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the wildlife trade monitoring network

Development Policy XXVI

Wildlife Crime and resulting illegal trade are threatening peace and security well beyond wildlife conservation

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Background

- Wildlife Crime threatens iconic species
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon:



Combatting wildlife crime is not only essential for conservation efforts, it will contribute to achieving peace and security in troubled regions where conflicts are fuelled by these illegal activities.



Wildlife crime in the news


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English Site > World > Africa > Investigation into Rhino Poaching Turns into Kidnapping

Kidnapped in Mozambique: In the Clutches of Rhino Poachers

By Bartholomäus Grill




Photos Ivory becomes Africa's latest conflict resource

Armed groups, including U.s.-backed armies, carry out 'epic slaughter'

"China is the epicenter of demand. Without the demand from China, this would all but dry up." "We're experiencing what is likely to be the greatest percentage loss of elephants in history."

In 30 years of fighting poachers, Paul Onyango had never seen anything like it. Twenty-two dead elephants, including several very young ones, clumped together on the open savanna, many killed by a single bullet to the top of the head.



2015: 65 rhino horns seized in Mozambique

2015: Two seizures of 3 and 4 tonnes of ivory in Thailand

2014: Total of 1.215 rhinos killed in South Africa

67% loss of elephants in Selous NP - Tanzania

2012: 450 elephants poached in Cameroon

65% Population decline of Forest Elephants



Illegal wildlife trade – facts and figures

Profitability

4th largest illegal business valued between-US\$ 7.8 – 10 billion per year

Bottleneck

Low risk business with high profit

Conclusion

Anti-poaching measures in the field no longer sufficient to fight organized crime

Solutions

- Increased focus on demand reduction
- Disruption of trafficking networks
- Support of high level decision makers needed





Wildlife Crime – more than just wildlife

Financing of regional conflict

- Financing militia movements (Sudan, Chad)
- Possible ties to El Shahab, the Lord Resistance Army and al-Qaida.

Destabilization of societies

Loss of revenue, affecting rule of law, facilitating corruption

Human losses

Both rangers and poachers lose their lives

Connected to other criminal activities

Money laundering, drugs, arms, human trafficking





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Wildlife Markets

Consumer goods:

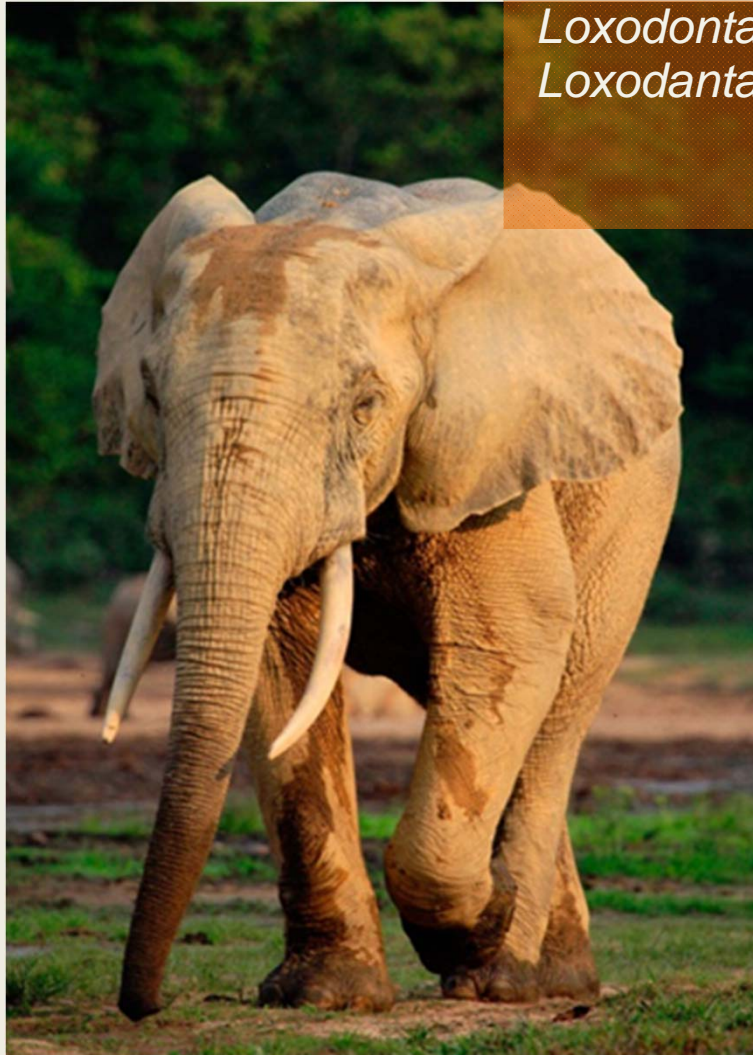
- Food
- Pets
- Fur
- Medicinal use
- Status symbol and high valued gifts





African elephant

Loxodonta africana
Loxodonta cyclotis

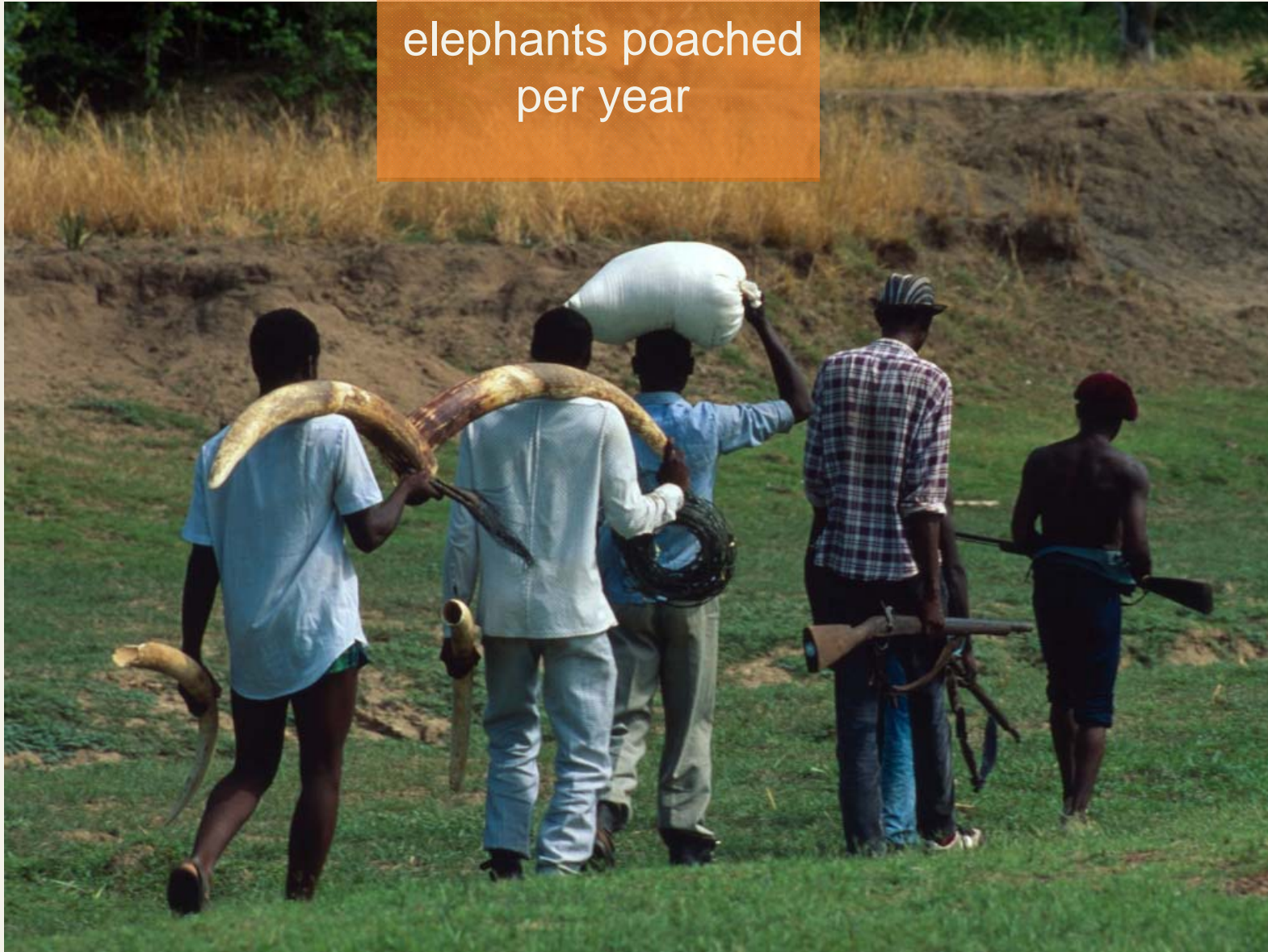


- Today: 420,000 to 650,000
- IUCN Red List „Vulnerable“
- CITES App. I (1989)
=> Currently no legal international trade in ivory



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Africa
Over 20,000
elephants poached
per year





2011 – 2013 Record ivory seizure years

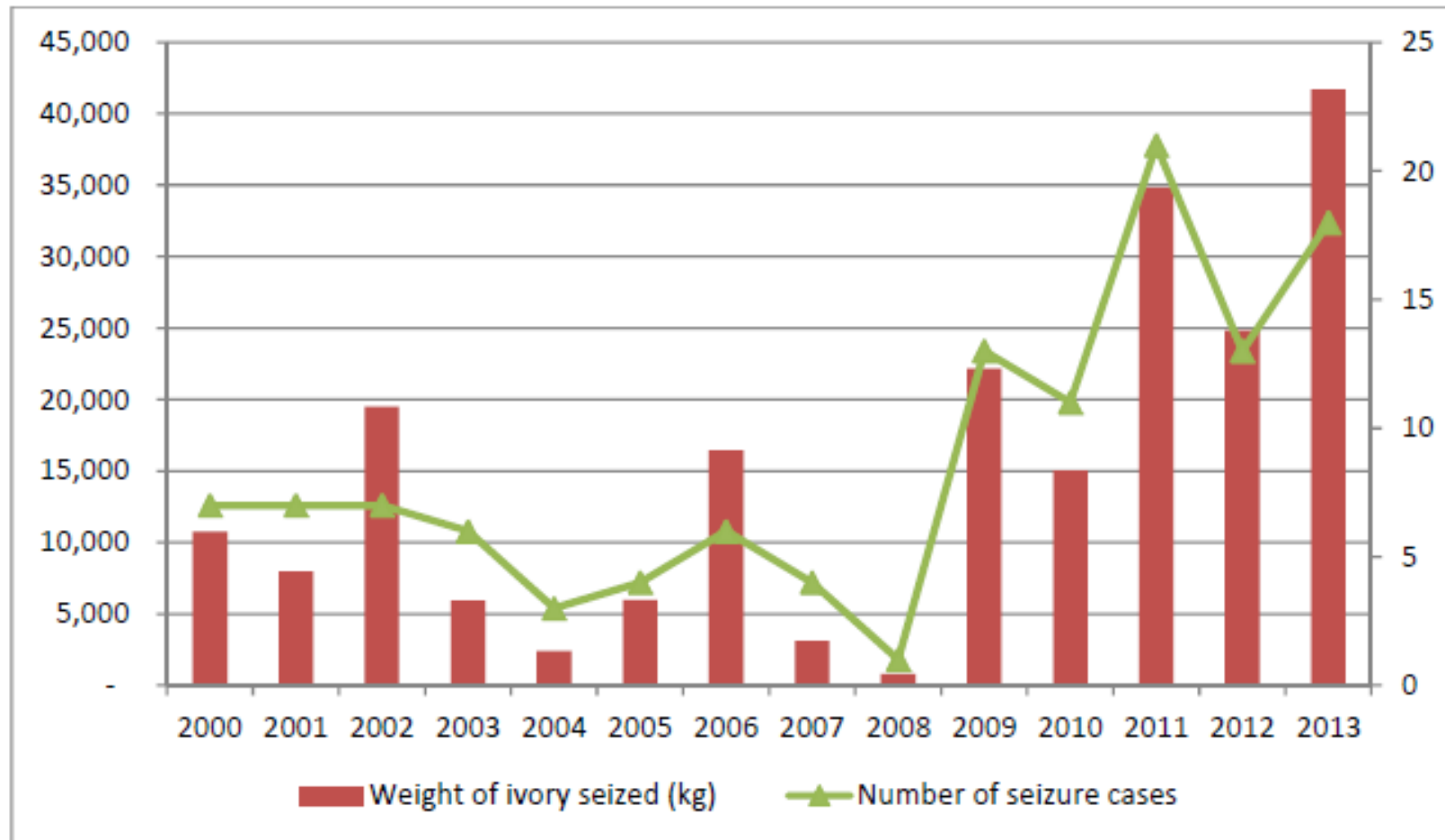


Figure 11. Estimated weight and number of large-scale (>500 kg) ivory seizures by year, 2000 -2013 (ETIS 09 January 2014)



Ivory Trade Routes 2012 – 2013





Smuggling tricks



© NBC New York



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African rhino

Ceratotherium simum
Diceros bicornis

Escaping the poachers ...





Population numbers African rhino species



White Rhino

1895: 20 – 50 rhinos

Currently: ca. 22,000 rhinos

~ 95% in Republic of South Africa



Black Rhino

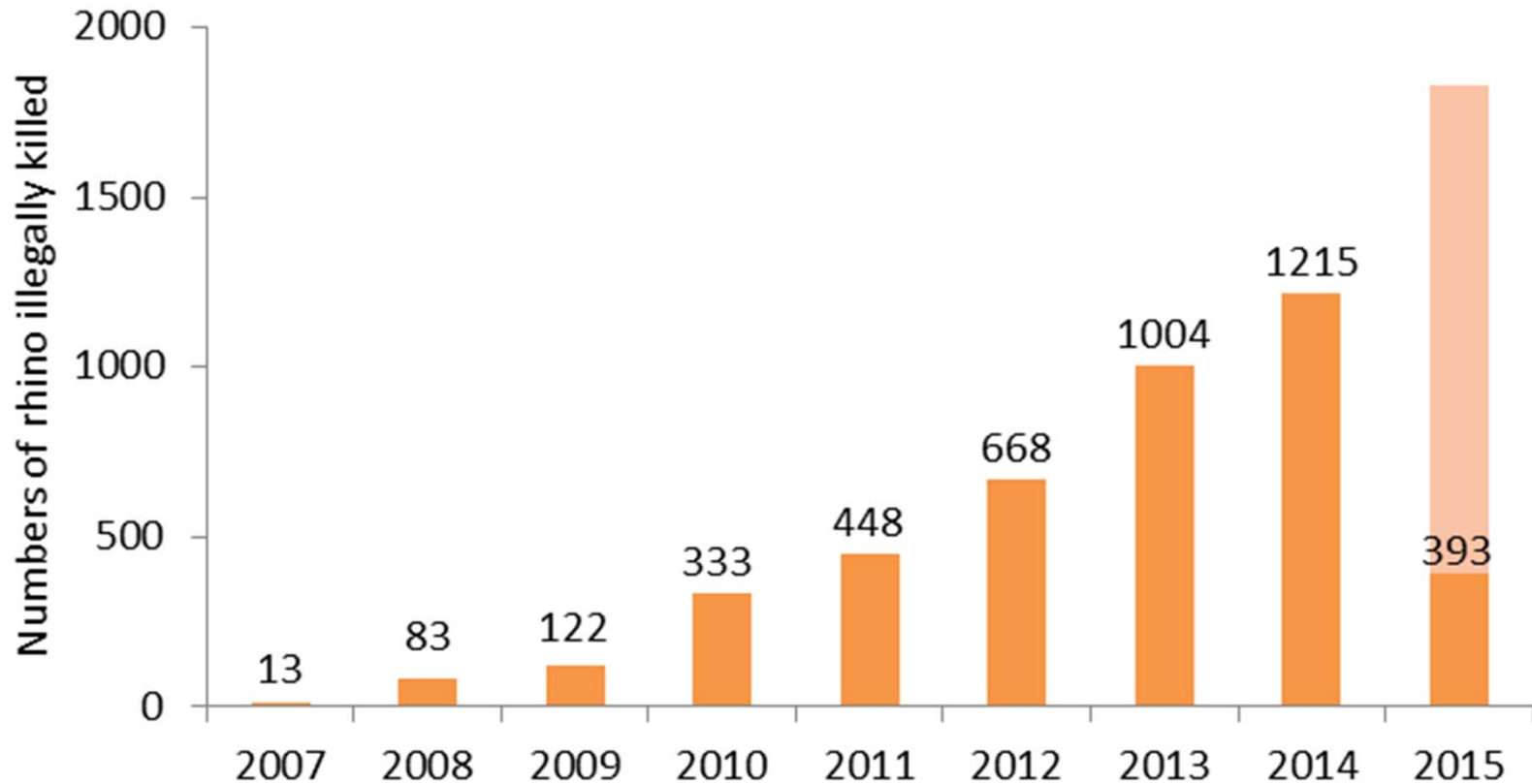
1993: 2,475 rhinos

Currently: ca. 5,000 rhinos

~ 40% in Republic of South Africa



South African rhino poaching statistics



Rhino poaching in Namibia

2014: 24

Until April 2015: 60



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Zoos and museums are also increasingly targeted ...

Zoos tighten security as threat of animal poaching grows

The worldwide rise in rhino poaching is forcing zoos and safari parks in Britain to adopt costly security measures

Lizzy Davies

The Guardian, Friday 3 February 2012 17:12 GMT



Rhino horn is the must-have derivative for consumers in parts of Asia and beyond.

BBC

News Sport Weather Travel Future Autos

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18 April 2013 Last updated at 10:50 GMT



Rhino heads and horns worth £428,000 stolen from Irish museum

A gang of thieves have stolen rhino heads and horns worth up to half a million euros (£428,000) from an Irish museum.

Three masked men entered the National Museum Archives building in Dublin at about 22:40 BST on Wednesday and tied up a security guard.

The gang loaded the four heads, with eight horns, into a large white van.

The security guard, who was not injured, managed to free himself and raise the alarm shortly after midnight.

A police spokesman said the building on Rathbarry Road, Swords, has been sealed off for forensic examination.

'Smash and grab'



The four rhino heads were removed from public display and placed in storage more than a year ago.

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Elephant skeleton loses tusk in Paris museum theft



31 March 2013 Last updated at 03:16 GMT





Tiger

Pantheras tigris



- Today as low as 3.200 Tigers left in the wild – 5 sub-species in 12 countries
- IUCN Red List: “Endangered”
- Sumata Tiger only ca. 325 individuals left and „Critically Endangered”



Tiger trade in Myanmar

Volumes

Myanmar is estimated to account for more than 30% of the global illegal tiger trade

The consumers

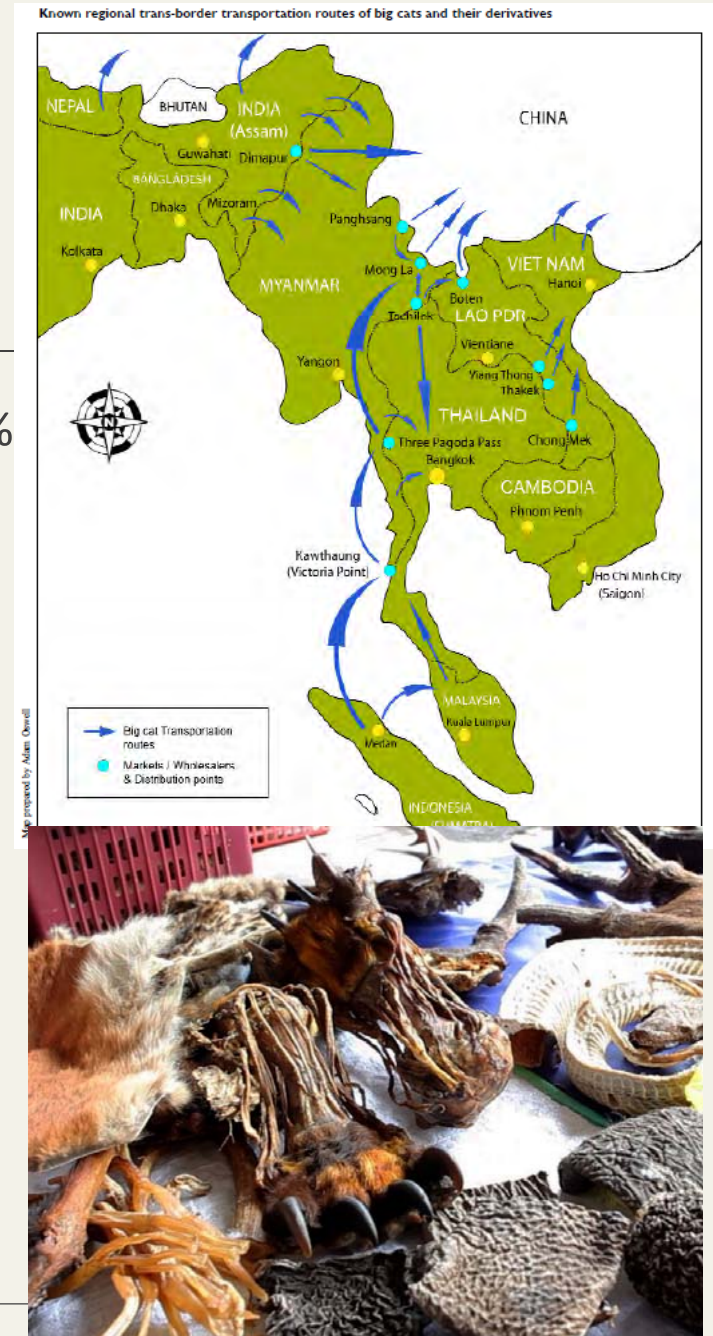
Chinese citizens visit Myanmar's border towns to purchase wildlife products

Mong La and Tachelik

- Border towns without enforcement
- Casino's, prostitution and wildlife markets
- Non-state armed groups control cross-border trade

Tiger products

- Plasters, tonics and use of body parts
- Tiger furs and meat
- Bars serving wine made from tiger bone





TomSvensson
Conservation photographer

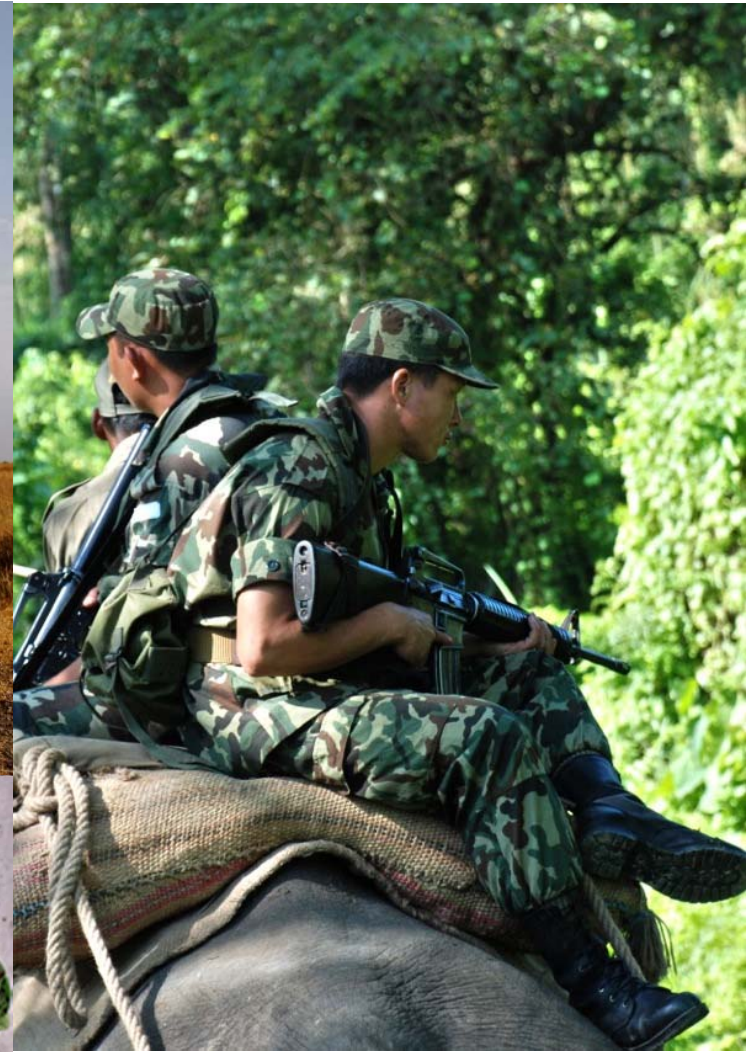


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WWF and TRAFFIC Wildlife Crime Initiative

- Goal: Make Wildlife Crime a Serious Crime
- Duration: Until the end of 2024 (10 years)
- Four central pillars:
 - ‘Stop the Killing’
 - ‘Stop the Trafficking’
 - ‘Stop the Buying’
 - International Policy

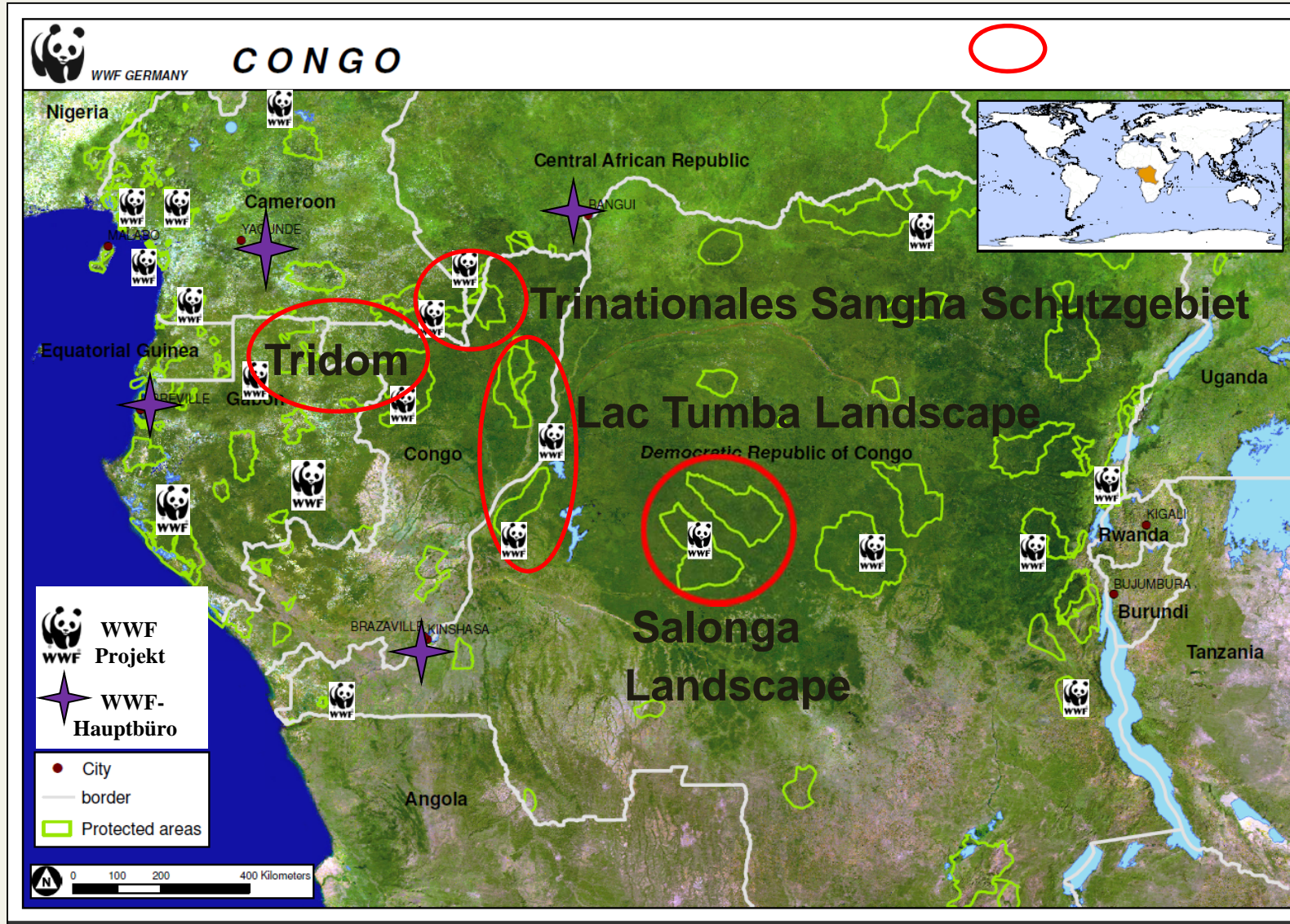




The Boots



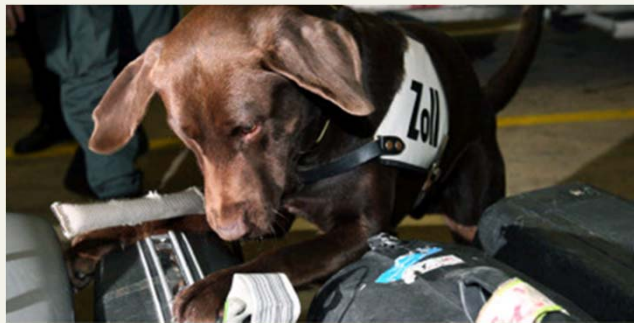
Regional collaboration





Customs and law enforcement

- Legislative changes and implementation of the CITES Convention
- More arrests and longer prison sentences
- Capacity-building and training
- Innovative detection methods and deployment of sniffer dogs





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The consumers



©MARTIN HARVEY/WWF

**RHINO HORN CONSUMERS,
WHO ARE THEY?**



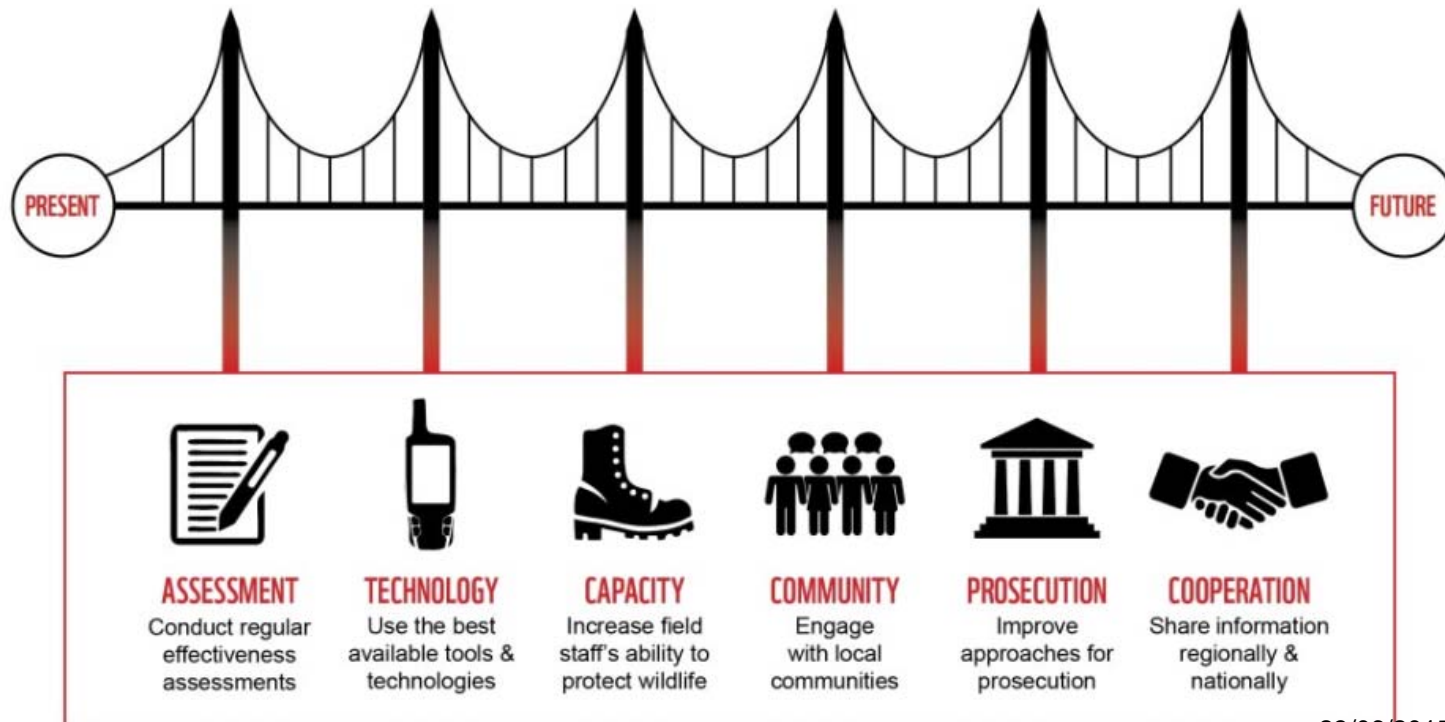


Zero poaching in Nepal

- 3 years of zero poaching
- 21% increase of rhino population



BRIDGING THE GAP TO ACHIEVE ZERO POACHING





Wildlife Crime and the UN:

- Security Council
- UN General Assembly
- UN ODC etc.



© UN WEB TV



International agenda setting.....

© White House



© UN DPI



© British Monarchy



The Statements



© AFP



© Vincent Yu



© AFP



© Alex Hofford



The fight against Wildlife Crime from Germany

- Addressing International Policy Fora
 - UN Initiatives
 - G7 (Roma-Lyon Group)
 - EU Initiatives
- Providing Financial Support
 - Africa and Asia
- National Policy Guidelines
 - Declaration in the German parliament June 2014
 - Coalition contract CDU/CSU and SPD 2013





The fight against Wildlife Crime from Germany

BMZ Polifonds: anti-poaching fund

- **Interministerial cooperation**

BMZ (Development cooperation), BMUB (Environment), AA (Foreign Affairs), BMI (Interior - Police) and BMF (Finance – Customs)

- **Collaboration with NGOs**

WWF, TRAFFIC, FZS (Frankfurt Zoological Society)

- **Focus areas:**

- Strengthening protected areas
- Capacity-building
- Collaboration with local communities
- Demand reduction





Wildlife Crime Non-Governmental Organisations Roles

- Providing support to governments and international policy fora
- Conducting projects on the ground
- Collection of data, analysis and providing recommendations

The limits:

- NGOs are NOT enforcement organisations
- Individual members of NGOs (and GOs) are threatening their lives against Wildlife Crime

However, this makes the world a better place!





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Thank you!



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