protecting Africa's wildlife

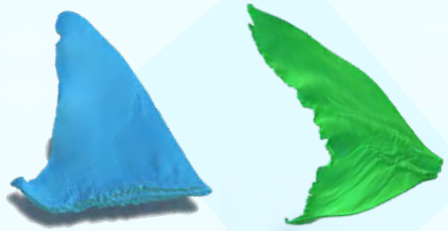
Africa's vast iconic landscapes are home to a quarter of the world's mammals and bird species. Across the continent we are seeing widespread appetite for systemic change towards a nature-positive future.

TRAFFIC's project, Reducing Trade Threats to Africa's wild species and ecosystems (ReTTA), works to identify trends in illegal or unsustainable trade and helps develop national and international solutions that could turn the tide for wildlife.

3D-printed Shark Fins

More than a third of shark and ray species are at threat of extinction, and cannot be legally traded without specific permits, or in some cases cannot be legally traded at all. Therefore it is essential that law enforcement officials can identify which species is which, to determine whether a particular catch is sustainable and legal – a task that is made harder by criminals who seek to mislead officials using fake permits, or mis-declare species or products.

TRAFFIC's 3D replica shark fins continue to help easily identify shark fins from CITES listed shark species: the freely-available files to recreate and print sets of fins have been downloaded by government agencies, universities, museums and private tech companies 185 times.



During the last year, TRAFFIC provided sets of 3D shark fins to Vietnam and South African law enforcement officials, carried out in-country training, and provided QR code page content in Vietnamese, as well as French and English.

3,000 scans
in 34 countries of the replica fin QR codes to support identification

almost 200 downloads
of the 3D scans by government agencies, universities, and tech companies

TRAFFIC's Wildlife Trade Portal is the leading comprehensive open-access repository of wildlife seizure data.

the Wildlife Trade Portal

Access to information on wildlife trade underpins successful interventions in reducing threats from illegal and unsustainable trade in wild species. Over the last year use of the Portal has seen remarkable growth, with 900 new users.

Examples of how this data is impacting efforts to fight wildlife crime include Scotiabank, which used data from the Portal to analyse Canada's historical trafficking trends. This shaped an understanding of which species are more vulnerable to illegal wildlife trafficking, enabling Scotiabank "to focus our efforts when it comes to tackling this issue."

The University of Adelaide used Portal data to identify patterns, key species, and socio-economic drivers of wildlife trade within the Pacific Island nations.

900 new users
have registered this year alone

2,700 users
from 126 countries actively using the Portal

> **TRAFFIC's extensive database was invaluable for our study. It enabled us to conduct a thorough analysis that will contribute to the understanding and conservation of wildlife in this region.**
>
> The University of Adelaide

online Cheetah trade

A TRAFFIC report covering the online trade in live cheetahs was published in March 2024, highlighting concerns that social media is stimulating this trade and threatening wild populations of these already vulnerable big cats.

The evidence gathered through TRAFFIC's research stimulated important discussions at the inaugural Cheetah Summit in Ethiopia. The Summit culminated in the signing of the Addis Ababa Declaration for Global Cheetah Conservation. This important declaration is being used internationally to strengthen cheetah conservation as part of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

Our findings are driving engagement with law enforcement across the Horn of Africa and the Middle East in tackling cheetah trafficking.

The ReTTA project is generously funded by Arcadia. Our work on 3D replica shark fins was also supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.