

INDONESIA: HORNBILL TRAFFICKING HOTSPOT



CENTER for
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

ROYAL FOUNDATION
**united
for
wildlife**



In Indonesia [recent research](#) utilizing seizure data and online hornbill ads revealed widespread illegal exploitation of all thirteen native Indonesian hornbill species and endemic species from the Philippines and Africa. *Note, while the dataset revealed key insights, the level of actual illegal trade is likely far higher due to biased and incomplete data.* Across Asia, illegal hunting and commercial trade have intensified pressures on hornbill populations, fueled by both domestic and international market demands. As a result, serious population declines and localized extinctions of hornbills occurs. The prevalence of live chicks in trade suggests the pet market is an important component of the illegal trade.

Almost all of Indonesia's thirteen hornbill species are at risk of extinction based on IUCN Red List assessments.

 **Legislation:** all hornbill species native to Indonesia are protected under the Republic of Indonesia's Act No. 5 of 1990 on the Conservation of Living Resources and their Ecosystems, and Government Regulation No. 7 of 1999 regarding the Preservation of Flora and Fauna. **Commercial exploitation of protected species, encompassing activities such as capturing, hunting, injuring, killing, possessing, transporting, or trading individuals, whether alive or dead are prohibited.** Most convicted traffickers received between 5 months and 1 year in prison.

Key facts:

- Illegal exploitation of all 13 native Indonesian hornbill species + endemics from the Philippines and Africa
- Targeted poaching for the pet market
- Seizures typically mixed including insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals.
- Online sales common, especially for live birds: dominated by Facebook
 - High-risk search terms: "jual beli burung", "burung langka", "burung eksotik", "hewan langka", "burung paruh bengkok", and "burung kicau", "rangkong," "rangkok," "enggang," "kangkareng," "julang emas," "julmas," and "hornbill" plus location information
 - Online trade hotspots: East Java or Jakarta

High risk species

- Most frequently seized: Wreathed hornbill, Knobbed hornbill, Rhinoceros hornbill, Helmeted hornbill
- Highest volume seized: Helmeted hornbill, Wreathed hornbill, Knobbed hornbills

This United for Wildlife Alert has been excerpted from: [The Illegal Exploitation of Hornbills in Indonesia with International Trafficking Links to Africa and Asia with permission from the Center for Biological Diversity](#)

Citation: Gomez, L.; Leupen, B.T.C.; Rachmayuningtyas, B.; Sari, D.R.; Shepherd, C.R. The Illegal Exploitation of Hornbills in Indonesia with International Trafficking Links to Africa and Asia. *Wild* 2026, 3, 19. <https://doi.org/10.3390/wild3020019>

Image of wild hornbills, right: Chris Shepherd



DISCLAIMER: This summary is provided for information purposes only. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, the information contained in this document has NOT been assessed for reliability or accuracy and has been compiled 'as is' for the purpose of aggregating and presenting coherently all available information on a specific topic. No warranty therefore is made on the accuracy or reliability of this information, and all comments and analysis are clearly marked as such. Any and all institutional or individual decisions and the consequences of those decisions made based on or informed by this information are the sole responsibility of the persons and organizations making such decisions.

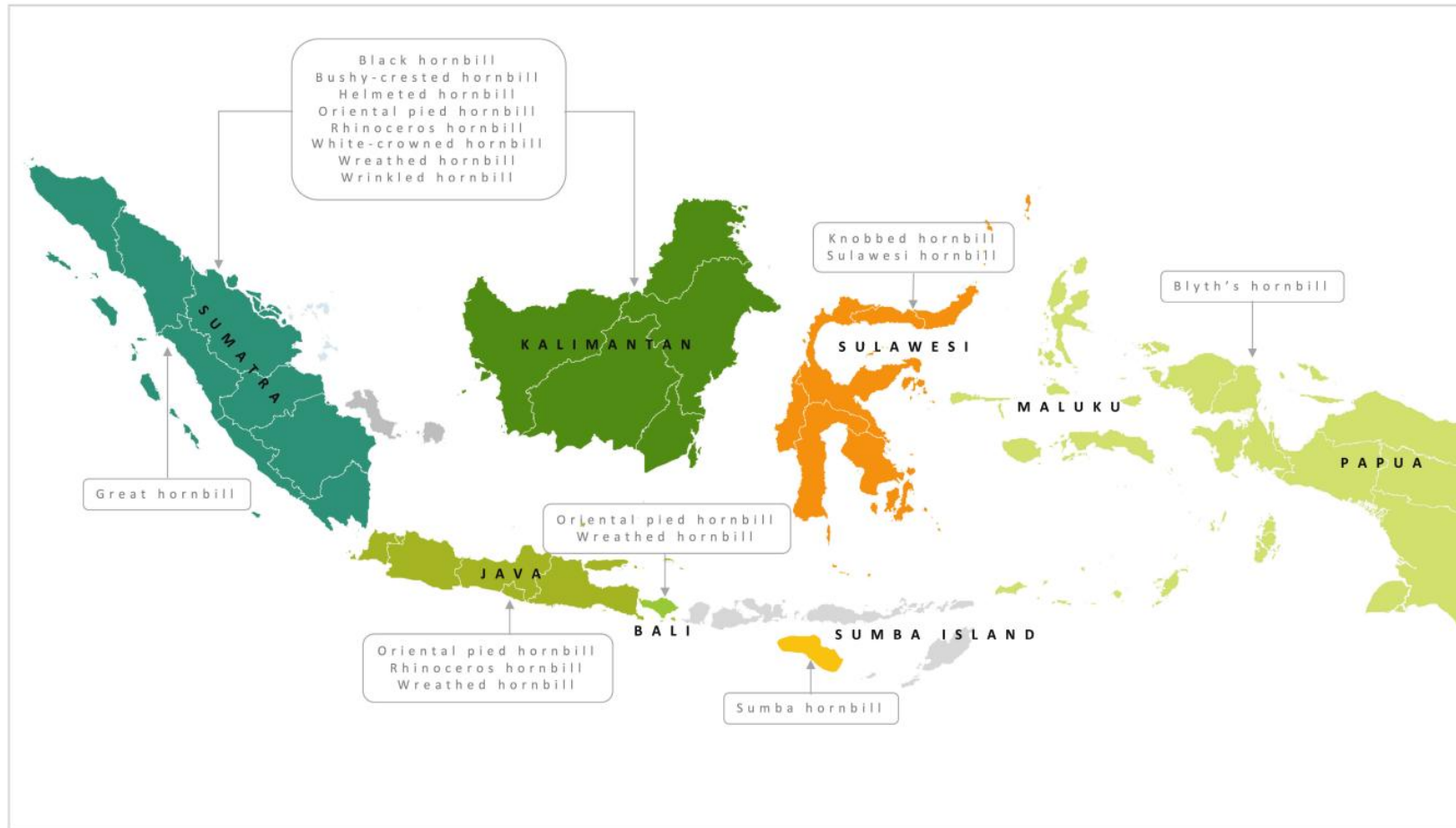
HORNBILL DIVERSITY



CENTER for
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

ROYAL FOUNDATION
**united
for
wildlife**



13 Species: Indonesia boasts the highest hornbill diversity in the world

Including:

- *Black hornbill* (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)
- *Bushy-crested hornbill* (*Anorrhinus galeritus*)
- *Great hornbill* (*Buceros bicornis*)
- *Helmeted hornbill* (*Rhinoplax vigil*) : Critically Endangered
- *Oriental pied hornbill* (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)
- *Rhinoceros hornbill* (*Buceros rhinoceros*)
- *White-crowned hornbill* (*Berenicornis comatus*)
- *Wreathed hornbill* (*Rhyticeros undulatus*)
- *Wrinkled hornbill* (*Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus*)

3 Endemics:

- *Sulawesi hornbill* (*Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus*) and subspecies: *R. e. exarhatus*, *R. e. sanfordi*
- *Knobbed hornbill* (*Rhyticeros cassidix*)
- *Sumba hornbill* (*Rhyticeros everetti*)

DISCLAIMER: This summary is provided for information purposes only. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, the information contained in this document has NOT been assessed for reliability or accuracy and has been compiled 'as is' for the purpose of aggregating and presenting coherently all available information on a specific topic. No warranty therefore is made on the accuracy or reliability of this information, and all comments and analysis are clearly marked as such. Any and all institutional or individual decisions and the consequences of those decisions made based on or informed by this information are the sole responsibility of the persons and organizations making such decisions.

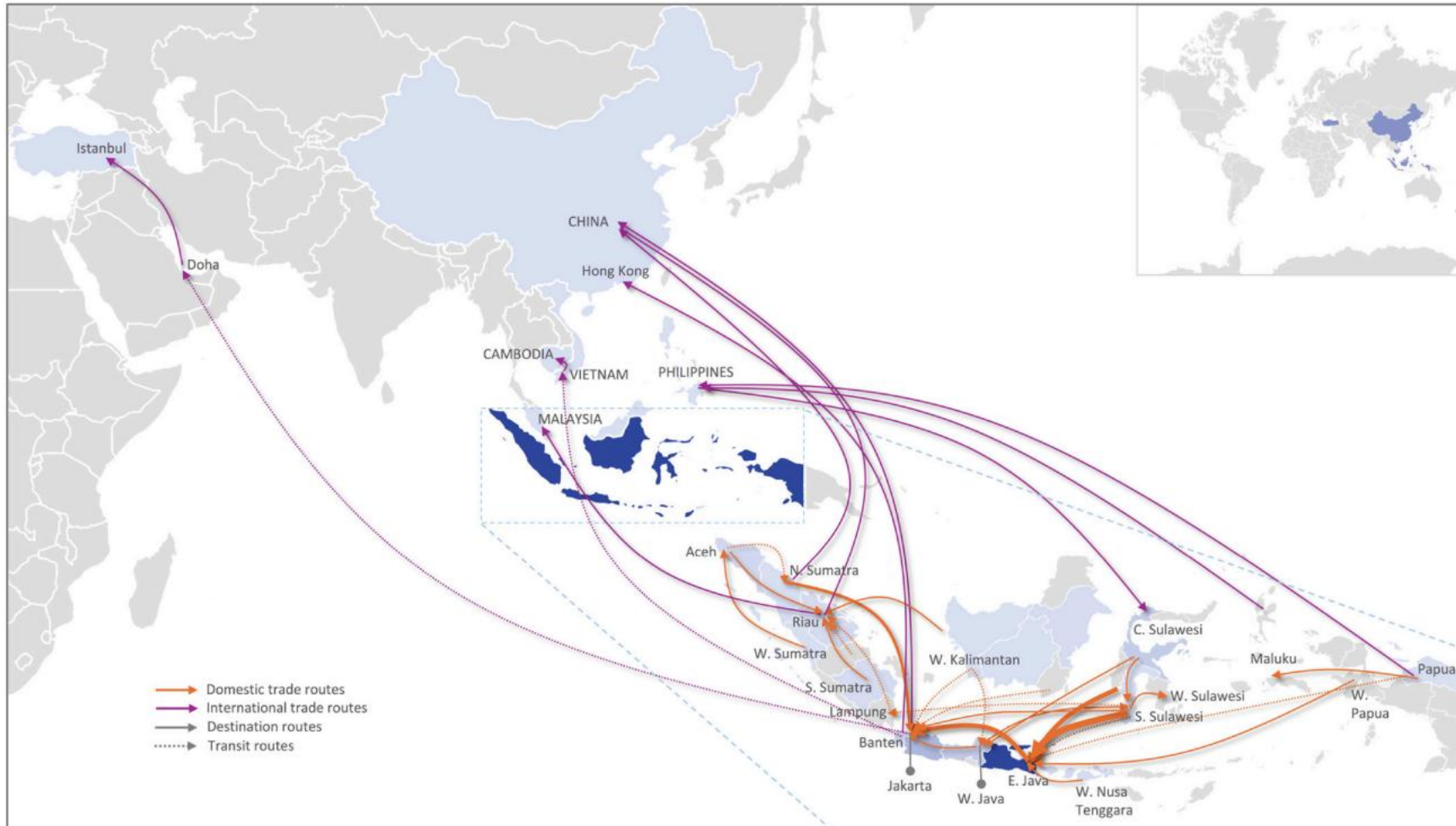
HIGH RISK JURISDICTIONS



CENTER for
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

ROYAL FOUNDATION
**united
for
wildlife**



High risk jurisdictions

- Demand: East Java and Jakarta, especially in East Java for species smuggled from Sulawesi and Papua, and Jakarta for species from Sumatra and East Java.
- Seizure hotspots: East Java, West Java, Aceh and Banten
- Source: Aceh: Rusip Village, Pakpak Barat Forest and Nagan Raya Forest
- Airport: Soekarno-Hatta International Airport
 - Riau: key transit point for international trafficking routes
- Hotspot for beaks: Riau
- International trade involves at least: China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Cambodia, Turkey, and Malaysia

DISCLAIMER: This summary is provided for information purposes only. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, the information contained in this document has NOT been assessed for reliability or accuracy and has been compiled 'as is' for the purpose of aggregating and presenting coherently all available information on a specific topic. No warranty therefore is made on the accuracy or reliability of this information, and all comments and analysis are clearly marked as such. Any and all institutional or individual decisions and the consequences of those decisions made based on or informed by this information are the sole responsibility of the persons and organizations making such decisions.