THE PREVENTION OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PLAYS A ROLE IN EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL CRIME COMPLIANCE

Protect against crimes that impact global security, human health interests and environmental sustainability

Wildlife trafficking is a widespread global security and economic issue

Wildlife trafficking is defined as the illegal trade and trafficking of flora and fauna which encompasses animals, plants, illegal fishing and illegal logging of timber and non-timber forest products

Wildlife trafficking is the **fourth largest illegal industry** worldwide[1]

The value of wildlife crime is estimated to fall between **US$69 billion to US$199 billion annually**[2]

Wildlife trafficking poses multiple threats to society and human health

The COVID-19 pandemic encapsulates the magnitude of **human health and economic threats** tied to zoonotic diseases linked to illegal trade and consumption of wildlife

The damaging **environmental impacts of wildlife trafficking** are well documented:
- **Threats to endangered species** from poaching and extinction
- **Economic impacts** such as diminished farming outputs
- **Damage to ecosystems** from invasive species being trafficked

Wildlife trafficking is often a feeder crime that fuels and facilitates organized crime rings, corrupt governments and syndicates

Wildlife trafficking is often the convergence point of criminal activity that creates economic and societal threats

Wildlife trafficking is a crime characterized by low risk and high reward. This uniquely positions wildlife crimes as revenue-drivers for transnational crime syndicates and bad actors tied to:

Human Trafficking   **Narcotics**   **Arms Trade and Smuggling**   **Organized Crime Syndicates**   **Terrorist Activity**   **Bribery and Corruption**   **Money Laundering**

Regulatory attention around wildlife trafficking is steadily increasing

The frontline effort to prevent wildlife trafficking is gaining ground with stronger focus on public and private collaborations to track and thwart trafficking. The trail to criminal organizations and bad actors is often paved with money which has led to more regulatory efforts to follow the money and stop these crimes.

Collaborative efforts between Non-government organizations (NGOs) and financial institutions

UN General Assembly (UN General Assembly Resolution 73/343)

International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

The **FATF Standards** provide a robust framework of measures for financial sector and non-financial sector[3]

The establishment of **ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)** to promote networking amongst relevant law enforcement authorities in ASEAN countries to curb illegal trade in wild fauna and flora[4]

Effectively avoiding transactions tied to wildlife trafficking takes a specific and targeted view of risk

Transactions related to wildlife trafficking are difficult to detect because payments and activities are hidden within legitimate businesses. Many wildlife trafficking supply chains are based in cash until transportation and shipping come into play, which complicates risk visibility. Advanced technologies help isolate suspicious behaviors or transaction anomalies.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning provide a more nuanced look into transactions, behaviors and relationships

Digital identity intelligence adds near real-time insight into device, location and behaviors

Assess payments across all types of platforms

Take a stand against wildlife trafficking by taking direct action

Institutionalize financial workflows around red flags and key risk indicators

File Suspicious Activity Reports to document trafficking risks

Blacklist individuals or companies found to be participating in wildlife trafficking

Conduct ongoing monitoring against current sanctions, Politically Exposed Person (PEP) and adverse media intelligence

Promote and participate in private-public partnerships, such as the United for Wildlife Financial Taskforce and activities through ACAMS

Make an ongoing commitment to play an active role in combatting wildlife trafficking

Our risk-responsive solutions and deep coverage of global risk intelligence effectively raise visibility across critical transactions, relationships and supply chains. Our solutions help reinforce your core values so you can stay focused on business sustainability and corporate citizenship.

Contact us to learn more:
risk.lexisnexis.com/WCoD-EN

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RISK SOLUTIONS

1. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/wildlife-and-forest-crime.html
2. http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/482771571323560234/WBGReport1017Digital.pdf
3. https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/brochuresannualreports/Private-sector-and-iwt.pdf
4 https://environment.asean.org/the-asean-wildlife-enforcement-network-asean-wen/