



**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

# COVID-19 AND WILDLIFE TRADE IN AFRICA IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES

**14:00-15:30 EAT, 19 MAY 2020**

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**The COVID-19 pandemic has now tragically claimed thousands of lives around the world, placed countries in complete economic and social lockdown and is set to usher in a global economic recession of unprecedented scale in modern times.**

The negative economic impact on the fragile economies of many developing countries will be even more significant. In early April, the World Bank report predicts that the Africa's economy could shrink by as much as 5.1% and an African Union report estimates that nearly 20 million jobs on the continent "are threatened with destruction".

With strong indications of a wild animal source of the outbreak, the pandemic has also put the spotlight on wildlife trade and its potential role in the spread of human disease. The potential role of wild animals acting as sources, reservoirs or vectors of transmission of deadly viruses such as the Coronavirus has led to numerous calls for widespread bans on the trade in and consumption of wildlife.

The impact of these developments on many countries in the African continent will be significant. For countries working hard to eradicate the scourge of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, the current COVID-19 emergency and its economic fallout can further fuel illicit trade and allow wildlife criminals to exploit enforcement vulnerabilities caused by the crisis. On the other hand, efforts to ensure legal and sustainable trade in wild species can be undermined by poorly considered and/or

simplistic responses to the crisis, leading to significant loss of food security and livelihoods to many communities and damage to national economies in the continent that is already under pressure from global recession. A possible framework to respond to the wildlife trade challenges presented by the COVID-19 outbreak can perhaps be found in the 'African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa' that was endorsed by the African Union Summit in June 2015. The strategy's aim is to foster a common and coordinated response by countries in the continent to combat the illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, and promote a strong national, regional and international response towards safeguarding all wild fauna and flora in Africa.

To identify the risks, threats, challenges and responses related to the COVID-19 crisis in the wildlife trade context, the African Union Commission and TRAFFIC, together with the wildlife trade network, will hold a dedicated webinar on 'COVID-19 and wildlife trade in Africa: Impacts and Challenges'. The webinar will feature a panel of expert speakers who will speak on:

# SPEAKERS AND AGENDA



**Mr. Steven Broad**  
Executive Director, TRAFFIC

The COVID-19 crisis and how it relates to wildlife trade.



**Dr. Nick Nwankpa**  
Director, AU PANVAC

Wildlife trade, zoonotic disease risks and impacts on human health



**Dr. Scott Newman,**  
Senior Animal Health and Production Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa

Possible solutions – on benefits and costs of framing the different approaches in Africa.



**Ms. Leah Wanambwa-Naess**  
Senior Policy Officer, DREA, AUC

A continent-wide, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary response to the challenges of the impact of COVID-19 on wildlife trade



Moderated by:  
**Mr. Harsen Nyambe**  
Head of Environment, DREA, AUC

SLOT	SPEAKER
14:00 - 14:05	Welcome remarks/Opening
14:05 - 14:10	Moderator explains engagement process. Mr. Harsen Nyambe, DREA, AUC
14:10 - 14:25	Mr. Steven Broad - TRAFFIC
14:25 - 14:40	Dr. Nick Nwankpa – AU PANVAC
14:40 - 14:55	Dr. Scott Newman, - FAO Regional Office for Africa
14:55 - 15:10	Ms. Leah Wanambwa-Naess, DREA, AUC
15:10 - 15:25	Q&A
15:25 - 15:30	Wrap up and Closure

The experts are expected to highlight the key areas of impact of the COVID-19 crisis on wildlife trade and human health. They will also address the challenges it has triggered and explore potential solutions aimed at arresting the situation. Participants are invited to present their own perspectives on these challenges and suggested actions needed. The event will be co-organised by the AUC in partnership with TRAFFIC, using Zoom.

**Technical credentials for logging into the webinar via tablet / smartphone (iPads / iPhone) and PC will be sent to participants prior to the meeting.**