

# Combating Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade (Ivory, Rhino Horn) in Africa and Asia

## Project within the fund for cross-cutting political cooperation (Polifund)

### Context

In recent years, big game poaching in sub-Saharan Africa has been subject to a growing professionalisation, largely controlled by armed groups that are increasingly organised in international networks due to the large profit margins. In 2014, more than 1,200 rhinos were poached in South Africa alone, and over 20,000 elephants Africa-wide. An elephant census in the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), revealed that the protected area has lost 67 per cent of its elephants over the last few years. The demand for ivory and rhino horn is driven by the economic growth particularly in Asian countries like China, Vietnam and Thailand. Although rampant poaching has been a problem before, the current situation has reached a new dimension with transnational and –regional implications for the conservation of these endangered species and for the economic basis and security of the affected countries. High profit margins and weak governance provide a breeding ground for corruption along the entire illegal trade chain. Poaching also affects protected areas which have been supported by German development cooperation for many years.

Project name	Combating Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade (Ivory and Rhino Horn) in Africa and Asia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
Project region	Global focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia
Duration	08/2013 – 12/2016
Financial volume	6.2 mio. EUR (3.7 mio. EUR from BMZ and 2.5 mio. EUR from BMUB)

### Our approach

The causes of poaching in Africa and the related illegal international trade in ivory and rhino horn are complex and combating them requires cross-border, cross-regional and cross-sectoral approaches. BMZ, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), therefore commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through a dedicated fund for cross-cutting political cooperation (Polifund) in order to implement the project “Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Ivory and Rhino Horn) in Africa and Asia”. It aims at improving the conditions for combating poaching and the illicit trade in ivory and rhino horn on a cross-sectoral, cross-border and transcontinental level.

The project examines the issue of poaching along the entire illegal trade chain, from the countries of origin in Africa to the consumers (mainly in Asia). It pursues the objective of simultaneously influencing supply and demand while linking necessary short-term interventions with long-term development measures. Transformation processes will be triggered at key stages of the illegal trade chain. For this purpose, the project coordinates the expertise and capacities of governmental, non-governmental, and private actors, and promotes cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, particularly between African and Asian countries. Specific activities in partner countries are implemented in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations in the countries themselves and in close cooperation with bilateral projects and programmes of German development cooperation and with regional organisations.



*L. to r.: African Elephant, White Rhino*

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## Factors for Success

To reach this objective, specific measures are defined in four areas of work along the entire illegal wildlife trade chain:

- Supporting the introduction of technical and organisational innovations to combat poaching in the countries of origin.
- Capacity building to improve the efficiency of efforts against the illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn products through cross-sectoral cooperation between police, customs and the judiciary, e. g. analysis of trade routes, training of customs officials, rangers and development of anti-corruption measures.
- Identifying and implementing approaches to reduce demand among mainly Asian consumers, for example through target group specific campaigns.
- Coordinating and managing targeted cooperation between countries of origin in Africa and destination countries in Asia, as well as supporting political processes on the international level.

## Cooperation Partners

In the spirit of the overall concept of cross-cutting political cooperation, BMZ and BMUB are working closely with other German Federal Ministries such as the Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) and the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), pooling their particular expertise and resources for joint activities. A dedicated steering group serves to exchange information and coordinate measures on a regular basis. The participation of the ministries also opens up new avenues for efficient cooperation with international organisations and UN-conventions, such as the World Customs Organisation, Interpol, CITES or UNODC. Non-governmental organisations with international operations such as Frankfurt Zoological Society, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Global Nature Fund (GNF), which traditionally work in this context, play a central role in the implementation of activities on the ground.

## IZR budget title and Polifund

The BMZ budget title *International Cooperation with Regions for Sustainable Development (IZR title)* was created in autumn 2011. Projects within this budget title are subject to meeting certain criteria:

- Global challenges are tackled on a politically cross-cutting, cross-border and interregional level
- Various stakeholders from politics, civil society and the private sector are involved
- New forms of cooperation are supported between industrialised, emerging and developing countries
- Long-term cooperation and network-building are promoted
- The costs are shared with cooperation partners and involved stakeholders, additional funding and resources are to be mobilized

The fund for cross-cutting political cooperation, the so-called Polifund, forms part of the IZR budget title. The Polifund is designed to network the German Government's different approaches in various sectors more effectively in order to enhance the coherence of Germany's overall commitment. BMZ and BMUB have commissioned GIZ with its implementation.

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