

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development

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Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (IWT) are reaching unprecedented levels, threatening the long-term survival of populations of numerous keystone species including the African elephant, rhinos, tigers and pangolins. Just last year over 25,000 elephants were slaughtered for their ivory, and rhinos were poached at a rate of more than two per day.

Poaching is driven by a rising demand for illegal wildlife products, especially from the rapidly growing economies of Asia and South East Asia. The value of illegal trade has been estimated at between \$5 and \$20 billion per year, making wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking and weapons. Profits obtained from illegal wildlife trade have found their way into the hands of criminal gangs and violent insurgent groups.

While demand plays a key role in fueling the slaughter of animals at industrial scales, on the ground poaching is also the result of poverty, inadequate enforcement, and political instability.

The growing decline in wildlife populations will have long-term negative impacts on local communities

because they will be deprived of future livelihood options, and have fewer opportunities to gain from tourism revenue.

The issue of poaching and illegal wildlife trade has received enormous attention in recent years. In the last two years, no fewer than 18 declarations and pledges have been made from a series of conferences including, the African Elephant Summit in Botswana in 2013, the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014 and the Kasane Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade 2015.

These commitments, declarations and pledges have been incorporated in a number of strategies and action plans, including the US National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking (2014) and the European Commission's Strategic Approach to Conservation in Africa (2015).

Still, much more needs to be done.

Fortunately, affected countries are now taking major steps to stem the crisis, launching targeted and integrated solutions.



THE APPROACH

The GEF takes a holistic approach to tackling the poaching crisis by seeking to reduce both supply and demand which is driving the illegal wildlife trade, as well as targeted efforts to curb the actual trafficking. We support stronger monitoring and enforcement efforts, strengthening of legal and regulatory frameworks, and awareness raising.



THE PROGRAM

In response to this growing crisis and to the international call for action, the GEF in June 2015 launched the flagship “Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development” program.

A \$90 million grant from the GEF is helping to mobilize an additional \$513 million from a wide range of partners, including the Governments of participating countries, GEF Agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations, the private sector and civil society.

The program aims at stopping poaching, trafficking and demand for wildlife and wildlife products illegally traded between Africa and Asia. It is a comprehensive effort to protect threatened species and their habitats, with a suite of investments to address the problems and look for short and long term solutions in the source, transit and demand countries.

Activities in the source countries will include enhancing anti-poaching tracking and intelligence operations, increasing the size of conservation areas and improving their management, land use planning, and providing opportunities for development through nature-based tourism and other agriculture, forestry and natural resource projects that benefit local communities.

Activities in the demand countries include targeted

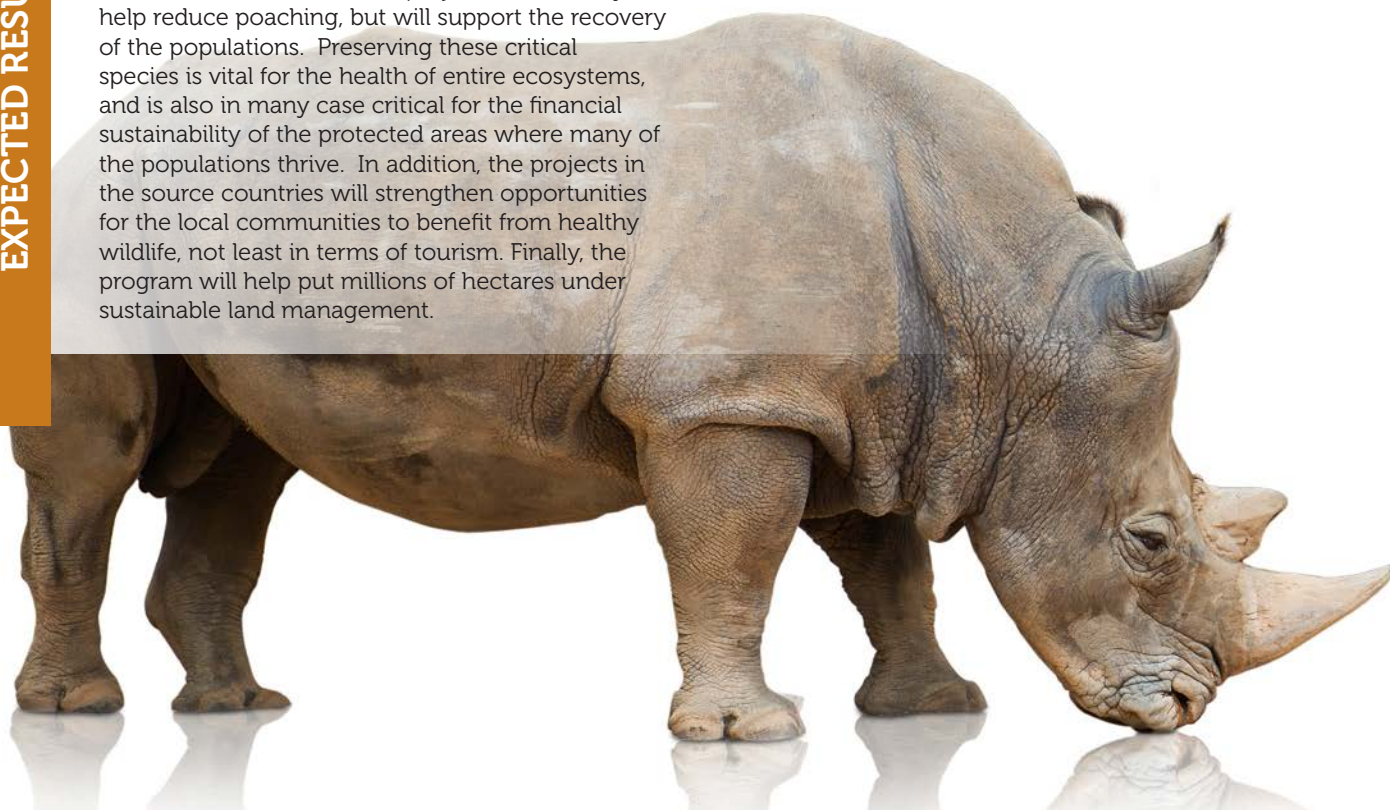
awareness raising among end-users across the world, increasing legal deterrents for purchase, and improving awareness of the general public. In transit states, the program will support anti-smuggling and customs controls, using DNA markers, tracking known shipments of illegal wildlife products to identify the source of wildlife, mapping and identifying criminal organizations, and strengthening efforts against corruption at all levels.

The Program will carry out activities in eight African countries, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia, as well as in India and Indonesia .

The World Bank is GEF's lead partner in this initiative, which will be complemented by efforts from a wide range of other partners, including Asian Development Bank, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Environment Program, and World Wildlife Fund, along with Agence Française de Développement European Union, Department For International Development, United for Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Agency for International Development, The Clinton Global Initiative, The Elephant Protection Initiative, The US National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, the GEF Agencies, UN Agencies, and a suite of National and International Conservation Organizations.

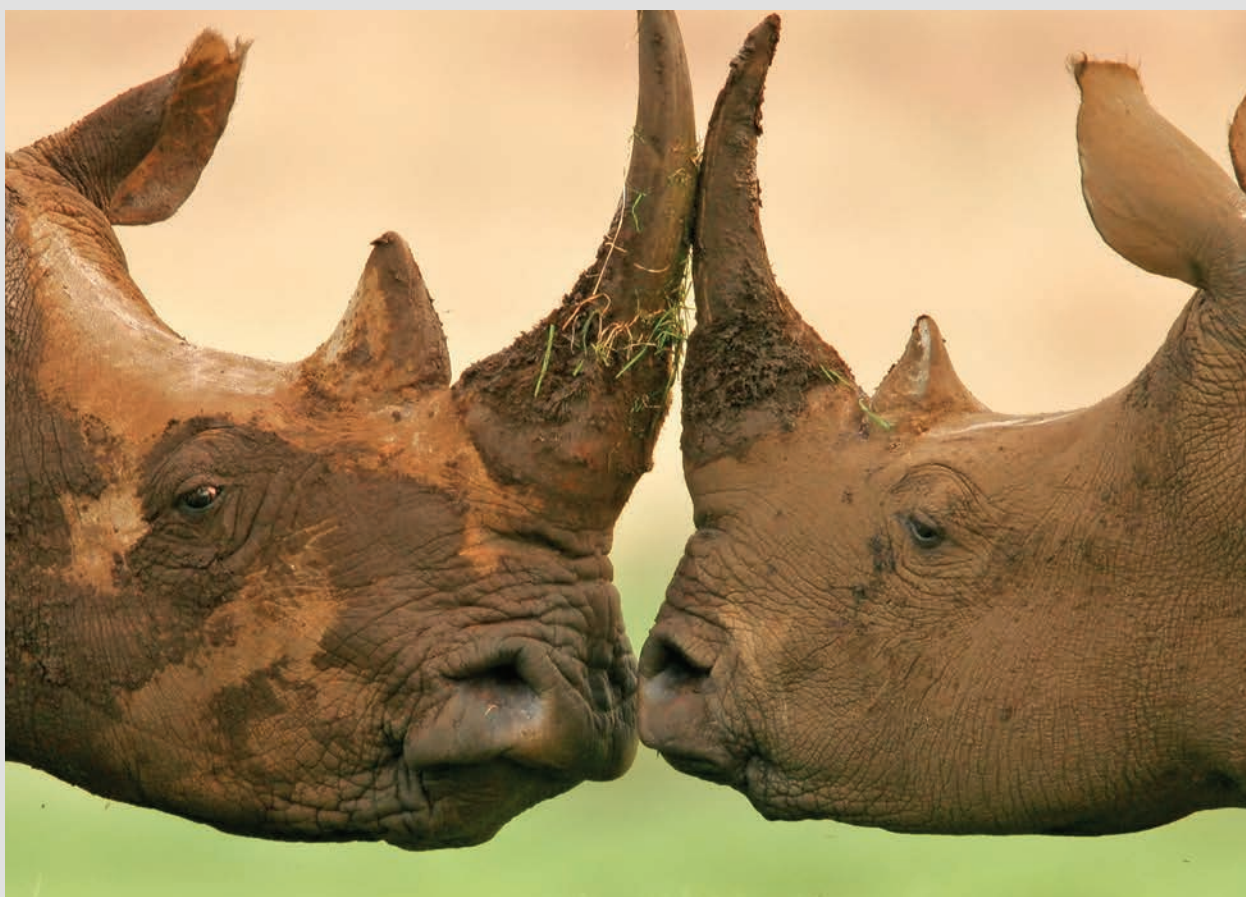
EXPECTED RESULTS

The program will reduce poaching of threatened species as well as the protection of their natural habitats. In some cases, the project will not only help reduce poaching, but will support the recovery of the populations. Preserving these critical species is vital for the health of entire ecosystems, and is also in many case critical for the financial sustainability of the protected areas where many of the populations thrive. In addition, the projects in the source countries will strengthen opportunities for the local communities to benefit from healthy wildlife, not least in terms of tourism. Finally, the program will help put millions of hectares under sustainable land management.



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Total GEF Financing: \$90 million; Total Co-financing: \$ 513 million



ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.6 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$74.3 billion in financing for more than 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development

Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office - Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank Group (WBG), World Wildlife Fund U.S. (WWF).

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