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Federal Wildlife Enforcement and the Illegal Wildlife Trade

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This Presentation...

- Exploration on what is the problem
- What are the “drivers” behind Wildlife Trafficking
- What are the effects
- What are we doing about it



What is Wildlife Trafficking

- Scope of the problem: globally, wildlife crime (flora and fauna) has increased over the last 10 years. Ranked as 4th highest grossing illegal activity worldwide after narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking.
 - Animals, Fish, Plants and Timber: \$155B USD / year
 - (Drugs: \$200B USD / year)
- UNEP reports (2016) that environmental crime is rising at a rate of 5% - 7% per year, double world economic growth.
- A threat to Canada's domestic and foreign interests.



Taking a look at the Money: Comparison - Drugs versus Wildlife (\$CAD) (2015)

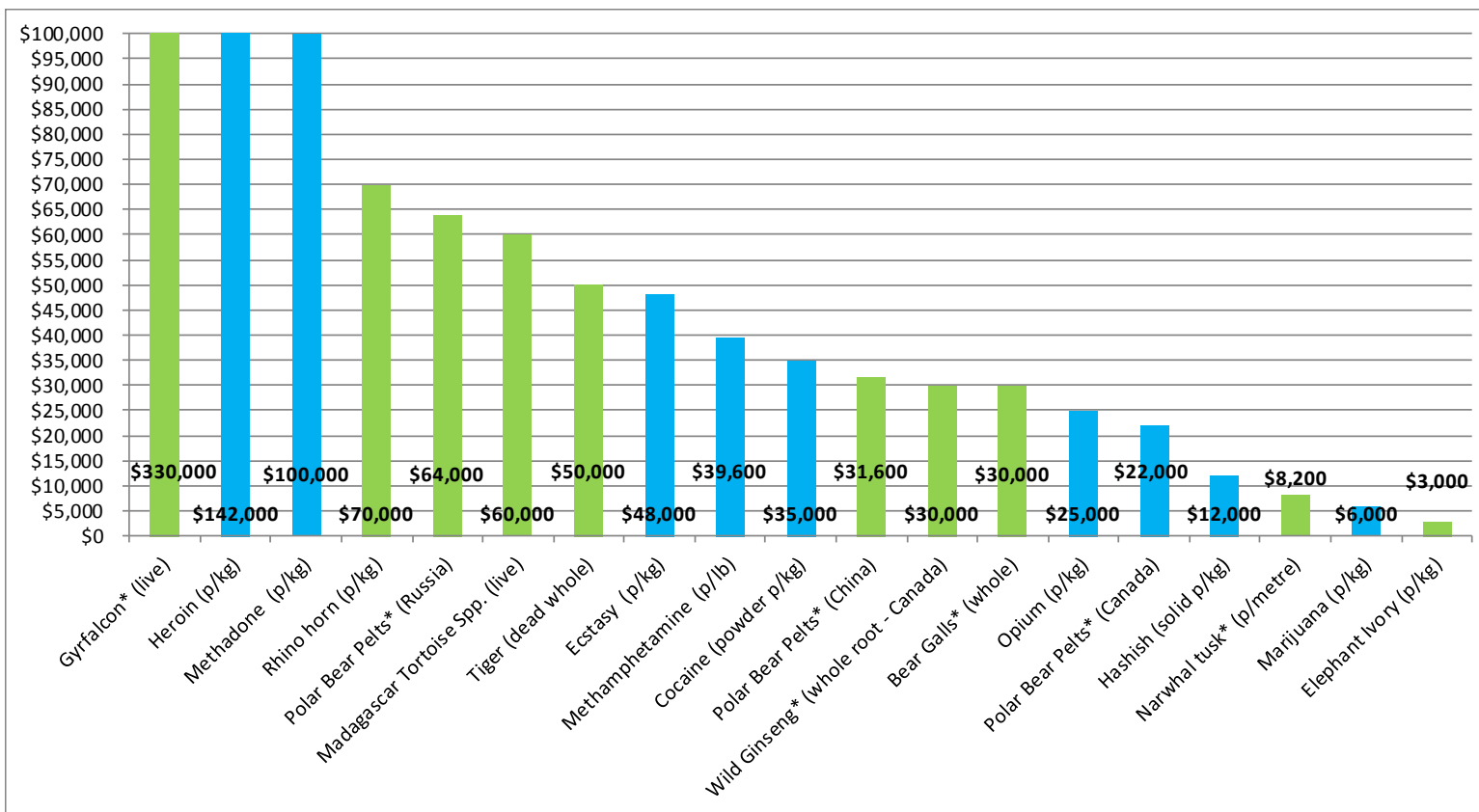


Figure 1: Comparison of drug prices (blue) and the top reported prices for wildlife commodities (green). The trade in wildlife is lucrative and covers a broad spectrum of species. No comprehensive pricelist is known to exist. Prices vary depending on source, specimen size, type and quality, local market demand and end use.

* Indicates species may be found in Canada

Notoriety or Interest

- Notoriety – the more dangerous the animal the more some people want it
 - Shows how dangerous they are
 - Indicates what lengths they will go to get an animal product
- Interest – more than just a fleeting desire:
 - Special scientific interest
 - Enamoured by visual appeal
 - Needs to have it to show off
 - It's unique and no one else has it



Photo of narwhal tusks in shipping box.



Traditional Foods

- Customary practices hold strong no matter location in the world
- De gustibus non est disputandum “There is no accounting for taste”



Traditional Medicines

- Belief may be stronger than science – health benefits



Status Symbols

- Social Implications:
 - Some cultures have expectations of status that push individuals to meet those expectations
 - Some people “need to have it” to show off how well they are doing
- Quality of product
 - Texture of material
 - Exceptional taste experience...
linking food to status



The other side of Hunting

- Practice passed down through generations and interest
- Can be associated to status
- Hunting has become international – global economy and ease of travel
- New wealth allows access and interest
- “Bragging rights”



A Peace and Security Issue; Crime and Enforcement Issue

- Quickly evolving demand
- Proceeds benefit organized criminal groups
- Corruption, money laundering, financing of terrorism/armed groups
- Organized crime against very limited enforcement capacity
- Local communities threatened by crime, violence, corruption
- Poachers armed with helicopters, automatic weapons: large number of rangers killed
- Heavy reliance on external sources of funding and expertise



An Environmental Issue

- Habitat degradation and modification
- Loss of biodiversity – species threatened with extinction; many species taken above replacement rate
- Impact on water quality, desertification, food security
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Disease and wildlife health; invasive species
- Loss of ecosystem services
- Contribution to climate change



A Sustainable Development Issue

- Loss of revenue to developing countries (tourism major source of income for African countries)
- Local communities suffer most from loss of revenue, with greatest impact on women
- Indigenous communities impacted
- Corruption undermines governance



A Canadian Trade Issue

- Canada has an interest in promoting sustainable and legal trade in wildlife commodities:
 - Over 100,000 jobs are linked to *legal and sustainable* wildlife trade, often in Aboriginal, isolated or rural communities.
 - Imports of illegally-harvested wood impacts both economy and jobs.
 - Canadian species being poached/traded illegally due same demand pressures for elephant ivory and rhino horn.
 - Iconic Canadian species are legally traded – but prone to illegal trade/poaching.
 - Regularly being raised as a condition in trade negotiations (NAFTA, TPP, etc).
 - Access to markets for Canadian products.



What is being done Internationally?

London Conference:

- 2014 Declarations
 - A. Eradicating the Market for Illegal Wildlife Products
 - B. Ensuring Effective Legal Frameworks and Deterrents
 - C. Strengthening Law Enforcement
 - D. Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development

Other efforts:

- CITES
- UK and US leadership; African leadership; increasing engagement of China
- UN General Assembly Resolutions (2015 -); UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Resolutions (2013, 2014)
- G7 (UK, US, Germany)
- G20 Priority (Corruption)
- Other Initiatives: USA – National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking; European Union Strategy; UK, French, German, Dutch Strategies / Programs; African Union; Southern African Development Community Strategy; ASEAN Strategy; Vietnam



Canadian Efforts

- Domestic Engagement – partnerships within federal and provincial departments
- International Engagement – CITES, INTERPOL, London Conference
- ECCC Wildlife Enforcement – leadership at Interpol, participating in supporting other countries through training, actively participating in international files



Annex – Upcoming events

- Potential Events / Forums Where Wildlife Crime or Related Issues Could be Raised
 - March 26 – 28, 2018: G7 Roma-Lyon Group Meeting (Ottawa)
 - April 30 – May 4, 2018: UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna)
 - June 8 – 9, 2018: G7 Leaders' Summit (La Malbaie – Pointe-au-Pic)
 - June 11 – 15, 2018: Canadian Natural Resources Law Enforcement Chiefs' Meeting (Tofino)
 - July 16 – 18, 2018: International Society for Reform of Criminal Law Conference (Montréal)
 - August / September: reporting to UN General Assembly on resolution on Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade (New York)
 - October 1 – 5, 2018: CITES Standing Committee Meeting (Sochi, Russia)
 - October 10 – 11, 2018: London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (London)
 - October 12 – 16, 2018: INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting (London)
 - November 30 – December 1, 2018: G20 Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
 - May 21 – June 4, 2019: CITES CoP 18 (Colombo, Sri Lanka)
 - June 2019: G7 Leaders' Summit (France)

