illegal use of marine life and include charges of fishing without permits, catching undersize fish or crayfish, exceeding permit quotas and fishing for specific species in the closed season. Some cases relate to exceeding quotas for mussels, oysters and other shellfish.

At least ten cases, one dating back to 1999, concern the illegal hunting or poaching of rhinos or the illegal possession of rhino horn. There are several instances of professional hunters being charged for illegal hunting. There are also two cases in which police officers were charged for wildlife crimes.

In one startling case authorities confiscated 58 leopard skins and skins from lion, nyala, zebra, suni, grey duiker and red duiker from an iNyanga, or traditional healer, who supplies other healers.

There are at least four other cases concerning the illegal hunting of leopard or possession of leopard skins.

Many of the cases relate to “setting of traps”, “hunting without licence”, “fish netting without a permit”, “illegal snaring inside a Protected Area” and “hunting with snares/dogs”.

A few of the larger cases are listed below. These cases are used to give a small sample of the type of cases dealt with by officials.

(The year the case was opened is represented by the last two figures. 04, for example, refers to 2004.)

Case 285/07/04 (Ubombo)

Possession of species of protected ‘game’. Bribery/corruption. Poison. Possession of firearm without a licence. Leopard x 58. lion nyala, impala, zebra, suni, grey duiker, red duiker and other species. (this is the case mentioned above)

Cases 96/07/05, 97/07/05 and 98 /07/05 (Emanguzi)

All three cases involved the same five accused who were charged with the possession of protected ‘game’ including a total of 38 hippo tusks with a combined value of more than R360 000. They were also accused of illegal possession of one buffalo skin, one warthog skin and tusk, 10 crocodile skins, a crocodile skull, 6.2 kg of crocodile fat (used in the traditional medicine trade) crocodile claws, crocodile throats and a monitor lizard. (The charge was laid at the Emanguzi Police Station which is situated between the Ndumo Reserve and Kosi Bay, close to the Mozambique border.)

Case 25/01/06 (Greytown)

Hunting of protected ‘game’. 1 x giraffe, shot with a .303 rifle. Value R11 300.

Case 57/06/06 (Mtubatuba)

Theft of rhino horns x 2 (Horns taken from an illegally killed rhino are referred to as “stolen”).

Case 15/03/06 (Ntambanana)

Hunting without permit
Two rhino horns stolen.

Case 33/11/06 (Umsunduzi)

Unlawful hunting of specially protected ‘game’. White rhino x 1. Value R130 000. Theft of horns x 2. Shot and carcass dismembered.

Case 107/07/01 (Mkuze)

Fraud R190 000. Theft R211 00. Hunting species of protected 'game' without licence and other charges 1 x white rhino.

Some outstanding cases go back as far as 1999 and 2001

Case 15/10/99 (Mkuze)

Fraud. Hunting species of protected 'game' without permit. 1 x leopard, value R40 000. This case involved a foreign hunting client.

Case 107/07/01 (Mkuze)

Fraud R190 000. Theft R211 00. Hunting species of protected 'game' without licence and other charges 1 x white rhino.

9.1.4 Free State

The Free State Department of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs reports that it has had "considerable success" in arrests related to illegal possession of rhino horn and elephant ivory in the past two years.

- 1 x person arrested Feb 2005 for possession of 7 x rhino horns. Fined R30 000 or 2 years imprisonment. [Fauresmith]
- 1 x person arrested May 2005 for illegal possession of 2 x Rhino Horns- R25 000 fine or 4 years suspended for 3 years.[Bloemfontein]
- 2 x persons May 2005 arrested for possession of 21 Rhino horns, one person fined R90 000 or 3 years. The other case is still running.[Kroonstad]
- 2 x persons arrested September 2005 for dealing in 8 Rhino horns. Also confiscated R180 000 in cash. One person found guilty and fined R20 000 and the confiscated R180 000 forfeited to the state.[Philopolis]
- 1 x Vietnamese National apprehended May 2006, 2 x Rhino Horns – received diplomatic immunity- confiscated horns and R30 000 and 2000 in cash.[Bloemfontein]
- 2 x persons arrested possession 4 x Rhino Horn (Kroonstad) Case ongoing.

Incidents of illegal ivory dealing were also recorded.

- 1 x person arrested for dealing in two elephant tusks – case ongoing [Welkom]
- 1 x Chinese National arrested for the possession of various ivory pieces – 2007[Bloemfontein].
- 1 x Nigerian National arrested for possession and selling of 100 ivory blocks – set bail at R5000 and disappeared. [Bloemfontein].

All provincial land with rhinos in the province is patrolled by specially trained “Rhino Guards.” This is done to ensure that rhinos are protected from potential poachers and is made possible because most reserves in the province are relatively small.

The Department reports that poaching levels are low on protected land in the province. The Department also receives various complaints from wildlife farmers about poaching on their land but due to “capacity problems” cannot investigate every poaching incident. These cases are usually passed on to SAPS police stations.

The Department said that steenbuck, springbuck, blesbuck and hares are the most commonly poached animals. Offenders are usually fined between R500 – R1000.

Snares are used throughout the province and about 2500 snares are removed by officers annually. The border with Lesotho is one of the biggest problems in this regard.

In one incident dried maize was poisoned with agricultural pesticide and sprinkled along a dam in the Rouxville area resulting in the death of 400 waterfowl. Four persons were arrested, found guilty and fined R8000 or 42 months suspended for 4 years.

In the Qwa Qwa Park a few eland poaching incidents were reported and three people were arrested and each fined R1000.

9.1.5 Gauteng

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and the Environments said that nine incidents of poaching were reported from the Abe Bailey Nature Reserve near Carletonville. Nobody was arrested and no convictions were obtained.

Five black wildebeest, two zebra, one red hartebeest and brown hyena were killed in the incidents.

Snares and gin traps were used to kill the animals.

Officials also received two reports that impala antelope were shot through a fence (area not specified) and a further three complaints relating to people hunting with dogs.

A spokesman for the department, Sizwe Matshikiza, added that “The use of snares is widespread. It is our position that the owner of the land should make sure no snares occur on their property. Nature Conservation does not have the funds or staff time to patrol private land for snares.”

He added that “We have received no reports of poaching for the traditional medicine market. Information available suggests that most items at the traditional medicine markets in Gauteng originate from other provinces. Most animal products found at medicinal markets are completely legal. In one instance a live leopard tortoise was confiscated.”

9.1.6 Limpopo

No statistics were provided. Authorities were first contacted on 5 February 2007 but no response had been received by 11 March 2007.

9.1.7 Mpumalanga

Spokesperson for the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency Jimmy Masombuka provided a few statistics and said that more comprehensive data did exist but due to time constraints and work volume the information was difficult to access.

Poaching cases 58

Number of cable snares removed 15 000

Animal's carcasses found on snares 58

Species of animals poached 1x giraffe, 2x buffaloes, 1x hippo, 17x grey duiker, 4x red duiker, 10x kudu, 6x bushbuck, 1x hare, 1x waterbuck, 1x nyala.

(Note: the list of species only totals 44 animals, 14 short of the 58 cases listed).

9.1.8 North West

The North West Parks and Tourism Board reported that poaching within provincial parks "during the past 20 years has been very low key" although Borakalalo National Park experienced a surge in poaching in 2005 and 2006.

- The Botsalano Reserve reported five poaching incidents where animals were shot through the boundary fence at night.
- The Mafikeng Reserve has had 4 similar shootings over the same period. No arrests were made. No incidents of poaching were reported from the Madikwe Reserve in 2005 or 2006.
- A few snares were removed from the Pilanesberg National Park.
- The Borakalalo National Park reported an increase of snaring and illegal hunting in 2005/2006. In 2006 about 200 snares were removed from the park. North West reports show that various animals including blue wildebeest, impala, eland, waterbuck, bushbuck and other species and others were killed by snares in 2005 and the first half of 2006. One white rhino, a sable antelope and others animals had snares removed by veterinarians.

An independent veterinary surgeon reported in October 2006 that he had seen the remains of two buffalo, three giraffe and several antelope that had been killed by snares in the park. The veterinarian removed snares from one white rhino, a sable antelope and other animals.

In November 2005 poachers shot dead two white rhino, a mother and a calf. The horns had been removed from the mother.



Example from the information provide by North West reports include:

Borakalalo:

December 2005

- 12/12/2005, adult Kudu caught by dogs at block 5.
- 14/12/2005, two adult Impala were shot by poachers in block 3, southern section of the Park. Case No. 15/12/2005 – Jericho Police Station.
- 17/12/2005, 18 snares were collected, 12 from block1 and 6 from block 4.
- 27/12/2005, adult male Waterbuck caught by snare west of the Park.
- 30/12/2005, adult male Waterbuck caught by snare in block3.

April 2006

- 04/04/2006, adult female Tsessebe caught by snare, only skin, head and dead baby found. Case open at Jericho Police Station – CR. No. 09/ 04/ 2006.
- 15/04/2006, adult male Blue Wildebeest caught by snare at Jonathon area in the Park. Case open at Jericho Police Station – CR. No. 31/04/2006.

- 22/04/2006, adult male Blue Wildebeest shot and killed by poachers in the Park. Case No. 42/04/2006 – Jericho Police Station.

9.1.9 Northern Cape

The Director of Nature Conservation and Environmental Affairs, Albert Mabunda, agreed to ask officials to gather data but this had not been received at the time of writing. Mabunda said that poaching levels in the province were “low”.

9.1.10 Western Cape

The Western Cape Biodiversity Crime Unit provided lengthy details of cases and convictions dating back to 2002. A large number of cases were related to the collection, possession and sale of protected plant species. This form of crime is common but not within the scope of this report.

The report lists numerous cases of illegal hunting, illegal possession of wild animals, several instances of illegal ivory and rhino horn possession and the illegal trade in wild animals. There are also several cases involving the illegal collection of reptiles and insects. Species include the protected Armadillo lizard, Angulate tortoise and the Cape stag beetle. All three are highly popular amongst reptile and insect collectors internationally.

In one remarkable instance a man was charged and convicted of several cases of illegal hunting and capture of thousands of animals without permits or permission from landowners (see below). Large numbers of Burchell’s zebras, springbok, eland, gemsbok, steenbok, grey rhebuck, blue wildebeest and other species were captured and sold at wildlife auctions. A helicopter was used on some occasions to facilitate the capture. Most of the incidents took place in the Beaufort West and Murraysburg areas of the Karoo.

He was fined a total of R750 000 or nine years imprisonment.

Rhino horn and ivory.

- In May 2004 a man was charged with the illegal possession of one rhino horn and another with the possession of ivory without documentation. Both were sentenced to two years correctional supervision.
- In June 2004 three Zambian men were charged and convicted for the illegal possession of two rhino horns. Two were fined R10 000 or one year imprisonment. Accused no. 2 was sentenced to 18 months correctional supervision.
- Also in June 2004 one man was arrested and convicted of illegally being in possession a rhino horn. Sentenced to R150 000 or three years – R75 000 or 18 months suspended for five years.
- In October 2004 a Zimbabwean citizen was arrested and convicted for being possession of 6.8 kg of ivory without the necessary permits. Fined R28 000 or three years imprisonment – R25 000 and two years suspended for five years. The accused paid a R3000 fine.

- In March 2005 a Chinese citizen was arrested for the possession of two pieces of ivory without documentation. Fined R10 000 or 12 months – R5000 or six months suspended for five years.

Examples of other cases include:

11/5/04 – Doringbaai

Three Slovak citizens and one Czech citizen:

Charged with hunting of 94 Angulate tortoises without a permit, possession of 94 tortoises without a permit, transporting 94 tortoises without a permit

They were fined R48 000 or 3 years on the first charge and R130 000 or five years for each of the other charges.

12/9/04 Beaufort West, Murraysburg and other areas. (Case mentioned above). (References to Articles of the relevant legislation have been left in to illustrate the complexity of these cases):

- 1) Art 27 (1a) Hunting 771 protected animals without a hunting licence.
- 2) Art 27(1) (b) Hunting 262 protected animals without a permit.
- 3) Art 29(1) (b) Hunting 3 steenbok with artificial light without a permit.
- 4) Art 29(1) (d) Hunting 1115 protected wild animals means of a netgun without a permit.
- 5) Art 29(1)(e) Hunting 3 steenbok at night without a permit.
- 6) Art 29(1)(k) Hunting 3 Burchell's Zebras with a dartgun without a permit.
- 7) Art 29(1)(k) Hunting 9 Cape Mountain Zebra with a dartgun without a permit.
- 8) Art 33(1) Hunting 9 endangered wild animals and 1006 protected wild animals by means of a helicopter without a permit.
- 9) Art 40 Hunting 9 endangered wild animals and 1214 protected wild animals without the written permission of the landowner.
- 10) Art 44(1)(a) Transported 885 protected wild animals without a permit.
- 11) Art 44(1)(a) Transported 9 endangered wild animals without a permit.
- 12) Art 44(1)(e) Sold 889 protected wild animals without a permit.
- 13) Art 44(1)(e) Sold 9 endangered wild animals without a permit.
- 14) Art 26, Hunted 9 endangered wild animals without a permit.

Charges 1,2,9 & 14 were taken together for the purpose of sentence – R250 000 or 3 years of which R150 000 or two years was suspended for five years.

Charges 3,4,5,6,7 and 8 were also take together – R250 000 or 3 years of which R150 000 or two years was suspended for five years.

Charge 10, 11, 12, & 13 were taken together – R250 000 or three years suspended for five years.

Total sentence was R750 000 or nine years – R550 000 or seven years suspended for five years.

Most of the crimes took place in the Beaufort West and Murraysburg areas.

26/8/06 Riversdale

Hunting 3 blue wildebeest in a Local Authority Nature Reserve, using prohibited calibre firearm to hunt black wildebeest. R5000 suspended for 5 years.

14/7/06 Mossel Bay

Hunting Grysbok without permit, hunting from a Public Road, hunting without landowner's permission. R4500 or five months. Will pay off at R300 a month.

31/03/06 McGregor

Hunting baboon spider on Provincial Nature Reserve, possession of baboon spiders without documents, import and transport of spiders without permits
One Dutch citizen, two UK citizens.

Plea bargain R10 000 – R7 000 suspended for five years.

9.2 Zimbabwe

The following statistics are sourced from the ZCTF and were gathered from wildlife ranch owners in various parts of Zimbabwe. They show staggering decimation of wildlife on private ranches.

Some of the statistics date back to 2000 but give an idea of the scale of poaching.

Poaching escalated dramatically as the Government's land resettlement scheme was launched in 2000.

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority recently severed all links with the ZCTF stating in a letter that "Due to continued negative and false reports emanating from your organisation about conservation in Zimbabwe the Authority can no longer afford to associate with you as the organisation is now a liability to the nation."

This accusation is denied by Johnny Rodrigues, the founder of the ZCTF.

The ZCTF reports that of the approximately 240 independent ranches that existed in Zimbabwe in 2000 only about 15 continue to function. These ranches are in addition to those which form conservancies. The Bubiya Conservancy, for example, comprised of 14 ranches.

Gourlays Ranch, Matabeleland

2000 – Dec 2006

Wildlife population in 2000 – 6 400

Animals killed as at December 2006 – 6 050

Bembezi Safaris – Matabeleland

2003 – Oct 2006

Wildlife population in 2003 – 13 175

Animals killed as at October 2006 – 11 695.

Kleinbegin Ranch, Beit Bridge

2000 to 2003

Wildlife population in 2000 – 2 069

Animals killed as at 2003 – 1 969

Debshan Estates, Matabeleland (two ranches)

2000 to 2002

Wildlife population in 1999 – 17 394

Animals killed – 8 955

No figures on snares recovered but 400km steel wire and 155km of barbed wire stolen to make snares. 3 metres of wire is used for one snare.

Save Conservancy – Chiredzi

1st Aug 2001 to 14th June 2002

Animals killed – 1034

Snares recovered – 13 938

Poachers' dogs shot – 132

Poachers arrested – 406

Save Conservancy

August 2005 – September 2006

A recent independent study conducted in the Save Valley Conservancy between August 2005 and September 2006 revealed similar levels of poaching to those listed above. During this period 9 239 snares were removed from the Conservancy. Some 869 animals of 29 species were killed.

A number of non-governmental and volunteer organisations remove snares in many parts of Zimbabwe

A volunteer organisation operation elsewhere in Zimbabwe has removed some 13 000 snares in the last two years.

9.3 Zambia

All figures provided by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA)

2006

<i>Items confiscated</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Elephant tusks</i>	20	95	3	28	146
<i>Wildlife meat (kg)</i>	5959.5	492.5	1151	4464.3	12 057
<i>Wire snares</i>	1471	2424	2216	1944	8 105
<i>Animal skins (assorted)</i>	26	30	5	25	86

During the year a total of 205 military weapons (usually assault rifles), sport rifles, shotguns and a total of 414 muzzle loading guns and 83 improvised shot guns were confiscated. (Note: Muzzle loading guns for military and hunting use were generally abandoned in favour of breech loading rifles in the late 19th century)

2006

<i>Prosecutions</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Arrests</i>	267	378	364	470	1479
<i>Convicted</i>	200	204	247	320	971

2005

<i>Items confiscated</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Elephant tusks</i>	40	98	12	6	156
<i>Wildlife meat (kg)</i>	4348.5	1176.8	1591	4836.5	11 953
<i>Animal skin (assorted)</i>	65	29	13	19	127

During the year a total of 317 military weapons, sports rifles and shotguns were confiscated. 445 muzzle loading weapons and 168 improvised shotguns were confiscated.

2005

<i>Prosecutions</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Arrests</i>	402	370	316	592	1680
<i>Convicted</i>	290	365	187	333	1175

In Zambia several organisations assist ZAWA in its anti-poaching operations.

The South Luangwa Conservation Society and the Conservation Lower Zambezi both maintain databases of poaching statistics, including information on snares removed, poachers arrested, weapons confiscated and other data.

African Parks, which manages the Liuwa Plains National Park also maintains a regularly updated database.

10 MEDIA EXCERPTS

A wide variety of publications across southern Africa occasionally cover poaching issues. These stories tend to focus on the larger species and more dramatic incidents but are useful in that they often provide content and insights that not reflected in lists of statistics. The stories highlight the need for a comprehensive study to add to existing knowledge about the scale of poaching, poaching trends and other related issues across the region.

The examples listed below include only the first few paragraphs of each story and are reproduced as published.

21 February 2007 – *African Eye News Service*

'Crocodile Dundee' is freed

Tonga – Mpumalanga's "Crocodile Dundee" has been freed on a poaching charge. Poor investigation by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) led a magistrate to find Alex Masinga, 58, and his co-accused, Robert Khoza, 40, not guilty of poaching. The two men, who live in KaMhlushwa south of Malelane in Mpumalanga, appeared in Tonga magistrate's court on Wednesday. They were arrested on October 22 last year on charges of killing a crocodile in the Mlumati River and have been kept in custody for the past four months.

9 January 2007, *News24 (online news service)*

Poachers go on killing spree

Harare – Zimbabwe has launched a massive security operation in its key nature reserves after poachers killed 17 elephants and two rare black rhinos during the holiday season, said state radio on Tuesday. The country's security forces and extra rangers have teamed up in a joint operation dubbed Operation Stronghold in the wildlife-rich northern Zambezi Valley and the Chizarira National Parks said the report.

7 January 2007, *Sunday Tribune.*

14 rhinos poached.

The arrest of two brothers for alleged rhino poaching in a KwaZulu-Natal reserve has led to several more arrests and what police say is the discovery of a countrywide syndicate implicated in the slaughter of at least 14 of the rare animals. Snagged in the police net were a third brother, the owner of a luxury game lodge, the owner of a hunting concession in Mozambique and a game

farm in Limpopo; a Chinese consortium based in Port Elizabeth; and a runner who allegedly transported severed rhino horns, as part of the smuggling pipeline out of South Africa.

7 December 2006 – *African Eye News Service*

Vigilantes' spark acquittal

Komatipoort – Two suspected poachers were acquitted on Thursday after a court found that a group of farmers had tortured them into making a confession. The Komatipoort periodical court heard that a group of local farmers tormented and beat brothers Velaphi and Zwelibanzi Nsingwane after catching them on a private farm with a dead zebra and parts of an impala.

The zebra already had been skinned and cut into pieces, allegedly for sale through an informal butchery in the sprawling network of rural villages in Nkomazi. The Nsingwane brothers confessed – under duress – to being part of an organised poaching syndicate that took 'orders' for specific types of wild meat, and even specific cuts of meat.

20 October 2006 – *Reuters*

Zimbabwe recovers 22 tusks, poaching on the rise.

Harare – Zimbabwean officials have recovered 22 tusks after suspected poachers killed 11 elephants in a state wildlife park, official media reported on Wednesday, adding that cases of poaching were on the rise.

Zimbabwe is home to some of Africa's largest game reserves but local conservation activists say that species such as elephant and rhino are at risk from cross-border trophy hunters and rampant poaching by people struggling with hunger and rising poverty. The country's security agents, who exchanged gunfire with the poachers, said two people were arrested while some of the poachers fled to Zambia through Botswana.

The elephants were killed in Chizarira National Park in central Zimbabwe.

25 August 2006 – *Pongola News*

Poachers caught. – Prosecuted and heavy sentences.

The game farmers in the Magudu area have for a long time been fed up with poachers, particularly on the Rooirant road, who regularly poach game. A group of farmers decided to trap some of the poachers and set in process a plan that resulted in the arrest of six white men in the first week of the operation. They were in possession of .22 rifles, ammunition, and a spotlight. They were caught with two impala that had been shot with the weapon. Two other impalas that had been shot through the stomach with the same weapon were left to die. The writer added that the accused were fined R10 000 each, half of each fine was suspended for 5 years. According to the report the accused were also ordered to pay R5000 each to the landowner where the shooting took place. The report said that the magistrate also ordered that the accused would serve a two year sentence should they not pay the landowner.

1 August 2006 – *Die Burger*

Vultures losing out to Lotto

It seems the national lottery is claiming unlikely victims: vultures.

Indications are that more and more people are turning to traditional remedies containing vulture parts to acquire the power of clairvoyance and in this way choose winning numbers.

This practice, reported by sciencemag.org, seems to be popular in South Africa as well as in Zimbabwe and Botswana, said Ezembelo KZN Wildlife resources ecologist Steve McKean.

According to a report in The Observer, Zimbabwean voters ate vulture meat during the recent elections, believing this would enable them to pick the winning party.

McKean and colleagues are investigating the ecological cost of trade in vulture products for traditional remedies, particularly in Durban and Johannesburg. In his opinion, rapid urbanisation and unemployment are significantly increasing the demand for traditional medicine.

17 May 2005 – *Kruger2Canyons online*

Rhinos poisoned in Limpopo.

Five endangered white rhino have been poisoned along with scores of other large game in Limpopo's worst single poaching incident.

The five rhino were poisoned at a natural waterhole on the Nwanedi Nature Reserve near Musina, in what police are describing as an "extremely well-planned slaughter" of 26 large game and scores of smaller animals such as baboons and birds.

The horns had been chopped off all five rhinos by the time game rangers discovered the killing fields on Monday morning.

The dead animals included 10 nyala, three blue wildebeest, two zebra, one kudu, three impala and seven warthogs, valued at roughly R2 million.

The writer added later that police said they found traces of the poison Temik (Aldicarb – a highly toxic insecticide) in the water.

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Annexure A: Significant Ivory Seizures Since December 2004

“ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE AND CONTROL OF INTERNAL MARKETS” to be presented at the CITES CoP

Date of seizure	Country of seizure	Weight of ivory (kg)	No. of tusks	Country of origin / export	References / notes
Dec 04	Vietnam	800		Tanzania	Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) (Nov 06)
Dec 04	Congo (Odzala National Park)		37 ⁸⁹ sets	Congo	AFP (Dec 04)
11 Mar 05	The Philippines (Manila)	261		Zambia	Confidential Source
Apr 05	Ethiopia	500		Unknown	TRAFFIC (Dec 05)
May 05	Hong Kong	503		Tanzania	LATF (Nov 06)
Jul 05	Zimbabwe (reportedly destined for China)	1,000	(72)	Zimbabwe (10 tusks from government stockpile, 62 possibly from Zambezi Valley)	AC22 Doc. 5.1; SC54 Doc. 26.1 (Rev. 1); The Herald 6 July 2005. Police Bust Illegal Ivory Trade
Jul 05	Zambia (Lusaka)	377	(23)	Zambia	LATF (Nov 06)
Aug 05	Congo – Brazzaville (Airport, bound for Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire)	253		Unknown	LATF (Nov 06), SABC News (Aug 05)
2 Sep 05	The Philippines (Manila)	6,000		Zambia	Xinhuanet (Jan 06); Confidential Source
5 Sep 05	Cameroon		91	Republic of Congo	The Last Great Ape Organisation
16 Sep 05	The Philippines	286		Kenya	LATF (Nov 06)
25 Sep 05	The Philippines	472		Uganda	LATF (Nov 06)
27 Sep 05	Kenya (Garsen)	130	(22)	Kenya	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) (Dec 06)
Jan 06	Kenya (Kirinyaga)	200		Kenya	LATF (Nov 06)
Feb 06	South Africa	233		Zimbabwe	News 24 (21 Feb 06); Elephant Conservation and Management and the Ivory Trade in Botswana and South Africa. Anon, November 2006; Elephant Management and Ivory Trade in Zimbabwe. Anon, November 2006.
01 Apr 06	Kenya (Nyali-Mombasa)	185	(5)	Kenya	KWS (Dec 06)
May 06	Zimbabwe (Chinese dealers reportedly)	7,000 ⁹⁰		Zimbabwe (3,000 or 5,000 kg believed to be from government)	The Sunday Times (16 July 2006) China's empire-builders sweep up African riches; Elephant Management and Ivory Trade in Zimbabwe. Anon,

⁸⁹ Incidents involving over 100 kg of ivory or the equivalent in number of tusks (27) using an average tusk weight of 3.68 kg (Hunter, N., Martin, E. and Milliken, T. *Determining the number of elephants required to supply current unregulated ivory markets in Africa and Asia*, Pachyderm No.36, January-June 2004).

⁹⁰ It may be that twice as many tusks have been seized as the seizure was reported as 37 "sets". As no clarification is available however, just 37 tusks have been included in the total.

	caught in possession)			stockpile)	November 2006.
May 06	Congo - Brazzaville	120	(26)	Congo (seized on road to Cameroon)	Minutes of Symposium on African Elephant Conservation, Accra, Ghana, 22–24 August 2006.
9 May 06	Hong Kong SAR	3,900		Cameroon	Minutes of Symposium on African Elephant Conservation, Accra, Ghana, 22–24 August 2006; Ireland Online (Jun 06)
29 May 06	China (Zhongshan)	1,800		Macao (origin unknown)	Confidential Source
June 06	South Africa		27	Zimbabwe	SAPA (June 21 2006), Elephant Conservation and Management and the Ivory Trade in Botswana and South Africa. Anon, November 2006, Elephant Management and Ivory Trade in Zimbabwe. Anon, November 2006.
3 Jul 06	Taiwan (Kaohsiung)	2,158		Tanzania	The China Post (Jul 06); Confidential Source
3 Jul 06	Taiwan (Kaohsiung)	3,060		Tanzania	Daily News (Jul 06)
Aug 06	Japan (Osaka)	3,000		Indonesia (origin unknown)	Asahi Shimbun (6 Oct 06)
22 Nov 06	France	1,500			French Customs Press Release
15 Dec 06	Kampala, Uganda	253		DRC?	New Vision (14 Dec 06); The Monitor (15 Dec 06) Tax Body Impounds Ivory Worth Sh277m; Xinhua (15 Dec 06)
21 Dec 06	Vietnam	117.5	(26)	Origin unknown	http://www.playfuls.com/news_10_5_917-Vietnam-Nabs-Ivory-Smugglers-With-26-Elephant-Tusks.html
Total		34,108.5	155⁹¹		

Small seizures⁹²

Sum		5,639	197		
Grand total		39,747.5	352		

Using an average tusk weight of 3.68 kg⁹³, 352 tusks is equivalent to 1,295.36kg. The total amount of ivory estimated seized since CoP13 is therefore almost 41,043 kg.

⁹⁰ It was reported that Chinese dealers were "caught" with this ivory (The Sunday Times 16 July 2006); it has been assumed that the ivory was seized. Further verification of this incident is merited.

⁹¹ Those tusks for which a weight was available (indicated by brackets) have been included in the total weight of seizures and excluded from the total number of tusks.

⁹² This figure is taken from *Ivory Update* (Born Free Foundation and Species Survival Network) prepared for SC54, Oct 2006.

⁹³ Hunter, N., Martin, E. and Milliken, T. *Determining the number of elephants required to supply current unregulated ivory markets in Africa and Asia*, Pachyderm No.36, Jan-Jun 2004.

ANNEXURE B: MAI MAI MARKET

The Mai Mai Market is a traditional medicine market in downtown Johannesburg. It is managed by a company owned by the municipality.

Only common names have been used as this was not a scientific study but merely a visual inspection intended to give an overview of some species, excluding plants, available at the market.

Reptiles.

African rock python (RDB species)

Monitors (skins, but hard to tell if Nile or Rock, possibly both)

Nile crocodile

Agama (various species)

Tortoise shells (various species)

Various snakes (in pieces in bottles)

Boomslang – (entire snake)

Mammals

Pangolin (RDB species)

Cape buffalo (horns, possibly jawbone)

Spotted hyena (entire skin)

Honey badger

Elephant – (small segment of skin from trunk – unconfirmed)

Bushbuck (horns and skins)

Kudu (primarily horns)

Impala (horns and skins)

Grey duiker (horns and skins)

Nyala (horns)

Springbok (horns and skins)

Honey badger

Vervet monkey

Chacma Baboon

Hippo (about 45 strips of skin approx 1.3 metres long which were being made into shamboks – some strips a few days old).

Serval

Genet (not sure if Small spotted or Large spotted)

African wild cat

Black backed jackal

Zebra (entire skin)
Blesbuck (skin)
Porcupine
Hedgehog
Mongooses (various species)
Aardwolf

Birds

Black shouldered kite
Barn owl
Owls (various, in parts in bottles)
Vulture – (various, feathers and parts).
Eagle talon (unsure of species).
Ostrich – feet and leg bones.
Yellow billed hornbill.
Hadedah
Francolin (unsure of species but one of Orange River, Greywing, Redwing or Shelly's)

Marine species.

Shark jaws (species uncertain).
Porcupine fish
Starfish
Various corals
Sponges

Other.

Domestic dog, (entire carcass plus one skull)
Domestic cattle