Traditional East Asian Medicine and Wildlife Trade

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Traditional East Asian Medicine
History of Wildlife Use

› TEAM uses approximately 1,000 plant and 36 animal species, including the tiger, rhinoceros, black bear, musk deer, and sea horse

› Between 1996 and 2007 43% of medicine shops in Chinese communities in North America sold tiger bone products

› More than 7,000 bears are kept on 200 farms in China where their bile is extracted through catheters

› More than 20,000,000 seahorses are harvested each year to meet a 500 ton per year demand

› China’s demand for musk is estimated at 500–1,000 kilograms per year, which requires the musk glands of at least 100,000 deer
Why Is This Important

Traditional Chinese Medical Authorities Are Unable to Stop the Booming Trade in Rare Animal Parts

Canadian traditional Chinese medicine company fined for smuggling of wild animal parts

Heavy metals, pharmaceuticals and endangered species DNA found in traditional Chinese medicines, research finds

How can traditional Chinese medicine threaten wildlife?

The world’s oldest healthcare tradition has helped to drive some animal species to the brink of extinction.

Tiger Bones and Rhino Horns Are No Longer Banned for Medicine in China

A 25-year ban has been altered to allow the animal parts to be used in medical research and healing, despite the fact that both species are worse off now.

From Beijing to New York: The dark side of traditional Chinese medicine

Age-old remedies drive trade in endangered species and promote animal suffering, despite alternatives

China legalizes rhino horn and tiger bone for medical purposes

The materials have no proven medicinal value in humans, and conservationists call the move a major setback for wild populations.

Pangolins May Face Extinction With China’s Push to Increase Traditional Medicine Exports

An awfully high price for something that doesn’t even work.

Simon Denyer, The Washington Post
24 Jul 2018
Background

› The global trafficking in wildlife and natural resources is a growing concern, multi billion dollar black market
  › trans-national crime, funds terrorist groups

› In addition to federal regulations more states are passing laws to limit or ban trade at the state level
  › OR, CA, NV, NY, NJ, HI, IL

› In 2015 a public initiative (I-1401) was placed on the ballot in Washington State
I-1401 SUPPORTERS

Organizations
Humane Society of the United States
Sierra Club
Natural Resources Defense Council
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Foundation
International Fund for Animal Welfare
African Wildlife Foundation
The Zoo Society
Conservation Northwest
Born Free USA
96 Elephants
WildAid
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington State Democrats
Mainstream Republicans of Washington
Woodland Park Zoo
The Seattle Aquarium
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Metro Parks Tacoma

Businesses
Vulcan, Inc.

Individuals
Paul Allen
Nick Hanauer
Jeannie Nordstrom
Paul Martiz
Initiative 1401

› Initiative 1401 passed with over 70% voter approval

› Effective 3 Dec 2015, Initiative 1401 amended and created a new section of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to make it a crime to sell, offer to sell, purchase, trade, barter for, or distribute any covered animal species part or product

› Covered animal species are any listed species of elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, pangolin, marine turtle, shark or ray.
It is unlawful for a person to sell, offer to sell, purchase, trade, barter for, or distribute any covered animal species part or product.

"Covered animal species" means any species of elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, pangolin, marine turtle, shark, or ray listed as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable on the ICUN Red List or CITES Apendix I/II.
(2) Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may inspect without warrant at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner:

(a) The premises, containers, fishing equipment, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or covered animal species of any person trafficking or otherwise distributing or receiving fish, shellfish, wildlife, or covered animal species;

(b) Records required by the department of any person trafficking or otherwise distributing or receiving fish, shellfish, wildlife, or covered animal species.

(3) Fish and wildlife officers may inspect without warrant, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, the records required by the department of any retail outlet selling fish, shellfish, or wildlife, and, if the officers have probable cause to believe a violation of this title or rules of the commission has occurred, they may inspect without warrant the premises, containers, and fish, shellfish, and wildlife of any retail outlet selling fish, shellfish, or wildlife.
WDFW and the WAEAMA

› Inspections must occur at reasonable time and in a reasonable manner
› Inspections are not scheduled to ensure compliance
› Our goal is to ensure native and endangered species are not being exploited

› For More Information:
  – https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/enforcement/wildlife-trafficking