



The Wildlife TRAPS Project

Over the past decade, Asia has experienced a surge in demand for natural resources. The illegal killing and trade of African and Asian land species—such as elephants, rhinos, and pangolins—and marine species, like abalone, has precipitated an international conservation crisis.

Wildlife crime now represents one of the world’s biggest illicit markets. Poverty, armed conflict, corruption, and lack of enforcement all exacerbate this issue, resulting in global implications for national security, people, and communities.

The Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment, and Priority Setting (Wildlife TRAPS) Project, financed by USAID and implemented by TRAFFIC in collaboration with IUCN, is designed to develop and deliver a suite of ground-breaking partnerships and pioneering approaches to tackle wildlife crime between Africa and Asia.

Wildlife TRAPS uses targeted assessments, collaborative action planning, and innovative approaches to identify and advance interventions that can break trafficking chains and disrupt organized criminal networks. Initiated in February 2013, the Wildlife TRAPS Project currently runs until February 2020.

Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (Wildlife TRAPS) Project



Understand

Improve understanding of the status and trends in illegal wildlife trade, with a focus on trade routes and target species



Collaborate

Increase international collaborations around actions to reduce and control illegal wildlife trade



Implement

Identify and facilitate the interventions of national governments, IGOs, civil societies, and private sectors affected by wildlife trafficking

The Wildlife TRAPS Project Delivers Activities Through Six Key Thematic Work Streams

Transportation Sector Engagement



- Revising industry standards and practices
- Developing sector-specific training materials
- Raising awareness among industry professionals

Enforcement Capacity and Interagency Collaboration



- Partnering with enforcement capacity building programmes
- Supporting operational planning and review
- Increasing adherence to CITES processes such as the National Ivory Action Plans

Wildlife Forensics Advancements



- Piloting new forensic technologies
- Building collaborative partnerships between forensic laboratories
- Reinforcing standard operational procedures for forensic laboratories

Consumer Behavior and Demand Reduction



- Developing best practice guides for practitioners
- Managing the Wildlife Consumer Behavior Change Toolkit
- Hosting events series, webinars, and expert roundtables

Financial Investigation and Asset Recovery



- Developing illegal wildlife trade typologies for the financial sector
- Refining capacity building materials for various stakeholders
- Performing research assessments

Community Engagement



- Advancing the development of the “Beyond Enforcement” theory of change model with partners
- Supporting the development of projects to test the theory of change

Wildlife TRAPS Key Principles

A focus on Africa-Asia trafficking dynamics

Productive integration with existing wildlife crime prevention infrastructure

An insight-led and evidence-based approach

A fostering of trust and dialogue between established conservation stakeholders as well as less traditional actors

For more information

Nick Ahlers
Wildlife TRAPS Project Leader
nick.ahlers@traffic.org

Hallie Sacks
Communications Officer
hallie.sacks@traffic.org

Connect:
Website: www.traffic.org
Facebook: @trafficnetwork
Twitter: @TRAFFIC_WLTrade

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