

Module 22

Wild Animal Welfare: The Commercial Use of Wildlife



This lecture was revised by **World Animal Protection** scientific advisors in 2012 using updates provided by Dr Caroline Hewson.

Free online resources

To get free updates and additional materials, please go to
www.animalmosaic.org/education/tertiary-education/

This module will teach you

The context for trade and the hunting of wildlife

Welfare effects in each type of usage

- ❖ **Hunting, trapping, trade**
- ❖ **Potential solutions**
- ❖ **Examples**

Context (1)

(Abensperg-Traun, 2009)

Southern hemisphere: greatest biodiversity

- ❖ **Poorer countries**
- ❖ **Hard to enforce protection**
- ❖ **Local communities very poor and do not benefit from that protection**
- ❖ **International desire to own local wildlife or consume their products**

Species endangered and welfare of individual animals compromised by

- ❖ **Capture in the wild**
- ❖ **Breeding in captivity**
- ❖ **Trading – adverse conditions of transport, housing, care**

Context (2)

(Abensperg-Traun, 2009)

International regulations, e.g.

- ❖ **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES)**
- ❖ **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – includes sustainable development**
- ❖ **Transportation regulations, e.g. Animal Transportation Association (ATA), International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

Context (3)

(Abensperg-Traun, 2009)

Conflict between human needs and species protection / welfare (Miller et al., 2011)

- ❖ Parks and biodiversity vs. people and development
- ❖ Debates focus too much on claims of efficacy of using protected areas, or other methods, and not enough on underlying differences in ethical position
- ❖ Anthropocentric vs. nature-centric positions

CITES: background

International agreement to control the international trade of endangered species of animals and plants

2012: 175 countries

CITES: overview

Species are categorised according to the level of threat imposed on them by international trade

A species' CITES status affects the ability to trade in that species

❖ **CITES Appendix I affords the greatest protection**

Strength of CITES depends on the introduction and enforcement of laws by the member Parties (countries)

CITES: conservation and welfare

CITES is primarily concerned with the effects of trade on species population levels – conservation

- **Animal welfare is covered in the original text of the Convention (Articles III, IV and V) and in the ranching and captive breeding resolutions**

Effectiveness depends on goodwill of governments and local people, and financial realities of local communities (Abensperg-Traun, 2009)

Capture of wild animals

Trapping

- ✦ Using traps to capture and kill target and non-target animals by humans

Hunting

- ✦ The stalking, chasing and killing using a variety of weapons (rifles, spears, etc.) and / or dogs to chase, bring down and dispatch animals

Fishing

- ✦ The specific hunting and killing of fish, crustaceans, cephalopods, amphibians and some invertebrates by hooking, trapping or gathering of these animals

Reasons for trapping, hunting and fishing

Wildlife used for food and other products

- ❖ Subsistence
- ❖ Commercial sale

Wildlife conflict with local communities

- ❖ Competition for food and land; risk to livestock and crops; physical threat (carnivores)
- ❖ Population control, e.g. elephant culls

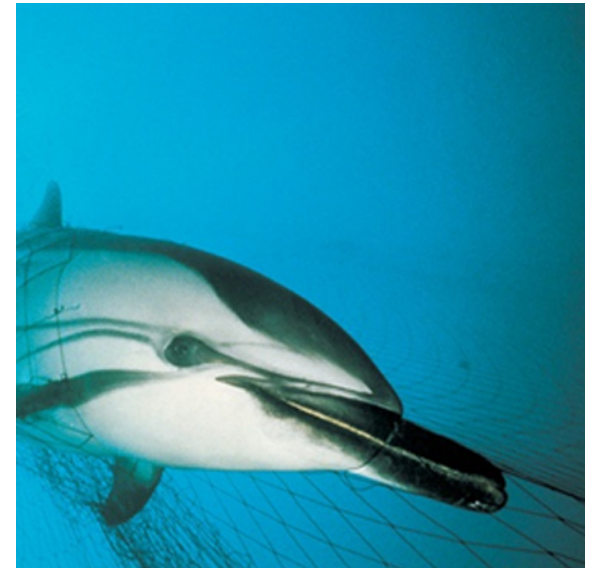
Recreation and sport, e.g. trophies (bear, shark, etc.)



Animals affected by trapping, hunting and fishing

Almost all wild animals affected including

- ❖ **'Target' animals, e.g.**
 - ❖ Antelope hunted by indigenous tribes
 - ❖ 'Big game' fishing – for trophies
- ❖ **'Non-target' animals**
 - ❖ Large African mammals, e.g. gorillas, bush dogs or buffaloes caught in snares
 - ❖ Cetaceans, e.g. dolphins caught in fishing nets



Credit: Digital Visions

Effects of trapping, hunting and fishing on animal welfare (1)

While being hunted

- ❖ Injuries incurred while trying to escape
- ❖ Fear due to presence of predator (hunter, dogs, etc.)

While trapped

- ❖ Attempts to escape lead to injuries, disease and painful death
- ❖ Fear and frustration due to separation from his or her group



Credit: DSWT

Effects of trapping, hunting and fishing on animal welfare (2)

While being killed

- ❖ Inhumane and slow methods lead to pain and fear before death
- ❖ Includes fish, and probably many invertebrates (Elwood, 2012)



Credit: Digital Visions

Trade in live wild animals (1)

Trade involves a chain of events

- ❖ Capture
- ❖ Transport
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Sale
- ❖ To supply
- ❖ Pet trade
- ❖ Biomedical research
- ❖ 'Canned' hunts
- ❖ Zoos



Affects wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish

Trade in live wild animals (2)

Two broad categories

- ❖ **Local trade, e.g. caught and kept by local community (exotic pets)**
- ❖ **National and international trade, e.g. caught, transported and sold nationally or internationally**



Causes of trade in live wild animals

Demand

- ❖ Pet market, e.g. parrots
- ❖ Zoological collections, e.g. cetaceans
- ❖ Biomedical research, e.g. primates, wild birds, etc.
- ❖ 'Canned' hunts, e.g. lions, cheetah, leopards, etc

Supply

- ❖ Countries with high biodiversity are often poor



Credit: Digital Visions

Effects on animal welfare of trade in live wild animals

Dependent on the stage of the trade process

- ⌘ Capture
- ⌘ Transport conditions
- ⌘ Captive housing conditions

Trade in live wild animals: capture

Capture

- ❖ **Collection**
- ❖ **Overcrowding**
- ❖ **Imbalances in local ecology**
- ❖ **Death of conspecifics**
- ❖ **Inappropriate restraining**



Trade in live wild animals: transport

Transport

- ❖ Long distances
- ❖ Overcrowding
- ❖ Insufficient food and water
- ❖ Fighting



Trade in live wild animals: housing conditions, pet shops

Spread of diseases and parasites

Overcrowded and stressful situations

Lack of knowledge

Trade in live wild animals: ownership

Following sale

- ❖ **Lack of knowledge of animals' needs**
- ❖ **Neglect or abandonment once novelty has worn off**
- ❖ **Animal not free to express natural behaviour**
- ❖ **E.g. psittacine birds not suitable as pets**
(Engebretson, 2006)



Credit: Digital Visions

Trade in live wild animals: spread of disease

Monkeypox

- ✦ In USA in 2003
- ✦ From Ghana
- ✦ Affected prairie dogs and human beings
(Southern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, 2003)

Potential solutions: general

Promote education and awareness

Promote community-based, sustainable management of wildlife

Increase legislation and enforcement:

❖ **Problems with enforcement**

Promote alternative livelihoods

Potential solutions to trapping / hunting / fishing

Permanent removal of traps

Use of appropriate fishing nets

Anti-poaching / trapping units

Non-wildlife related projects that benefit local people

Provision of alternative and 'safe' protein source

Increased funding for wildlife programmes



Potential solutions to the trade in wild animals

Target end market

- ❖ Educate sellers, consumers and public

Sustainable breeding of wild animals

Sustainable, humane trade in wild animals

Further research

- ❖ Accurate and objective information is needed



Examples of exotic pets and wild-animal products, and the issues surrounding them

Trade in parts of animals: turtle shells (1)

Wild caught and captive-bred

Dramatic decline in Hawksbill populations

Classified as critically endangered

Poaching continues to be a threat



Trade in parts of animals: turtle shells (2)

Reptile physiology results in serious welfare concerns

Injuries result in prolonged pain and suffering

25% die after capture (before reaching the shore)

Slaughtered while fully conscious



Credit: iStock.

Examples of wildlife 'farming'

Green pythons

Bear farming

Civet farming

The fur trade and fur farming

Example: green pythons in Indonesia (Lyons & Natusch, 2011; Lyons, 2012)

CITES: export of captive-bred snakes only

**However, breeding farms do not honour this
– laundering' through breeding farms:**

❖ **More cost-effective for farmers**

Educate consumers

Regulations for welfare of farmed wild animals

Bear bile industry (1)

(Loeffler et al., 2009)

Bear gall-bladders and bile are used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)

- **More than 10,000 bears in total: China, Korea and Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma) and Laos**

Concerns about animal welfare and conservation



Bear bile industry (2)

(Loeffler et al., 2009)

Confined barren housing (Clubb & Mason, 2007)

Behavioural abnormalities

Poor reproductive success

Early weaning and maternal separation

Inadequate veterinary support

Bears suffering from a variety of health problems

Captive populations supplemented with wild-caught bears, especially in Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar (Burma)



Credit: ENV

Bear bile products



Credit: ENV



Credit: GKU

The bear bile industry and CITES

The Asiatic black bear is listed on Appendix I of CITES

Resolution 12.10 – Registration of facilities breeding Appendix I species for commercial purposes

Resolution 10.8 – Conservation of and trade in bears

Resolution 10.19 – Traditional medicines

(Taken from www.cites.org/eng/res/index.php)

Ending the bear bile industry

The bear bile industry should end on the grounds of

- ❖ **Animal suffering**
- ❖ **Negative effects on wild bear conservation**
- ❖ **Existence of suitable herbal forms of traditional Chinese medicine and of synthetic alternatives to bear bile**

Alternatives to bear bile

Consumer demand for bear bile products needs to be stopped

The alternatives to bear bile need to be actively promoted

This work can be initiated by NGOs working with national governments



Credit: ENV

Civet farming



The fur trade

Fur is used because of

- ❖ Economic necessity
- ❖ Financial gain – the fashion industry

The use of fur for fashion is completely non-essential

- ❖ Many alternative and fake fur products are available

Severe animal welfare and conservation implications are associated with both wild-caught and farmed fur animals

The fur trade: wild-caught animals

10 million wild animals affected

Welfare issues associated with trapping

- ❖ Leghold traps
- ❖ Conibear traps

International standards



Summary

The context for trade and hunting of wildlife

- ❖ CITES
- ❖ Poverty

Welfare effects in each type of usage

- ❖ Hunting, trapping, trade
- ❖ Potential solutions – the need for economic incentives
- ❖ Examples

Vets – treating individuals

- ❖ Euthanasia may be most humane
- ❖ Client education

Feedback:

Please let us know what you think

- ❖ **How have you used this module?**
- ❖ **What did you like about it?**
- ❖ **What did you not like?**
- ❖ **Do you have any tips to share?**

Please take part in our 10 minute survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BKP3D6H>

Your feedback will help other teachers like you

References

- Abensperg-Traun, M. (2009). CITES, sustainable use of wild species and incentive-driven conservation in developing countries, with an emphasis on southern Africa. *Biological Conservation*, 142, 948-963.
- Clubb, R., & Mason, G. J. (2007). Natural behavioural biology as a risk factor in carnivore welfare: How analysing species differences could help zoos improve enclosures. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 102, 303-328.
- Elwood, R. W. (2012). Evidence for pain in decapod crustaceans. *Animal Welfare*, 21(S2), 23-27.
- Engebretson, M. (2006). The welfare and suitability of parrots as companion animals: A review. *Animal Welfare*, 15, 263-276.
- Haken, J. (2011). *Transnational Crime In The Developing World*. Washington: Global Financial Integrity. 68pp. Available at: http://www.gfintegrity.org/storage/gfip/documents/reports/transcrime/gfi_transnational_crime_web.pdf
- Iossa G., Soulsbury, C. D., Harris, S. (2007). Mammal trapping: a review of animal welfare standards of killing and restraining traps. *Animal Welfare*, 16, 335-352
- Loeffler, K., Robinson, J., & Cochrane, G. (2009). Compromised health and welfare of bears farmed in China. *Animal Welfare*, 18, 225-235.
- Lyons, J. A. (2012). Consumer driven conservation of green pythons is possible if the price is right. A reply to Pernetta. *Biological Conservation*, 147, 2.
- Lyons, J. A., & Natusch, D. J. D. (2011). Wildlife laundering through breeding farms: Illegal harvest, population declines and a means of regulating the trade of green pythons (*Morelia viridis*) from Indonesia. *Biological Conservation*, 144, 3073-3081.
- Miller, T. R., Minter, B. A., & Malan, L.-C. (2011). The new conservation debate: The view from practical ethics. *Biological Conservation*, 144, 948-957.
- South N., & Wyatt, T. (2011). Comparing illicit trades in wildlife and drugs: an exploratory study. *Deviant Behavior*, 32, 538-561
- Southern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (2003). Monkeypox introduced with exotic pets. *SCWDS Briefs*, 19, 2.
- TRAFFIC (2008). 'What's driving the wildlife trade? A review of expert opinion on economic and social drivers of the wildlife trade and trade control efforts in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam'. East Asia and Pacific Region Sustainable Development Discussion Papers. Washington, DC: East Asia and Pacific Region Sustainable Development Department, World Bank. Retrieved July 19, 2012, from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEASTASIAPACIFIC/Resources/226262-1223319129600/wildlife_foreword_terms_acknowledgement.pdf