

EUROPE'S SECOND-CLASS TIGERS

#RuthlessTrade

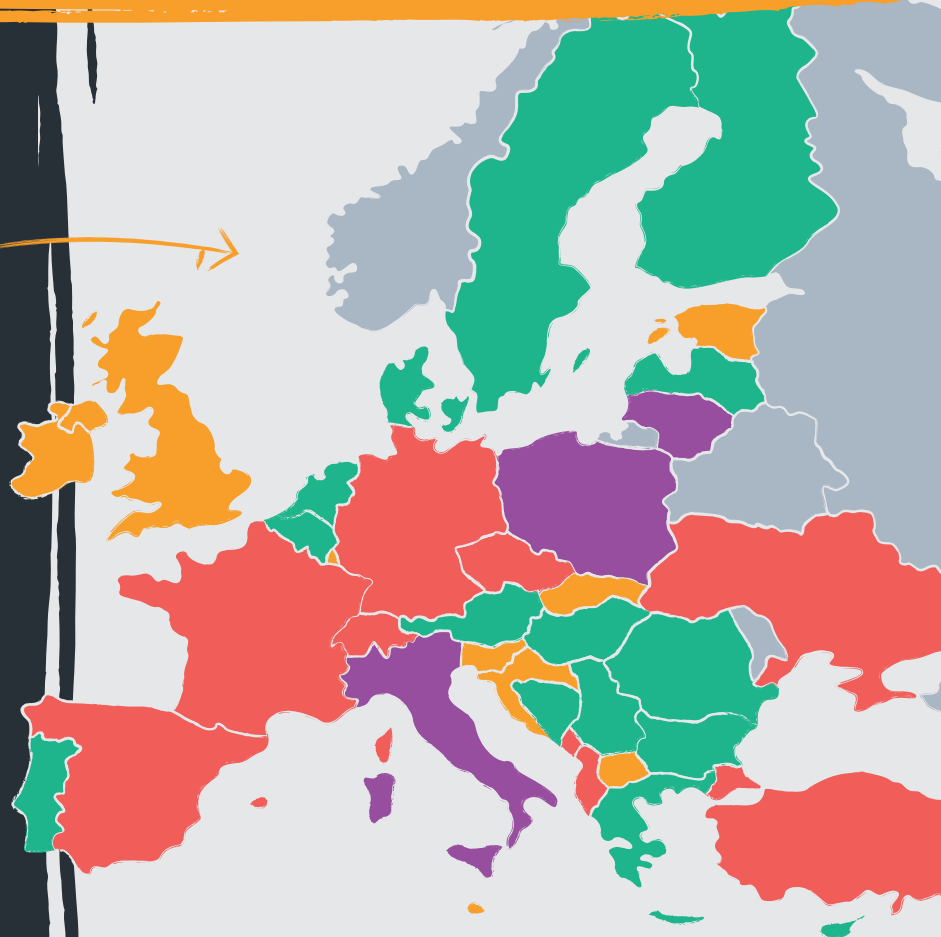
OUT OF CONTROL



The majority of EU Member States do not know how many tigers there are within their borders. Unfortunately, this does not withhold authorities from allowing import and export of tigers and tiger parts for commercial purposes, even though it goes against the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

FOUR PAWS' research also included the submission of Freedom of Information requests to 28* EU member states and eight neighbouring countries in an attempt to obtain the numbers of captive tigers, information on what kind of facilities they reside in, and whether there is any obligation to centrally report the births and deaths of the animals.

There is a significant disparity in the protection offered to wild tigers and tigers born in captivity. Wild tigers are strictly protected, while the commercial trade in captive tigers and their parts is allowed and causes widespread cruelty, fuelling illegal trade. Furthermore, it undermines international efforts in combating illegal trade and poaching.



KEY



Illegal to keep tigers
privately or in circuses



Legal to keep
tigers privately



Legal to keep tigers
in circuses



Legal to keep tigers
privately and in circuses

NOTE:

Countries shown in grey are not covered by this research.

*At the time of the Freedom of Information requests in 2019, the United Kingdom was still an EU member

Captive tigers are rendered **second-class tigers** as commercial trade is still allowed

European Member States still allow tigers and tiger products to be traded

for commercial purposes by using the CITES code 'T' when issuing import and export permits for trade. **Between 2014-2018** the following permits were issued for live tigers:



43 import permits

including 5 permits with CITES code 'T' for commercial purposes.



181 Export permits

including 48 permits with the commercial code.

Although it goes against CITES decisions and resolutions,

member states still issue permits with the commercial code for tiger products as well:



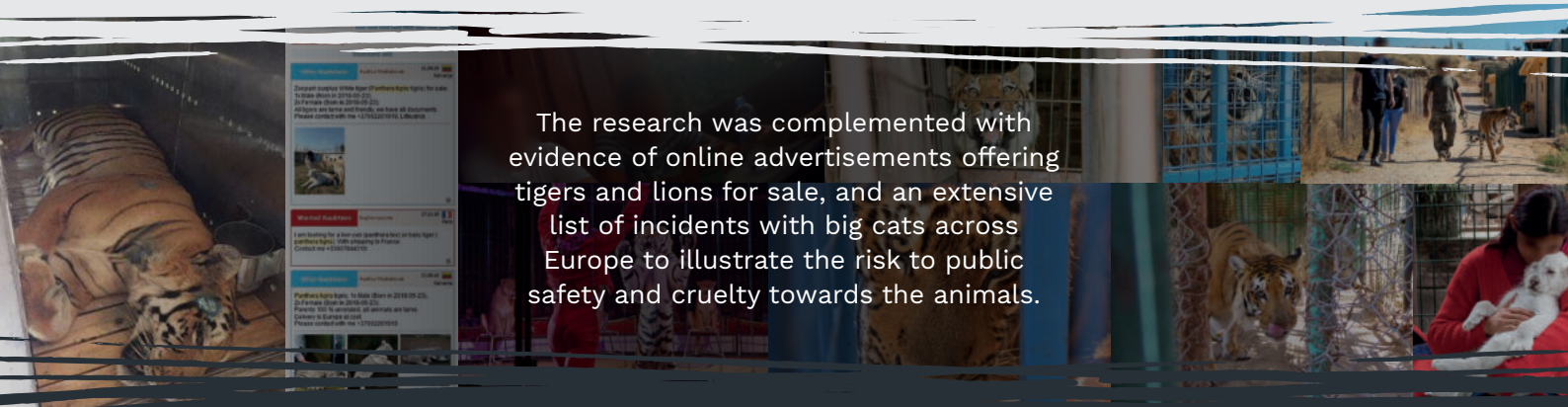
81 import permits

for tiger parts and derivatives, including 16 permits for commercial purposes.



58 Export permits

for tiger parts and derivatives, including 46 permits for commercial purposes.



The research was complemented with evidence of online advertisements offering tigers and lions for sale, and an extensive list of incidents with big cats across Europe to illustrate the risk to public safety and cruelty towards the animals.

EU member states do not have an accurate overview of captive tigers which **enables illegal trade**

Based on our legal right to access information, FOUR PAWS submitted Freedom of Information requests to 28** member states and 8 neighbouring countries. The research period lasted from June to October 2019 and only 17 countries (of which 13 were EU member states) replied with numbers, 9 did not reply at all, and 10 replied but were unable to provide numbers. The authorities that did respond report a total of 913 captive tigers. These numbers do not depict the reality since 19 countries (of which 15 are EU member states) were unable to share numbers.



Countries that replied with numbers: Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, North Macedonia*, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia*, Slovakia, Sweden, UK.



Countries that replied but were unable to provide numbers: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro*, Poland, Spain, Ukraine*.



Countries that did not reply to the FOI request by FOUR PAWS: Austria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Switzerland*, Turkey*.

Through media reports, observations by FOUR PAWS and intelligence from local partners it is clear that the actual number of captive tigers in Europe is much higher. Also, the results from the Freedom of Information requests showed serious discrepancies when compared to data from CITES Report SC70 Doc. 51, Annex 2 (Rev.1) Review of facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity (2018).

** At time of FOI request

* Non-EU countries at time of FOI request

Commercial tiger trade **undermines international efforts** to end illegal trade and poaching

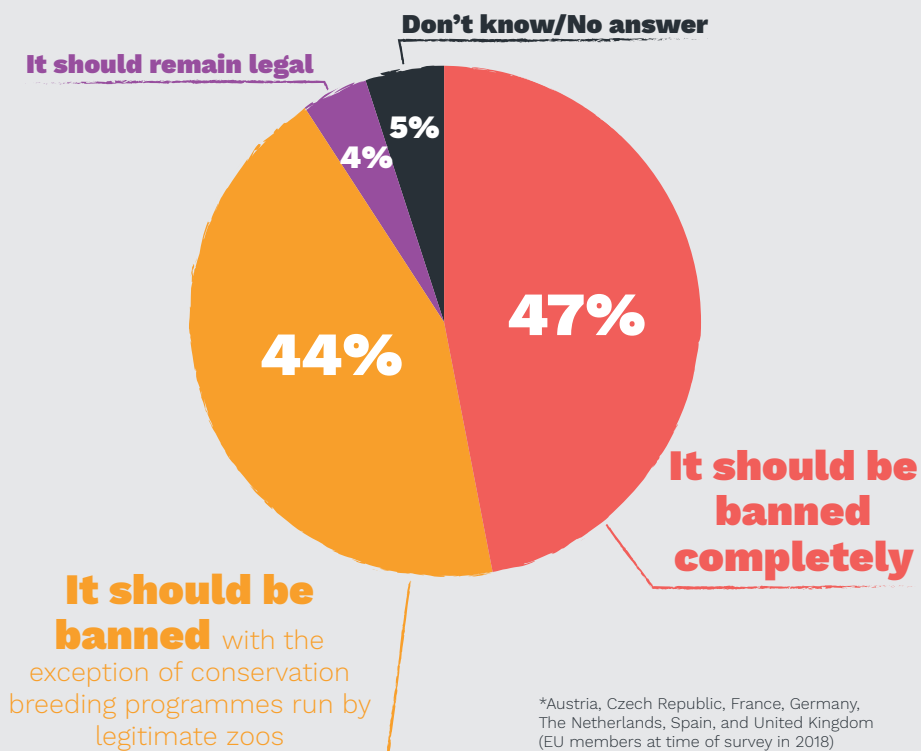
The lack of overview of tiger numbers enables illicit traders to operate without much constraint. The EU TWIX data for 2014-2018 revealed that **18 live tigers and 1,804 parts** and derivatives were seized by national enforcement authorities. The acceptance of a widespread commercial trade in captive tigers renders the captive-born tiger a 'second-class tiger' as it is not offered the same protection as wild tigers.



This goes beyond even the ethical issue of animals' lives being sacrificed for entertainment, or for use in such products as tiger bone wine. This is also a matter of survival for the species in the wild, as the relentless demand for tiger (and other big cat) products increases poaching of wild tigers.

Attitudes towards a ban of trade in captive bred tigers

The European public strongly supports stricter measures with **91% of respondents from seven member states* in favour of banning tiger trade** according to a poll undertaken by Kantar Public in 2018. The EU should take proper action as part of the European Commission's EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (EU WTAP) to which it signed up in 2016. **Ending the commercial trade in tigers would be a crucial and much-needed move.**



*Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, and United Kingdom (EU members at time of survey in 2018)

Recommendations



FOUR PAWS asks for the following measures to be taken:

1

The issuing of a Commission guidance document as a priority first step recommending that EU member states suspend the export and re-export of live tigers and tiger parts or derivatives, except in cases where it is amply clear that the permit will be used for legitimate purposes, as when:

- a) live tigers are moved as part of the breeding and conservation programmes of zoological institutions such as EEP (European Endangered Species Programme), SSP (American Species Survival Plan), ASMP (Australasian Species Management Program) or GSMP (Global Species Management Plans) for non-commercial purposes and not to any facility, business, individual who is/was affiliated to or associated with a facility, business or individual implicated in either legal or illegal trade in tigers (live), their parts or derivatives.
- b) live tigers are moved with the intention of rescue by officially registered and monitored sanctuaries under the condition that the animals do not reproduce and are kept in species-appropriate enclosures.
- c) items are moved where:
 - i. the item is part of a genuine exchange of cultural or artistic goods between reputable institutions (i.e. museums);
 - ii. the Management Authority of the Member State concerned is satisfied that the item is a recognised piece of art and is confident that its value makes it certain that it will not be used for other purposes;
 - iii. the item has not been sold and is an heirloom moving as part of a family relocation or as part of a bequest; or
 - iv. the item is part of a bona fide research project.

This guidance document should also include Identification and Registration guidance.

This measure should be taken as a first preparatory step and should be followed by:

2

A comprehensive ban on all intra-EU and external commercial trade in live tigers and tiger parts or derivatives (imports, exports and re-exports) with derogations as mentioned under 1

About FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them. Founded in 1988 in Vienna by Heli Dungler, the organisation advocates for a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. With offices in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Hungary, the UK, the USA and Vietnam, as well as sanctuaries for rescued animals in twelve countries, FOUR PAWS provides rapid help and long-term solutions.

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