



## Module 22

# Wild Animal Welfare: The Commercial Use of Wildlife

## Student Activities

### Questions

**1. Give five examples of the commercial exploitation of wild animals.**

**(5 marks)**

- Bear farming, bushmeat trade, civet farming, exotic pet trade, fur trade, whale hunting, animals in entertainment

**2. Taking three examples from question 1, list the products obtained in each case and where they are primarily used.**

**(3 marks)**

- Bear farming: bear bile powder for use in traditional Chinese medicines
- Bushmeat trade: personal consumption, sale at local markets, or supply to foreign consumer
- Civet farming: musk for the perfume industry
- Exotic pet trade: for export and use as pets.
- Fur trade: pelts for the fur industry
- Whale hunting: whale meat for consumption, whale oils for producing a variety of products
- Animals in entertainment: bear dancing, bear baiting, dolphinarium, tourist photo opportunities, animals used in advertising, elephant rides.

**3. What is the international agreement that controls the trade in endangered animal species?**

**(1 mark)**

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species [of wild fauna and flora] (CITES).

**4. Give three welfare concerns when taking animals from the wild.**

**(3 marks)**

- Rough collection techniques can result in stress, injury or death
- Overcrowding in holding cages
- Long journeys with limited access to food and water
- Stress of capture and journey predisposing to disease and mortality.

**5. Give three welfare concerns associated with captive wild animals.**

**(3 marks)**

- Inappropriate housing/husbandry
- Nutritional imbalances
- Inability to express natural behaviour.

**6. Give two ways in which the commercial exploitation of an animal species can be reduced.**

**(2 marks)**

- Reducing consumer demand
- Providing alternative products
- Providing alternative forms of employment.

**7. Provide an example of a non-invasive form of commercialisation of wildlife.**

**(1 mark)**

- Eco-tourism (e.g. whale watching).

## In-class activity

### Discussion

This discussion should take approximately 40 minutes.

Ask the class to brainstorm the key factors that drive the commercial exploitation of wild animals.

Some are listed below:

- national and international consumer demand
- financial incentives
- lack of other employment opportunities (that are as lucrative)
- lack of education (or concern) about the implications for conservation and animal welfare.

Break the class into small groups, with each group taking one factor. They should examine this, investigating and proposing some potential root causes of the issue and come up with some possible ways to tackle it. Note: the groups are trying to identify why the issue exists in the first place in order to treat the 'disease' not the 'symptom'. Each group should feedback their suggested solutions to the class.

Once everyone has presented, the class should try to incorporate all group suggestions and come up with overall and integrated guidelines to tackle the issue of commercial exploitation of wildlife.

### Projects

#### **1. Design a campaign to tackle a form of commercial exploitation of wildlife (preferably something that is relevant to your local country context). Focus on the infringement of animal welfare.**

Key points:

Who is your target audience? Are they 'consumers' of the exploited wildlife, or are you mobilising support?

What are the potential concerns of your audience? If they are stakeholders, what will their arguments be against your campaign? Can you anticipate their response and deliver your campaign accordingly?

How will you monitor the campaign? What does success look like? When will you know you have achieved it?

**2. Find out about the implementation of CITES in your country.**

Key points:

Effective national legislation to implement CITES; enforcement of legislation; close liaison between customs (border agencies), health, police and other national authorities; awareness of CITES amongst both the animal traders and the public; suitable government funded awareness materials (airport displays, information leaflets etc.)

**3. Give an account, using examples, of ways in which veterinarians may influence policy-makers regarding an example of commercial exploitation.**

Key points:

The production of scientific reports to argue the case against a form of exploitation; the husbandry or slaughter methods; the (un)suitability of a species for captive breeding; the effect of capture or captivity on susceptibility to injury, disease and mortality.