

**Subject:** It's Time to Ban Wildlife Trade

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**From:** Mother Jones

**To:** ML-Ad\_Ops

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## Tell Congress to Ban Wildlife Trade

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In the past 40 years, the worst human pandemics and epidemics — HIV, SARS, avian flu, swine flu, Ebola and Zika — all stemmed from trading or consuming animals and destroying their habitat.

The solution couldn't be clearer: Ban wildlife trade to reduce disease risk and save animals from the threat of overexploitation.

[Tell Congress to block wildlife trade to save wildlife and help prevent future pandemics.](#)

When asked if banning wildlife trade is a priority, Trump shrugged.

That's the wrong response.

COVID-19 is exposing how the primary drivers of the extinction emergency — exploitation of wildlife and habitat loss — are also fueling global pandemics.

And the United States is one of the world's top importers of wildlife, responsible for an estimated 20% of the global wildlife market.

Elephants, aquarium fish, rhinos, parrots, turtles and even seahorses are all victims of those who want to



exploit wildlife.

Wildlife brought into the United States for the pet trade caused a monkeypox outbreak in 2003, and that's only the tip of the iceberg. The United States imports roughly 224 million live animals a year.

The new pandemic is a vivid reminder that humans are part of the web of life — and its destruction threatens our own well-being.

Wildlife should never be commodities, especially when the trade puts us at risk of disease outbreaks.

**We need to stop global trade in wildlife. It's endangering animals and spreading disease.**

The Center for Biological Diversity is already in court fighting for endangered species protection for pangolins, the world's most highly trafficked mammals. The Center has curtailed the trade in reptiles in 10 states and continues to crack down on the reptile trade nationwide.

But there's more to be done. We'll fight species by species, but the best way to protect wildlife is to shut down the global trade and overexploitation of animals.

**Tell Congress today to ban the trade of wildlife that's endangering animals and people alike.**

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## CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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