Introduction of China's Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora
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I. Introduction

• Wildlife is an important part of the natural ecosystem, playing a significant role in maintaining the balance and stability of the ecosystem.

• Illegal trade in wildlife destroys biodiversity and causes a series of social problems, threatening ecological security, border security and social stability.

• Currently, the protection of wildlife has become a hot and sensitive issue concerned by the international community, which is directly related to China's international image and reputation.

• The CPC Central Committee and the State Council have always attached great importance to wildlife protection and law enforcement of illegal trade. The Chinese government has made great achievements in
Exchange of the following three aspects:

1. Status quo and trend of illegal trade in wildlife in China

2. China's achievements and experiences in combating illegal trade in wildlife

3. China's international cooperation in combating illegal trade in wildlife
II. Status quo and Development Trend of Illegal Trade in Wildlife in China

The current situation of the illegal trade in wildlife in China is still serious.

- Hundreds of wild animals and plants are poached, stolen and illegally managed in China.
- About 50-60 species of wild animals and plants are smuggled from abroad to China.
- The gang crime and service chain of hunting, transportation and marketing has become a characteristic.
- Illegal trading of wildlife products via the Internet is on the rise.
- Smuggling and illegal carrying of wildlife products such as ivory take place from time to time despite persistent suppression.
### A Brief Table on the Investigation and Handling of Crimes against Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora by Chinese Customs in Recent Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Criminal Cases of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora</th>
<th>Ivory cases among them</th>
<th>Forfeiture of endangered wildlife products (tons)</th>
<th>Forfeiture of ivory (kg) among them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>20867</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>118.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25 thousand items*</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019(half year)</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>9050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trends of Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in China

- From the perspective of driving factors, the impact of traditional culture on illegal trade in wildlife still exists, and the impact of commercial factors such as investment and speculation goes further.
- With the development of The Belt and Road Initiative and economic globalization, the illegal cross border trade of wildlife will probably deteriorate in some areas.
- As a result of the increasing public awareness of ecological civilization and the impacts such as the protection of wildlife, law enforcement and crackdown of illegal wildlife trade, individual crimes will gradually decrease while organized cross-border criminal groups will take over the dominance in some areas.
III. China's Experience in Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

The CPC Central Committee and the State Council attach great importance to the protection of wildlife.

- Since the Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as its core, has attached great importance to the construction of ecological civilization. General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward a series of new ideas and strategies for the harmonious coexistence of man and nature and the construction of a beautiful China, forming Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thoughts, which charts the course and provides fundamental guidance for promoting the construction of ecological civilization in the new era and strengthening ecological security protection.

- On December 29, 2016, the General Office of the State Council issued the Notice on the Orderly Cessation of Commercial Processing and Sale of Ivory and Ivory Products, requiring the complete cessation of processing and
## China's Criminal System of Combating Trade in Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministries</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Forestry and Grassland Administration</strong>&lt;br&gt;Department of Animals and Plants (Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office)</td>
<td>land wildlife protection authorities; import and export authorities of endangered species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fishery and Fishery Law Enforcement Administration</td>
<td>aquatic wildlife protection authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Public Security</strong>&lt;br&gt;Food and Drug Investigation Bureau</td>
<td>wildlife crimes investigation authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Administration of Customs</strong>&lt;br&gt;Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau</td>
<td>responsible for Customs supervision; comprehensive control of national smuggling crackdown; investigation and punishment of smuggling and irregularities according to law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Administration for Market Regulation</strong></td>
<td>responsible for organizing and guiding comprehensive law enforcement of market supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Immigration Administration</strong></td>
<td>border management authorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fight against the crime of destroying wildlife resources according to law

- Having aimed at the attack on gangs and nests and concentrated on indiscriminate hunting and illegal trading, China has eliminated a number of harmful criminal gangs with numerous members, severely punishing a group of criminal organizers and core members, and resolutely blocking and destroying the industrial chain of wildlife resources.

In recent years, a series of serious cases, such as "4.01" mega illegal acquisition, transportation, sale of precious and endangered wildlife products, and "Mission 1901" mega smuggling of precious animals and precious animal products, have been detected one after another, severely
- Closely follow up the new characteristics and trends of illegal trade in wildlife and enhance the abilities to apply technology means and to investigate and attack for adaption of the most suitable and precise measures, so as to ensure early detection, early control and early management.

Since January 2019, in the full effort to crack down the "1.17" mega smuggling of ivory, Guangdong Public Security Bureau and Huangpu Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau had jointly set up a special task force, with 238 police officers being divided into eight action teams to carry out operations in many places simultaneously. Twenty suspects were captured and 7.48 tons of ivory were seized at the scene.
Incorporate fleeing suspects of smuggling endangered species and their products such as ivory into the focus of the "fox hunting" operation, and make every effort to carry out overseas arrests.

Since this year, the Public Security Bureau has assisted the Customs Anti-smuggling Department in arresting and repatriating two “Hong Tong fugitives” in the "7.5" mega ivory smuggling from Nigeria and one suspect of ivory smuggling who had spent eight years on the run from Vietnam.

Over the past three years, 18 fleeing suspects have been arrested for the smuggling endangered species such as ivory.
Establish and improve the multi-sectoral cooperation mechanism of combating illegal trade in wildlife

- On November 15, 2016, the State Council approved the establishment of the "Inter-ministerial Joint Conference System of Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora". The inter-ministerial joint conference system is led by the State Forestry Administration and composed with 22 departments, including the Publicity Department, the Cyberspace Administration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the State Administration of Civil Service, the Coast Guard, the National Railway Administration, the Civil Aviation Administration, the State Post Bureau and China Railway.

On March 29, 2019, the second meeting of the Inter-ministerial Joint Conference on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora was held in Beijing. The number of members of the Joint Conference increased from 22 to 25.
## Member Units of Inter-ministerial Joint Conference on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Unit</th>
<th>Participant Units</th>
<th>Leading Unit</th>
<th>Participant Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Forestry and Grassland Administration</td>
<td>Publicity Department</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>National Development and Reform Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Administration of Customs</td>
<td>National Development and Reform Commission</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Public Security</td>
<td>State Administration for Market Regulation</td>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>Cyberspace Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Industry and Information Technology</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs</td>
<td>Ministry of Ecology and Environment</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Post Bureau</td>
<td>Civil Aviation Administration</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture and Tourism</td>
<td>National Health Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Cultural Heritage Administration</td>
<td>China Railway</td>
<td>State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television</td>
<td>Chinese Academy Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Each member unit formulates and promulgates detailed laws and regulations in the fields of wildlife protection, processing, circulation, trade and consumption, strengthening the supervision and management of endangered wildlife and its products.

- Numerous special actions have been carried out to crack down on illegal processing, marketing, transportation and smuggling.

- Comprehensive law popularization publicity has been conducted, along with the establishment of crime prevention mechanism and the improvement of comprehensive ability of wildlife protection and law enforcement;

- The conference has actively promoted cooperation and exchanges with international organizations, participating in major bilateral and multilateral negotiations and international rule-making to strengthen international law enforcement cooperation and implement chain-wide operation of the Inter-ministerial Joint Conference on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.
Notice and report from the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Ministry of Public Security

为深入学习贯彻习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和党中央关于打击走私香烟等濒危物种及其制品走私活动系列指示精神，近期，公安部联合国家市场监督和安全监管局、海关等多部门联合开展打击走私香烟等濒危物种及其制品走私活动。现将一批重大案件，严惩一批违法犯罪行为，动员社会力量，形成社会共治，严厉打击犯罪，维护国家安全和社会公共利益。

2018年12月9日，国务院办公厅下发《关于严厉查处和坚决防范走私香烟等濒危物种及其制品走私活动的通知》，要求自2018年1月1日起，全国范围内严厉打击非法销售香烟等濒危物种及其制品行为。全国公安机关及联合我国海关对走私香烟等濒危物种及其制品违法犯罪行为采取“零容忍”态度，对涉嫌走私犯罪的人员，公安机关将依法予以严厉打击。

各地工商、海关、烟草等部门联合行动，形成严格执法、打击走私的合力。截至2018年12月31日，全国共查获走私香烟等濒危物种及其制品案件370余起，涉及非法销售香烟等濒危物种及其制品金额3亿余元。
IV. International Cooperation in Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in China

- Joint Statement of Bilateral Governments
  - On October 21, 2016 and November 21, 2018, China and Philippines jointly stated that they would fight transnational crimes such as smuggling of endangered wildlife and its products.
  - On March 24, 2019, China and France jointly stated that they would combat environmental crimes,
Active participation in international assistance for wildlife conservation

• The Chinese government has successively provided wildlife protection materials to Namibia, Zimbabwe and Kenya, including pickup trucks, telescopes, field cameras, winter clothes and tents.

• In May 2018, Li Zhanshu, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, attended the handover ceremony of China's wildlife conservation materials during his visit.
International law enforcement cooperation

- Successfully lead the Cobra Global Law Enforcement Operation during 2013-2015
- Develop a series of law enforcement training to help with African and Southeast Asian law enforcement personnel
- China's law enforcement agencies provide information to Southeast Asian countries to jointly investigate and deal with major cases of cross-border ivory smuggling.
Case 1: Xiamen Customs provided information, and cracked major cases of ivory and pangolin scales smuggling jointly with Vietnam Customs.

In 2018, Xiamen Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau carried out investigation with an information clue of endangered species smuggling and found that suspects of Shijiazhuang origin, Li and Zheng from Putian colluded with each other to purchase pangolin scales from abroad, and shipped them from Nigeria to Vietnam, planning to smuggle them into China. Xiamen Customs, under the coordination of the Anti-smuggling Bureau of the General Administration of Customs, notifies Vietnamese Customs of this clue and carried out joint operations. On March 25, 2019, according to information, Vietnamese Customs seized 8.25 tons of pangolin scales in a container declared as imported plastic granules (cassia seed as the camouflage) in Haiphong City, Vietnam. Subsequently, Xiamen Customs launched a unified operation, which eventually destroyed the transnational endangered species smuggling group led by Li and Zheng.
Case 2: Nanning Customs provides information to Singapore and jointly intercepts large quantities of pangolin and ivory

On July 22, under the unified command of the General Administration of Customs, Customs of Nanning, Harbin and Guangzhou, together with the Public Security Department of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, seized a mega case of ivory smuggling and destroyed an international criminal gang, arresting 12 suspects. At the same time, the Customs provided accurate information, guiding the Singaporean Customs to intercept 8.8 tons of ivory smuggled by the gang, which created the new record for the number of ivory seized by the Chinese Customs in recent years. Besides, 11.9 tons of pangolin scales were also seized.

It has been preliminarily identified that the smuggling group acquired endangered species such as ivory and pangolin scales in African countries. They hid the endangered species in containers and transported them by sea, planning to smuggle them to China and neighboring countries.
中非将进一步加强在保护野生动植物领域的合作

4.6 生态保护和应对气候变化

4.6.7 双方同意加强中非双方在野生动植物保护、打击盗猎、野生动植物非法贸易等方面的合作，共同遏制非法野生动物贸易等行为。双方将加强在保护野生动植物领域的合作，加强在政策沟通、国际公约等多边场合的立场沟通与协调。中非将建立同非洲国家合作提升野生动植物保护能力，为中非国家提供生态保护领域培训名额，探讨合作实施野生动植物保护示范项目，联合打击野生动植物及其制品非法贸易，积极鼓励在打击盗猎及野生动植物非法贸易中作出突出贡献的人员。

6. 和平安全合作
6.2 反腐败、领事、移民、司法与执法
6.2.10 共同打击跨国犯罪，在国际刑警组织框架内推动开展为期三年的打击走私及运载动植物及其制品联合行动。
V. Discussion and Conclusion

The importance attached by the national decision-makers to wildlife protection and law enforcement is the political guarantee for the success of the fight against illegal trade in wildlife.

Fighting illegal trade in wildlife is a hot and sensitive issue of great concern at home and abroad. The Central Committee of the Party and the State Council attach great importance to it. General Secretary Xi Jinping and other leading comrades of the Central Committee have made important instructions and directives on many occasions, putting forward clear requirements for strengthening protection and
Multi-sectoral linkage is the key to the success of combating illegal trade in wildlife.

- Since the establishment of the inter-ministerial joint conference system for more than two years, the number of members of the joint conference has increased from 22 to 25. Taking the division of responsibilities, each member unit has established and improved a long-term mechanism of inter-departmental linkage as well as strengthened law enforcement and supervision of wildlife protection in many links, improving the prevention and control system and the coordination mechanism and expanding international cooperation.
International cooperation contributes to the improvement of efficiency of combating illegal trade in wildlife.

• Through the Interpol platform, China has captured 18 fleeing suspects of smuggling endangered species such as ivory in the past three years.

• Through the World Customs Organization and other platforms, China has provided information to law enforcement agencies in Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries, guiding them to seize large quantities of ivory and pangolin scales.
Thanks for your watching!