



**WCS**

# Wildlife Trafficking

**OVERVIEW OF THE PROBLEM  
AND WHAT WORKS AGAINST IT**

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Wildlife Conservation Society  
Presentation to the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group  
1 July 2016

## Hunting wildlife in tropical forests has been occurring for a very long time...



*at least 10,000 years  
in Latin America,*

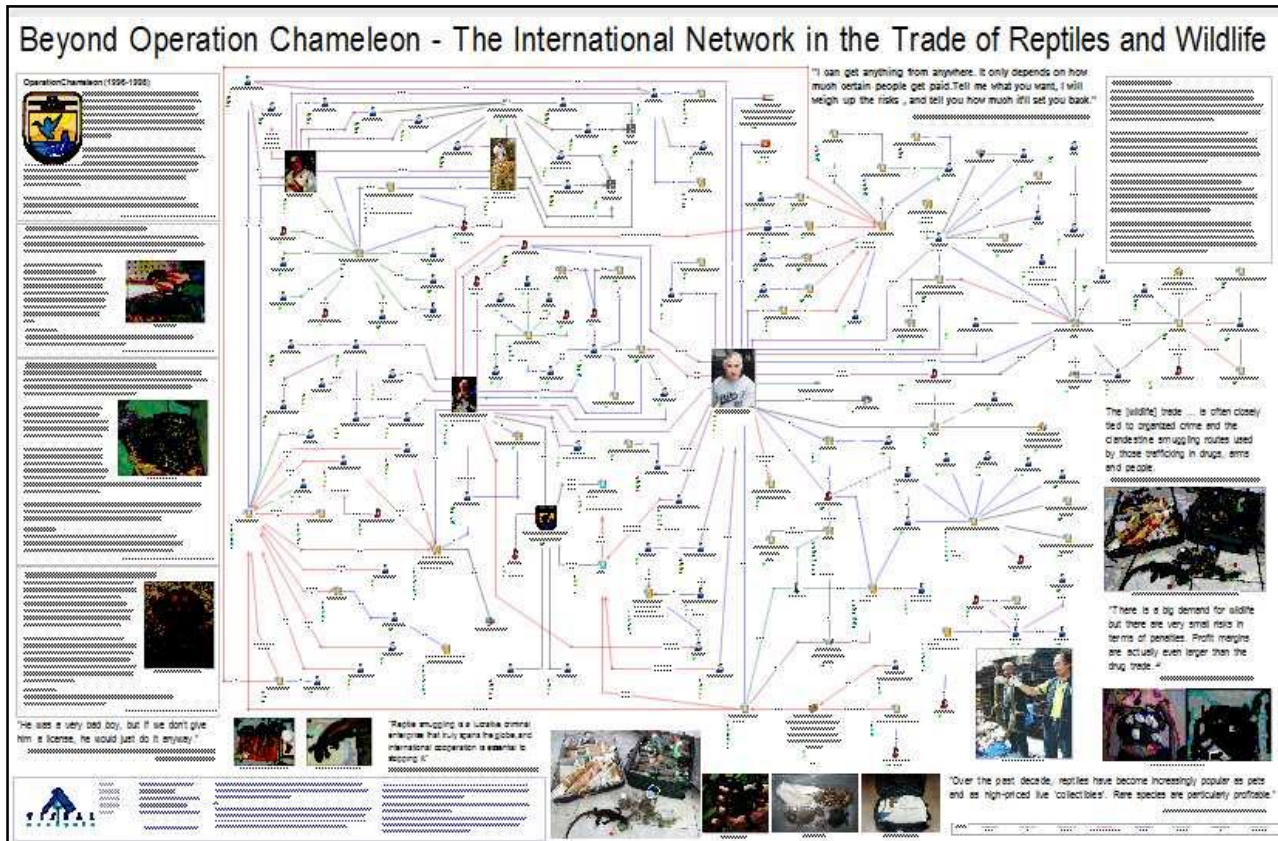


*at least 40,000 years  
in Asia,*



*and at least 100,000  
years in Africa.*

...but now hunting wildlife has become industrialized, professionalized, global, and criminal.





**POOR LOCAL POACHERS:**

- ✧ Highest risk, highest cost, but virtually no profit

*What we see*

*What we don't see*

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORKS**

- Professional and sophisticated
- Violent and predatory
- Innovative, adaptable and able to enter new markets quickly (including Latin America)

**LINKS WITH OTHER THREATS**

- Narco-trafficking
- Armed Conflict
- Coups d'Etat and Political Instability

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Social, Business, and  
Community Networks

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Something more than money?***

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## PEOPLE

Age, Sex, and Other  
Constitutional Factors

***How old are the people involved? Are they men or women (or children)?  
Where exactly are they from? What language do they speak?  
What is / was their occupation?***



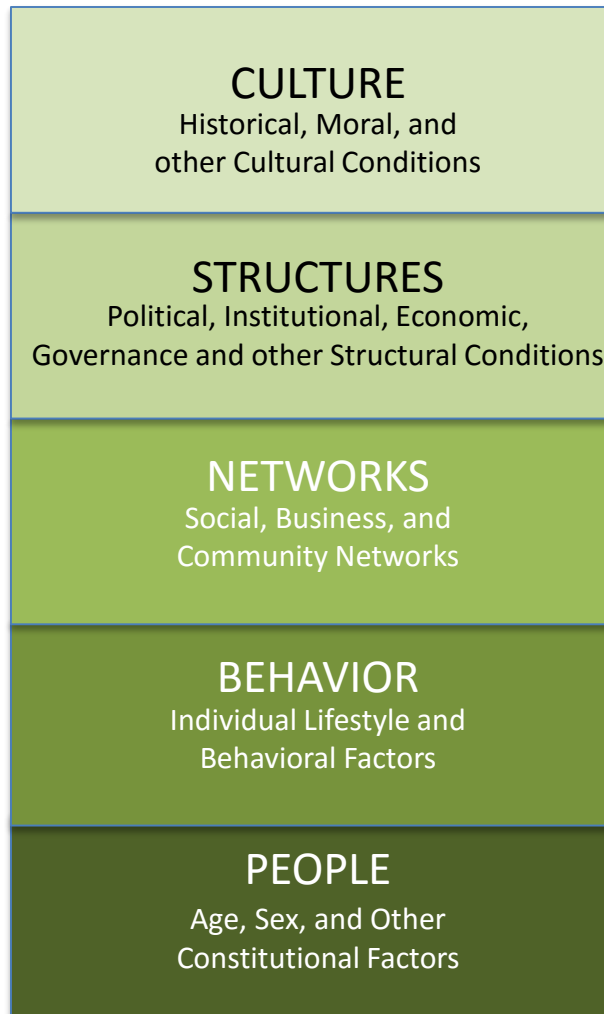
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## GEOGRAPHY

Physical, Ecological, and other  
Natural Environmental Conditions

***Where does the poaching take place?***

***How do the products move?***

***What obstacles must the traffickers and law enforcement deal with?***

## CULTURE

Historical, Moral, and  
other Cultural Conditions

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## STRUCTURES

Political, Institutional, Economic,  
Governance and other Structural Conditions

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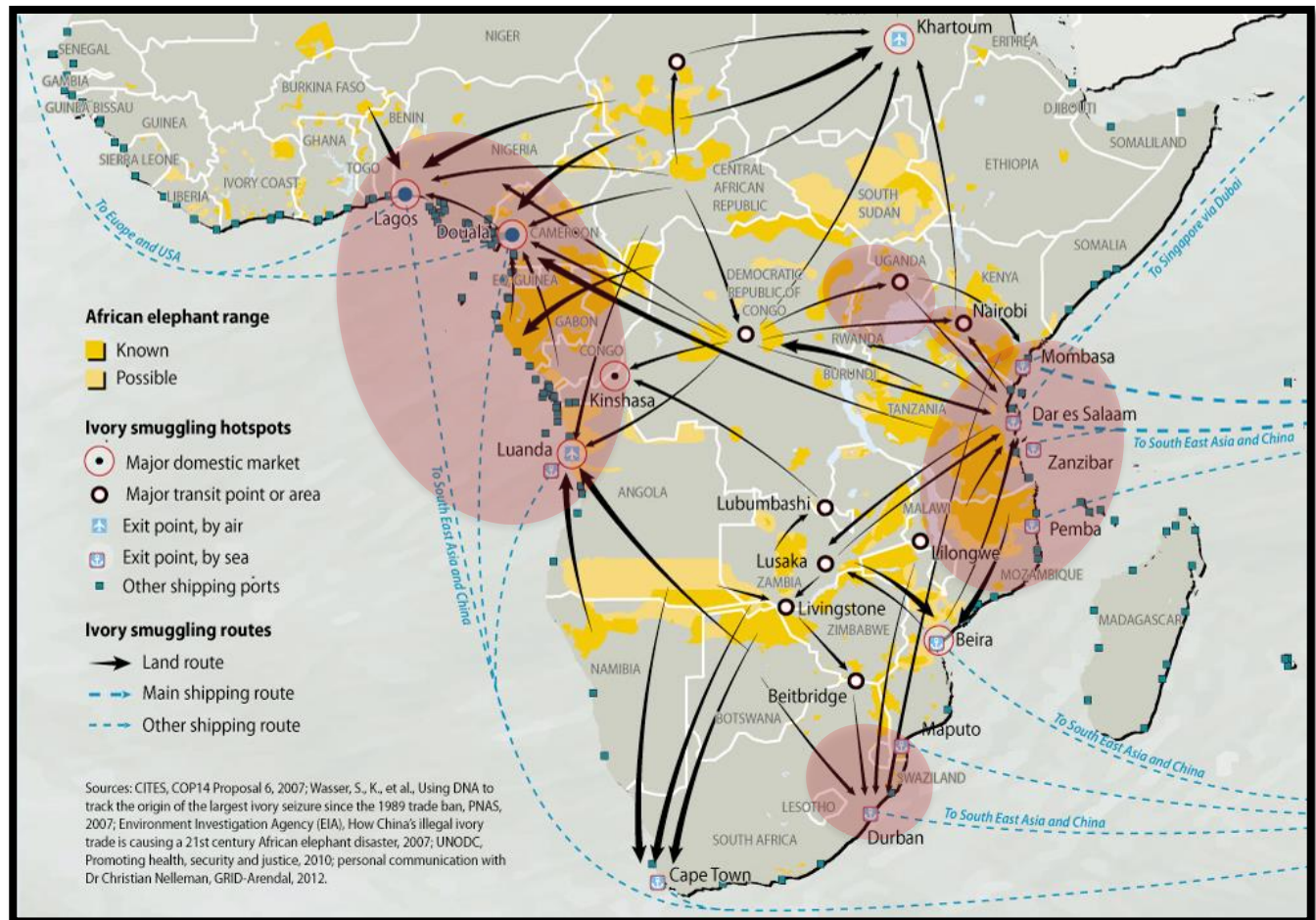
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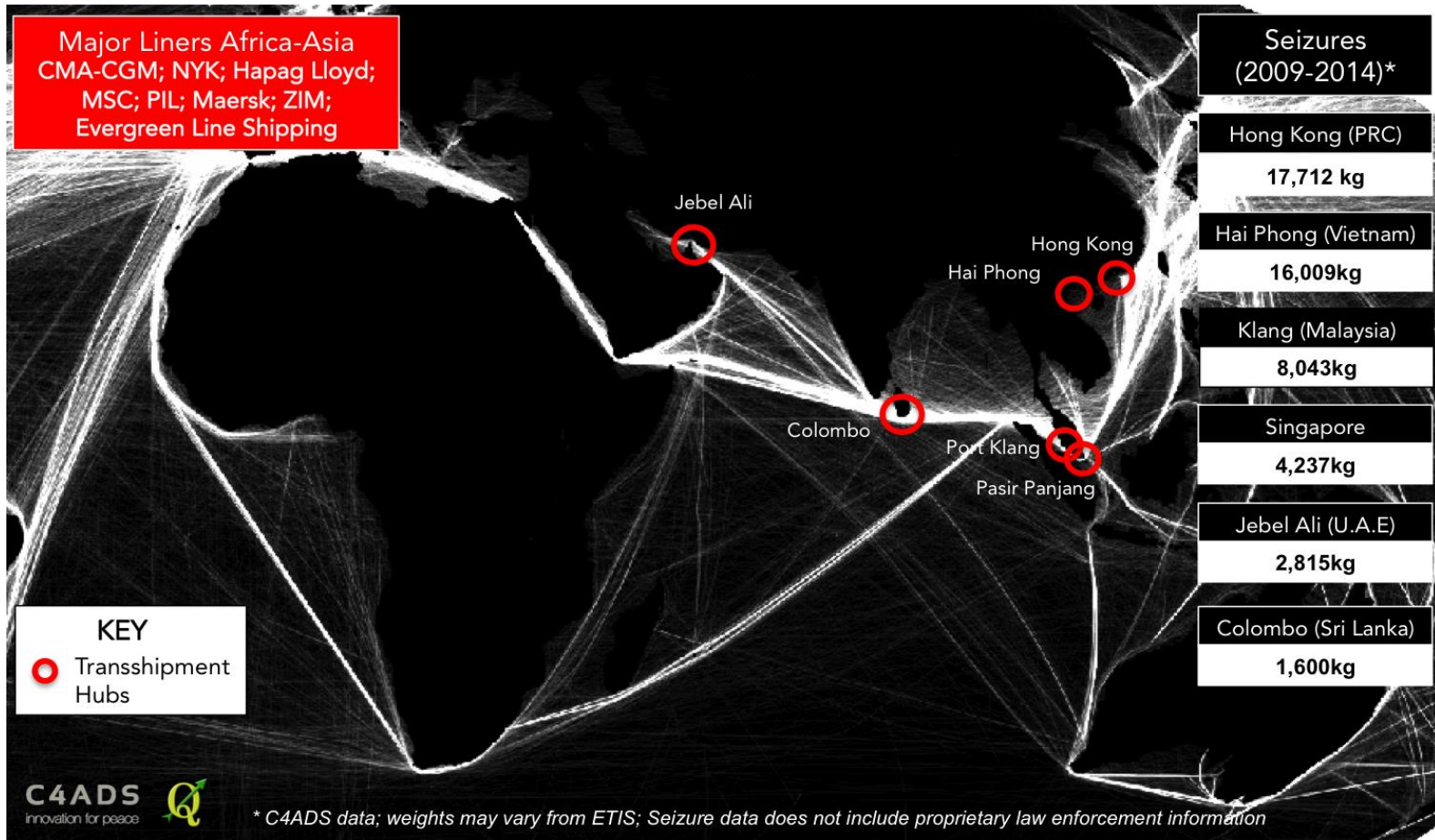
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*Areas of major economic or infrastructure investment*



Wildlife Trafficking occurs where  
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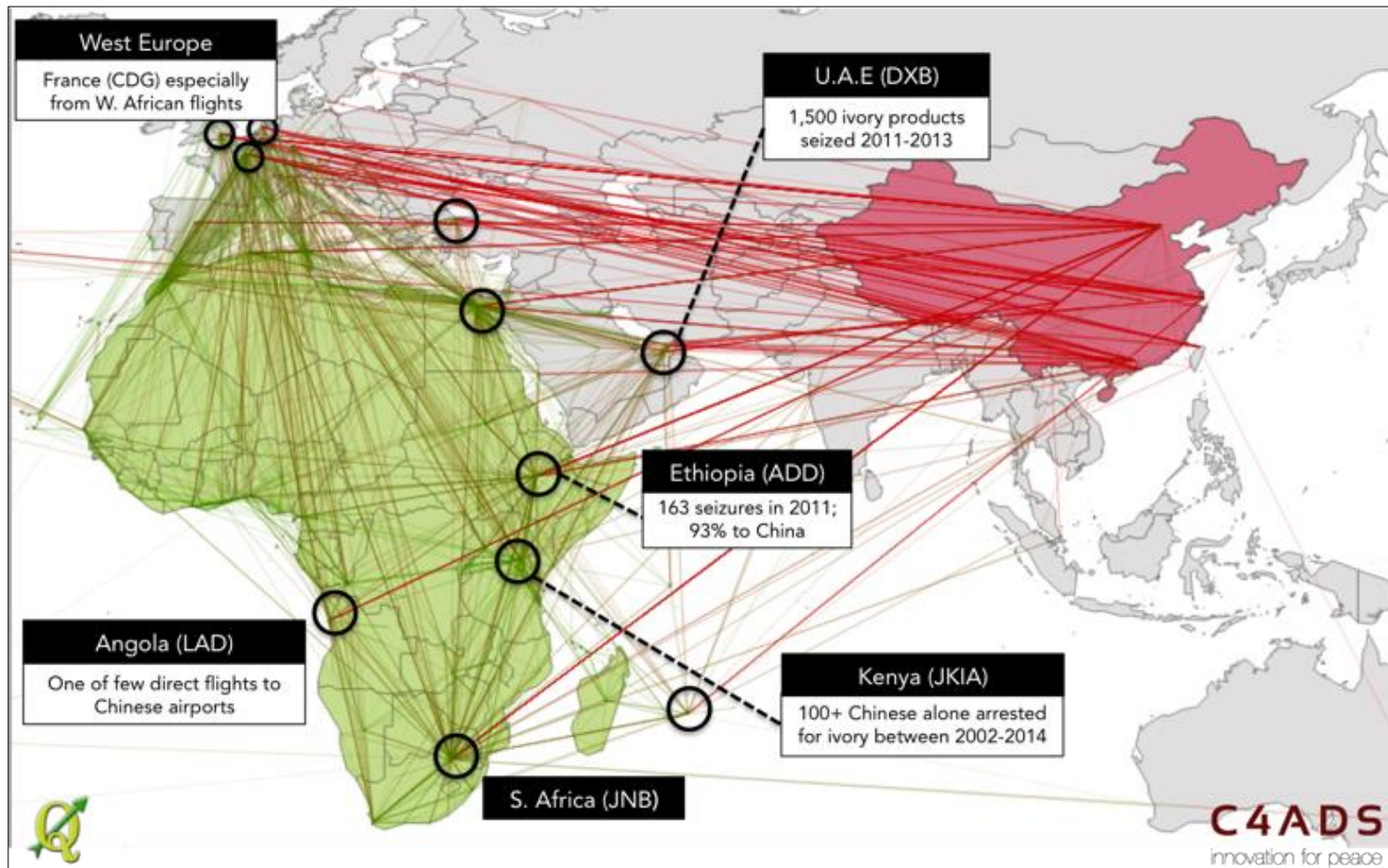
Figure 2.8: Major Africa-Asia Shipping Lanes and Known Ivory Transshipment Hubs





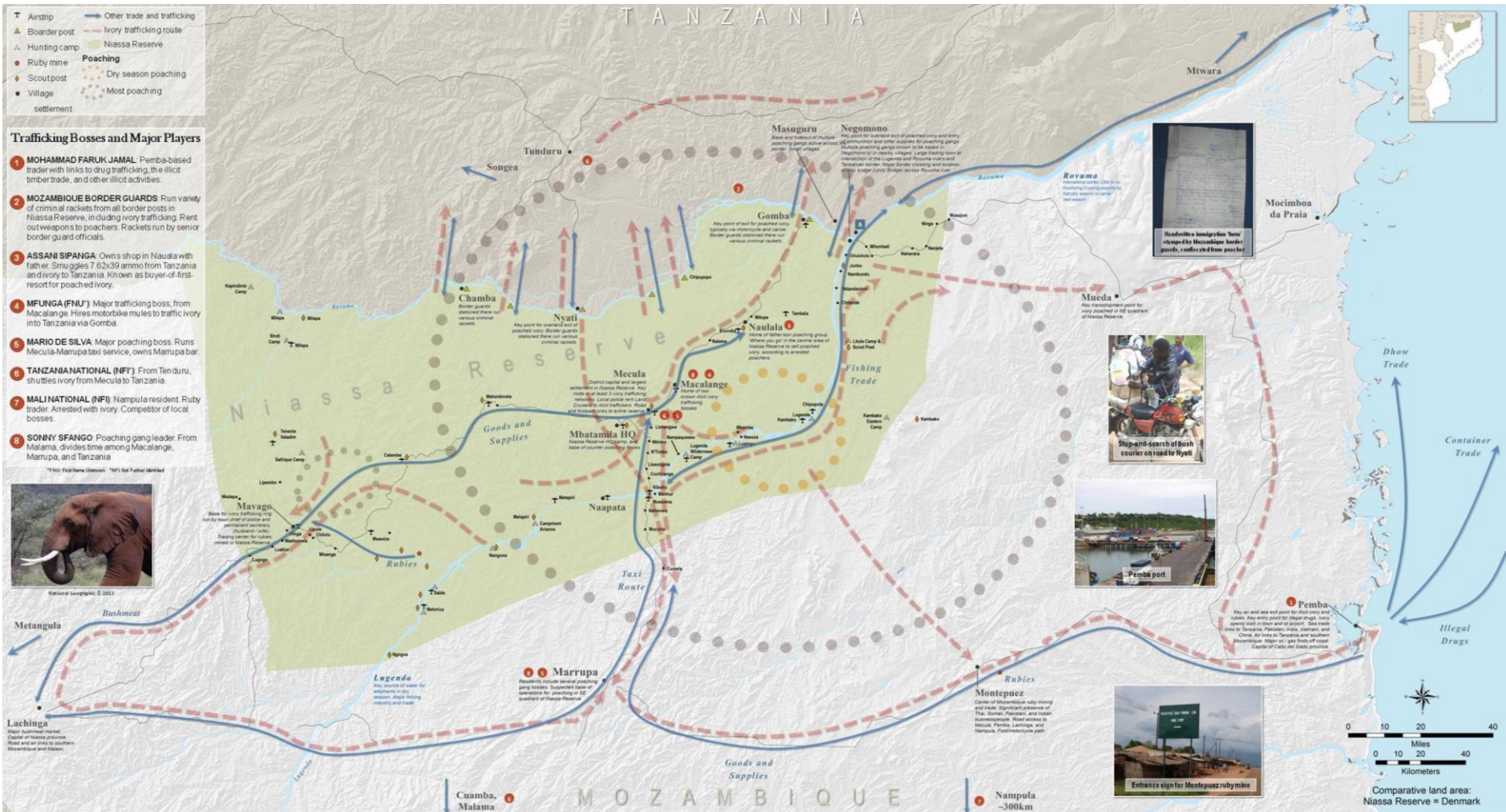
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Figure 2.10: Trafficking Chokepoints from Africa to China by Air!





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# WHAT WORKS

SOME LESSONS LEARNED FROM COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA AND ASIA

## Information, Patience, Action

- Information + Analysis + Targeted Action = Effective Outcomes
- No magic bullets, but systematic, evidence-based targeting can achieve results.

## Cross-cutting cooperation is key

- Use all laws to prosecute wildlife crime, not just wildlife/forestry legislation.
- Task Forces work: cross agencies and countries... and also with NGOs and experts

## Enforcement Allies

- A small network of good people can be more effective than a large institution

## Legal Enforcement Reform:

- Strengthen national commitments and enforcement capacity, and
- Strengthen inter-governmental and inter-agency approaches against transnational criminal networks

## Using the Media:

- Truth hurts traffickers
- Promote successes publicly
- Media exposure can hinder corruption

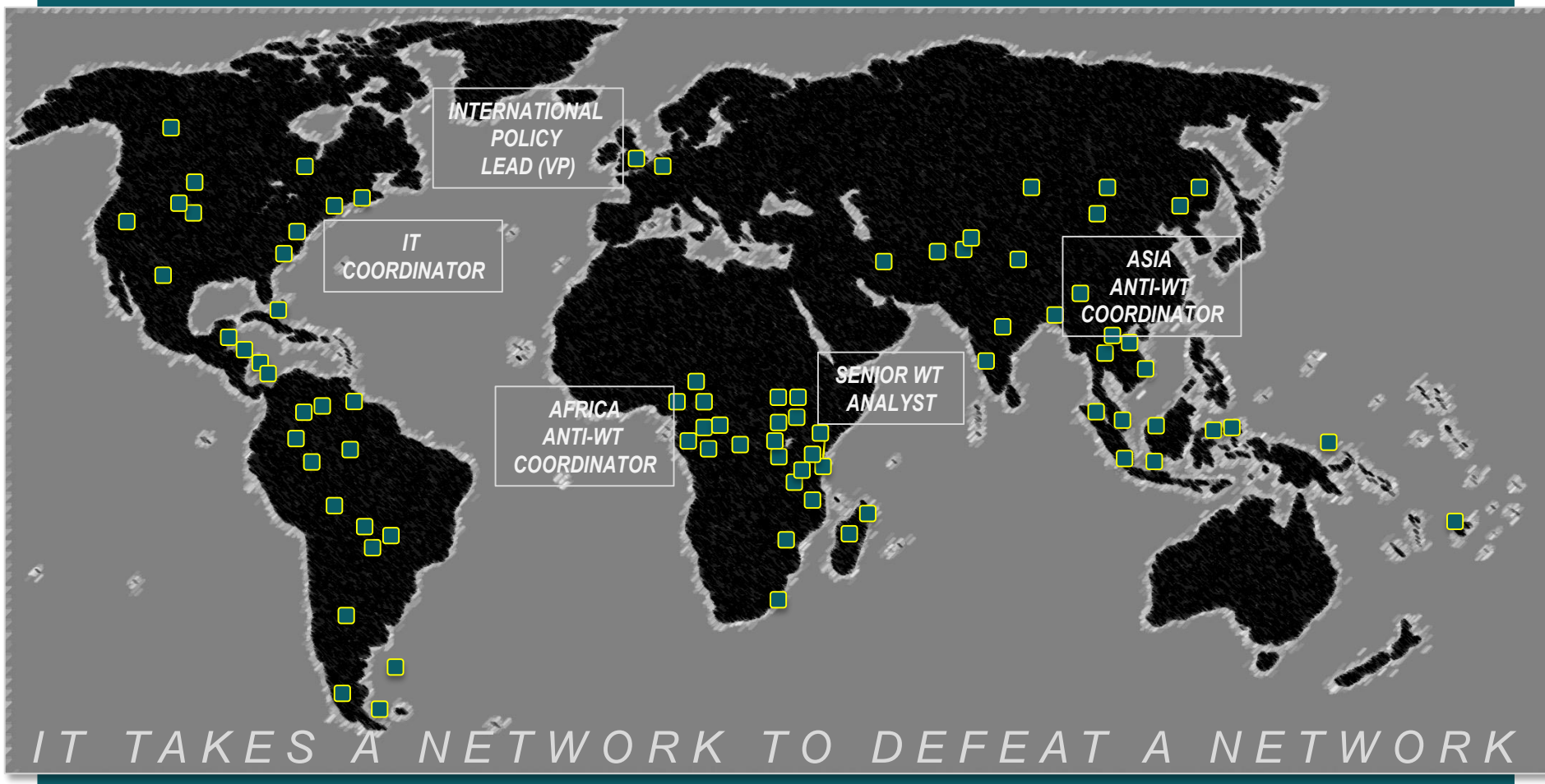


*The traffickers are professional, innovative, and are able to work internationally.  
...**We must be too!***



# Global reach: WCS's efforts to combat illicit wildlife trafficking:

- **INFORMATION PARTNER:** Collection, aggregation, analysis, and fusion of information on wildlife traffickers and trafficking dynamics and drivers.
- **FACILITATION PARTNER:** Working enforcement relationships in all major source, transit, and destination countries – facilitation of cross-border working relationships.
- **ACTION PARTNER:** Professionalized capabilities to execute intelligence-led operations against traffickers at field sites WCS manages, and catalyze arrests via information (800+ arrests to date)







## Questions?

*“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources...for your children and your children's children.*

*Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”*

*- Theodore Roosevelt  
President of the United States, 1901-1909*