

# Wildlife TRAPS

## Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting



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“Over the past few years wildlife trafficking has become more organized, more lucrative, more widespread, and more dangerous than ever before.... We are increasingly seeing wildlife trafficking has serious implications for the security and prosperity of people around the world... This is a global challenge that spans continents and crosses oceans, and we need to address it with partnerships that are as robust and far-reaching as the criminal networks we seek to dismantle.”

Former U.S. Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton

## What's the issue?

In the past decade a surge in demand for African natural resources has become apparent in Asia. Trade between China and countries such as Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon is now worth more than USD 160 billion p/a. The scale of investments being made in mining, manufacturing, forestry and fisheries is helping to invigorate fragile economies, develop infrastructure and provide vital opportunities for meaningful progress against MDG<sup>1</sup>s.

Major challenges have also emerged however; notably the **rapid escalation in poaching and trade of endangered species**. The illegal killing of terrestrial mega-fauna such as elephants and rhinos, and marine species such as sharks and abalone, is now causing a conservation crisis. The UN General Assembly has expressed concern that it is undermining state sovereignty and the rule of law; wildlife crime is also suspected of supplementing other types of trans-national organised crime<sup>2</sup> e.g. in drugs arms or people.

**Last year more than 25,000 elephants were killed across Africa and 668 rhinos were killed in South Africa alone - a 5,000% increase on 2007**

These alarming trends have been primarily attributed to increased affluence in East and Southeast Asia, where some consumers acquire illicit commodities as an investment strategy, or to overtly demonstrate wealth, for purported health purposes or to imbue or enhance social status. Interventions to tackle these drivers will not be effective without **urgent international action to stem burgeoning supply**.

## What is Wildlife TRAPS going to do about this issue?

**Wildlife TRAPS will:**  
“Protect global biodiversity from the threat of illegal wildlife trade through strengthening the knowledge base, resolve and cooperation of governments, inter-governmental organisations, the private sector and NGOs, in tackling wildlife trafficking between Africa and Asia”

With support from USAID, over the next three years TRAFFIC, in collaboration with IUCN, will devise, develop and deliver a suite of ground-breaking partnerships and pioneering approaches to tackle wildlife crime between Africa and Asia.

The Wildlife TRAPS initiative will aim to increase understanding around the true character and scale of the international response required to achieve this, as a critical first step to setting priorities, identifying intervention points, and testing non-traditional approaches.

<sup>1</sup> Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/11/14/fuller-symposium-focuses-on-wildlife-crime.html>

## Wildlife TRAPS



Chinese-language ivory awareness leaflet



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e-Commerce companies committing to protect endangered species



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Ivory seizure Malaysia, December 2012



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US Under Secretary of State Robert Hormats



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Awareness raising through subway advertising



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Vietnamese woman with a "fake" Asian rhino horn

A three Phase Approach will be adopted for the initiative. This will focus on:

1. **Phase I: Improving understanding** of the status of and trends in illegal wildlife trade, with a focus on trade routes for species trafficked between Africa and Asia
2. **Phase II: Increasing international collaborations** around actions to reduce and control illegal wildlife trade between Africa and Asia;
3. **Phase III: Identifying, informing and facilitating** the efforts of national government and inter-governmental, NGOs and private sector collaborators affected by illegal wildlife trafficking.

Some of the **principles** that will be employed in Wildlife TRAPS will include:

- **Focusing on trade between Africa and Asia**, ensuring Wildlife TRAPS integrates productively with the structures and relationships already tackling wildlife crime *within* Africa and Asia
- **Taking an insight led/evidence based approach**
- **Fostering trust and facilitating dialogue** between established conservation stakeholders as well as less-traditional actors

**Candidate interventions** that might be deployed through Wildlife TRAPS include:

- Identifying tools and providing training to support more effective use of **procedures and technologies** e.g., forensic and intelligence analysis of wildlife crime
- Supporting government approaches to undertake **smarter monitoring** to predict criminal activity and assess risk
- Showcasing of **good practice examples and success stories** where interventions have broken up criminal networks, reduced wildlife trafficking, the wider trade threats and related corruption, to facilitate replication of successful approaches
- Drawing attention to **underlying causes of regulatory failures**—such as drivers of illegal wildlife trade and corruption—and stimulating greater connectedness to wider efforts to ensure effective rule of law, including with regard to links between wildlife trafficking and trade in other commodities, e.g. timber and fisheries
- Promoting use of **new technologies for improving trade transparency** and new internet communications channels to influence target audiences
- Helping stakeholders to convene around more **intelligent and incisive action to motivate political and corporate will** to tackle illegal wildlife trade

## How can I get involved in the Wildlife TRAPS initiative?

Stakeholder engagement in the following Wildlife TRAPS activities will be especially welcome:

- Scoping out key issues through interviews to quality assure an insight led approach
- Producing Briefings and 'Options' papers to stimulate fresh ideas and innovative thinking
- Convening stakeholders/non-traditional actors in Collaborative Action Planning Workshops
- Crystallising linkages between wildlife crime and other types of trans-national crime
- Arranging trans-continental exchange visits and consensus building meetings
- Participating in initiatives to tackle illegal wildlife trade between Africa and Asia
- Visit [www.traffic.org/](http://www.traffic.org/)
- Visit [www.facebook.com/trafficnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/trafficnetwork) [https://twitter.com/TRAFFIC\\_WLTrade](https://twitter.com/TRAFFIC_WLTrade)



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**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

