Wildlife Trafficking

Overview of the Problem and What Works Against It

Dr. Timothy Wittig
Wildlife Conservation Society
Presentation to the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
1 July 2016
Hunting wildlife in tropical forests has been occurring for a very long time...

at least 10,000 years in Latin America,
at least 40,000 years in Asia,
and at least 100,000 years in Africa.
...but now hunting wildlife has become industrialized, professionalized, global, and criminal.
POOR LOCAL POACHERS:
✧ Highest risk, highest cost, but virtually no profit

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORKS
✧ Professional and sophisticated
✧ Violent and predatory
✧ Innovative, adaptable and able to enter new markets quickly (including Latin America)

LINKS WITH OTHER THREATS
✧ Narco-trafficking
✧ Armed Conflict
✧ Coups d’Etat and Political Instability
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What are poachers exact motives?
Are they entrepreneurs? Are they blackmailed?
Something more than money?

How old are the people involved? Are they men or women (or children)?
Where exactly are they from? What language do they speak?
What is / was their occupation?
What political or diplomatic issues are relevant?
What economic trends impact trafficking?
What challenges and opportunities do they offer?

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What cultural beliefs/practices/traditions influence people’s involvement in trafficking or their perceptions of wildlife/wildlife traffickers?
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Where does the poaching take place?
How do the products move?
What obstacles must the traffickers and law enforcement deal with?

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Wildlife Trafficking occurs where wildlife, transport infrastructure, and weak enforcement converge.
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**Figure 2.8: Major Africa-Asia Shipping Lanes and Known Ivory Transshipment Hubs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seizures (2009-2014)*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong (PRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hai Phong (Vietnam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klang (Malaysia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>Jebel Ali (U.A.E)</td>
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<td>Colombo (Sri Lanka)</td>
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* C4ADS data; weights may vary from ETIS; Seizure data does not include proprietary law enforcement information.
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WHAT WORKS

SOME LESSONS LEARNED FROM COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA AND ASIA

Information, Patience, Action
• Information + Analysis + Targeted Action = Effective Outcomes
• No magic bullets, but systematic, evidence-based targeting can achieve results.

Cross-cutting cooperation is key
• Use all laws to prosecute wildlife crime, not just wildlife/forestry legislation.
• Task Forces work: cross agencies and countries... and also with NGOs and experts

Enforcement Allies
• A small network of good people can be more effective than a large institution

Legal Enforcement Reform:
• Strengthen national commitments and enforcement capacity, and
• Strengthen inter-governmental and inter-agency approaches against transnational criminal networks

Using the Media:
• Truth hurts traffickers
• Promote successes publicly
• Media exposure can hinder corruption

The traffickers are professional, innovative, and are able to work internationally. ...We must be too!
Global reach: WCS’s efforts to combat illicit wildlife trafficking:

- **INFORMATION PARTNER:** Collection, aggregation, analysis, and fusion of information on wildlife traffickers and trafficking dynamics and drivers.

- **FACILITATION PARTNER:** Working enforcement relationships in all major source, transit, and destination countries – facilitation of cross-border working relationships.

- **ACTION PARTNER:** Professionalized capabilities to execute intelligence-led operations against traffickers at field sites WCS manages, and catalyze arrests via information (800+ arrests to date)
Questions?

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources...for your children and your children's children.

Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”

- Theodore Roosevelt
  President of the United States, 1901-1909