

Key lessons from the symposium

Beyond Enforcement: Communities, governance, incentives and sustainable use in combating wildlife crime

Muldersdrift, South Africa, February 2015



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TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

iied International Institute for Environment and Development



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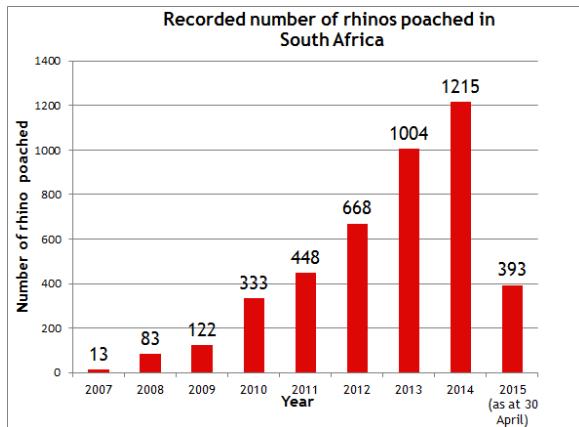
the symposium....

- over 70 researchers, practitioners, community representatives
- 5 continents



....conclusions and recommendations

1. Current approaches to enforcement, focusing primarily on state policing, are inadequate or failing....



...and can create threats to communities, governance and conservation.

state enforcement-led approaches can lead to...

human rights abuses and livelihood impacts

undermining the legitimacy of conservation regulations and approaches based on trust-building

*displacement of poaching to other areas;
increased prices and increased incentives to poach*



2. We need to understand the broader land use dimensions of wildlife crime...

wildlife policies have led to wildlife having little or no socio-economic value to the people who live with it....



...exacerbates habitat loss and the major threat of agricultural encroachment

...exacerbates human-wildlife conflict



...and removes incentives for people to refrain from poaching, to protect wildlife from illegal killing, or to sustainably manage it.

3. Communities can be powerful and positive agents of change...



know what is happening on the ground – can be “eyes and ears” of enforcement

are highly motivated where they have a strong sense of ownership/stewardship, and perceive poaching as stealing from them



strong cooperative relationships with arresting authorities are crucial

Recommendations



When developing and implementing approaches to address IWT:

Support community rights and responsibilities through:

- recognising that IWT is a development as well as a conservation issue;
- recognising the central role of the communities that live close to wildlife in addressing and combating IWT;
- seeking to understand, respect and respond to community rights, needs and priorities in designing initiatives to combat IWT;
- recognising the distinction between IWT and legitimate, sustainable use and trade of wild resources;
- ensuring enforcement efforts are sensitive to potential negative impacts on local communities and are accompanied by appropriate accountability mechanisms;
- recognising, supporting and providing an enabling environment for communities to be involved in wildlife governance and derive benefits from its conservation and sustainable use

Recommendations



Strengthen community voices through:

- supporting a mechanism for communities affected by IWT to learn from each other and to have their voices heard;
- strengthening the ability of communities to be involved in decision-making surrounding action to combat IWT, including use and management of wildlife, and to derive benefits from conserving wildlife.

Strengthen partnerships through:

- encouraging the development of partnerships between communities, conservation NGOs and law enforcement agencies in tackling IWT; and
- recognising the role of the private sector in generating the benefits from wildlife that support community engagement in conservation.

Strengthen the evidence base through:

- building knowledge and understanding about the motivations for, drivers of, dynamics of, and responses to, IWT