

LeAP

Learning and Action Platform for Community Engagement Against IWT

Developing and sharing best practice in involving
communities in tackling wildlife crime



Jumuika
la
Maliasili
Tanzania



Tanzania
Natural
Resource
Forum



In brief

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) threatens the survival of many iconic species and negatively impacts on the livelihoods of those who live alongside them. Engaging local communities is a critical element of effective strategies to tackle IWT, but there is a lack of knowledge about different types of community-based approaches and the conditions under which they will and won't work. Communities themselves are rarely consulted in IWT programme design processes and lack capacity and voice to engage in policy debate, meaning policies and programmes often do not reflect their priorities and views.

Our Learning and Action Platform (LeAP) addresses this problem. Through our online portal (www.peoplenotpoaching.org) we are collecting and sharing case studies and other resources on community engagement to tackle IWT. Through international and regional learning events we will enhance South-South learning and dialogue. Focusing initially on Zambia and Tanzania, through information exchange and dialogue we will enhance community voice in IWT policy and programme design.

Why a Learning Platform?

Local communities who live alongside wildlife have vast knowledge on and experience in how to manage it sustainably. Numerous international policy forums have recognised the importance of engaging communities as key partners in conservation efforts. But the majority of investment in anti-IWT initiatives remains targeted at law enforcement, communities are rarely consulted during programme design, and community knowledge and experience is in danger of being overlooked.

The outcome statement from the Kasane Conference on IWT in 2015 included a recommendation to "Establish, facilitate and support information-sharing mechanisms... to develop knowledge, expertise and best practice in practical experience of involving local people

in managing wildlife resources, and in action to tackle IWT." Our project responds directly to this recommendation establishing an action and learning platform for locally-driven initiatives to share lessons and inject community voices into IWT policy-making.



Our plans

We believe that solutions to sustainable development challenges (including IWT) must come from the bottom up, be grounded in local context and local evidence, owned and driven by local people, and that local experience can help shape effective national and global policy.

This belief is reflected in the approach of the LeAP project, in which we will first build a strong body of evidence on the role of communities in tackling IWT and then build capacity and voice of community-based organisations to wield that evidence, including through more effective dialogue and interactions with key national and international decision makers that shape anti-IWT policy and practice (including governments, donors and NGOs).

1. Building evidence

Using our project's online portal www.PeopleNotPoaching.org, we will work with partners to collect evidence on effective approaches to supporting communities in tackling IWT. Using the IIED-IUCN theory of change for engaging communities in tackling

IWT as an analytical framework (see outputs from the First Line of Defence initiative¹), we will use the evidence to generate and publish lessons learned.

2. Strengthening voice and dialogue

Country partners in Zambia and Tanzania will convene dialogues that bring together communities and key stakeholders, exploring how to better support community-based efforts to tackle IWT. Lessons learned will be shared widely to encourage similar processes in other countries. We will also take opportunities at the regional and international level to bring community voices into policy processes and debates.

3. Facilitating South-South learning

We will foster a dynamic community of practice, building on our network of contacts to bring communities from many countries together to share case studies and experiences on both community approaches to tackling IWT, and strategies for engaging with, and influencing, IWT decision-makers and programme implementers. We will organise learning exchanges to bring community representatives together in Africa and internationally.

¹ www.iied.org/first-line-defence-flod



Timeline

**March
2021**

Policy influence

**Further review,
documentation and
dissemination**

National dialogues

**Dissemination of
evidence**

**Publish and
distribute evidence
and analysis**

**Regional learning
exchange**

**Analysis of lessons
learned**

**Building a
community of
practice**

**Community
participation
in regional and
international
events**

**Evidence collection
and analysis**

**In-country
community
consultations**

**Desk reviews
of documented
case studies**

**Online portal
set-up**

**July
2018**

KEY STEPS

MAIN ACTIVITIES

**RUNNING
THROUGHOUT**

Who's who

IIED

IIED is a policy and action research organisation that promotes sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges, and work with some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them – from village councils to international conventions. IIED will lead and coordinate the project, providing technical advice, identifying evidence and disseminating lessons learned.

www.iied.org

TNRF

Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) is a network organisation registered in 2006 as an NGO. It brings together over 6,000 members to change policy and practice in the natural resource sector for the better. It does this by sharing knowledge base of practice and strengthening citizens' voice for improved natural resource governance. TNRF will lead the community consultations in Tanzania, organise and host a multi-stakeholder dialogue and participate in learning activities and exchanges with other members of the Learning Platform.

www.tnrf.org

Namibia Nature Foundation

Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) is Namibia's leading conservation and sustainable development NGO, with a core area of expertise in CBNRM. NNF is an active member of the Namibian Association of CBNRM support organisations, and its initiatives include working with conservancies in the north west of Namibia and supporting the rhino ranger programme, along with Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) and Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), in an effort to stop poaching of black rhino. NNF will contribute lessons from Namibia's long and successful history of community conservation and will convene and organise the regional learning exchange.

www.nnf.org.na

IUCN-SULi

IUCN CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (IUCN-SULi) was established in 2012, as a joint initiative of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). It aims to mobilise global expertise across the science, policy and practice sectors to address the urgent challenges of overexploitation of wild species and support robust, equitable models of sustainable use that meet human needs and priorities. IUCN-SULi will use its extensive network to provide both an international dissemination channel and critical links to relevant international IWT policy forums.

www.iucn.org/suli

Zambia CBNRM Forum

Zambia CBNRM Forum is an umbrella organisation that was registered in 2005. It represents various communities, community-based organisations and civil society organisations that are interested in the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction through community based natural resources management. Zambia CBNRM Forum will organise and mobilise communities, assist in data analysis and reporting, and host the Zambian multi-stakeholder dialogue.

www.zcbrm.com

Get involved

If you have experience of relevant initiatives, please get involved!

We are keen to hear about community-driven initiatives, such as Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), or externally driven initiatives, such as those where community members are employed as game guards.

Share your experiences of developing and implementing community action against poaching on www.PeopleNotPoaching.org

Online learning platform

www.PeopleNotPoaching.org

Project webpage

Our project publications will be posted here:

www.iied.org/learning-action-communities-against-IWT

Get in touch with project partners

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TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



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from the British people



Project
Materials

**Biodiversity, Natural Resource
Management**

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Photo credits

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Page 2: People Not Poaching homepage. Photo: Conservancy Rhino Rangers, Namibia (Save the Rhino Trust and Minnesota Zoo)

Page 3: Community scouts. Greater Kilimanjaro Trans-Boundary Ecosystem (AWF)