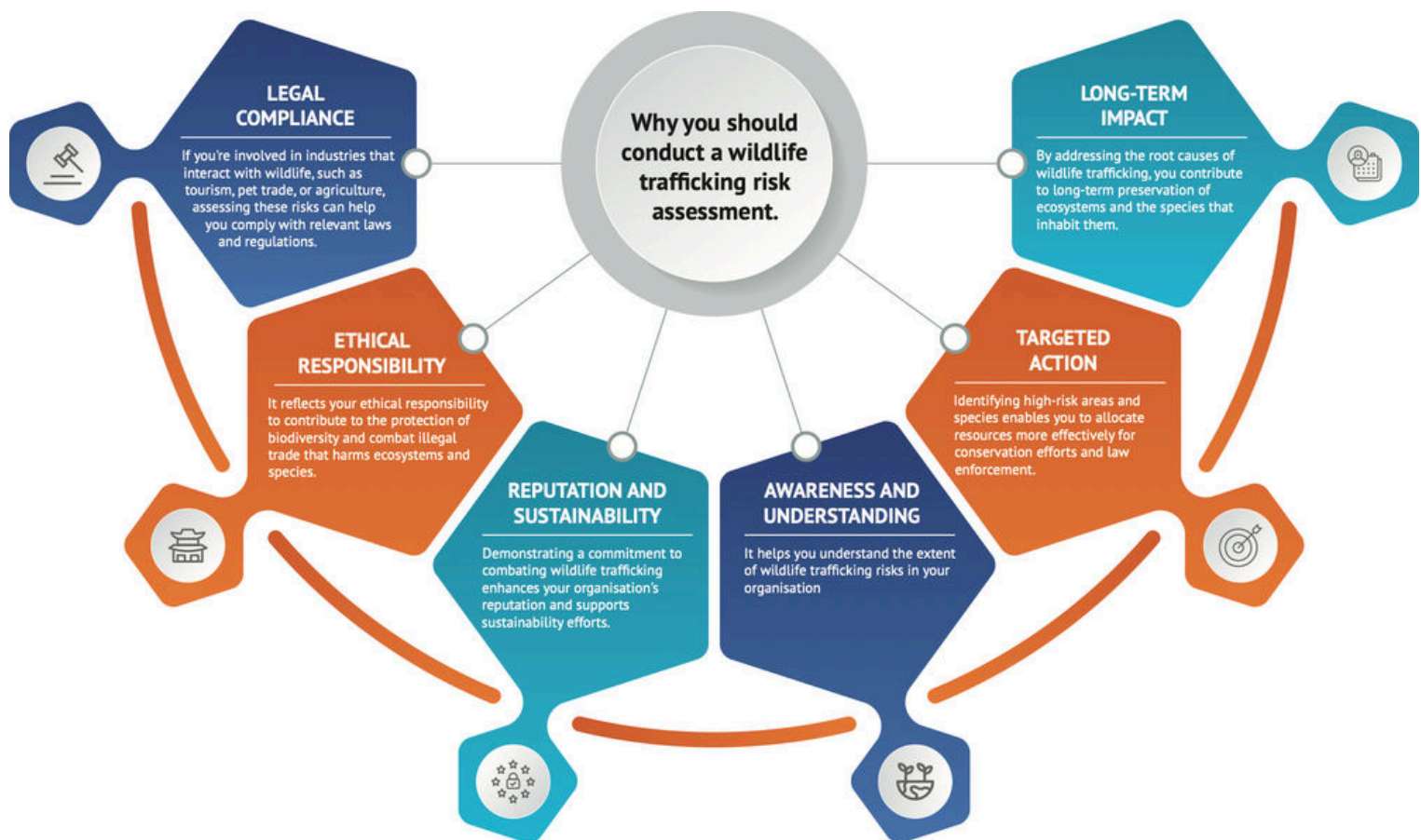ARCTIC
INTELLIGENCE

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WHAT ARE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING?

Wildlife trafficking refers to the illegal trade of animals and their derivatives, often involving endangered or protected species. This trade can include live animals, as well as parts of animals like ivory, skins, and bones. It's a significant global issue that threatens biodiversity, disrupts ecosystems, and can contribute to the spread of diseases. Many countries have laws and international agreements in place to combat wildlife trafficking and protect vulnerable species.

Why you should conduct a wildlife trafficking risk assessment.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

If you're involved in industries that interact with wildlife, such as tourism, pet trade, or agriculture, assessing these risks can help you comply with relevant laws and regulations.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

It reflects your ethical responsibility to contribute to the protection of biodiversity and combat illegal trade that harms ecosystems and species.

REPUTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Demonstrating a commitment to combating wildlife trafficking enhances your organisation's reputation and supports sustainability efforts.

AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

It helps you understand the extent of wildlife trafficking risks in your organisation

LONG-TERM IMPACT

By addressing the root causes of wildlife trafficking, you contribute to long-term preservation of ecosystems and the species that inhabit them.

TARGETED ACTION

Identifying high-risk areas and species enables you to allocate resources more effectively for conservation efforts and law enforcement.

Several industries are at risk of inintentionally contributing to wildlife trafficking

Medicinal and Traditional Practices
Industries that use wildlife products for traditional medicine, such as the use of animal parts in traditional Chinese medicine, can drive demand for endangered species.

Exotic Pet Trade
The demand for exotic pets can lead to the illegal capture and trade of rare and endangered species.

Fashion and Luxury Goods
Industries that use animal skins, fur, and other parts in fashion and luxury products can contribute to the demand for trafficked wildlife.

Tourism
The tourism industry, particularly ecotourism, can inadvertently create demand for wildlife souvenirs, leading to illegal trade.

Bushmeat Trade
The consumption of wild animals as food, known as the bushmeat trade, can drive overhunting and contribute to trafficking.

Art and Collectibles
Artefacts made from wildlife parts, such as ivory carvings, can encourage the poaching of animals.

Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Research
Industries that use wildlife products in pharmaceuticals or for research purposes can inadvertently contribute to trafficking.

Aquarium Trade
The trade of rare and exotic marine species for the aquarium trade can lead to overharvesting and illegal trade.

Logging and Habitat Destruction
Industries involved in logging and habitat destruction can indirectly facilitate trafficking by encroaching on wildlife habitats and making it easier for traffickers to access and capture animals.

Agriculture and Land Development
Land development and agricultural expansion can lead to habitat loss and increased human-wildlife conflict, potentially driving illegal trade.

CONDUCTING A WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING RISK ASSESSMENT IN

10 STEPS

STEP 01
Define Scope and Goals: Determine the scope of your assessment, such as the geographical area, species, and specific objectives you want to achieve.

STEP 06
Rank Risk Levels: Assign risk levels to different species and areas based on a combination of vulnerability and threats. This helps prioritise conservation efforts.

STEP 02
Gather Data: Collect data on wildlife populations, historical trafficking trends, law enforcement efforts, market demand, and relevant socio-economic factors

STEP 07
Develop Mitigation Strategies: Create targeted strategies to address the identified risks. This may involve strengthening law enforcement, enhancing habitat protection, reducing market demand, and raising public awareness.

STEP 03
Identify High-Risk Areas and Species: Analyse the collected data to identify regions and species most vulnerable to trafficking. Consider factors like species rarity, market demand, and law enforcement capacity.

STEP 08
Implement and Monitor: Put the strategies into action and continuously monitor their effectiveness. Adapt your approach as needed based on new information and changing circumstances.

STEP 04
Assess Vulnerability: Evaluate the vulnerability of high-risk species and areas based on factors like population size, reproductive rate, habitat stability, and accessibility to traffickers.

STEP 09
Collaboration: Engage with government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and other stakeholders to maximise the impact of your efforts.

STEP 05
Evaluate Threats: Identify and assess the different threats contributing to wildlife trafficking, including market demand, corruption, enforcement gaps, and habitat degradation.

STEP 10
Communication: Regularly communicate the results of your assessment, progress on mitigation strategies, and success stories to raise awareness and inspire collective action.

About Arctic Intelligence

Arctic Intelligence (www.arctic-intelligence.com) is a multi-award winning, RegTech firm that specialises in audit, risk and compliance software related to financial crime compliance and risk management. Arctic Intelligence has helped hundreds of large and small clients across over 20 industry sectors and 20 countries and has also developed strong industry partnerships around the world.

Arctic has developed two leading cloud-based software solutions that leverage technology to re-engineer the way in which major financial institutions and other regulated businesses manage their enterprise-wide financial crime and non-financial crime risks.

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