

## **Germany's development cooperation to support efforts to combat poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in Africa and Asia**

### **1) Background:**

In recent years, poaching in Africa is subject to an increasing professionalisation with heavily armed poachers acting across borders. Alone in 2012, about 600 rhinos and more than 10,000 elephants were poached, particularly fueled by the increasing demand for ivory and rhino horn in Asia. The trade in such products is now largely controlled by international and organised crime. This threatens the conservation of these critically endangered species and also increasingly the livelihoods and security of the affected population and regions. Therefore, African countries are increasingly seeking political support and technical and financial assistance in the fight against poachers and illegal trade. Additionally, they also intensify the collaboration with countries in Asia in which ivory and rhino horn is consumed. The causes of poaching in Africa and the related illegal international trade in ivory and rhino horn – and the solutions to combat them – are complex and require cross-border, cross-regional and cross-sectoral approaches.

### **2) Measures of German development cooperation against poaching:**

The conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is a priority goal of Germany's development cooperation. Since 2013, the German Government is providing 500 Mio. EUR annually to support partner countries in reaching the biodiversity goals defined under global agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In this context, poaching has become a problem of growing concern in a number of partner countries where Germany has been working for many years in protected area management. Therefore, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) strategically integrates anti-poaching-measures into bilateral cooperation and is seeking to reduce the demand in consumer countries. BMZ currently supports a wide range of activities and concrete measures, which are implemented through its technical cooperation (Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ) and financial cooperation (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau KfW) as well as through the support of internationally active non-governmental organisations:

#### **Management and governance of protected areas**

Germany supports partner countries in the establishment and the improvement of management and governance of protected areas. In Africa alone current financial cooperation projects amount to a total of 131.2 Mio. EUR. This is complemented through a large number of technical cooperation projects which aim at strengthening capacity development. Concrete anti-poaching measures include for instance capacity building of rangers at Wildlife Colleges and the promotion of decentralised training approaches within the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

#### **Increasing benefits from conservation for the local population**

In order to improve livelihoods of the local population, BMZ is supporting projects to increase the benefits from conservation efforts for local communities in and around protected areas such as the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) conservation complex, the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park in Southern Africa, the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania, or in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Another example is the conservation of the Serengeti ecosystem. This recent project approach aims at strengthening sustainable ecosystem management and developing mechanisms to enable communities adjacent to the park borders to share the benefits of this important World Heritage area.

#### Transboundary protected areas in Central and southern Africa

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, six national parks will be supported with German funding in the near future to protect endangered species such as gorillas, okapis and forest elephants and to support local people to develop alternative sources of income in order to prevent poaching. In addition, a transboundary protected area is being supported between the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, enabling rangers to operate across borders in this region to coordinate and enhance surveillance and law enforcement efforts.

#### Cross-border conservation in southern Africa

BMZ is supporting the African initiative to create one of the world's largest protected area complexes under the name of KAZA (Kavango-Zambezi Conservation Area). The aim is to combine 36 reserves and national parks in Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia into a single protected area complex covering 430,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Its objectives include creating the conditions needed for large mammals such as elephants to be able to migrate and generating income for local communities through conservation and sustainable tourism. Anti-poaching measures, such as the training of rangers and improving local livelihoods, are playing a significant role to ensure the effectiveness of the protected areas.

#### Financial support for non-governmental organisations and awareness raising

BMZ supports and closely cooperates with non-governmental organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network TRAFFIC. Examples of cooperation include capacity development within the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), anti-poaching measures in Central Africa or training of the anti-poaching national coordination unit in Cameroon. In addition, BMZ is working with the Frankfurt Zoological Society (ZGF), which is e.g. supporting the improvement of transboundary cooperation in the Greater Limpopo Conservation Area as well as the monitoring of wildlife and poaching and the implementation of a current elephant census in the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania.

#### Improving aerial surveillance of protected areas in Tanzania

BMZ and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (ZGF) are supporting Tanzanian partners in enhancing the monitoring of the country's vast natural landscapes and wildlife. BMZ has provided funding for an aerial surveillance plane which will improve the patrolling of protected areas and facilitate the implementation of wildlife counts, such as the current elephant census in the Selous region. Such surveys are crucial to focus and improve conservation efforts on the ground.

An increasing role is also playing the need to address the increasing demand in consumer countries. BMZ supports efforts of WWF to reduce demand for ivory and rhino-horn in Asia through the promotion of cooperation between Africa and countries in Asia, such as China and Viet Nam. Such initiatives are being complemented by awareness raising through campaigns about the current crisis and the threat it presents to biodiversity and sustainable development. The reduction in demand and the cooperation with NGOs are also important objectives of a BMZ inter-sectoral technical cooperation project to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade along the entire illegal trade chain.

### **Inter-sectoral project along the illegal trade chain (2013 – 2015)**

#### Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia

In order to address the growing challenges at different levels, BMZ has commissioned a technical cooperation project in 2013 to support international efforts and partner countries along the entire illegal trade chain. The project is financed through a special BMZ mechanism for cross-cutting political cooperation and is designed to combine the capacities and expertise of different German Federal Ministries (such as Environment, Foreign Affairs, Finance and the Interior) in collaboration with committed stakeholders from politics, civil society and the private sector.

The objective is to improve the general conditions for combating poaching and the illicit trade in ivory and rhino-horn. It focuses on four work areas along the illegal trade chain: 1) supporting the introduction of technical and organisational innovations in countries of origin in Africa, such as better monitoring and surveillance technologies, 2) capacity building through cross-sectoral cooperation between police, customs and the judiciary, 3) piloting approaches to reduce demand in consumer countries, primarily in Asia, through publicity campaigns, and 4) coordinating cooperation between Africa and Asia and political lobbying within the scope of the United Nations and other relevant international institutions. The project also acts as a platform to share information and draws on contributions from other bilateral and regional development cooperation projects during implementation. The new project is building on existing initiatives and processes, and tries to leverage and upscale good practices and innovative approaches which have proven to be successful in reducing poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife products.