



E-Commerce of Elephant Ivory in Latin America

Report 2014-16

FUNDACJA DLA OCHRONY
I DOBROSTANU ZWIERZĄT



ANIMAL CONSERVATION
AND WELFARE FOUNDATION

CATCA

Environmental and Wildlife Society





E-Commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America

Research done and report prepared by: **CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society** in collaboration with **The Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation** (*Fundacja dla Ochrony i Dobrostanu Zwierząt*).

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We could not have been able to do this investigation and report without the kind support of:



Introduction

The open e-commerce of elephant ivory is a major problem worldwide, which is often ignored or dismissed by the enforcement authorities in many parts of the world but specially in Latin America, as the elephants (and also rhinos), are not endemic to the Americas.

This is the reason why our NGO teams (CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society in Canada and our sister NGO the Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation in Poland), decided to formally re-assess the e-commerce of elephant ivory in this side of the world.

We did our first formal monitoring of the e-commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America in 2009-2010. Then we found an unexpected important amount of different categories of ivory specimens in the countries which we researched: Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay. We found different origins of that ivory, including making an important connection between the religious Catholic ivory found in these countries and tracing the carvings origin to the Philippines, via Portugal and Spain.

Why is our e-commerce monitoring different to the other ones?

Because we do it in a very formal way, checking in detail every advertisement that we find inside out, regardless of the language barrier.

Informal monitoring are all done either by students or people who quickly check the Google or Yahoo search engines, taking the exaggerated amount which normally appears as a total result of the word "ivory" in classified websites or countries (which mostly are "ivory" color shoes, dresses, purses, hats, socks, books, plastic items and all assortment of items in that color).



In 2013 during the CITES CoP16, we exposed the Rakuten classified website in Japan in our report :***"E-Commerce of elephant ivory in Africa and Asia"***. Since then, others have been attempting to monitor it and reports have been made claiming a huge number of ads and items found in searches done in a couple of days. Unfortunately, this is a common mistake which happens when searching in a very informal way for the word "ivory" in Rakuten (or any other website) in the Google search engine, as this showed us over 26,000 ads. Searching for the same word inside the Rakuten website It showed us well over 6,000 ads, but in REALITY there were only 628 ads with real ivory specimens. It took our team 8 months working daily between 8-15 hours everyday to check in detail only the Rakuten classified website in Japan.

This is a good example of what our meticulous formal monitoring is and how we get the proper numbers and data. When this is done without training, it produces large numbers far away from the reality, which do not help to assess the real problem of the e-trade of elephant ivory and of other CITES protected wildlife species.

All of our formal e-commerce monitorings of CITES protected fauna species done in four Continents are at the Interpol database and also can be found in our website: <http://www.catca-ews.org/wordpress/e-trade/>

Ivory in the New World

The word ivory derives from the Arab word *Cazmal fil* which means elephant bone. The majority of the carved pieces were considered as a rich legacy of the spiritual culture: Buddhism, Hinduism and Daoism (Taoism). When the Christians were allowed to openly express their religion, ivory was one of their favorite choices for art.

In the XVII century, while the fashion had passed in Europe, the carving of elephant ivory and from other animals arrived to the Americas and the Old Continent from Asia. Such carvings were mostly figures representing Jesus, virgins and saints. These assignments came from the evangelical missionaries. The ivory work made in the Asian colonies of Spain and Portugal is known as Iberoriental, which is divided in two categories: The Hispanic-Filipino which was made in China or Manila, and the Indian-Portuguese, which was made in India and Africa. Most of this ivory was destined to churches, convents or official buildings.

The Chinese residents in the Philippines were known as Sangleyes (inhabitants of the Parian, which was an area adjacent to Intramuros built to house Chinese merchants in Manila in the 16th and 17th centuries, during the Spanish occupation of The Philippines). The Sangleyes practiced the fine art of Eboraria (ivory carving), which was the highest expression of art in The Philippines when the Spanish arrived there. Because a large number of carvers were not familiar with the Catholic dogma, painted figures (specially the Flemish ones) which showed the catechism and other religious books, were used as models for the sculptures. One of the religious Philippine ivory trademark is the aboriginal and Filipino mestizos facial looks and expressions. Catholic religious items made in this country, contain a mixture of Muslim and Christian, autochthonous with native, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish with Filipino, adopting the faces of the society which produced them. Characteristics of this work are rounded faces, long hair over the shoulders, which for advanced age withdrawn from the face towards the back in consecutive waves. One special emphasis was in the eyes made with thick eyelids. An interesting hallmark is the polychromy applied to enhance the carvings. Almost half of all the known carvings from The Philippines are figures of Jesus.

In 1565, The Philippines became part of the novohispanic territory. By 1569, the Spanish settlement of Cebu had become an important safe port for ships from Mexico and the famous route Manila-Acapulco (Mexico) was already established. By 1693, ships were arriving to Manila with ivory from the Coromandel Coast, Surut and Bengal. Ivory Christian carvings arrived for the first time to the New Spain from Siam (Thailand), Cochin (India) and The Philippines. These ships were commonly known as the "Nao from China". By the XVII Century it was common to receive virgins, Jesus and saint heads in Mexico. In 1700, the Parián Market was inaugurated in Mexico City and was the place where the merchandise from The Philippines (mostly luxurious items) were sold.

In 1825, was the last voyage of the *Galeon de Manila*, which used to travel once or twice a year the Pacific Ocean between Manila and the ports of the Nueva Spain (Mexico), mostly to Acapulco, Bahia de Banderas and San Blas (Nayarit) and Cabo San Lucas (Baja California).

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El arte de Filipinas, www.monasteriosantotomas.com



New post ban Catholic ivory



Pre-ban Religious ivory

Methodology

As with all our investigations done since 2009, we used the Google search engine to do our monitorings.

In 2014, we proceeded to preliminarily monitor each one of the Latin American countries. After some months, our team decided which countries we were going to proceed to monitor, based as in the past in geography, number of inhabitants, different backgrounds of the populations, economy, so on.

Our preliminary monitoring included these countries: Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and the island of Puerto Rico, but we barely found any ivory there.

Our team decided at the end to research in over 2 years the following Latin American countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

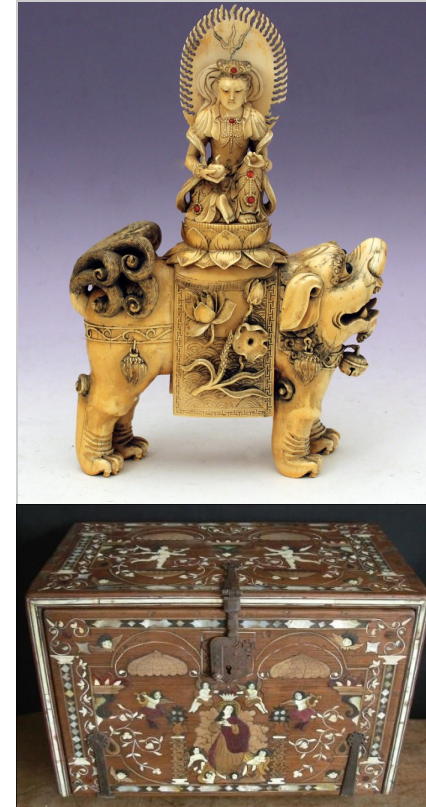
For this new monitoring we also included auction houses and antique shops. It was a big challenge to get all the description and prices as there was often large amounts of ivory items in these businesses. We researched hundreds of antique shops in all these countries, one by one, by checking each ivory item for sale online and sometimes by contacting the sellers when we required some more information, but this takes quite a lot of time but specially from the classified advertisements, as often the sellers do not bother to respond, are suspicious or just ask you to stop by at their store to view the items for sale..

Our team carefully monitored each country more than twice; then we proceeded to analyze and compare all the data acquired.

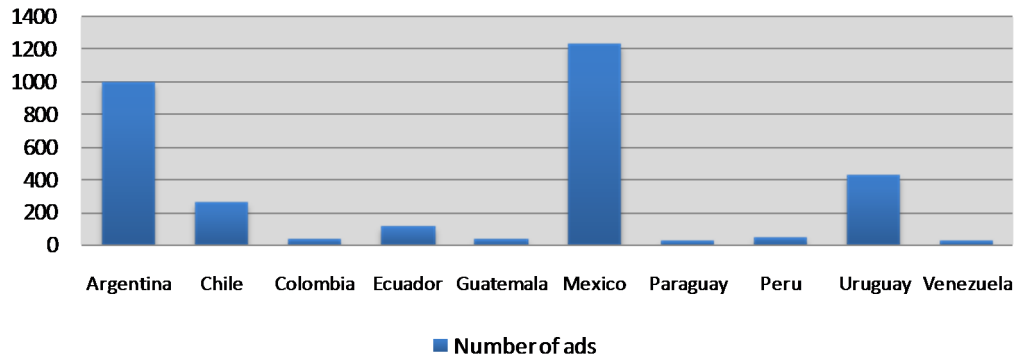
As in all our previous formal e-commerce monitorings, we base our research in the Central and Eastern European methodology, which we have had to completely modify to be able to fulfill the requirements to assess the formal e-commerce in this part of the world. In Africa and Asia. We did this transition by adjusting the original methodology to the different market demands in these continents, as the ivory trade fluctuates in each of the countries researched,.



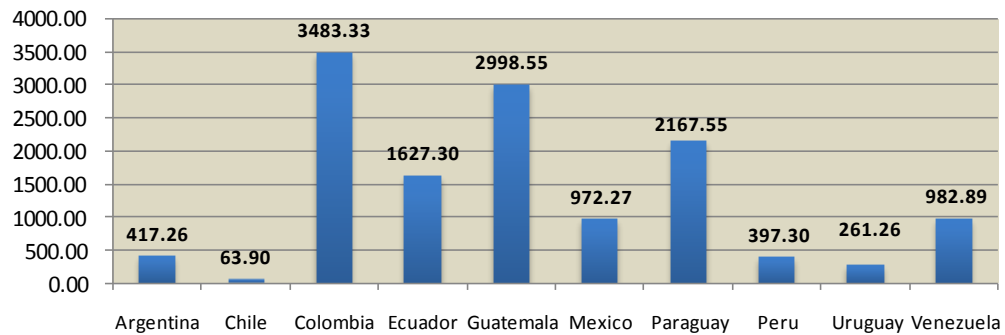
General results



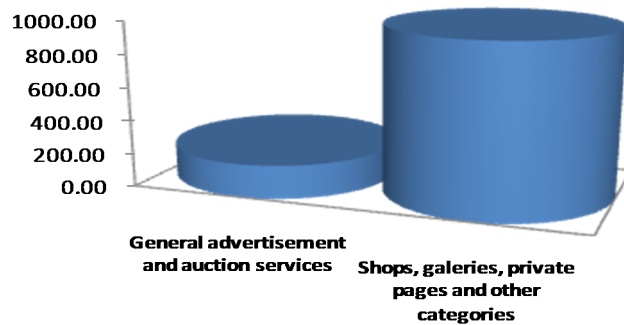
Number of internet advertisements with ivory items for sale



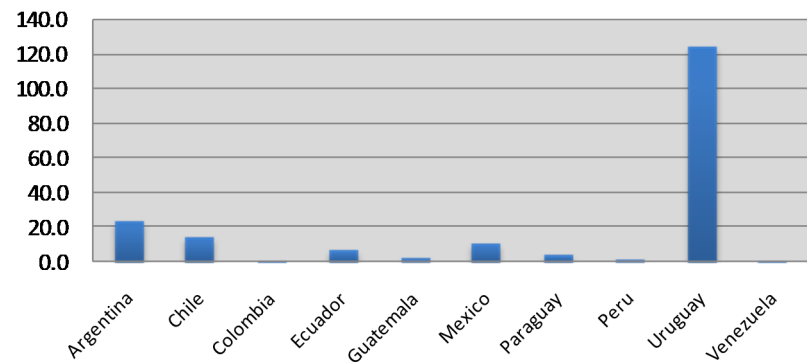
Average price of ivory item for sale (USD/item)

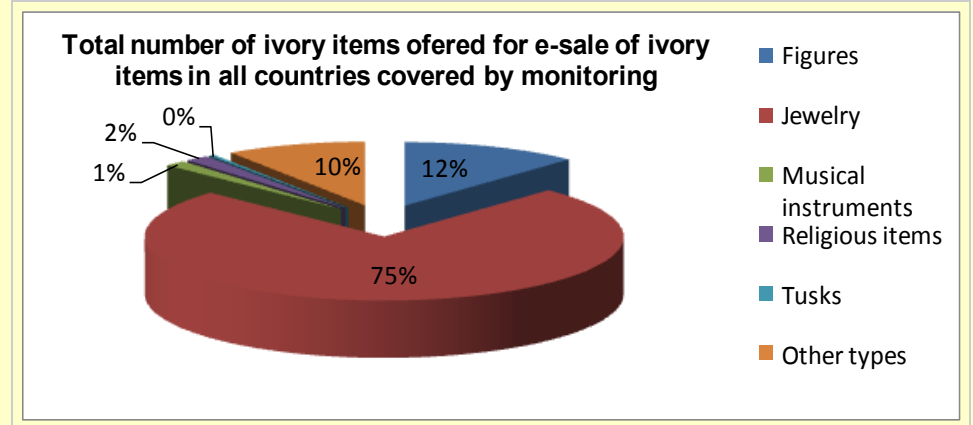
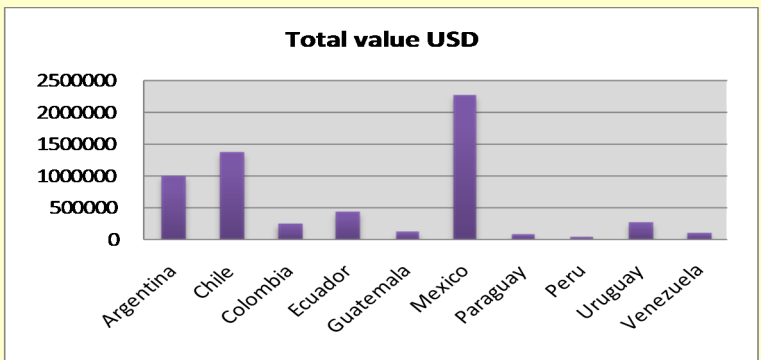
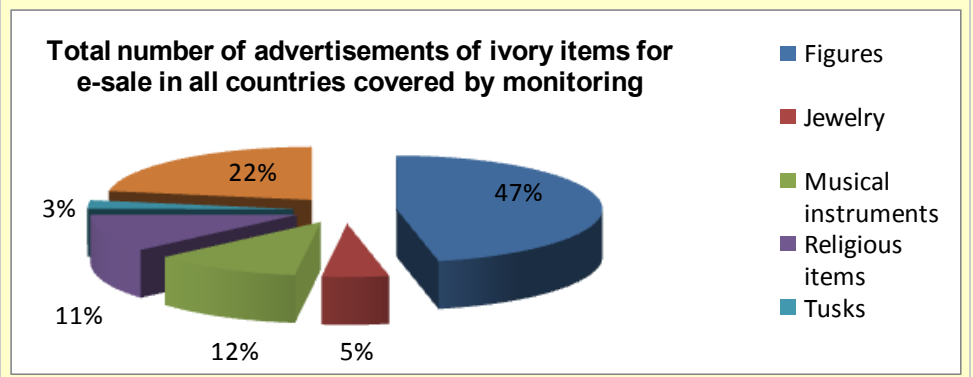
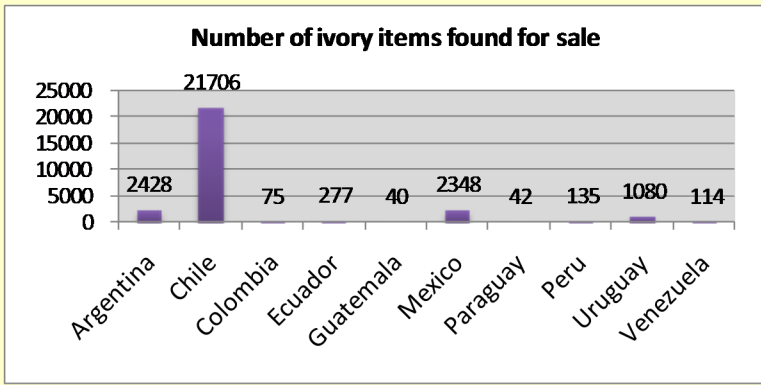
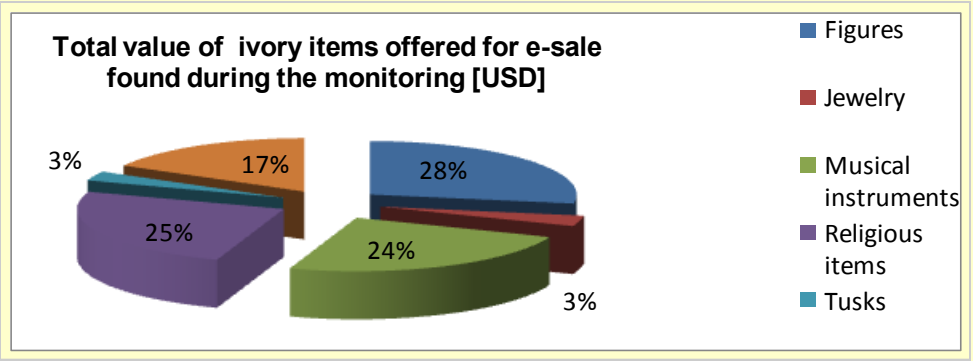


Average price of an ivory item for sale [USD/item]



Number of ads per 1 million citizens





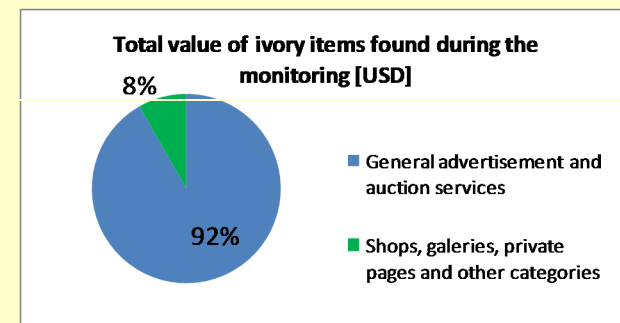
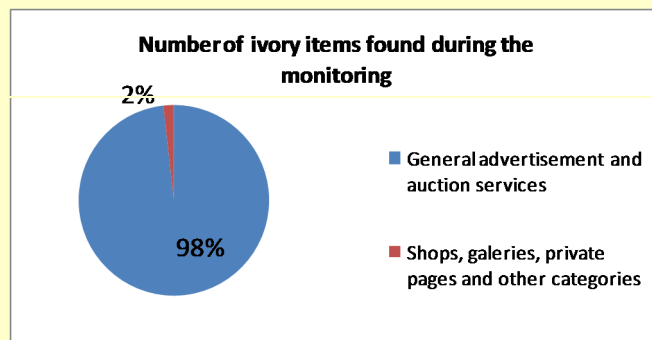
- The biggest value percentage of Ivory items for sale belong to different figures (28%), which are subject of almost half (47%) of all offers.
- On the second and third places are religious items and musical instruments (12% and 11% of offers and about 1/4 of total value each).
- In different countries, the percentage of ivory specimens categories offered for sale was different. For instance, in Peru and Guatemala religious items were quite numerous (29% and 20% respectively), when in most of the other countries figures were the most popular items found.

Detailed data results per country

Country	Total value USD	Number of items	Average price of item [USD]	Number of ads	Number of citizens	Number of ads per 1 million citizens
Argentina	1013117	2428	417.26	1000	41,769,726	23.9
Chile	1386956	21706	63.90	265	18,096,847	14.6
Colombia	261250	75	3483.33	37	48,229,000	0.8
Ecuador	450763	277	1627.30	115	16,144,000	7.1
Guatemala	119942	40	2998.55	35	13,824,463	2.5
Mexico	2282882	2348	972.27	1242	116,901,761	10.6
Paraguay	91037	42	2167.55	32	6,968,043	4.6
Peru	53635	135	397.30	49	29,549,517	1.7
Uruguay	282159	1080	261.26	436	3,500,203	124.6
Venezuela	112049	114	982.89	29	28,946,101	1.0

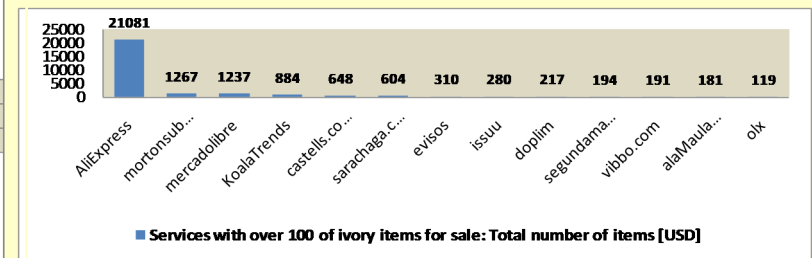
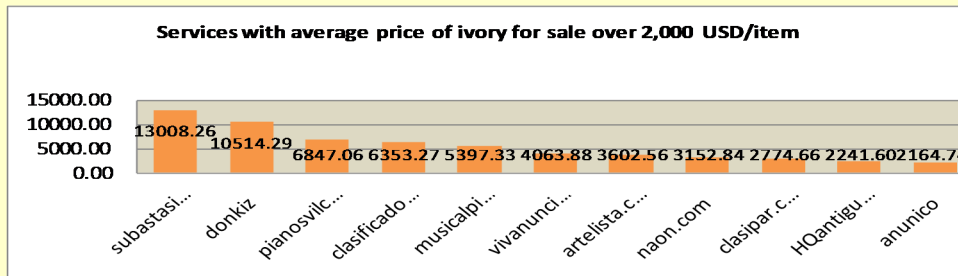
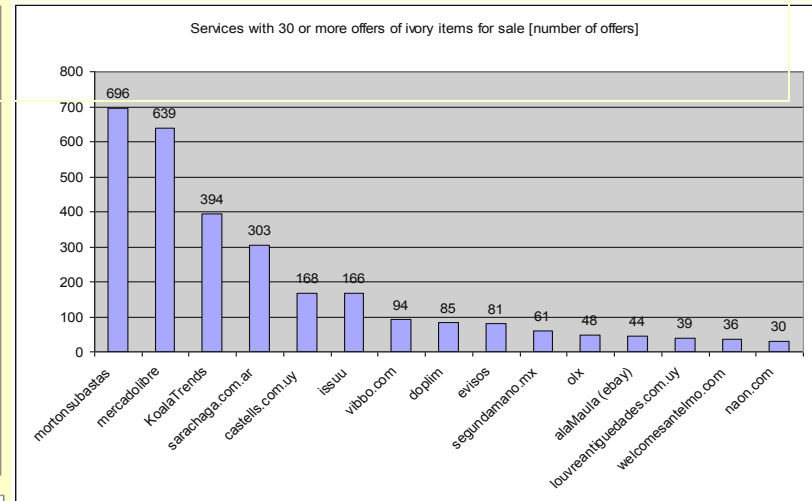
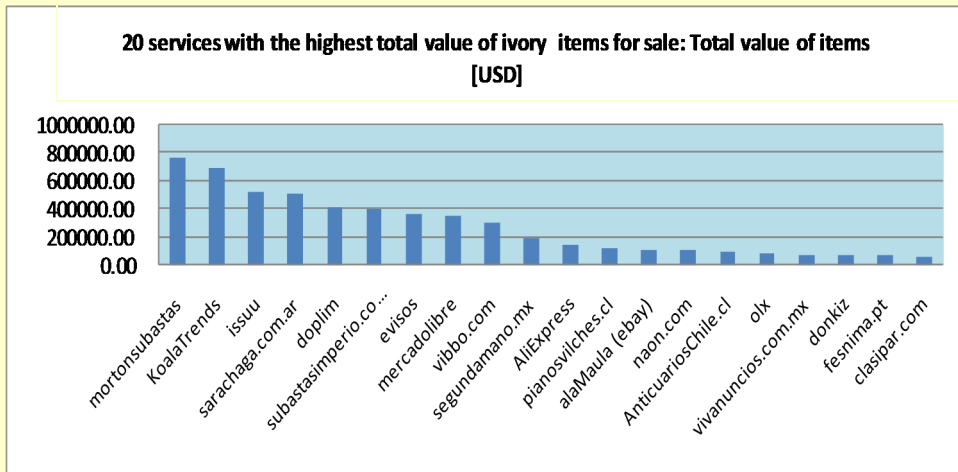
More results

- The vast majority of offers of ivory specimens for sale (98%) were found on general advertisements and auction services.
- However, on private or specialized web services one can find much more valuable specimens. These are for instance musical instruments (mostly pianos), furniture or sculptures of high artistic and often historical value. In such services it seems that legal offers of pre-convention specimens predominate, but our team found many post-convention specimens which often are labeled with alternate names for ivory not to be easily detected (*Read more in page 16*). The average value of such items is almost 5 times higher than the average value of items offered on general advertisements and auction services, where sellers can easier hide their real identity. There are quite a large number of contemporary small size items, many of which probably are of illegal origin.
- Just as in the years 2009-10, both the total number of advertisement of ivory for sale found during the monitoring and the total value of offered items first place belongs to Mexico.
- On the second place with numbers of offers is Argentina, but regarding the total value of offered items the second place belongs to Chile.
- When taking into account the number of ivory for sale in advertisements per million inhabitants of the country, then the first place is Uruguay, in which its citizens are 5 times more active in the ivory e-trade than the Argentinians.



During our formal monitoring, ivory for sale was found on 75 services and web-pages. When comparing with the results from the monitoring made in 2009-10:

- A) There is much more general advertising and auction services with a large number of ivory for sale
- B) *MercadoLibre* lost its first position as the main e-commerce company in Latin America, but still is in the group of the leading classified websites in these countries. The largest number of ivory items are found on international services, where offers from many Latin American (and other) countries are posted. *EBay*, which introduced the ban on the ivory trade, almost disappeared from the score; however on the service *alMalua*, which is owned by *EBay*, obviously the ban is not efficiently strong, as there you can find many ivory offers. The service *todocoleccion.net*, which is located in Spain, has also advertisements from Latin America (Argentine and Uruguay). The numbers of offers from Latin America are not that much on this service (16), but the total number of ivory offers on this Spanish language service is very large. During the time of the monitoring we counted 1,121 ivory specimens for sale with a total value of 39,079,478.88 EUR (about 43,769,000 USD) just on this service. This service is an important place for the e-commerce of ivory products in all the Spanish language countries and can be an important place for buying such products in Latin America.
- C) Spain classified and private websites are still loaded with ivory products which are 10-20+ times more expensive than in Latin America. This country remains as a very important source to the illegal elephant ivory trade in the Spanish language countries and it may be the EU country with more e-commerce of ivory sold openly in Europe, based on all our experience monitoring the ivory trade in Latin America.



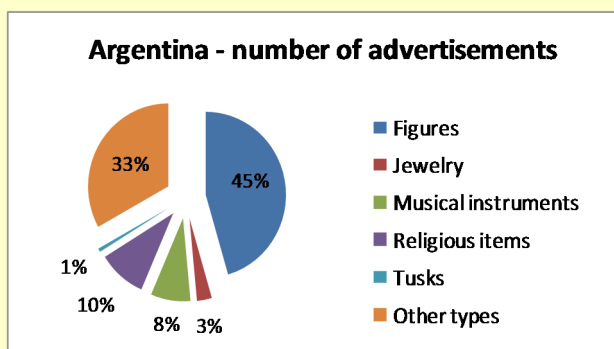
	Service name	Total value of items [USD]	Number of items	Average price of an item [USD/item]	Number of offers
1	¡QueBarato!	20050.00	46	435.87	5
2	adwayer.com	3181.86	5	636.37	5
3	alaMaula (ebay)	109110.17	181	602.82	44
4	AliExpress	147912.25	21081	7.02	4
5	AnticuariosChile.cl	98770.50	63	1567.79	3
6	Antiguedades El Rodeo	852.50	1	852.50	1
7	Antiguedades Rocco	872.96	1	872.96	1
8	antiguedadescompraventa.com	7620.00	20	381.00	3
9	anunico	15153.20	7	2164.74	4
10	argentour.com	2770.83	16	173.18	6
11	artelista.com	25217.92	7	3602.56	7
12	arteypatrimonio.cl	4500.00	4	1125.00	2
13	avisosenlaweb.com	12638.48	7	1805.50	7
14	BancoCiudad.com	3497.98	16	218.62	4
15	buenacuerdo.com.ar	2148.30	7	306.90	2
16	castells.com.uy	34107.39	648	52.63	168
17	chilecomercios.cl	1494.75	68	21.98	3
18	clasf.com	1125.00	4	281.25	2
19	Clasificados Gratis	1201.40	9	133.49	2
20	clasificados.com	525.00	1	525.00	1
21	clasificados.st	57179.45	9	6353.27	9
22	clasipar.com	63817.20	23	2774.66	21
23	ClicAds	312.30	1	312.30	1
24	compramueblesventa.com.ar	1662.78	17	97.81	5
25	compra-venta.org	360.00	3	120.00	1
26	cuchillosnunes.com	29.84	8	3.73	1
27	danielmiranda-art.com	699.05	2	349.53	2
28	donkiz	73600.00	7	10514.29	7
29	donquijoteantiques.com	2824.58	19	148.66	14
30	doplim	411434.11	217	1895.01	85
31	elviejofarol.com.ar	2331.76	6	388.63	3
32	enriquegigoux.com	4500.00	7	642.86	1
33	evisos	366124.27	310	1181.05	81
34	fesnima.pt	72919.20	37	1970.79	16
35	fsarteyantiguedades.com	954.80	3	318.27	1
36	galeriacarroza.com	5235.00	7	747.86	1
37	geads.com	1462.50	1	1462.50	1
38	gimau.com	7247.76	8	905.97	8
39	grilloantiques.com	15495.00	53	292.36	7
40	GtAnuncios.com	8461.00	4	1615.25	4
41	Guatepymes.com	14494.22	9	1610.47	5
42	HQantiguedades.com	51556.80	23	2241.60	23
43	issuu	518297.64	280	1851.06	166
44	KoalaTrends	696696.62	884	788.12	394
45	locanto	21795.00	35	622.71	8
46	louvreantiguedades.com.uy	12214.40	39	313.19	39
47	megavisos.com.co	2100.00	7	300.00	1
48	mercadolibre	348200.83	1237	281.49	639
49	mercalist.com	480.00	5	96.00	1
50	mexventas.com	2097.60	6	349.60	4
51	mortonsubastas	784419.73	1267	603.33	696
52	musicalpianoforte.com.mx	48576.00	9	5397.33	1
53	naon.com	104043.76	33	3152.84	30
54	nexolocal.com	9795.43	33	296.83	14
55	nuestromercado.com	36.00	1	36.00	1
56	olx	89514.37	119	752.22	48
57	pianosvilches.cl	116400.00	17	6847.06	10
58	pool.cl	1407.45	4	351.86	4
59	preciolandia.com	22966.74	27	850.62	24
60	SaintClassified.com	800.00	1	800.00	1
61	sarachaga.com.ar	512717.64	604	848.87	303
62	segundamano.mx	201157.36	194	1036.89	61
63	SubastadeArte.cl	15375.00	29	530.17	3
64	subastasimperio.com	403256.00	31	13008.26	22
65	txuz.com	552.00	1	552.00	1
66	todocoleccion.net	8102.77	16	381.42	16
67	vibbo.com	305757.12	191	1600.82	94
68	vivanuncios.com.mx	77213.70	19	4063.88	19
69	vivastreet	39900.00	20	1995.00	6
70	vivavisos	17922.89	18	995.72	18
71	welcomesantelmo.com	13401.67	89	150.58	36
72	Wiju	19827.12	30	660.90	15
73	xomercialibre.com	3864.00	2	1932.00	1
74	yapo.cl	22050.00	24	918.75	4
75	zorrilla.com.uy	1400.00	7	200.00	3
	Total	6053790.95	28245.00	1390.41	3254.00

Results per country

Argentina

Our team spent months monitoring this country (online and also live) as there are hundreds of small antique shops, specially in Buenos Aires. We found a very large amount of ivory in the Argentinean auction house *Sarachaga*. Many of the specimens found include accessories and items from Germany, but also an important number comes from other countries in Europe. *Mercadolibre* has a very large amount of ivory for sale. *Segundamano* is now *Vibbo*, which is from Spain but their ads appear in the Argentina search engine for the Argentinean customers. *Boleadoras* (ivory balls) are commonly found online and are locally made. They were most famously used by the gauchos (Argentinean cowboys) to capture running cattle or game. This country has the second largest amount of religious items for sale online.

The total value of items found in Argentina 6 years ago by our team was \$64,500 USD, but in this new formal monitoring of the e-commerce we found a total value of \$1,013,117.46 USD, which is alarmingly 15 times more than the number originally found.

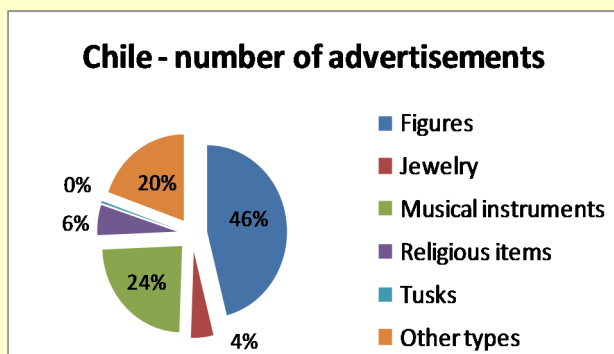


Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	923	451877.2	489.57	455
Jewelry	39	3472.41	89.04	30
Musical instruments	83	146032	1759.42	80
Religious items	117	70322.98	601.05	97
Tusks	10	21154.37	2115.44	7
Other types	1256	320258.5	549.61	331

Chile

We found that most of the ivory items in this country are of European origin, but some specimens come as far as Gabon and Malaysia.

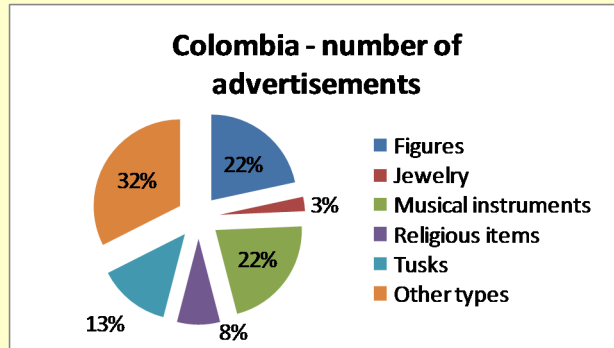
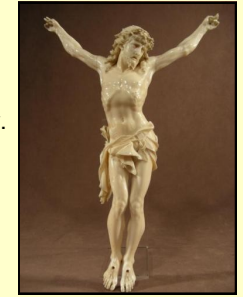
Our team monitored dozens of antique stores (most of them in Santiago). We found a large number of jewelry items for sale but the sellers are abroad, hence the large number of jewelry items on the charts. The total value of items found is 1,386,956.00 USD



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	437	353815.8	809.65	122
Jewelry	20984	124702.8	5.94	12
Musical instruments	70	360720	5153.14	63
Religious items	33	417399	12648.46	15
Tusks	2	8400	4200.00	1
Other types	180	121918.5	890.87	52

Colombia

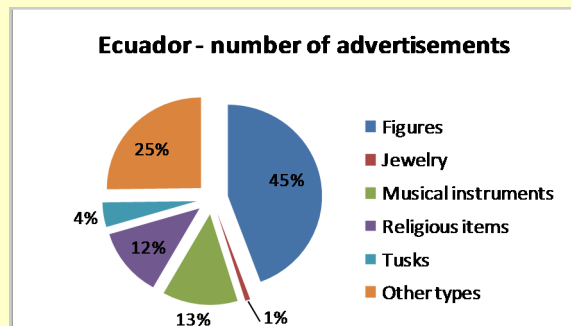
Colombia shows a diversity of international ivory items for sale online, but the most interesting ones are some flutes made in this country. The total value of items found in this country is: \$2,612,50.47 USD



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	25	17745	709.80	8
Jewelry	5	27000	5400.00	1
Musical instruments	17	19007.37	1118.08	8
Religious items	3	1900	633.33	3
Tusks	5	10200	2040.00	5
Other types	20	185398.1	10992.24	12

Ecuador

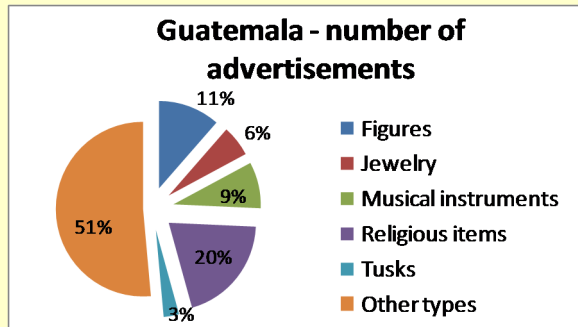
It was interesting to learn that this country has the second largest number of tusks found in this formal monitoring. The estimated average numbers of offers in 2009-10 was about 23 offers with a total value of offers slightly exceeding \$42,000 USD. In this monitoring we found 277 offers and a total value of \$450,763,08 USD, so that is 10 times more ivory for sale online than 6 years ago.



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	79	106908.6	1353.27	51
Jewelry	1	28	28.00	1
Musical instruments	15	118256	7883.73	15
Religious items	14	153886.4	10991.89	14
Tusks	12	24820	2068.33	5
Other types	156	46864.08	625.41	29

Guatemala

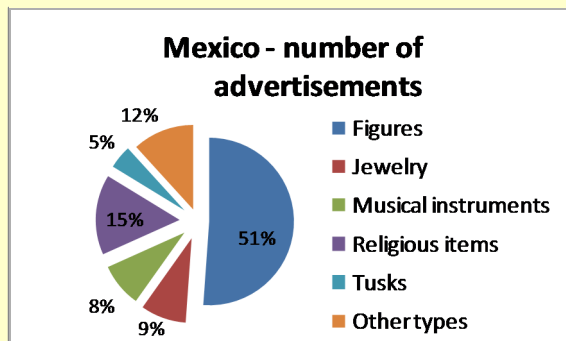
There was not a significant number of ads and items found in Guatemala, but the total value is quite significant: \$119,942.67 USD, which is much more than the total value of ivory items found in 2008, when we did a preliminary monitoring of the e-commerce of protected CITES fauna species all over Latin America. (Most of the items were located in Guatemala City and are mostly accessories and Catholic religious items).



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	7	7514.08	1073.44	4
Jewelry	3	1391	463.67	2
Musical Instruments	3	5850	1950.00	3
Religious items	8	11824.84	1478.11	7
Tusks	1	1300	1300.00	1
Other types	18	92062.75	8217.52	18

Mexico

Our team found that many ivory items are from the XX century. Private auction houses sell very large amounts of ivory. We were surprised to also find that some carvings and jewelry have been made in Mexico, even after the ban. Our first e-commerce monitoring in this country for elephant ivory was done in 2009-2010, but this time we found much more ivory items from different categories, making a total of \$2,282,882.44 USD compared to only \$760,000 USD 6 years ago. The most expensive specimen that we found was a Chinese-Mexican religious figure with an auction base price of \$4,000,000 MX (215,318.00 USD). Mexico is the country with the most religious items for sale online.

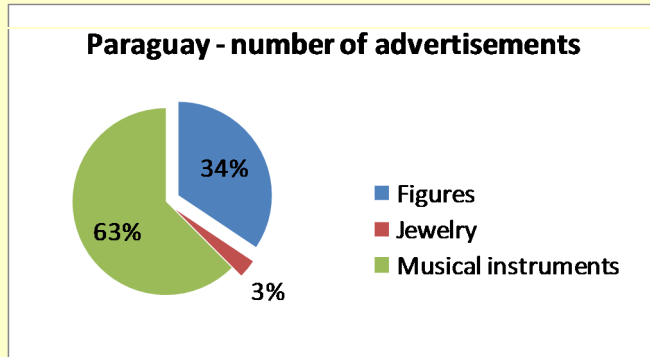


Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	1245	508130.2	408.14	635
Jewelry	140	31660.44	226.15	108
Musical instruments	113	665033	5885.25	105
Religious items	222	816176.6	3676.47	192
Tusks	63	100259.8	1591.42	56
Other types	565	161622.4	882.46	146

Paraguay

We didn't find any religious items, tusks or the almost common bargeños (colonial desks with ivory, mostly of European origin).

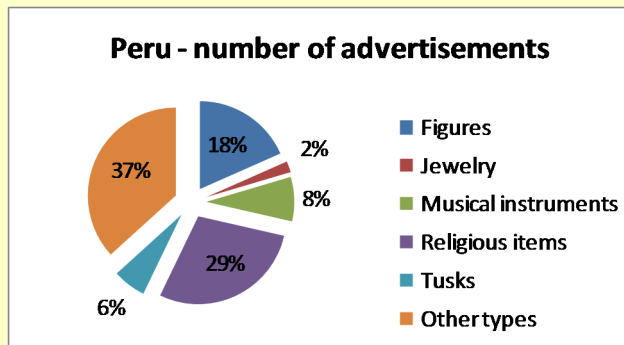
We found a total value of \$91,036.52 USD for this country.



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	20	30136.52	1506.83	11
Jewelry	2	200	100.00	1
Musical instruments	20	60700	3035.00	20

Peru

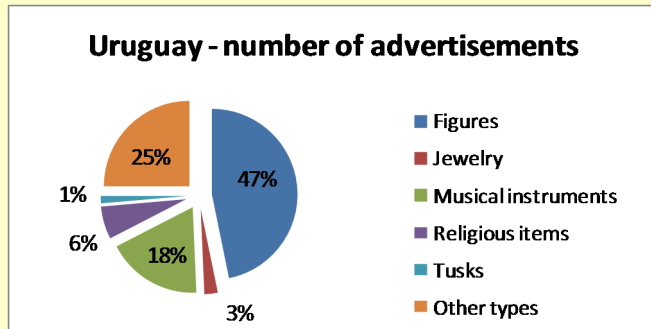
It was quite interesting to do this monitoring in Peru, as we found an array of different ivory items, One antique online store from Lima sells their ivory items in different foreign Latin American antique and classified websites, but also in antiques and classifieds in Spain. We found several bargeños from Spain here.



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	23	11033.86	479.73	9
Jewelry	1	210	210.00	1
Musical instruments	4	3225	806.25	4
Religious items	21	20608	981.33	14
Tusks	3	1840	613.33	3
Other types	83	16718.04	243.39	18

Uruguay

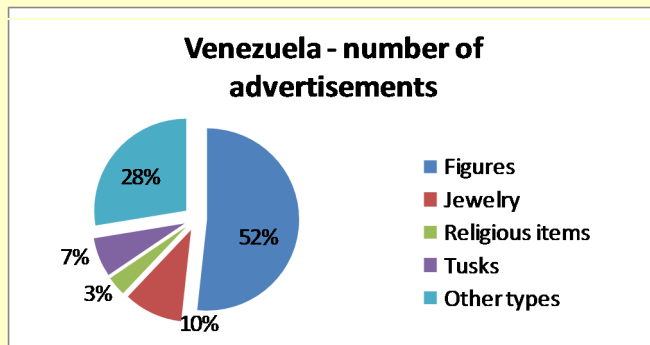
Uruguay has quite a lot of ivory, but mostly European with many items from France and in second place are items from Germany. *MercadoLibre* is the predominant classified website in this country. The second place belongs to private auction houses and antique stores. The total value is \$282,158.60 USD.



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	616	127932.2	207.68	204
Jewelry	15	641.61	42.77	11
Musical instruments	82	93431.85	1139.41	79
Religious items	36	20491.79	569.22	27
Tusks	10	1329.01	132.90	6
Other types	321	38332.17	326.79	109

Venezuela

A mixture of different specimens from Asia, Europe and Africa (in that order) where found in this country. The total value of items found was \$112,048.90 USD.



Specimen category	Total number of items	Total value [USD]	Average price of item (USD)	Number of ads
Figures	26	62130	2389.62	15
Jewelry	4	4000	1000.00	3
Religious items	1	2070	2070.00	1
Tusks	4	3500	875.00	2
Other types	79	40348.9	616.01	8

Other results:

We are happy to report that OXL has followed our advice and recommendations, so now there are barely any ivory items or CITES protected specimens (live, dead and derivatives) in all the countries researched. On the other hand, certain international classified websites blocked us, to not longer be able to monitor their websites, so we had to find other ways to check their webpage's.

Argentina Our team also found rhino horns and complete tiger furs in this country. Mercadolibre has a very large amount of ivory for sale. In Vibbo we also found carved rhino horns. As we mentioned before, Segundamano from Spain is now Vibbo from Spain, but their ads appear in the Argentina search engine for Argentinean customers. We found many primates and felines in this country and in many of the researched countries . It was interesting to see that Christies the large auction house appearing in our search in Argentina, Mexico and Uruguay, with ivory items up to over \$200,000 USD. Our team also found rhino horns and complete tiger furs in this country. Prospective purchasers are advised that several countries prohibit the importation of property containing materials from endangered species, including but not limited to coral, ivory and tortoiseshell. There are many ads for shark cartilage and even whale sperm hair products. There are many primates, exotic birds, felines and arthropods for sale online.

Chile has hundreds of elephant hair bracelets for sale online, mostly from South Africa.

Mexico has many items of African elephant leather, made in Mexico with most of the origin of leather coming from South Africa. Most of the items are boots, belts and wallets. Our team also found tables and stools with elephant feet and ashtrays, including rhino feet ashtrays and also rhino horns. There are hundreds of ads for bracelets and rings made of elephant hair in Mexico for sale online and in stores all over the country. Also in one auction site, we found from Polar bears to many jaguars, leopards lions rugs and whole bodies, plus heads and carapaces of hawksbill turtles. Mexico has lots of cobra, rattle snakes, python, manta ray, crocodile leather boots, wallets, belts, etc. and also many live specimens of protected fauna species.

Uruguay has many ivory items from France, such as frames or paintings (often with hawksbill turtle carapace decoration). All over the countries which we researched we found www.wiji.es and www.milanuncios.com (both from Spain), which are selling very large amounts of elephant ivory and whose ads appear all over Latin America.

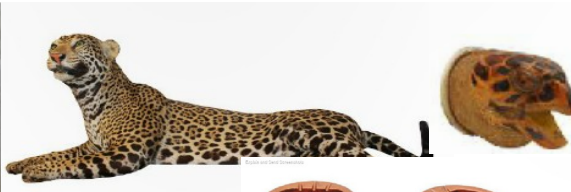
** In Puerto Rico there is a wide e-commerce of primates and other CITES protected fauna species.

Methods used by the sellers to get away selling a banned product.

To avoid getting their ads detected or reported, the experienced sellers (mostly from Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay), usually don't even mention the word "ivory" in their online ads. It is common for the illegal e-commerce sellers and buyers of ivory in those countries to use instead the words: "noble" (e.g. as a Chilean seller described it to a prospective buyer: "**It is the international denomination of a material which is forbidden to mention. It is a material used in luxurious items from animal origin.**"). Other common names include: "bone", "fang", "similar to ivory," "ivory color", "legit" and even (((i.v.o.r.y))). Other descriptions are "genuine", "real" and "not fake bone, tooth, fang", etc.

Most of the products found in all these countries come from China, with the exception of Uruguay.

Other interesting specimens found all over the internet are large amounts of endangered animal species (next page), and even forbidden drugs are openly sold online!



117 CABEZA DE TORTUGA CAGUAMA
Cabeza natural de tortuga disecada.
Altura 22 cm., diámetro 15 cm.
\$ 6,000 - 9,000

43 cm.
\$ 9,000 - 14,000



28 PATAS DE RINOCERONTE
Con excelente trabajo de taxidermia, adaptados para ceniceros. 2 piezas originales.
19 x 21 x 27 cm.
\$ 3,700 - 5,500



90 PIEL DE TIGRE DE BENGALA
Hermosa piel curtida y tratada, con cabeza disecada con excelente trabajo de taxidermia, montada sobre madera.
Dimensiones: 290 x 200 cm.
\$ 130,000 - 180,000



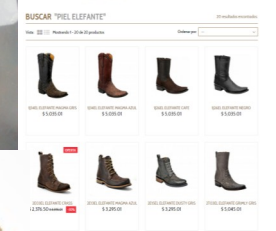
89 COCODRILO
Ejemplar disecado de 7 años de vida cazado en Florida. Con base. Del maestro Mario Aguilar.
20 x 30 x 15 cm.
\$ 2,700 - 3,800



103 TORTUGA DE CAREY
Tratamiento de taxidermia de origen japonés y son piezas muy apreciadas por ser símbolos de abundancia. Contemporáneos.
Está montada en un exhibidor de acrílico cerrado.
Piezas: 45 x 31 cm.



171 JAGUAR
The cranium combinado con trabajo de taxidermia



4 PIEL DE JAGUAR
Curtida y tratada, con cabeza disecada con excelente trabajo de taxidermia, montada sobre fieltro.
15 x 103 cm.
\$ 1,000 - 14,000



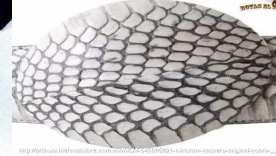
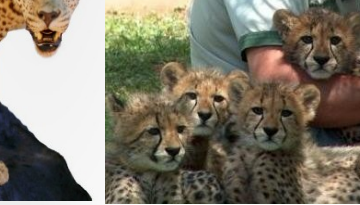
76 PIEL DE LEONA
Curtida y tratada, con cabeza disecada con excelente trabajo de taxidermia, montada sobre fieltro. Con roturas.
240 x 204 cm.
\$ 22,000 - 34,000



92 COLMILLO DE HIPOPÓTAMO
Decorado con pintura esgrafada de jaguar con animales africanos, sobre base de madera, sin firma.
\$ 5 cm.



96 PATAS DE HIPOPÓTAMO
Con excelente trabajo de taxidermia, adaptados para ceniceros, 2 piezas originales.
27 x 28 x 9 cm.
\$ 1,000 - 4,000



132 PUMA
Ejemplar con excelente trabajo de taxidermia, adaptado para ceniceros, 2 piezas originales.
27 x 28 x 9 cm.
\$ 1,000 - 4,000



6 PIEL DE COCODRILO
Pieza esculpida en hueso natural de



Conclusions

Our team concludes that there is a wide and diverse e-commerce of elephant ivory all over Latin America. The demand of elephant ivory varies in different categories for each country. In the countries which we had previously monitored, we found an alarming increment of the ivory trade.

Most of the ivory found seems to be pre ban, and it is more than often described as "old" or "antique" which frequently is old ivory by looking at the carvings style and color, but there is also a lot of post ban ivory sold online in modern fashion, with the sellers fully aware that it is forbidden to sell such items and without providing any proper documents, often trying to disguise the name of elephant ivory to avoid any detection from the enforcement authorities.

In this research, the majority of the sellers which we contacted, tried to avoid any questions about providing any information on any legit documentation or CITES permits required to sell elephant ivory (often by acting rudely and even defiant), ignoring or refusing to provide any information to potential buyers about the requirements to purchase new ivory or any pre ban ivory.

In the past, it seemed that most of the sellers in Latin America were very naive regarding the e-commerce of ivory, but their attitude has definitely changed to continue to sell it online, but without trying to attract any unnecessary attention which could cause them problems.

The e-commerce of elephant ivory has to be taken more seriously by the enforcement authorities of the countries in Latin America, to be able to ban it from all the public and private websites, by creating a strong collaboration between the classified and private websites owners and the proper enforcement authorities, to be able to effectively combat this e-commerce of elephant ivory and also of all the CITES protected fauna species, before it becomes too late for the elephants and all other endangered animal species, trapped in the greedy illegal traffic of wildlife.



Help us to protect the elephants and other endangered fauna species from the illegal trade!

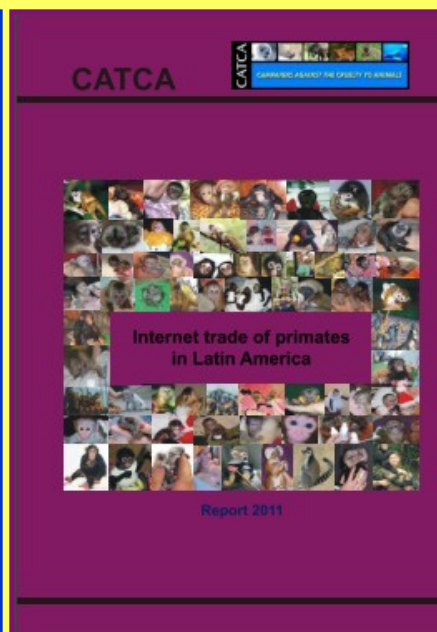
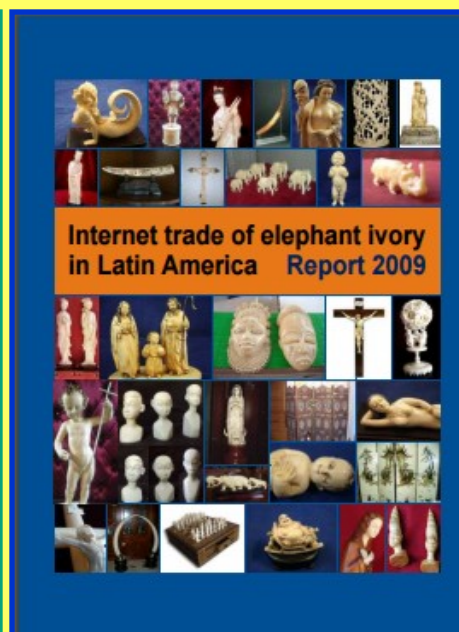
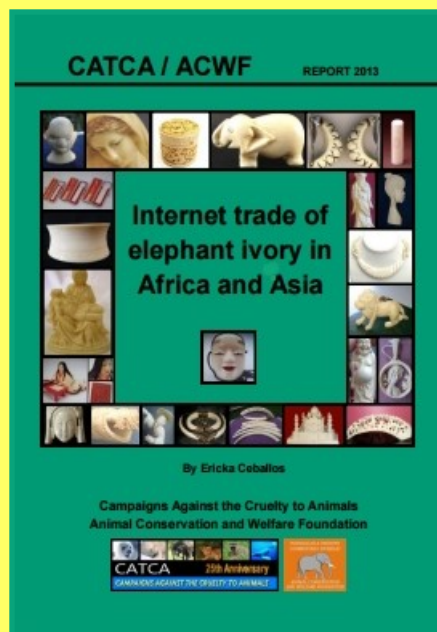
Ayúdanos a proteger a los elefantes y a otras especies de fauna silvestre del trafico ilegal!



For our other formal monitorings of the e-commerce, please check this link:

<http://www.catca-ews.org/wordpress/e-trade/>

Para leer nuestros otros previos monitoreos del e-comercio, favor de ir al enlace de aqui arriba





For any questions or more information about our formal monitorings of the e-commerce of ivory and CITES protected animal species, for training requests or to monitor the e-commerce of your website or country, please contact us at: catcaews@gmail.com

CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society (Canada) www.catcaews.org
Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation (Poland) www.ACWFeu.org