

Bearing all down under: The role of Australasian countries in the illegal bear trade

Journal:	Pacific Conservation Biology					
Manuscript ID	PC21057					
Manuscript Type:	Full Paper					
Date Submitted by the Author:	27-Aug-2021					
Complete List of Authors:	Cassey, Phill Gomez, Lalita Heinrich, Sarah Garcia Diaz, Pablo Stoner, Sarah Shepherd, Chris					
Keyword:	biosecurity, conservation, wildlife management					

Note: The following files were submitted by the author for peer review, but cannot be converted to PDF. You must view these files (e.g. movies) online.

Illegal wildlife trade (summary).docx

SCHOLARONE™ Manuscripts

Bearing all down under: The role of Australasian countries in the illegal bear 1

trade 2

3

- 4 Phillip Cassey¹, Lalita Gomez², Sarah Heinrich^{1,2}, Pablo García-Díaz³, Sarah Stoner⁴, Chris R.
- Shepherd^{2,*} 5

6

- 7 ¹ Invasion Science & Wildlife Ecology Lab, University of Adelaide, SA 5005, Australia
- 8 ² Monitor Conservation Research Society (Monitor), Big Lake Ranch, B.C., VOL 1GO, Canada
- 9 ³ School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, AB24 2TZ, UK.
- an de W ⁴ Wildlife Justice Commission, Johan de Wittlaan 7, 2517 JR The Hague, The Netherlands 10

Abstract. Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a leading concern for conservation and biosecurity agencies globally, and involves multiple source, transit, and destination countries smuggling species on a transnational scale. The contribution of non-range countries for driving demand in IWT is often overlooked. Here we report on 781 seizures of bear parts and derivatives in Australia and New Zealand from 33 countries over the last decade. The majority of seizures were medicinal (gall bladder and bile) products, but also included a range of body parts, hunting trophies, and meat. Australia and New Zealand have no native bear species, and yet are frequently involved in wildlife seizures, and illegal bear trade continues to be an enforcement issue. Conservation research in non-range countries needs to be conducted to determine the demand and threats from IWT, and to increase collaborative strategies to counter transnational smuggling.

Key Words: Biosecurity seizures, CITES, traditional medicine, trophy hunting, wildlife trade

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

Introduction

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a leading cause of global biodiversity loss, and often involves multiple actors across different source, transit and destination countries; impacting species on a transnational scale (Phelps et al. 2016; van Uhm 2016; Gore et al. 2019). The insatiable demand for wildlife as pets, food, traditional medicines, luxury goods, and trophies and ornaments is driving the decline and extinction of an increasingly long list of species (Berec et al. 2018; Scheffers et al. 2019). Once a species is targeted by trade demands can very quickly diminish wild populations (Lindenmayer and Scheele 2017; Auliya et al. 2016). Bears (Family: Ursidae) are among the many large-bodied mammals heavily exploited and threatened by global wildlife trade (Foley et al. 2011; Burgess et al. 2014). There are eight extant species of bears – American black bear Ursus americanus, Asiatic black bear Ursus thibetanus, brown bear Ursus arctos, giant panda Ailuropoda melanoleuca, sloth bear Melursus ursinus, spectacled bear *Tremarctos ornatus*, sun bear *Helarctos malayanus* and the polar bear *Ursus* maritimus. Six of the eight bear species are listed on CITES Appendix I (the exceptions being the American black bear, polar bear and certain populations of the brown bear, which are all listed in Appendix II), explicitly prohibiting the international commercial trade in wild animals and their parts, as market demands are considered a significant threat to the conservation status of their remaining populations.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Bears are harvested for their gall bladder and bile, coveted in traditional Asian medicines (Foley et al. 2011). Their meat and paws are considered delicacies by some, and their body parts (e.g., skins, skulls, claws, teeth) are prized as trophies (Mills and Servheen 1994; Shepherd and Nijman 2007; Gomez et al. 2020). Live bears are captured for the pet trade, to stock facilities for extracting bear bile (otherwise known as bear farms), and for wildlife exhibitions and performances, including bear baiting activities (D'Cruze et al. 2011; Livingstone et al. 2018).

51 52

53

54

55

56

57

The exploitation of bears has been well documented across Asia (Foley et al. 2011; Nijman et al. 2017; Nijman et al. 2017; Crudge et al. 2018; Livingston et al. 2018; Gomez and Shepherd 2019), where IWT is considered one of the leading cause of population declines (Mills and Servheen 1994; Burgess et al. 2014). Yet, outside the Asian region international smuggling of bears is less well documented or understood. Europe is one of the biggest importers of bear

trophies, which is likely leading to unsustainable levels of harvest in some places. A recent analysis of seizures in the Czech Republic revealed the international smuggling of bear parts and derivatives into the country involved countries and territories from as far away as Canada and Viet Nam, to neighbouring Slovakia (Shepherd et al. 2020). Illegal trophy hunting of native bears occurs within Europe and North America, alongside legally permitted hunting, but its extent, as well as any downstream transnational trade dynamics, remains largely unknown (Gaius 2018; Braden, 2014).

Here, we examined the seizure of bear parts and derivatives in Australia and New Zealand, neither of which have native bear species, but which have been reported to contribute, along the supply chain, to the international smuggling of wildlife (Su 2020; Williams 2020). We collated biosecurity and conservation enforcement agency records of CITES seizures from Australia and New Zealand. Wildlife seizures never provide the full picture of IWT, because the detection of illicit goods is highly variable and never absolute (Clarke et al. 2018). However, New Zealand and Australia are both island nations with some of the most renowned biosecurity and border surveillance systems in the world (Brenton-Rule et al. 2016; Lane et al. 2019), and we believe that this dataset is the most complete available, for these two countries. Considering this, we analyse the dynamics (source, type, and quantity) of bear seizures in both countries to gain a deeper understanding of the IWT, and to raise awareness among enforcement agencies for mitigating the international smuggling of bear parts and derivatives, and reducing the global threat to bears from illegal exploitation.

Materials and Methods

Seizure data

Bear seizures from Australia and New Zealand were collated from CITES reporting and conservation enforcement agency databases: Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (Australia; 2009-2018); and in New Zealand (2007-2018) from the Department of Conservation, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. Databases were searched for all relevant records using the case insensitive terms: bear, *Ursus, Melursus, Helarctos, Tremarctos, Ailuropoda,* and *Ursidae*. Records were then manually checked for spurious entries (e.g., "Brown teddy bear and white stuffing containing 1 shingleback lizard"; "1 x bear statue carved from whale bone") and obvious duplicates. All of the bear seizure records were

for 'Personal Use'. Over 90% of the seizure records were missing a smuggling method or mode of transport (Australia 91.6%; New Zealand 96.6%). However, for both countries there were records of bear parts and derivatives being sent unaccompanied (by mail and cargo) and concealed on passengers among personal luggage. For Australia only (i.e., not available from the New Zealand database), the seizure reason was provided as 'not accompanied by a valid permit' and the outcome was reported as either: (1) forfeited/disposed; or (2) released back to the traveller for either 'Pre-CITES' or 'Other' reasons.

Variables of interest included: (i) the species seized; (ii) the year of the seizure; (iii) the port of entry (for Australia only); (iv) the origin of the incident, listed as both the country of export, and the country of last departure; (v) the commodity, grouped into the following categories (a) Flesh/Meat, (b) Medicine, (c) Skin/Fur, (d) Trophy/Head/Body, (e) Claws/Teeth; and (vi) the amount (or volume) of commodities seized, where provided. Analyses were conducted between commodity types across seizures.

Analysis

Trends in the number of seizures, through time, were analysed using negative binomial regressions, to account for over-dispersion. Logistic regressions were used to test for the proportional change in the seizures through time, and between exporting regions; including the seizure outcome, for Australia only. All data visualisation and analyses were conducted in the R software environment version 4.0.3 for graphical and statistical computing (R Core Team 2020). Contingency-type frequency tests were used to visualise and assess the independence of categorical variables (using the R package 'vcd': Zeileis et al. (2007), Meyer et al. (2020)). The homogeneity of the categorical frequencies was evaluated with Wald Chisquare tests for independence (alpha < 0.05).

Results

117 Australian Seizures

From 2009 to 2018, there were 369 seizures of bear parts and derivatives in Australia. The number of bear seizures declined through time (2009-2018) from a maximum of 74 in 2011 to a minimum of 12 in 2018 (negative binomial regression; estimate = -0.18, std err = 0.03, z-value = -5.19, P < 0.001) (**Fig. 1**). However, the percentage of bear seizures (average = 3%

across all seizures of CITES specimens reported by Australian authorities) increased through time (logistic regression; estimate = 0.05, std err = 0.020, z-value = 2.50, P = 0.0125).

The most common and abundant seized commodity was traditional medicines (63.7% of seizures) (**Table 1**), which were manufactured into various products including pills, powders, ointments, creams, wine, etc. The proportion of bear seizures that were medicines, did not decline significantly through time from 2009 to 2018 (logistic regression; estimate = -0.05, std err = 0.045, z-value = -1.23, P = 0.219; **Fig. 1**). The next most frequent seizures were of trophies and body parts (31.7%), which encompassed claws, teeth, skins, skulls and taxidermy of whole animals and heads. Lastly, canned and packaged bear meat were also seized (n = 17 seizures). No meat seizures were returned to travellers, and the proportion of seizures forfeited from travellers was significantly greater for medicines and teeth/claws than for trophies and other body parts (skins, rugs, heads) (**Fig. 2**).

Three-quarters of seizures were not identified to species (75.9%). The species most regularly identified (84.3% of the 89 identified seizures) were the American black bear and brown bear, and these were predominantly for trophies. Seizures of sun bear (n = 3), polar bear (n = 2), and Asiatic black bear (n = 9) were reported. In a very small number of cases medicines seized were apparently identified to species; i.e., Asiatic black bear (n = 9) and sun bear (n = 2). Most seizures (93%) were identified to an Australian destination (Port Authority), and seizures were reported from all eight mainland Australian States and Territories (including Tasmania), with Queensland reporting the highest number (approximately two-thirds; 65.3%) of seizures with a declared destination.

Thirty countries/territories (**Appendix 1**) were identified in the smuggling of bear products to Australia. However, five countries/territories (i.e., China, United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and Japan) accounted for approximately two-thirds (65%) of all seizures, and China alone was accountable for 37.7% of reported origins. Approximately 28% of seizures had a different declared point of origin from the country of last export (i.e., departure). For the seven countries/territories of last export, involved in more than ten (10) seizures, the proportion of matches between origin and export differed from 0.0 (New Zealand; i.e., all seizures arriving

in Australia from NZ had a different country of origin) to 0.947 (China and Canada; i.e., the majority of seizures originated from the same country) (**Fig. 3**).

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

The majority of seizures from China (n = 96) were of medicinal products (96.9%), while two-thirds (67.4%) of all trophy seizures (head, bodies, skins, rugs) originated from North America (Canada, United States) (**Fig. 4**). Countries with a significantly greater proportion of seizures were: (i) United States for claws/teeth and skin/rug; (ii) Japan for flesh/meat; (iii) Canada for trophy/head/body; and (iv) China for medicine (**Fig. 4**). Finland was the most frequently reported country of origin for canned bear meat (n = 7 incidents).

162

163

- New Zealand Seizures
- 164 From 2007 to 2018, there were 412 seizures of bear parts and derivatives in New Zealand.
- 165 The number of bear seizures varied through time from a maximum of 52 in 2009 to a
- minimum of 13 in 2018, although no trend was evident (negative binomial regression;
- estimate = -0.06, std err = 0.03, z-value = -1.68, P = 0.093) (Fig. 1). The proportion of bear
- seizures (average = 0.67% across all seizures of CITES personal-use wild-caught specimens
- 169 reported by New Zealand authorities) significantly decreased through time (logistic
- 170 regression; estimate = -0.058, std err = 0.020, z-value = -2.87, P = 0.004).

171

- 172 The most common and abundant seized commodity was traditional medicines (82% of
- seizures); described as medicine, derivatives, extract, powder or gall/gall bladder. The
- proportion of bear seizures that were medicines declined significantly through time, across
- the years 2007-2018 (logistic regression; estimate = -0.15, std err = 0.038, z-value = -3.88, P =
- 176 0.0001; Fig. 1). The next most frequent seizure were of body parts and trophies (14.7%;
- bones, claws, hair, paws, skins, skulls, teeth) (**Table 2**). One third (28.4%) of seizures were
- 178 unidentified to species. The species most frequently identified was the Asiatic black bear (n =
- 201) followed by American black bear (n = 38) and brown bear (n = 37), sun bear (n = 16), and
- 180 polar bear (n = 3).

- 182 Twenty-one countries were involved in the smuggling of bear products to New Zealand
- (Appendix 1), with only 2% of seizures (9 out of 412) unassigned to a country of last export.
- However, China alone was accountable for 71.2% of all seizures, and North America (United

States and Canada) responsible for a further c. 10% of seizures. The next largest country of origin was Viet Nam with 2.7% (11 out of 412) seizures. Whereas seizures from China were mostly medicinal products (99%), the United States and Canada were almost exclusively involved in seizures of body parts (claws/teeth; skin/fur; trophy/head/body).

Discussion

The illegal and unsustainable commercial use of wildlife is a significant driver of species decline globally (Rosen and Smith 2010). The widespread trade of bears is an example of the far-reaching consequences commercial use can have on particular taxa. Australia and New Zealand have no native bear species, and yet both countries were involved in seizures from a broad range of countries/territories, and of many different commodities – from medicines, through meat, body parts, and trophies. Thirty-three source and transit countries/territories (from Asia, Europe, Americas, Middle-East, and Africa; **Appendix 1**) were involved in the seizures of bear parts and their derivatives, highlighting the extent to which bear trade spans the globe, in violation of CITES regulations and national laws.

The seizure of bear parts and derivatives consisted primarily of medicinal products (73%) and hunting trophies (23%); . In Australia, the frequency of seizures has increased on average, compared with all other CITES seizures, indicating a persisting market demand for bear trophies and medicines. This is despite the fact that the raw number of seizures has declined through time. The opposite seems to be true for NZ, where seizures involving bears have declined relative to other CITES seizures during the period analysed.

Traditional medicine trade

There was a predominant demand for bear derivatives and medicines (particularly bear bile) in Australia (64%) and New Zealand (82%), which as a proportion of the total trade in bear parts declined significantly through time in New Zealand, but not Australia. It would be interesting to determine if this had anything to do with operational surveillance and/or enforcement differences between the two countries. A multi-varied range of bear bile products were confiscated; encompassing powders, haemorrhoid ointments, pills and tablets, liquids and extracts, balls in various sizes and colours (e.g., described as brown, black and white), eye drops, flakes, balm, wine and tea. In one case, eight bottles of bear embryo

suspended in honey exported from Turkey was seized in Australia. The harvesting of bears for use in traditional medicine has been in practice for thousands of years (Feng et al. 2009), however, commercialisation of the traditional medicine industry has become one of the leading threats to bears; particularly in Asia (Kemf et al. 1999; Foley et al. 2011). We note that it is difficult to determine which species of Asian bear is used in the manufacturing of bear bile medicines without further forensic testing of products (Peppin et al. 2008; Byard 2016), although the vast majority of bears kept in bear bile extraction facilities are Asiatic black bears (Foley et al. 2011; Willcox et al. 2016). Bears are not only killed for their gall bladders, but live bears are captured to replenish bear farms. For Asian bear species, this demand has nearly depleted wild populations in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (Scotson 2012; Scotson et al. 2017; Garshelis and Steinmetz 2020).

China reportedly has the largest number of and biggest bear farms in Asia; estimated to be holding over 20,000 captive bears on 68 licensed farms, and a further 2,000 bears on illegal farms (World Animal Protection 2020). Despite a ban on the international trade of bears, the illegal import and export of bear bile products continues to persist globally (Burgess et al. 2014, Nijman et al. 2017, Shepherd et al. 2020). While countries in Asia are under pressure to phase out bear bile farming, sectors within China are still promoting the use on a commercial scale (Fobar, 2020). China's 'Belt and Road Initiative', includes specific goals to expand its traditional medicine market (Hinsley et al. 2020), which is likely to stimulate demand further and heighten existing threats to species consumed. Across the rest of Asia, trade driven demand, in combination with loss of suitable habitat and conflict with humans, is causing bear populations to decline (Kemf et al. 1999; Scotson et al. 2017; Garshelis and Steinmetz 2020).

Trophy trade

Canada and the US were the greatest source of seized bear body parts and trophies. In both countries trophy hunting of bears is legal, but is accompanied by poaching. In March 2020, 10 people (3 Canadian nationals and 7 US nationals) were convicted for illegally killing black bears in Canada, falsifying records and illegally transporting hides to the US for taxidermy (CR Shepherd pers. comm.). According to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), between 2004 and 2014, 1.7 million hunting trophies were recorded in international trade (IFAW 2016), with Australia ranked 16th in the trade of hunting trophies; with the American

black bear and brown bear the top two species imported. Considering the industry is driven by commercial utilisation of wildlife, greater scrutiny is needed to assess the impacts of illegal offtake and smuggling.

- Meat trade
- To a much lesser extent, there was a boutique demand for canned/tinned bear meat, originating mostly from Finland and Japan. To our knowledge, very little is known of the international trade (legal or illegal) of bear meat, and further investigation into this trade would help shed light on the dynamics of the trade, including levels of trade, species involved, and demand communities.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Illegal trade in bear parts and derivatives extends beyond bear range countries, and beyond well-known consumer countries, such as China, which have been the focus of attention in the past (Foley et al. 2011; Burgess et al. 2014; Shepherd et al. 2020). Demand for traditional medicines containing bear parts, and for body parts of bears coveted as trophies, clearly exists in Australia and New Zealand. Seizures provide an insight into the smuggling and demand for wildlife, but do not provide a comprehensive picture of the scale of the trade nor the volumes involved.

Agencies tackling wildlife crime in both NZ and Australia are under-resourced and rely heavily on biosecurity enforcement to detect wildlife smuggling. We believe that it is likely that the level of successful bear smuggling (i.e., not seized by border quarantine agencies) will be much higher in other countries with less established biosecurity enforcement. While the large number of seizures reveals that enforcement is important, it does not address how to reduce the demand, nor how to continue to lower smuggling efforts. Further research into the demand for bear parts and derivatives, in non-range countries, will help to understand the extent of the IWT, and to develop effective strategies (including education and behaviour change) to counter the demand. However, as bear parts and derivatives are entering Australia and New Zealand from a wide range of international sources, and transit countries, there is also a need for increased international collaboration to tackle this transnational crime.

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

292

293

294

295

296

Given that seizures provide an incomplete picture of the IWT, we make the following recommendations. Firstly, we have identified that the illegal bear trade to Australia and New Zealand exists, encompassing a range of countries/territories across Asia, Europe, Americas, Middle-East, and Africa, and continues to be an enforcement issue. Research in other nonrange countries should be conducted to help determine the global demand for bear parts and derivatives, and to identify whether a commercial market exists to supply the personal consumption practices. Secondly, relevant agencies in the source countries, identified for the bear trade to Australia and New Zealand, should be encouraged to increase efforts to detect illegal bear parts and derivatives being transported out of their jurisdictions. Thirdly, using existing cooperative platforms, such as CITES and the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group, countries involved in the smuggling of bear parts and derivatives should increase collaborative strategies to counter IWT. For example, Australian seizures originating from New Zealand constituted almost 5% of incidents (17 out of 369). Finally, Australian and New Zealand authorities can be made aware of the source countries, which have been identified here as participating in bear trade, and deploy appropriate evidence-based surveillance effort to complement existing biosecurity and enforcement activities.

297298

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

300

301

302

303

304

299

Declaration of Funding

CRS and LG are grateful to the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) for generously supporting Monitor Conservation Research Society's work on this project. PG-D was partially supported by NERC grant NE/S011641/1 under the Newton LATAM funding programme.

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities in Australia and New Zealand for assisting in the collection and curation of seizure and enforcement data. The authors acknowledge the Indigenous Traditional Owners of the land on which the University of Adelaide is built -the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. Particular thanks to Jo Beath (Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment, Australia) and Dylan Swain (Department of Conservation, New Zealand) for facilitating provision of CITES seizure

- datasets. PC thanks Eric Cassey for checking the calculation of data summaries. PG-D thanks
- 314 C. Jones and B. Warburton (MWLR New Zealand) for their support and help.



References

- 317 Auliya, M., Altherr, S., Ariano-Sanchez, D., Baard, E. H., Brown, C., Brown, R. M., Cantu. J.-C.,
- Gentile, G., Gildenhuys, P., Henningheim, E. (2016). Trade in live reptiles, its impact on wild
- populations, and the role of the European market. *Biological Conservation* **204**, 103-119.
- Berec, M., Vršecká, L., and Šetlíková, I. (2018). What is the reality of wildlife trade volume?
- 321 CITES Trade Database limitations. *Biological Conservation* **224**, 111-116.
- 322 Braden, K. (2014). Illegal recreational hunting in Russia: the role of social norms and elite
- violators. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* **55**, 457-490.
- 324 Brenton-Rule, E., Frankel, S., and Lester, P. (2016). Improving management of invasive
- species: New Zealand's approach to pre-and post-border pests. *Policy Quarterly* **12**, 17-25.
- Burgess, E. A., Stoner, S.S., Foley, K. E. (2014). Brought to Bear: An Analysis of Seizures across
- Asia (2000–2011). (TRAFFIC: Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.)
- Byard, R. W. (2016). Traditional medicines and species extinction: another side to forensic
- wildlife investigation. *Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology* **12**, 125-127.
- Clarke, S., Stenekes, N., Kancans, R., Woodland, C., and Robinson, A. (2018). Undelivered risk:
- A counter-factual analysis of the biosecurity risk avoided by inspecting international mail
- 332 articles. *NeoBiota* **40**, 73-86.
- 333 Crudge, B., Nguyen, T., and Cao, T. (2018). The challenges and conservation implications of
- bear bile farming in Viet Nam. Oryx **54**, 252-259.
- D'Cruze, N., Sarma, U. K., Mookerjee, A., Singh, B., Louis, J., Mahapatra, R. P., Jaiswal, V. P.,
- Roy, T. K., Kumari, I., and Menon, V. (2011). Dancing bears in India: A sloth bear status
- 337 report. *Ursus* **22**, 99-105.
- 338 Feng, Y., Siu, K., Wang, N., Ng, K. M., Tsao, S. W., Nagamatsu, T., and Tong, Y. (2009). Bear
- 339 bile: dilemma of traditional medicinal use and animal protection. *Journal of ethnobiology*
- and ethnomedicine **5**, e2.
- 341 Fobar, R. (2020). China promotes bear bile as coronavirus treatment, alarming wildlife
- 342 advocates. *National Geographic Magazine*, 26th March 2020:
- 343 https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/chinese-government-promotes-
- 344 bear-bile-as-coronavirus-covid19-treatment. (last accessed 23 August 2021).
- Foley, K. E., Stengel, C. J., and Shepherd, C. R. (2011). Pills, Powders, Vials and Flakes: the bear
- bile trade in Asia. (TRAFFIC Southeast Asia: Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.)

- Gailus, J. (2018). Grizzly trophies in Europe: Are B.C. grizzly bear parts being unlawfully
- imported into the EU? (David Suzuki Foundation.) https://davidsuzuki.org/wp-
- content/uploads/2018/07/Grizzly-Trophies-in-Europe-DSF-report-July2018-final.pdf (last
- accessed on 23 August 2021).
- 351 Garshelis, D., and Steinmetz, R. (2020). Ursus thibetanus (amended version of 2016
- assessment). (The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e.T22824A166528664.)
- 353 https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T22824A166528664.en. (Downloaded
- 354 on 07 June 2021).
- 355 Gomez, L., and Shepherd, C. R. (2019). Bearly on the radar an analysis of seizures of bears
- in Indonesia. *European Journal of Wildlife Research* **65**, e89
- Gomez, L., Shepherd, C. R., and Khoo, M. S. (2020). Illegal trade of sun bear parts in the
- 358 Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. *Endangered Species Research* **41**, 279–287.
- Gore, M. L., Braszak, P., Brown, J., Cassey, P., Duffy, R., Fisher, J., Graham, J., Justo-Hanani, R.,
- Kirkwood, A. E., Lunstrum, E., Machalaba, C., Massé, F., Manguiat, M., Omrow, D., Stoett,
- P., Wyatt, T., White, R. (2019). Transnational environmental crime threatens sustainable
- development. *Nature Sustainability* **2**, 784-786.
- 363 Hinsley, A., Milner-Gulland, E. J., Cooney, R., Timoshyna, A., Ruan, X., Lee, T. M. (2020).
- Building sustainability into the belt and road initiative's traditional Chinese medicine trade.
- 365 *Nature Sustainability* **3**, 96-100.
- 366 IFAW (2016) Killing for trophies: an analysis of global hunting trade.
- 367 https://d1jyxxz9imt9yb.cloudfront.net/resource/36/attachment/regular/Killing For Tro
- 368 <u>phies.pdf</u> (last accessed 23 August 2021).
- 369 Kemf, E., Wilson, A., and Servheen, C. (1999). Wanted Alive!: Bears in the Wild. (World Wide
- 370 Fund for Nature: Gland, Switzerland.)
- Lane, S. E., Cannon, R. M., Arthur, A. D., and Robinson, A. P. (2019). Sample size for inspection
- intended to manage risk within mixed consignments. *NeoBiota* **42**, 59-69.
- 373 Lindenmayer, D. and Scheele, B., (2017). Do not publish. *Science* **356**, 800-801.
- Livingstone, E., Gomez, L., and Bouhuys, J. (2018). A review of bear farming and bear trade in
- Lao People's Democratic Republic. *Global Ecology and Conservation* **13**, e00380.
- 376 Meyer, D., Zeileis, A., and Hornik, K. (2020). vcd: Visualizing Categorical Data. R package
- 377 version 1.4-8.

- 378 Mills, J., and Servheen, C. (1994). The Asian Trade in Bears and Bear Parts: Impacts and
- Conservation Recommendations. *Bears: Their Biology and Management* **9**, 161-167.
- Nijman, V., Oo, H., and Shwe, N. M. (2017). Assessing the illegal bear trade in Myanmar
- through conversations with poachers: topology, perceptions and trade links to China.
- 382 Human Dimensions of Wildlife **22**, 172-182.
- Peppin, L., McEwing, R., Carvalho, G. R., and Ogden, R. (2008). A DNA-Based Approach for the
- Forensic Identification of Asiatic Black Bear (Ursus thibetanus) in a Traditional Asian
- 385 Medicine. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* **53**, 1358-1362.
- Phelps, J., Biggs, D., Webb, E. L. (2016). Tools and terms for understanding illegal wildlife
- trade. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment **14**, 479-489.
- 388 R Core Team (2020). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. (R Foundation
- for Statistical Computing: Vienna, Austria.)
- Rosen, G.E., and Smith, K. F. (2010). Summarizing the evidence on the international trade in
- illegal wildlife. *EcoHealth* **7**, 24-32.
- 392 Scheffers BR, Oliveira BF, Lamb I, Edwards DP (2019) Global wildlife trade across the tree of
- 393 life. *Science* **366**, 71-76.
- 394 Scotson, L. (2012). Status of Asiatic Black Bears and Sun Bears in Xe Pian National Protected
- 395 Area, Lao PDR. *International Bear News* **21**, February 2012.
- 396 Scotson, L., Fredriksson, G., Augeri, D., Cheah, C., Ngoprasert, D., Wai-Ming, W. (2017).
- Helarctos malayanus (errata version published in 2018). (The IUCN Red List of Threatened
- 398 Species 2017: e.T9760A123798233.) https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-
- 399 3.RLTS.T9760A45033547.en. (Downloaded on 07 June 2021).
- 400 Scheffers, B. R., Oliveira, B. F., Lamb, I. and Edwards, D. P., 2019. Global wildlife trade across
- the tree of life. Science **366**, 71-76. Shepherd, C. R., and Nijman, V. (2007). The trade in bear
- parts from Myanmar: an illustration of the ineffectiveness of enforcement of international
- 403 wildlife trade regulations. *Biodiversity and Conservation* **17**, 35-42.
- Shepherd, C.R., Kufnerová, J., Cajthaml, T., Frouzová, J., and Gomez, L. (2020). Bear trade in
- the Czech Republic: an analysis of legal and illegal international trade from 2005 to 2020.
- 406 European Journal of Wildlife Research **66**, e92.
- 407 Su, P. (2002). Bear markets: Australia. In 'The bear bile business the global trade in bear
- 408 products from China to Asia and beyond'. (Eds T. Phillips, and P. Wilson.) Pp. 229-238.
- 409 (World Society for the Protection of Animals: London, UK).

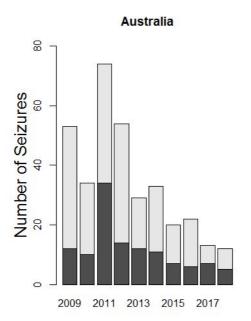
410	van Uhm, D. P. (2016). The illegal wildlife trade: inside the world of poachers, smugglers and
411	traders. (Springer: Switzerland.)
412	World Animal Protection (2020). Cruel cures: the industry behind bear bile production and
413	how to end it. (World Animal Protection: Canada.)
414	Willcox, D., Nguyen, M. D. T., and Gomez, L. (2016). An assessment of trade in bear bile and
415	gall bladder in Viet Nam. (TRAFFIC: Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.)
416	Williams, C. (2020). Woman fined \$7500 for smuggling bear bile into New Zealand.
417	https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/120007097/woman-fined-7500-for-smuggling-
418	bear-bile-into-new-zealand (accessed on 04 March 2020).
419	Zeileis, A., Meyer, D., and Hornik, K. (2007). Residual-based shadings for visualizing
420	(conditional) independence. Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics 16, 507-
421	(conditional) independence. Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics 16, 507-525.

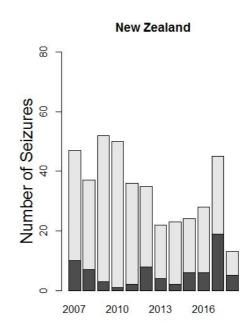
FIGURES AND TABLES

423

422

424





425 426

427

Fig. 1. The annual number of seizures of bear parts and derivatives in Australia (2009-2018; n = 369) and New Zealand (2007 to 2018; n = 412), summed across all bear species; with medicinal derivatives (light bars) and all other body part types (dark bars) distinguished.

432

433

434

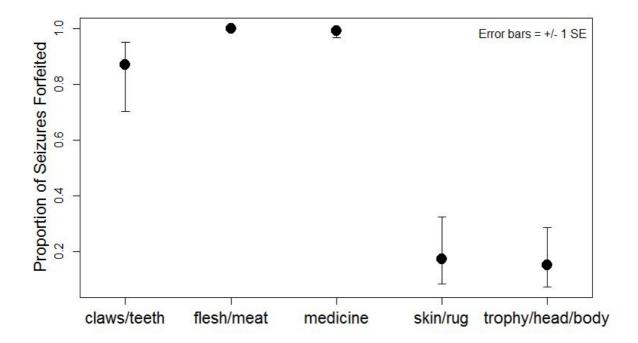
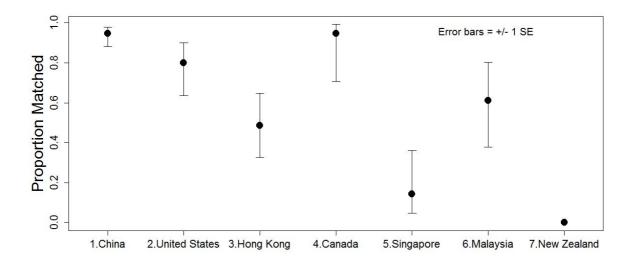


Fig. 2. The differences in the proportion of Australian seizures forfeited by enforcement authorities across different seizure types. The majority of trophy seizures (83.7%), including skins and rugs, were legally permitted for import into Australia, and were returned to travellers.

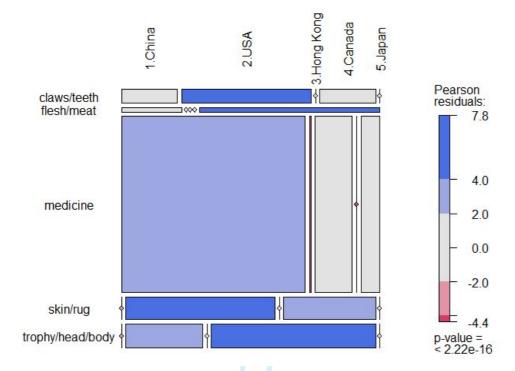


436

437

438

Fig. 3. The differences in the proportion of matching countries/territories between the declared point of origin and the country of last export for the top seven countries/territories of last export, i.e., those that were involved in more than ten (10) seizures.



441

442443

444

445

Fig. 4. Matrix plot of the proportional representation between the five commodity types and the top five countries most involved in Australian seizures. Higher Pearson residuals indicate the observed frequency is significantly greater (blue) or lesser (red) than expected under independence.

448

449

451

452

453

Table 1. Types and quantities of bear parts and derivatives seized in Australia from 2009 to

2018 (n = 369)

Quantity is the reported minimum amount, as it doesn't include information from seizures

with missing or unknown information.

Commodity	Reported Quantity	No. of Seizures 17 (4.6%) 235 (63.7%)		
Meat (cans/tins)	24			
Medicines				
derivatives*	<i>3185</i> + 3.224kg			
wine	200ml			
Trophies		117 (31.7%)		
claws	69			
body (whole)	12			
heads	4			
skins				
- skins	25			
- skins (head, teeth, claws	17			
attached)	18			
- rugs	1			
- riffle sling	1			
- hat	2			
- masks				
skulls	21			
teeth	65			

^{*} manufactured medicinal products were of different brands and forms (i.e., pills, powder, liquid, cream, ointments, tea, etc), size, and packaging (i.e., bottles, boxes, tubes, vials, packets, etc), which contained varying quantities of bear products, largely bile.

454 Table 3. Bear commodities seized in New Zealand from 2007 to 2018 (n = 412)

Quantity is the reported minimum amount, as it doesn't include information from seizures

with missing or unknown information.

Commodity	Reported Quantity	No. of Seizures
Meat (kg)	<u> </u>	11 (2.7%)
kg	1.95	
cans/tins	5	
Medicines	-	339 (82.3%)
derivatives	<i>10,181</i> + 1.31kg + 862ml	
bones	2	
gall bladder	<i>21</i> + 56g + 23ml	
Trophies		62 (15%)
body (whole)	2	
claws	86	
hair (rug?)	1 + 145g	
paws	1	
skins		
- whole	10	
- piece	5	
skulls	6	
teeth	7	
trophy	3	

457 458

APPENDICES AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Appendix 1. Country-level (n = 33) seizure dataset by commodity for Australia and New Zealand. Australian seizure records include both 'country of origin' (outside brackets) and 'country of last export' (inside brackets). New Zealand seizures are only reported from 'country of last export'

		Australia	1		New Zealand					
	claws/	flesh/	medicine	skin/fur/	trophy/head/	claws/	flesh/	medicine	skin/fur/	trophy/head/
Country	teeth	meat		rug	body	teeth	meat		rug	body
Australia								6	1	
Brunei			1 (3)					1		
Cambodia	1				~ ·					
Canada	3 (1)			8 (9)	15 (12)	13	1	1	4	2
China	3 (2)	1 (1)	125 (92)	(1)	<i>O</i> ;	2		285		
Estonia		(1)			5					
Fiji			(1)							
Finland		7 (2)					2			
Germany				(1)						
Hong Kong		(1)	25 (35)	(1)				10		
Indonesia	1 (1)				3 (3)			1		
Italy					1 (1)					
Japan		3 (3)	13 (8)				2	3		
Lao PDR								1		
Malaysia	3 (4)		10 (15)					2		

	4 (4)									
Mexico	1 (1)									
Myanmar	1									
Namibia				1						
New Zealand			(12)	(4)	(1)					
Norway							2			
Papua New Guinea		(1)			- 1					
Peru						1				
Philippines			2 (3)							
Puerto Rico			1							
Republic of Korea			2 (2)					6		
Russian Federation	1 (1)	1	2		2 (1)	4	3	1		
Singapore	(3)	(2)	5 (16)					2		
South Africa										1
Taiwan			12 (8)					1		
Thailand	(1)		2 (2)					1		
Turkey			1 (1)							
United Arab Emirates	(1)	(1)			(1)					
United Kingdom	1			2 (1)	2 (1)				2	
United States	7 (10)		1 (4)	13 (17)	7 (20)	12	1	2	7	7

Viet Nam 1 9 (8)