

THE TIGER TRADE



**The Global Trade in Tiger Trophies,
Bodies, Skins & Chinese 'Medicines'
2014-2018**

May 2020

CAMPAIGN TO

BAN

TROPHY

HUNTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Over 17,000 tigers and tiger body parts have been traded or seized in the past 5 years (2014-2018).
2. More than 80% were destined for the traditional Chinese medicine market.
3. The number appears to be on the increase, with 2,216 items traded in 2014 and 6,373 in 2017 – near treble.¹
4. CITES data records only reported imports/exports and seizures. The true figure is likely to be much larger.
5. Britain is a key 'middle-man' in the international trade, with many tiger items passing through the UK en route to their final destination.
6. In addition, a total of 69 tiger trophies, bodies, skins and other tiger body parts have been imported directly into the UK over the past 5 years.
7. Despite its perilous conservation status, tiger trophy hunting continues to take place. In 2019, the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting revealed the identity of a South African company that was offering 'canned' tiger hunts (where the animal is bred in captivity and shot in fenced-in enclosures). At the inaugural China Hunting Show in Shanghai in June 2019, the same company was selling canned tiger hunts to prospective Chinese clients.
8. Trophy hunters from the US and Denmark are recorded in CITES records as having shot captive-bred tigers in South Africa's tiger 'factory farms' in 2014 and 2016.
9. According to CITES, 4 tiger trophies have come into or through Britain en route to other countries. However none were recorded within the hunting trophy field of the CITES database.
10. As well as for canned trophy hunting, tigers are bred in a total of 60 facilities in South Africa for 'cub-petting' tourist experiences and to produce tiger bone 'wine' for the traditional Chinese medicines market.
11. Other countries to have allowed imports of tiger trophies in the last 5 years include Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, China, Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.
12. China was by far the largest market for tiger trophies. Of the 56 recorded trophies, 33 (59%) were destined for China.
13. Most tiger trophies on the CITES database are labelled as being either for 'personal' use (21 – 38%) or for 'educational' purposes (also 21 – 38%).
14. The main country of origin of tiger trophies was South Africa. Of the 56 recorded trophies, 33 (59%) were exported from here.
15. According to the most recent IUCN Red List assessment, the current population of adult tigers is believed to range between 2,154-3,159. The population is said to be decreasing.

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¹ The figure for 2018 is currently given as 4,104. However the final 2018 figure is likely to be higher than stated as countries are often late in reporting data to CITES. Therefore 2017 is currently the most recent year for which reliable data is available.

Tiger Trade 2014-2018

TIGER TRADE SUMMARY 2014-2018

- Total number of tigers & tiger body parts traded/seized: **17,397**
- Chinese traditional medicine trade & seizures: **14,441**
- Bodies & skins: **163**
- Trophies: **56**
- China & Far East Imports: **344**
- Britain imports: **69**

Observations

1. Britain plays a key role in international transit of tiger bodies, skins and other tiger body parts between exporting and importing nations, as well as having significant trade of its own. British tiger imports includes skins, bodies and trophies.
2. South Africa is a major source of tigers and tiger body parts. There are an estimated 60 tiger breeding centres which produce animals for 'cub petting experiences', canned trophy hunting, and to supply the international big cat bone trade. Tiger bones are turned into 'wine', 'cake' and other traditional Chinese medicines.
3. A number of trophies are recorded as being for 'commercial' trade or for 'personal' use, and therefore do not show up in the hunting trophy section of the CITES Trade Database. The ones entering Britain for instance are recorded as 'commercial' on the database.
4. The traditional Chinese medicine market accounted for 83% of the total global trade in tigers and tiger body parts.
5. The CITES numbers recorded for the traditional Chinese medicine market are almost entirely comprised of seizures in the US, where there is thriving market in American Chinatowns. However this number is likely to represent only the tip of the iceberg in actual trade in tiger parts for traditional Chinese medicines as the vast majority of trade is able to escape customs inspections and seizures.
6. China has recently been procuring items such as rhino horn directly from Africa (often posing as trophy hunters). Previously it had relied on Vietnam and Thailand as a 'middle man'. There appears to be a similar trend here ie a dropping off of Vietnam and Thailand numbers at the same time as an increase in Chinese numbers.
7. 2018 data will be incomplete. Although nations are required to submit data to CITES by October of the following year, many countries submit data after the deadline. The most recent full year of reliable data currently on the CITES Trade Database is that for 2017. The true figure for 2018, and hence for 2014-2018, may therefore be higher than currently available data suggests.

2014

Trophies

- 3 from South Africa to Belgium for 'personal' use
- 2 from UAE to Bhutan for 'educational' use (1 seized)
- 1 from Belgium to China for 'educational' use
- 2 from Spain to China, 1 for 'educational' use & 1 for 'personal' use
- 6 from Canada to China for 'educational' use
- 1 from Germany to China for 'personal' use
- 1 from unknown country via Netherlands to China for 'commercial' use
- 3 from unknown country to China, 2 for 'personal' use & 1 for 'educational' use
- 1 from South Africa to China for 'educational' use
- 1 from South Africa to US as hunting trophy (captive-bred)

Bodies & skins

- 1 from Canada to Belgium
- 9 from South Africa to Belgium
- 1 from UAE to Bahrain
- 1 from UK to Canada
- 1 from South Africa to Canada
- 2 from Belgium to Switzerland via France
- 1 from Spain to China via Belgium
- 1 from Belgium to China
- 3 from Canada to China
- 1 from Switzerland to China via Netherlands
- 2 from Czech Republic to China via Netherlands
- 5 from Germany to China via Netherlands
- 1 from Spain to China via Netherlands
- 6 from France to China via Netherlands
- 1 from Britain to China via Netherlands
- 2 from unknown country to China via Netherlands
- 1 from Netherlands to China
- 4 from unknown country to China
- 1 from South Africa to China
- 1 from Australia to Britain
- 1 from unknown country to Hong Kong via Britain
- 1 from South Africa to Hungary
- 1 from South Africa to Italy
- 1 from Britain to Netherlands via South Africa
- 1 from unknown country to New Zealand via Britain
- 1 from France to US via Belgium
- 1 from India to US

China & Hong Kong imports

- Total 62 including trophies, bodies & skins, 'specimens' & live animals

Thailand and Vietnam imports (note: Thailand and Vietnam have been used as a route for wildlife smuggling into China)

- Total 43 – all live animals (note: concern has been expressed by groups that live animals are being imported into the Far East, often labelled as 'zoo animals', and that they have been used in the bone and medicine trade)

Britain imports

- Total 15 including skins from Australia for 'personal' use, 4 hair & 4 'specimens' from Bangladesh for scientific purposes, and 6 specimens from Russia via US for scientific purposes

Chinese traditional medicine trade & seizures

- 2 medicines from unknown country into US via Canada
- 107 medicines from unknown country into US via China
- 413g of medicines from China into US
- 28 medicines from China into US
- 1 medicine from unknown country into US via Spain
- 5460g of medicine from China into US via Hong Kong
- 1 medicine from unknown country into US via Cambodia
- 1200 medicines from unknown country into US via South Korea
- 13 medicines from Laos into US
- 142 medicines from Cambodia into US via Peru
- 92 medicines from unknown country into US via Philippines
- 36 powders from Thailand into US
- 1 medicine from China via Vietnam
- 4 medicines from Malaysia into US via Vietnam
- 4 medicines from unknown country into US via Vietnam
- **Total: 1631**

Total number of tigers & tiger body parts traded/seized: 2,216

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2015

Trophies

- 1 from Bahrain into UAE via Armenia for 'educational' purposes
- 1 from Bahrain into Armenia via UAE for 'educational' purposes
- 1 from Germany into China via Netherlands for 'personal' use
- 1 from unknown country into China
- 1 from South Africa into China for 'personal' use
- 1 from unknown country into Britain via Australia for 'commercial' trade
- 1 from Australia into Britain for 'commercial' trade
- 1 from Britain into Malaysia for 'commercial' trade
- 1 from South Africa into Uruguay for 'personal' use

Bodies & skins

- 1 from unknown country to Armenia via UAE
- 1 from Spain to Austria via UAE
- 1 from UK to Austria via UAE
- 1 from unknown country to Australia via Britain
- 2 from Canada into Belgium
- 8 from South Africa into Belgium
- 2 from Britain into Canada
- 1 from unknown country into Switzerland via Netherlands
- 5 from Canada into China
- 1 from South Korea into China
- 7 from Germany into China via Netherlands
- 6 from South Africa into China
- 1 from Switzerland into Denmark
- 1 from Canada into Russia
- 1 from France into Singapore
- 2 from India into US via Canada
- 1 from unknown country into US via Britain
- 1 from South Africa into Uruguay

China & Hong Kong Imports

- Total: 55

Thailand and Vietnam imports

- Total: 45

Britain imports

- Total: 14 (1 trophy from unknown origin via Australia for 'commercial' purposes, 1 trophy from Australia for 'commercial' purposes, 4 hair from Bangladesh for scientific purposes, 4 specimens from Bangladesh for scientific purposes)
- Also 0.8g hair from Bangladesh for scientific purposes and 385.9g 'specimens' from Russia for scientific purposes. Also

Chinese traditional medicine trade & seizures

- 180 medicines from China into US via Japan
- 23 medicines from unknown country into US via Japan
- 1 medicine from Cambodia into US
- 12 medicines from China into US via Malaysia
- 46 medicines from unknown country into US via Thailand
- 1 medicine from unknown country into US via Taiwan
- 3 claws from unknown country into US via Vietnam
- 1828 medicines from unknown country into US via Vietnam
- 1 teeth from unknown country into US via Vietnam
- 1 claws from unknown country into US via Vietnam
- 6 medicines from unknown country into US
- 2 teeth from unknown country into US
- **Total: 2,104**

Total number of tigers & tiger body parts traded/seized: 2,697

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2016

Trophies

- 2 trophies from South Africa to China for 'educational' purposes
- 2 trophies from South Africa to China for 'personal' use
- 1 trophy from South Africa to Denmark for 'educational' purposes
- 1 trophy from South Africa to Denmark as hunting trophy (captive-bred)
- 1 trophy from South Africa to Pakistan for 'breeding' purposes
- 1 trophy from South Africa to Russia for 'personal' use

Bodies & skins

- 1 from South Africa to Belgium
- 1 from India to Canada via Britain
- 1 from South Africa to Switzerland
- 1 from Canada to China
- 1 from unknown country to China via Britain
- 1 from Germany to China via Netherlands
- 1 from Hungary to China via Netherlands
- 2 from Netherlands to China
- 2 from Switzerland to France
- 1 from Australia to Britain
- 1 from US to Italy
- 3 from China to South Korea
- 1 from Belarus to Russia
- 1 from Canada to Russia
- 1 from Hungary to Turkey via Netherlands
- 1 from France to Taiwan
- 1 from India to US via Canada
- 1 from South Africa to Uruguay

China & Hong Kong Imports

- Total: 13

Thailand and Vietnam imports

- Total: 46

Britain imports

- Total: 37 including 1 body from Australia for 'personal' use, 1 trophy from Australia for 'commercial' purposes, 1 live animal from Norway for zoo, 29 specimens from Russia via US for scientific purposes, 6 specimens from US for scientific purposes

Chinese traditional medicine trade & seizures:

- Total: 1,346

Total number of tigers & tiger body parts traded/seized: 2,007

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2017

Trophies

- 4 from South Africa to Bangladesh for 'zoos'
- 11 from South Africa to China, 4 for 'educational' purposes & 7 for 'personal' use
- 2 from South Africa to Russia for 'personal' use

Bodies & skins

- 1 from Spain to UAE via Austria
- 1 from Britain to UAE via Austria
- 3 from unknown country to Canada via Britain
- 1 from Britain to Canada
- 1 from Belgium to Switzerland via Denmark
- 1 from South Africa to Switzerland
- 8 from Canada to China
- 1 from Germany to China
- 1 from Germany to China via Netherlands
- 1 from South Africa to Czech republic
- 1 from unknown country to Britain via China
- 1 from Germany to Russia
- 1 from unknown country to Singapore via Japan
- 1 from Italy to US

China & Hong Kong Imports

Total: 37

Thailand & Vietnam imports

Total: 36

Britain imports

Total: 1 (body of unknown origin via China for 'circus/travelling exhibition')

Chinese traditional medicine trade & seizures:

Total: 6,166

Total number of tigers & tiger body parts traded/seized: 6,373

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2018 (provisional data)

Trophies

- 1 from South Africa to Italy for 'personal' use
- 1 from unknown country to US via Britain for 'commercial' trade

Bodies & skins

- 1 from unknown country to Australia via Britain
- 2 from Italy to China
- 2 from Germany to China via Netherlands
- 4 from Spain to China via Netherlands
- 2 from Hungary to China via Netherlands
- 5 from South Africa to China
- 1 from Bhutan to Germany
- 1 from unknown country to Oman via US
- 1 from India to US via Britain
- 2 from unknown country to US via Britain
- 1 from Britain to US
- 1 from unknown country to Vietnam via US

China & Hong Kong Imports

Total: 107

Thailand and Vietnam imports

Total: 3 & 5ml 'specimens'

Britain imports

Total: 2 (1 skull of unknown origin via Guernsey for 'educational' purposes; 1 live animal from Norway for zoo)

Chinese traditional medicine trade & seizures

Total: 3,194

Total number of tigers & tiger body parts traded/seized: 4,104



For Wildlife. For People. For Ever.

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