

Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), between 2003 and 2019. **Methods:** All cases of wildlife seizures and environmental law contraventions reported in Portugal between 2003 and 2019 were acquired through the ICNF database. Exclusion criterium was applied to all duplicates (i.e., case duplicates that fell within two or more different listed categories were eliminated). The anonymised data of the achieved cases were analysed SPSS 27® software. **Results:** From the 3,202 cases of wildlife seizures and environmental law violations analysed during this period, 16.6% concerned cases that fell under the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 47.3% fell under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 2.7% of the cases were violations of the Natura 2000 directives, and 0.8% were *Ilex aquifolium* law-related violations. During the study period, the number of such reports peaked in 2012 (426 cases; 13.3%), the majority of violations being reported by the National Republican Guard (2,043 cases; 63.8%). The most seized taxonomic class was birds (791 cases; 47.6% of the cases for which this information was available) – which comprised an assortment of exotic (e.g., *Psittacus Erithacus*) and native

species (e.g., *Carduelis carduelis*), followed by reptiles and their parts and derivatives (242 cases; 14.6%) and ivory (207 cases; 12.4%). Of note, *I. aquifolium*, protected in Portugal since 1989 (DL No. 423/89), was the most relevant plant species apprehended (25 cases; 26.9%). Despite Portugal being considered one of the primary exporters of European eel, only 5 apprehensions (23.8% of fish cases) were reported during the study period. Most of the law infractions with administrative decision resulted in the administrative abandonment of the prosecution, as the cases were dismissed (802 cases; 44.3%) or a fine was applied (865 cases; 47.8%) – corresponding to an overall amount of 1,026,038.75 euros; mean value per case of 1,214.24 euros (only 28.9% of which was paid). Only 86 cases (4.7%) followed to a court trial. **Conclusions:** Portuguese legislation regarding the environment and wildlife protection is significant, but its application is not simple, unequivocal, or even sufficient. There is insufficient attention paid to the matter by the government and therefore limited funding. Effective enforcement policies and interventions should be strengthened, and initiatives to promote change in consumers' behaviour should be implemented.

**Keywords:** wildlife crime; endangered species; fauna and flora trading; CITES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; criminology

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## POSTER 93

### Patterns of illegal wildlife trade: the scale of the problem

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### Resumo

**Introduction:** An accelerated declining of biodiversity and species loss has been observed over the last decades. However, the illegal global wildlife trade, which is paramount

for the exacerbation of the problem, continues to grow. Wildlife crime generates billions of dollars annually and significantly contributes for insecurity, particularly at the

exploitation zones, as well as for the threaten of biodiversity that paves the way for proliferation of invasive species and disease spread. Current regulations and enforcement, both at national and international levels, have been ineffective in controlling the dimension of the problem. We compiled and discussed the available information on the illegal trade of wild-harvested fauna and flora. **Objectives:** By focusing on the particularities, targets and financial flows of the organised wildlife crime, we aimed at comprehensively identifying the impact and extent of such phenomenon to provide assistance to law enforcement authorities in refocusing efforts to fight the illicit commerce of the most prominent species. **Methods:** A comprehensive bibliographic search was performed in the Web of Science database to collect relevant articles addressing the illegal wildlife problem, as well as in sites from intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, international coalitions, agreements or conventions associated with the wildlife trade, including but not limited to the UNODC, the WWF and TRAFFIC. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ database was also consulted to assess the conservation status. In addition, a Google search was performed and reports from news media outlets, such as The Guardian, South China Morning Post, Agence France-Presse and BBC News, were reviewed to find additional relevant publications. The bibliography

of all documents was extensively reviewed to find other relevant publications. **Results:** Motivations behind this type of criminality may vary and go beyond the pursuit of profit, resulting, for instance, from thrill-seeking connected to sport or food, as a part of cultural traditions, or hostility and disrespect towards law enforcement and governments [1]. Also, culture and fashion trends deeply influence the consumption of wildlife products. Consequently, one-fifth of the global wildlife trade is attributable to increased demand for animals used as pets and entertainment purposes [2]. Hundreds of millions of plants and animals are imported to fulfil the continuous consumer demand, which currently exceeds what can be legally supplied for trophies, pets, food, clothing, decorative items, and traditional medicine [3-5]. Furthermore, human welfare and safety is also a concern, as illegal wildlife trade is often linked to organised criminal networks, which perpetrate crimes and use violence against rangers and wildlife crime officers tasked with protecting wildlife. **Conclusions:** The illegal wildlife trade is a complex, heterogeneous and constantly evolving issue that carries substantial risk for ecological conservation and human health. To provide an effective response and overcome the current global conservation crisis, better interdisciplinary and systemic wildlife trade regulation is imperative, focusing on the specific areas of the illicit traffic.

**Keywords:** wildlife crime; endangered species; fauna and flora trading; CITES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; criminology

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## POSTER 94

### Synthesis and fluorescence studies of a xanthone-phosphatidylethanolamine bioconjugate: a promising molecular probe for cancer detection?

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### Resumo

**Introduction:** Lipid dysregulation has been related to cancer and, therefore, the identification of changes