Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa

Alain Bernard ONONINO
Head of Policy, Wildlife Crime Programme
WWF Cameroon

Washington DC 31 May 2016
May 2016 – The brigade Commander of Libongo (South East Cameroon) arrested with two ivory tusks in his car!!!

April 2016 – 04 ivory traffickers including 03 wildlife officers and one custom official arrested with 30 ivory tusks in Djoum (south Cameroon) heading to the capital city!!!
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
The crisis

• December 2015 - 02 court registrars sentenced to 03 years imprisonment each for misappropriation of seized ivory (02 tusks)

• May 2015 – 53 ivory tusks, one AK47 and more than 1000 ammunitions seized in Moloundou (South East Cameroon); only 04 tusks given back to the wildlife administration
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa

The crisis

• Congo Basin has the particularity of been a source and transit region
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
Our response

• Shifting the paradigm

In and around protected areas
Wildlife trafficking hotspots/routes
Exit/entry points of the source/transit country
Demand country
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
Our response

• Shifting the paradigm

HUNTERS

In and around protected areas

MIDDLEMEN

Wildlife trafficking hotspots/routes

KINGPINS

Exit/entry points of the source/transit country

Demand country

IMPACT
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
Our response

- WWF revised law enforcement support strategy

**Establishment of intelligence gathering systems**
- Setting up of field informants networks
- Organization of field investigative missions

**Support to anti-poaching field operations**
- Regular field patrols
- Targeted/special anti-poaching operations

**Support to judiciary follow up of wildlife cases**
- Recruitment of experienced lawyers
- Close judiciary follow up of court cases

**Communication**
- Media publication of results of LE Activities
- Public awareness raise on WC related issues
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
The response

• Capacity development of Law Enforcement officials
  ➢ Park rangers and other wildlife officials in charge of control trained on SMART, wildlife law and procedures (how to establish a complaint report, how to build a strong court case etc.)
  ➢ Magistrates trained on the specificities of handling wildlife matters
  ➢ LE officials at exit points (airports, seaports, other border points) trained control techniques of wildlife products with a focus on elephant tusks and pangolin scales
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
The Zero Poaching Framework

ASSESSMENT
Conduct regular effectiveness assessments

TECHNOLOGY
Use the best available tools & technologies

CAPACITY
Increase field staff’s ability to protect wildlife

COMMUNITY
Engage with local communities

PROSECUTION
Improve approaches for prosecution

COOPERATION
Share information regionally & nationally
Law Enforcement Support and Monitoring in Central Africa
The WCPF assessment

• Carried out 21 priority sites in Central Africa

• Identify major gaps and develop a workplan of priority actions for each country as well as at the regional level

SMART implementation in WWF Central Africa priority sites

- 28% no training
- 57% SMART training but no effective implementation
- 8% SMART training and effective implementation
- 7% n/a
- 7% n/a
Wildlife crime is not poaching. It is organized, lucrative international business.

There is a vital need for a collaborative response amongst the various stakeholders for improved effectiveness and more impact.

Monitoring LE efforts is crucial for appropriate adaptive management.
THANK YOU!

aononino@wwfcarpo.org