



Cross Border Cooperation for Wildlife Management

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for

INECE Regional Environmental Compliance
and Enforcement Conference
Cape Town 5-6 April 2008



INTRODUCTION

“Nature crime has become a threat to nations and their resources in every part of the world. Globally, illicit trade in wildlife may alone be worth more than US\$ 10 billion a year. And we know now that people involved in drug and human trafficking are sometimes linked to wildlife trade”

*Ravic Huso, Deputy Chief of Mission,
US Embassy in Thailand*



INTRODUCTION

“ To date, the fight on illegal trade in wildlife has been left mainly to environmental officials within each nation to solve. Increased cross border cooperation and more involvement of ‘enforcement’ agencies in fighting nature crimes are essential if ‘we are’ to maintain beautiful wildlife, rich protected areas & important watershed”.

*Senoator Kraisak Choonhavan,
President of Wild Aid Foundation Thailand*




Why cross border cooperation?

- ❖ Wildlife straddle political boundaries, thus activities in one country or jurisdiction can significantly affect neighbouring countries.
- ❖ Therefore, harmonization & collaboration of wildlife management policies, legal and institutional frameworks across national borders is inevitable.
- ❖ Collaboration in the management of shared ecosystems (eg: wildlife) can drastically reduce the emanating threats and fight against illegal trade and killing of wildlife.



Any solutions to the problem?

- ❖ YES. But how?
- ❖ Through principally cooperative and collaborative as well as joint actions, activities and solutions in view of transboundary nature of wildlife issues.
- ❖ Compliance with and enforcement of treaties related to wildlife protection, basically CBD, CITES and related regional enforcement instruments such as the Lusaka Agreement, call for cross border cooperation to protect wildlife and implement international and national laws.



❖ Many forms of cross border collaboration to jointly conserve and manage wildlife resources in Africa exists. Few example:


- ✓ Joint policy development for managing wildlife, habitats & its ecosystems, *eg: concept of cross border landscape/ecosystems (approaches of major NGOs)*
- ✓ Collaboration on enforcement of wildlife conservation laws & regulations, *eg: anti-poaching; investigations*
- ✓ Common tourist policies, *eg: Promoting “Wild Southern Africa”, “safari hunting policies”, policies regarding “bushmeat”*
- ✓ Jointly preserving & restoring common ecosystems & habitats, *eg: common approaches to deal with human and animal conflicts; joint zoning management*
- ✓ Collaboration in areas of education, communication, and capacity building, *eg: Asian initiative to fight illegal trade in wildlife; UNEP-Green Customs Initiative; exchange programmes, joint wildlife tourist packages; joint wildlife research, promotion of joint actions/activities*



❖ Other examples include:

- ✓ Common national parks & protected areas:
 - Park W-/Benin- Niger & BFaso;
 - Gola complex –Sierra Leone,& Liberia;
 - Masai Mara/Serengeti- Kenya & Tanzania
 - Limpopo/Gruger/Gonarezhou- Z'bwe, SAfrica, & Mozambique
- ✓ Cross border agreements/arrangements to enhance management of common species:
 - Lusaka Agreement on wildlife enforcement
 - Gorilla- Uganda, Rwanda, DRC
 - CMS treaties on migratory species, sea turtles, gorilla etc
 - Central African agreement for common forestry exploitation policies
 - MIKE- monitoring of illegal killing of elephants

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- ✓ Cross border cooperation to facilitate to facilitate tourism as well as wildlife management:
 - Zimbabwe, Zambia & Botswana
 - South Africa & Mozambique
 - Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania
 - ✓ Sub-regional framework conservation strategies for species:
 - IUCN Species action plans (rhinos, lions, elephants, hippos etc)
 - ✓ Integrated cross border management or corridors:
 - Caprivi Strip Programme between Namibia, Botswana & Angola
 - ✓ Collaboration in areas of resource allocation:
 - Joint approaches to donors; agreements on border patrolling activities; co-sponsoring event to share experiences



✓ Collaboration between relevant stakeholder on wildlife resource management and conservation:

- Local communities, private sector, NGOs, government agencies, etc
- Interpol Wildlife Working Group, etc

✓ Cooperation through global information systems & exchange of information & data:

- Ecomessage facility implemented by Interpol
- TRAFFIC with the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)
- MIKE with its Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants implemented by CITES



Are existing solutions/mechanisms to cross border wildlife management effective?

- ✓ *Have no answer.*
- ✓ *However, participants in this Regional Conference are enforcement experts and are in the field to provide response to this question during the Session through:*
 - *Discussions & exchange of views*
 - *Sharing of positive & negative experiences & lessons learned on the subject*
- ***THANK YOU FOR LISTENING***