Illegal wildlife trade is booming. The last decade has seen a spike in illegal wildlife trafficking globally. Despite increased efforts to protect animals, the traffickers are still winning – conservation efforts alone will not be enough.

This is a global, highly profitable organised crime. It is linked to the illegal drugs and arms trades. It fuels corruption, undermines the rule of law, and impoverishes communities.

Poachers and hunters source the illegal wildlife. These are then transported (local and international) by middlemen, corrupt officials, couriers and freight businesses. At the consumer end, wholesalers, factories, retailers and buyers make the demand.

The most profitable criminal trafficking enterprise is the ivory trade. The price mark-up between slaughter in Africa and sale in South-East Asia is around $200. The price mark-up for rhino horns is even higher.

We need to pursue the finances and the criminal networks. By following the money, financial institutions can build a better picture of the finances behind the trade. They can increase the seizure of illegal goods and illicit financial assets. Identifying and mapping criminal networks can help bring traffickers to justice and advocate for appropriate punishment.

We must reduce the demand for illegal wildlife to destroy the market. We must build a better picture of the finances behind the trade. We must increase the seizure of illegal goods and illicit financial assets. We must provide evidence to support investigations and prosecutions.

To make a difference, Taskforce members are committing to:

1. Reduce the demand for illegal wildlife to destroy the market.
2. Increase the seizure of illegal goods and illicit financial assets.
3. Help bring traffickers to justice and advocate for appropriate punishment.

Now the financial sector is coming together to use the power of financial intelligence to turn the tide.

We are proud to support the fight against wildlife crime. www.royalfoundation.com/project/united-for-wildlife/ #endwildlifecrime