

Mapping of actors to combat illegal trade of flora and fauna

— The global and African illegal wildlife trade, a summary of challenges, actors and potential collaboration



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Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change is a government agency collaboration between the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), University of Gothenburg and Sida to promote enhanced integration of environmental issues and perspectives in Swedish development cooperation.

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Executive summary

Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change (hereafter 'the Helpdesk') was commissioned by Eva Bursvik¹, Johanna Palmberg², and Tomas Andersson³ to provide a mapping of actors working to combat the illegal trade in plants (including timber) and animals, and suggest potential new areas for cooperation and/or new potential partners for Sida. Although the focus was on regional organisations and initiatives/projects on the African continent, global organisations and initiatives were also included.

This was an assignment jointly commissioned by the Trade and Regional Economic Integration section for Regional Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden, Lusaka, Zambia and the Unit for Global Cooperation on Environment at Sida Stockholm.

The assignment was performed by describing i) briefly the field of IWT; ii) the challenges and strategies to prevent IWT; iii) the actors in the field of IWT in Africa and globally; and iv) potential entry points for support and collaborations.

The report includes five chapters, starting with an introduction of the assignment (Chapter 1). Chapter 2 describes the illegal wildlife trade from an overall perspective, including definitions, and addresses the main challenges and lessons learned. Chapter 3 briefly describes some key policies and strategy documents relating to IWT. This is to introduce the overall IWT concerns from a rule of law perspective. In addition, some selected tools are mentioned as an opportunity for combatting IWT. Chapter 4 comprises the actual mapping, i.e. a list of potential global and regional actors. The actors are grouped into the following categories: academia, global and continental civil society organisations, global agreements and networks, regional agreements, international agencies, and private sector. Chapter 5 includes conclusions and issues for considerations regarding Sida's support to IWT.

Apart from the limited time available for the mapping (15 days), the assignment had a few additional challenges. For instance, the limitation of data gathering provided a substantial obstacle regarding IWT due to lack of data or access of reliable figures. In addition, the report mention different forms of illicit trading, the role of corruption and human rights linked to IWT, but this is not analysed in much detail. Moreover, the report does not discuss the crucial role Asian countries and Latin America, or other regions important for habitat loss and transfer, play in wildlife crime in any detail.

There are a large number of actors engaged in the work to combat IWT. These can be found at different levels and at different steps in the IWT supply chain, that is from the original place (the habitat) that the wildlife is taken from to the final destination. To also assure that the whole supply chain of actors are covered the report has applied an idea of dividing the supply chain in three steps:

- Original location of plant or animal – **the habitat**
- The transportation from original place to reach the market – **the transfer**, and
- The place for trade – **the market**

The report concludes that international wildlife trafficking is not just a conservation issue, nor is it just a wildlife issue, or just commercial or a health issue; it is also a human rights, an economic and a governance issue.

Effectively addressing illegal wildlife trade requires policies and actions to strengthen governance, leverage risk-based financial and customs tools, and the establishment of a legal and fiscal environment that bolsters private-sector investments and the use of certifiable trade mechanisms. It also requires sound incentives for livelihood alternatives at local level, including alternative income-

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generating activities. Further, there is a need to for holistic, human rights-based, and social justice-focused approaches for IWT and indigenous peoples and local community inclusion (IPLC). Not least, it also requires an enlightened consumer, to avoid them being a driver to the increase of IWT and related businesses, not fuelling the IWT end-market. Moreover, corrupt actors are involved in every stage of the IWT supply chain. Commercial traders in all kinds of wildlife also have plenty of opportunities to launder protected wildlife, such as, transform financial profits obtained from trading in illegal wildlife and related offences into legitimate assets. It is necessary to work with both producer and consumer countries in a coordinated strategy, as well as include the link between transfers and to strengthen collaboration between all actors, including the private sector

This implies that all parts of the IWT supply chain; the habitat, the transfer and the market have to be addressed to successfully combat IWT.

As stated in the terms of reference (see Annex 4), the main task was to map regional organisations and initiatives/projects on the African continent, as well on a global level, which are working to combat illegal wildlife trade with flora and fauna. The terms of reference listed eight (1-8 below) more specific questions to be answered by this report. To guide the reader, the report has tried to present a summary of the findings from the mapping, the review of relevant documents and experiences gathered in interview with a number of relevant actors, under the following bullets:

1. ***To identify and describe policy and strategy document linked to illegal trade with fauna and flora linked to AU and RECs, and in particular SADC, COMESA and EAC.***

The mapping of relevant policy and strategy document can be found in chapter 3.1. There is a variety of policies and strategies, that imply a weak and/or ineffective wildlife law enforcement, poor domestication of regional and international conventions, treaties and agreements, and weak cross border cooperation. Nevertheless, there are opportunities as there are regional agreements in place, for example, both LATF and HAWEN provide opportunities to build capacity on government level and strengthen the regional collaboration.

2. ***To map the most important actors in illegal trade of fauna and flora in Africa and on a global level and describe their origin and where they are active.***

Chapter 4 includes a presentation of actors identified in the mapping as the most relevant. Those that are found to be of particular interest for Sida are IIED, TRAFFIC, WWF, CITES, EnviCrimeNet, ICCWC, IGAD HAWEN, WCP, Wildlife TRAPS project, ROUTES Partnership⁴ and TRACIT.

3. ***Identify organisations/initiatives/projects relating to the combat of illegal trade with fauna and flora, which could be of interest for Sida to support, with a focus on southern and eastern Africa.***

Chapter 4.2 and 4.4 presents regional actors and initiatives. Many countries in the region are both transit countries and countries of origin for IWT. Useful would be to establish, facilitate and support information-sharing mechanisms, learning exchange and promote south-south learning. There are actors and initiatives that can serve as a role model in this regard, for example Alinea (WCP), the CBNRM forum, CONNECT including TRAFFIC and EAAP, as well as IGAD, HAWEN and LAFT.

⁴ That is, the achievements made by ROUTES that continue to play an important role in combating IWT. ROUTES Partnership as a project is finalised.

4. ***Identify organisations/initiatives/projects relating to the combat of illegal trade with fauna and flora, which could be of interest for Sida to support, with a focus on the global level.***

Chapter 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5 presents relevant global actors. Which actors to approach depends on what type of activities Sida would be interested in supporting and, what role Sida foresees to have. Law enforcement is evidently steps behind to prevent illegal wildlife trade, as well as catch and prosecute all actors entailed in illegal wildlife trade. In addition, there are many gaps to fill on community, national, regional as well as on global level.

Support to capacity building (suggesting a more long-term commitment), reaching both law enforcement and livelihood is evidently important and may be reached through working with TRAFFIC, ICCWC, GWP, Wildlife TRAPS project and SULi.

5. ***Discuss on a comprehensive level the role the private sector can have in the combat against illegal trade with fauna and flora and the potential role they can have regarding a sustainable and positive development of the sector.***

Chapter 2.5 discusses the role and potential role of the private sector and Chapter 4.6 presents a selection of private sector initiatives. All who have contributed to this report state that involving the private sector is key in the combat against illegal wildlife trade since wildlife traffickers take advantage of and use legal business supply chains, transport systems and market platforms for trading their illicit products.

Initiatives taken and tools and approaches developed by private sector actors, such as ROUTES, the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, and TRACIT, could be of interest for Sida to be aware of and promote to partners at national, regional as well as at global level. Among useful tools to mention is the voluntary industry standards developed by ROUTES for the airline industry, and the different training material and policy guidance developed by the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online.

Organisations and agencies such as CITES, TRAFFIC, WCO and WWF are all established and respected and have long experience from working in partnership with both private actors, NGOs as well as with governments. They work at national and regional, as well as at global level. They would welcome a dialogue on potential support on short-term as well on long-term level.

6. ***Based on findings from the points above, make recommendations to Sida on how best to contribute to a reduction in the illegal trade of fauna and flora on the African continent as well as globally, in the short, medium (3-5 years) and long term.***

Based on the findings, in order to more effectively combat illegal wildlife trafficking, all points in the supply chain must be addressed including consumer demand, poaching, transit and shipping, and prosecution.

In the short-term Sida could promote tools that are already in place, such as the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit, FLoD and LEAP. However, to make these tools useful, also in future, they need constant improvement, such as strengthened data gathering, sampling and assessment. Supporting the development and improvement of new and existing tools should be seen as a more long-term activity.

All who were interviewed for this report highlighted the need and the importance of capacity building and exchange of knowledge in all areas of concern. Many actors work with capacity building, but it is important to focus on skills, behaviour change initiatives and other linking issues such as corruption, gender and human rights. Among the many competent actors working with capacity building and knowledge sharing are TRAFFIC, CITES, ICCWC, IIED, and EnviCrimeNet.

7. ***Identify synergies between the regional and the global; identify where gaps exist today and where there may be added value for possible complementary support or co-financing for cooperation between the regional and global strategies.***

As discussed in Chapter 2.4, there seems to be a global imbalance in where investments are made in the combat against IWT and which thematic issues are covered such as poaching, rule of law, etc. Challenges related to the combat against IWT are also unevenly distributed, and the correlation between needs and investment volumes could be strengthened.

It is clear that a number of countries, which have major IWT challenges have rightly received major investments from different donors, but other countries in need of support have received comparatively little. It can be concluded that more data is needed for planning and more informed decision making and/or resource allocation, and actors such as CITES and IIED are contributing significantly.

On a strategic level, there is a need to increase communication and collaboration among donors ("investors"). Initiatives such as regular donor engagement platforms to bring international donors together in meetings would allow a community of donors to proactively discuss issues, share information and lessons learned to enhance decision-making, establish synergies, identify gaps and support wider efforts to combat IWT.

Trade information and analysis is key in for example green criminology. Therefore, it is necessary to involve actors that do work with such tools and assessment. Important actors in this field are e.g. TRAFFIC, CITES, IIED, and ICCWC.

Moreover, as those involved in IWT often is one-step ahead of those working to combat IWT, increased collaboration and sharing of knowledge and development of tools and approaches among actors at national, regional as well as on global level is necessary in order to maximize the response and make maximum use of available resources. In this case the more established actors such as WCO, CITES, ICCWC, TRAFFIC and WWF have a particular responsibility and role to fill.

Also described briefly, in Chapter 2, is the linkage between human rights and IWT and the need to integrate human rights based approaches in the combat against IWT. This is an issue raised in several of the interviews held in preparation for this report. Sida could be a champion for the promotion of partnerships with human rights organisations in order to integrate human rights into conservation thinking and approaches, and to raise awareness of the mutually supportive and reinforcing agendas of human rights and conservation. This would be relevant on both global as well as on regional level. Moreover, if Sida globally and regionally could join hands the impact would be much stronger. The sustainability trade projects that TRAFFIC is involved in work to protect wildlife species from over-exploitation and promote sustainable

livelihoods for local communities, which is also one interesting example.

Innovative thinking is to combine the different modalities and to work with various actors on different levels, to find synergies and to combine local, regional and international level. Relevant organisations to consider are e.g. AFR100, LATF, WCP and CONNECT.

- 8. *The assignment is expected to consist of two parts, a desk study and interviews with relevant organisations, projects and initiatives, such as UN agencies, international NGOs, the private sector, Swedish embassies and academic institutions where appropriate.***

The Terms of References suggested a number of organisations and initiatives to be included in the mapping. During the mapping this list was supplemented and is presented in the report (see Table of contents). Valuable input to the report was provided by a number of persons affiliated to the actors in the report, and persons interviewed are listed in Annex 2.

FINAL WORDS

Recognising that the assignment primarily was to map organisations and initiatives working to combat illegal wildlife trade, the Helpdesk does not claim to have in-depth knowledge on all the different actors and their work at hand. Therefore, the recommendations provided are suggestions rather than decisive advice. However, we are willing to provide additional information that Sida deems relevant for potential support.