

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

Cross-Sectoral and Trans-Continental Approach along the entire Illegal Trade Chain



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 – 06/2020
Financial volume	10.5 Mio. EUR (5.25 Mio. EUR from BMZ and 5.25 Mio. EUR from BMU)

Context

In recent years, big game poaching in sub-Saharan Africa has been subject to a growing professionalisation. 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 50% of its elephants to poaching within the last 10 years. In South Africa alone, more than 1,000 rhinos were poached in 2017. An elephant census in the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), revealed that the protected area has lost 67% of its elephants over the last years. The demand for ivory and rhino horn is driven by the economic growth particularly in Asian countries like China, Viet Nam 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.

Our Approach

The causes of poaching in Africa and the related illegal international trade in ivory and rhino horn are complex and combating them requires 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 while linking necessary short-term interventions with long-term development measures.



L. to r.:

1. African elephant

2. Southern white rhino

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Transformation processes will be triggered at key stages of the illegal trade chain. For this purpose, the project coordinates the expertise and capacities of governmental, non-governmental, and private actors, and promotes cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, particularly between African and Asian countries. Specific activities in partner countries are implemented in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations in the countries themselves and in close cooperation with bilateral projects and programmes of German development cooperation and with regional organisations.

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

In the past five years, this approach has enabled tightening of legislation in important transit and consumer countries such as Malawi and Viet Nam. More than 200 members of the police, customs and judiciary from over 20 countries in Africa and Asia are now better able to identify suspicious consignments and investigate traffickers. In China, continuous deletion of sale

advertisements for illegal wildlife products on eCommerce platforms such as Alibaba has reduced the number of offers from 50,000 to 10,000 per month.

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), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Global Nature Fund (GNF), which traditionally work in this context, are important partners in implementing activities on the ground.

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