

Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (in Africa and Asia)

Cross-sectoral and trans-continental approach along the entire illegal trade chain

Context

In recent years, big game poaching in sub-Saharan Africa has been subject to a growing professionalization. It is largely controlled by armed groups that are increasingly organised in international networks due to the large profit margins. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that Africa has lost over 30 % of its elephants to poaching within the last 10 years. Since 2014, around 1.000 rhinos are poached every year. The demand for ivory and rhino horn is driven by the economic growth particularly in Asian countries like China, Vietnam and Myanmar. Although rampant poaching has been a problem in the past, the current situation has reached a new dimension with transnational and –regional implications for the conservation of these endangered species and for the economic basis and security of the affected countries. High profit margins and weak governance provide a breeding ground for corruption along the entire illegal trade chain. Poaching also threatens protected areas, which have been supported by German development cooperation for many years.

Project name	Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (in Africa and Asia)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Project region	Global with focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia
Duration	07/2017 – 06/2021
Financial volume	14.9 Mio. EUR (9.65 Mio. EUR from BMZ and 5.25 Mio. EUR from BMU)

Our approach

The causes of poaching in Africa and the related illegal international trade in ivory and rhino horn are complex and require cross-border, cross-regional and cross-sectoral approaches. BMZ, together with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), therefore commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the IZR budget title to implement the global project “Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (in Africa and Asia)”. It aims at improving the inter-sectoral, cross-border and trans-continental fight against poaching and illegal trade in ivory and rhino-horn.

The Partnership examines the issue of poaching along the entire illegal trade chain, from the countries of origin in Africa to the consumers (mainly in Asia). It pursues the objective of simultaneously influencing supply and demand, and strengthens cross-border and inter-sectoral cooperation, especially between Africa and Asia. Necessary short-term interventions are hereby linked with long-term development measures. Specific activities in partner countries are implemented in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations and in close cooperation with bilateral projects and programmes of German development cooperation and with regional organisations.



L. to r.: African elephant, white rhino

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Success factors

To reach this objective, specific measures are defined in four areas of work along the entire illegal wildlife trade chain:

- Enabling actors involved in combating poaching and illicit trade in elephant and rhino range states to adopt and implement innovative measures through provision of lessons learnt.
- Improving organisational and institutional capacities for effective transnational law enforcement to curtail international illegal trade.
- Identifying and implementing approaches to reduce demand among mainly Asian consumers, for example through target group specific campaigns.
- Promote exchange and coordination of German governmental and non-governmental actors involved in combatting wildlife crime.

Examples from the field

Innovative measures, such as elephant deterring chili fences, increase acceptance for wildlife in numerous African communities, thus reducing local willingness to poach. Important transit and consumer countries (i.e. Malawi and Viet Nam) have tightened their legislation. More than 100 court cases, including important traffickers and kingpins, received sentences of imprisonment and high fines. Over 600 members of the police, customs and judiciary from over 20 countries in Africa and Asia are now able to identify suspicious consignments and lead investigations. In an effort to reduce demand, awareness campaigns reached millions of people in China and Viet Nam, including specific target groups such as (business) travelers. Monitorings of online markets from 2016 to 2018 show a 70 % reduction in illegally offered ivory in China.

Cooperation partners

In the spirit of the overall concept of cross-cutting political cooperation, the BMZ and BMU within the Partnership work

closely with the Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV). This partnership opens up new avenues for efficient cooperation with international organisations and UN-conventions, such as the World Customs Organisation, Interpol, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Non-governmental organisations with international operations such as the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which traditionally work in this context, are important partners in implementing activities on the ground.

IZR-Title

The BMZ budget title *International Cooperation with Regions for Sustainable Development (IZR title)* was created in autumn 2011. Projects within this budget title are subject to meeting certain criteria:

- Global challenges are tackled on a politically cross-cutting, cross-border and interregional level
- Various stakeholders from politics, civil society and the private sector are involved
- New forms of cooperation are supported between industrialised, emerging and developing countries
- Long-term cooperation and network-building are promoted
- The costs are shared with cooperation partners and involved stakeholders, additional funding and resources are to be mobilized.

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