

**IUCN** **WCPA**  
WORLD CONSERVATION UNION  
WORLD CENTER FOR  
PROTECTED AREAS

**A road map for African protected areas: act now!**

Africa is a continent with a rich, unique and irreplaceable biological diversity. It contains many protected areas whose vocation is to preserve this richness, now and for the future.

**Are we succeeding?**

**Yes**, certainly, in some places and in some countries, according to the context, actors, history, partnerships... There are some successes and encouraging initiatives, so there is hope.

**No**, definitely not, if we look more generally at the results of many recent analyses, and even more so if we consider the challenges that await, the first of which is the significant growth in the human population and a reduction in the area available for biodiversity and natural habitats.

**What should we do?**

Continue and strengthen conservation programmes and projects at all scales and of all kinds, research and other studies? Certainly. This is a very long-term task that has produced and will continue to produce, useful and necessary results. We should continue working on - what we have to do - to improve protected area management, because we need more efficient tools, more effective methods, and a better understanding and evaluation of the results.

**NAPA**  
**News from African Protected Areas**

**IUCN**

**Nouvelles des Aires Protégées en Afrique**

**N°65**  
**June 2013**

## Edito

By Renaud Fulconis, AWELY

### Man and animals to coexist, or how to link conservation and development?

While Africa recently passed the one billion people and our planet should host in 2050 almost 9 billion of humans, including two billion on the African continent, the fundamental issue of coexistence between man and animals arises more than ever. Also because access to resources and space become a recurring problem, both for the villagers and for wildlife, and because we only perceive at this time the premises of this situation. In this context, especially in periphery of protected areas, local communities' involvement and development assistance seem to be essential elements to achieve any kind of results in terms of conservation. First, because it seems inconceivable to provide financial means, human and management competencies for the protection of a species or an ecosystem without making sure that the villagers will be able to benefit too. Especially while they often lack the most basic goods... Secondly, because ignoring the development or not getting involved enough in this process usually bring us back to the starting point, after a few years.

Since 2007, Awely, animals and men (a French NGO), implement in Africa and Asia, projects that link species conservation and development. If the control of conflict between man and animals is the core of our work, we also focus on implementation of actions to protect in the long term and in some targeted areas, iconic animal species from the threats that they locally face. For each of our

projects, our field staff, recruited locally, is in close contact with the villagers, especially the groups identified as having a significant negative impact on species or on natural resources; we then support almost on a day to day basis the implementation of their own development initiatives. These initiatives are thought and identified by the groups themselves and couldn't be launched or be sustainable without a number of appropriate trainings, and sometimes micro-credit allocation. By allowing them to gain autonomy in order to become real stakeholders of their own development, we do increase the chances to see these villagers getting more involved in the protection of their environment and of the species that surround them. Communities are thereafter much more willing to accept law enforcement, to become informers about illegal activities. They'll acknowledge better educational messages on sustainable development and on the species they hunted previously, or the species that recently devastated their crops or damaged their homes or their barns. A long process, sometimes fraught with pitfalls and which requires great adaptability and a great ability to implement appropriate trainings, evaluations and regular follow-up of all the actions; and this has to be done primarily by staff coming from the vicinity.

Good initiatives undoubtedly emerge here and there, and they should be known and shared widely as their achievements may be beneficial to others stakeholders.

*Renaud Fulconis*  
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## Better management of conservation areas through increased involvement of local communities

*(direction 3 of the Road Map for African PAs)*

*An interview with Alexis Kabore, Executive Secretary of AFAUDEB*

**Talk to us briefly about AFAUDEB. Which observations, notably in terms of threats to natural resources, led you to create the association? Which activities are currently being implemented by your organization?**

The Association Faune et Développement au Burkina, AFAUDEB, was born after observing that conservation of protected areas and natural resources has been carried out for a long time without the involvement of the communities fringing these areas. Additionally, the relations between protected area managers (forestry services, concession holders) and local communities were characterized by recurrent conflicts and illegal practices rather than by collaboration and compliance with legal documents.

The purpose of AFAUDEB is to contribute to better governance of natural resources through joint management and decision making that promotes benefit sharing.

The support of AFAUDEB to communities involves three main areas: conservation of natural resources (creation of ZOVIC and reforestation); capacity building (training, exchange visits, endowment of collective equipment and infrastructure) and development of income generating activities (transformation and valuing of NTFP, credits, and gardening).

**How does a « zone villageoise d'intérêt cynégétique (ZOVIC) » work in practice? What kind of activities are carried out in the ZOVIC?**

A ZOVIC is an area of land that one or several villages decide to dedicate to conservation of wildlife and its habitats. In the eastern part of Burkina Faso, the concept was initiated in the 1990s and comprises many steps including the implementation of a management plan and patrols, the consensual determination of procedures regarding management issues and the dissemination of municipal by-laws formally recognizing those procedures.



*Some ZOVIC host quite large populations of wildlife, such as the Cobe de Buffon*

Three types of activities are carried out in the ZOVIC: (i) the development of structures, (ii) patrols and community-based ecological monitoring and (iii) sustainable utilization of natural resources.

The development of structures relates to the creation of water retention areas for wildlife, salt licks, perimeter tracks (as limits and fire-breaks) internal paths (for guards and hunters), boundary markers, and information boards to indicate prohibited and permitted activities.

Patrols and community-based ecological monitoring are combined activities carried out by village committees. The Forestry Service supports the committees when offences occur that exceed their legal competence.



*Guinea fowls are specially targeted by hunters in this area*

The utilization of the ZOVIC is carried out by local communities, under the control of the GVGF (Groupement Villageois de Gestion de la Faune) and its supervisory committee, for domestic use through the collection of NTFP and firewood and cutting of straw etc. Several ZOVIC are also home to sacred sites where ritual activities are carried out by the

traditional authorities. Commercial exploitation of the ZOVIC is carried out by guides and hunting concession holders, who take clients to hunt small game. The income is paid into the GVGF bank account at the end of each hunting season. Additional income originates from annual management fees paid by the concession holders of the natural reserve around which the ZOVIC is located and receipts generated by the sale of game meat killed by hunters. The income funds construction or rehabilitation of community infrastructure, management and patrolling of the GVGF and functioning of the ZOVIC. In the peripheral area of the WAP complex on the Burkina Faso side, about 60 ZOVIC are currently operating covering around 40,000 hectares, with some of them home to large fauna like the elephant.

*Read the full interview (in French) on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org), page "local initiatives for conservation".*

### **Support ecological resilience and socio-economic development on the outskirts of the Dja Biosphere Reserve (RBD) in Cameroon**

*(directions 6 and 8 of the Road Map for African PAs)*

*By Tropical Forest and Rural Development (NGO)*

Gazetted as hunting reserve in 1950, the Dja Reserve was recognized Wildlife Reserve in 1973.

Subsequently, the site was included in the International Network of Biosphere Reserves in 1981, before being inscribed on the list of UNESCO World Heritage on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1987, thus confirming its outstanding universal value.

The status of Biosphere Reserve implies the importance of involving all the communities living in the periphery of the reserve and using local resources to satisfy their daily needs to the management processes of the protected area. Until now, the relationship between the communities living in the periphery of the RBD and its managers have remained relatively tense, because of the many differences of perception of the Reserve that are observed amongst local residents and managers.

In order to achieve sustainable management of these ecosystems, species and natural resources in and around the RBD, it seems important to make sure that the communities living around the PA will see this one as an opportunity for development and

improvement of their living conditions, which must therefore be managed sustainably.

It is in this context that the NGO Tropical Forest and Rural Development (RD-TF) is currently working with its partners (IUCN PPI.3 financed by French GEF, Prague Zoo) to coordinate and develop environmental education projects and approaches that are linking conservation and development and seeking to protect the environment while improving the living conditions of the local communities.



*The Baka pygmies are amongst the local communities encountered in this area*

Specifically, the developed projects are designed to promote environmental education on apes in primary schools in the northern outskirts of the RBD, in order to ensure coherence between the official environmental education school program in this area and the environmental realities of the reserve. Secondly, the NGO's aim is to protect and enhance biodiversity by working within the buffer zone of the PA, by supporting development of cocoa agro-forests (these agro-forests are implemented through rehabilitation of old abandoned plantations), rehabilitation of old cocoa fields (which will be rehabilitated and enriched with local domesticated species as Ndjansang, wild mango, etc.) and structuration of producers (with the creation of a producers cooperative, trainings, farm management and support bundling cocoa). About 80 people working on forty acres are associated to this component of the project.

The aim is that incomes generated by the sustainable agriculture developed around the reserve by the cooperative of producers will contribute to the elimination of poverty and to socio-economic development while reducing impacts of human activities on environment and biodiversity as poaching which is currently practiced in and around the PA...

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**See also [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org), page “local initiative for conservation”**



**On this theme, read also...**

Charlotte Karibuhoye, the WCPA vice-chair for West and Central Africa, advises us to read the guidelines named: **“Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in Project Planning and Implementation”**...

*Extracts of the introduction:* “Best practice in development calls for projects that benefit to all and result in a sustainable socio-economic and natural environment. There is an increasing appreciation of the advantages of using science and technology together with traditional knowledge to find mutually beneficial results from development projects. These goals can be met within development projects through cooperation and mutual understanding, combined with an understanding of the traditional rights of indigenous peoples...”

...Traditional knowledge systems of indigenous peoples, while highly variable in their content and style, nonetheless all have a great deal to offer in sustaining life on the planet. Most traditional knowledge systems assume that people are part of the land, not that they own the land, so they consider themselves as true guardians. The wisdom derived from this philosophy can be used to advantage when planning for sustainability.”

**Download the full document on:**  
[http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/ea/\\$file/IndiKnow-f.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/ea/$file/IndiKnow-f.pdf)

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## Advocacy for ending illegal activities in Togodo-Sud National Park (Togo)

*(directions 2, 3 and 4 of the Road Map for African PAs)*

*By the NGO ADT-Togo*

The Togodo-Sud National Park, covering an area of about 15,000 hectares, is a Ramsar site and home to important biodiversity notably the endemic monkey *Cercopithecus erythrogaster*.

In view of the pressures faced by this protected area, the NGO “Amis de la Terre-Togo (ADT-Togo)” is committed to the conservation of its resources and its effective management.

Thus, within the framework of the implementation of the project entitled “Establishment and development of a buffer zone around the Togodo-Sud National Park” funded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Small-Scale Initiatives Program (SSIP) of the French Global Environment Facility and Fondation Veolia Environnement, ADT-Togo is conducting advocacy aimed at both administrative and traditional authorities, to improve the current management of the park.

Indeed, during an awareness campaign conducted led by ADT-Togo among local communities in the park, illegal activities committed in the park were reported. In particular transhumance, poaching, taking of animals by the military, logging and bush fires.



*Illegal cattle grazing in the park*

ADT-Togo has approached the authorities in charge of protected areas to make it aware of its concern and of the need to find ways to halt illegal activities operating within the national park. ADT also sent an

open letter to the highest authorities, including the Prime Minister, to draw their attention to the damage caused to the park and its periphery (massacre of wildlife including threatened species, destruction of plant cover by uncontrolled fires, degradation of beekeeping equipment installed in the peripheral area, etc.) and on the negative impacts that result.

Three investigative missions have therefore been conducted by the authorities in order to verify the facts outlined by ADT-Togo. Some local authorities in charge of management of the park have unfortunately contested that the poaching reported by ADT takes place within Togodo-Sud National Park although they recognize that animals are frequently taken in the Togodo-Nord faunal reserve. However, they recognized that they were not yet able to curb the presence of transhumance cattle in the park. The authorities committed to take, as soon as possible, the steps necessary to combat poachers and the owners of livestock grazing illegally in the protected area.

Amis de la Terre-Togo will continue its lobbying activities to achieve a total commitment by the authorities to resolve the problems faced by the park and to better manage the national heritage.

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elephants have been seen at the Bai, which was described as an “elephant mortuary” the sources added.

Although the 17 armed individuals, who presented themselves as part of the country’s transitional government forces, have left the area, WWF and other conservation partners fear the killing could continue unless the area is properly secured. The Central African Republic has been rocked by violence and chaos since the beginning of the year, and WWF and other conservation organizations left the field office next to the Bai in April for security reasons.



Jim Leape, WWF International Director General, said: “The killing has started. The Central African Republic must act immediately to secure this unique World Heritage site. The brutal violence we are

witnessing in Dzanga Bai threatens to destroy one of the world’s great natural treasures, and to jeopardize the future of the people who live there. The international community must also act to assist the Central African Republic to restore peace and order in this country to safeguard its population and its natural heritage.”

“WWF also asks Cameroon and the Republic of Congo to assist the Central African Republic in preserving this World Heritage Site, which not only encompasses the Bai, but also includes large neighboring areas of these two countries. The events in Dzanga Bai are a vivid reminder of the existential threat faced by forest elephants in Central Africa. Populations of this species have plummeted 62 per cent over the past ten years. The unfolding tragedy in Dzanga Bai must also spur the governments of China and Thailand to act on their commitments to shut down the ivory markets in their countries that are fueling this illicit trade.”

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### Press release from WWF: at least 26 elephants massacred in a World heritage site

*Yaoundé, Cameroon (10 May 2013)*

At least 26 elephants were massacred in the Dzanga Bai World Heritage Site in the Central African Republic, after 17 individuals armed with Kalashnikov rifles entered on the 6<sup>th</sup> May this unique elephant habitat, known locally as the “village of elephants”.



WWF sources said they had counted at least 26 elephant carcasses in and around the Bai, a large clearing where between 50 and 200 elephants congregate every day to drink nutrients present in the sands.

Four of the elephants were calves, the sources said, adding that local villagers had started taking meat from the carcasses. Since the poachers arrived no

## Kenya - An interesting case for conservation: Elders take matter into their own hands after the killing of the only Black Rhino in Northern Kenya

*A press release of the Northern Rangeland Trust*

Isiolo, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 - On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2013, Omni, the only black rhino on Il Ngwesi Group Ranch (and in northern Kenya), was speared to death by poachers. His carcass was found two days later, with a poisoned spear lodged inside his body. His horns were intact.

Translocated from Lewa (Kenya) in 2002, Omni's presence to the people of Il Ngwesi was very symbolic. It was a first for rhino conservation in Kenya when the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) agreed to return a black rhino back into a newly established community-owned rhino conservation area. Until the 1970s, the area had a very large black rhino population that disappeared after the massive slaughter of the years that followed. Omni's boma was in a sanctuary situated in an area known as *osar lemuny*, Maa for wilderness of the black rhinos, a spot that was a favourite of the early rhino population.

Omni's significance in Il Ngwesi could not be overstated; he was the only black rhino to live on the land since the 1970s, and his presence offered the possibility of reintroducing the species to their previous homeland as well as a way to share with the world at large the community's interest in using conservation to promote the welfare of their people and open up new commercial and employment opportunities through conservation.

### Investigation into the poaching

Devastated by Omni's death, the Il Ngwesi community with help from other stakeholders immediately launched an investigation into the killing. Community elders called for a meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, and decided to use modern as well as traditional methods to catch the poachers. The elders gave the culprits 10 days (from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of April) to confess or face dire consequences, including curses.

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, during the second community meeting, two men confessed to killing Omni. Three other men were also identified to have participated in planning the act. The community has since pressed charges. One suspect is still at large, but four of them have been arraigned in court and have all confessed to the crime...

The entire investigation has been a community-led initiative, using the arm of the law alongside a traditional cultural approach to expose the culprits within this small society. The entire process has been driven by the community's deep pride in Omni, recognizing the benefits he attracted through tourism and a desire to see an expanding rhino population thrive on Il Ngwesi.



*The carcass of Omni and the poisoned spear which caused his death (picture by NRT)*

Visit [www.nrt-kenya.org/ii-ngwesi](http://www.nrt-kenya.org/ii-ngwesi) for more information.

## A publication from the Species Survival Commission, on Great Apes Conservation and Forest Certification



Great Apes and FSC:  
Implementing 'Ape Friendly'  
Practices in Central Africa's  
Logging Concessions



SSC  
Sustainable Species Conservation

### Summary

The long-term survival of Africa's great apes has become increasingly uncertain. Dramatic declines in their population numbers have resulted from a combination of factors, including hunting, habitat loss and infectious disease. Although African apes are species of

international concern, and despite concerted efforts since the 1980s to create protected area networks, develop conservation action plans and establish policy agreements, their populations continue to

decrease. Future projections indicate that this trend will continue unless significant measures to reduce existing threats are taken immediately. The permanent disappearance of any ape species from the wild would be a huge loss to African biodiversity, to the important ecological function they play, and to our shared evolutionary heritage.

Roughly 23.5% of Central Africa's forests are designated primarily for production. In the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of Congo), the majority of remaining forests outside of protected areas overlaps with habitat used by great apes. It has been suggested that to conserve endangered species (such as great apes), protection measures must be extended to other land-use types in the vast matrix in which protected areas are embedded. Secondarised forests are characterized as a 'middle way' towards maintaining biodiversity across these anthropogenic landscapes.



As of 2010, 21 Forest Management Units in the Congo Basin had been awarded legal certificates, signifying their efforts to adhere to responsible forest management. Certified concessions comprised 4,754 km<sup>2</sup> in 2010, of which 63.9% (3,040 km<sup>2</sup>) was certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC), an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote responsible management of the world's forests. The increasing interest in FSC certification confirms that timber companies, in collaboration with their host governments, are willing to consider changes in forestry practices that promote the social and environmental stewardship required to maintain biodiversity.

It is also of critical importance that policy makers understand that some alternative uses of production

forestland, such as oil palm plantations, are simply not compatible with viable biodiversity conservation initiatives. Monocultures preclude the ecosystem services and non-timber forest products supplied by production forests, and do not supply the socioeconomic needs of local people, which are a requirement of FSC certification standards. Responsible production forestry practices are clearly better for biodiversity conservation than the conversion of land to monoculture plantations.

The objective of this document is to outline a framework within which logging companies adhering to FSC certification can be the catalyst needed to ensure the long-term preservation of African great apes. Specific guidelines and practical considerations are given as to how and why forestry and conservation practitioners should collaborate in maintaining wildlife. The most important immediate outcome of such partnerships will be a reduction in the illegal killing of apes. We also seek to promote collaboration between industry and conservation partners in identifying the High Conservation Value forest attributes that are necessary for great ape survival in production forests, at both the local and the landscape scale. For example, combining the timber operators' detailed and spatially-explicit tree data with the wildlife monitoring expertise of the conservation community would be a significant step towards maintaining vital forest functions and ecosystem services in production forests. Some logging companies could use forestry personnel to conduct wildlife monitoring, rather than execute surveys in collaboration with conservation experts.



More important than who implements these activities is that monitoring is designed and implemented to yield accurate and precise information. The incorporation of measures and safeguards for the protection of resources important for great apes in Forestry Management Plans, government Standard

Operating Procedures, certification schemes and review processes would also greatly improve the conservation outlook of the gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos in Central Africa...

[Download the document sur www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org)



An article from the  
**WCPA**  
Protected Providing Areas:  
Natural  
**Solutions to 21st Century Challenges**

Protected areas remain a cornerstone of global conservation efforts. The double impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss are major threats to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation and food and water security. The growing awareness of the planet's vulnerability to human driven changes also provides an opportunity to re-emphasize the multiple values of natural ecosystems and the services that they provide. Protected areas, when integrated into land-use plans as part of larger and connected conservation networks, offer practical, tangible solutions to the problems of both species loss and adaptation to climate change. Natural habitats make a significant contribution to mitigation by storing and sequestering carbon in vegetation and soils, and to adaptation by maintaining essential ecosystem services which help societies to respond to, and cope with climate change and other environmental challenges. Many protected areas could be justified on socioeconomic grounds alone yet their multiple goods and services are largely unrecognized in national accounting.

This paper argues that there is a convincing case for greater investment in expanded and better-connected protected area systems, under a range of governance and management regimes that are specifically designed to counter the threats of climate change, increased demand and altered patterns of resource use. The new agenda for protected areas requires greater inclusivity of a broader spectrum of actors and rights holders, with growing attention to landscapes and seascapes protected by indigenous peoples, local communities, private owners and other actors which complement conservation areas managed by state agencies. Greater attention also needs to be focused on ways to integrate and mainstream protected areas into sustainable development, including promotion of "green"

infrastructure as a strategic part of responses to climate change.

**Download the article:**  
<http://sapiens.revues.org/1254>

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**African Development Bank and WWF call for urgent action to combat wildlife crime: the Marrakech declaration = a 10 point action plan to combat illicit wildlife trafficking**  
*(directions 2 to 6 of the Road Map for African PAs)*

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and WWF have launched (on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013) a joint global call for action to combat the rampant illicit wildlife trafficking scourge that is robbing Africa of precious natural resources and posing a major threat to the development of the continent. Here after are proposed a few extracts of this declaration, downloadable on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org).

"Wildlife trafficking is now more organized, more lucrative, more widespread and more dangerous than ever before. Poachers with military weapons and vehicles gun down elephants and rhinos. Increasingly, they are also targeting the park rangers dedicated to protecting threatened species.

The result is a scourge that is wiping out elephants and rhinos, along with other African species. Tens of thousands of elephants across Africa are poached each year. The forest elephant population in the Congo Basin has fallen by more than 60 percent in the last decade...

What's more, it is no longer a local phenomenon. International criminal networks run the trade and some use the profits to buy weapons, to finance civil conflicts and to pay for terrorism...

This is not just an environmental problem. The violence and damage now threaten peace and the rule of law, as well as the revenue many African countries earn from tourism and other wildlife uses; some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities that depend on wildlife for their

livelihoods suffer. Illicit wildlife trafficking also involves species that are subject to considerable legal trade, trades which when sustainable and traceable provide critical benefits to local communities.



Wildlife trafficking thwarts governments' efforts to stop other illicit trades, such as arms and drugs. It fuels organized crime and corruption, and compromises regional security.

Put simply, illicit wildlife trafficking is undermining the basis of Africa's development and reversing some of the hard-earned economic and social achievements the continent has made in recent years...

Growing demand for illegal wildlife products drives the surge in illicit wildlife trafficking. The tusks, bones and horns of animals killed in Africa, appear in markets all over the world. Smuggled goods find their way to Asia, North America, Europe and elsewhere. Increased demand has led to skyrocketing prices for illegal animal goods.

Worth around \$8 to 10 billion a year, illicit wildlife trafficking now ranks alongside arms, drugs and human trafficking as one of the most highly profitable transnational organized crimes in the world. And it is growing fast...

We need strong partnerships to fight the global problem of illicit wildlife trafficking. This is why we are launching today a new, concerted response.

### 1) Building collaboration to combat illicit wildlife trafficking

Wildlife is a precious global resource that we need to protect and preserve. We reassert the common and irreplaceable value of threatened species to our world and we urge countries and their citizens to act urgently to fight illicit wildlife trafficking in Africa and across the globe.

To help build an effective collaboration on wildlife protection in Africa we stress the need to:

#### Action 1

Initiate or join bilateral, regional and/or international cooperation agreements to combat illicit wildlife trafficking, particularly between countries which share wildlife trafficking trade routes.

#### Action 2

Deepen and operationalize collaboration with international institutions dealing with illicit wildlife trafficking, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, the World Bank, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

#### Action 3

Promote the notion within and beyond our countries that illicit wildlife trafficking is a serious crime, with significant implications beyond species conservation for national security, rule of law, and other forms of serious organized crime.



### 2) Strengthening law enforcement

Trafficking relies on porous borders, the complicity of officials and strong networks of organized crime, all of which undermine our mutual security. We recognize the threat posed by illicit wildlife trafficking to sovereign nations and to the wellbeing of our populations. We will therefore treat this crime equally and in coordination with efforts to halt other forms of illicit trafficking, corruption and money laundering. To help combat wildlife trafficking in Africa we stress the need to:

#### Action 4

Increase financial and human resources for and the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement, trade controls and monitoring to address this problem at the local, national, regional and international levels.

**Action 5**

Establish specialized CITES Units within customs to provide expertise and resources, particularly for specimen identification, and bolster the ability of customs to detect and seize illicit wildlife products by increasing the amount of training, resourcing, and the individual time allocation that each customs official has for detection of illicit wildlife products.

**Action 6**

Promote the establishment of and actively participate in a National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) or similar multi-agency cooperative as recommended by Interpol. Such a task force would include police, customs, environmental agencies, other specialized agencies, prosecutors, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental partners.

**3) Penalizing wildlife crime to the full extent of the law**

To help curb illicit wildlife trafficking we need to ensure that wildlife criminals are penalized to the full extent of the law, providing an effective deterrent to ongoing criminal involvement. To this end, we stress the need to:

**Action 7**

Strengthen the judiciary sector with better awareness, capacity and resources to ensure that prosecutions for illicit wildlife trafficking are conducted effectively, to the full extent of the law and using the strongest penalties available.

**Action 8**

When necessary, change or update legislation to ensure that illicit wildlife trafficking of protected

species is a criminal offense punishable by at least four years of prison, as recommended by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, so that the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime can

be used as a basis for international cooperation and mutual legal assistance.

**Action 9**

Ensure that suspects apprehended for wildlife trafficking are treated as serious criminals, including investigation of the suspect with respect to other non-wildlife related offenses, and potential seizure of assets of arrested suspects.

**Action 10**

Publicize illicit wildlife trafficking as a serious crime under national law, notably showcasing successful prosecutions that resulted in significant penalties.

**4) Reducing demand for illicit wildlife products**

In the long term, illicit wildlife trafficking can only be effectively tackled if we reduce the demand for illicit wildlife products. Therefore, we stress the need for government-led, well-researched campaigns aimed at reducing demand, using targeted strategies to influence consumer behavior...

*If you'd like to join the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking, you can send an email to [combatiwt@afdb.org](mailto:combatiwt@afdb.org) with your name, organization and country.*

*More info : Gemma Parkes, [gparkes@wwfint.org](mailto:gparkes@wwfint.org)*

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