

SEJ Awards for Reporting on the Environment 2013 Photo Award



Some of the last big tuskers gather in Tsavo, Kenya. Massive elephant poaching in recent years has seen most of the mature bull elephant population of African countries decimated for their ivory. A single large tusk sold on the local black market can bring \$6,000, enough to support an unskilled Kenyan worker for ten years.



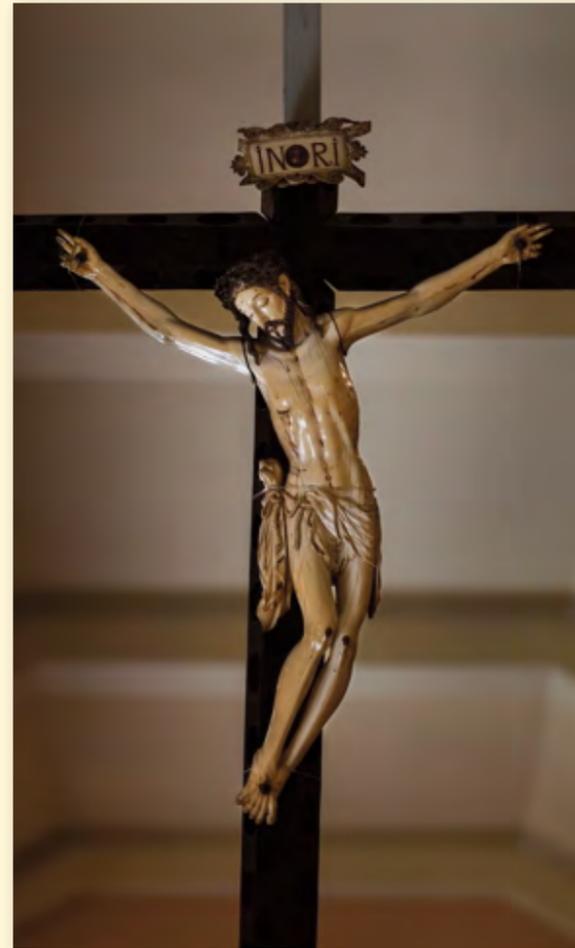
Brent Striton
for five photos published in National Geographic
"Ivory Worship"



To keep the ivory from the black market, a plainclothes ranger hacks the tusks off a bull elephant killed illegally in Kenya's Amboseli National Park. In the first half of this year six park rangers died protecting Kenya's elephants; meanwhile, rangers killed 23 poachers.



A worker in China's largest ivory-carving factory finishes a piece symbolizing prosperity. China legally bought 73 tons of ivory from Africa in 2008; since then, poaching and smuggling have both soared.



The largest ivory crucifix in the Philippines hangs in a museum in Manila. The body of Christ, 30 inches long, is carved from a single tusk. The piece dates to the early 1600s, when Spanish galleons began bringing Asian ivory craftsmanship to Spain and the New World.



The home of a Filipino collector is lavish with ivory religious icons. "I don't see the elephant," says another Filipino collector. "I see the Lord." There is a collective of wealthy collectors in the Philippines who both search out and commission new work, thus sustaining a trade which allows for the continuing and growing market for new ivory.