

4.5 tonnes of ivory seized in huge Interpol operation

December 22 2015



Three tonnes of illegal ivory were destroyed in a public ivory crush on February 6, 2014 at the Eiffel tower in Paris, part of international efforts to discourage the trade

A huge international police operation has seized 4.5 tonnes of elephant and rhino tusks, leading to 376 arrests, Interpol said Tuesday.

Operation Worthy II mobilised [police forces](#) in 11 countries from

January until October: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, the international police organisation said in a statement.

The operation saw 25 trafficking groups disbanded, while thousands of illegal wildlife products were seized including more than 2,000 pangolin scales and 173 live tortoises.

Several weapons were also confiscated during the operation, which led police to Thailand and Singapore, where several tonnes of ivory were discovered.

Tusks are prized for decoration as talismans and for use in [traditional medicine](#) across parts of Asia, with China a major market for such products.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: 4.5 tonnes of ivory seized in huge Interpol operation (2015, December 22) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-12-tonnes-ivory-seized-huge-interpol.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.