

THE NATURE OF MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE TRADE IN UGANDA

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Abstract

Despite the existence of institutional framework and ongoing wildlife trade in Uganda, wildlife trade is largely not well studied. The overall objective of this study was to examine wildlife trade management in Uganda. The study thought to establish the nature of management of wildlife trade in Uganda adopting a cross sectional survey research design with a sample of 140 respondents. Face to face and telephone interviews were conducted in a guided conversation style followed by documentary review of published and unpublished documents. Qualitative data generated was analyzed using thematic and content analysis. The study documents the management system for wildlife trade in Uganda and identifies key challenges hampering the trade. A robust trade monitoring and quota setting system, more research on captive wildlife breeding of highly traded species and involvement of local communities in the management of wildlife trade will enhance the management of wild life trade in Uganda.

Key words: *Management, Wildlife trade, illegal wildlife trade, Uganda*

Introduction

Wildlife refers to any wild plant or animal species or their derivative products indigenous and or introduced in Uganda, including those that migrate through Uganda. It is traded as skins, leather goods or souvenirs; as food or traditional medicine; live as pets, such as parrots, chimpanzees, snakes among others and in many other forms (Sonia, 2013). Illegal wildlife trade is perhaps the most immediate threat to wildlife in many parts of the world (Mulumba, 2016). It is estimated that illegal wildlife trade is a multibillion-dollar business involving the unlawful harvest of and trade in live animals and plants or parts and products derived from them (Gede, 2014). The vice

ranges from illegal logging of protected forests to supply the demand for woods, to the illegal fishing of endangered marine life for food, trading live animals as pets and the poaching of elephants to supply the demand for ivory. Around the globe, wildlife is being bought and sold on an increasingly massive scale as pets, meat, and food, as medicine, furs, feathers, skins, and trophies (Sharma, 2009).

Although illegal wildlife trade threatens many different species of wild animals and plants, there is particular concern internationally about African Rhinos and elephants (CITES 2018). Other species of concern reported include pangolins, great apes and pet birds.

International Wildlife Trade is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which is a multilateral environmental agreement regulating international trade in endangered species across member governments. CITES aims at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival (CITES, 2018). CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. For instance, all import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system (CITES, 2018).). Each Party to the Convention must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species (Makumbi and Manyindo, 2000). For the case of Uganda, the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) is the CITES Management Authority while the Uganda Wildlife Authority is the Scientific Authority for wild animals and the Ministry of Water and Environment (Forest Sector Support Department) is the Scientific Authority for plants of wild origin (CITES, 2018).

Contextualizing Wildlife Management

Wildlife is vital to the lives of a high proportion of the world's population, often the poorest. Some rural households depend on local wild animals for their meat protein and on local trees for fuel, and both wild animals and plants provide components of traditional medicines used by the majority of people in the world (Smith, 2011). Trade in illegal wildlife products has the potential to be very damaging (Dedan, 2013). Populations of species on earth declined by an average 40% between 1970 and 2000 and the second-biggest direct threat to species survival, after habitat destruction, is wildlife trade (Sonia, 2013). In 2011, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the western black rhinoceros extinct (Shepherd and Magnus, 2014). This subspecies of the critically endangered black rhino was poached due to the belief in the healing properties of its horn. Trade in illegal wildlife products remains a serious threat to the conservation of wildlife in Uganda (WWF, 2014). However, there has been limited research on management of wildlife trade hence this study.

Conceptual framework on management of wild life trade in Uganda

Figure 1: An analytical framework on the nature of management of wildlife trade in Uganda. Concepts that present some definitional challenges to a wide range of audiences need to be clarified in scholarly works to guide appropriate comprehension of what is being discussed.

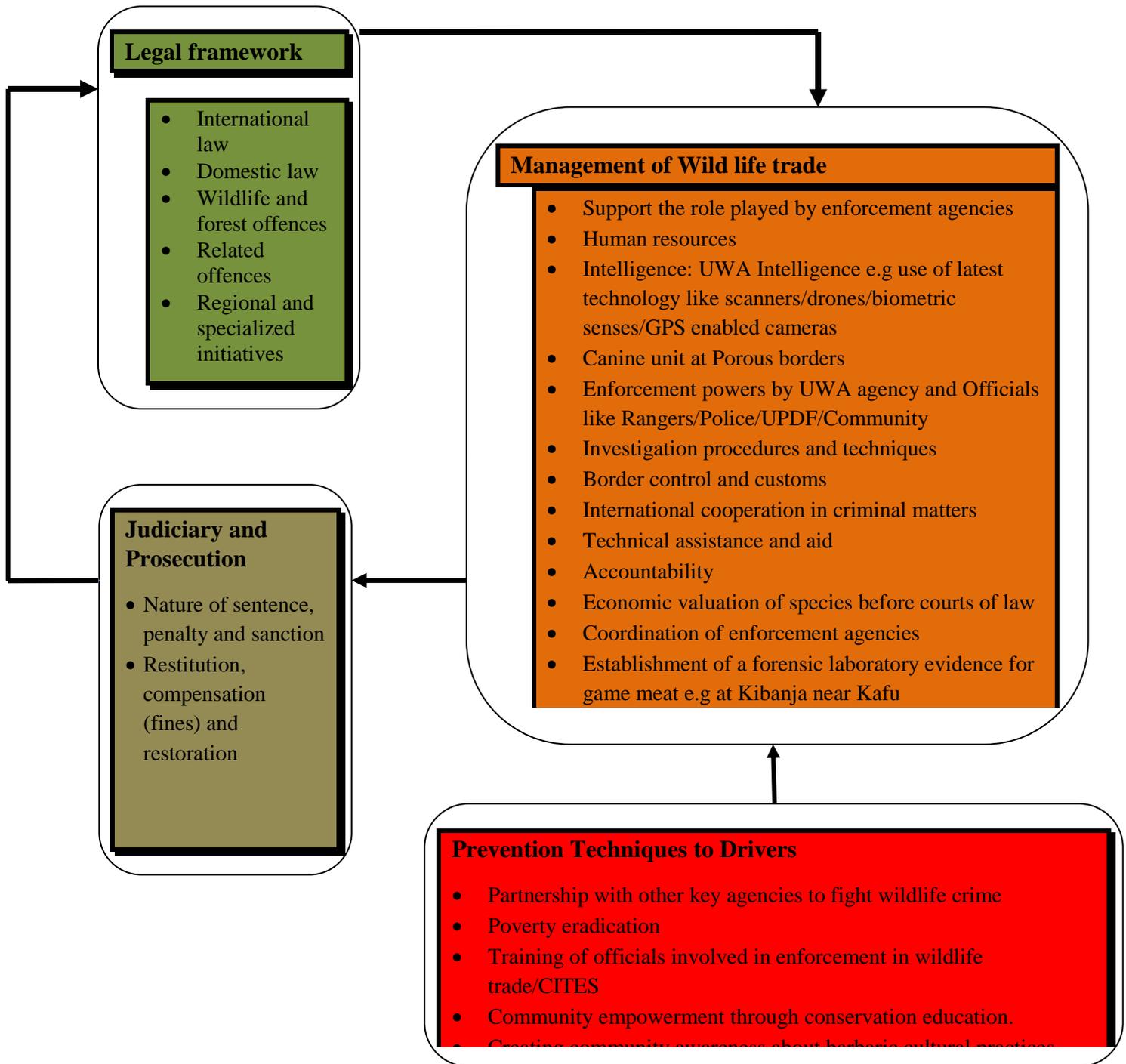


Figure 1.1: Source: Adopted from the study findings (Primary Data, 2017)

Uganda like many other parties to CITES has not yet enacted specific legislation to implement the Convention. Instead, Uganda relies on Uganda Wildlife Act Cap 200 and related forest laws to control trade in CITES listed species. If national legislation does not provide for the basic implementation of the CITES permit system, it becomes difficult both to prevent criminals groups from engaging in the illegal wildlife trade and to punish the perpetrators. Lack of national legislation implementing CITES greatly diminishes the effectiveness of the treaty in specific members and throughout the world.

Objectives of the study

The overall goal of the study was to examine the nature of wildlife trade management in Uganda. The specific objective of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of the current wildlife trade systems in the management of Wildlife trade in Uganda.

Methodology

A cross sectional survey research design where data is collected from a cross section of respondents at a single point in time was adopted. A sample of 140 respondents was drawn from a population of 250. The sample size break down was as follows: 40 Officials from Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), 05 officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, 05 Officials from Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC), 40 Game rangers, 40 UWA Law Enforcement Officers, 10 Magistrates. As part of the deductive process, an interview guide was developed, piloted, refined and updated throughout the course of the empirical work. Interviews were conducted with 02 Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities Officials, 02 Officials from UWEC, 4 Game rangers, 4 UWA Law Enforcement Officers in a guided conversation style

and most interviews were carried out face-to-face. However, certain interviews were conducted telephonically, as busy respondents were more prepared to find time for telephone interviews in their schedule. A documentary review checklist was used for purposes of reviewing documentary data. Documentary data was obtained through the use of published and unpublished documents. The qualitative data thereafter collected was analyzed using thematic and content analysis.

Results and Discussion

Nature of Management of Trade in Wildlife products

The study reveals that at the International level, wildlife trade is controlled by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES). The CITES Management Authority for Uganda is the Commissioner in charge of Wildlife at the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. The Commissioner is responsible for issuing CITES permits for wildlife species which are found in Appendix I, II and III of CITES. The management of wildlife trade is well structured in Uganda. The UWA Deputy Director of Planning noted that

In Uganda, there is one Management Authority who manages Wildlife Trade and this is the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities where the focal point is the Commissioner in charge of Wildlife at the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. There are two scientific authorities including Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Ministry of Water and Environment where the focal point is the Forest Sector Support Department in the Ministry of Water and Environment. These two scientific authorities manage trade in wild animals and wild plants respectively.

However, Kabumba (2013) noted wildlife trade is very difficult to manage in the sense of licensing, control, monitoring, supervising and getting returns from it because traders want to maximize the benefits. The Assistant Director in charge of Murchison Falls National park observed that

For sure, one thing that brings about illegal wildlife trade is legal trade. Some of the legal traders are smugglers. They use the pretext of the UWA license to capture wildlife illegally. The existence of the ivory trade market is fueling illegal trade in ivory. For purposes of promoting Conservation, endangered wildlife species should not be traded. Wildlife trade is also very

lucrative and sneaking into it can give more returns. The majority of what people want to trade in is not provided for so people want to use the wildlife and wildlife products which are allowed for trade as an escape goat to trade in wildlife and wildlife products which are not allowed for example Birds of prey are very lucrative as opposed to other birds. Traders are driven by profits and forget about the objectives of the trade yet communities are not aware about the value of wildlife and the traders take advantage of that scenario.

When asked about trade in plants (flora), a Senior Forest Officer Ministry of Water and Environment in Charge of Forest Sector Support Department noted that

A part from cycads which are in CITES Appendix I whose trade is not permissible, there are other wild plants in which trade is going on and these include *Prunus Africana*, Sandalwood which are in Appendix II and are listed for trade by CITES. However, *Prunus Africana* is the most traded flora in Uganda. Other plant species include Rosewood which is not so common in Uganda but available in Congo. The other plant species is Mahogany (*Kahya-Senegalensis*).

Management of wildlife trade is a teamwork exercise in Uganda. Partner agencies are working hand in hand with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to conserve wildlife (Kibuuka, 2016). Besides the Natural Resource Conservation Network, the others include: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild flora and Fauna (CITES, 2018), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) among others. Kibuuka (2016) noted that the partnership between Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and UWA has enabled better monitoring of arrests, identifying repeat offenders and their associates, and allow park managers to better track prosecutions accordingly. The new online system provided by WCS to UWA has allowed Uganda Wildlife Authority park managers and enforcement staff to better track offenders of wildlife crimes. “WCS raised funds from donors, Stop Ivory, to set up a dog/canine unit with dogs and dog handlers in the year 2016 to sniff illegal wildlife products at Entebbe International Airport which has become a transit route for illegal wildlife products” said the Director of WCS’s Albertine Rift Program. In support, UWS Report (2015) noted that availability of resources and proper coordination is key to having illegal wildlife and wildlife products intercepted or impounded and handed over to the concerned institutions.

The judiciary as a partner has of late, given priority to hearing and determining wildlife offences. Most of these cases are now handled expeditiously. The Chief Justice, in exercise of his powers under the Constitution established a special court from which to prosecute wildlife offences. This court was established under the Constitution (Magistrates courts) (Standards, Utilities and Wildlife Division) Directions, 2016 issued on 14th July, 2016 where management of flora and fauna related crimes take precedence. Suubi (2015) noted that for most countries, combating wildlife crime is a priority yet forest crime is not a priority currently and often remains overlooked and poorly understood, despite the actual, potential scale and consequences. Wildlife and forestry policies and laws and their enforcement have not, or not always, kept up with the changing levels and patterns of trafficking in fauna and flora.

They were mixed reactions from respondents about the roles of agencies. Collaboration among various agencies often with conflicting or opposing mandates and objectives is not always easy. Organizations and agencies are sometimes reluctant to help law enforcement because of concerns that they may alienate their constituents because their priorities may be different, because sufficient resources may not be available or because there are legal constraints (for instance in the case of classified information and data protection).

The study revealed that planning is part and parcel of UWA. The first strategic plan that ran up to 2005 was drawn in 2002 and run up to 2007. In 2007, management decided to develop an entirely new plan with a well-defined vision and core values, which elements were lacking in the previous plan. This strategic plan is therefore the fourth in the series and comes at a time when several challenges identified in the previous plans have been addressed. Although UWA is focused on planning, new challenges continue to emerge hence the need to continuously plan to address issues of illegal wildlife trade.

Illegal Wildlife Trade has not been effectively controlled by Uganda Wildlife Authority using the available resources (Okello, 2017). A respondent on the contrary noted that “Illegal Wildlife Trade has been effectively controlled by Uganda Wildlife Authority using the available resources. Enforcement and Intelligence gathering have been strengthened, restructured UWA and set up a special unit for investigating wildlife crime, Intelligence Unit for Intelligence gathering, and law enforcement unit has been put in place. UWA has set up the Canine Unit (Sniffer dogs) to sniff illegal wildlife products at Entebbe International Airport. Equipment in the field with ability to trace a criminal from the scene of crime for example Telephones, GPS, Cameras, Computers (Laptops) have been acquired. Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has coordinated well with the relevant organs to curb illegal wildlife trade in Uganda. In the area of coordination, a key informant noted that UWA has collaborated well with the enforcement organs for example on information gathering and sharing; wildlife crime detection is by all security agencies such as Internal Security Organisation (ISO), External Security Organisation (ESO), Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI), Uganda Wildlife Authority intelligence unit, as well as Uganda Police.

The UWA Annual Report (2016) noted that joint investigations have been carried out with Police, UWA customs as well as UPDF. They have cooperated and ensured files are completed. The institutions have aided in conducting searches; aimed at recovering exhibits and evidence; in cases where court issue search warrants are needed, police, UWA, Aviation Authority and Customs cooperate. The Conservation Area Manager Queen Elizabeth noted that joint coordination has been witnessed in the process of export clearance at Entebbe International Airport, inspection of wildlife exports which is jointly done by all security agencies (UWA, Customs, Police, ISO, Civil Aviation authority). However, Kibuuka (2016) noted in his study

that the canine unit is only found at Entebbe International Airport and a few other points yet porous border points like Mpondwe, the canine unit is non-existent. The Deputy Director in charge of Wildlife Conservation at the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) noted that UWA has put in place mechanisms to guard against illegal wildlife trade for example the canine Unit, Intelligence unit, Investigation unit and the law enforcement department, including rangers at the Entebbe International Airport and at some entry and exit points. The law enforcement department arrests, prosecutes and sometimes sensitises the public on trade in illegal wildlife products. The canine unit has employed dogs in its work mainly at the Entebbe International Airport. The detection dog has been found to be one of the most efficient and accurate ways to find concealed wildlife contraband. The dogs are trained to use their sense of smell to detect ivory, rhino horns and other wildlife products.

The study further revealed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 3rd December, 2015 between UWA, URA and Police with support from UNODC targeting using risk assessment techniques to counter threats of illegal trade in wild life, drugs, counterfeits and smuggled goods. The fruits of the MoU are yet to be enjoyed. Uganda is implementing a “one stop border post system”; all agencies are under one roof for easy information sharing (Mirama Hills, Malaba, Mutukula, Busia, Katuna, Elegu Border points).

Relatedly, the Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) Report (2016) noted that while on the ground protection has shown to help reduce poaching, it is necessary to disrupt the criminal trade at all points along the trafficking route. AWF and other Civil Society Organisations efforts work to strengthen detection of illegal wildlife shipments at key African ports and boost prosecutorial efforts for wildlife trade are sometimes appreciated by the key government wildlife agencies

since these agencies sometimes do not render the support needed to the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

As to whether Uganda Wildlife Authority management has a clearly laid out procedure for trade in wildlife and wildlife products (legal trade), 72.9% of the respondents agreed. The Uganda Wildlife Policy (2014), the Wildlife Act (Cap 200 of 2000) and the UWA Community Conservation Policy (2004) all recognize the contribution of wildlife to the wellbeing of humanity and highlight the need to share benefits accruing from wildlife if wildlife conservation is to be meaningful. Section 29 of the Uganda Wildlife Act (Cap. 200 of 2000) further provides six wildlife use right classes under which the general public can benefit from wildlife. These include the following:

Class A: **Hunting** for sustainable utilization of animals, control of problem animals and revenue generation

Class B: **Farming**: Refers to the rearing of wildlife in a controlled environment

Class C: **Ranching**: Refers to rearing wild animals by entities or individuals with large chunks of land.

Class D: **Trading**: covers both internal and external trade. In the case of internal trade, taking is permitted only for species that have not been declared as protected and for which wildlife user rights are granted. External trade is regulated by the existence and implementation of the CITES framework

Class E: **Educational and research**: Using wildlife for educational or scientific purposes including medical experiments and developments

Class F: **General extraction use rights**: Use of plants and animal parts in traditional medicine

Uganda Wildlife Authority has been implementing wildlife use rights (WUR) since 2001 under section 29 of the Uganda Wildlife Act 2000. For wildlife trade, class D applies. WURs are rights granted to a person, community or organization to utilize wildlife in accordance with the law. Wildlife use rights were envisaged as an incentive to promote the conservation of wildlife

outside Protected Areas (PAs) and eliminate the negative perception by some people who still regarded wildlife as Government property and of benefit to only foreign tourists (UWA, 2015).

As the Assistant director in charge of Murchison Falls National Park highlighted, the Uganda Wildlife Act provides that the overall objective of granting WUR is to promote sustainable extractive utilization of wildlife by facilitating the involvement of landowners and users in managing wildlife on private land. The underpinning principles are that; sustainable extractive utilization of wildlife can provide cultural, customary, and socio-economic benefits at the local, district and national levels. The consumption of wildlife resources can contribute significantly to food security and poverty reduction in rural areas. Profit motive and leisure factors are important in encouraging private sector and community involvement in wildlife conservation and management.

When asked about trade in wild plants in Uganda, Senior Forest Officer Ministry of Water and Environment in Charge of Forest Sector Support Department noted that

One who is interested in trading in wild plants must pay for the inventory, which is aimed at finding out how much of the plant species is available for setting a quota. After an inventory is carried out, the Scientific Authority (Forest Sector Support Department) writes and communicates the quarter to the Management authority in the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities. The Management Authority writes to CITES secretariat about the quota with non-detrimental findings report attached as a justification for the trade. CITES publishes the quota on their website. Three inventories have been carried out so far in Uganda for *Prunus Africana*. The first inventory was carried out in 2008 covering six districts. The second inventory was carried out in 2010 covering 10 districts while the last inventory of *Prunus Africana* was carried out in 2015 covering 16 districts.

The laws and policies governing trade in plants of wild origin are in place including the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, National regulations on Access and Benefit Sharing, Wildlife Act and National Environment Act but the challenge is enforcement by NFA and Police. Other challenges are lack of inspectors at border posts. The notorious points for illegal plant trade are

Mutukula through SangoBay where it is reported that there is connivance with customs officials and the other border point is Bukwo which is a hard to reach point. Amudat and Malaba border points have also reported cases of illegal wild plants trade.

As to whether there are mechanisms to detect illegal wildlife products at ports of entry and exit/border points, findings revealed that there are no mechanisms to detect illegal wildlife products at ports of entry and exit/border points. This is in agreement with the respondent who noted that Uganda Wildlife Authority is not represented at the border points for example Mpondwe, Goli in Nebbi, Vura in Arua, Lia in Arua, Busunga, Virunga, Lhubiriha, Kyanika, Oraba in Koboko, Kanungu, Bunagana, Ishasha, Ntoroko, Padea. The game and forest rangers are not adequately staffed to man all border points in the country. There are also no scanners to detect illegal wildlife products at the borders.

Table 2: showing the Porous Border Entry Points where Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) have not been represented at all.

Porous Border Entry Point	Number of UWA/FSSD Official Deployed at the Border Entry Point to safe guard trade in Illegal Products
Mpondwe	None
Goli in Nebbi	None
Vura in Arua	None
Lia in Arua	None
Busunga	None
Virunga	None
Lhubiriha	None
Kyanika	None
Oraba in Koboko	None
Kanungu	None
Bunagana	None
Ishasha	None
Ntoroko	None

Padea	None
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Source Primary data (2017)

Failure to have mechanisms to detect wildlife products at ports of entry and exit/border points has led to smuggling of wildlife and wildlife products at Mpondwe border point from Congo coming from Beni, Bukavu, Butembo and some hide the wildlife products but it is hard to trap them at Mpondwe since they are in sealed containers. It is hard to detect wildlife products without a scanner. As the customs official at Mpondwe Border post highlighted, some containers come with seals and so it is hard to break the seal, if done the owner can sue. There has never been a single arrest of illegal wild life products or any individual with wildlife products at Mpondwe border post. Sonia (2013) reiterated that the border is very porous, ivory is smuggled in timber logs and it is very difficult to detect since it is disguised as timber and also concealed in charcoal. Ddamba (2016) pointed out that the greatest challenge is connivance between UWA rangers and illegal wild life traders. The rangers hire guns to the illegal wildlife traders for example in the year 2014, thirteen people were arrested on spot with guns used for poaching. Marked ivory from Uganda has ended up in Congo for illegal wildlife trade (IIED, 2015).

According to a study by the National Enforcement of Protected Areas and Border Crossing in Uganda “Controlling the illegal trade in Wildlife”, Uganda is repeatedly a transit country rather than a source country for illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. Encroachment by people living in the communities in the vicinity of the protected areas is highlighted as a serious challenge, leading to repeated conflicts between the park authorities and local people.

Table 3: Summary of Uganda Wildlife Illegal Trade Products and the destinations

Group Species	Part/Form	Destination
Elephant	Ivory (Raw and worked)	East Asia
Rhino	Horns	South east Asia

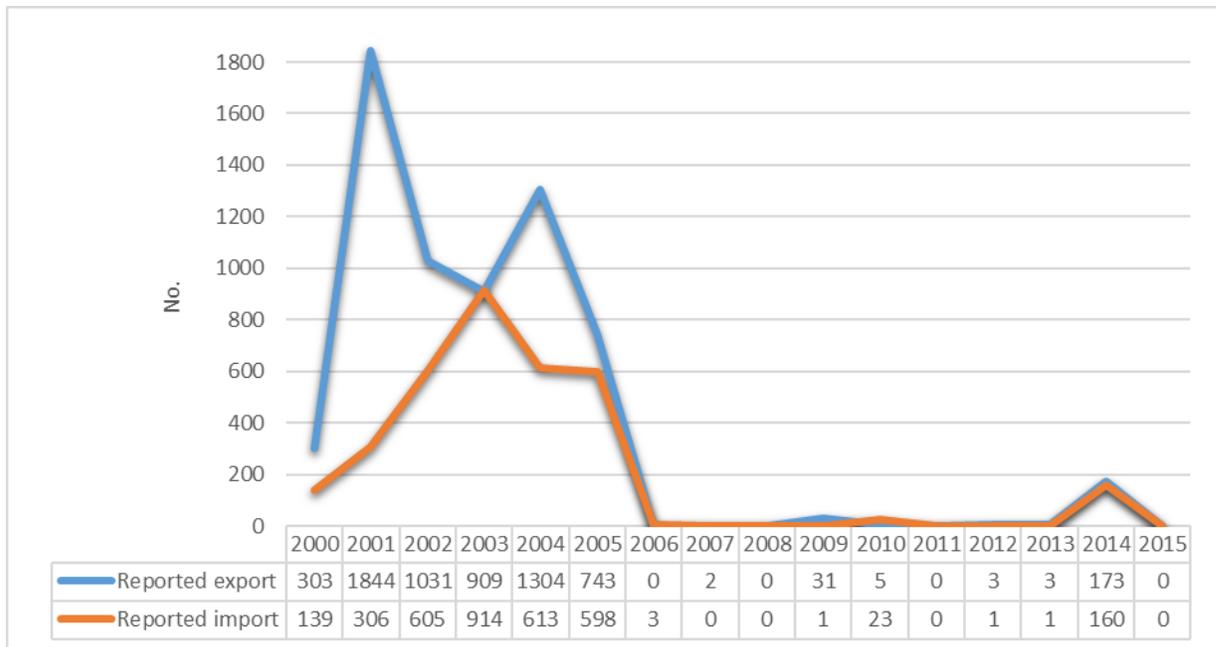
Cat family(lion, cheetah, leopard)	Skins/live pets, teeth, claws and potentially bone	Middle East, East Asia
Reptiles(chameleons, lizards, snakes)	Live specimen	Europe, USA
Amphibians	Live specimen	Southeast Asia
Birds	Live specimen	Europe, USA
Pangolin	Live specimens, scales	East Asia
Tortoise	Asia, East & Southeast	
Hippo	Teeth	Australia

Source: AWF Report (2016)

Table 4 above shows that most of the illegal wildlife products are trafficked to USA, Europe, Asia and Australia. Uganda today serves as a major transit route for the above products with key focus on Entebbe International Airport, the only International Airport in Uganda. About 20 traffickers are intercepted and arrested every month at the Airport. Some of the key drivers & enablers of Wildlife Poaching are rising illegal markets for elephant ivory, rhino horn, live pangolins and their scales driven mostly by demand in Southeast Asia and East Asia; corruption and political interference in government circles as well as in the private sector; proliferation of weapons across borders in insecure areas in neighbouring countries (UWA, 2015).

Figure 1 shows that there is a relatively strong legal trade in wild birds in Uganda.

Figure 1: Live birds' exports and imports in Uganda.



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the CITES Trade Database, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK

According to the AWF Report (2016), some communities around the National Parks host bird poachers from neighbouring countries. Poachers are linked to middlemen who provide logistics, intelligence, and supplies. The middlemen usually pay the poachers and benefit much more financially than the poachers on the ground (WCS, 2015). Transportation of contraband can be private, public transport such as buses, taxis and motorcycles; contraband is delivered to other middlemen for onward delivery to the patron or kingpin (AWF, 2016). The report further noted that kingpins finance the poaching network and use financial means and corruption connection with people in the government, police, customs, judiciary or private sector to move the contraband across country borders at exit points such as airports and other border points. Complex transportation routes that frequently change are used to take advantage of the most porous borders and lax enforcement; they bundle illegal and legal cargo together on transport vessels and falsify documents so that illegal wildlife can enter legitimate supply chains. However, interview findings on the contrary, state that these combined, the strategies make it

difficult for law enforcement to monitor, detect, and predict the transit routes through which illegal wildlife is trafficked.

The officer in charge of customs at Mpondwe Border Post noted that

As far as illegal wildlife trade is concerned, the customs/URA office is disabled because illegal wildlife trade is a highly organised cartel/crime with highly connected people (gangs). There are so many stakeholders at the border including loaders, off loaders clearing agents among others and the potential to engage in illegal wildlife trade by some of these stakeholders is high. These products come within sealed trucks from Congo and as customs we use rudimentary methods to check these trucks so we need scanners and deployment of UWA officials at these points. A system of rewarding people who report about illegal wildlife trade will help.

According to a study by the National Enforcement of Protected Areas and Border Crossing in Uganda “Controlling the illegal trade in Wildlife”, legal restrictions concerning goods in transit prevent Uganda customs from conducting thorough examination of consignments unless there are strong indications of illegality. As Okello (2017) asserts, this could represent a serious breach in the control of objects in transit both entering and leaving Uganda, which possibly are being exploited by smugglers. Porous border points that run between Uganda and the neighbouring countries give ample opportunities for smuggling contraband across without detection and this was a frequent subject in the interviews with customs officials.

The study established that the customs officials are not adequately trained in wildlife and wildlife products at ports of entry and exit/border points. In support, Okello (2017) noted that customs officials are not adequately trained in wild life and wildlife products at ports of entry and exit.

A customs officer at Mpondwe Border post asserts

We have never had any training or invitation for training from UWA. It is around 2012 that a team of people from UWA came with wildlife products at Mpondwe and showed us and these included hippo teeth, Leopard skin, pangolin scales and ivory.

UWA Report (2015) on the contrary reveals that UWA holds a number of workshops to sensitise the various stakeholders on issues of illegal wild life trade in Uganda for example Judicial officials and local leaders. Some of these programs target people around protected areas.

Similarly, Bintooro (2005) noted that due to lack of awareness by the customs officials and security officers in detection of wildlife products, a lot of wildlife products are smuggled in at Mpondwe-Kasindi border for example in 2010, 100 live parrots from DRC were smuggled into Uganda. The birds were discovered after customs received a tip that the birds were hidden in a house close to the border. The officers claim that there is little market for wildlife products or wildlife held as pets in Uganda and deems it unlikely that Uganda was the final destination for the parrots. Instead, they assume the birds were to be trafficked out of the country. In 2011, another consignment of African Grey parrots was seized at Mpondwe-Kasindi border post, this time 25 birds captured in Queen Elizabeth National Park to be smuggled into DRC. The same article tells of a recent confiscation of an additional 150 parrots in Kasese District in the same area. With little market for wildlife products in Uganda, the officers claim that there is an organised side to the crimes, as the market outside the country is driving the smuggling. As the IIED Report (2015) noted, the main drivers of poaching in Uganda are identified as the need for sourcing meat, skins and other products for the domestic black market (subsistence basic needs), generate income/commercial, respond to perceived injustice, cultural traditions and political influence. For the case of Pangolins, a driver emerging from the knowledge of recent seizures, is the demand from the international markets and hence, in this case, the perspective of achieving economic advantages is beyond basic needs.

Table 4: Some of the Wildlife Products Smuggled at various Border Entry Points.

Type of Illegal Wild life Product seized	Port/Entry where a product was registered smuggled	Reference
100 parrots arrested at Mpondwe-Kasindi border in 2010	Mpondwe-Kasindi border	National Enforcement of Protected Areas and Border Crossing in Uganda Report (2013)
Colobus monkey arrested in April 2016, Crested Crane on 25 th April 2016, Chinese intercepted with worked Ivory in form earrings, 6 necklaces on 1 st October 2015, Six sticks intercepted made of ivory on 8 th October 2016, Impala horn intercepted on 24 th October 2015, five smoking pipe made out of ivory intercepted on 30 th June 2015, four bangles and 6 key holders made from ivory intercepted on 1 st July 2015	Entebbe International Airport	Airport Ranger Security Report (2015 and 2016)
13 pieces of Buffalo horns intercepted, 48 boxes containing 412 pieces of ivory measuring 912 kg destined for Singapore intercepted on 4 th July, 2015, Pangolin scales weighing 1kg intercepted from a Chinese National aboard Egyptian Air.	Entebbe International Airport	Airport Ranger Security Report (2015)
Ivory(23 pieces of ivory arrested in 2012)	Bunagana	Uganda Conservation Network Report(2016)
Pangolin Scale	Koboko, Vura in Arua	Uganda Conservation Network Report(2016)
Hippo teeth	Lhubiriha, Kyanika	Uganda Conservation Network Report(2016)
Reptiles	Entebbe International Airport	Uganda Conservation Network Report(2016)

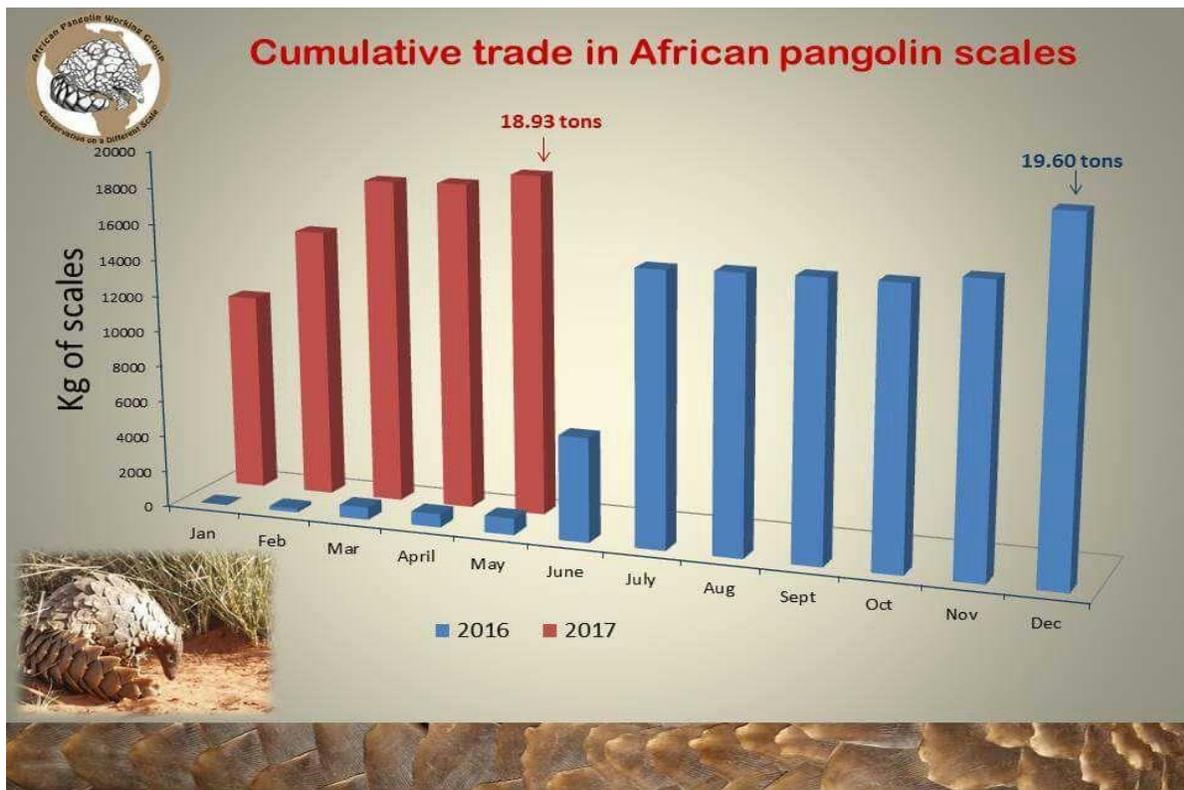
Source Primary data (2017)

At Entebbe International Airport, the most frequent wildlife cases customs officials encounter involve export of ivory, pangolin scales, hippo teeth, prohibited reptiles species like live snakes and chameleons for pet trade among others. At Entebbe International Airport, most seizures are made as a result of scanning. The scanners allow for a non-destructive method of inspecting and identifying a larger portion of the goods in transportation, looking for contraband and verifying manifests. Other methods include the use of trained sniffer dogs which form part of the UWA canine unit based at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe. These dogs sniff and detect wildlife products like ivory and rhino horn. While scanners might be on their way to Mpondwe-Kasindi border post, checking of goods today is on a sample basis and concealment of illegal goods remains an issue. However, the scanners are not of much use if the officers operating the machines are not trained to know what to look for, or let themselves be tempted by bribes to turn a blind eye to wildlife products slipping through control posts, as was reported being the case with an airport employee a while ago.

In addition, the UWA officers at the Entebbe International Airport complained that the scanners are too few and out dated. A challenge with the scanners mentioned repeatedly by both Uganda customs officers as well as Norwegians, is that the machines are made primarily for detecting metals and explosives, not organic materials. To recognise wildlife products through the scanner requires training. In Uganda, this has been targeted by having a UWA officer operating the scanner together with an airport security personnel. Previously, the scanners were located in Entebbe Town and taken to the airport whenever needed for verification purposes although they are now present at the airport at all times. However, few officers currently receive training; the courses are few and far between.

A respondent noted “Certain flights are especially interesting and Chinese nationals are claimed to be responsible in about 80% of the seizures. These are typically small, processed items of ivory like bangles and decorative objects and objects made from teeth of hippos often bought at markets in Kampala”.

Figure 2: Showing Cumulative trade in African Pangolin Scales



Source: African Pangolin Working Group (<http://www.peopleforpangolins.org>)

The graph above represents approximately 10% of the actual trade in pangolin scales.

The Report on Wildlife Crime: A review of the evidence on the Drivers and Impacts in Uganda (2015) noted that Elephant poaching is closely monitored under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora). Monitoring the illegal killing of

elephants and illegal trade in elephant’s products was mandated at CITES CoP10 in 1997 and the Monitoring of illegal killing of Elephants (MIKE) system and Elephants Trade Information Sytsem (ETIS) were established shortly after. The MIKE report to CoP16 in 2013 highlights an on-going increase in levels of illegal elephants since 2006, with 2011 levels being the highest since MIKE records in 2002 (CITES, 2013b). ETIS data similarly shows that the frequency of illegal ivory trade transactions in 2011 was roughly three times greater than the level of illegal trade activity found in 1998(CITES 2013a). Milliken (2014) highlights even higher levels of illicit trade in 2013.

A report to CITES on ETIS data noted that “ Uganda, Ethiopia and Nigeria rarely supply ivory from local elephants populations, but frequently function as entry ports and /or exit countries for ivory sourced elsewhere (CITES, 2013a). Ivory traded through Uganda tends to originate from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and other neighbouring countries along Uganda’s long and porous border and is destined for Kenya’s ports where it is containerised and sent onwards to Asia. There have been allegations that the Ugandan military are involved in the ivory trade (Gettleman, 2012), after a military helicopter was seen near Garamba National Park in 2012 during a period when 22 elephants were shot from the air. Uganda authorities denied any involvement in ivory poaching, despite admitting that the aircraft was theirs (Vira and Ewing, 2014).

Table 5: Media Reports of Seizure of Pangolin scales and illegal trade in Other Wildlife Products in Uganda

Date	Details	Reference
April 2012	A man was arrested with Hippo teeth, ivory and 4kg of Pangolin scales near the bus park in Kampala	Daily Monitor 14th July 2012

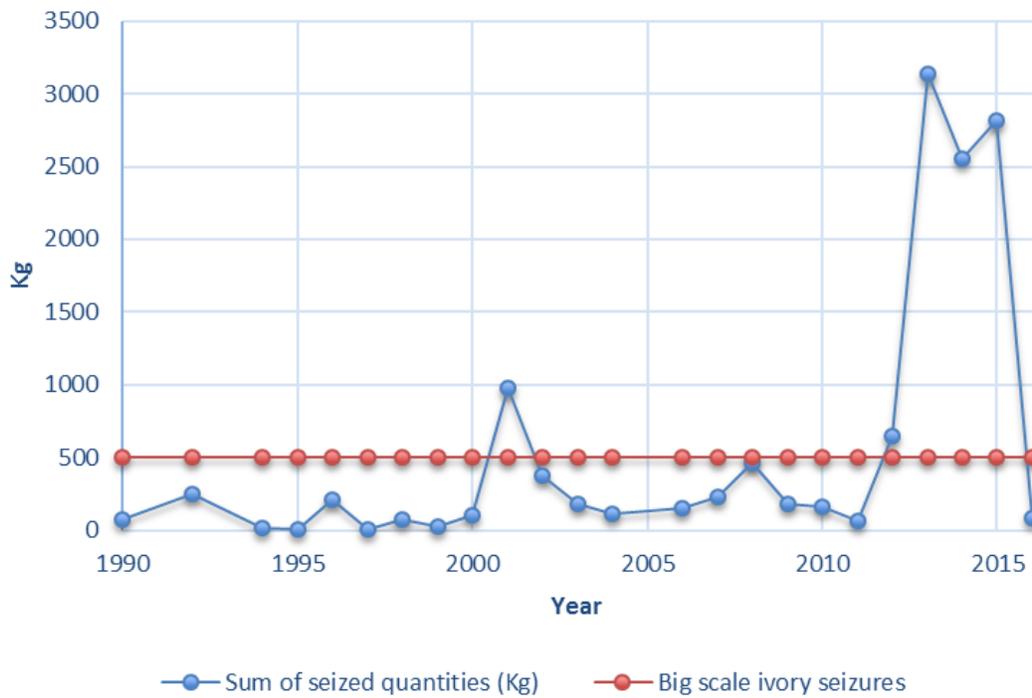
July 2012	1115 kg of Pangolin scales confiscated from traders who claimed to have many suppliers across Uganda and in DRC, and always export to China. These scales were held as court exhibits but later went missing	New vision 11 th July 2012, New vision 3 rd January 2013
October 2013	One and a half cups of pangolin scales found stuffed into the stockings of suspected Chinese traffickers at Entebbe Airport. The pair of the suspects was also carrying ivory carved into bangles, necklaces and decorations	New vision 1 st October 2013
October 2013	116kg of ivory and 2.5kg of pangolin scales impounded at Entebbe Airport	New vision 23 rd October 2013
January 2015	Uganda Wildlife Authority clears the export of seven tonnes of pangolin scales, collected from UWA stores and old trophies held by communities across the country. The NGO Green Watch later sued UWA for refusing or failing to fulfil their mandate to protect the environment. The Uganda High Court have since issued temporary injunction restraining anybody from exporting Pangolin scales	New vision 21 st January 2015, Daily Monitor 29 th January 2015 and Red pepper 5 th March 2015
January 2015	2029kg of pangolin scales seized at Entebbe Airport along with 791kg of ivory.	New vision 27 th January 2015.

Source: Media Reports between (2012 to 2015) on illegal Wildlife products trafficking

According to the TRAFFIC Report: “Uganda Wildlife Trafficking Assessment (2016)”, Ivory seizures have been reported consistently throughout the period covered (1990-2016) as illustrated in Figure 3, with big scale ivory seizures (i.e. above 500 kg) reported in seven separate incidents from 2013 to March 2016, and in all cases but one the seizure took place at Entebbe

international airport. An additional record of 1478 kgs of ivory from Uganda destined for Malaysia and disguised as fish maws was seized in Kenya in July 2013. Suspects arrested in Kenya were prosecuted. Those arrested in Uganda are awaiting trial before the Jinja Court.

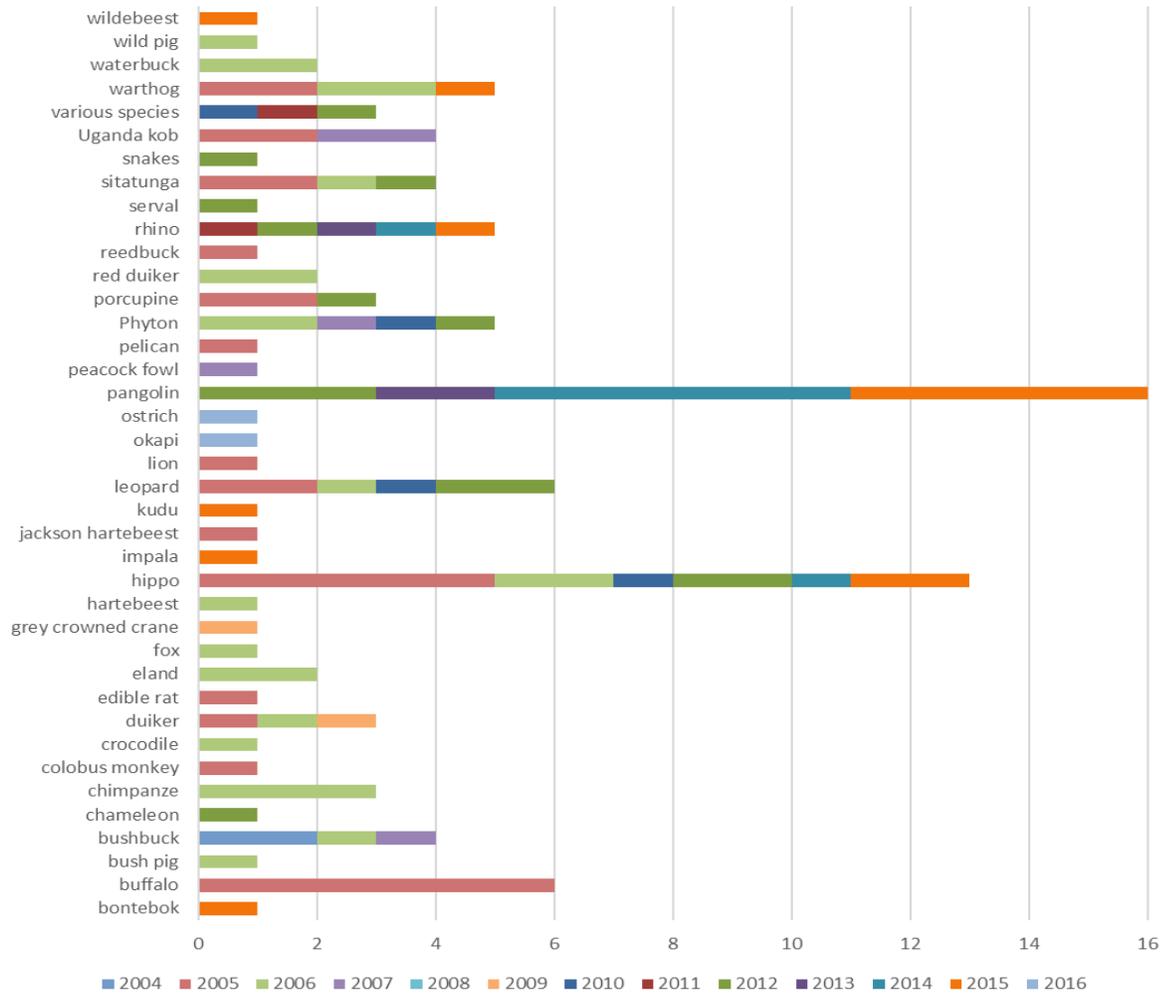
Fig 3: Sum of seized quantities of ivory from 1990 to 2016 in Uganda.



Source: Uganda Wildlife Authority Seizures Database 2016

The TRAFFIC Report: “Uganda Wildlife Trafficking Assessment (2016)”, further asserts that wildlife products seizure data, when referring to domestic seizures, can provide a good approximation of the species that are most targeted by poachers nationally, and the product seized can help identify the drivers for poaching. Hippo teeth and Pangolin scales show the greatest number of seizure cases, followed by Leopards, Pythons and Rhinos.

Fig. 4: Seizures (No. of incidents) of wildlife products by species between 1996 and 2015 in Uganda.



Source: Uganda Wildlife Authority Seizures Database 2016

Implications of the Nature of Management of Wildlife Trade in Uganda.

The study revealed that Wildlife trade is managed through Wildlife Use Rights which are granted to wildlife traders by the Uganda Wildlife Authority as provided for in the Uganda Wildlife Act, Cap 200. However, it was revealed that there is no adequate monitoring of the wildlife traders as they get the wild animals and their products for trade. Also, Uganda Wildlife Authority has not carried out Non Detrimental Findings for some species in wildlife trade in many years before setting wildlife quotas. Still, the community looks at Wildlife as a menace causing a lot of Human Wildlife Conflicts in the communities. The current nature of Wildlife trade management in Uganda has alienated the community at the grassroots which is not involved. For all wildlife captures outside Protected Areas, UWA refers them to the Local Governments for endorsement and District Environmental Officers endorse on the form to confirm source of the captured species. The study revealed that there is some connivance and corruption tendencies between the wildlife traders and the district authorities.

Therefore, the traders take advantage of these loopholes to extract more wildlife and wildlife products than those permitted by the authorities. The traders also use the opportunity to take out what is not permitted. In other words, they use the permits provided to trade in species not allowed so they disguise under the permits provided legally to trade illegally. This has got far reaching implications for Wildlife conservation in Uganda and these gaps must be closed by ensuring effective monitoring and accountability on the part of the wildlife traders as well as direct involvement of the community in this process. This is critical in order to maintain a stable ecosystem through effective wildlife conservation.

Conclusion

The nature of Wildlife trade in Uganda involves the Wildlife User Right System for wild animals. For plants of wild origin, the trader is given permission to carry out an inventory of a particular species before trade can resume. Despite the existence of institutional systems tasked with the responsibility of managing wildlife trade in Uganda, there are gaps such as lack of effective monitoring and it could be easily abused by the wildlife traders. Lack of coordination among the enforcement agencies, failure to carry out Non Detrimental findings by UWA before setting a wildlife quota for some species, Lack of scanners and wildlife officials at various border points, corruption and connivance among the various actors, lack of a central store for seized wildlife products. These gaps must be addressed in order to manage wildlife trade effectively in Uganda.

Much as some trade in wildlife products is legal, a large portion of the wildlife trade is illegal. Trade in illegal wildlife products is a major criminal industry worth more than 27 trillion Uganda shillings (6b Pounds) each year worldwide (WWF, 2014). It threatens the existence of some of the world's most iconic species such as elephants, pangolins, rhinos, great apes and birds globally. There have been so many cases of unreformed communities looking at poaching as a means of livelihood. Communities have been involved in poaching of wild animals, charcoal burning, timber cutting, and park land encroachment as alternative means of household livelihood. Water sources have been challenges around the PAs especially during the dry periods. The park has experienced pressure from the local communities to give water for domestic use as well as for livestock which has created Human Wildlife Conflicts with communities poisoning animals like Lions leading to their sharp decline in Uganda.

Recommendations

The Management of Wildlife trade in Uganda must ensure effective and timely monitoring of Wildlife trade in Uganda. Non Detrimental Findings must be carried out in all cases before a wildlife trade quota is set by UWA. Community Wildlife Officers should be recruited by UWA to certify that the wildlife and wildlife products granted on the permit is the right quantity collected by the trader from the community. Also, research and captive wildlife breeding for commercial use should be promoted to reduce pressure on the wildlife species in the wild. The captively bred wildlife species should be labeled and strict monitoring carried out to avoid disguised wildlife trade with animals from the wild.

There is urgent need to deploy UWA personnel at all the border points of Uganda in order to offer technical expertise in identifying wildlife products and guiding the customs officials. UWA must strengthen the research arm of the institution by upgrading the research docket into a directorate in order to carry out research in collaboration with research institutions like Universities, especially to carry out Non detrimental findings of species to be offered for trade and carrying out population studies before setting trade quotas to ensure sustainability of species. Research in establishing the value of the most traded wildlife products should be carried out in order to determine a deterrent punishment commensurate to the value of the illegally traded wildlife and wildlife product.

UWA must deliberately involve and engage the community more to fight illegal wildlife trade through building long term partnerships as well as resolve Human-Wildlife conflicts to get buy in from the community. Regular stakeholders' meetings/wildlife forum between wildlife managers and Wildlife industry players including law enforcement agencies must be held perhaps on a quarterly basis for them to share information and strategies for curbing illegal wildlife trade in Uganda. Also, there is need to tighten security at the old Entebbe Airport where findings revealed that illegal wildlife products like ivory leave the country through this airport.

UWA should urgently adopt the use of modern technology in dealing with illegal wildlife trade. For example acquire and deploy scanners at all Border points, deploy a dog/canine unit at all border points as the case is at Entebbe International Airport, use drones, highly sensitive cameras to track down poachers and illegal wildlife traders.

There is need to strengthen the legal framework and facilitate law enforcement and the prosecutors to combat wildlife crime and assist prosecution and the imposition of penalties that are an effective deterrent. The ability to achieve successful prosecutions and deterrent sanctions by raising awareness in the judicial sector about the seriousness, impact and potential profits of wildlife crime must be ensured. There is need to continue revising the domestic legal instruments to provide for better implementation of ratified treaties and deterrent penalties for wildlife crimes. The Uganda Wildlife Bill, 2017 must be expedited in order to close the loopholes in the current Wildlife Act Cap 200 for effective tackling of illegal wildlife trade in Uganda. For successful prosecution, there is urgent need to set up a forensic laboratory in Uganda to carry out DNA profiling and Bar Code sequencing using the chain of custody technique for evidence to stand in courts of law. This will eliminate cases where proof of wild meat and other wildlife species as evidence in court has been a great challenge.

Government must domesticate CITES for easy implementation and put in place rewards for those who report wildlife crime. A percentage of the money from the seizure should go to the whistle blowers who should be protected.

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