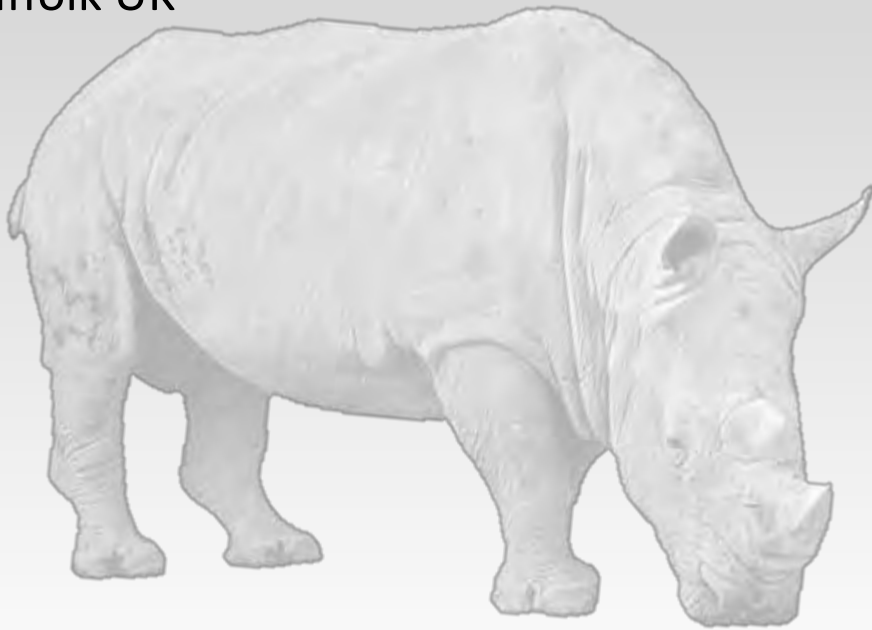


Elephants and rhino in Africa: Ban or market their products?

Twink Allen

The Paul Mellon Laboratory
Brunswick
Newmarket
Suffolk UK



The age-old trade

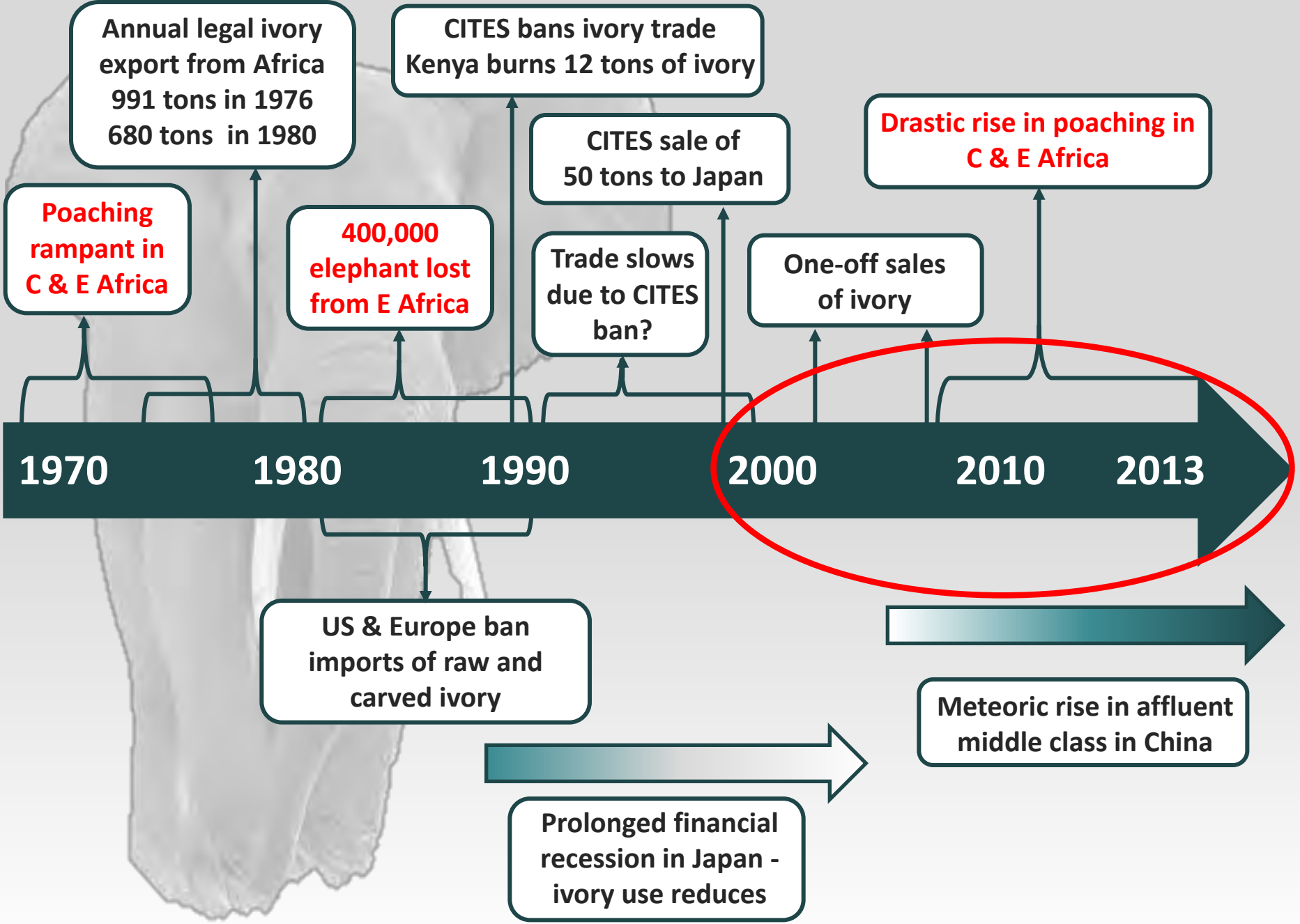


Ivory apocalypse: Africa Geographic 2013



by

Tim Jackson



Annual legal ivory export from Africa
991 tons in 1976
680 tons in 1980

CITES bans ivory trade
Kenya burns 12 tons of ivory

Poaching rampant in C & E Africa

400,000 elephant lost from E Africa

CITES sale of 50 tons to Japan

Drastic rise in poaching in C & E Africa

Trade slows due to CITES ban?

One-off sales of ivory

1970

1980

1990

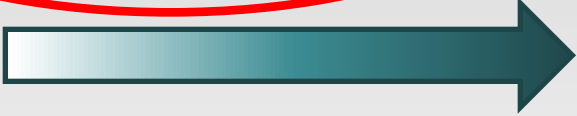
2000

2010

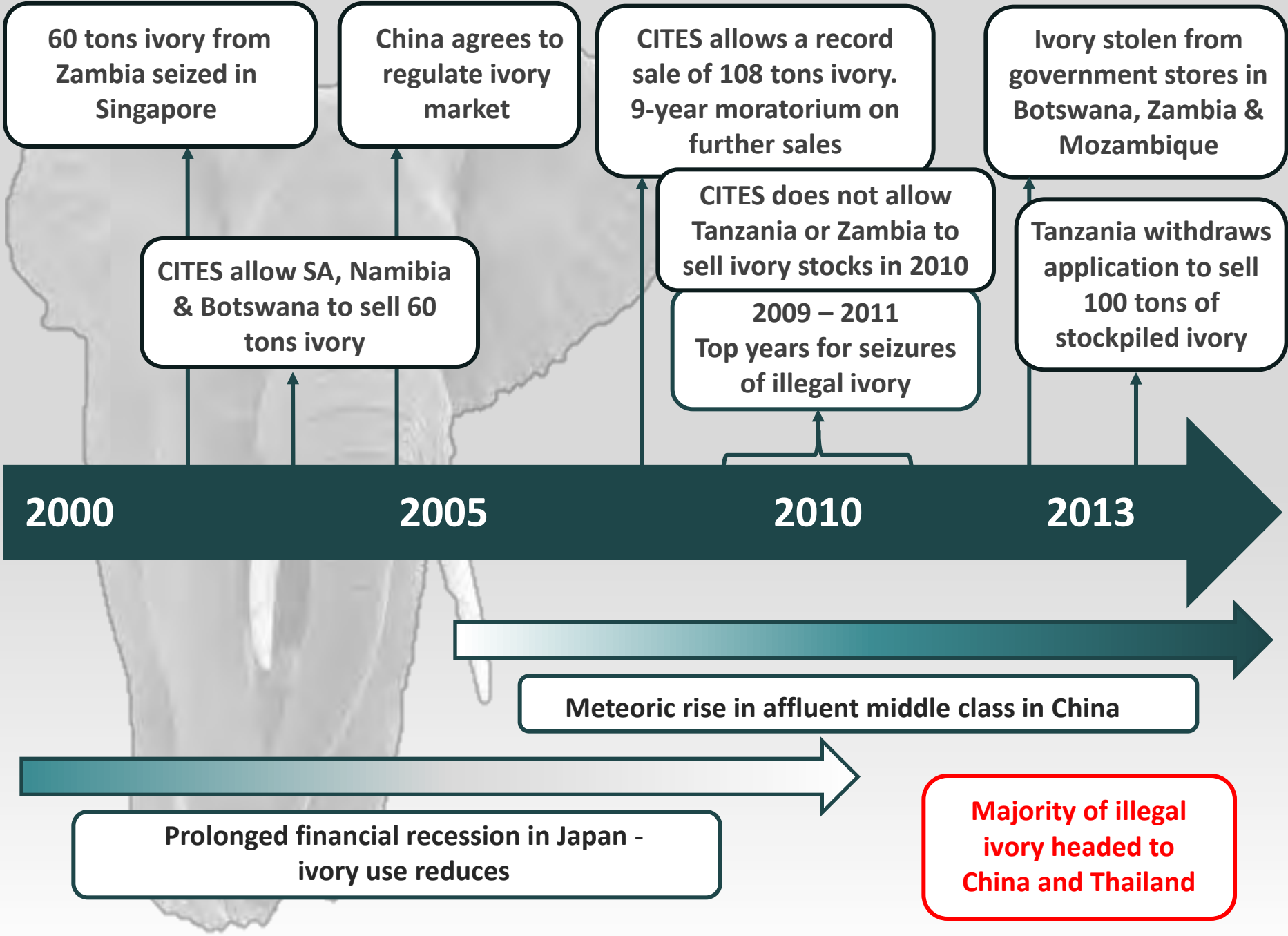
2013

US & Europe ban imports of raw and carved ivory

Prolonged financial recession in Japan - ivory use reduces



Meteoric rise in affluent middle class in China



60 tons ivory from Zambia seized in Singapore

China agrees to regulate ivory market

CITES allows a record sale of 108 tons ivory. 9-year moratorium on further sales

Ivory stolen from government stores in Botswana, Zambia & Mozambique

CITES allow SA, Namibia & Botswana to sell 60 tons ivory

CITES does not allow Tanzania or Zambia to sell ivory stocks in 2010

2009 – 2011
Top years for seizures of illegal ivory

Tanzania withdraws application to sell 100 tons of stockpiled ivory

2000

2005

2010

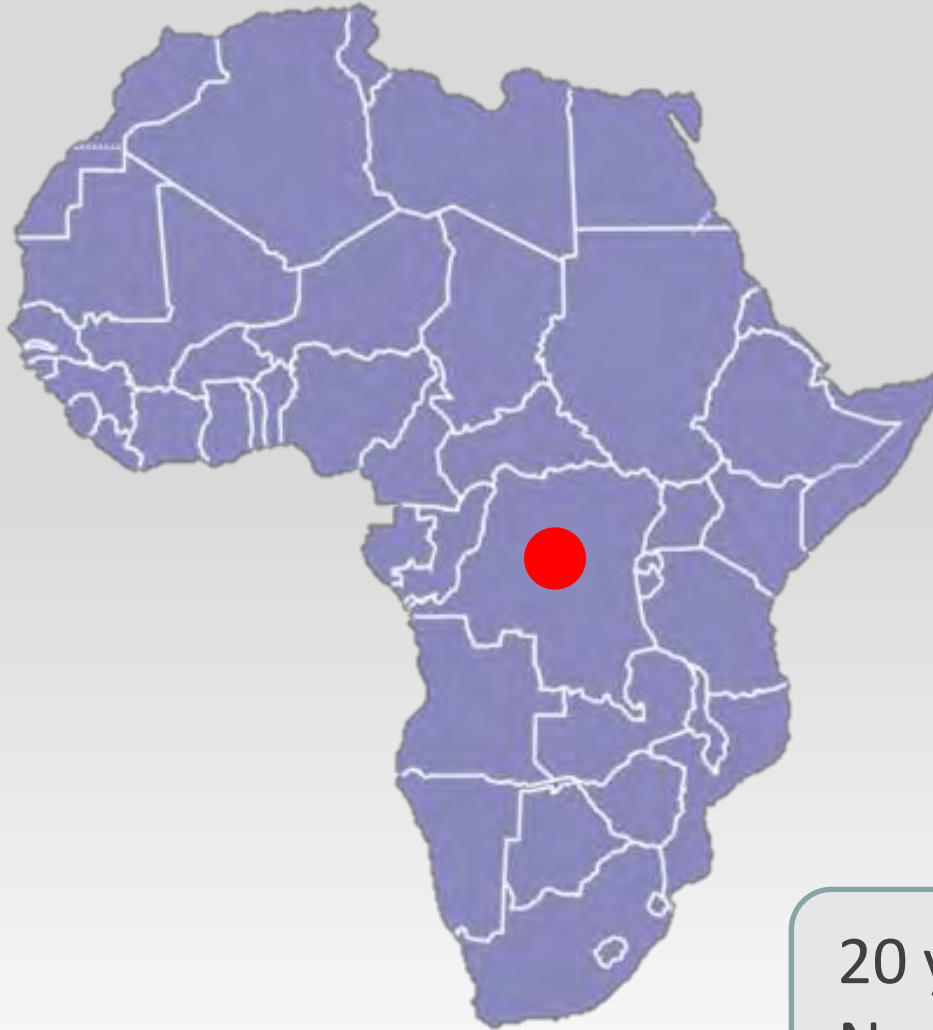
2013

Meteoric rise in affluent middle class in China

Prolonged financial recession in Japan - ivory use reduces

Majority of illegal ivory headed to China and Thailand

Sources in Central Africa



DRC

20 yrs ago >100,000 Forest Elephant
Now, only 5 places left with <500

Sources in Central Africa



DRC

Gabon

>40,000 elephant still exist in the extensive rainforest.

Sources in Central Africa



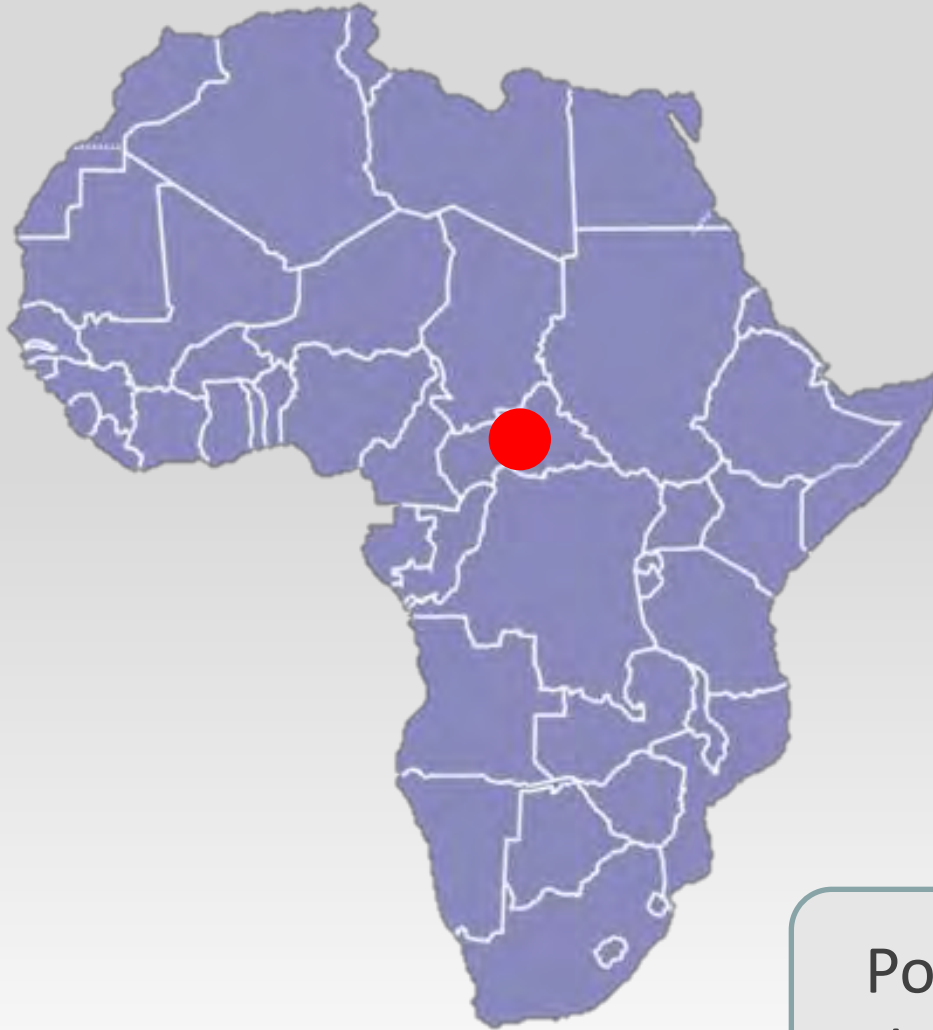
DRC

Gabon

Cameroon

<2,000 Savannah Elephant left in the north.

Sources in Central Africa



DRC

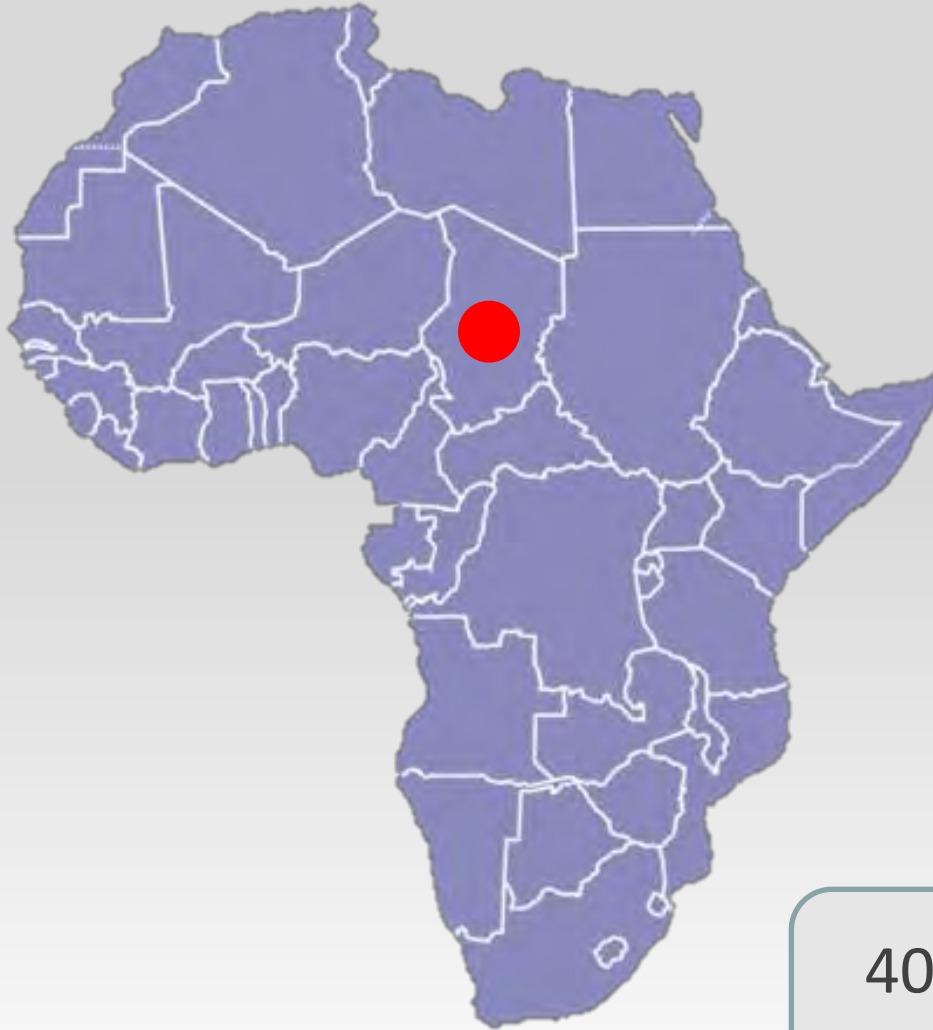
Gabon

Cameroon

CAR

Population in the NE ~35,000 in the 1970s. Now <100.

Sources in Central Africa



DRC

Gabon

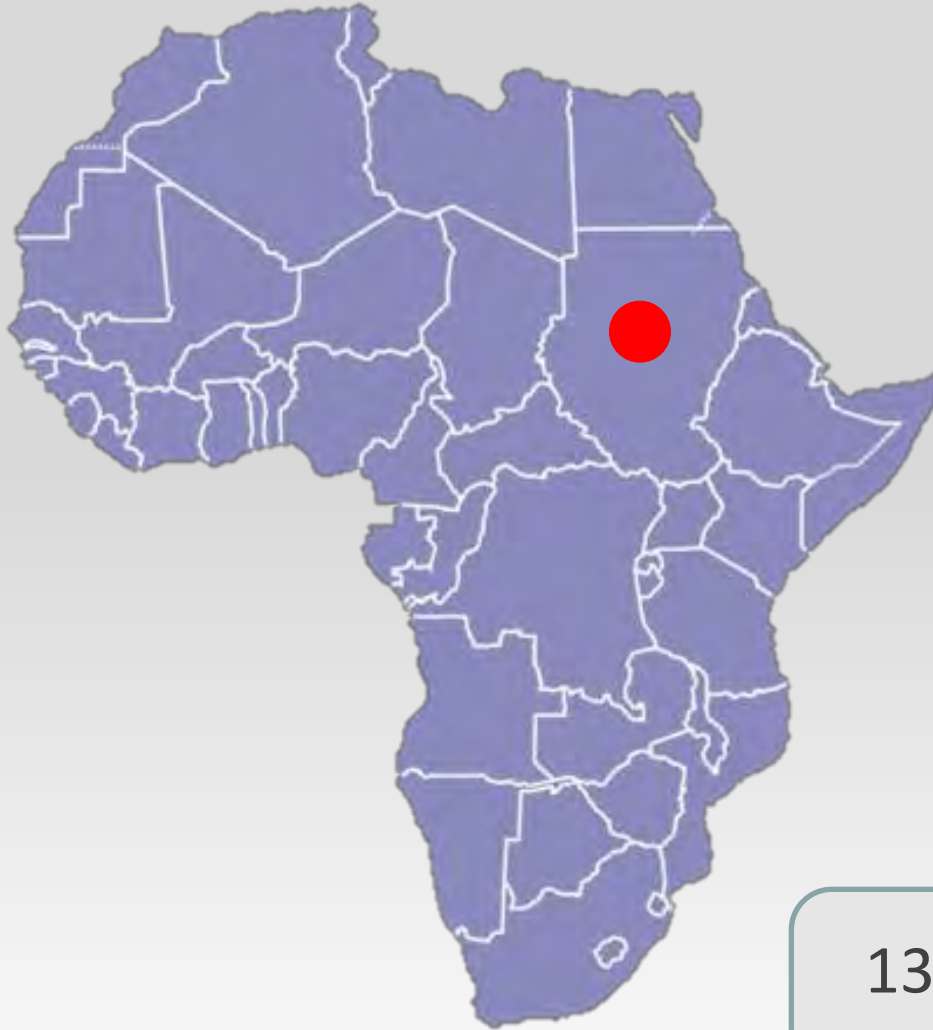
Cameroon

CAR

Chad

40,000 elephants 20 years ago.
Now <200.

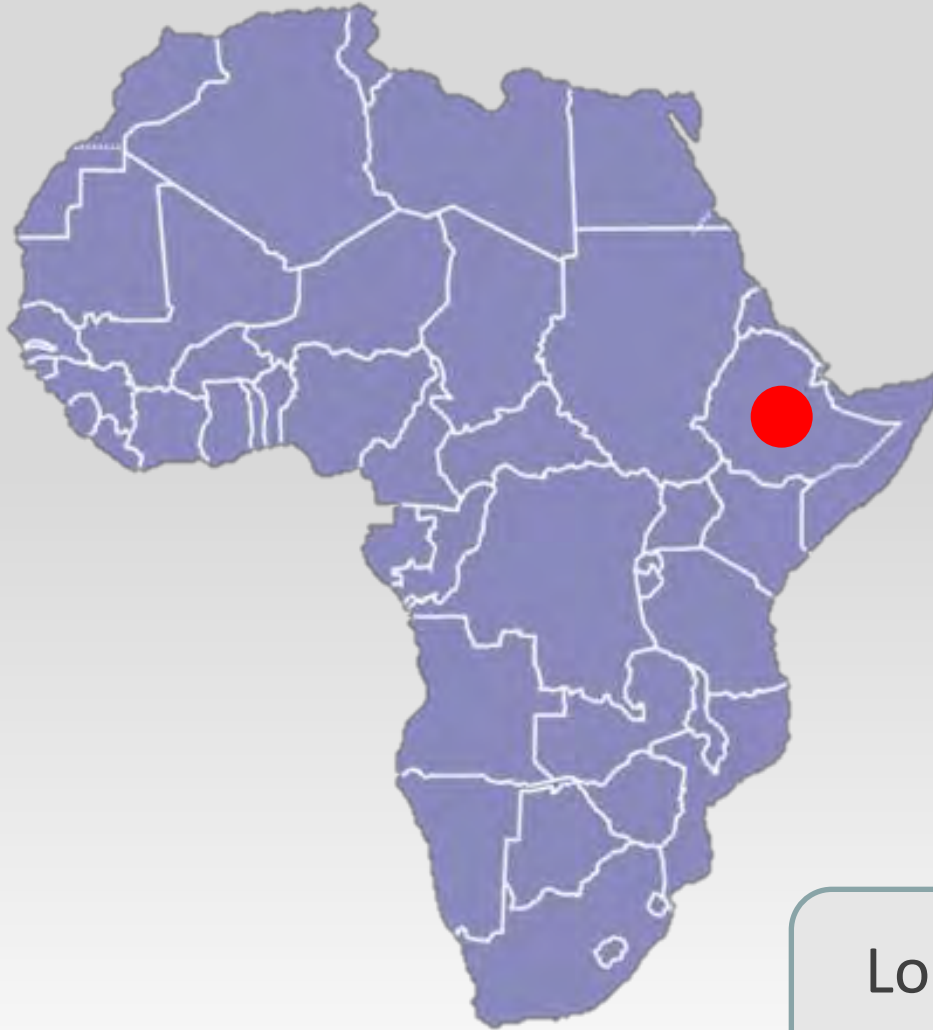
Sources in East Africa



Sudan

130,00 in 1986.
Down to <5000 today.

Sources in East Africa



Sudan

Ethiopia

Lost 90% since 1980s.
Down to 1,200 in 2007.

Sources in East Africa



Sudan

Ethiopia

Kenya

289 elephant poached in 2011;
384 in 2012.

Sources in East Africa



Sudan

Ethiopia

Kenya

Uganda

Population fairly stable at 4,000.
Poaching increased in last 4 years.

Sources in East Africa



Sudan

Ethiopia

Kenya

Uganda

Tanzania

Holds 80% of E. Africa's elephant.
Heavy poaching in last few years.

Sources in Southern Africa



Namibia

Around 20,000 elephant.
Little poaching so far.

Sources in Southern Africa



Namibia

Botswana

± 130,000 elephant in 2012.
Government resists poaching well.

Sources in Southern Africa



Namibia

Botswana

South Africa

None poached since 2008 sale of ivory. Kruger now has 16,500.

Sources in Southern Africa



Namibia

Botswana

South Africa

Zimbabwe

90,000 counted in 2001. Little poaching but not well recorded.

Sources in Southern Africa



Namibia

Botswana

South Africa

Zimbabwe

Mozambique

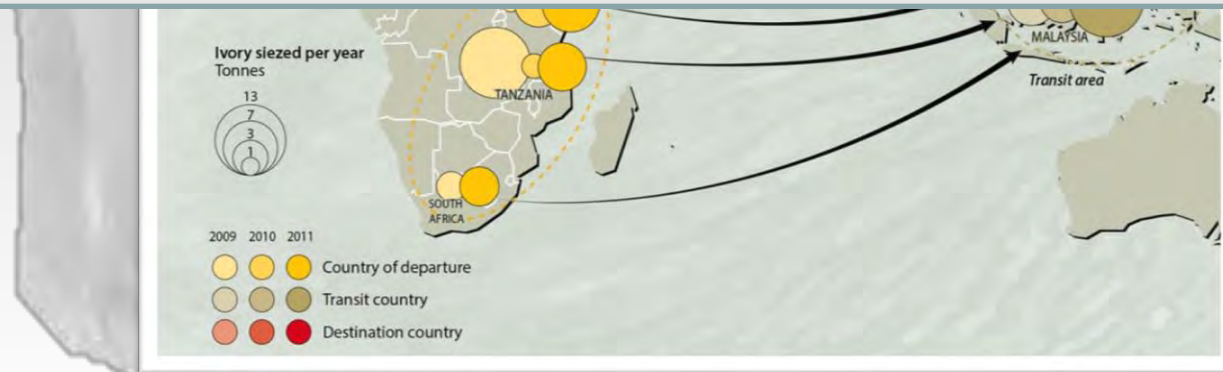
2,500 killed in north since 2009.
Little enforcement action/capacity.

Out of Africa

Many illegal trafficking routes criss-cross Africa. E.g. Togo, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast have few elephants yet all are active in the ivory trade.

Ivory now air-freighted – as much as 800 kg a shipment. All large scale seizures appear to be heading to China.

China has upped its law enforcement on ivory imports – and so the criminal syndicates have adapted (Tom Milliken).



The Asian dilemma

Thailand has one of the largest unregulated ivory markets in the world. In China, ivory is consumed by the Chinese which means it remains in China (Tom Milliken).

Japan is a story of demand reduction. In the 1980s Japan consumed >300 tons/year. Now it uses only 5 – 10 tons annually from legal stocks. Japan's strict government regulations act to deter ivory carvers and vendors (Tom Milliken).

China displays ivory as an ostentatious form of wealth. In theory China has a regulated Ivory market but in practice the system is widely abused. Unlicensed ivory facilities in China outnumber legal ones by 6 to 1 (Peter Knight; IFAW).

Guarding the assets

Tanzania holds >100 tons of ivory; Zimbabwe holds around 50 tons. All from natural deaths or seized from poachers.



In 2012 stockpiles raided and ivory stolen in Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. Also in 2012, Kenya and Gabon burnt government-held stocks of ivory.



Throughout Africa protecting elephants is being given higher priority. But corruption is a major issue across the continent.



Human population influence

At the turn of the 19th century Africa's population was 100 million; today it is >450 million.

"People were once an island in a sea of wildlife. Now wildlife survives in Parks that are islands in an ocean of people."

Raymond Bonner, 1996 'At the Hand of Man'

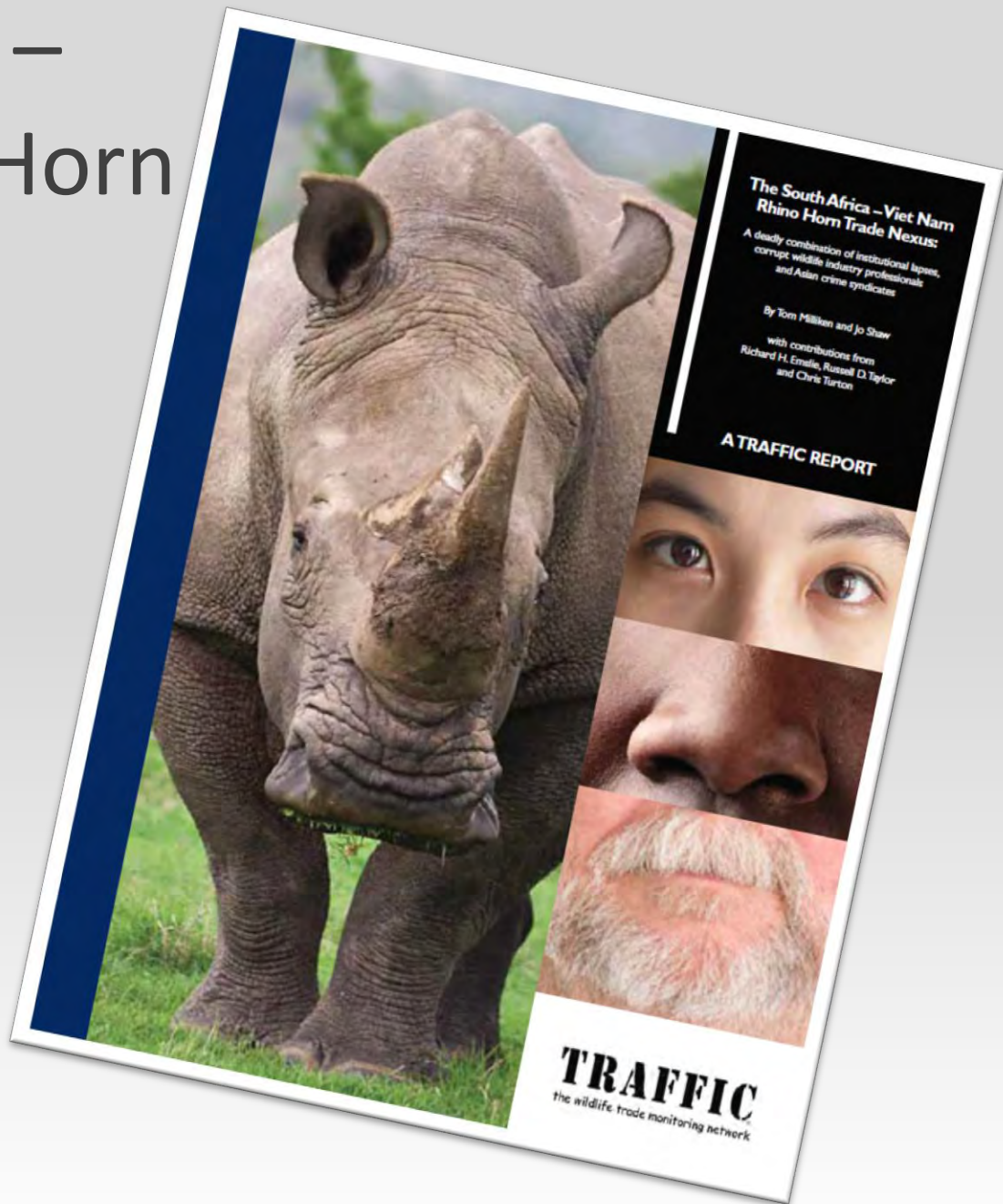


"Human increase and elephant decrease are two poles of the same phenomenon. The decline of elephants, rhinos and large mammals generally in East Africa has everything to do with human increase and displacement by people and relatively little to do with the value of their products."

Ian Parker, 2010 'What I Tell You Three Times Is True'

The South Africa – Viet Nam Rhino Horn Trade Nexus

A TRAFFIC Report
by
Tom Milliken
and Jo Shaw



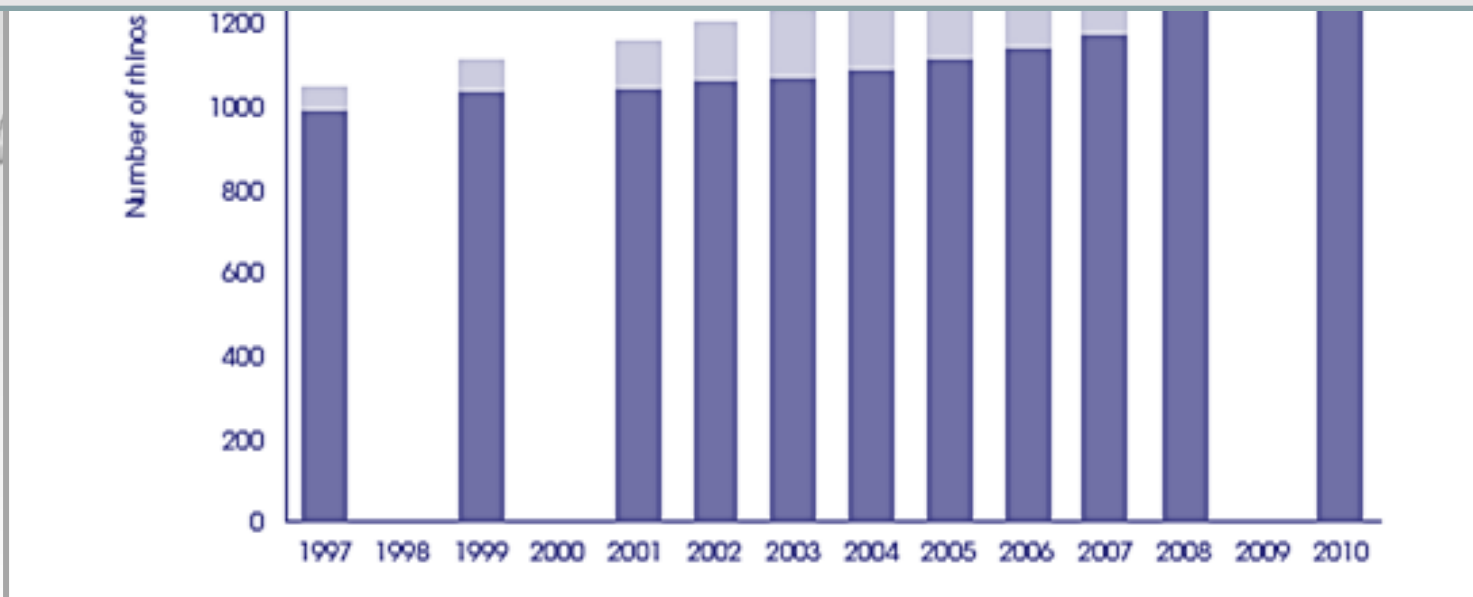
South Africa – The main source



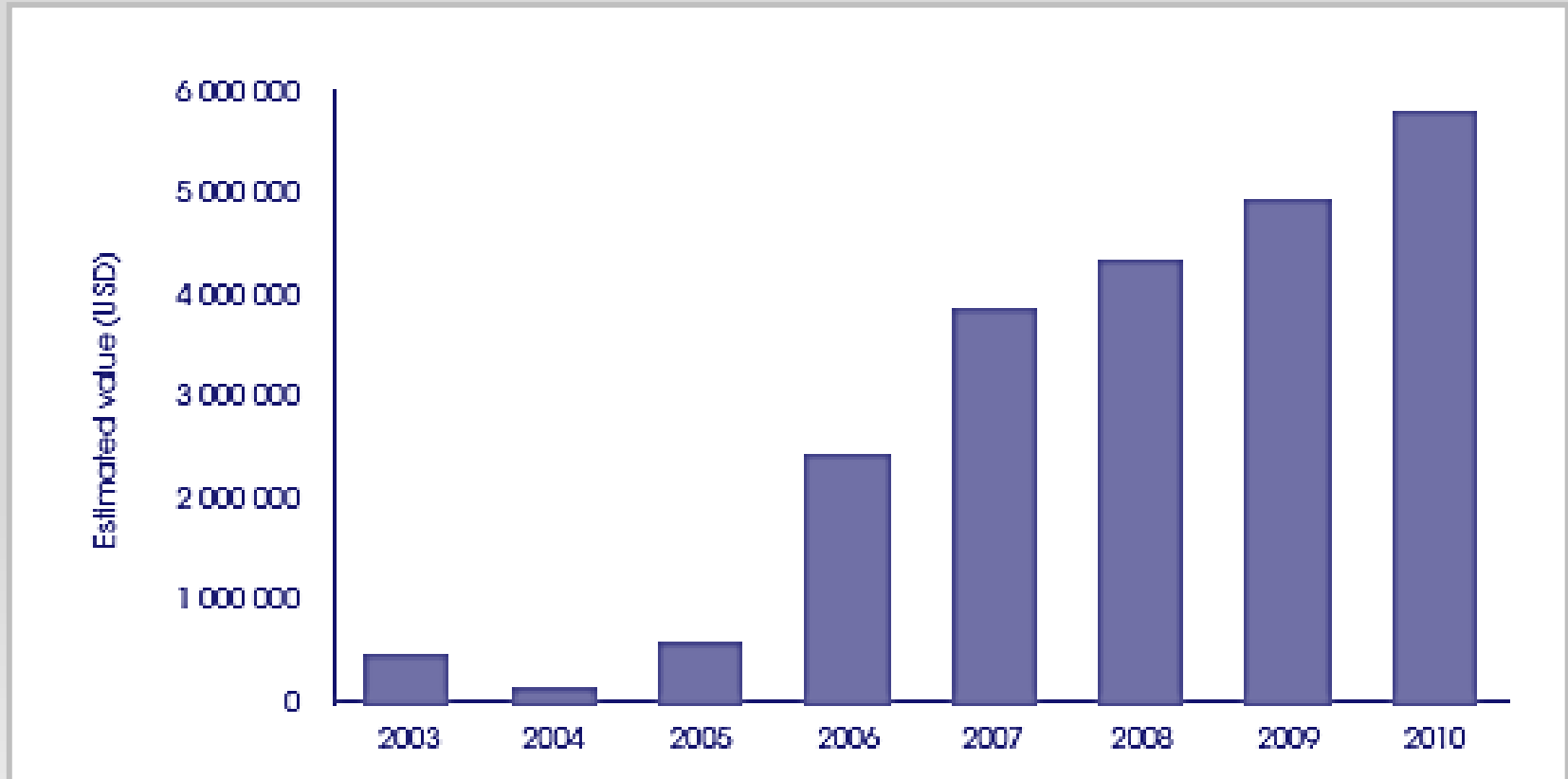
South Africa – The main source

SA now conserves 18,800 White Rhino (~25% are privately owned) and 2,350 Black Rhino (most privately owned).

Since the 1960s, a marked shift towards wildlife-based land use amongst private landowners. Today, game ranches areas are 3 times bigger than the collective national game areas.



South Africa – The main source

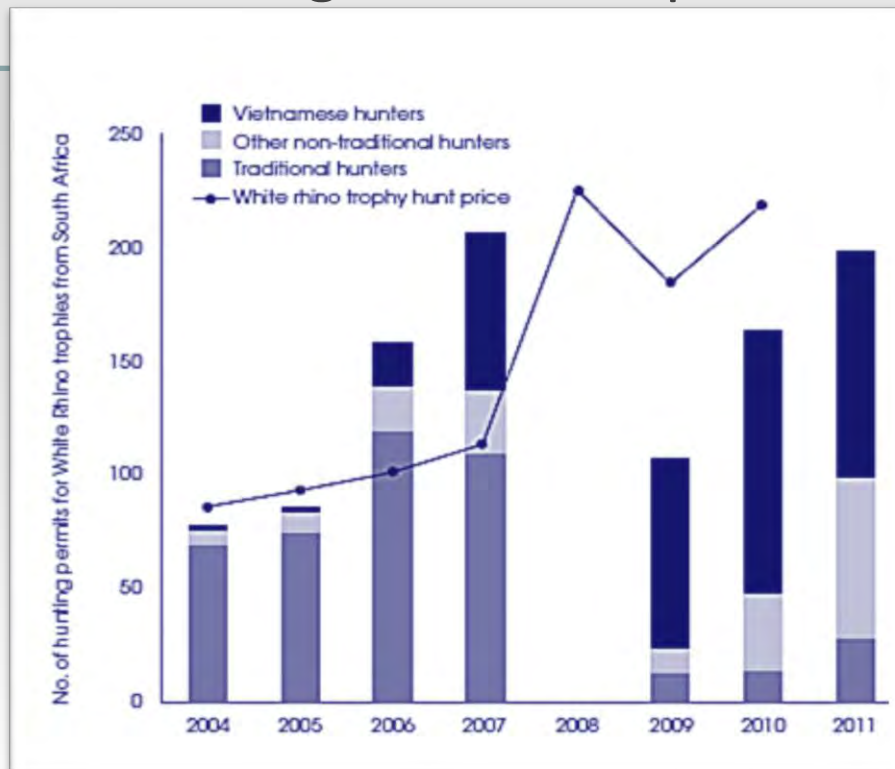


Trophy hunting has been a positive force for rhino conservation. It contributes to bio-management, range extension, revenue generation and incentive for wildlife conservation.

South Africa – Laws and policy

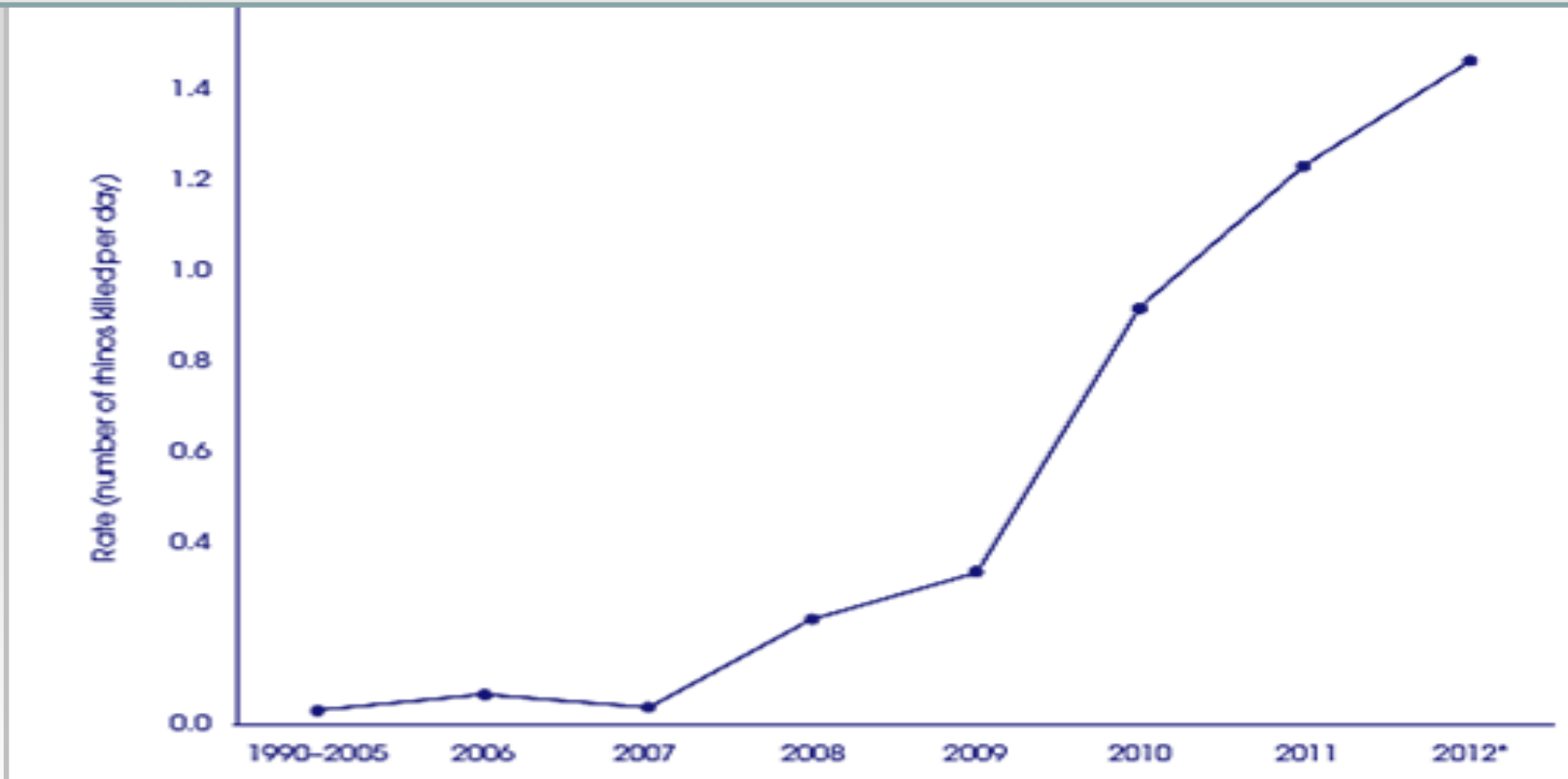
Vietnamese nationals have exploited SA's legislation in order to obtain hunting trophies for the Asian rhino horn trade.

Rhino hunts are nowadays restricted to one hunt /hunter/12 months and government personnel must witness each hunt.



Illegal trade in rhino horn

1990 – 2005 poaching losses averaged 14 animals per year. Figures rose sharply to 83 in 2008, 122 in 2009, 333 in 2010, 448 in 2011 and 532 in 2012. Nevertheless, the annual birth of both Black and White Rhino in SA still exceeds the losses.



Law enforcement

High calibre rifles, dart guns and helicopters being used to poach rhino, reflecting the involvement of game industry insiders, e.g. game ranch owners, professional hunters, game capture operators, pilots and wildlife vets.

Corrupt officials provide poaching gangs with intelligence. Private owners reluctant to report information on rhino numbers and stockpiles of horn.

Law enforcement

Arrest rate in 2012 double the rates in 2010 and 2011.
Better intelligence and co-operation between government departments.

43 documented arrests of Asians for rhino crimes in SA;
56% Vietnamese and 28% Chinese.

African nationals caught poaching rhino get 10 years jail.
Couriers transporting horn out of Africa get 6 – 12 years.

The end result

A potent mix of unscrupulous wildlife professionals, some corrupt government officials and hardened Asian criminal syndicates has converged to create “the perfect storm” for wrecking havoc on South Africa’s rhino populations.

Tom Milliken and Jo Shaw



Rhino horn: Uses in Asia



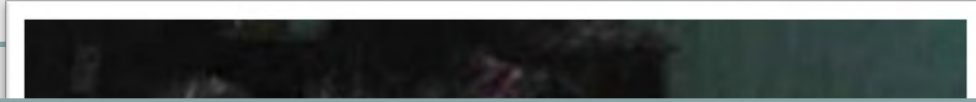
Much of the 'rhino horn' on the market in Vietnam comes from Water Buffalo. Overall, \pm 90% of rhino horn products, especially jewellery items, are fake (Ammann 2012).

Local demand for rhino horn far outstrips supply so that well known traders have months-long waiting lists for the genuine substance (Barton 2012).

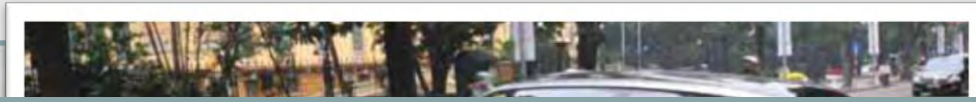
Like China, the younger generation in Vietnam is fuelling a booming market for luxury products. The rhino horn trade can be viewed as another aspect of the luxury products trade.

Rhino horn: Users in Viet Nam

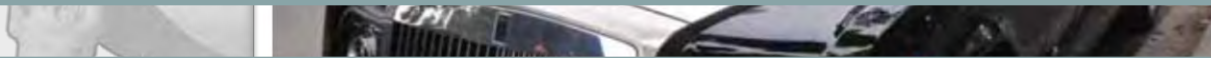
Habitual/social users - Affluent, middle-aged urbanites imbibe rhino horn as a detoxifying beverage after drinking and bingeing.



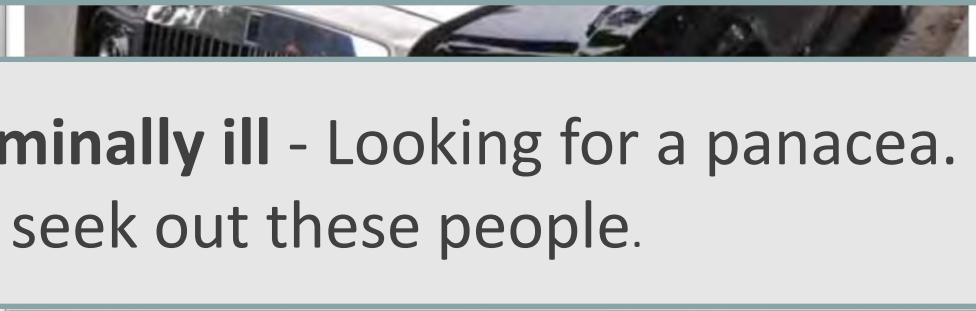
Elite gift givers - To curry favour and gain influence. Many horns purchased and offered as high value and status-conferring gifts



Protective mothers - As a medicine to treat pyrexia in children. They firmly believe it to be better than any Western medicine.



Seriously/terminally ill - Looking for a panacea. Dealers and touts actively seek out these people.



On the other hand

South Africa is still breeding more White Rhino annually than the number being poached.

E.g. John Hume has accumulated >850 White Rhino in the past 10 years.



On the other hand .. deer velvet industry

A traditional Chinese medicine – used as a growth tonic for children and to treat arthritis and other geriatric conditions.

Dried and sliced for sale - boiled and mixed with herbs and consumed as tea.

New Zealand is the world's largest producer of velvet – 450 tons annually to China.



On the other hand

Too many elephants in some locations.

E.g.	Botswana	>130,000
	Zimbabwe	> 90,000
	Kruger Park	> 16,000



Hwange Park, Zimbabwe. November 2012



Relocation?

Immunocontraception?

Culling and product use?

Possible solutions



Convince Asians to stop using rhino horn and ivory.



Continue to hammer poachers, couriers and dealers.



Allow controlled legal sale of stockpiled, farmed and hunted rhino horn and ivory with equitable distribution of profits to producers and wildlife conservators.

Utopian dream



A well organised and controlled, transparent pan-African marketing system to sell ivory and rhino horn to Asian user countries with fair distribution of the income to all those involved in creating it, especially indigenous Africans.

Barriers



Greed, jealousy and corruption at individual, institution and state levels.

CITES – the ultimate ‘elephant in the room’.



CITES – the unworkable treaty?

In 1979 Ian Parker noted ... *“As more countries accede to CITES ... it will become evermore unwieldy. While the motivation behind it is straightforward, ... it is too ponderous and impractical to succeed as it is.”*



In 2010 he further noted that *“..the 2-yearly International Meeting of the Parties is an unnecessary and wasteful jamboree.”*

CITES – the unworkable treaty?

Why should southern African countries, like Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa, put up with being told what they may or may not do with their wildlife by countries like Norway, Nicaragua and New Zealand?

