

High Price of Rhino Horn Leaves Bloody Trail Across the Globe

犀牛角的离奇价格让血腥弥漫全球

By Damian Carrington 海 威/编译

On the black market it is reputedly¹ worth more than its weight in gold or cocaine, and this week the lure of rhino horn brought the bloody business of poaching to a zoo near Paris. There, in the dead of night², criminals broke in, shot a white rhino called Vince three times in the head and then hacked off its eight-inch horn with a chainsaw³.

The attack marks a shocking new development in a crisis that sees more than three rhinos killed every day in their southern African homelands. Trade in rhino horn is completely illegal but demand from Vietnam and China fuels poaching and smuggling, putting the rhinos at risk of extinction.

Rhino horn is made of keratin⁴ — the same material as human fingernails — but an urban myth⁵ about a senior Vietnamese figure being cured of cancer pushed up demand in recent years and as its price rose, it has become a status symbol. Longer-standing uses such as a supposed fever treatment in traditional Chinese medicine and as ornamental carvings have also driven up prices.

据说,在黑市上犀牛角比(等重的)黄金或可卡因还贵。而本周,对犀牛角的垂涎让偷猎者将魔爪伸向了巴黎附近的一家动物园。就在月黑风高之时,犯罪分子破门而入,向一头名唤“文斯”的白犀牛头部连射三枪,之后用链锯割去了它8英寸长的角。

在南非犀牛的家园,平均每天都有超过三头犀牛被杀死。而针对巴黎动物园的这次袭击则标志着犀牛危机的可怕升级。尽管犀牛角交易完全非法,但来自越南和中国的需求却使偷猎、走私行为愈演愈烈,从而将犀牛置于灭绝的危险境地。

犀牛角是由角蛋白构成,与人指甲的成分无二。但一则关于越南某显贵用它治愈了癌症的都市神话大大拉动了近些年的犀牛角需求。而且随着价格上涨,犀牛角还成了一种地位的象征。传统中医认为犀牛角有清热解毒功效,它长期以来作为药品和作为雕刻饰品的双重用途也一直拉动着其价格上升。

Notes: 1. reputedly 据说。

2. in the dead of night 夜深人静之时。

3. chainsaw 电锯,链锯。

4. keratin 角蛋白,角质。

5. urban myth 都市神话,都市传奇(指可能不实但人们仍相信的不寻常的事)。

What drives the demand for rhino horns?

Should we accept that Vietnamese medicinal demand for rhino horns is traditional, and inevitable? Those who stockpile⁶ horns think so.

With the prices high and, until recently, the penalties very low, international organised crime networks mobilised to supply the illegal trade — wildlife trafficking⁷ is a multi-billion dollar enterprise only surpassed by the smuggling of drugs, arms and people.

The zoo raid, and thefts from museums across Europe in recent years, reveal how the criminals have been keeping ahead of authorities. “The criminal networks involved have shown themselves to be far more innovative and utterly ruthless,” said Julian Rademeyer, an expert on rhino horn at Traffic, the leading wildlife trade monitoring organisation. “They are often outthinking⁸ law enforcement and government regulations, finding new loopholes to exploit.”

The criminals have even shown a brazen⁹ marketing flair¹⁰: the idea that powdered rhino horn is an aphrodisiac¹¹ began as a western myth, said Rademeyer, but the syndicates latched on



是什么驱动了对犀牛角的需求？

有人说越南人对犀牛角的医用需求是自古沿袭下来的,是不可避免的。我们该接受这种说法吗?至少那些囤积者接受。

由于价格持续走高,而时至今日处罚力度依然太小,国际有组织的犯罪网络早已行动起来进行这一非法贸易——贩卖野生动物是一本万利的买卖,动辄几十亿美元的收入,仅次于贩毒、倒卖军火及贩卖人口。

动物园的这次突袭事件以及近些年发生在欧洲各博物馆的偷窃案件都表明,犯罪分子一直都走在那些相关部门的前头。“涉案的犯罪网络已经显示出它们在‘创新’上的棋高一招,残忍程度上的无与伦比,”朱利安·拉德迈耶尔(一位犀牛角方面的专家,供职于主要的野生动物监管组织“非法交易”)说,“他们不断在法律实施和政府法规方面找到可钻的新漏洞,因此常常胜券在握。”

犯罪分子甚至已经表现出一种肆无忌惮的营销天分:据拉德迈耶尔说,将犀牛角粉当作壮阳药原本只是一个西方神话,却被犯罪集团拿来作了噱头。如今掺了犀牛角粉的红

6. stockpile 贮存,积聚。

7. trafficking 非法买卖,非法交易。

8. outthink 以智取胜。

9. brazen 厚颜无耻的,无所顾忌的。

10. flair 天分,才能。

11. aphrodisiac 催情剂,春药。

to it and now sell wine laced¹² with rhino horn as aphrodisiacs in Vietnam.

Rademeyer and all the key wildlife trade groups decline to detail the current price of rhino horn, for fear of encouraging more crime. But it is public knowledge that the horn peaked in price at about \$65,000 a kilogram in 2012. It is thought to have fallen significantly since then, though it remains many times more valuable than elephant ivory.

There has been a crackdown on poaching in South Africa, home to about 70% of all rhinos, but killings have spiked¹³ in Namibia and Zimbabwe as poachers seek easier targets.

“There have been warnings for the last four to five years that zoos need to tighten up security,” Rademeyer said. Police are visiting every zoo and wildlife park in the UK that houses rhinos — 111 in total.

Rademeyer said there have been hundreds of rhino horn thefts across Europe in recent years. In 2016, seven men received lengthy jail sentences in the UK over a series of museum raids which targeted horns and jade artefacts estimated to be worth over £50m.

However, the epicentre¹⁴ of the rhino crisis remains in southern Africa, where poor young men are willing to risk their lives by poaching. They receive just a tiny fraction of the horns’ ultimate value, but even a few hundred dollars is a huge sum in their communities.

Hundreds of poachers have been killed in the

酒在越南便作为壮阳药在销售。

拉德迈耶尔和所有重要的野生动物贸易组织都拒绝给出犀牛角在当下的具体价格,因为害怕会因此鼓励更多的犯罪。但众所周知的是,2012年犀牛角以每公斤65000美元达到了顶点。那以后,一般认为其价格有了大幅回落,但比象牙依然要高出许多倍。

在南非,世界上70%的犀牛的家园,曾有过一次取缔偷猎行动。但结果是随着犯罪分子寻找更容易下手的目标,纳米比亚和津巴布韦遭杀戮的犀牛激增。

“过去四、五年中已经有许多关于动物园需要加强安保的提醒,”拉德迈耶尔说。现在英国警方正在巡视每一家动物园和野生动物园,英国总共养护着111头犀牛。

拉德迈耶尔说这些年欧洲各地发生了数百起偷盗犀牛角案件。2016年7名案犯由于其对博物馆实施的系列劫掠在英国被判长期徒刑,这些劫掠案中被盗犀牛角和玉器的价值估计超过了5千万英镑。

但是犀牛危机的中心还是在南非,那里,贫穷的年轻人不惜以身涉险去偷猎。而他们得到的只是犀牛角总价值的极小部分,但即便如此,几百美元在他们的生活圈子里已经相当可观了。

过去七年中已击毙了数百名偷

12. lace 使混合。

13. spike 激增。

14. epicentre 中心,集中点。

last seven years and a much smaller but significant number of rangers, soldiers and policemen have also died.

Hounds¹⁵ hot on the heels of poachers in rhino country

Tracker dogs¹⁶ trained on human scent are the latest weapon being used to help catch criminals in South Africa's Kruger national park, the epicentre of the rhino poaching epidemic.

"Shooting and jailing the poachers is not a long-term solution," he said. "They are very easy to find and very easy to exploit. Whether they get killed or arrested means very little to the syndicates. The kingpins¹⁷ who are making the big money are getting away with it."

Rademeyer said police cooperation is crucial to tackling the global rhino horn trade: "You are dealing with very sophisticated transnational organised crime syndicates in many cases and yet your law enforcement is hampered by international borders. Police tend to police their own backyard." Campaigns in Asia to stigmatise¹⁸ rhino horn use are important too, and have helped cut the shark fin trade.

The Paris poaching also raises the controversial question of whether a legalised trade in rhino horn, harvested sustainably from wild or farmed animals, could destroy the black market. Many nations and organisations strongly oppose the idea,



猎者,同样失去生命的还有护林员、士兵和警察。相比起来他们人数虽少得多但也相当可观。

猎犬在犀牛国度追踪偷猎者

在南非的克鲁格国家公园,偷猎犀牛成风,被训练的能辨别人体气味的追踪犬成了用于协助人们抓捕罪犯的最新利器。

"射杀、监禁偷猎者都不是长久之计,"拉德迈尔耶说,"犯罪团伙找个为其所用的偷猎者很容易。无论一个偷猎者被杀还是被抓都触及不到犯罪团伙的根基。真正赚大钱的头目反而逍遥法外。"

拉德迈耶尔说警方合作对于应对全球犀牛角交易至关重要: "在许多案例中警方面对的都是非常复杂的有组织的跨国犯罪集团,而在执法时却受到国界的阻挡。警方一般只能在自己的家门口维持治安。" 在亚洲地区对犀牛角的使用进行口诛笔伐也很重要,这类行动在减少鱼翅贸易方面业已发挥作用。

巴黎偷猎事件还引发了一个存在争议的问题:合法的犀牛角贸易(在不破坏生态的情况下从野生或养殖犀牛身上取得牛角)是否可以摧毁黑市。许多国家和组织强

15. hound 猎狗。

16. tracker dog 追踪犬,警犬。

17. kingpin (团体中)最重要的人。

18. stigmatise 使蒙受耻辱,指责,非难。

◆动物世界◆

saying it would simply allow illegal horns to be laundered¹⁹ with fake permits, but South Africa backs the idea.

Duan Biggs, a researcher at Griffith University in Australia, said: “The issue is complex, but a well managed and enforced legal trade that is structured to fund rhino protection and deliver community benefits is likely to work better than the status quo²⁰.” He accepts some people might find it unethical, but said: “I think that poaching a rhino in a zoo or in the wild is even more morally repugnant²¹ than a well regulated legal trade.”

However, a legalised rhino horn trade is unlikely any time soon. Swaziland²² made such a proposal at an international wildlife trade summit in Johannesburg in September and it was soundly defeated.

From <https://www.theguardian.com>, Mar. 10, 2017

19. launder 洗(钱),使(不义之财)合法化。

20. status quo 现状。

烈反对这种想法,说它只能导致非法犀牛角通过假许可证披上合法的外衣。

澳大利亚格里菲斯大学的研究人员杜安·比格斯说:“问题很复杂,但一个监管良好、实施得力的合法贸易(被引导着为犀牛保护提供资助、为社区带来好处)很可能要好过现状。”他也接受一些人觉得它违背道德的想法,但强调:“我认为到动物园或野外偷猎犀牛的行为比良好监管下的合法贸易在道义上更应遭到唾弃。”

但是,犀牛角交易合法化近期还不可能实现,斯威士兰曾在(2016年)9月份约翰内斯堡举行的一次国际野生动物贸易峰会上给出这样的提议,但惨遭否决。

大学
英语

Ways to Have a Great Night’s Rest (I) 保证好睡眠的方法(一)

青 山/选注

1. Don’t stay in bed if you are not sleepy.
2. A regular warm bath may be beneficial 2-3 hours before bedtime.
3. Avoid difficult discussions or arguing in the evening.
4. If you worry a lot while in bed, schedule about 15 minutes each morning as your “worry time” specifically for intentional concentrating on the things you think about at night; this may make *nocturnal* (夜间发生的,夜间的) worrying less.
5. Try *relaxation therapies* (放松疗法) with deep breathing and meditation as these help some to fall and stay asleep.
6. Identify your most comfortable position and sleep environment (e.g., try different positions and pillows).