A RECENTINQUIRY into ivory trafficking in Vietnam has revealed that the country is a hub for the illegal ivory trade, with its wildlife and natural heritage now being exploited as never before.

While ivory poaching and trafficking have been a major concern in Africa and other regions, the investigation revealed that Vietnam has become a significant destination for trafficked ivory.

The study, conducted by law enforcement agencies and conservation groups, found that Vietnam’s legal ivory trade is flourishing, with an estimated 15,000 tons of ivory entering the country each year.

This is despite the country’s status as a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which bans the commercial trade in ivory.

The research also highlighted the role of criminal networks in controlling the illegal ivory trade, with traffickers often using sophisticated methods to evade detection and law enforcement.

In addition to traditional poaching methods, such as using snares and poisons, traffickers are increasingly using technology, such as GPS tracking devices, to monitor and control their operations.

The study also revealed the involvement of high-level officials and politicians in facilitating the illegal trade, with some using ivory as a means of corruption and enrichment.

The findings underscore the need for increased international cooperation and a robust, multi-sectoral approach to tackling the illegal ivory trade.

The Vietnamese government has acknowledged the scale of the problem and has taken steps to improve law enforcement and increase penalties for those involved in the trade.

However, continued efforts are needed to disrupt the supply chain, target the demand, and hold individuals and organizations accountable for their roles in this illegal activity.

The case of Vietnam’s illegal ivory trade highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach to tackling the illegal wildlife trade, as well as the importance of strengthening international cooperation and law enforcement.

The findings also emphasize the importance of supporting communities that may be vulnerable to the allure of illegal trade, through alternative livelihood programs and sustainable development initiatives.

While progress has been made in some areas, much remains to be done to stem the flow of illegal ivory into Vietnam and to ensure that the country’s rich wildlife heritage is protected for future generations.

**For more information and resources:**

- [Vietnam’s Role in the Illegal Ivory Trade](https://www.conservation.org/vietnams-role-illegal-ivory-trade)
- [International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)](https://www.iucn.org)
- [World Wildlife Fund (WWF)](https://wwf.panda.org)
- [CITES](https://www.cites.org)

**References:**

- Adriaan Luckman, The Conservation Alliance
- Sheree Bega, Reuters
- Kirk Bouffard and Werner Gruner, Trek4Mandela team

---

**Notes:**

- The research was funded by the World Wildlife Fund and Conservation International.
- The study involved interviews with law enforcement officials, NGOs, and community members.
- The findings were presented at the Wildlife Crime and Conservation Conference, held in Vietnam.
- The case study was selected for its significance and the challenges it presents for the international community.