

# **Wildlife poaching and trafficking**

## **Case of Kenya**

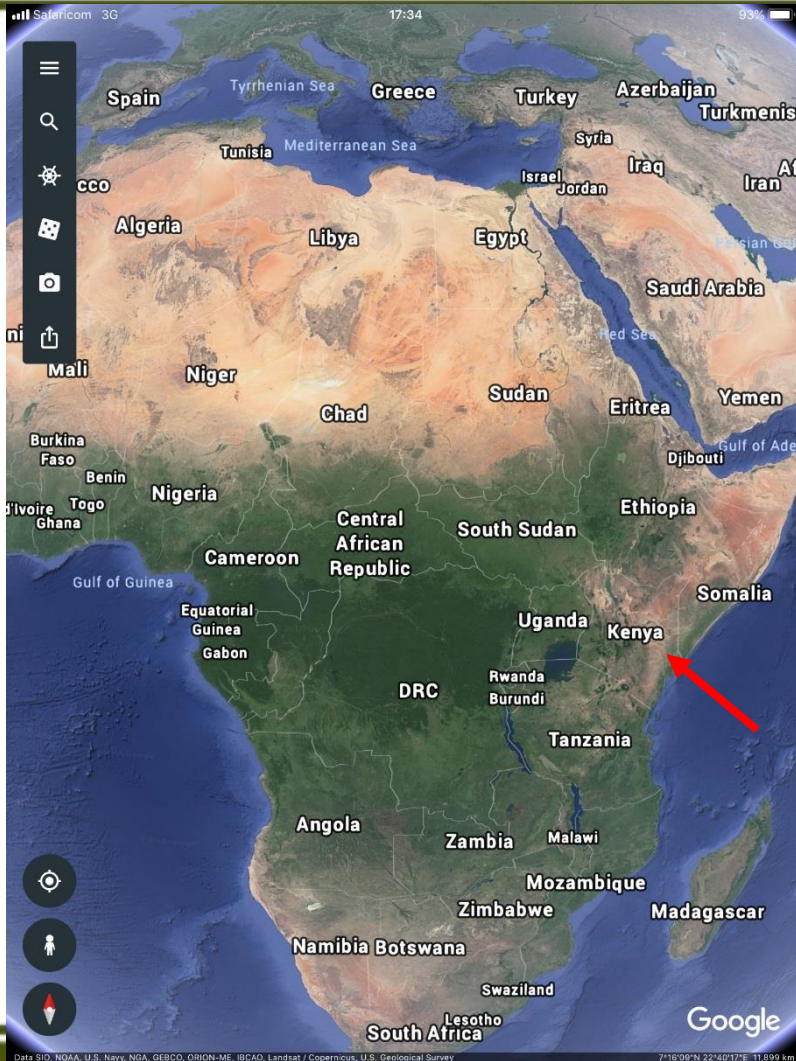
Samuel Kasiki,



# Kenya and conservation efforts

www.kws.go.ke

Kenya has made targeted efforts to protect, restore and promote the conservation, management and sustainable use of terrestrial, marine and other ecosystems, including forests.





GOVERNMENT OF KENYA



NATIONAL TOURISM STRATEGY  
2013-2018

**Wildlife based tourism** plays a very **important** role in Kenya's economy. It is a major contributor to the gross domestic product, creation of investment and employment opportunities, foreign exchange earnings, and infrastructure development as well as in the expansion of the commercial sector.



However, there has been a decline in wildlife population (by about 68%) between 1977 and 2018.

At the same time there has been a contemporaneous increase in livestock numbers in in the country.

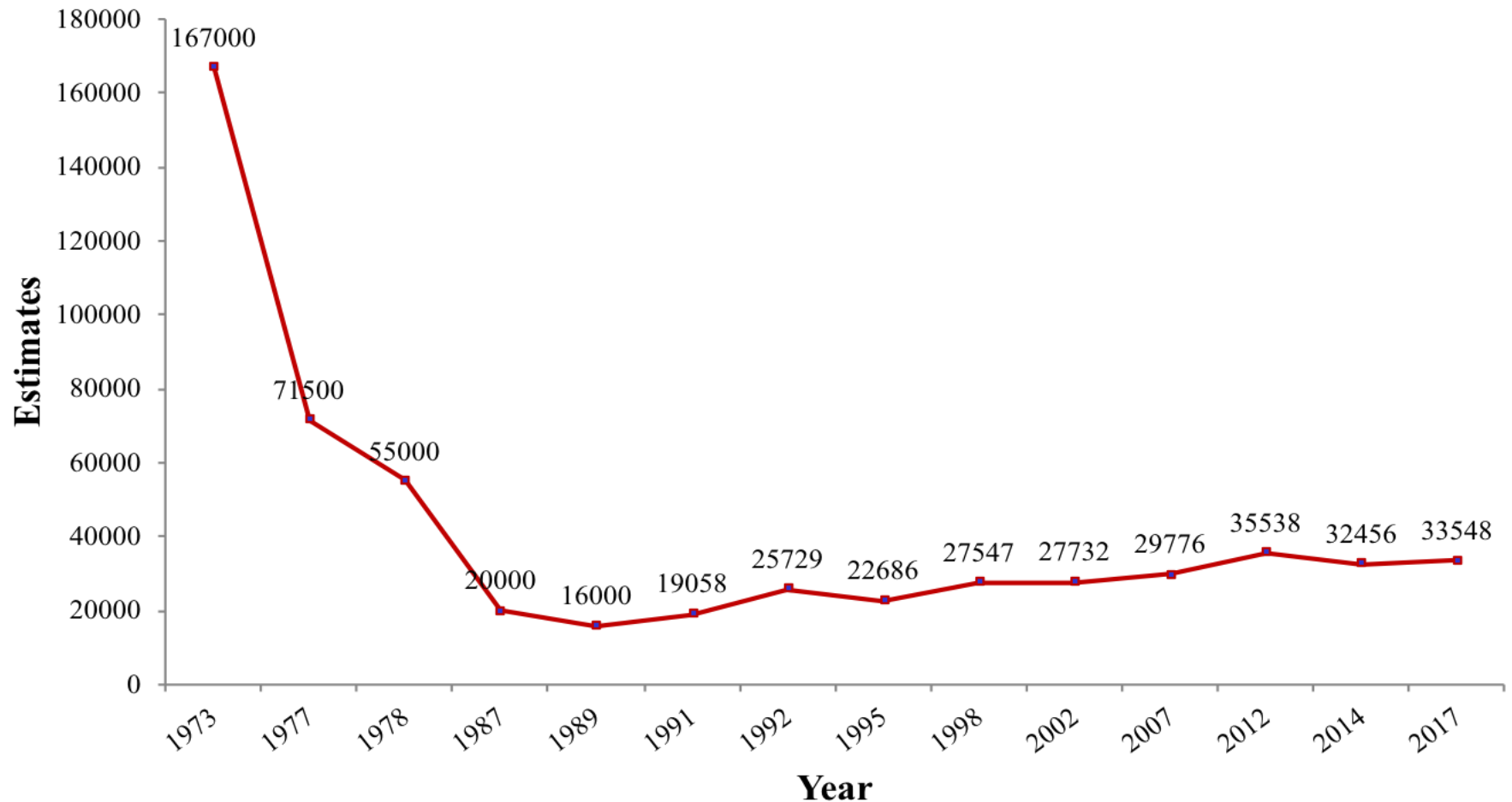


# Poaching of elephants and rhinos still a problem

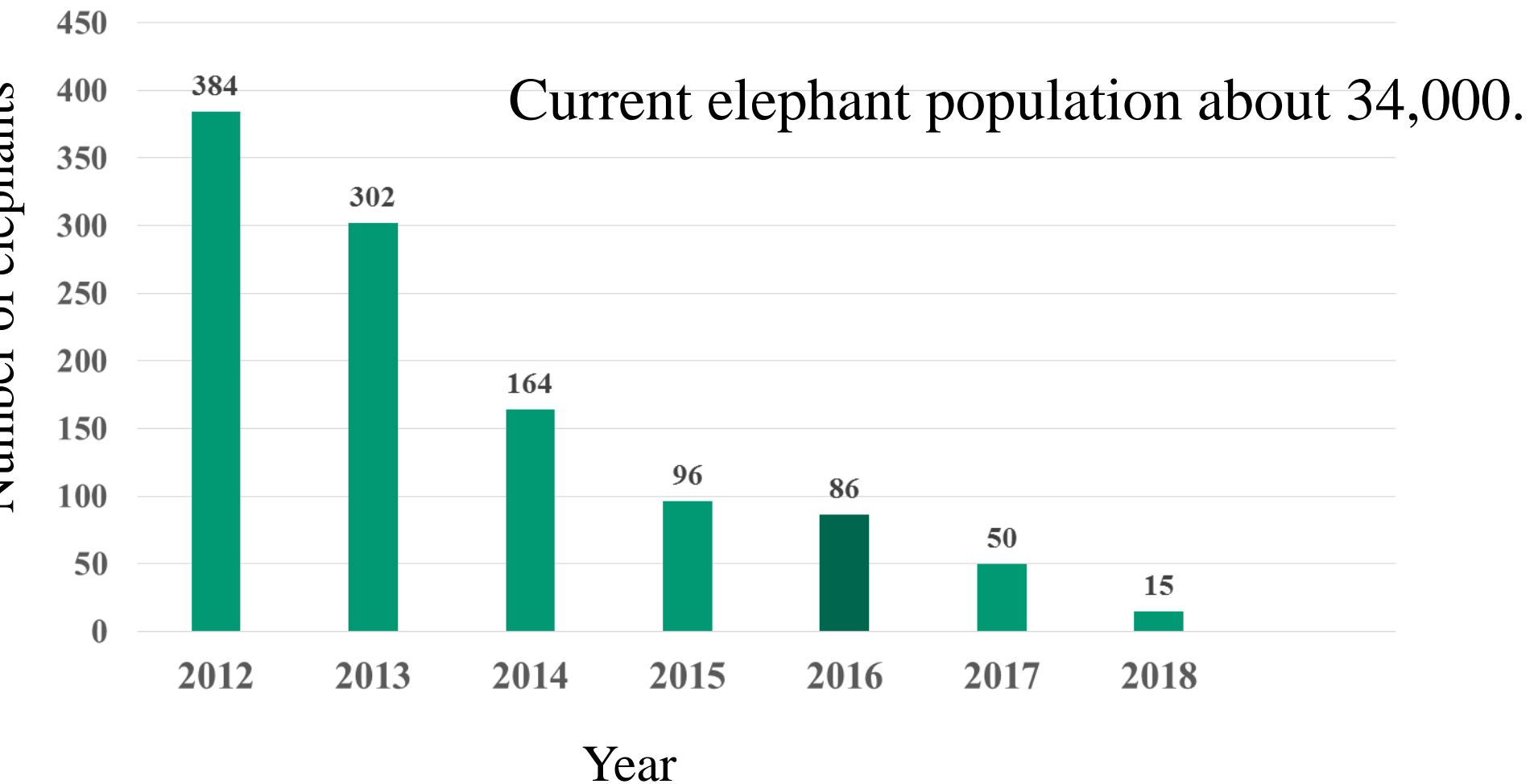
Wildlife poaching and trafficking is still a major problem, especially for the elephant and rhino species .



# Elephant population trend, 1973 - 2017



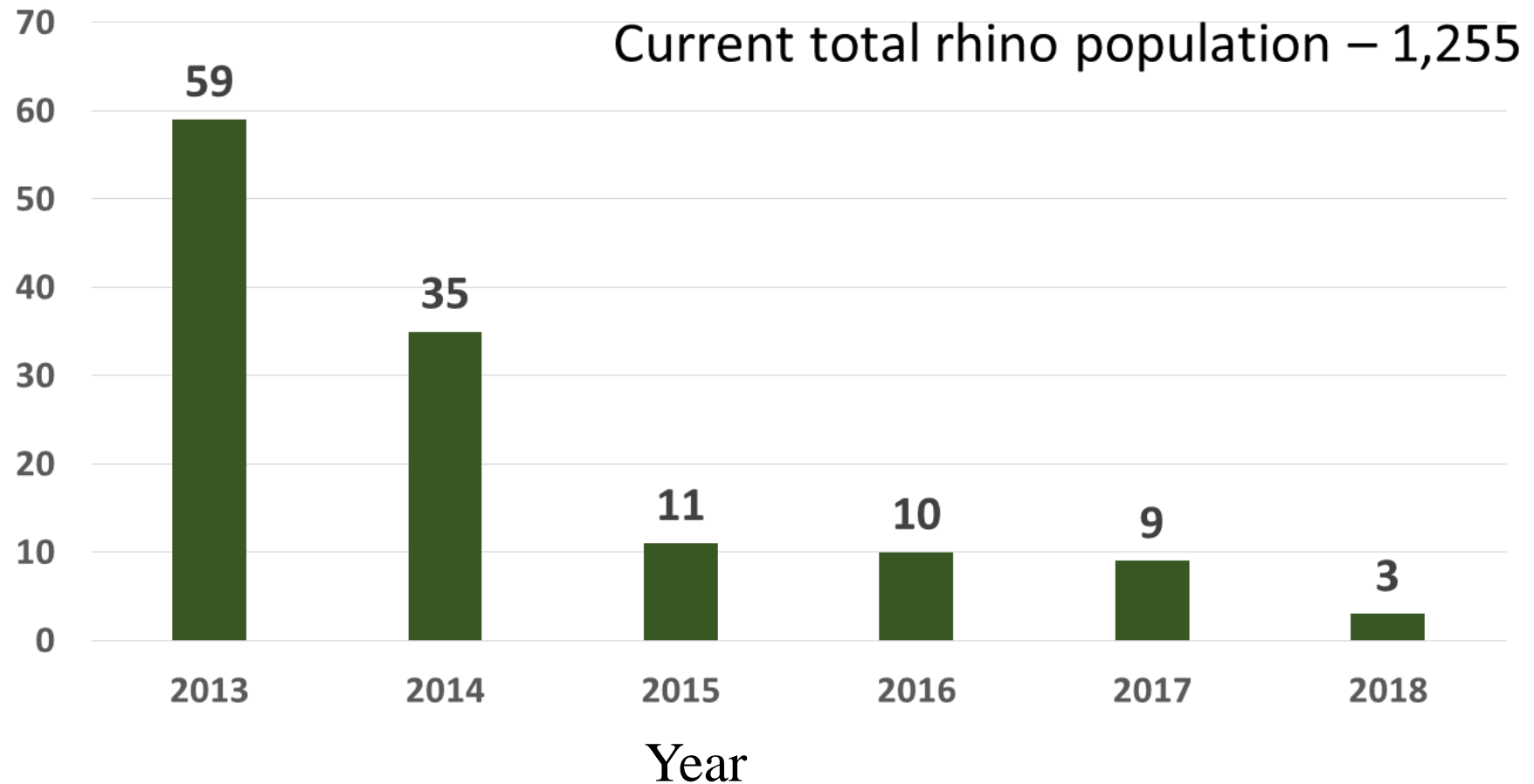
# Elephant poaching trend in Kenya – 2012 - 2018





# Rhino poaching trend in Kenya – 20 - 2018

[www.kws.go.ke](http://www.kws.go.ke)





# Decline in other critically endangered species [www.kws.go.ke](http://www.kws.go.ke)



Sable antelope – less than 100 left .



Sitatunga antelope – less than 200 left.



Roan antelope – less than 20 left.



# International/Regional approach

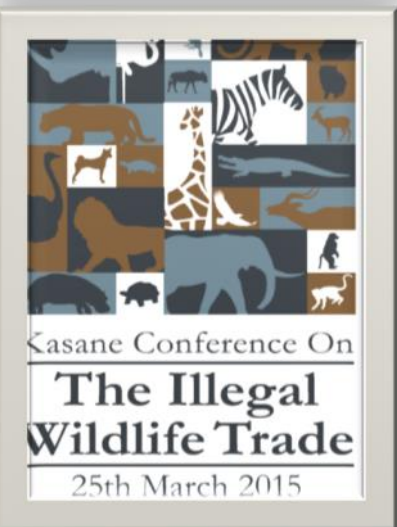
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Kenya recognizes the important role played by international efforts, such as CITES, in fighting wildlife crime.



It also recognizes the role of governments and Regional Economic Integration Organizations, which are more effective in providing necessary political leadership and practical support needed to find a lasting solution to the illegal wildlife trade.



Initiatives to compact illegal wildlife trade such as the London Conference and follow up Kasane and Hanoi conferences are important in rallying States together towards a common objective of compacting poaching and illegal wildlife trade.



## 1. Eradicating the market for illegal wildlife products

- Strengthening partnerships with business and others, and through regional collaboration agreements as appropriate, to reduce the demand and supply sides for illegal wildlife products.
- Conducting and/or supporting research for better understanding of market drivers, including monitoring the effectiveness of demand reduction strategies and collating a portfolio of demand reduction good practice.
- Strengthening and establishing, partnerships among source, transit and destination countries to combat the illegal wildlife trade along its entire chain.



## 2. Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents

Kenya has reviewed and amended her national legislation that offences connected to the illegal wildlife trade are treated as serious crimes.

*“Any person who commits an offence in respect of an endangered or threatened species or in respect of any trophy of that endangered or threatened species shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of not less than twenty million shillings (about \$200, 000) or imprisonment for life or to both such fine and imprisonment.”*





# Actions .. Strengthening law enforcement

**3. Relevant prosecutors, judges and authorities engaged in law enforcement, have the knowledge, capacity and resources to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes associated with wildlife crime**

- KWS has a functional forensic lab which has been useful in producing evidence admissible in court of law for prosecution.
- KWS has also trained prosecutors specialized in handling wildlife crime cases.



**4. Kenya has supported establishment and strengthening of regional wildlife enforcement networks.**

**The Lusaka Agreement Taskforce**, an inter-governmental organization with the main function of facilitating cooperative activities in/among the Party States in carrying out investigations on violations of national laws pertaining to illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.



# Role of Transport Industry

## 5. Engagement with the transport to raise awareness of the role they can play.

NEWS

### KQ signs global declaration on illegal wildlife trade

CEO Sebastian Mikosz says underlines their unquestionable commitment to zero tolerance policy against illegal wildlife trafficking and trade



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By BT CORRESPONDENT



**Inadequate optimal resources-** environmental issues not given a high priority, especially in allocation of resources.

**Corruption** - especially at ports of exit/entry. Seizures of ivory containers originating from Kenya have been made outside the country. (Kenya a member of the “**Gang of Eight**” which are source, transit and destination countries.

**Human/ wildlife conflict** – majority of rural community view wildlife as a liability. Lack of equity in sharing of benefits arising the use of biodiversity.





# Challenges.. Cont.

**Loss of connectivity** – migration corridors severed.

**Lack of incentives** – inadequate especially, among the local communities who host wildlife on their land.

**Limited involvement of the private sector** – currently mainly in tourism sector.

**Invasive species** – flora and fauna.

**Climate change** – cross cutting.



Thank  
you

