



Highlights



Yala Swamp Saga: Broken Promises, Idle Land

04/30/2020



Land Grabbing and Its Implications for Sudanese – Views from a scholar

04/15/2020



South Sudan government imposes night curfew, asks employers to have some staff stay home

03/27/2020

LAND DEAL MAP

InfoNile

DISPLAYING: Land Deals in the Nile Basin



Highlights

Who are we?

InfoNile is a collaborative cross-border group of geojournalists with a mission to uncover critical stories on water issues in the 11 countries of the Nile River Basin through data-based multimedia storytelling.

The flagship project of Water Journalists Africa.



WATER
JOURNALISTS
AFRICA

South
Atlantic



Land Grabbing and Its Implications for Sudanese – Views from a scholar

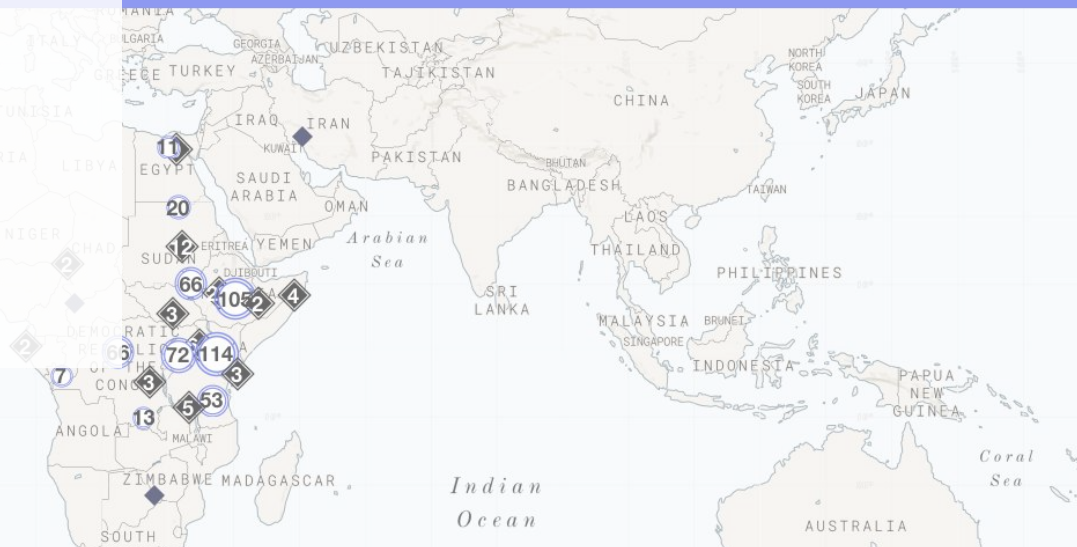
04/15/2020



South Sudan government imposes night curfew, asks employers to have some staff stay home

03/27/2020

DISPLAYING: Land Deals in the Nile Basin



The Nile River Basin

- Shared transboundary river basin
- Longest river in the world
- 11 countries from Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi up to Egypt
- More than 270 million people
- Different climates, cultures, histories



The Challenge



Increasing environmental crisis: Climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity threats.



Disconnect between journalists and scientists.



Lack of resources & training for journalists to produce data-based, actionable stories.



Our approach

Local and international
storytelling on environmental
and scientific topics

1. Identify a theme of common and cross-border importance

- *water scarcity during Covid-19*
- *climate change solutions*
- *wildlife trafficking + conservation*
- *biodiversity in transboundary lakes*
- *foreign land deals*

2. Source credible data that is cross-cutting across countries

- *water access data*
- *rainfall and runoff*
- *land acquisitions*

Our approach

3. Call for pitches from local journalists in our network to report in-depth stories, provide funding for field reporting (radio, TV, print, online)

4. Mentor and train the journalists in data journalism and environmental/science reporting. Work with them to create data visualizations for their stories.

5. Local journalists publish in their media houses, often in local languages

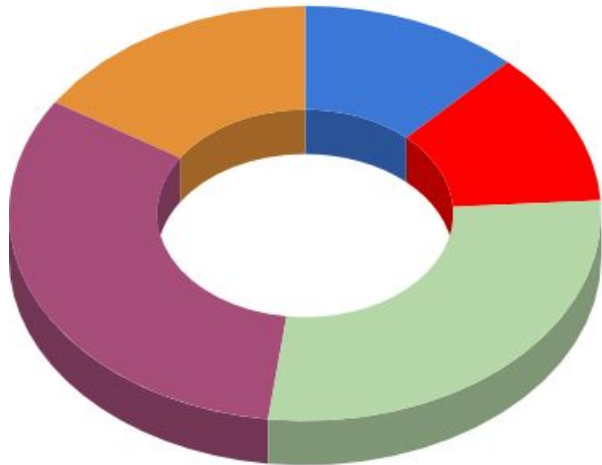
6. Translate stories to regional languages (Arabic, Amharic, Swahili, French) for publishing on InfoNile

7. Create cross-border multimedia projects combining all local stories and cross-border data analysis. **Incorporate geojournalism visualizations** like interactive maps, drone video and photography, satellite imagery and graphics.

8. Create actionable interactive maps published with the stories.

Impacts of InfoNile Stories

- Government investigation
- Hearing
- Institutional action (Firing/personnel changes, reorganization, etc.)
- Other
- Policy change



Dorcas Wangira

*Mentorship
program impact*



“When I pitched “People, Pangolin and Pandemic’ in a newsroom meeting, the story idea was snubbed. **If I had not pitched this story to InfoNile, I wouldn’t have published it.**

Mentorship was extremely valuable. And having a focus group pursuing similar stories kept me going. Other journalists and filmmakers who had worked on this story before gave me a lot of insight and material to use.”

The Pandemic Poachers

Covid-19 threatens to reverse fragile gains in wildlife conservation in East Africa

By InfoNile

Wildlife Conservation Reporting Project

- Supported by Earth Journalism Network and JRS Biodiversity Foundation
- 13 journalists supported: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan
- 10 stories published so far
- TV features in English and Kiswahili, radio features in English and Kiswahili, print stories, online multimedia stories
- All stories translated into Kiswahili
- Solutions journalism features; effects of Covid-19 on wildlife conservation; dual impacts of climate change during lockdowns (Musambwa Island - UG; South Sudan)
- Final project on effects of Covid-19 on wildlife conservation in East Africa
- Production of interactive map of wildlife seizures 2010-2020


COMMUNITY NEWS



Tuesday, August 11, 2020

The six-acre Musambwa island is home to over 100 bird species

PHOTO BY DAVIS BUYONDO

Floods destroy largest breeding ground for birds



IN NUMBERS
500
The number of birds estimated to have died in the floods

Grey-headed gulls flying at Musambwa island in Kyotera district. Over 200,000 birds are said to be living on the island

KYOTERA
By Davis Buyondo

It is dawn at Musambwa island in Kyotera district and chirping birds happily jump on rocks and trees.

A colony of grey-headed gulls takes to the sky, while others remain to guard their nests, eggs and young ones.

It is hard to tell whether they are mourning the death of several members of their flock, who drowned in the floods triggered by the recent rising water levels. Up to now, several breeding territories are waterlogged and deserted.

Going around the rocks, you jump over dead gulls, little egrets and other birds.

Over 80 eggs of different bird species and 110 dead birds are scattered within one acre. This faintly gives a picture of the impact of the recent rising water levels and floods on the birds and the breeding territories.

Enoch Ntale, a conservationist and tour guide at the island, estimates that nearly 1,000 eggs were destroyed and over 500 birds, especially those nesting, were killed by the floods.

"This is a natural calamity and we can do little about it. However, we expect to determine the impact in August after counting. But the number of birds will reduce as a result of the floods," he noted.

SWELLING WATER LEVELS
The May 2020 report by Sam Cheptoris, the Minister for Water and Environment, indicated that the water levels

happened during the nesting period.

BIRDS ON THE ISLAND
The six-acre island is located in the northwestern part of Lake Victoria.

It is so far the world's largest breeding colony for birds, mainly the gulls.

The island is home to 100 bird species. It is believed that about 200,000 birds live and breed here. Apart from the grey-headed gulls, there are Little egrets, Greater cormorant, Long-tailed cormorant and the Black crane.

Others are White-winged Black Tern, Sacred Ibis

In February, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) embarked on vigorous campaigns to restore wetlands and major water catchment areas along River Bukoola in Kyotera and other districts in the region.

Nicholas Magala, the central region senior environmental inspector, led enforcement officers who destroyed plantations and evicted more than 200 people in several wetlands, including Sango bay.

Patrick Kintu Kisekulo, the Kyotera LC5 chairperson, said Naluduguvu, Kyojila and Sango bay wetlands, where different birds breed, have been cleared, especially during the lockdown, when there are minimal inspection and eviction operations.

forest cobras, pythons and other creatures," he recounted.

The fishermen said they will vacate the birds' territory once the water recedes.

CONSERVING NATURE
Nature Uganda, a leading conservation organisation championing the protection of birds and their habitats, got interested in the island in 1998.

Achilles Byaruhanga, the Executive Director of Nature Uganda, said at that time the island had 30,000 pairs of grey-headed gulls, making it the largest known breeding colony in Africa.

A conservation programme by Nature Uganda is meant to establish mechanisms through which all the occupants with a stake in the island, including fishermen, birds and reptiles, can sustainably coexist.

The gulls lay between two and three eggs. Byaruhanga said previously, occupants on the island used to eat the eggs. They would also sell them at Mulembu, Kasensero and nearby landing sites.

However, the practice gradually stopped, hence the increasing number of gulls.

enforcement by fishermen suffered the immediate impact

PHOTO: DAVIS BUYONDO

Lenah Bosibori, TalkAfrica, Kenya: Conservancies unable to pay Maasai during Covid



Home › Featured › Business/Finance

FEATURED BUSINESS/FINANCE ENVIRONMENT TRAVEL

KENYAN CONSERVANCIES UNABLE TO PAY LEASED LAND AMID COVID-19 LINKED DROP IN TOURISM REVENUE

September 16, 2020 2214 0

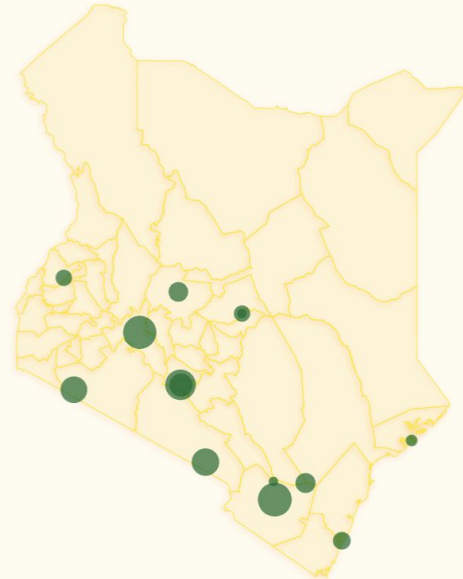


Number of conservancies per region

The most conservancies are found in Taita Taveta with 26, followed by Rift lakes and Northern.

[Hover on each point get more information.]

Number of conservancies 2 ● 20



Dorcas Wangira, Citizen TV, Kenya: Are pangolins to blame for the pandemic?



NEWS CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS SPORTS LIFESTYLE OPINION

WATCH LIVE TV

Pangolins in the dock: Is the mammal really guilty as charged?

By Dorcas Wangira For Citizen Digital

Published on: February 28, 2021 10:01 (EAT)

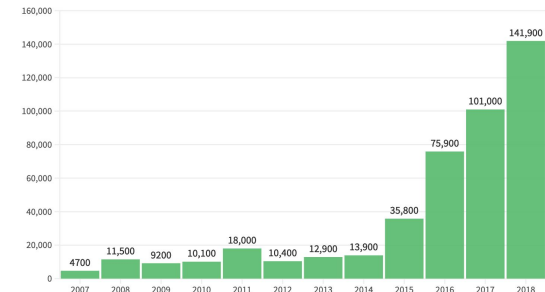


☐ The pangolin is the world's most trafficked mammal. No one truly knows its conservation



Pangolins seized annually, 2007-2018

Pangolins seized globally (live, bodies, scales, meat and trophies) have increased since 2014 due largely to their exploitation in illegal trade.



SoJo: Sharon Atieno, ScienceAfrica; Linah Mwamachi, Sifa FM Voi


[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Partners](#)
[Services](#)
[Products](#)
[Downloads](#)

[BIOTECHNOLOGY](#)
[AGRICULTURE](#)
[HEALTH](#)
[ENVIRONMENT](#)
[SCIENCE POLICY](#)
[ENERGY](#)
[INDUSTRIALIZATION](#)
[BIODIVERSITY](#)
[RESEARCH &](#)

Home > Africa News > Communities Close to Kenya's Tsavo National Park Plant Trees to Save Wildlife

[Africa News](#)
[Biodiversity](#)
[TOP STORIES IN SCIENCE AFRICA](#)

Communities Close to Kenya's Tsavo National Park Plant Trees to Save Wildlife

September 27, 2020 382 0

[Share on Facebook](#)
[Tweet on Twitter](#)
[G+](#)
[p](#)

By Linah Mwamachi

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE FEATURE IN KISWAHILI.](#)


Conflicts between humans and wildlife in Taita Taveta County in Kenya have lingered for ages, fighting for the scarce commodity like water.


Follow





Tanzani
Breast

[Home](#)
[Africa News](#)
[Saving the Rothschild Giraffe in Kenya](#)


[Saving the Rothschild Giraffe in Kenya](#)
[Watch later](#)
[Share](#)



[Watch on](#)


[Africa News](#)
[Biodiversity](#)
[TOP STORIES IN SCIENCE AFRICA](#)

Saving the Rothschild Giraffe in Kenya

September 14, 2020 649 0

[Share on Facebook](#)
[Tweet on Twitter](#)
[G+](#)
[p](#)

Follow us on Social Media

[twitter](#)
[instagram](#)

Prosper Kwigize, The Guardian, Tanzania: Protecting chimpanzees from Covid



IDHAA YA KISWAHILI MEDIA CENTER REDIO KUJIFUNZA KIJERU

MATANGAZO YA MOJA KWA MOJA MADA ZOTE

MEDIA CENTER

MEDIA CENTER

Hofu ya kupotea kwa Sokwe mtu Tanzania

Katika hifadhi ya Gombe nchini Tanzania ndiko wanakopatikana wanyama sokwe wanaotajwa kufanana kabisa na binadamu ambao ni kivutio duniani.



Home | News | Business | Sport & Entertainment | Editorial | Columnist | Features

14 SEP 2020

CORRESPONDENT
Kigoma

FEATURES
The Guardian

Covid-19 poses a serious challenge to conserve chimpanzee in Tanzania

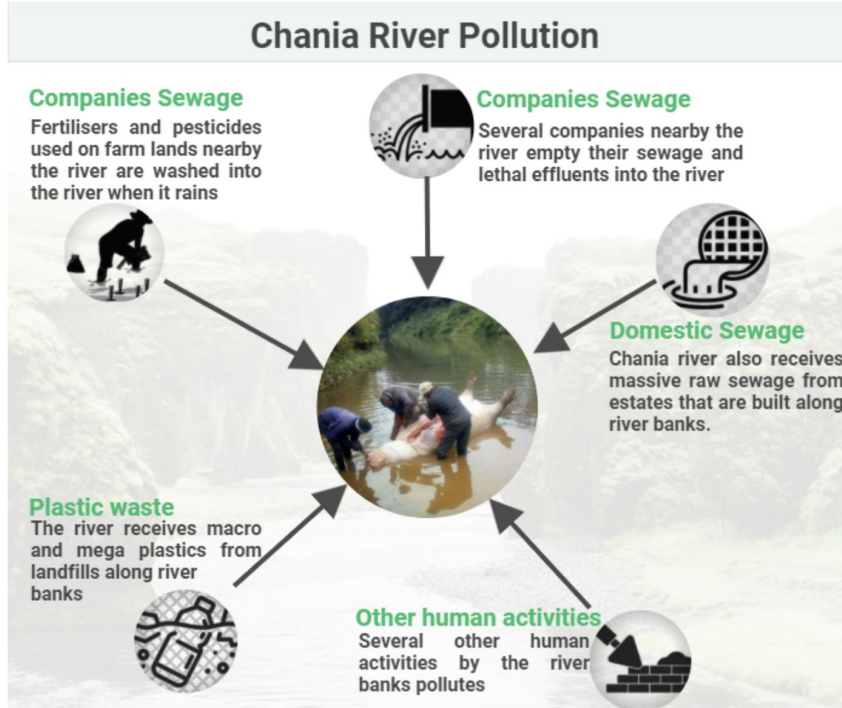
GOMBE and Mahale National Parks in the Kigoma Region on the shores of Lake Tanganyika are homes to some of Africa's last remaining wild chimpanzees.



The area was so popular for tourists who were interested to see chimps, but, the outbreak of Covid-19 has affected the wildlife conservation

Tom Mwiraria, Mobile Journalism Africa, Kenya: Sewage, plastics, chemicals poisoning key river ecosystem

Chania, The Murky River Of Death



Calls for intervention

Sizzling with wrath, scores of Thika residents have in recent months demonstrated and laid prostate decreeing the deposit of garbage by both the Sewerage company and some estates. The residents are disappointed by the indifference of the authorities

s towards their plea. It now remains to be seen when the impunity will end. In meantime, IUCN reveals the shocking reality of conservation status of species some of which are endemic to Chania.

In the Thika section of the Chania River, a reconnaissance by this author reveals inflows of waste-water, chemicals, raw sewage, as well as large amounts of solid waste including plastic bottles and bags.

It is evident thus that prolonged destructive human activity not only poses a grave danger to tens of bird and animal species of Chania and Ol Donyo Sabuk ecosystem but also to colossal ocean biodiversity. The polluted river eventually feeds into the Indian Ocean, a home to thousands of marine species including turtles and thousands of fish species. At the current rate of mindless sea plastic pollution, studies show that by 2050 there will be more plastic than the sum total of marine life in the sea, and much more adverse effects than science can predict.



Any intervention however small would mean but as there is absolutely none. The residents of Thika claim that whenever they raise the issue of Chania river pollution with NEMA, they make assurances that they would take action but as soon as they leave, the rogue factories resume operation and continue discharging raw sewage and lethal effluents.

This revelation is a clarion call to the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment, Kenya Wildlife Services, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and County Government of Kiambu to warm up so as to avert irreversible biodiversity decimating catastrophe. There is a need to close companies that discharge toxic effluents, and prosecute culprits, and bring down residential flats built along river banks, and create

Richard Drasimaku, West Nile Today, Uganda: Communities conserving wildlife



InfoNile

Search here...

Geodata journalism. Mapping stories on water issues in the Nile Basin.

HOME ABOUT ▾ OPPORTUNITIES ▾

ALL STORIES ▾ MAPS ▾ ORIGINAL PROJECTS

EN FR AR SW AM

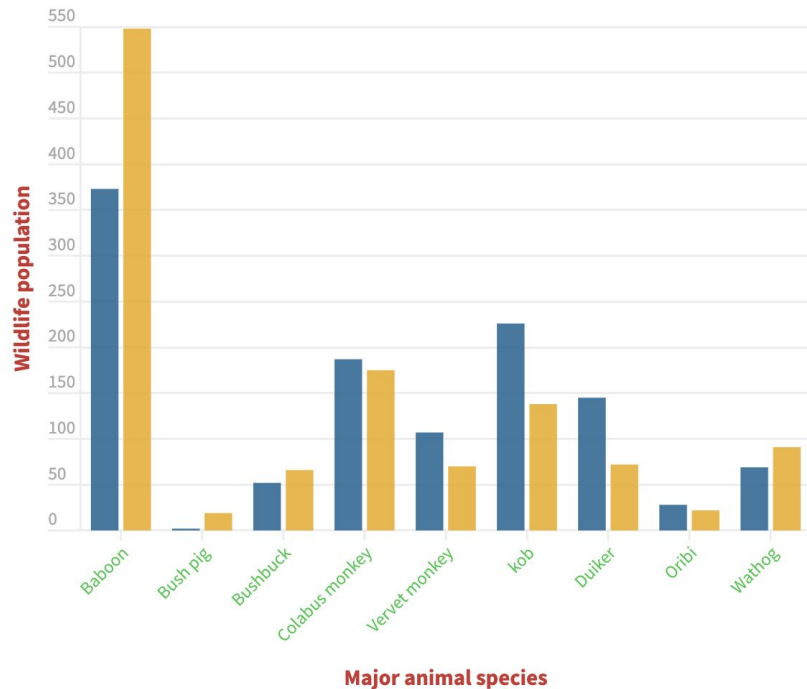
Poachers' Den Turns Wildlife Haven: the story of Ajai

January 25, 2021



Ajai wildlife reserve animal population

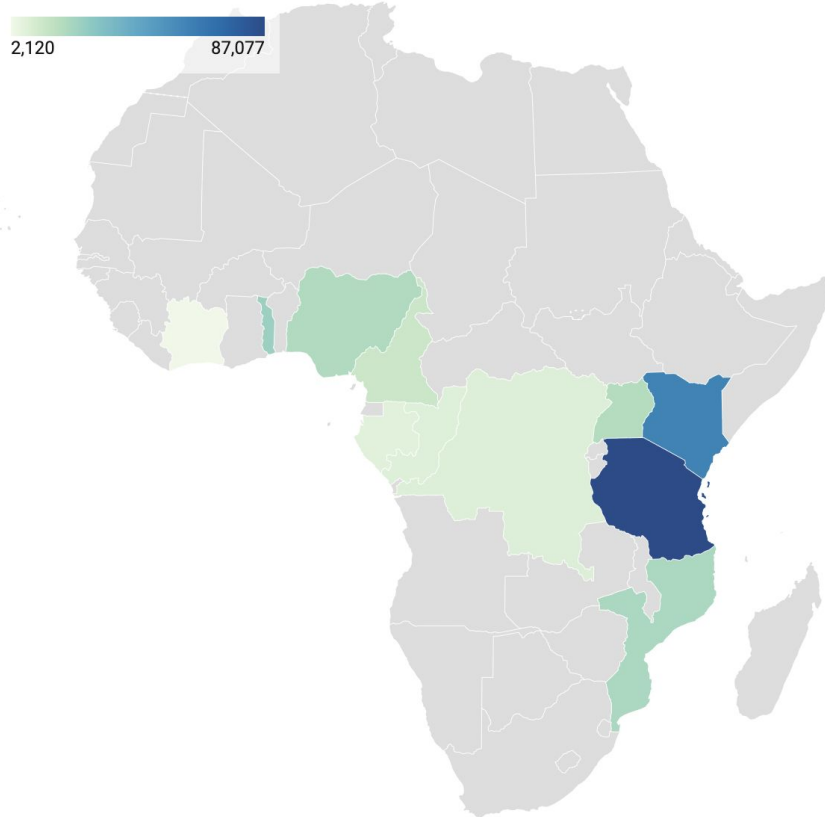
2010 2015



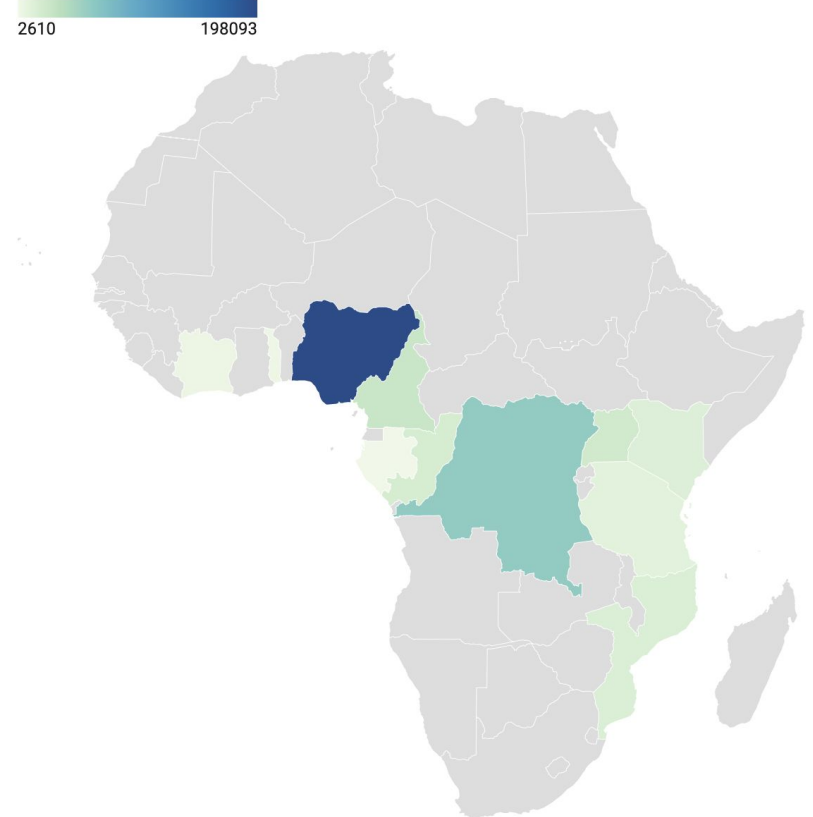
Source: UWA Monitoring and Research Unit Report

Regional Shift in Wildlife Trafficking Hotspots

Seized Ivory and Pangolin Scales, 1998-2014 (kg)



Seized Ivory and Pangolin Scales, 2015-2019 (kg)



[illegible]

Wildlife Project Data Consolidated



File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was seconds ago



Between mid-March and end of 2020 (covid-19 period), how many incidents were recorded, and what were the particulars of the incidents?										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Country		Number of Inci	Number of Spe	Number of incidents b	Total reported	Number of arr	Number of ea	Between mid-March and end of 2020 (covid-19 per	Comments
50	2017 Kenya		19	4	14 Elephant Ivory 3 Rhino Horn 1 African Lion Claw 1 Pangolin Scales 1 Lion (Unknown species if	886.8300	35	3 Air 1 Road		Interesting case showing intl trafficking source, transport and destination another interesting case: On March 14, 117.94kg of rhino horn was seized one of the first cases of Maasai involved that i've seen: On January 6, 20
51	2016 Kenya		26	4	17 Elephant Ivory 4 Rhino Horn 4 Pangolin Scales 1 African Lion Tooth	5521.3650	33	9 Air 3 Sea 1 Road		Many cases from Guinea, DRC, Mozambique, Nigeria passing through K Some cases involve corrupt police officers or customs officers On December 20, Kenya Revenue Authority seized ivory at Mombasa po On June 7, KRA officers seized two tusks at container freight centre in M
52	2015 Kenya		16	3	10 Elephant Ivory 5 Rhino Horn 1 Other feline (e.g. leopard	7338.3200	23	4 Sea 3 Air 1 Road		
53	2014 Kenya		28	5	24 Elephant Ivory 2 Rhino Horn 2 Pangolin Scales 1 Zebra Meat 1 Lion Claw 1 Lion Tooth	4295.2543	54	12 Road 4 Air 1 Sea 1 Post		inter East Africa trafficking and moving trafficked items from Kenya to Uganda Baharini Police Post in Eldoret: Two males arrested in possession of 152 Namanga border: Vietnamese male (46) arrested in possession of 55 kg Amended from previous duplicate records: two shipments, one of the con major syndicate captured: On 27 Nov 2013, Shenyang airport customs se
54					34 Elephant Ivory 2 Elephant Skin 4 African Leopard Skin					In August 2013, Qingdao Customs seized six African ivory pieces, 17 ivory On 21 August 2013, Weihai airport customs seized 63 ivory items and 2 lion An American national was arrested in possession of ivory items. David M



4 Sheet1

Sheet2

Monthly seizures in Uganda

Monthly seizures in Kenya

Monthly seizures in Tanzania

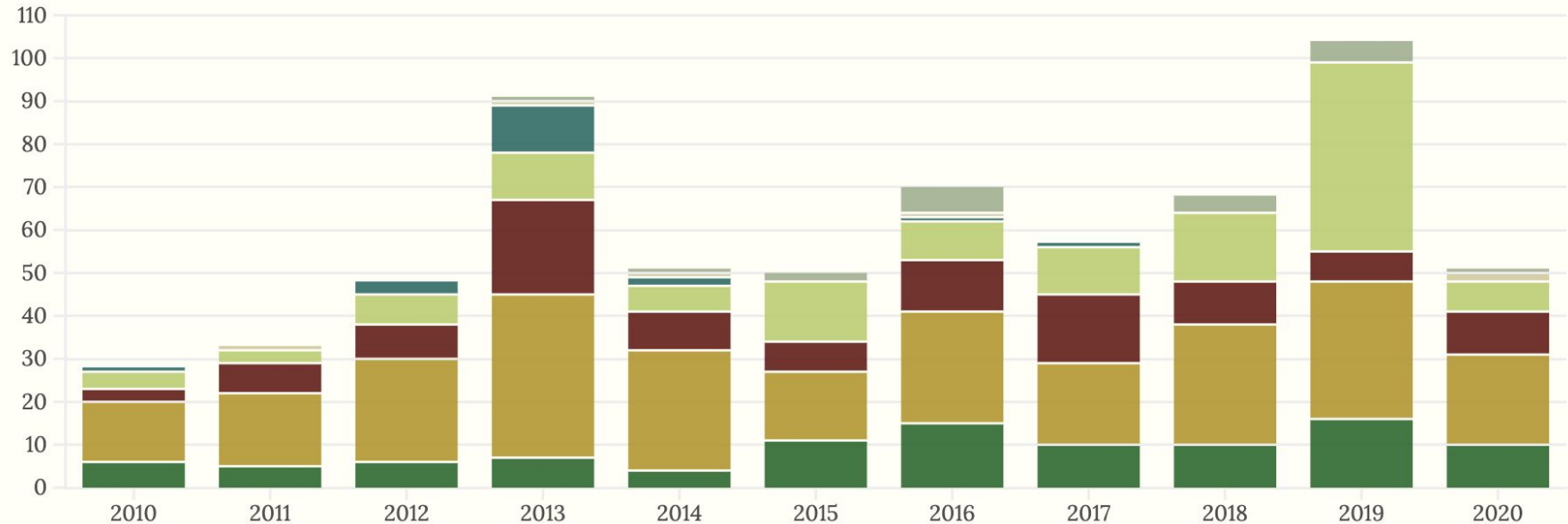
Monthly seizur



Recorded trafficked wildlife seizures in East Africa

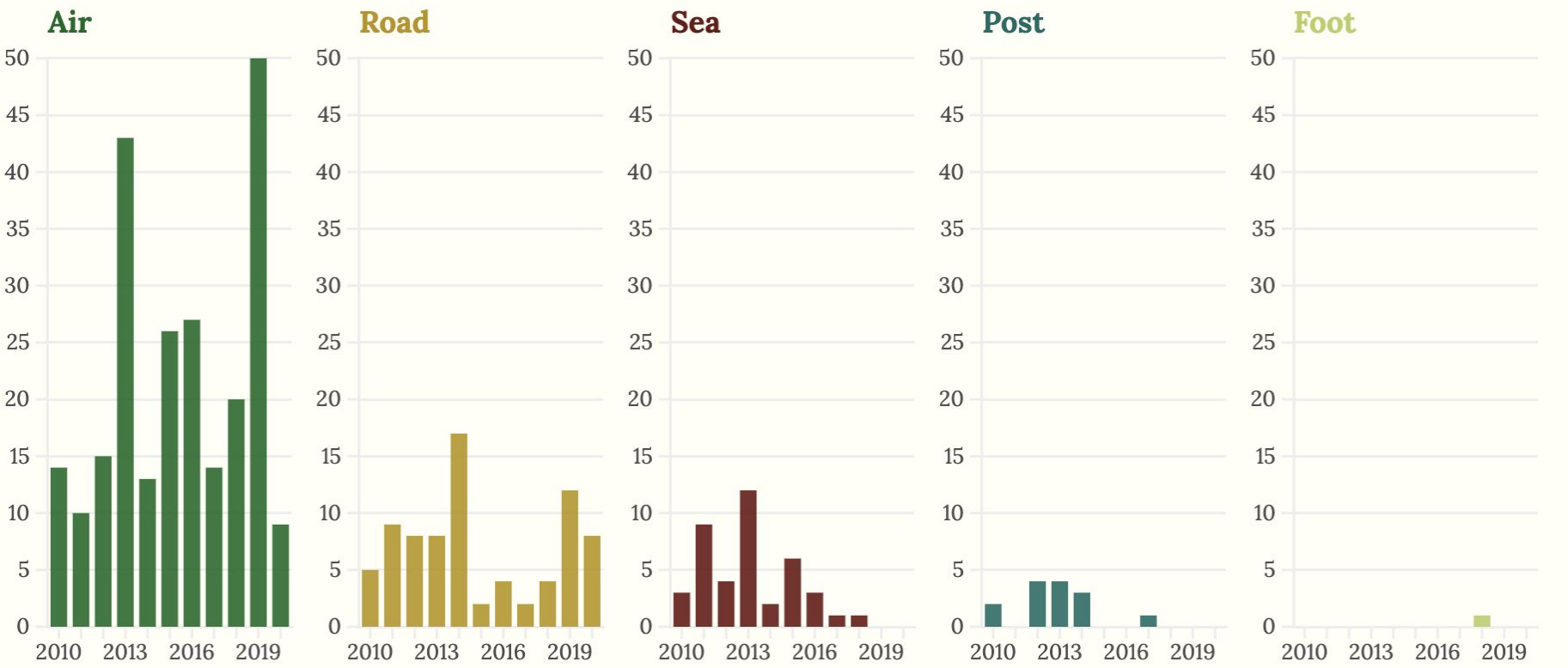
Between 2010 to 2020 there were 650 trafficked wildlife seizures reported in East Africa. 2019 had the highest record of 104 seizures while 2010 had the lowest record of 28 seizures. Kenya recorded the highest seizures at 263 and Rwanda the lowest with 5 seizures. 2020 saw a significant drop in officially reported seizures due to Covid-19.

■ Uganda
 ■ Kenya
 ■ Tanzania
 ■ Ethiopia
 ■ Burundi
 ■ Rwanda
 ■ South Sudan



Transport used to traffick wildlife in East Africa

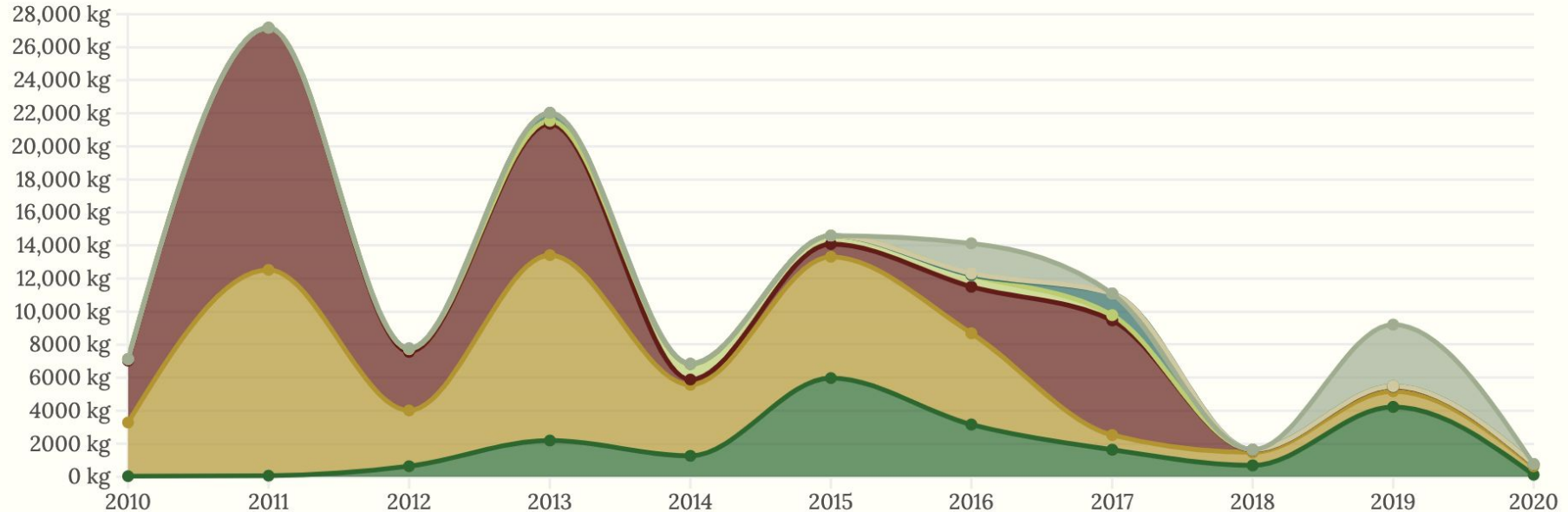
The most common mode of transportation used in trafficking wildlife between 2010 to 2020 was Air with 241 seizures (66%) followed by Road (22%).



Estimated weight of trafficked wildlife seizures in East Africa

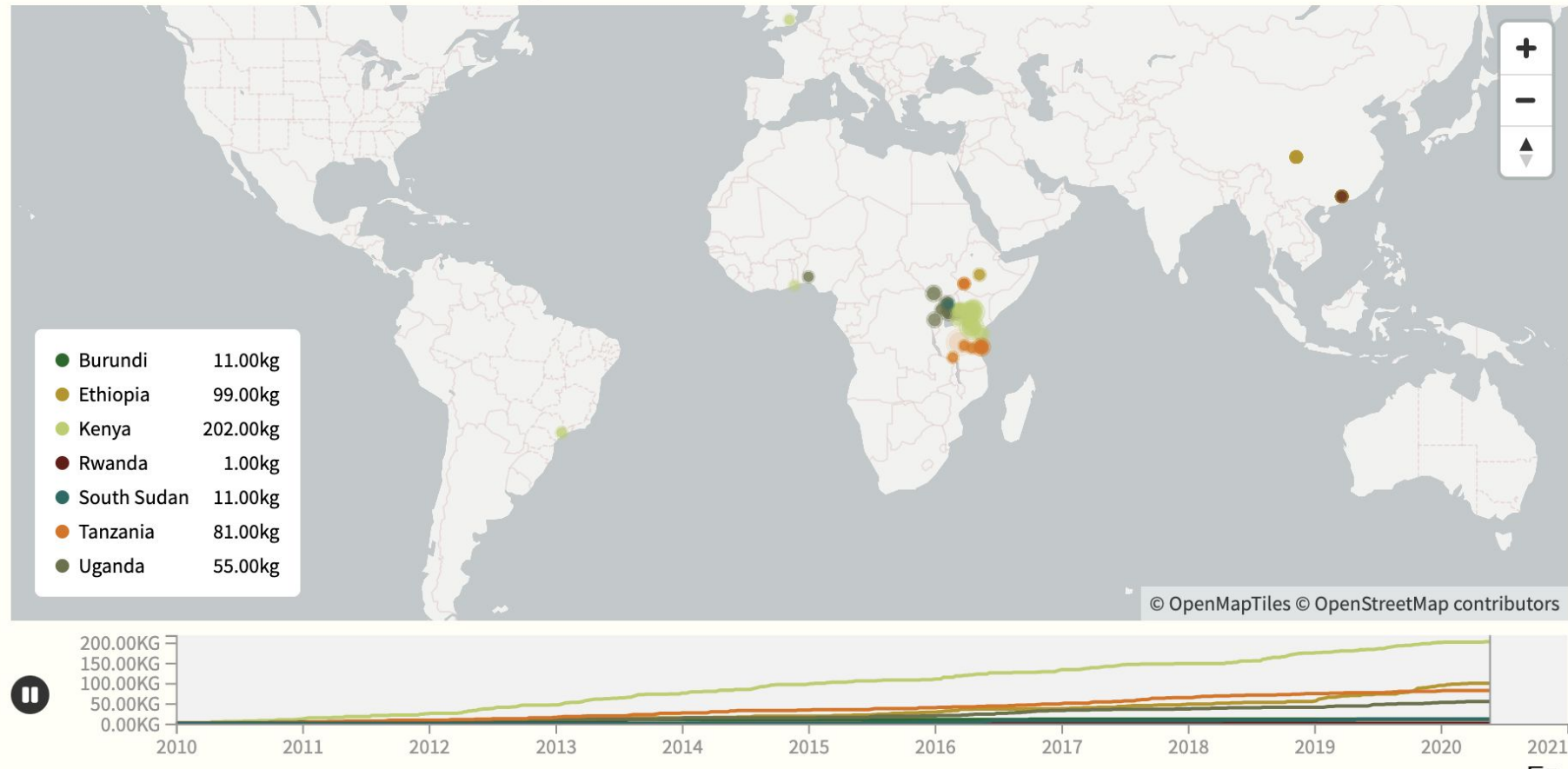
Between 2010 to 2020 there were 122,391 kg of trafficked wildlife seizures reported in East Africa. 2011 had the highest record of 27,176 kg while 2020 had the lowest record of 773 kg. Kenya recorded the highest seizures at 50,588 kg and Rwanda the lowest with 99 kg. The total weight seized has steadily declined over the years.

Uganda Kenya Tanzania Ethiopia Burundi Rwanda South Sudan



Wildlife seizures linked to East African countries

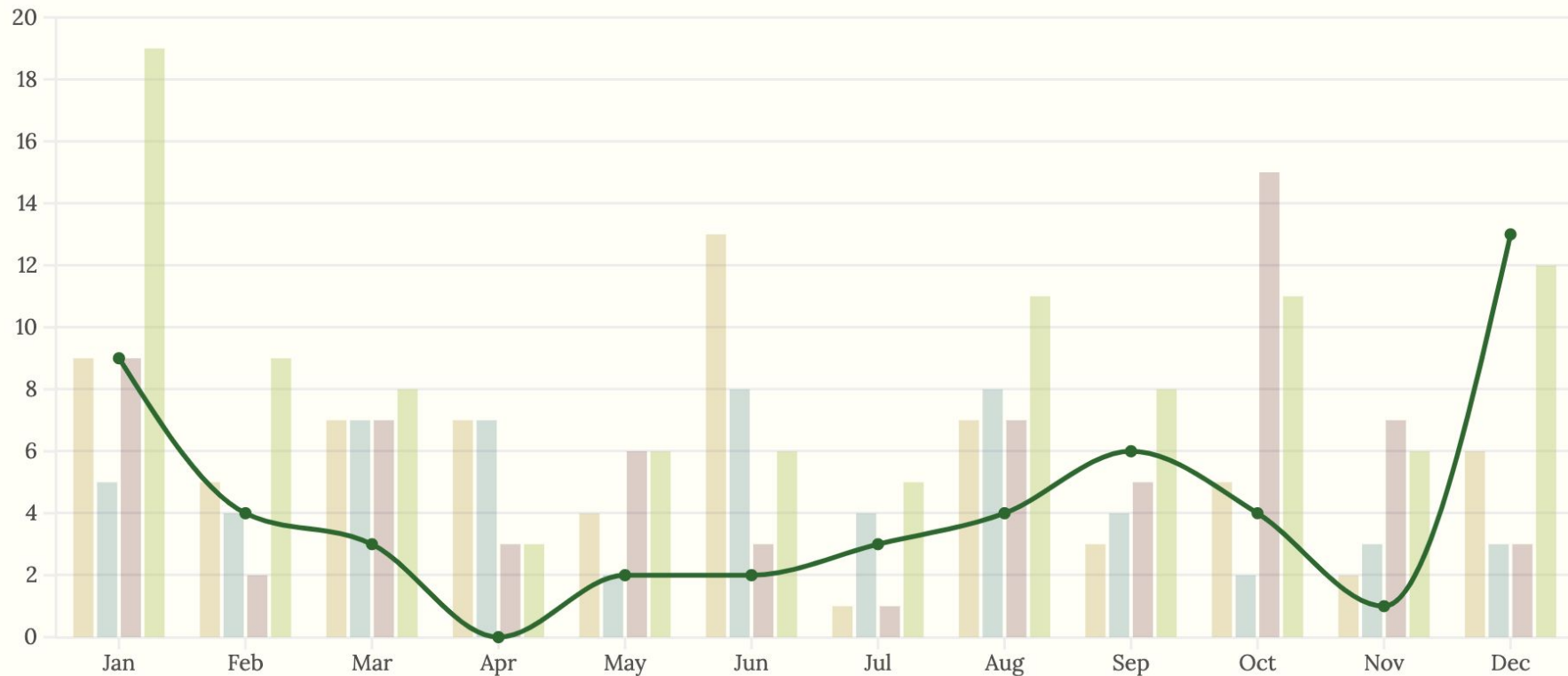
Total reported and estimated weight of trafficked wildlife linked to East Africa from 2010 to 2020.



Monthly wildlife seizures in East Africa

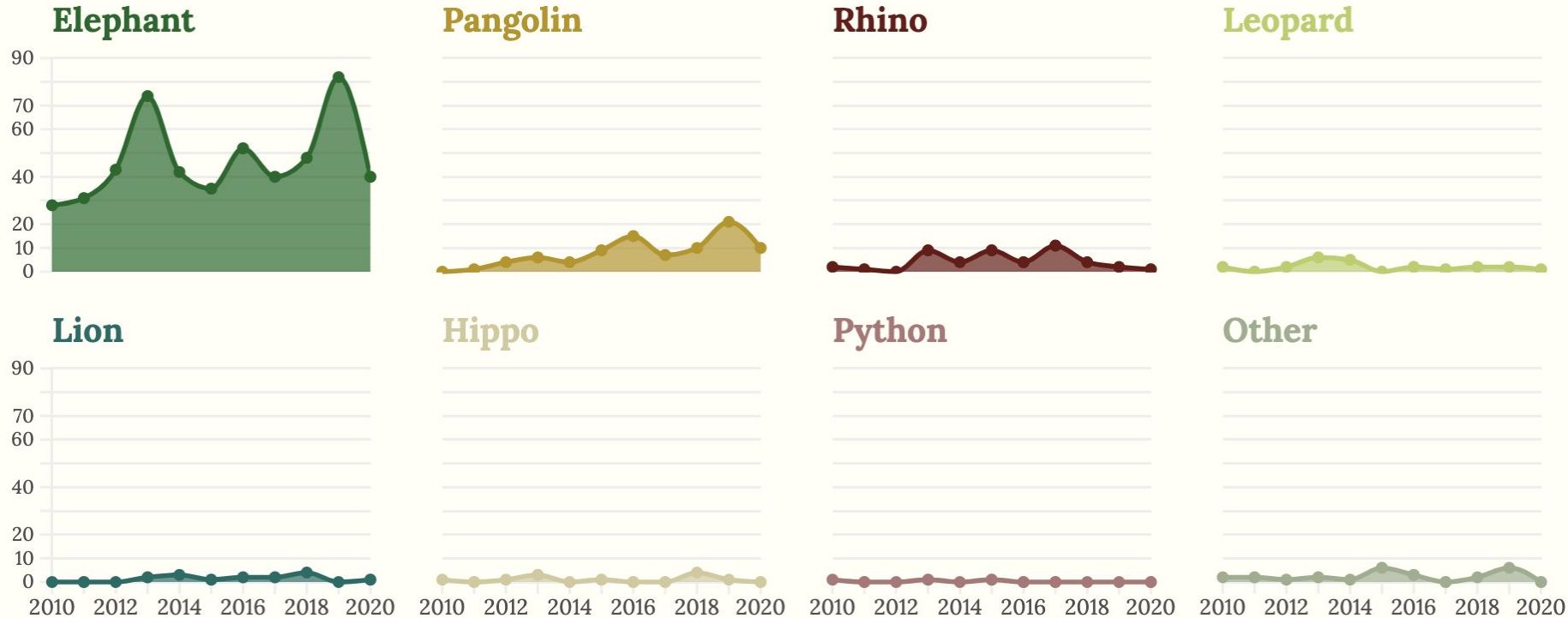
Wildlife seizures in mid 2020 were fewer than usual. However, by December the seizures had increased to levels seen before the pandemic.

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020



Recorded trafficked seizures by species in East Africa

Between 2010 to 2020 there were 726 trafficked items reported in East Africa, 12% of which were pangolin. Seizures of Pangolin items are on the rise following elephant seizures which make up the majority (71%).



Tips for Investigative Data-Driven Reporting

- Identify who is collecting data already, who are the experts, and request for their datasets rather than trying to reinvent the wheel - unless the data does not already exist. Make sure to ask for methodologies: where, how and how often the organization collects the data and clearly communicate this to your audiences, making sure they are also aware of any possible gaps in the data.
- Spend time to conduct data analysis. Look at all components of the data and analyze by country, species, year or month, number of seizures, total weight, transport method, arrests, and other factors to locate the most interesting and clear trends. **Identify patterns and trends over time and at certain key moments. Identify similarities, contrasts and outliers. Identify unusual exceptions to the norm. What explains these?**
- A bit of data cleaning is always needed before visualizing.
- Identify data with coordinates to be able to map it easily and investigate geographical trends.
- Use Flourish for interactive dataviz; Datawrapper for easy interactive maps. Mapbox is another good tool but a bit less user-friendly. Create mini sub-datasets for easy uploading. Read the tutorials for how to create coded tooltips - it is not hard and don't be scared!