

Thursday, 22.09.2016

22.9.2016 - E-Building ES 24 | 5:30pm - 6:45pm

**5.11 The Methods, Networks, and Location Choices of Wildlife Criminals**

Chair: Andrew Lemieux

This panel presents empirical research on wildlife crimes in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa. The four presentations focus on different aspects of the wildlife trade with an emphasis on how offenders choose where to hunt, who to work with, and how products move internationally to meet market demand.

5:30pm **[The legal-illegal interface in the wildlife trade ?>](#)**

440

\*Daan van Uhm<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> Utrecht University, Willem Pompe Institute for Criminal Law, Utrecht, Netherlands**Abstract Text :**

The illegal wildlife trade is currently approached as a serious form of crime. While in the 1990s it was believed that tourists and opportunists dominated the illegal trade, nowadays the focus is on the involvement of organized crime. However, there is also a third group: corporations involved in illegal wildlife trafficking. The interconnection between the legal and illegal wildlife market is essential for understanding involved criminal networks. This presentation focuses on the legal-illegal interface in the wildlife trade. Symbiotic and antithetical relationships between the actors highlight the thin line between the under- and upperworld. Legally registered wildlife companies use legal infrastructures to trade illegal wildlife and often the same species are offered on both formal and informal markets. Quantitative descriptive analyses based upon seizures in the EU are combined with qualitative fieldwork in China, Russia and Morocco to sketch an overall view of the interconnection between the legal and illegal wildlife traders.

5:45pm **[Understanding the Location Choice of Wildlife Criminals ?>](#)**

441

\*Nick van Doormaal<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Lemieux<sup>1</sup>, Stijn Ruiter<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> NSCR, Amsterdam, Netherlands**Abstract Text :**

Traditionally, criminologists study criminal location choice to explain why criminals target certain locations. Information on wildlife criminal decision-making is lacking, but essential for creating effective countermeasures. Location choice is typically explained using the rational choice perspective; namely that offenders choose locations characterized by high reward, low risk and minimal effort. This study aims to explain the criminal location choice of poachers entering and exiting a private nature reserve in South Africa to determine what environmental factors explain their behaviour. The presentation presents a methodology for doing this using historical data of incursion events, systematic observations of these locations, and a case-matched comparison with sites where no incursion occurred. When combined with background information such as patrol intensity, vegetation density, water holes, cell phone coverage, and other non-poaching crime types it is possible to determine which features best explain the location choices poachers make. Ultimately, the findings will help improve models that explain and predict poacher behaviour.

6:00pm **[Assessing U.S. Wildlife Trafficking: Patterns across space, time, and genera ?>](#)**

442

\*Justin Kurland<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Pires<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rutgers University, School of Criminal Justice, Newark, United States

<sup>2</sup> Florida International University, Criminal Justice, Miami, United States

**Abstract Text :**

Description of Problem: Illegal wildlife trade is one of the most profitable transnational crimes in the world. In the U.S. fewer than 330 agents from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services are tasked with inspecting 72 air and seaports to intercept illicit wildlife products. Question: This paper suggests a risk assessment strategy that utilizes analytical techniques from criminology to wildlife contraband entering the U.S. to determine how it concentrates in space, time and among genera. Methods: Using the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) database 40,113 incidents of seized wildlife products from 2003 to 2012 were identified. Various descriptive and inferential techniques are used to identify where, when, and among which group of genera trafficked contraband concentrates. Results: Findings suggest a disproportionate share of export countries, ports of entry, times and genera account for a majority of incidents. Conclusion: Resource allocation by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services should be prioritized accordingly.

6:15pm  
443

**[Wildlife Criminal Networks in a Protected Area: How Organization Differs Across Crime Types ?>](#)**

\*Andrew Lemieux<sup>1</sup>, Nick van Doormaal<sup>1</sup>, Ngene Reuben<sup>2</sup>, Nelson Guma<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, , Amsterdam, Netherlands

<sup>2</sup> Uganda Wildlife Authority, , Kampala, Uganda

**Abstract Text :**

Wildlife crime in protected areas is driven by the demand for plant and animal products. In some cases, people harvesting wildlife products illegally do so for subsistence or personal use (i.e. meat to eat, wood for cooking or grass for grazing). In others, the illegal harvest is to generate income by supplying domestic and international commercial markets. This suggests the network structures of criminals will differ between the two groups. Breaking the law for personal reasons would require a much smaller network than for commercial distribution. To investigate this topic, arrest records from a protected area in Uganda are used to map the offender networks for different crime types. The analyses explore the demographics of offenders working together as well as how communities are linked for different types of crime. The results give insight as to how complex networks are for different crime types. This is useful for identifying which communities are most involved with wildlife crime and thus where interventions should be targeted.