

Detecting species over-exploitation in global, legal wildlife trade

Date 23rd Apr (Fri.)

Time 16:00 (UTC+8)

Venue Zoom



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Legal trade in ~36,000 species is regulated through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES); **but what about the additional hundreds of thousands of non-CITES-listed species traded in the fisheries, timber, pet, medicine and fashion industry** – at a scale that twice exceeds annual international trade in tea and coffee? These species are often excluded from global wildlife trade research, which has traditionally focussed solely on the CITES-listed species subset; thereby presenting an incomplete picture of global wildlife trade, and its potential impact on biodiversity. A group of researchers at HKU Conservation Forensics Lab examined global trends in mass, commercial wildlife trade by downloading 20 years of data from the UN Comtrade database, and identifying areas where targeted resource allocation and detailed commodity descriptions would help improve wildlife trade monitoring and facilitate the timely detection of species over-exploitation in trade.



About speaker:

Astrid Andersson is a PhD student at the University of Hong Kong researching wildlife trade, introduced species and urban ecology, and is supervised by Dr Caroline Dingle. She is also a National Geographic Explorer and a member of the HKU Conservation Forensics Lab. She has previously worked with different NGOs such as Freeland, WildAid, TRAFFIC and Humane Society International on counter-wildlife trade projects.

All are welcome!