

But It Isn't Just Snow Leopards That Are Under Siege . . .

Southeast Asia – one of the world's major wildlife-exporting regions – is a hotbed of illegal trade that endangers hundreds of species.

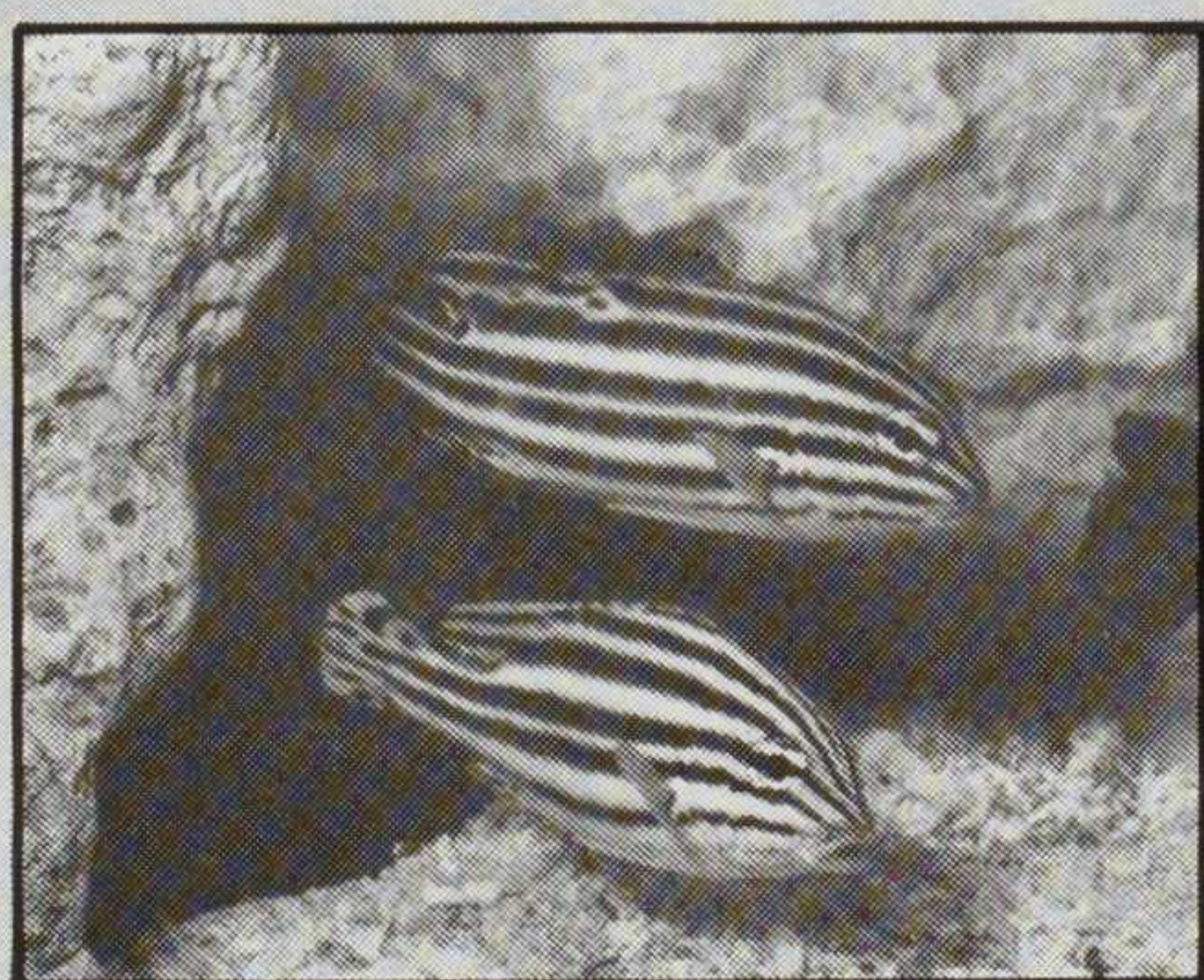
- Rare birds, worth several hundred dollars apiece to bird fanciers, are crammed into tiny crates and smuggled out – often with half or more of them dead on arrival from stress or disease.
- The endangered Asian saltwater crocodile is hunted down for its high quality hide for belts and shoes, and rare sea turtles are taken by the thousands for jewelry and gourmet foods.
- Exotic fish are stunned with poisonous cyanide for easy capture. Often these toxic chemicals kill the fish weeks after capture and do irreparable damage to the surrounding aquatic life and coral reefs.



Steve Hillebrand/USFWS



Phil Hall



N. Myers/WWF

Equally appalling, animals that are protected in their own countries and banned from export are commonly killed, smuggled out and laundered through several Southeast Asian countries that keep the black market thriving. Rhino horns from Africa, tiger skins from Sumatra, caiman skins from South America . . . the list goes on and on.

So great are the profits in this grisly, billion-dollar-a-year business that poachers and dealers think nothing of hunting entire species to extinction. That is why we must act now to stop them!

HELP STOP THE DEADLY WILDLIFE TRADE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

TRAFFIC – the international wildlife trade monitoring arm of WWF – has offices in eleven countries around the world. Right now, our closest office to the massive, illegal-trade centers in Southeast Asia is TRAFFIC-Japan in Tokyo – and that's not close enough.

It is imperative that we open a new regional office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It will provide a critical link in our worldwide network to save wildlife and enable us to:

- Intensify efforts to police unlawful exports and investigate "laundered" shipments.
- Train local customs officials to identify illegal shipments of wildlife.
- Identify endangered wildlife populations threatened by trade and work with government agencies to protect them.

This is the site for our TRAFFIC - Southeast Asia office!



Your support will help WWF-TRAFFIC block "the route to extinction" for the snow leopard and hundreds of other animals. Please send your contribution today to:



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