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Read Me

All electronic documentation is stored in four sub-folders. “Original Data” contains all the data in its initial form before being collated into my final dataset or changed in any way. The sub-folder “Metadata” has the codebook for the CITES data and copies of the three Trade and Investment Framework Agreements used in my thesis. “Command Files” contains all of the do-files used to create my final datasets and analyze them, as discussed below. Any dataset generated by these do-files is saved in the “Analysis Data” folder.

In order to construct the final datasets, run the do-files listed in the “Command Files” folder in this order: processing1.do, processing2.do, processing3.do, synth1.do, synth2.do, synth3.do, appending.do, appending2.do, appending3.do, shiftingmarkets.do, stockpiling.do, extension.do, figures.do.

When running each of these do-files, Stata’s working directory should be set to the “Command Files” folder.

The “processingX.do” files, for which X is a number from one to three, create CITESX.dta, customsX.dta, exportsX.dta, importsX.dta, liborX.dta, MIKEX.dta, and fulldataX.dta. Each numbered version contains a different way of measuring the *Ivory Seizures* variable. Version One has the number of ivory pieces, Version Two has the number of seizure incidents, and Version Three has whether or not a seizure occurred in a year.

The “synthX” files create the datasets containing the synthetic controls for each variable—indexp.dta, indgdp.dta, indill.dta, indimp.dta—and the dataset with these variables merged for each country, indsynth.dta. These are the files for Indonesia, and there are analogous files for the countries Kenya (keY.dta), Lao People’s Democratic Republic (laoY.dta), Mozambique (mozY.dta), Thailand (thY.dta), Tanzania (tzY.dta), and Uganda (ugY.dta). The suffixes (Y) include “exp” (exports as a percentage of the country’s GDP), gdp (GDP per capita), “ill” (elephants illegally killed), “imp” (seizures of imported ivory at the U.S. border), and “synth” (all previously stated variables merged). Moreover, there are three versions of each of these files corresponding to the three processing files.

Note: The add-on Stata package "synth" must be installed before the "synthX" files are executed. To install the "synth" package, use the command:

```
ssc install synth, replace all
```

Next, the “appendingX.do” files create three versions of “allsynthX.dta”, containing the synthetic variables for all countries, several intermediate files (liborsynthX.dta, importsynthX.dta, customsynthX.dta, alldataX.dta), and finaldataX.dta, which is the full dataset. The “finaldataX.dta” files are used in the main regressions and robustness checks.

The do-files shiftingmarkets.do creates an intermediate dataset called stock.dta and a dataset called shiftingmarkets.dta, which is used in the shifting markets analysis. Stockpiling.do creates stockpiling.dta, which is used in the stockpiling analysis. Extension.do ultimately creates “finaldataext.dta” by generating several intermediate datasets: alldataext.dta, allsynthext.dta, customsynthext.dta, exportext.dta, fulldataext.dta, importsynthext.dta, “indexpext”(and all variations as described for the synthetic control creation above), and MIKEext.dta.

The final do-files, figures.do, generates all the tables and figures used in my thesis.

Because I have used relative directories, opening each command file should enable all pathways to function correctly, as long as Stata’s working directory is set to the “Command Files” folder.

Minor edits were made to this read-me file and the accompanying replication documentation by Richard Ball on July 3, 2019.