

Critical Criminological Perspectives

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Wildlife Trafficking

A Deconstruction of the Crime, the Victims and the Offenders

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Preface

I have been engulfed in the world of wildlife trafficking for nearly nine years now. I remember the moment that I realised this is what I should be devoting myself to. I was a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine working at a women's NGO that was trying to prevent the trafficking of people. I had just completed an MA in Criminology, having written a thesis about human trafficking. In one of the hundreds of magazines and books I read during that two-year period, there was a *National Geographic* article about jaguars and how they were being poached and trafficked. A brief search for scholarly work in this area quickly revealed this was a new avenue for research and one that I immediately felt passionate about and dedicated to.

I have always been an environmentalist. I attribute this to being born and raised in Oregon, one of the greenest states in the US in terms of politics and nature. The view of the Three Sisters snow-capped mountains outside the window of my childhood home certainly contributed to my passion for the planet. My Saint Bernard/Husky mix companion spawned my love of animals. My sister's role as 'Recycle Girl' for Tumalo Grade School undoubtedly engrained the obsession to produce as little waste as possible. This led me to a degree in biology, which was supposed to have led to a career in zoology or forensics, but the former never materialised and the latter seemed too boring after hours of labs. So I went for hands-on law enforcement instead and was a police officer for nearly five years. I thought this would be a meaningful way to assist people, but became disillusioned that this wasn't the way to help. This – and a terrible economy in 2002 – led my husband and me to the Peace Corps, where I had my revelation.

I began my research into wildlife trafficking at the University of Kent where I had the good fortune of being supervised by two different schools: the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, where Criminology sits, and the Durrell Institute of Conservation and the Environment. It was the perfect blend of my experiences and passions – justice and the environment. Here I learned about Green Criminology, for which I have become a strong

advocate. My research introduced me to many of the stakeholders that are active in combatting wildlife trafficking. Upon graduation, it was disappointing to find that academic departments by and large were uninterested in Green Criminology and my research. Whilst looking for work, I volunteered and worked part time at various NGOs and for the US Federal Government, looking for a way to contribute to the debates on environmental policy and the illegal wildlife trade. When the job announcement for Northumbria listed Green Criminology as a speciality, I knew that I needed to apply. And that brings me to my current situation, where I am an active member of an international Green Criminological community that researches both wildlife trafficking and a range of other invisible green crimes and harms that plague our planet.

This book is the compilation of the years of research I have conducted, the thousands of articles and media reports that I have read and the hundreds of conversations that I have had with police, NGOs and academics over the last nine years. It is intended to provide a wide overview of wildlife trafficking, to move forward the conceptualisation and understanding of victims and offenders, to further the direction of how prevention strategies and policy interventions should be approached, and to advocate for more political will to end this urgent threat to many of the species of the globe.

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Acronyms

ACRES	Animal Concerns Research and Education Society
ALERT	Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network
ARREST	Asian Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking
ASEAN–WEN	Association of South East Asian Nations–Wildlife Enforcement Network
CAWT	Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking
CITES	Convention of the International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora
EIA	Environmental Investigation Agency
ENV	Education for Nature Vietnam
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GRASP	Great Ape Survival Project
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Commission
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LRA	Lord’s Resistance Army
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
NEST	National Environmental Security Taskforce
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RENTAS	National Network Against the Trafficking of Wild Animals
SAWEN	South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network
SSN	Species Survival Network
TRAFFIC	Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCO	World Customs Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund