

The clearing that tree poachers call the Slaughterhouse lies in the northwest corner of Washington's Gifford Pinchot National Forest, concealed behind the wall of hemlock and cedar that edges.

A herd migrates across Chad, once home to tens of thousands of elephants. After a surge in poaching, only about 1, remain. Reports were circulating, a local conservationist told him, that a mass killing of elephants had occurred some miles away, near the Cameroon border: Could Roberts see what he could find out? Roberts cruised for three hours over a vast green carpet—low-lying brush, sorghum fields and stands of acacias, broken by an occasional dirt road or cattle trail. He dipped his plane lower and followed the tracks to a clearing. It was then that he saw the first pile of bones. Roberts counted the skeletons of between 15 and 20 elephants. The remains were fresh. Hungry villagers had already swarmed over the corpses, stripping their meat. A few hundred yards from the first site Roberts came upon a second heap of bones—then a third, and a fourth. The pilot estimated that elephants had been killed here; the government would later put the total at The sole survivor of the massacre, Roberts would learn, was a 9-week-old calf, captured by villagers, roped to a tree and taunted day and night by the village boys. Roberts tracked down the location, drove there and loaded the weakened and traumatized orphan into the back of a pickup truck. He then drove several hours to the landing strip where he had parked his Cessna. After an all-night vigil, he used a container of milk to lure the elephant onto his plane, flew to his mission and tried to nurse the calf back to health. Kate Brooks At Zakouma headquarters, a heavily guarded storeroom offers mute testimony to the carnage: Kate Brooks Bush pilot Gary Roberts with Charlie, a rescued monkey uncovered evidence of an elephant massacre during an aerial survey. Not a single elephant has been killed inside the park in two years. Kate Brooks The elephants tend to stay together as a herd to defend themselves against poachers. Kate Brooks The elephant population has dropped at an alarming rate, from 3, in to just in Since then, intensive anti-poaching measures have been taken and the elephant population has stabilized. Kate Brooks Zakouma National Park was home to one of the largest elephant populations in Central Africa until poaching exploded in Kate Brooks Now that the elephant population has stabilized, calves have been observed for the first time in many years. Kate Brooks At the site Roberts discovered, a herd of 86, including pregnant females and calves who had not developed tusks, were shot. Kate Brooks Among the 86 elephants killed in the March attack were a number of pregnant females. Kate Brooks Gary Roberts has taken in many orphaned or injured wild animals, including Charlie the monkey. Kate Brooks Zakouma staff monitors communications with rangers in the radio control room, while plaques on the wall note poaching incidents and ranger deaths. Kate Brooks Here, an elephant in Zakouma National Park is being collared in an effort to protect it from potential poachers. Kate Brooks Bones of elephants killed by poachers in the March massacre lie scattered across the site. Kate Brooks The Sahel, the vast, arid zone that lies between the Sahara and the Sudanese savanna, once supported a population of a million elephants. Nineteenth- and early 20th-century Western travelers wrote with amazement about the huge herds that roamed the bush, and the contests between the great animals and the Baggara Seleem, Sudanese horsemen who pursued the herds with ten-foot-long spears. The sale to China of 62 tons of ivory from African stockpiles in reopened the door for a vast illicit market—by making the task of distinguishing legal from illegal ivory next to impossible. Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines have also become major purchasers of elephant tusks. In December , Malaysian authorities seized 1, elephant tusks hidden in secret compartments in two shipments of mahogany from the West African nation of Togo. The ton seizure, worth tens of millions of dollars, is believed to be the largest such haul in history. Now the Sahel has again become a killing ground. The killers stopped to pray to Allah between barrages of gunfire and played a cat-and-mouse game with the Cameroon army for two weeks before disappearing into the bush. Of the 50, elephants that roamed Chad 50 years ago, barely 2 percent are left. In the neighboring Central African Republic and Cameroon, the population may be even lower. We should keep those beings with us here on earth. Hassan Idriss Gargaf, 38, was said to command a gang of gunmen who rampaged across the Sahel over the last few years, growing wealthy from the sale of ivory and leaving a trail of dead elephants in its wake. The rise and fall of Gargaf sheds light on the

combustible mix of corruption, desperation and globalization that is fueling the African poaching explosion. It also reflects the dedication of a handful of conservationists, rangers and other environmental crusaders who are determined to bring the killers down. Comprising 1, square miles in remote eastern Chad, about miles from Ndjamena, the park lies at the convergence zone where the sandy wastes of the Sahara give way to savanna and tropical rainforest. For five months a year, rainfall submerges most of the park. During the dry season, the residual rain collects in a handful of channels and hundreds of muddy pans, which sustain a vast population of birds and wildlife. The landscape was still vibrantly green a month after the last rain. Lotus clogged milky channels, and ponds glinted silver in the sun. Herds of buffaloes galloped across a grassy plain. As we dipped low over the Salamat River, crocodiles wriggled from the sandy banks into the water. They fanned their ears and raised their trunks like snorkels—an instinctive response to danger. It is a sleepy place of herders, cultivators, a smattering of missionaries, and government officials. Beyond the town lies sparsely inhabited bush, where Gargaf—the son of subsistence farmers—roamed in his youth as a guide for hire, leading livestock across ancient cattle trails. The Janjaweed financed their operations partly by poaching elephants in Zakouma, a one-week ride from Darfur. The AKwielding horsemen—some direct descendants of the Baggara Selem—shot dead dozens of elephants every month in and around the park, sawing off the tusks and leaving corpses to rot on roads and in the bush. In , the head of anti-poaching at Zakouma was fired for selling weapons to the killers. In six years, the elephant population at Zakouma plunged from 4, to Gargaf had learned the migratory routes of elephants from his cattle drives, and when Sudanese poachers approached him with an offer to serve as their guide, he leapt at the opportunity. Gargaf had fathered seven children with two wives, and he might well have felt financial pressure from his family responsibilities. In , the pair allegedly led Sudanese poachers into Zakouma, where they shot dead two guards, killed 13 elephants and destroyed several vehicles. Eventually the two partners in crime began their own poaching network—purchasing weapons, organizing logistics and finding a regular buyer of tusks in Ndjamena, a merchant known as Mahmadou. As a boy in the bush, he became fascinated by elephant behavior and began doing volunteer patrols on horseback around the park as a teenager. The park put him on staff in , at age 22, the same year that two rangers were killed in an early battle with poachers. Brahim watched, horrified, as carnage swept the park, and as men he had befriended lost their lives in the escalating violence. A total of 19 park rangers and four military officers have been killed at Zakouma since Almost every day he would encounter the corpses of elephants on the main road—shot down by poachers when they emerged from the bush.

Chapter 2 : Poachers' New Target: Ancient Trees

Poachers are using evermore brazen tactics, and park officials believe that this is the result of an economy in decline as well as skyrocketing rates of methamphetamine use in these area of the nation.

Staff Writer Frost is on the pumpkin, leaves are changing hue, and somewhere in the countryside, paulownia tree rustlers are tuning their chain saws. A top-grade Paulownia qomentosa log can bring hundreds or even thousands of dollars because the wood is so highly prized in Japan. There it is used for many things, especially the traditional bridal chest, or tansu. Fall brings out the paulownia rustlers because the pale wood is no longer discolored by the sap that flows in warmer weather. Buckler and other Calvert County officers investigating a paulownia theft caught three Anne Arundel County men who smelled of gasoline and were covered with wood chips. The chips were later identified as paulownia. In August, the trio pleaded guilty in Circuit Court to felony theft. Each got a 6-month jail term, with all but two weeks suspended. It was no isolated case: Carr, an electrical contractor in Montgomery County, discovered a stump his property in Barnesville where a foot paulownia had stood the night before. Park Police has investigated at least six paulownia-poaching cases, leading to prosecution of four suspects. An Asian native, the fast-growing paulownia took root in America in the 19th century, when seed pods -- used as packing material in China -- spilled from docked ships and railroad cars. Westbound settlers also planted the sweet-smelling tree, and the rot- and warp-resistant wood has been used for duck decoys and dulcimers. But mostly it was considered a "trash" tree. Then, in the s, Japanese buyers began paying thousands for high-quality logs. Their native trees -- called kiri -- had been wiped out by a blight. In Japan, parents once planted a kiri tree when a daughter was born, then had the wood fashioned into a 5-foot to 6-foot tansu that was presented to her as she prepared to marry. To fetch top prices, paulownia logs must be straight, at least 10 inches thick, with the tight grain that comes through slow growth a crowded forest setting. Wide grain, sap discoloration, rot and insect damage or distortion from many limbs make a log less desirable. A board foot is a standard measure, 12 inches square and 1 inch thick. The former University of Maryland forestry professor has spent 14 years studying and promoting the paulownia as a cash crop and a nifty solution to global reforestation problems. He has heard from many swindled property owners, many of them retired farmers and widows. Investigators say that some rustlers scout paulownia trees -- sometimes from airplanes -- in spring, when large purple flowers give them away. In the spring of , thieves drove a truck and trailer onto James H. Two weeks later they came back and cut two more trees, but were frightened off before they could load them. Ruff said, "I sold what few I did have left.

Chapter 3 : Poachers take chunks from California redwoods, putting them at risk - CNN

*The Tree Poachers and Other Stories [James Zerndt] on calendriredelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. A collection of short stories written over the past ten years, a few of which were the seeds for later novels.*

Hunting from a moving vehicle or aircraft. The animal or plant has been tagged by a researcher. Shooting an animal in a confined area canned hunting. Environmental law[edit] In environmental scientists from the University of Massachusetts Amherst proposed the concept of poaching as an environmental crime , defining any activity as illegal that contravenes the laws and regulations established to protect renewable natural resources including the illegal harvest of wildlife with the intention of possessing , transporting , consuming or selling it and using its body parts. They considered poaching as one of the most serious threats to the survival of plant and animal populations. Poor people rely on natural resources for their survival and generate cash income through the sale of bushmeat , which attracts high prices in urban centres. Body parts of wildlife are also in demand for traditional medicine and ceremonies. In a study conducted in Tanzania by two scientists named Paul Wilfred and Andrew Maccoll explored why the people in Tanzania poached certain species and when they are more likely to do so. They decided to interview people from multiple villages who lived near the Ugalla Game Reserve. To make sure the interview and their results were unbiased, they randomly picked several villages and several families from each village to interview. Usually, bushmeat is considered a subset of poaching due to the hunting of animals regardless of the laws that conserve certain species of animals. Poachers hunt for bushmeat for both consumption and for profit. Finally, families were more likely to hunt for bushmeat right before harvest season and during heavy rains, as before the harvest season, there is not much agricultural work and heavy rainfall obscures human tracks, making it easier for poachers to get away with their crimes. For example, in Thailand, there are anecdotal accounts of the desire for a better life for children, which drive rural poachers to take the risk of poaching even though they dislike exploiting the wildlife. According to Joseph Vandegrift, China saw an unusual spike in demand for ivory in the twenty-first century due to the economic boom that allowed more middle-class Chinese to have a higher purchasing power that incentivized them to show off their newfound wealth using ivory, a rare commodity since the Han Dynasty. Several authors collaborated on a piece titled "Public attitude toward tiger farming and tiger conservation in Beijing, China", exploring the option of whether it would be a better policy to raise tigers on a farm or put them in a wildlife conservation habitat to preserve the species. Conducting a survey on 1, residents of Beijing, China with being university students and the other being regular citizens, they tried to gauge public opinion about tigers and conservation efforts for them. They were asked questions regarding the value of tigers in relations to ecology, science, education, aestheticism, and culture. However, one reason emerged as to why tigers are still highly demanded in illegal trading: Species affected by poaching The detrimental effects of poaching can include: The effective size of protected areas is reduced as poachers use the edges of these areas as open-access resources. Outbreaks of the Ebola virus in the Congo Basin and in Gabon in the s have been associated with the butchering of apes and consumption of their meat. In India for example, they bear the brunt of anti-tiger poaching measures, [44] despite the main reason for the tiger population crash in the 20th century being due to hunting by European colonists and Indian royalties. He asserts that conservation organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund apply the term "poaching" unfairly to tribal people engaging in subsistence hunting while supporting trophy hunting by tourists for a fee. The body parts of many animals, such as tigers and rhinoceroses , are believed to have certain positive effects on the human body, including increasing virility and curing cancer. These parts are sold in areas where these beliefs are practiced â€” mostly Asian countries particularly Vietnam and China â€” on the black market. Traditional Chinese medicine often incorporates ingredients from all parts of plants, the leaf, stem, flower, root, and also ingredients from animals and minerals. The use of parts of endangered species such as seahorses , rhinoceros horns, binturong and tiger bones and claws has created controversy and resulted in a black market of poachers. Rhino populations face extinction because of demand in Asia for traditional medicine and as a luxury item and in the Middle East where horns are used for decoration. Ivory is a material used in creating art objects and jewelry where the

ivory is carved with designs. China is a consumer of the ivory trade and accounts for a significant amount of ivory sales. A Gamsbart, literally chamois beard, a tuft of hair traditionally worn as a decoration on trachten-hats in the alpine regions of Austria and Bavaria formerly was worn as a hunting and poaching trophy. Since rhino horn is made of keratin, advocates say the procedure is painless for the animal. Hunting for ivory was banned in , but poaching of elephants continues in many parts of Africa stricken by economic decline. Founder Damien Mander is an advocate of the use of military equipment and tactics, including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, for military-style anti-poaching operations. Rosaleen Duffy of the University of London writes that military approaches to conservation fail to resolve the underlying reasons leading to poaching, and do not tackle either "the role of global trading networks" or continued demand for illegal animal products. According to Duffy, such methods "result in coercive, unjust and counterproductive approaches to wildlife conservation". Environment minister Pohamba Shifeta said on social media: No more business as usual. The former deals with people desiring a product due to many other people buying it, while the latter is similar but with one distinct difference: Therefore, the snob effect would offset some of the gains made by anti-poaching laws, regulations, or practices: While approaches to dilute mitigate poaching from a supply-side may not be the best option as people can become more willing to purchase rarer items, especially in countries gaining more wealth and therefore higher demand for illicit goods"Frederick Chen still advocates that we should also focus on exploring ways to reduce the demand for these goods to better stop the problem of poaching. This multi-lateral approach include working with different agencies to fight and prevent poaching since organized crime syndicates benefit from tiger poaching and trafficking; therefore, there is a need to raise social awareness and implement more protection and investigative techniques. For example, conservation groups raised more awareness amongst park rangers and the local communities to understand the impact of tiger poaching"they achieved this through targeted advertising that would impact the main audience. Targeting advertising using more violent imagery to show the disparity between tigers in nature and as a commodity made a great impact on the general population to combat poaching and indifference towards this problem. The use of spokespeople such as Jackie Chan and other famous Asian actors and models who advocated against poaching also helped the conservation movement for tigers too. The issue of poaching is not a simple one to solve as traditional methods to counter poaching have not taken into the account the poverty levels that drive some poachers and the lucrative profits made by organized crime syndicates who deal in illegal wildlife trafficking. Conservationists hope the new emerging multi-lateral approach, which would include the public, conservation groups, and the police, will be successful for the future of these animals. United States of America[edit] Some game wardens have made use of robotic decoy animals placed in high visibility areas to draw out poachers for arrest after the decoys are shot. Federal government, but are only banned from fishing in a few states such as Mississippi and Texas. The remains of a poacher, who never returned from a hunting expedition in , were found at the site in Poaching was being used then as a dare. It had a certain erotic connotation, as e. Urban citizens still had some sympathy for the hillbilly rebel, while the local community were much less in favor.

Chapter 4 : Three rhino poachers eaten by lions in South Africa | TreeHugger

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Chapter 5 : Listen, tree poachers: Growers have had it | The Seattle Times

The Tree Poachers and Other Stories has 8 ratings and 3 reviews. Charles said: This was a really wonderful collection of short stories, and honestly I'd.

Chapter 6 : The Race to Stop Africa's Elephant Poachers | Science | Smithsonian

DOWNLOAD PDF THE TREE POACHERS

The poachers used a hole at the bottom of the trunk to crawl on the ground into the tree, before closing the entrance with bark and other wood to keep animals at bay. The baobab literally swallowed the poachers - they were nowhere to be seen and invisible to rangers on patrol.

Chapter 7 : The tree poachers (Book,) [calendrierdelascience.com]

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Chapter 8 : The Tree Poachers and Other Stories by Jamie Zerndt

Poachers' New Target: Ancient Trees This natural resource is centuries in the making, and the black market is thriving he came across the remains of an year-old cedar tree. It had stood at.

Chapter 9 : Poaching - Wikipedia

Tree poaching once was a problem at Washington State University, which has more than evergreen, spruce and fir trees on campus. "We did have a lot of trees cut for Christmas trees, either.