



COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT), valued at \$7-23 billion annually, poses one of the most urgent threats to African wildlife. AWF's counter wildlife trafficking programs work in synergy to support Africa's wildlife authorities in this tough and ever-changing fight. We focus on detecting and deterring wildlife crime, and we provide tools and training to support investigations and the successful prosecution of traffickers. In addition, we address cybercrime, including the online illegal trade.

Building capacity to

- detect illegal wildlife products at airports and other hotspots
- track and deter poachers in the field
- investigate and successfully prosecute wildlife crime
- address cyber-enabled wildlife crime

CANINES FOR CONSERVATION

The Canines for Conservation Program provides highly skilled crime detection and interdiction capacity in two forms.

Detection-dog teams are essential in curbing the flow of ivory, rhino horn, and other illegal wildlife products through smuggling centers. Seizures of wildlife contraband happen



CANINES FOR CONSERVATION

regularly, disrupting trafficking routes and applying pressure on poaching syndicates and local perpetrators.

Tracking-dog teams patrol areas and sniff out kill sites to learn scents and trail perpetrators even to their doorsteps. These units have impressive track records. For example, since canine teams began operating in Manyara Ranch and Serengeti National Park in 2020, they've made over 100 finds, resulting in multiple arrests.

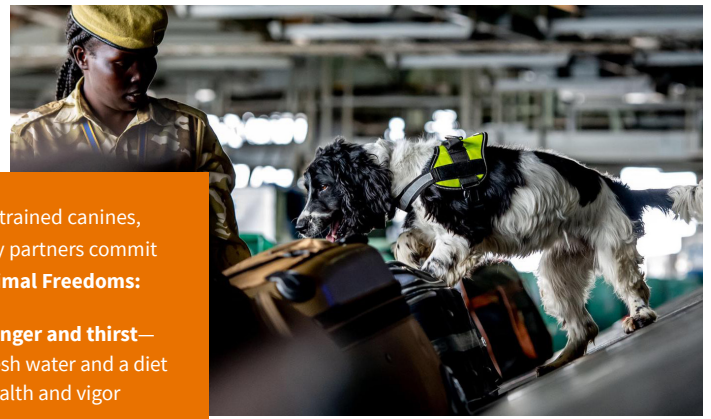
Canine teams currently work in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. AWF trains the dogs and their handlers, an elite group selected from ranger forces, and provides technical and financial support once the units are

deployed. But the program in any given country—the dogs, the work, the successes—belongs to the wildlife authorities, which sends a message that fighting wildlife crime is a government mission and priority.

To date Canines for Conservation units have uncovered 441 caches that led to the arrest of 507 suspects. The finds have included 4,632+ kilograms of elephant ivory, 22 kilograms of rhino horn, 4,585 kilograms of pangolin scales, 70 lion teeth, 220+ lion claws, 111+ hippo teeth, and 7 live pangolins.

WILDLIFE JUDICIAL AND PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AWF's Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Program 1) sensitizes prosecutors and other justice professionals to the importance of wildlife-crime prosecution, and 2) builds capacity in the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime. Workshops familiarize participants with the laws on the books and emphasize the costs of wildlife crime to ecosystems and the human communities dependent on those ecosystems. They also cover how prosecutors can add teeth where laws are weak—for example, by making other applicable criminal charges such as customs or tax law violations. Workshops for officers on the ground cover topics including principles of investigation and the role of an investigator, taking witness statements, case management, evidence handling and storage, preparing witnesses for trial, and compelling witness attendance.



Upon receiving AWF-trained canines, our wildlife-authority partners commit to providing **Five Animal Freedoms**:

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst**—ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- **Freedom from discomfort**—shelter and a comfortable resting area
- **Freedom from pain, injury, and disease**—rapid diagnosis and treatment
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour**—sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of other dogs
- **Freedom from fear and distress**—conditions and treatment that avoid mental suffering

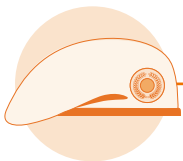
witnesses' transportation costs or a lack of technical know-how regarding chain-of-evidence integrity. Court monitors also support witnesses, usually rangers, to be effective witnesses on the stand.

WILDLIFE CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATION

AWF builds the capacity of our partners to disrupt illegal online trade and investigate cybercrime. We've established relationships with a dozen government and private-sector

organizations to facilitate this work. Some partners we support, such as wildlife authorities; others are service providers with tools that benefit law enforcers. For example, we work with a private-tech company to advance partner agencies' capacities in mobile forensics. We also have relationships with Interpol in Kenya and Uganda, which benefits those respective countries when they have investigations that lead overseas.

Over time and with increased illegal transactions online, our trainings have evolved to emphasize the importance of collecting mobile phone evidence. In 2021, we opened a digital forensics lab at AWF headquarters, which is at the disposal of law enforcers needing to conduct forensic analysis on digital devices.



To date, we've trained 3,224 officials—judges, prosecutors, customs officers, anti-corruption officers, rangers, park managers, and others—from 18 countries.

COURT MONITORING

AWF places court monitors in high-priority districts to address logistical and other challenges that can hinder the progress of a case. Our court-monitoring program is among the most extensive in Africa, with operations in the Tsavo-Mkomazi cross-border region (Kenya-Tanzania), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia. We address a variety of needs, such as



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People and Wildlife Thrive*

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