FOLLOWING THE WILDLIFE CRIME MONEY CHAIN

GUIDEBOOK FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
Cheetahs are described by global wild cat conservation organisation Panthera as Africa's most threatened big cat. With only an estimated 7,100 cheetahs left in the wild, direct hunting of cheetah for their skins in some parts of Africa as well as the illegal trade in live cubs and adults have resulted in them being regarded as 'critically endangered' in North Africa and Asia.
FOLLOWING THE WILDLIFE CRIME MONEY CHAIN

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1. INTRODUCTION

The trade in wildlife is all about making money. It is the same as in any other business venture; the only difference is that the traded stock in illegal wildlife trafficking is contraband. Illegal wildlife traders apply the same business principles as those used by supermarket chain stores with branches worldwide. They establish what consumers want, source stock at competitive prices, bring it to the local environments of their consumers and sell it for a profit.

If you need to disrupt the business operation of such a supermarket chain, removing the staff member responsible for packing the shelves is not going to have a meaningful impact. Removing the store manager would be more effective, but addressing the supermarket chain’s international head office would be far more successful as this would throw the entire business into disarray. With former colleagues competing directly with each other and suppliers not knowing who to deal with and how they would receive payment, the company could easily face liquidation.

When addressing wildlife crime, we need to consider this scenario, which involves terms such as syndicated and organised crime. Wildlife crime is rated as one of the world’s four most lucrative illegal businesses. Not surprisingly, people involved in the illegal wildlife trade are flourishing financially, along with their fellow criminals in drugs, weapons and human smuggling. The contents of this guidebook are aimed at first responders and front-line officers who are responsible for addressing a wide variety of profit-driven wildlife crimes. It attempts to provide important generic information that is relevant across Southern and Eastern Africa.

Indications of organised crime

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Our hope is that the guidebook will provide a solid basis for first responders so the evidence they have identified and preserved can be used to carry out further investigations. These, in turn, will focus on following the money trail to uncover and disrupt the illegal activities of organised wildlife crime syndicates.

**THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TRIANGLE**

When dealing with the organised wildlife trade, it’s useful to understand the typical triangle of this criminal activity. Poachers, the people who source the illegal product from the wild make up the bottom layer.

Next up are transporters, who are a vital part of the trade as they ensure the products reach their destination. They usually take orders from someone who has promised to reward them financially. For people who live in impoverished communities and may have been unemployed for some time, these financial rewards may seem worth the risk.

Once the product reaches people in the third level, they take care of quality control, processing and packaging in preparation for shipment. This usually takes place from the source company to a port of exit in other regions. Shipments may also possibly be sent worldwide to other members who will receive and distribute to wholesalers. Thereafter, it will be distributed in the retail market where consumers can access the product.
At every step in the process, each person has to be paid for their efforts. This usually involves money, although direct exchange agreements for other products such as guns or drugs also take place.

Furthermore, it is not uncommon that once a criminal syndicate has established a channel to move illegal goods in or out of a country, it will accept any contraband that can be distributed via the established channel. Take, for example, a water pipe from country A to country B. Once built, any goods this pipeline can accommodate will be channelled down the network of pipes.

Our traditional approach to combating wildlife crime has been to try and prevent contraband from getting into this pipeline. This entails attempting to catch poachers aiming to provide the goods that are introduced into the illegal wildlife trade market. While many dedicated and brave wildlife rangers worldwide undertake this vital task, the nature of international organised crime syndicates necessitates pursuing their head offices, or at least the CEOs of the national branches of such illegal businesses.

Wildlife contraband trade routes depend largely on the origin of the desired species being sourced and the location of the end users. For example, cats such as cheetah from Botswana may land up in the Middle East; reptiles from South Africa may be traded in Europe; Namibian rhino horn may find its way to China; abalone from South Africa is transported to Vietnam, grey parrots from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) may be traded in South Africa or Zimbabwean pangolin may go to Hong Kong. Naturally, there are options regarding both the source and end-user countries that may also vary over time as supply and markets change. However, increasing amounts of money are paid for these transactions across the entire supply chain. By following this chain and gathering evidence to be used in criminal investigations along the way, these networks can be exposed and disrupted.

2. BASIC CRIME INVESTIGATION PRINCIPLES

All successful investigations are built upon good evidence gathered at ground level. Thereafter, investigators use this evidence for further analysis to establish who orchestrated the crime. Such investigations can become very complex and branch out across the world.
However, if the initial evidence gathering is poor; basing any subsequent investigations on this will be doomed to failure.

Legal practitioners who defend accused individuals are likely to demolish such poor evidence and obtain an acquittal in court. The implication of such failures by law enforcement agencies is that it only further educates criminals about the methods investigative officers use in trying to curb their illegal activities and how much information they know about their operational details.

This guidebook aims to provide practical investigative guidelines to assist front-line officers and first responders involved in examining wildlife crime incidents. This will primarily focus on highlighting specific examples of evidence that could be useful to investigators charged with “following the money” that drives global wildlife crime.

Initially, the guidebook will emphasise typical crime scene procedures by focusing on the common principles that apply to various scenarios. Then we shall give examples of some important items that are typically overlooked when dealing with wildlife crime scenes. Finally, we shall provide some additional information which will be helpful to investigators.

Everyone gets paid, but there are critical questions that investigators need to answer. These include who gets paid and why, where does the money originate, what currency or denominations are involved and when the payment took place.
The answers to these questions help investigators to link each part of the criminal chain; from the many poachers and middlemen, to the couriers and payroll masters. From there, they are in a better position to uncover and disrupt the syndicate operations to reduce their profit margins and make wildlife crime far less appealing to criminals.

2017 Global Financial Integrity report on Transnational Crime and the Developing World

- Transnational crime is a business, and business is very good. Money is the primary motivation for these illegal activities.
- The annual revenue generated from illegal wildlife trade is between $5–$23-billion.
- The money lines the pockets of the perpetrators and also finances violence, corruption and other abuses.
- These crimes undermine local and national economies and destroy the environment.
- Transnational crime will continue to grow until the paradigm of high profits and low risk is challenged.

3. ROLE OF THE FIRST RESPONDERS

In the simplest terms, the first responder is exactly that; the first law enforcement officer to arrive at, or encounter a suspected crime scene. That person’s job is to determine if a crime has been committed or has allegedly been committed and then to react according to his department’s established protocol. He should summon the person who will deal with the matter and ensure that he preserves the integrity of the scene and everything related to it until this person arrives.

Where does the first responder fit in?

- You are the cornerstone upon which every step of every investigation relies upon
- You are the foundation upon which the investigation is built
- You may not realise how important your work is!
Make your law book your friend and familiarise yourself with sections that are commonly transgressed. It is important to refer to the exact wording of definitions and sections describing a suspected illegal activity. This will serve to jog your memory when searching for relevant evidence relating to the activity under investigation.

Most written laws begin with Section 1, which contains a list of definitions relating to aspects of that particular subject of the law. These definitions provide guidance when various interpretations of a section of the law arise.

Similarly, the following generic definitions should be useful in clarifying some of the terms used throughout this guidebook.

A “crime” can be defined as the unlawful culpable conduct of a person which is subject to a penalty by the State. Identifying a crime authorises you to investigate further.

A “crime scene” is a place of an unknown size where a crime is suspected to have been committed. Examples of such scenarios include in the bush, a vehicle, on a person or in an office, shop or airport.
“Clues” which the investigator collects in accordance with strict rules, may become evidence.

We need to develop our observation skills to recognise “financial clues”. A knowledgeable first responder will know what else to protect at the scene.

“Evidence” is an object or verbal report which the investigator has usually collected according to strict rules. It may prove the identity of the person suspected of committing a crime and also the nature of that crime.

“Exhibit” is a form of evidence i.e. any object that is permissible before the Court, which will help prove the commission of a crime or link the arrested person with the commission of that crime.

The “chain of custody” of every item starts with the first responder and the defence counsel will scrutinise this chain. The “chain of custody” is the proof of who had what in their possession when, from the moment of the seizure of an item of evidence, to finalisation of the court case where the item has to be produced before the court. The duration of a chain of custody can sometimes involve several years.

Effective “observation” does not merely rely on looking at everything at the scene. Instead, it depends on using all five senses and putting all observations into context with each other. Always ask the “5W’s and the “H” for each object or incident.

For example, ask yourself “what can I find that will tell me anything about the money chain?”

- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- What?
- Who?
- How?

“Pocketbook” is a small pocket notebook which, when written up according to rules, may be presented as prima facie evidence in court. It forms a chronological record of the work the investigator does and writes down at the time when he undertakes each work-related activity.
"Prima facie" evidence is based on the first impression and is accepted as correct until proved otherwise.

The Investigator must understand the term “contemporaneous notes.” These refer to notes or comments you make in your pocketbook at the time of the observation or action, or immediately thereafter.

Essential tools for first responders

All first responders should have the following basic items to ensure they are equipped to handle the situation when encountering an alleged crime scene:

- Law book or a suitable short version
- Pocket notebook and pen
- Torch
- Pair of binoculars
- Good quality camera (mobile phone cameras are not ideal and should only be considered a second-best option if a dedicated camera is not available.)

If you are the first law enforcement officer to discover a crime scene, or are called to attend to an incident, your first priority after arriving on the scene is to start to assess the incident. Thereafter, you would secure the scene from members of the public and other officers to enable more detailed observation to take place.

The use of observation is a powerful tool and solving the crime often depends on accurate and complete observation skills. Remember that effective observation does not only rely on looking at everything at the scene! It requires applying all five senses to scrutinise aspects so you can put all your observations into context with each other.
As the first responder, you will need to give the investigator an accurate description of the scene as it was found at the time of your arrival. If the matter ends up before a court, you will rely on this information to relay it correctly to the judicial officer. Taking detailed notes and photographs are important tools in enhancing your observation skills should you need to recall details accurately in court.

4. RECOMMENDED OBSERVATION TECHNIQUES

We recommend using these proven observation techniques. Be mindful, however, that the first responder should only go as far as necessary to confirm that a crime is suspected. Once he has confirmed this, he should not go any further, except to secure the scene and await the arrival of the officer who will be responsible for evidence gathering and further scene investigation.

On arriving at the scene, the investigating officer will also follow the same good observation procedure as the first responder. However, he will continue by investigating the scene further after having confirmed that a crime has been committed.

1. Stop and observe

Before approaching a scene and having it pointed out to you, take a few moments to get a good overall picture. This is also where you should start taking notes and photographs. Avoid rushing onto a scene or starting to search before recording details of the initial scene properly on your arrival.

2. Focus on the big objects on the scene

From the same distant vantage point, study the big objects on the scene. A good method is to segment the observation area by using a circular motion or crisscrossing the scene.

“I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I knew); Their names are What and Why and When, And How and Where and Who.”

Continually ask yourself the “SW’s” & the “H” questions of each object or incident.
This ensures that you can explore every part systematically. This method can be equally effective if the scene involves a vehicle, suitcase or a dead animal in the bush. Once you have noted the big items on a scene and photographed them at a distance, you should continue with the other important observation steps.

3. **Look out for smaller objects on the scene**
Next, look at the other smaller objects on the scene as some of these may be obscured from where you are standing. Remember to take photographs and notes of everything you can see.

4. **Moving closer**
Up to this point, there is no need to move around on or into the actual scene. You can conduct the three initial observations using binoculars when for example, you are in the field, from a doorway into a room or from outside a vehicle. Remember, the first responder should not go any further than this once a crime has been suspected or confirmed unless he is going to be tasked with investigating the crime scene. Moving further onto a crime scene is likely to disturb evidence and requires knowledge on how to deal with evidence items found on a scene.

5. **Guidelines for studying objects**
- **Observe** each object on the scene, thereafter number, photograph and make notes of each object likely to be used as evidence.
- Remember to photograph an object *in situ* that you find on the scene.
- If an object had to be unwrapped before it was discovered, then stop and photograph the object immediately after it has been uncovered and identified as possible evidence.
- It is important to record your progress photographically when dealing with the scene. This means that you need to have taken photographs of the undisturbed scene to indicate what the item looked like before it was unwrapped or uncovered.
- Make sure not to contaminate any items with your own fingerprints or DNA by wearing gloves.
- When handling evidence, always wear fresh gloves. Take note that wearing gloves will not prevent damage to a fingerprint if you touch it!
- Use gloves correctly. Wearing gloves won’t prevent you from placing your DNA onto the scene if, for example, you rub your face or answer your mobile phone with your gloves on and then continue to work on the scene with the same gloves.
6. How objects inter-relate with each other

Lastly, but most importantly, question how the relationship between the objects helps you to form a picture of what happened at the scene. It is very important to understand how items found at a scene can help you in investigating the crime further.

Firstly, you need to prove a crime has been committed and correctly identify that crime (this is where your law knowledge is vital) and then collect the correct evidence to prove this.

Secondly, you need to collect evidence that will place a suspect back on the scene. The aim is to ensure the evidence can show “who did what, where, when and how,” although the answer to “why” may not be obvious at this point.

In order to make a clear and accurate judgement of what happened at a scene, an efficient observer should be able to distinguish between:

- the possible and impossible;
- the natural and unnatural;
- the important and unimportant.

5. THE CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR

At this point, the first responder should not proceed further at the scene if another officer is summoned to investigate further. In some instances, first responders with appropriate training may continue on as the scene-of-crime officer. However, this is unusual and ideally, his main task should be to ensure that the scene is secure from any contamination and await the arrival of the scene-of-crime officer. Once the new officer arrives, the first responder usually gives him a brief before officially handing over the crime scene.

Exploring beyond the norm

At a wildlife crime scene, you may start searching for the typical items used in the activity, for example, firearms, ammunition, axes, nets, cages or poison. Don’t, however, overlook items out of the norm. This is when you should take off your blinkers and open your mind to possible items of evidence you would not usually focus on. Going outside your normal framework and investigating a scene thoroughly may lead to recovering several other items.
It is important to preserve items like mobile phones, computers, iPads, memory sticks, GPS devices and all types of receipts including those for fuel, food, accommodation and airtime.

These items could identify a person at a certain time at a specific place and can lead to further investigation through interviews, CCTV camera footage, witnesses and creating a travel log of the person’s movements and meetings.

When interviewing witnesses about an incident, direct your questions to the person in order to explore his/her complete observations, including the techniques mentioned above. You must consider the subjectivity of a person’s account of the incident, as different people will be “tuned in” to different senses.

**Contemporaneous notes**

Remember to make good use of your pocketbook, which should always be on hand to record a chronological record of your work. The contemporaneous notes you make at the time of the observation or action or immediately thereafter, will be the backbone of your statement you record later, which details the investigation work you have undertaken in the case.

Good contemporaneous notes that are always up-to-date will improve the evidential quality of your statement, which is then more likely to be accepted as a true version of the events when related to Court. The Court has high regard for such notes that were made at the time and not recorded later on.

Examples of pocketbooks
Photography

It is very important to use photographs to support your observations and statement. Photographs should clearly indicate the desired object or view.

Use wide-angle photographs to capture the scene as you initially find it.

Thereafter, photograph the entire desired object. Remember to select an appropriately sized marker to use for reference purposes when photographing a specific item.

Practise taking photographs with your camera or request to attend a basic crime scene photography course. Become confident at producing suitable quality photographs when using your camera at the scene. Use a torch or the camera flash to light up dark places in the photograph and include the numbered disc or beacon allocated to that item on the crime scene in your photograph.

Where possible, include a scale next to the object.

If work colleagues share one camera in the office, get your own memory card. This ensures that you can remove it after taking all your pictures and keep it safe from someone else accidentally deleting the images. Always copy all your photographs onto a CD for safekeeping as soon as you return to your office.
It is usually better to take many photos from different angles. In essence, be mindful that:

- Wide-angle views should show the entire undisturbed scene;
- Each object should be recorded;
- Wide-angle views should also indicate the numbered cards or beacons in relation to each other.

6. COLLECTING AND PACKAGING EVIDENCE ITEMS

Having correctly recorded all items on the crime scene, the next job is to collect and package these items. The first step in this task is to do it in such a manner that you will be able to clearly explain to a court where each item was found at the crime scene or on the person.

Secondly, you need to package the item in such a way that you do not disturb its evidential value in any way while transporting the item from the scene to the place of storage or onwards for further analysis.

Avoiding evidence contamination is of utmost importance in this task. If two objects come into contact with each other, traces of the one will be transferred to the other. This means the original condition of the recovered items will not be the same as when they were found at the crime scene. Common examples of evidence item contamination include mixing meat samples, folding clothes together, rubbing surfaces with fingerprints or inserting a flash drive/USB memory stick into a computer. Taking proper care when packaging and handling of evidence items will go a long way to prevent the risk of contamination between evidence items.

Contaminating evidence can have hugely negative implications. For example, despite conducting an accurate forensic analysis in a laboratory, a Court may entirely disregard items recovered from a crime scene that have possibly been contaminated in the collection and packaging phases. Forensic evidence can be used to make very convincing arguments about the guilt of an accused person in Court, but its value can be completely lost due to contamination in the field.
Collecting items that may contain evidence of a financial nature

Evidence relating to financial records and transactions may be found on scraps of paper, notebooks and official bank statements. Examples of these include notes, documents, bank statements, receipts and airtime vouchers.

However, in our modern world, much of this evidence may be stored in various digital formats. These could be on desktop or laptop computers, emails, Word documents, mobile phones, external hard drives, in “the Cloud” and connected via Bluetooth, on the Internet or cables.

Other examples are:
- Desktop computers: e.g. CPU or interface units installed in an office network
- Mobile devices with their own power source: e.g. Mobile phones, routers
- Mobile devices without their own power source: e.g. SIM cards, USB flash discs and external hard drives.

Since collecting and preserving digital evidence on electronic devices is a complex matter, there are some basic rules that govern this process. In its simplest and most common form, digital evidence is located at most crime scenes. Every criminal usually has a mobile phone (or two) as well as spare SIM cards. This device is often the first important step in investigating his links with an organised crime syndicate. However, equally often, this mobile phone is seized and interrogated for intelligence purposes in such a way that the evidential value of the phone’s information is lost for Court purposes. This may re-occur during the seizure of most forms of digital evidence.

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Helpful Tips

Remember to record these details for every seized item!

1. The date of seizure
2. The time of seizure
3. The place of seizure (GPS coordinates/address/vehicle registration number)
4. The marker number on the crime scene (or location found on the person)
5. Name of the person who found the item
6. The name of the person who seized/recovered/collected the item
7. A short description of what the item appears to be (including serial numbers/tag or seal numbers/weight).

Be careful not to “guess” what the item is. For example, if you are not sure of the make of mobile phone, simply record the item as a “mobile phone”. If you record a weight in the field, use the term “approximately ... kg”.

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Guidelines relating to the ideal method of handling and packaging items are described below. The conditions experienced in the field will usually dictate how closely you follow these guidelines. It is important, however, that people who collect such items should be aware of best practices and understand that in situations where they cannot follow the procedure, it could possibly affect the quality of recovered evidence.

**Guidelines for recovering items**

**Minimise surface contact**
- Good practice when recovering any item involves minimising surface contact by picking up the item from the very edge or using tweezers to prevent damaging fingerprints.
- Remember that wearing gloves does not prevent the loss of finger prints on an item, but only avoids your DNA from getting onto the item.
- Caution is especially important when handling an item that may contain human DNA and fresh gloves must be worn for each item collected.

**Handling paper**
- Place documents into plastic file sleeves.
- Stick a label onto the sleeve containing the required information about the seizure.
- These simple steps enable easy reference to the document or covers without handling the actual document.

**Mobile phones/notebooks/tablets (recovered when switched off)**
- Do not switch on the device.
- Open the phone to get the EMEI number and the SIM card number.
- Obtain the phone’s PIN number (depending on the make and model, the laboratory may be able to override this security feature).
- Locate and seize the phone’s charger unit.
- Seal inside an evidence bag.
- Write a covering memo requesting precise information to be downloaded from the phone.
- Get the phone to the laboratory.

**Helpful Tips**

If a person’s fingerprints or DNA is recovered from the outside (or inside) of an item it is very difficult for him/her to deny knowledge of the item!
Mobile phones/ notebooks/tablets (recovered when switched on)
- Do not switch off the device.
- Put the phone into “flight mode”.
- Check and note the date and time zone settings
  Note the phone number of the SIM card/s (#60#).
- Locate and seize the phone’s charger unit.
- Obtain the PIN number for the phone (depending on the make and model, the laboratory may be able to override this security feature).
- Use a portable power bank to keep the phone charged.
- Wrap in aluminium foil if not in “flight mode”.
- Seal inside an evidence bag.
- Write a covering memo requesting precise information to be downloaded from the phone.
- Get the phone to the laboratory immediately or as soon as possible.

Desktop computers (recovered when switched on)
- Move the operator away from the computer and do not allow access to the keyboard or power points.
- Do not switch off.
- Photograph the screen.
- Photograph the desk/table.
- Check and note the computer’s date and time zone settings.
- Disconnect it from the Internet, Bluetooth, local network or wi-fi.
- Obtain the computer’s password for the computer (depending on the make and model, the laboratory may be able to override this security feature).
- Use your phone to search for other wi-fi/Bluetooth devices in the area
- Check if the drive is encrypted.
- Request on-site assistance from cybercrime experts.
- When planning an operation ahead of time, make sure that cyber crime experts accompany you.
- When organising operations to investigate business premises, it is essential to do forward planning. This is because the company’s computers may possibly all be linked to a server and downloaded onto an off-site storage facility. This means that the computer’s hard drive may only act as an access point to the network and not contain any valuable information.
**Desktop computers (recovered when switched off)**
- Do not switch on.
- Photograph the desk/table.
- Obtain the computer’s password (depending on the make and model, the laboratory may be able to override the security feature).
- Seal over all parts that can be opened with evidence tape.
- Wrap in bubble wrap plastic and transport on a vehicle seat to avoid any bumping.
- Write a covering memo requesting precise information to be downloaded from the hard drive.
- Get the computer to the laboratory.

**Other electronic items**
- Portable hard drives, flash drives, DVD’s or CD’s can all be analysed in the laboratory.
- Seal items individually into evidence bags and note the necessary information for each item.
- Protect from unnecessary bumps during transport.
- Write a covering memo requesting precise information to be downloaded from the item.
- Get the item to the laboratory.

**7. THE NEXT STEP IN THE INVESTIGATION**

Having gone this far in the investigation, the officer may be satisfied with his/her progress. However, the work is only just beginning!

All the information received back from the laboratory, banks and mobile phone companies as well as CCTV footage has to be analysed to establish links between each recovered item and possible clues linking it to other syndicate members. At this stage, their identities may be vague or even unknown. With their expert skills and specific knowledge, data analysts and financial investigators carry out these complex investigative tasks.

Investigating organised syndication crimes is complicated and time-consuming as it involves many hours of skilled work in offices and laboratories. However, the output of these skilled people depends entirely on the accurate work of the first responder and the scene-of-crime officer. Their investigative foundation will either allow a high-rise building to stand forever or cause it to crumble after the first rains.
An arrested syndicate member who is higher up and more important will pay more money to his defence lawyer to thoroughly scrutinise the evidence placed before the court.

Skilled defence lawyers will start by exploring the initial work done on the crime scene as this is the easiest place to find mistakes or breaks in the chain of custody.

That is why it is important to always strive to build the most solid foundation possible for further investigation so that the crime syndicates can be attacked and destroyed where it hurts them most – their profits and assets!

8. FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

A financial investigation is an analysis of where the money comes from, how it moves and how it is used. The major goal of a financial investigation is to identify and record the movement of money during the course of criminal activity. Aside from helping to establish a link between the origins of the money, beneficiaries, when the money is received and where it is stored or deposited, an investigation also provides information about and proof of criminal activity.

To understand the role of money in modern trade, it is useful to look at what trade is and how it evolved. As an activity, trade involves the transfer of goods or services from one person or entity to another, often in exchange for money. The original form of trade was barter, which entailed the direct exchange of goods and services for other goods and services other than money.

HOW BARTER TRADING WORKS
Although money is the main form of trading today, several forms of barter have been used in the past. Some forms of barter commodities include:

- Cigarettes
- Knives
- Slabs of salt
- Human beings
- Cacao beans
- Beaver pelts

**BEAVER PELT AS A FORM OF BARTER**

Between the 16th and mid-18th century, beaver pelts or fur were commonly used as a medium of trading exchange. Various items, each with their own trade value, were used. For example,

- Five pounds of sugar cost one beaver pelt
- Two scissors cost one beaver pelt
- 20 fish hooks cost one beaver pelt
- One pair of shoes cost one beaver pelt
- One gun cost 12 beaver pelts

---

**Beaver**

**9. MODERN PAYMENT METHODS**

Cash is currently the most popular method of payment in the poaching process and payments are either made either in US dollars or in a country’s local currency. Payments are normally linked to the weight of the horn or tusk and the foreign currency is sometimes converted to local currency on the black market.
The following currencies are used in neighbouring countries of the equator:

- Angola – Kwanza
- Botswana – Pula
- Burundi – Burundi Franc
- Democratic Republic of Congo – Congolese Franc
- Gabon – CFA Franc
- Kenya – Kenyan Shilling
- Lesotho – Loti
- Madagascar – Malagasy Ariary
- Malawi – Malawian Kwacha
- Mauritius – Mauritian Rupee
- Mozambique – Mozambican Metical
- Namibia – Namibian Dollar
- Rep of Congo – Central African Franc (CFA)
- Rwanda – Rwandan Franc
- Somalia – Somali Shilling
- South Africa – Rand
- Swaziland – Lilangeni
- Tanzania – Tanzanian Shilling
- Uganda – Ugandan Shilling
- Zambia – Zambian Kwacha
- Zimbabwe – Zimbabwean Bond Notes
- US Dollar – $
- Euro – €
- British Pound – £

10. PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Payments can be made in three basic forms, namely informal remittance systems, partly digital systems and pure digital systems.

Informal remittance (individual to individual)
- Cash that the intermediary gives to the poacher
- Other forms of cash payments – HAWALA

Partly digital (Western Union)
- Cash paid into store operator or account transfer
- Cash ready to be paid out in store
FOLLOWING THE WILDLIFE MONEY CHAIN

Pure digital (Commercial banks)
- Transfer done via bank or mobile
- Value received directly into the account

DIGITAL REMITTANCE PROCEDURE

Example of a modern money transfer process
- Deposit an amount at your local shop
- Receive a pin number
- SMS/send pin number to the preferred recipient
- Recipient goes to his/her local branch
- Enter secret pin number in the system
FOLLOWING THE WILDLIFE MONEY CHAIN

MONEY PROCESS INFOGRAPHIC

DIFFERENT OPERATORS

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Select one of the options below and we’ll explain how to make payment.

HOW TO PAY WITH CASH

ACKERMANS
BOXER
CHECKERS

HOW TO PAY ELECTRONICALLY

FNB
NEDBANK

PEP
Pick n Pay
SHOPRITE

Spar
Top it Up
U-Save

Standard Bank
PARTLY DIGITAL ALTERNATIVE REMITTANCE SYSTEMS

- Western Union
- MoneyGram
MOBILE CASH OPERATORS

ALTERNATIVE REMITTANCE SYSTEMS – BITPESA

Here is how it works.

1. Sender
2. You buy bitcoin and send it to us
3. BitPesa
4. We convert it to KES and send it along
5. Receiver

3%

There is no transfer fee to use BitPesa. And we offer one of the best exchange rates around.

Yeah, it’s that simple.
FORMAL BANKING

Money transfers can be done through registered commercial banks, retail banks or merchant banks. A commercial bank is an institution that provides services such as accepting deposits, providing business loans and offering basic investment products.

Retail banking, also known as consumer banking, refers to services that a bank provides to the general public, rather than to companies, corporations or other banks, which are often described as wholesale banking. A merchant bank is historically a bank dealing in commercial loans and investment. In modern British usage, it is the same as an investment bank.

CROSS-BORDER MONEY TRANSFERS – SWIFT CODES

- SWIFT is an abbreviation for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (“SWIFT”)
- Commercial Banks use SWIFT codes to send money to overseas banks.
- A SWIFT code is an international bank code with 8 to 11 characters that identifies particular banks worldwide.
  - AAAA BB CC DDD
  - First 4 characters – bank code (only letters)
  - Next 2 characters – location code (letters and digits)
• You’ll need to give this code to anyone sending money to you from overseas.

EXEMPLARY OF SWIFT CODES FOR ARINSA MEMBER COUNTRIES

**BOTSWANA**
- BancABC – FMBZBWGA
- Bank of Baroda – BARBBWGX
- Bank Gaborone – BGLIBWGX
- Bank of India – BKIDBWGX
- Capital Bank – CAPLBWGAXXX

**LESOTHO**
- Standard Lesotho Bank – SBICLSMX
- First National Bank – FIRNLSMX
- Nedbank – NEDLLSMX
- Lesotho Postbank – LESHLSMM
- Central Bank – CBLELSMX

**MALAWI**
- Standard Bank Limited Malawi – SBICMWMX
- National Bank of Malawi – NBMAMWMW007
- First Merchant Bank – FMERMWWMW
- NBS Bank – NBSTMWMW
- FDH Bank – FDHFWMWMW

**MAURITIUS**
- Mauritius Commercial Bank – MCBLMUMU
- SBI (International) Mauritius – INILMUMU
- Bank of Baroda – BARBMUMU
- State Bank of Mauritius – STCBINBXXXX
- Afrasia Bank – AFBLMUMU

**MADAGASCAR**
- AccèsBanque Madagascar (ABM) – ABMGMGMGMG
- Bank of Africa Madagascar – AFRIMGMGMG
- Bank Centrale de Madagascar – REPUMGMGMG
- BFV Société Générale – BFAVMGMGMG
- BGFIBank Madagascar – BGFIMGMGMG
NAMIBIA
- ABSA Bank Namibia – ABSANAN1
- Bank of Namibia – CBKNNANAPCH
- Bank Windhoek – BWLINANX
- First National Bank Namibia – FIRNNANX
- Nedbank Namibia – NEDSNANX

SEYCHELLES
- Bank of Baroda – BARBSCSC
- Barclays Bank – BARCSCSC
- BMI Offshore Bank – BMUSSCSC
- Central Bank of Seychelles – SSCBCSC
- Habib Bank – HABBSCS1

SOUTH AFRICA
- ABSA Bank – ABSAZAJJ
- African Bank – AFRCZAJJ
- Bidvest Bank – BIDBZAJJ
- Bank of China – BKCHZAJJ
- Capitec Bank – CABLZAJJ

SWAZILAND
- First National Bank of Swaziland – FIRNSZMX
- Standard Bank Swaziland – SBICSZMX
- Central Bank of Swaziland – SWAZSZMB
- Nedbank (Swaziland) – NESWSZMX
- Swaziland Stockbrokers – SWAOSZM1

TANZANIA
- Access Bank Tanzania – ACTZTZTZ
- African Bank Corporation – FMBZTZTX
- Bank M Tanzania – BNKMTZTZ
- Bank of Tanzania – TANZTZTX
- Tanzania Women’s Bank – TWBLTZTZ

ZAMBIA
- AB Bank Zambia (AccessBank) – ABBAZMLU
- African Banking Corporation – FMBZMLX
- Bank of Zambia – BAZAZMLU
- Bank of China (Zambia) – BKCHZMLU
- New Capital Bank – NCBPZML1
**ZIMBABWE**

- African Banking Corporation – FMBZZWHX
- Agricultural Bank of Zimbabwe – AGRZZWHA
- Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe – BARCZWHX
- Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe – COBZZWHA
- Royal Bank of Zimbabwe – ROYBZWHA

**ASIAN SWIFT CODES**

**CHINA**

- Allied Commercial Bank – COIXICNBA
- Axis Bank Shanghai – AXISCNSSH
- Banco Santander Beijing – BSCHCNBJ
- Bangkok Bank China – BKKBCN5PPEK
- Bank of America Beijing – BOFACN3XBEI

**VIETNAM**

- Bangkok Bank PCL – BKKBVNVXHA
- Bank of China – BKCHVNVX
- Donga Bank – EACBVNVX
- First Commercial Bank – FCBKVNVX
- HSBC Bank – HSBCVNVX004

**HONG KONG**

- AB International Finance – ABFLHKKH
- Citi Bank HK – CITIHKXCEA
- JP Morgan Chase Bank HK – CHASHKHHFNO
- KEB Hana Bank – KOEXHKHH
- Lloyds TSB Pacific HK – LOYDHKHH

**TAIWAN**

- Agricultural Bank Taiwan – AGBTTWTP
- Bank of Kaohsiung – BKAOTWTK234
- Bank of Taiwan – BKTWTWTP016
- Chang Hwa Comm. Bank – CCBCTWTP611
- Citi Bank – CTCBTWTP428
11. CROSS-BORDER MONEY TRANSFERS – ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS

- ARS – Alternative Remittance Systems
  Alternative remittance systems are financial services, traditionally operating outside the conventional financial sector, where value or funds are moved from one geographic location to another.

- IVTS – Informal Value Transfer Systems
  An informal value transfer system (IVTS) is any system, mechanism or human network of people that receives money for the purpose of making funds or an equivalent value payable to a third party in another geographic location, whether or not in the same form.

12. FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS TO LOOK FOR DURING CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

ATM RECEIPT

An ATM receipt could identify the following information:
- The bank used by the suspect
- The date and time that the card was used
- ATM at which the transaction was made
- The card number
- The account number
- Withdrawn amount
- The balance in the account

EXAMPLES OF ATM RECEIPTS FROM DIFFERENT BANKS

CHASE BANK

![ATM Receipt Example](image)
FOLLOWING THE WILDLIFE MONEY CHAIN

BANK OF TAIWAN

WELLS FARGO
FOLLOWING THE WILDLIFE MONEY CHAIN

ACCOMMODATION INVOICE

A hotel invoice or similar document can reveal the following information:

- Hotel name
- Individual’s name
- Arrival date
- Departure date
- Room number
- Payment method
- Account number
BAR RECEIPT

A bar receipt can reveal the following information:

- Name of the Bar
- Date and time
- Card Type
- Account number
- Total amount paid
- Items paid for
- Waitron’s name (possible witness)
CASH/CHEQUE DEPOSIT SLIP

A deposit slip can reveal the following information:

- Name of the Bank
- Name of recipient
- Date of transaction
- Name of depositor
- Depositor’s contact details
- Account number
- Amount deposited
AIRCRAFT BOARDING PASS

A boarding pass may reveal the following information:

- Name of the passenger
- Name of airline
- Date of the flight
- Flight number
- Time of the flight
- Seat number
- Method of payment

Image source: TRAFFIC
13. IMPORT AND EXPORT TRANSACTIONS

Shipping containers are one of the safest ways for a syndicate to transport illicit wildlife products worldwide. It is estimated that the sheer volume of items results in customs officials inspecting less than 5% of all cargo going through ports at various borders or ports.
CONTAINER TYPE – FREIGHT

Freight containers come in different sizes and dry content is usually transported in these types of containers.

CONTAINER TYPE – AIRCRAFT

These containers are used to transport freight in an aircraft.
CONTAINER TYPE – REEFER

A reefer container that maintains a specific temperature is used to transport frozen or chilled commodities. If the container’s temperature dips below a specified temperature the contents are no longer fit for human consumption and they are referred to as “distress parcels”. The containers are normally returned to the country of origin if the temperature does not comply with specified standards.

HOW CONTAINER NUMBERING WORKS
GLOBAL SHIPPING COMPANIES

- A.P. Moller-Maersk Group (Maersk)
- Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A. (MSC)
- CMA CGM Group
- China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company (COSCO)
- Evergreen Marine
- Hapag-Lloyd
- Hamburg Süd Group
- Hanjin Shipping
- Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL)
- United Arab Shipping Company (UASC)
- Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL)
- American President Lines (APL)
- Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation

CONTAINER TRACKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Final POD</th>
<th>Final POD ETA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40’ HIGH CUBE REEFER</td>
<td>ROTTERDAM, NL</td>
<td>25/05/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shipped to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price calculation date*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROTTERDAM, NL</td>
<td>04/05/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Movements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vessel</th>
<th>Voyage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROTTERDAM, ZH, NL</td>
<td>Estimated Time of Arrival</td>
<td>23/05/2018</td>
<td>MSC JULIA R.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUERTO BOLIVAR, O, EC</td>
<td>Loaded</td>
<td>05/05/2018</td>
<td>MSC JULIA R. NQ110R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUERTO BOLIVAR, O, EC</td>
<td>Gate In Full</td>
<td>02/05/2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUERTO BOLIVAR, O, EC</td>
<td>Empty to Shipper</td>
<td>02/05/2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Price calculation date is indicative. Please contact your local MSC office to verify this information.

Image source: Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)

VESSEL TRACKING – MSC JULIA

Current Location – Off Panama Coast
Next Port – Rotterdam (Netherlands)
DOCUMENTATION USED TO TRANSPORT SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Documentation in the import and export of commodities can lead to the entity or individual financing the deal. Some of the information that can be found in these documents includes the following:

- Name of Importer
- Name of Exporter
- Name of Declaring Agent
- Owner Importer’s Code
- Container Number
- Weight of freight
- Description of Goods
- Vessel (Ship) Number
- Voyage Number
- Port of Lading
- Port of Discharge
- Country of Origin
- Export Country
Depending on the product to be imported or exported, documents linked to these processes could include the following:

- Bill of Lading
- Commercial Invoice
- Certificate of Origin
- Waybill
- Inspection Certificate
- Insurance Certificate
BILL OF LADING

A Bill of Lading is a detailed list of a ship’s cargo in the form of a receipt, which the ship’s master gives to the person consigning the goods.
WAYBILL

This is an official shipping document that travels with a shipment and identifies its consignor, consignee, origin and destination, as well as the description, weight and freight of goods or items. Shipping companies prepare waybills for their internal record and control processes.
COMMERCIAL INVOICE

The commercial invoice is a legal document between the supplier and the customer that clearly describes the sold goods and the amount due to the customer. The commercial invoice is one of the main documents that customs officials use to determine customs duties.
A **Certificate of Origin (CO)** is an important international trade document confirming that the goods in a particular shipment have been wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country.

### SADC Certificate of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration No. (Optional)</th>
<th>3. Country Ref. No. ZA Q523365</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exporter (Name and Office Address)</td>
<td><strong>SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignee (Name and Office Address)</td>
<td><strong>CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Particulars of transport:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. For official use only</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Marks and numbers; number and kind of package, description of goods:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marks and Nos.</td>
<td>Description of goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Customs Tariff No.</strong></td>
<td><strong>8. Origin Criterion (See overleaf)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9. Gross weight or other quantity</strong></td>
<td><strong>10. Invoice No. and date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11. DECLARATION BY EXPORTER/SUPPLIER</strong></td>
<td><strong>12. CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN</strong> Declaration Certified:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I, the undersigned, declare that the goods described above meet the conditions required for the issue of this certificate, and are originating.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In ...................................................... (country)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place and date ........................................ (Origin Stamp and Signature)</td>
<td>Export Document No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date ............................................</td>
<td>Customs Office ..................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country .........................................</td>
<td>Country .........................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date ............................................</td>
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14. FRONT BUSINESSES

One of the safest ways that criminal enterprises use to hide their illegal activities is to create a front business (Front). A Front provides cover for the criminal enterprise’s illicit operations.

In addition, it provides storage facilities, cover for imports and exports as well as a financial system for payments and money laundering.

Indications of a possible front company could include:

- Lack of office space and client reception area
- Lack of client base or unknown client base in the area
- Activities that do not support the type of business provided
- Activities that do not coincide with normal business hours
- Not using local workforce in business activities
- The inability of the workforce to communicate in the local language
- Not being registered with local authorities (BURS etc.)

15. STORAGE DEVICES THAT SUSPECTS MAY HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION

Electronic storage devices come in a variety of sizes and types and are often a valuable source of financial information. Some examples include:

- Desktop Computers
• Laptops

• Tablets

• External Hard Drives
- Memory sticks (Flash drives)
16. MONEY LAUNDERING

Money laundering is the generic term used to describe the process by which criminals disguise the original ownership and control of the proceeds of criminal conduct by making such proceeds appear to have been derived from a legitimate source.

Money laundering can also be described as the disguising of the origin, nature, source, control and ownership of property obtained from illegal activity.

Money laundering can generally be divided into three stages:

- Placement
- Layering
- Integration

Illustration of Money Laundering Stages
MONEY LAUNDERING EXAMPLES

Depending on the circumstances of each case and the country where the predicate offence and the money laundering are suspected of having occurred, the following could be indications of money laundering:

- Person who has unexplained wealth, does not work or is known to be involved in criminal activities and has various properties and vehicles and/or luxury possessions;
- Person who is looking after the properties of a suspected money launderer knowing, suspecting or having reasonable grounds to believe that the properties were obtained from an offence;
- Person who receives the proceeds of crime from a person who he or she knows or suspects or has reasonable grounds to believe were obtained from an offence;
- Person who conceals or disguises any proceeds of crime that he or she knows or suspects or has reasonable grounds to believe were obtained from an offence;
- Person who transfers, convert or disposes of proceeds of crime that he or she knows or suspects or has reasonable grounds to believe to be obtained from an offence.

APPENDICES


CITES permits are issued for the international movement of plants and animals listed in the schedules of the CITES agreement. Not all countries are members of CITES and not all plants or animals are included.
Note furthermore, that these permits are only issued for international movement and not within a country. This means that investigations relating to CITES matters are usually found at ports of entry or exit.

Further information about CITES can be obtained from the website https://www.cites.org The CITES Virtual College is an excellent website for reference material on species, permits and enforcement. See https://cites.unia.es

2. Trade Records Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC)

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Many useful reference documents can be found on their website, while http://www.traffic.org/identification will give you access to a large number of species identification guides.

3. Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Networks (ARIN)

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA) and that for East Africa (ARIN-EA) are informal multi-agency networks for participating countries. These platforms enable participating members to exchange information and model legislation and country laws relating to asset forfeiture, confiscation and money laundering.
ARINSA was established in March 2009, with the assistance of UNODC. This organisation now joins practitioners from Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ARINSA’s website https://www.arinsa.org provides a platform for information dissemination and exchange for both members and non-members. It continuously broadcasts the latest news updates in the region and across the world on money laundering-related issues.

Discussion forums such as the Wildlife and Forestry Crime Platform enable members to share experiences on money laundering and the proceeds of crime. In addition, the website enables countries to share cases and model legislation, while the photo gallery and a messaging platform facilitate the exchange of information.

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Eastern Africa (ARIN-EA) was launched in Kigali on 6 November 2013 during the 7th Annual General Meeting of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA). The membership of ARIN-EA is drawn from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The ARINSA website may be used to contact ARIN-EA members via specific country representatives.

4. International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)

The role of INTERPOL, the world’s largest international police organisation, is to enable police around the world to work together. INTERPOL offers technical and operational support to member countries.

Information about INTERPOL and how it can assist investigators can be found at https://www.interpol.int/.
Each member country has a desk dealing with wildlife crime within its police service. Contact them through your local police department. Contact with INTERPOL members of another country must be done through your country’s INTERPOL representatives.
Leopards are likely the most persecuted large cat on earth, according to global wild cat conservation organisation Panthera. They face many threats from rampant bush meat poaching and being illegally killed for their skins and other body parts. Leopards are listed as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.