Octopus Conference: the impact of COVID on wildlife trafficking threat levels

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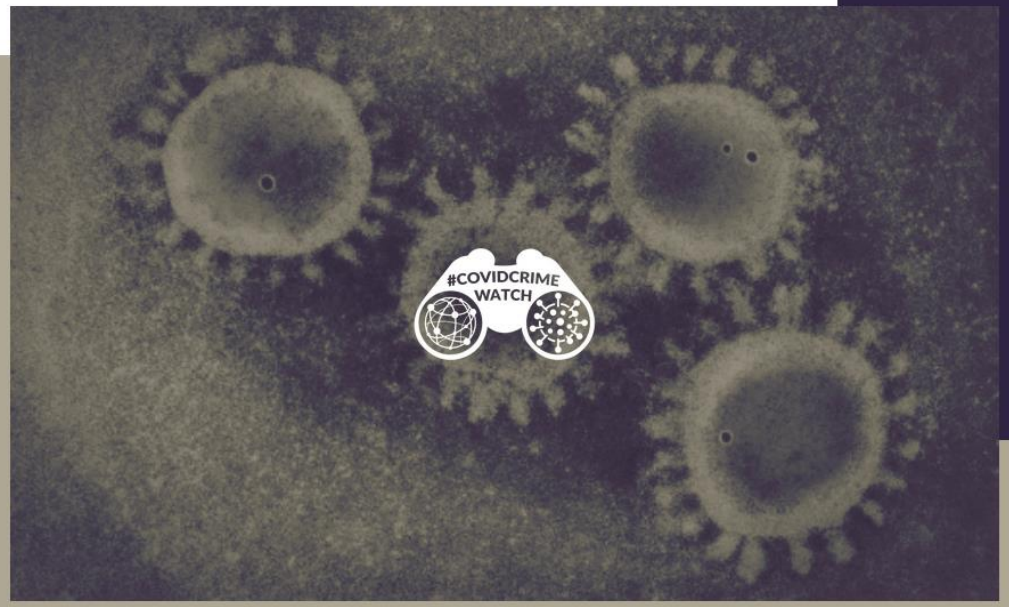
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime is a network of prominent law enforcement, governance and development practitioners who are dedicated to improving the evidence basis and seeking new and innovative strategies and responses to organized crime.

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CovidCrimeWatch



#CovidCrimeWatch explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on illicit economies across the globe. In each edition, we publish a selection of stories from across the world that examine the relationship between the global health crisis and organized crime. From a slowing down of the drugs trade, to an increase in counterfeit goods, the spread of the virus will have dramatic consequences for the world of organized crime.

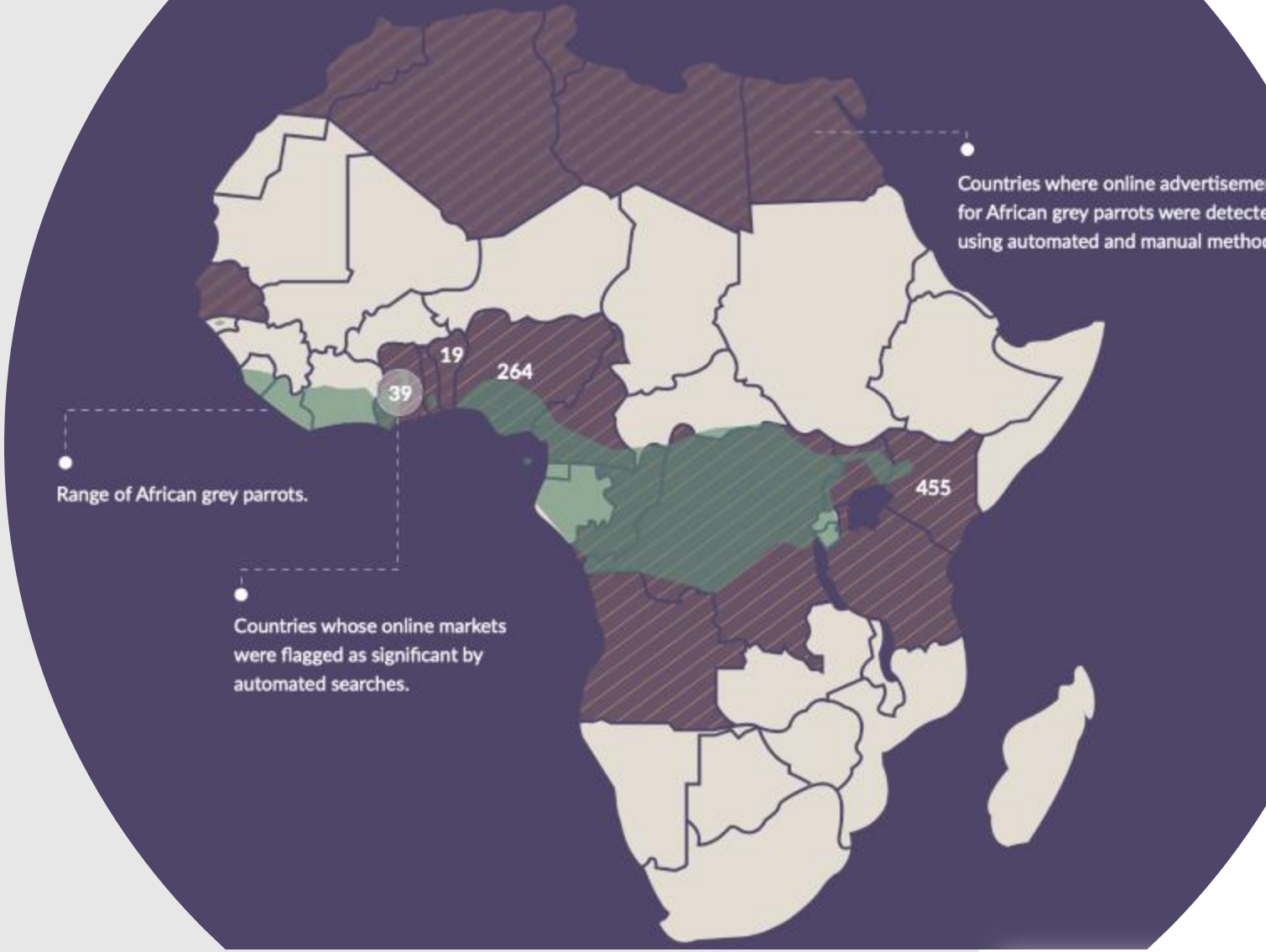
Impact on supply

Border closures better at impeding people than goods

- May have stopped some poachers, but bigger effect on tourism, affecting private revenue for security

Affected broader functioning of criminal justice system

Dyring up of tourism revenues affected local economies, may have deepened drivers of poaching





Impact on trafficking:

At first, physical disruption of goods
- But was there simply stockpiling?

But in 2021, resumption of massive seizures:
Jan – 8,8000 kg pangolin scale
March – 4000kg pangolin scale
August – 17,100kg pangolin scale, 44kg ivory, 60kg pangolin claws

Impact on demand:

- Evidence that there was a drop in demand - but important hold-outs groups undeterred.

- Regulatary conditions did become more strict in some places, but in core markets huge loopholes remain

Huge shift of everyday activity online – growth in e-commerce.

- In 2020, e-commerce was 17% of the global retail trade
- In 2024, it will be 24% of the global retail trade.

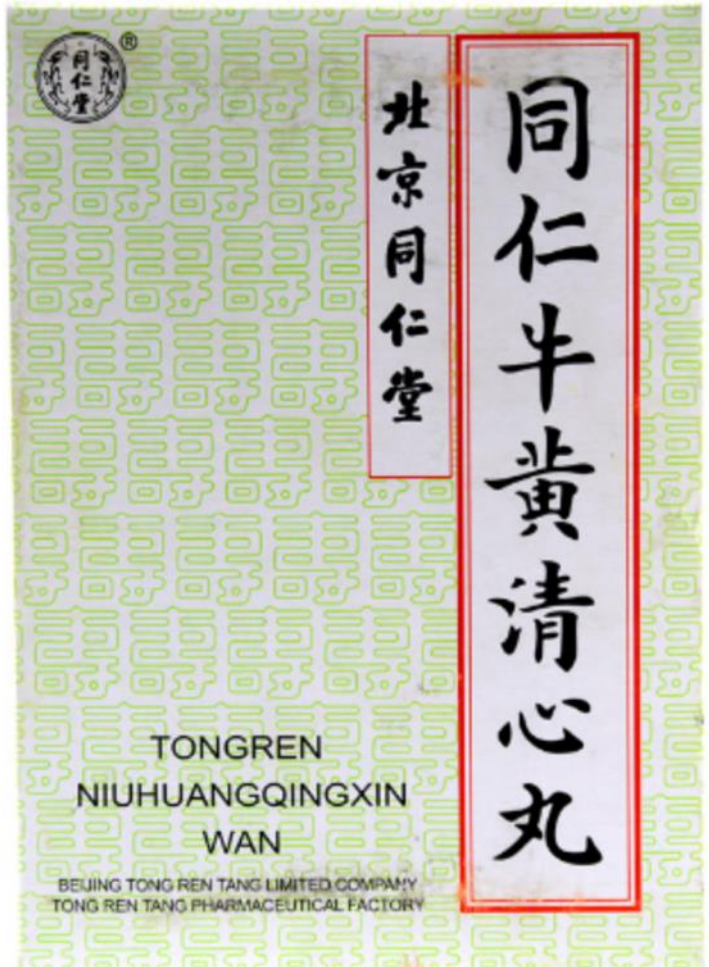


Big data: using machine learning to map markets

- Mapping emerging markets: early warning of markets still developing
- Mapping grey markets to improve the supply chain
- Assessing the scope of established markets
- Identifying platforms with highest density of problematic material
- Identifying prolific traders, or key nodes connecting consumers and traders

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Positive detections	930
Chinese e-commerce site	886
Websites registered in the US	800
Chinese sites shipping internationally	846

CNWM Logo visible or mentioned	
No	794
Yes	56

Form of Pangolin Product	
Medicinal products	873
Pangolin wine	25
Raw Scales	11
Incense	4

Most Common Platforms	
360 KAD (KangAiDuo)	116
Huanqiu Yinyao (qgyyzs)	109
XYWY	103
Yaozui	99
120 ask (Kuaisuwenyisheng)	86
39 Jiankang	86
Family Doctor	33
XLCTYD	25
Jindong	17
Taobao	2

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