The planet is currently experiencing alarming levels of species loss caused in large part by intensified poaching and wildlife trafficking driven by expanding demand, for medicines, for food, and for trophies. Affecting many more species than just the iconic elephants, rhinos, and tigers, the rate of extinction is now as much as 1000 times the historical average and the worst since the dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago. In addition to causing irretrievable biodiversity loss, wildlife trafficking also poses serious threats to public health, potentially triggering a global pandemic.

The Extinction Market explores the causes, means, and consequences of poaching and wildlife trafficking, with a view to finding ways of suppressing them. Vanda Felbab-Brown travelled to the markets of Latin America, South and South East Asia, and eastern and southern Africa, to evaluate the effectiveness of various tools, including bans on legal trade, law enforcement, and interdiction; allowing legal supply from hunting or farming; alternative livelihoods; anti-money-laundering efforts; and demand reduction strategies.

This is an urgent book offering meaningful solutions to one of the world's most pressing crises.

VANDA FELBAB-BROWN is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. She is an expert on nontraditional security threats, including insurgency, urban violence, and illicit economies. She is the author of Aspiration and Ambivalence: Strategies and Realities of Counterinsurgency and State-building in Afghanistan and Shooting Up: Counterinsurgency and the War on Drugs.

Praise for The Extinction Market
“A very unique and valuable contribution to the understanding of wildlife crime. The author's extensive research in the drug trade enables her to identify the similarities between wildlife and narcotics trafficking as a foundation for developing solutions. She then analyses the efficacy of various enforcement strategies commonly employed in drug control to combat wildlife crimes, and their impact on local communities.”
— Greg Warchol, Professor at Northern Michigan University, Department of Criminal Justice

“Vanda Felbab-Brown's eloquent book maps out the scale of today's global illicit wildlife trade and how to combat it. This book offers solutions and learning; it is an important addition to current international policy and academic debate on how to stop the 'extinction market.'”
— Dr Alex Vines OBE, Director of Area Studies and International Law, Chatham House and Senior Lecturer, Coventry University

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