

## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

THE ASIAN REGIONAL PARTNERS FORUM ON COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME (ARPEC)  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE EMPORIUM  
PRESENTS

# ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

**อาชญากรรมสิ่งแวดล้อม**  
คือ การกระทำใดๆที่ผิดกฎหมายและทำลายสิ่งแวดล้อม

Environmental Crimes can be broadly defined as  
illegal acts which directly harm the environment

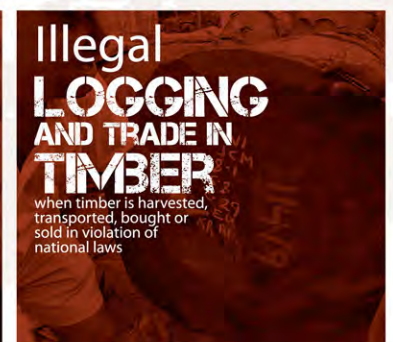
### THE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES ARE WIDE RANGING:

- They can directly threaten human health and the environment
- They can contribute to species loss
- They can deprive communities of livelihoods
- They can increase the probability of conflict and thereby pose a risk to human and even national security
- They can result in revenue loss for governments
- They can undermine the success of international environmental agreements
- Legitimate businesses can be undermined by illegal trade

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES CAN BE DEFINED ACROSS

### FIVE BROAD AREAS OF OFFENCES

WHICH HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY BODIES SUCH AS THE G8, INTERPOL, EU, UNEP AND THE UN INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE. THESE ARE:



Photos courtesy of: China customs, EIA, IUCN, TRAFFIC

### ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES ARE SERIOUS, TRANSNATIONAL AND ORGANIZED

Environmental crime is currently one of the most profitable areas of criminal activity attracting organized criminal groups to its high profit margins and generally low risks.

### FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES TO FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Communities frequently rely on natural resources- deriving essential goods and services, such as food, clean water, wood, and minerals. This form of asset becomes increasingly relevant for poor communities to build a sustainable livelihood. The unregulated exploitation or destruction/contamination of these natural resources can have dramatic or devastating consequences on the vulnerable communities that lack access to other physical, financial, social and human assets.

Tackling environmental crime should be considered as a fundamental responsibility which would help in reducing poverty, increasing food security and restoring the rule of law, good governance, and ecological sustainability.

การปราบปรามปัญหาอาชญากรรมสิ่งแวดล้อม  
เป็นหลักสำคัญในการลดปัญหาความยากจน  
การแคลนอาหาร และยังช่วยเสริมสร้างการใช้  
กฎหมายและอำนาจหน้าที่ของรัฐ รวมทั้งยัง  
ทำให้เกิดความสมดุลทางธรรมชาติอีกด้วย



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ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED  
AND UNREPORTED (IUU)

# FISHING

การทำประมงอย่างผิดกฎหมายเป็นปัญหา  
ที่ต้องได้รับการแก้ไขอย่างเร่งด่วนในภูมิภาคเอเชียแปซิฟิก เพื่อที่จะ  
ลดปัญหาความยากจน ความอดอยากและปัญหาเศรษฐกิจถดถอย

Consumption of fish is an essential in the nutrition of millions of the world's population and contributes to a healthy diet through proteins, micro-nutrients, and fatty acids.

Illegal fishing is serious issue that needs to be addressed in Asia and the Pacific in order to contribute to ameliorate poverty, food insecurity, and economic stagnation.

The illegal and unregulated activities of criminal syndicates are not only causing the depletion of the fish stocks – which might lead to a collapse in some fish populations– but they can also affecting the ecological diversity, as it is demonstrated by the deteriorating condition of the Southeast Asian coral reefs.

The ecological impact could have significant adverse economic consequences, and the marine ecosystem may be affected in its capacity to restore carbon.



## FISHERY AND DEVELOPMENT

In general, the capacity of fisheries to contribute to the livelihood of poor households is limited. Fisheries can contribute to enhancing the resilience of vulnerable households, and help prevent them from falling into further poverty principally by reducing food insecurity, increasing employment opportunities, and providing social safety nets.

Fisheries can also contribute to the national wealth. For some developing countries in the Pacific, fishery exports account for 20-30% of total exports. The importance of adopting regulatory systems in the fish industry is also motivated by the need to prevent overexploitation of the available stock. Overfishing generally leads to a decline in the size and quality of fish, and in some cases can also cause fish stock collapses, with negative consequences for the livelihoods of people dependant on them.

# ILLEGAL LOGGING

นักวิทยาศาสตร์ได้เห็นข้อพิสูจน์แล้วว่าการปกป้องดูแลป่า  
สามารถลดความรุนแรงของ climate change  
เนื่องจากป่าไม้สามารถดูดซับก๊าซคาร์บอนได้

Serious organized crime in the forestry and timber industries is one of the most pressing environmental issues facing the global community. Driven by the low risks and high profits of a largely unregulated international market for cheap timber and wood products, illegal logging is threatening precious forests from the Amazon, through West and Central Africa, to East Asia. The timber trade can also involve other major crimes such as forged documents, bribery, corruption of officials, human rights abuses, violence and even murder.

## FORESTS AND DEVELOPMENT

The forest products industry is a major source of income and employment in many countries, and over 90% of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty depend on forests for some part of their livelihood, according to the World Bank.

Forests can provide basic needs, such as food, building materials, firewood and medicines which improve food security and health conditions for local communities. Forests also preserve biodiversity and provide natural buffer against natural disasters such as floods.

Recently, an increasing number of scientists have advocated for the role that forests can play in mitigating global climate change, particularly through the capacity of forests to sequester and store carbon.



Photos courtesy of: EIA, IUCN

## HOW CAN CONSUMERS HELP?

Consumer markets for legal and sustainable timber products are growing, and companies are increasingly expected to provide evidence that the timber they use has been legally harvested. Consumers can help by seeking and purchasing licensed and certified wood products, especially those that support chain-of-custody systems such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). These efforts will help to ensure successful development of the world's legal and sustainable wood products markets.

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# ILLEGAL TRAFFIC OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

UNDER BASEL CONVENTION



อนุสัญญาบาเซลว่าด้วยการควบคุมการเคลื่อนย้ายข้ามแดนของของเสียอันตราย มีจุดประสงค์หลักที่จะปกป้องสุขภาพของคนและสิ่งแวดล้อมจากการเคลื่อนย้ายของเสียซึ่งมีอันตราย

Unscrupulous waste trade became a serious concern in 1980s due to three converging factors: increasing amounts of hazardous waste; inadequate processing plants; and stricter regulations in the developed world with growing environmental awareness. Managing special waste streams properly became expensive. Filthy shipments started traveling round the world. To avoid tightening environmental regulations in industrialized countries, companies used "toxic ships" to transport their hazardous wastes to Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and other regions. Once on shore, the shipments were dumped indiscriminately, spilled accidentally or managed improperly, resulting in contaminated land, water and air.

The Basel Convention is an international agreement which regulates the movement of hazardous waste between countries. The Convention sets up a series of procedures which controls the export of hazardous waste, including such day-to-day items as used lead-acid batteries, household waste, and used oils for disposal. The Convention's primary aim is to protect human health and the environment from the harm posed by such shipments.

## SCALE OF ILLEGAL TRADE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE



- The United States Government estimated that US\$ 10-12 billion was earned from the smuggling of waste.
- Based on the report of Basel Convention Secretariat in 2001, there are at least 8.5 million tonnes of hazardous waste being moved between countries each year. One project undertaken in 13 European countries in 2006 found that over half of the waste shipments examined were illegal.



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## WASTE AND DEVELOPMENT



Workers, including children, who are employed to dispose of wastes, in unsafe and unregulated conditions, are particularly vulnerable to the toxic chemicals which may be contained in these wastes. The detrimental consequences resulting from the improper treatment of some types of wastes could affect generations to come. Hazardous wastes, if improperly handled, can have serious effects on human health and the environment. Dumping of waste which contains hazardous chemicals can negatively affect water supplies and can contaminate land. Preventing illegal traffic of hazardous waste can contribute to improving human health, particularly among the poor, as well as protecting the environment from further degradation, thereby leading to a general improvement in the quality of life.



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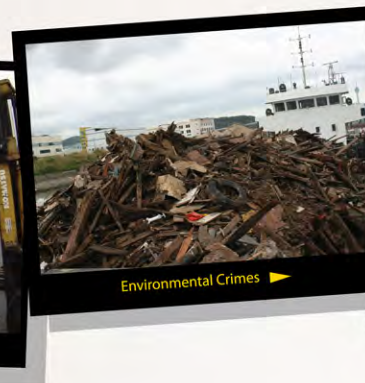


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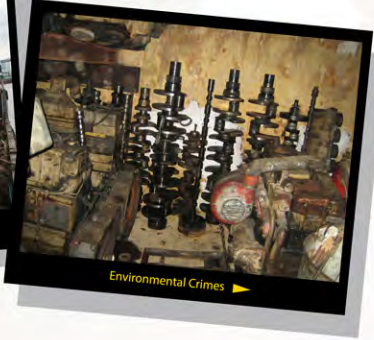
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Photos courtesy of: China Customs, EIA, Royal Thai Customs



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# ILLEGAL TRADE IN OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

# ODS

การลดการซื้อขายสารทำลายโอโซน สามารถช่วยปกป้องสุขภาพของมนุษย์ รวมทั้งลด การขาดแคลนอาหาร และเสริมสร้างสมดุลทางธรรมชาติ

Significant depletion of the ozone layer is due to human activity introducing artificially high quantities of chlorine, bromine and other ozone depleting substances (ODS) into the stratosphere, where these chemicals destroy ozone molecules. Widely used chemical compounds are to blame - especially chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) used as refrigerants and halons used as fire suppressants.



In 1987, global concern over the threat posed by ODS led to the formation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Since then it has been ratified by 196 nations, and now has universal ratification. The Protocol established legally binding controls on the national production and consumption of ODS with complete phase-out as the final goal, allowing the ozone layer to recover.

## SCALE OF ILLEGAL ODS TRADE

A UNEP report on "Illegal Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances" (2001), stated that "By 1996, illegal ODS trade had grown to an alarming level. Though reliable figures on the scope of illegal trade are difficult to come by, it is estimated that between 16,000 and 38,000 tonnes of illegal CFCs were traded worldwide during 1995". By the end of the last decade, the volume of illegal trade in CFCs had declined in developed countries.

In the mid-1990s, illegal trade in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) was estimated at up to 20,000 tonnes per year, worth US\$ 150-300 million - equivalent to over 12% of global ODS production (EIA, 2006a). More recent estimates, from the early 2000s, suggest that smuggling of ODS represents 10-20% of the legitimate trade in ODS. This is equivalent to 7,000 - 14,000 tonnes per year, with a value of US\$ 25-60 million (EIA, 2006a; CH & EIA, 2006).



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## OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT

The ozone layer protects the earth's inhabitants and ecosystem from harmful UV radiation, and is essential for life on earth. It absorbs most of the harmful ultraviolet-B radiation from the sun and completely screens out lethal UV-C radiation. When the ozone layer is depleted, increased UV-B is allowed to reach the earth. This can lead to more skin cancers, eye cataracts, weakened immune systems, reduced plant yields, damage to ocean ecosystems and reduced fishing yields, adverse effects on animals, and more damage to some materials such as plastics. Therefore reducing the use and trade of ODS can contribute to improving human health, food security and ecosystem integrity.



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## ARPEC Awareness Event Partners



ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement  
Network (ASEAN-WEN)

ASEAN-WEN or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Wildlife Enforcement Network is the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network. It involves law enforcement agencies of the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand). ASEAN-WEN aims to promote implementation of existing national wildlife protection laws and international species protection agreements with the long-term goal of reducing illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia through the dismantlement or destabilization of some of the region's major wildlife trafficking networks. ASEAN-WEN is principally sponsored by USAID, the US Agency for international development. Other partner countries and intergovernmental organizations include the United States, the CITES Secretariat, Interpol and the United Nations (UNEP, UNODC). The network is exploring possible partnerships with China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. ASEAN-WEN's non-governmental organization partners include FREELAND Foundation and TRAFFIC as the ASEAN-WEN Support Program.

<http://www.asean-wen.org>



FREELAND

FREELAND is a non-profit foundation dedicated to ending the illegal wildlife trade, conserving natural habitats and protecting human rights. FREELAND works throughout Asia to raise awareness and build local capacity to protect critical ecosystems and the freedom of all living beings. FREELAND specializes in delivering targeted training to forest rangers and other law enforcement officers throughout Southeast Asia to support the anti-poaching efforts in protected areas. FREELAND engages with local communities around the protected areas, where most poachers originate, to make them more aware of the need for nature conservation and to assist them in developing alternative income-generating occupations. To reduce consumer demand for trophies from the wild and to tackle the lack of public awareness, FREELAND launches multiple campaigns, such as the "SOLD OUT" -banners. Supporting ASEAN-WEN, FREELAND has launched the "Wildlife Trafficking Stops Here" -campaign at the Suvarnabhumi Airport and will soon at several Southeast Asian airports.

<http://www.freeland.org>



International  
Union for  
Conservation  
of Nature  
(IUCN)

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world, and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,000 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 permanent staff in 56 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN's headquarters are located in Gland, Switzerland and its Asia Regional Office is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme  
(UNEP)

UNEP DTIE OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme for Asia and the Pacific region (CAP ROAP)

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, countries worldwide are taking specific, time-targeted actions to reduce and eliminate the production and consumption of man-made chemicals that destroy the stratospheric ozone layer, earth's protective shield. UNEP DTIE OzonAction is an Implementing Agency of the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund.

The Compliance Assistance team in the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP) has developed a centre to deliver policy advice, compliance guidance and conduct training to refrigeration technicians, customs officers and other relevant stakeholders on compliance issues. It promotes bilateral and multilateral cooperation and promote high-level awareness by utilizing UNEP's staff.

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/>



World  
Customs  
Organization  
(WCO)

With 175 member Customs administrations, the World Customs Organization (WCO) is the only intergovernmental organization competent in Customs matters, aiming at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of members. Customs is in a unique position to facilitate legitimate trade and protect the society. The WCO has long been involved in efforts to combat the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive goods. Since 2001, the WCO has been an active partner in the Green Customs Initiative. The latest Recommendation approved in June 2008 calls for all WCO members to continue their efforts to combat environment crime and to ensure that the environment remains a priority issue for Customs across the globe. To further raise awareness of protecting the world's natural heritage, the WCO has assigned environment issues as a priority for 2009 under the theme "Customs and the environment: Protecting our natural heritage". In the Asia Pacific region, the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office in Beijing and Regional Office for Capacity Building in Bangkok have been very active in the area of environmental border protection for example by collecting and analyzing seizure information and, hosting and participating in capacity building initiatives. As well as facilitating information exchange and coordinating regional joint operations.

<http://www.wcoomd.org/home.htm>



Environmental  
Investigation  
Agency (EIA)

EIA is an independent campaigning organisation committed to bringing about change that protects the natural world from environmental crime and abuse.

For 25 years EIA has been 'protecting the environment with intelligence' - developing innovative and effective investigative methods for defending the environment and seeking lasting solutions.

EIA's campaigns currently focus on Species in Peril including tigers and elephants; Forests of The World addresses forest crime and illegal logging; and our Global Environment campaign tackles the trade in hazardous waste and chemicals which may damage the ozone layer (ozone depleting substances).

<http://www.eia-international.org>



INTERPOL

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization with 188 member countries. Its primary objective is to assist the law enforcement community in combating all forms of transnational crime. In addition to environmental crime, its work covers many specialized areas including fugitives; public safety and terrorism; drugs and organized crime; trafficking in human beings; financial and high-tech crime; and corruption. To better serve the Asia and South Pacific region, INTERPOL has a regional office currently based in Bangkok to serve as a regional operations platform for the various crime projects, including environmental crime.

<http://www.interpol.int>

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of WWF and IUCN, The International Union for Conservation of Nature.

TRAFFIC was established in 1976 and has grown to become the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring programme and a global expert on wildlife trade issues. TRAFFIC actively monitors and investigates wildlife trade, and provides information to a diverse audience world-wide.

TRAFFIC's role in Asia is to facilitate and help strengthen co-operation between enforcement agencies; provide timely intelligence to enforcement officials; assist in the strengthening of policy and legislation, supporting the implementation and enforcement of national legislation and CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). TRAFFIC develops enforcement tools, such as identification materials, guides and manuals and provides training for a wide range of agencies, including Customs, Police, Forestry Departments, the Judiciary, CITES Management and Scientific authorities and Quarantine. TRAFFIC also conducts market monitoring and research and develops awareness-raising and educational materials

<http://www.traffic.org>



United Nations  
Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Office on  
Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the UN Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. In dealing with environmental crime UNODC has adopted a comprehensive and multidisciplinary response, by pooling together its legal, analytical and technical expertise into an integrated and holistic approach. This approach does the following: it enhances capacity in data collection and analysis; it strengthens legislation and regulatory frameworks, as well as international co-operation in criminal matters, through legal advisory services; it promotes sustainable livelihoods through development assistance; it improves monitoring systems and facilities; and it trains law enforcement and judicial officials.

<http://www.unodc.org>



World  
Wildlife  
Fund (WWF)

WWF, the global conservation organization with its mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:  
- conserving the world's biological diversity;  
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and  
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption  
WWF Thailand had launched multiple campaigns, such as the "Wildlife Trade Campaign", Eyes & Ears Campaign, in flight VDO and others Awareness raising campaign at tourist places countrywide. In cooperation with government offices, such as, Department of National park, Wildlife and Plants Conservation, Department of Agriculture, Dept. of Fisheries, Dept. of Customs, Royal Thai Army, and Environmental Crime Police to set up Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network (Thailand-WEN), Countrywide.

<http://www.panda.org/th/>



A member of United Nation Environment Programme's Climate Neutral Network



EVERY ACTION,  
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,  
CAN MAKE A WORLD  
OF DIFFERENCE



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Wildlife trade is any sale or exchange of wild animal and plant resources by people. This can involve live animals and plants or a diverse range of products needed or prized by humans—including skins, medicinal ingredients, tourist curios, timber, fish and other food products. Most wildlife trade is probably traded within national borders.

# [ ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE ]

ในพื้นที่ชนบท หากจำนวนสัตว์ป่าและของป่าลดลง ประชากรที่มีรายได้ต่ำจะได้รับผลกระทบอย่างมาก

Southeast Asian wildlife is commonly exported to the US, the EU, Japan and increasingly also to China. South American and African wildlife is generally imported mainly into Southeast Asia on transit to other nations. Southeast Asia serves as a transit point for illegal wildlife trade and it is therefore the responsibility of ASEAN nations to play an important role in preventing illegally traded wildlife and products from reaching their final destination.

Currently, 12,000 species are in danger of extinction, of which 12% are in Southeast Asia alone.

## THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY WILDLIFE IS TRADED :

Wildlife may be used for food, fuel, fodder, building materials, clothing and ornaments, sport, healthcare (from herbal remedies, traditional medicines to ingredients for industrial pharmaceuticals), religion and/or collections.

## THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

### TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Many plant and animal species utilized for traditional medicine are sourced from the wild, and used primarily for curing ailments and diseases, and for enhancing and strengthening health. However, it is illegal to use protected animals in this way.



Some traditional medicines may contain parts of endangered species. Are you sure you aren't breaking the law?

Seahorses in rice wine used as tonic for health and vitality

### PET TRADE

Often, pets are common domestic animals such as cats and dogs, but in some cases they include exotic and rare species illegally sourced from the wild and often protected by national and international laws.

After the release of the Harry Potter movie, bird traders began to offer owls for sale as "Harry Potter" birds.

When the cartoon series and movie "Ninja turtles" became popular, turtles (such as the baby pig-nosed turtle pictured below) became a favorite pet.



Credit: Mark Auliy

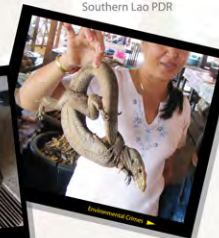
### WILD OR EXOTIC MEAT

Many rural communities around the world, especially those living in and around protected and forested areas, depend on wild meat. Sometimes, the meat is consumed as a sign of status and wealth, but alongside this there is also the belief that wild or "exotic" meat contains properties which boost strength, health and sexual desire. Many animals are protected and cannot legally be killed for food.

Pangolins are used for their meat, skin and scales. International commercial trade in this species is prohibited.



Clouded Monitor Lizard for sale in market in Southern Lao PDR



### TROPHIES, DECORATIONS AND LUXURY ITEMS

Animals of almost all descriptions and their parts are used around the world for trophies, decorations and luxury items. Items made from protected animals are illegal.

This photograph was taken in Tibet at a horse festival; the young man is wearing an outfit made from tiger skin (Panthera tigris).



The sale of carved ivory continues in Thailand, despite laws which ban international trade without proper permits.



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## WILDLIFE AND DEVELOPMENT:

Poor people in remote and marginal areas rely heavily on natural resources for collecting food, clothes, medicines, and other products. As a result, if the quality of wild resources declines, the impact on the poor will be significant, especially in terms of loss of livelihood opportunities and increased vulnerability.

Further contribution to livelihoods through wildlife is provided by formal and informal employment especially in the tourism industry. Wildlife conservation/protection contributes to wider environmental sustainability. Wildlife resources can become a source of income for poor communities when sustainably harvested and traded and can also support nature-based tourism.

