

WEBINAR

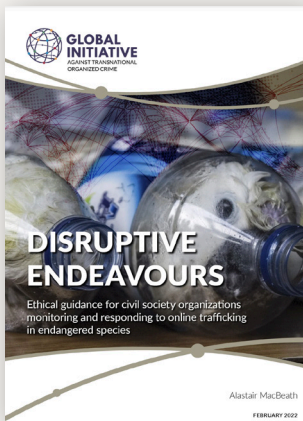
Disruptive Endeavours: The Ethics of Monitoring and Disrupting the Online Illegal Wildlife Trade



Wednesday, 2 March 2022
3 pm CET

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The world's most popular social media platforms, e-commerce sites and specialist platforms consistently host advertisements for the sale of endangered species. The illegal wildlife traders face almost complete impunity for their actions due to a lack of legal liabilities for the internet platforms and poor responses from law enforcement.



However, civil society organizations are stepping into the gap: monitoring, reporting, running complex investigations and even engaging in confrontations to disrupt these illegal markets.

This workshop and its associated community tool are aimed at supporting civil society in responding to the ethical dilemma: how should they balance the ethical imperatives to respond to wildlife crime without contravening user privacy, accepted norms related to mass data collection or a platform's terms of service?

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SPEAKERS:

Alastair MacBeath, Analyst, GI-TOC

Alastair is an analyst at the GI-TOC working within the Observatory of Illicit Economies in the Asia-Pacific with a particular focus on environmental crimes. He is part of the Market Monitoring and Friction Unit, which uses machine-learning technology to research and disrupt the illicit trade in illegal wildlife products.

Gretchen Peters, Founder, Alliance to Counter Crime Online (ACCO)

Gretchen is an expert in researching and mapping transnational organized crime networks, and pinpointing ways to defeat them. She has worked with U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command as well as multiple conservation groups. Gretchen co-chaired an OECD Task Force on fighting wildlife crime, and authored the groundbreaking book, *Seeds of Terror*, about the Taliban's role in the Afghan heroin trade.

Patricia Tricorache, Illegal Wildlife Trade Expert

Patricia began tackling the issue of cheetah trafficking in November of 2005, when she was working as the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)'s assistant director for strategic communications. Currently, Patricia works at Colorado State University (CSU)'s Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) as their Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Research Assistant. She has represented CCF and CSU before CITES as well as other international organizations including INTERPOL, and her dataset on illegal cheetah trade incidents is one of the broadest of any species.