

Open-source research on **online ivory trade** in the EU

Presentation of results

Nature Crime Alliance webinar

May 2024

About **ifaw**

- ▶ IFAW is a global non-profit helping animals and people thrive together from 1969.
- ▶ We partner with local communities, governments, non-governmental organizations, and businesses.

15

country offices

40+

countries with active projects

300+

employees – experts in biology and zoology, forensic science, political science, law enforcement and emergency response.



ifaw programs

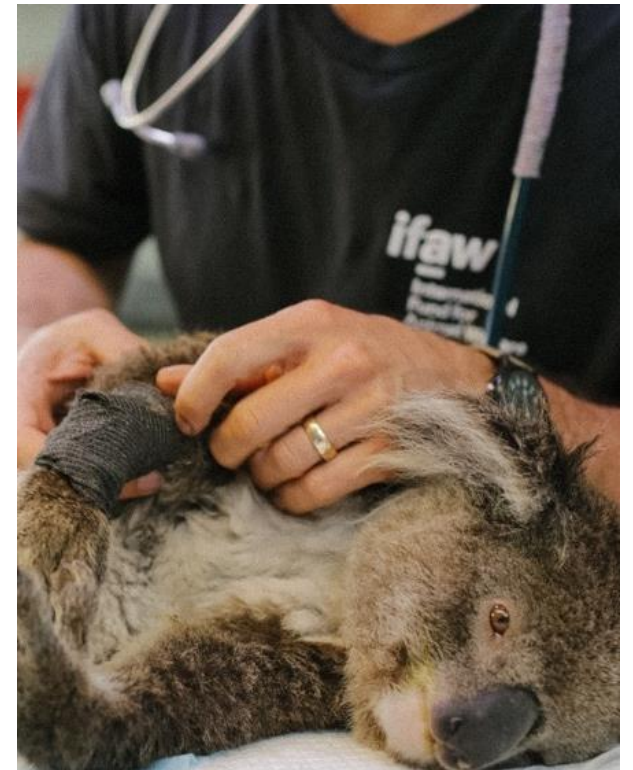
Wildlife Rescue

Disaster Rescue



Marine Mammal Rescue and Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rescue

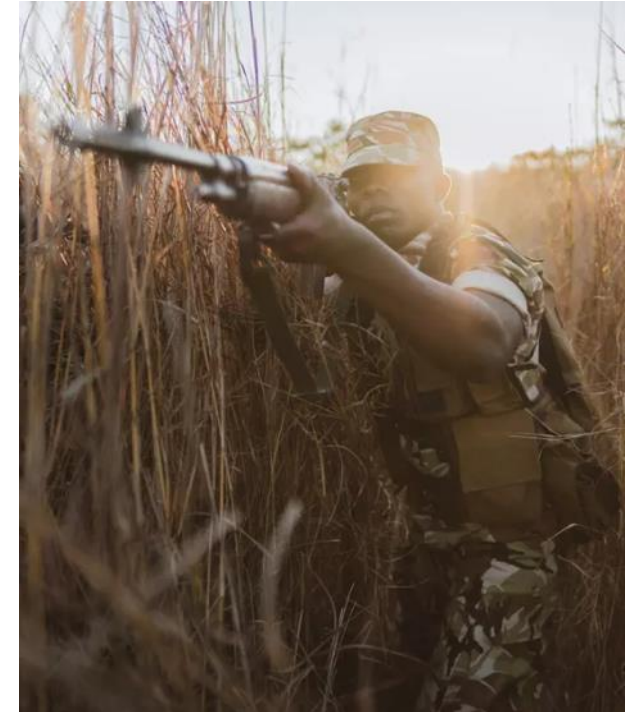


Conservation



Marine Conservation

Landscape Conservation



Wildlife Crime

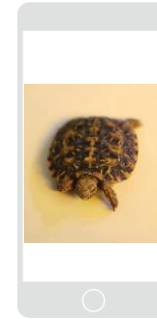
Combating wildlife crime at source, in transit, and at the point of sale through law enforcement support and training, improved regulatory environments, and through a reduction in the consumption of wildlife.

Our mission



Scale of the threat

- ▶ **Worlds biggest marketplace** – open 24/7, unregulated, anonymous, unlimited
- ▶ **Ease of exchange** from poacher to consumer & between continents
- ▶ **Millions of live animals & products** offered for sale
- ▶ Examples: ivory, rhino horn, big cats, primates, live parrots & birds of prey, reptiles & amphibians



What were we looking for?

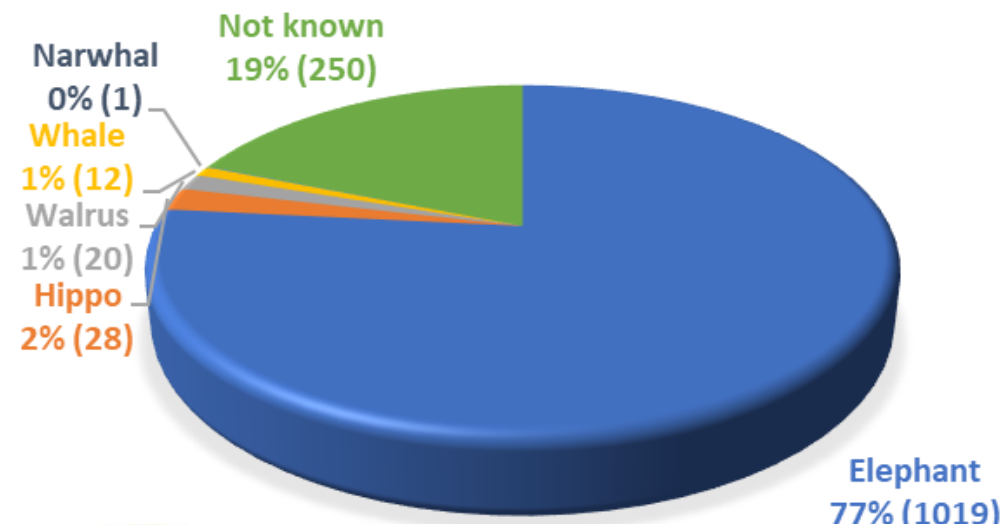
- In 2021, the EU adopted **new measures** on elephant ivory trade
- We asked experts to search **online marketplaces & auction sites**
- Goal: **quantify the ivory advertised online** in the EU
- Ivory from elephants, hippos, narwhals, whales, walrus & dugong was searched
- Screening of **7 countries**: France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Portugal & Germany



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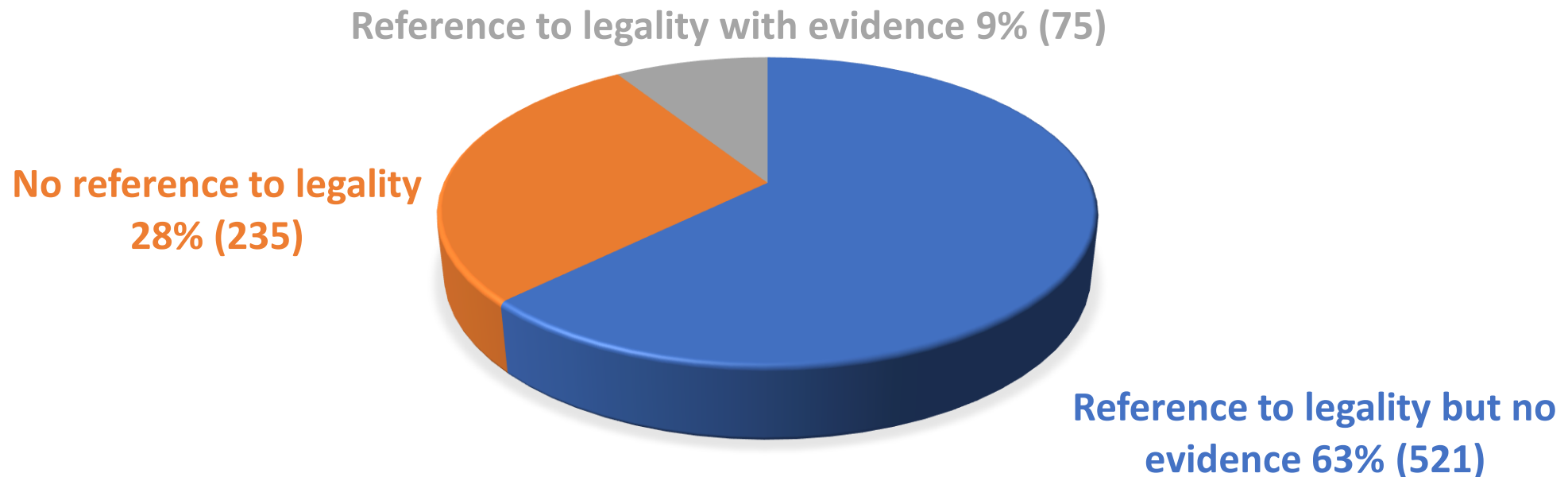
What did we find?

- 1,330 ivory items found for sale on 831 advertisements across 49 websites
- Mostly **elephant ivory (77%)**
- 32 **raw tusks**, including 18 from elephants
- 60% of advertisements openly claimed the item for sale was ivory
- Most found categories: **sculptures, miniature paintings, and jewelry**



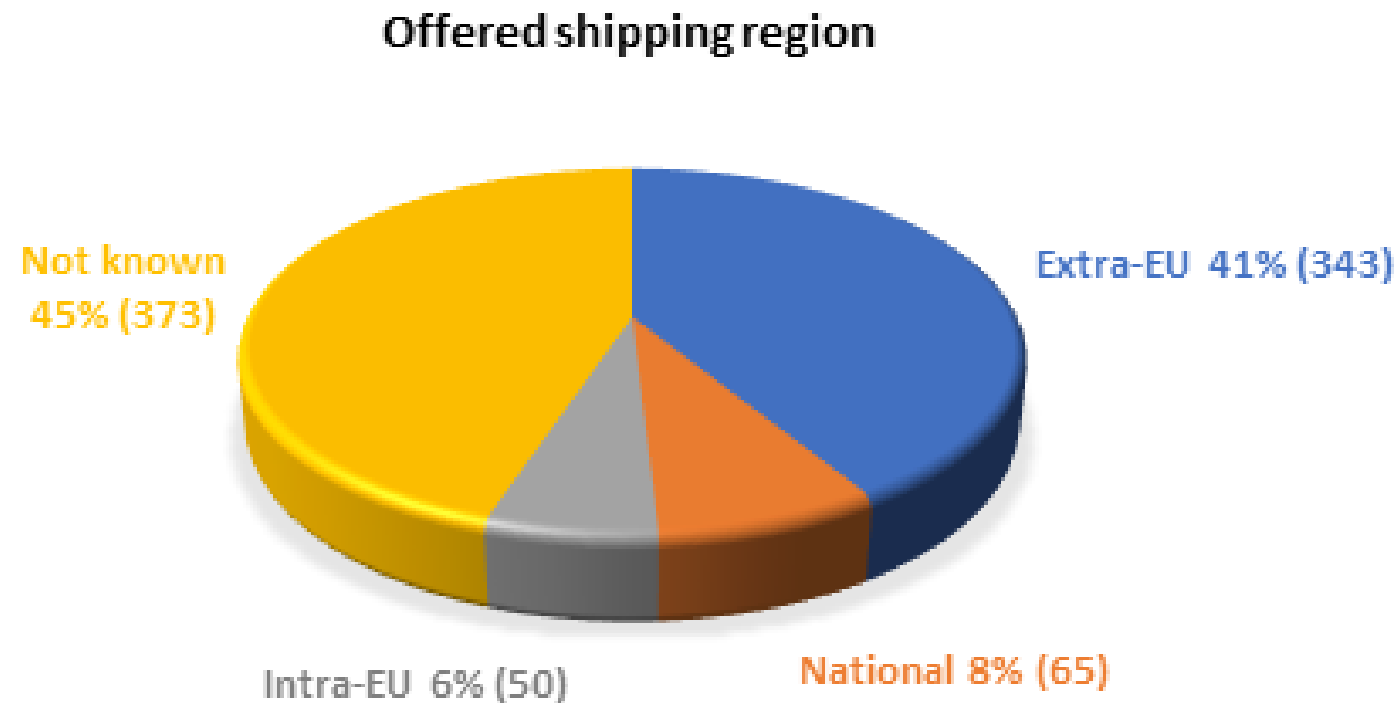
Legality claims and evidence

- $\frac{3}{4}$ of the adverts claimed some form of legality, but **only 9% provided verifiable evidence**
- Highly concerning: **no evidence of legality was provided for any of the raw tusks**
- Verifiable evidence provided for 10% of worked specimens



Geographic scope

- A large majority (73%) of the sellers found were located in the EU
- At least **41% of the adverts offered extra-EU trade**



Conclusions & Recommendations

- Significant amounts of **ivory continue to be traded online** in the EU
- A **considerable part might be illegally advertised** for sale
- The EU should:
 - Establish a **monitoring mechanism to assess the implementation** of the rules
 - Transform all these rules into **legally binding legislation**
 - Create a harmonized **system for the collection and destruction of ivory** objects

Bonus



- Full PDF report accessible here:



- Any other questions? Contact me at epimont@ifaw.org.