

# Wildlife trafficking, animal abuse and species injustice

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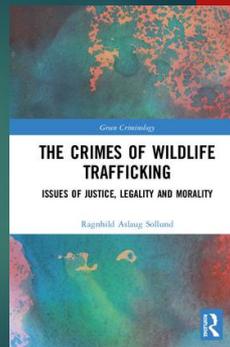
## CITES: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- ▶ <https://cites.org/eng>
- ▶ CITES legitimates and perpetuates wildlife trade resulting in animal harm and deaths, the extinction of species and ecosystem destruction
- ▶ CITES creates parallel legal and illegal markets through which illegal wild-caught animals can be laundered into the legal markets
- ▶ CITES prolongs an instrumental view of animals as states' and humans' resources.

This book contains the results of the Norwegian and Colombian case studies

Sollund, R. A., & Runhovde, S. R. (2020). Responses to wildlife crime in post-colonial times. Who fares best?. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 60(4), 1014-1033.

Goyes, D., & Sollund, R. (2016). Contesting and contextualising CITES: Wildlife trafficking in Colombia and Brazil. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 5(4), 87.



## Concepts: Wildlife trade and victimization



Parrot babies seized by Sao Paulo environmental Military police

Animal Welfare  
Green  
criminology



## Data Collection –Norway: Two stages

- ▶ Interviews 2010-2013: 12 interviews with Police (5), Customs, Norwegian environment agency (NEA) /CITES, border control veterinarians from the Food safety Authority,
- ▶ Interviews with offenders (reptile keepers/smugglers) (5)
- ▶ 2020:(CRIMEANTHROP Project: Criminal Justice, Wildlife Conservation and Animal Rights in the Anthropocene) 17 interviews with Police, Customs, veterinarians from the FSA, and the NEA.
- ▶ 204 Confiscation reports from Customs in Norway, CITES cases -concerning animals
- ▶ 810 penal cases (incl. Interrogation reports, photos, verdicts, etc.) coded as 2510: Illegal importation of alien wildlife species (the Wildlife law § 47)
- ▶ Statistics from Customs (CITES confiscations)

19 interviews in Colombia, including with state environmental authorities and NGO representatives (experts, wildlife veterinarians, police, informants who wanted to be credited are listed: Data collection included focus group interview and tours on rehabilitation centres.

- ▶ **Centro de Rehabilitación de Fauna Silvestre – the rehabilitation centre for wildlife,**
- ▶ **under the district secretary of the environment in Bogotá and Santa Fe:**
- ▶ Javier Cifuentes Álvarez.
- ▶ Luz María Cuadros
- ▶ Yudi Cárdenas
- ▶ César Márquez
- ▶ Carolina Rangel.
- ▶ **TRAFFIC:** South America, Bernardo Ortiz-Von Halle.
- ▶ **Entropika:** Ángela María Maldonado Rodríguez
- ▶ **PROAVES**
- ▶ **Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible**
- ▶ Claudia Isabel Brievar Rico, Márcia Gonçalves Rodrigues, Claudia Terdiman Scheilmann, Daniela Desquardo Wilfredo Pachón (Corporación para el Desarrollo sostenible del Norte y Oriente Amazónico), Ricardo Gandara Crede, Claudia Rodríguez.



## Data collection in Brazil

- ▶ Four interviews with six interviewees:
- ▶ The environmental military police in Sao Paulo
- ▶ DeFau –Secretaria de Meio Ambiente de Sao Paulo (2 interviewees) [Sao Paulo state secretariat for the environment]
- ▶ DEPAVE, rehabilitation centre under the Sao Paulo Secretariat for the environment
- ▶ **Corredor das Onças**  
<http://www.icmbio.gov.br/corredordasoncas/pt/quem-somos.html>
- ▶ Visit and tour of the rehabilitation centre in Sao Paulo.



## Key Research Questions

- ▶ What motivates people to engage in WLT (e.g. supply, distribution & purchase)
- ▶ How (well) are these harms/crimes controlled prevented and punished?
- ▶ What are the consequences for victims;
- ▶ What are the consequences in terms of regulation, enforcement and control – nationally and internationally?




## Findings from Norway: Multifarious: Tourist shopping, «pet» trafficking, internet shopping, trophy collecting, fish flies, Traditional Asian Medicine

Man stopped by Customs on the ferry from Denmark in Kristiansand. The bags on his body contain snakes.




### CITES seizures fauna and flora 2002-2011

Fauna	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Seizure Numbers										
Seizure Numbers										
CITES										
Other live animals			4/9	2/3	1/1	5/9	5/6	5/7	3/5	2/7
CITES bird										
fish										
CITES live birds							2/51			3/40
CITES/ Live mammals										1/1
CITES plants	7/153	6/184	4/133	2/	3/185	2/	24/	49/	15/	87/
CITES/Products										
CITES/Products										
kg									5/2.5	3/0.29
CITES/Products										
Litres										
Products/W	39/	34/	43/	25/	15/	17/	14/35	30/	22/	34/
CITES	475	726	614	596	404	100		5072	15031	5898
Numbers	46/	40/	51/	30/	19/	24/	45/	84/	149/	131/
CITES	628	1550	756	1905	590	2322	3994	11829	29845,52	15401,37
Confirmation										
C										

Several cases in Norway concerns parrot trafficking. Eight African grey parrots were confiscated in Svinesund, the Swedish-Norwegian border, November 2011. The offender was also caught a year before trafficking four.



In Norway usually the animals who are seized by the authorities are killed. This happened to most of the birds on these pictures, and is now state policy. Four African Grey babies were killed in 2019 after being stopped at Oslo airport.

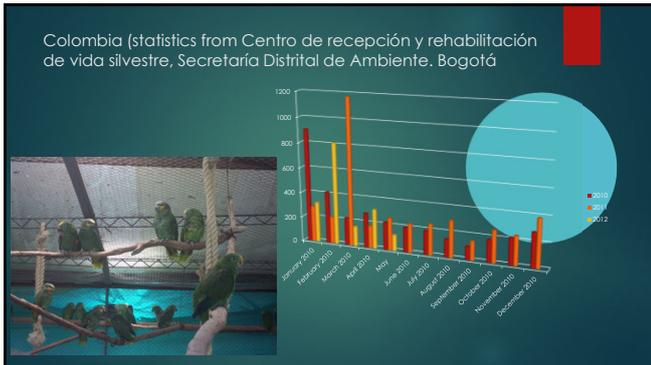


28 parrots seized at Svinesund border, 2011 in another case

## The long historical roots of wildlife trade in Colombia

- ▶ Commercialization of wildlife dates from at least the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (Mancera Rodriguez and Reyes Garcia (2008))
- ▶ Manatees were used to feed the slaves
- ▶ European royalty used parrots as decoration and in collections, and their heads and tongues were favoured as a delicacy
- ▶ The export of wildlife was an important source of income for Colombia; constituting 30% of all exports in 1870 (Vergara 1892, in Mancera and Reyes 2008)
- ▶ Between 1922 and 1924, 652 tons of animals and animal products were exported
- ▶ In 1964, the percentage of earnings from wildlife trafficking was 11.9% of the Gross Domestic Product.
- ▶ The main category exported by Colombia 2005- 2014 were reptile skins *Caiman crocodilus* (exclusively bred in captivity). The estimated average annual value of Colombia's CITES exports between 2005 and 2014 was 50.2, million USD.
- ▶ Live reptiles were the second most traded category mainly comprising captive bred *Iguana iguana* and *Boa constrictor* destined for the US.

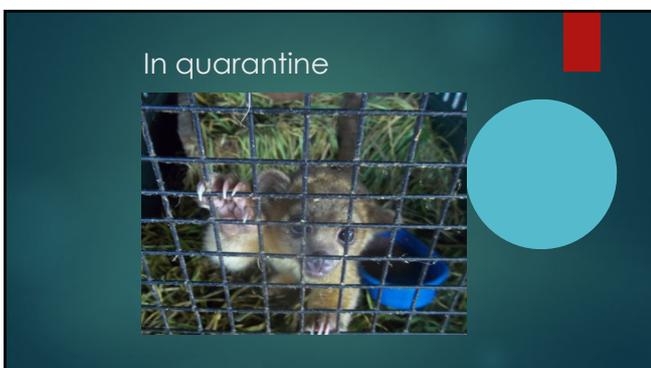




- ### Colombian (preponderantly internal) tendencies in use of animals: In Colombia, 58 000 animals are seized per year (Southwick 2013, Centro de Investigación de Crimen organizado)
- ▶ **Pet trade:** Primates, like the *titi gris*, and parrot species, are often used as pets in Colombia and are the most trafficked species for this purpose. Reptiles (turtles/tortoises), fish and poisonous frogs are trafficked from Colombia to be used for ornamental purposes in Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands
  - ▶ **Animal experimentation and biopiracy:** The *Aotus vociferans* (night monkeys) have for decades been trafficked from the Amazon basin, including from Peru and Brazil, to be used in malaria research (Maldonado et al. 2009; Maldonado and Lafon, Rodríguez Goyes 2015; Sollund 2019). Amphibians are used to find metabolites by the pharmaceutical industry.
  - ▶ **Furs and skins:** Taken from cats, such as panther and ocelot and reptile species, including crocodiles.
  - ▶ **Food:** Icoetea turtles, iguana eggs, the Capybara [*chiquilla*] and eagles are hunted and used in Colombia and Venezuela because they are considered "white meat" and thus allowed in festive seasons when red meat is regarded as unacceptable.
  - ▶ **Handicraft:** Turtles, conchs and corals are used for this purpose, for example jewellery, combs.
  - ▶ **Witchcraft:** Serpents are used in witchcraft and black magic. The tail of the rattlesnake is used in amulets. Owls are considered to bring good luck and are therefore used as "mascots".
  - ▶ **Traditional medicine:** Meat from raptors, such as eagles and hawks, are regarded as aphrodisiacs, or believed to possess special properties. Vultures' blood is believed to cure asthma and cancer.
  - ▶ **Breeding purposes:** The *zoocriaderos* (breeding facilities for species in demand) also buy free-born animals for breeding purposes. Therefore, breeding facilities are not alleviating the market; they may themselves be based on trafficking as well as facilitating WLT.

- ### Modus operandi in Colombia
- ▶ Most act: (a) act on their own initiative to catch/kill the animals because it is easy money;
  - ▶ (b) act upon a pecuniary encouragement from buyers who will go to the places where the locals live (and who therefore have knowledge about the animals, where they go and how to catch them or kill them) and ask them to take the animals;
  - ▶ (c) form part of the chain in a more organised way; (b) and (c) may overlap;
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- ### Examples of modus operandi from interviews:
- ▶ The captures are done in the first place, by farmers [campesinos], settlers [colonos] and indigenous who do not live from this trade. For them it is something occasional, because they know the breeding seasons of the birds, so only in these periods do they capture the animals."
  - ▶ "This [trafficking in parrots, monkeys and other animals for the pet market] becomes all the time more complicated because they will be seized on the bus, but there are people who specialize in this, like in all kinds of illegalities, there are people specializing in answering the demand in these markets. And suddenly there may be large volumes, like with the sloths that are offered to tourists. And [...] they [the buyers] remain with this "thing" that grows".
  - ▶ "There are networks where intermediaries buy the animals and bring them to urban centres, like Medellín and Bogotá. These small networks are constituted by families and friends and they place the animals in markets and pet shops. Since there has been an increased public control lately, they have developed new methods, for example selling the animals by means of catalogues. Those who make a living from this may be defined as illegal networks, many of them have pet shops where they sell legal species, like pigeons, and then they sell the wild animals in the backrooms of the shop."



- ### The Patarroyo case
- ▶ Legal and illegal trafficking of, and experimentation on, more than 20 000 nocturnal primates over 30 years for research on malaria vaccine.
  - ▶ Permissions are withdrawn but later renewed
  - ▶ Supported by former president and the Spanish queen.
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- Photographer: L. Peleaz - Fundacion Entropika

Night monkey. Used in the «pet»trade and in malaria experiments



Features of wildlife use, Brazil

- ▶ Pet trade
- ▶ Entertainment
- ▶ «Songbirds»
- ▶ Medicine
- ▶ Food.
- ▶ In 2012 the Sao Paolo military **environmental** police confiscated 22 000 birds, and 4 000 other animals,
- ▶ In 2013, 24 thousand birds and 3 thousand other animals were confiscated.
- ▶ "Here we seize 30 000 animals annually" (Captain Robis).



Similar features, Norway, Colombia and Brazil

- ▶ Inefficient control, responses to and punishment of wildlife trafficking crimes
- ▶ Judges (and often police) lack knowledge about IWT
- ▶ Multifarious motivations and many categories of animal use
- ▶ Widespread animal victimization and animal deaths:
- ▶ When seized in Norway, they are killed by the authorities, in South America, 80-90 % of animals die in trafficking or shortly after, but efforts are made to rehabilitate them.

Thank you!

