

# AWF IWT FACT SHEET

**A**frican wildlife is under growing pressure from habitat loss and fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, diseases and the effects of climate change. Compounding this situation, an accelerating Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) poses a further significant threat to Africa's wildlife. Globally, wildlife poaching and associated trafficking have grown into a lucrative transnational organized crime that is decimating populations of iconic species like elephants, rhinos, great apes, lions and pangolins among others. Poaching is robbing Africans of their heritage as well as an important resource for their future. **Africa must act now!**

## I What is Poached

Iconic species such as elephants and rhinos are poached for their body parts which are traded illegally as traditional medicine or trinkets on a lucrative black market. Big cats such as lions and cheetah are poached for their bones and for the live animal trade. Great apes, including chimpanzees in Central and West Africa, are hunted as bush meat, with growing commercial bush meat markets fueled by urban consumers, who associate bush meat with status and culture. Great apes' babies are traded as pets. Pangolins are killed for their scales and meat. And the list goes on.

## I AWF's Mission

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is working to ensure that wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa. Since 1961, AWF has been working in African landscapes harboring the most critical wildlife species to ensure species protection and conservation. AWF works with African governments and communities to protect endangered species including rhinos, elephants, lion, cheetah, giraffe, African wild dog, Ethiopian wolf and mountain gorillas present in AWF's priority landscapes throughout Africa.

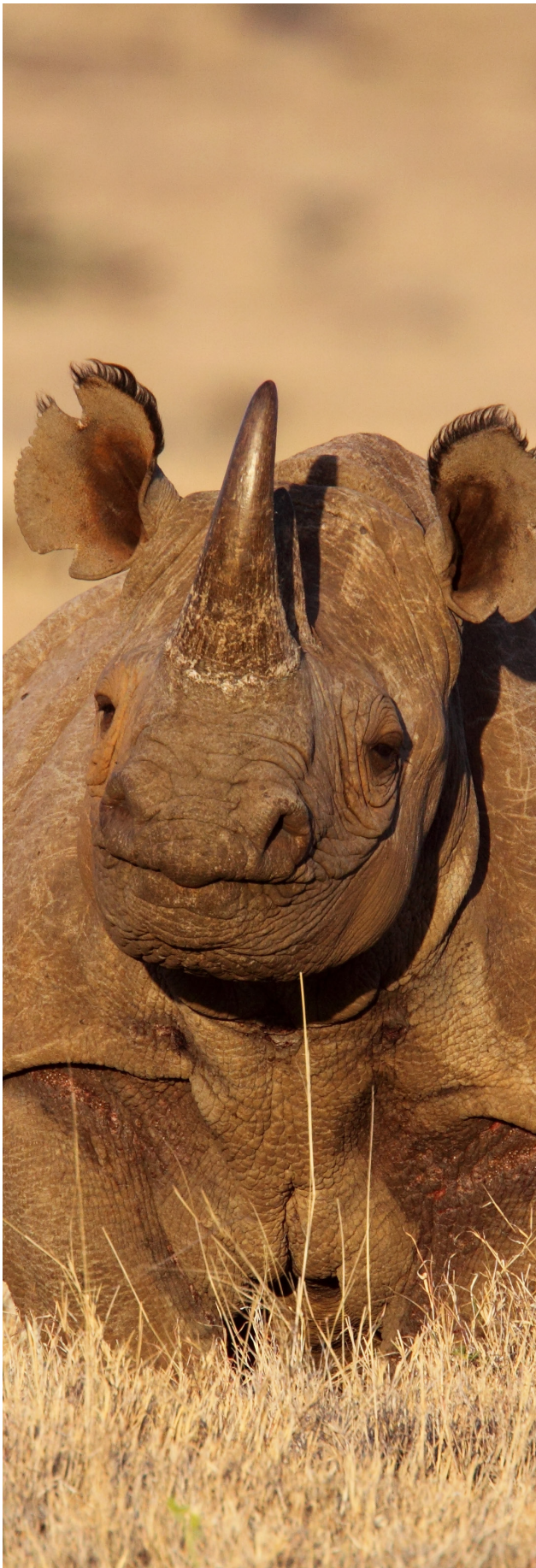
## I AWF Anti-poaching Strategy

Recognizing the threat IWT poses to African wildlife, AWF applies a three-pronged approach to combat poaching and trafficking:

- **Stop the Killing** – employs on-the-ground measures such as training and equipping rangers and community scouts to better monitor wildlife, address human-wildlife conflicts, counter poaching threats, and track and apprehend poachers in coordinated and informed ways.
- **Stop the Trafficking** – disrupts IWT chains by enhancing the detection of illegal wildlife products and strengthening the prosecution of wildlife crime offenders. AWF's Canines for Conservation Programme increases detection of illegal wildlife products at critical ports of entry and exit: Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Moi International Airport in Mombasa, Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, Entebbe International Airport, and Mombasa and Dar es Salaam sea ports. The Wildlife Law Enforcement Program (WLEP) works with criminal justice systems to strengthen wildlife crime investigation, management of wildlife cases, to encourage consistency in case handling and follow up to ensure effective prosecution and sentencing.
- **Stop the Demand** – destabilises international trade of illegal wildlife products by working with governments in demand markets to raise awareness about the impact on Africa's valuable resources. As Asia is the largest market for trafficked African wildlife, AWF works with Chinese and Vietnamese influential personalities to lobby leaders in government, civil society and the private sector to advocate against consumption of African ivory and rhino horn.

AWF is working to build capacity across the sector by sharing experiences and best practice guidelines including:

- Guidelines for admissibility of detection dog evidence in courts.
- Manual for best practices for conservation canines.
- On-the-Job Support (OJT) workbook for prosecutors.
- Curricula for Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Trainings.



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## | Achievements

African ownership of both the issue and the response is key. This approach has already begun to deliver positive change across the continent:

- **Canine detection**  
Canine units in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique and Botswana has trained 33 dogs and 45 handlers drawn from the countries' wildlife agencies. AWF's canine programme has enhanced arrests of traffickers and detection of illegal wildlife products at ports of entry and exit—dog-and-handler teams have made more than 250 seizures, including one involving 1 ton of ivory that traffickers attempted to smuggle through Mombasa sea port.
- **Strengthening Judicial and Prosecutorial Involvement**  
AWF has completed 26 wildlife judicial and prosecutorial assistance trainings at national and regional levels in the Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda. More than 1,000 judicial officers, customs officers, police, prosecutors, wildlife officers, airport authorities, anti-corruption officers, private advocates, NGOs, airlines and forest officers have been trained.
- **Improving legislation**  
AWF supports governments to analyze wildlife laws and associated legislation which has informed amendments to legislation in Kenya. Uganda is in the process of amending its wildlife laws. AWF advocates for the effective use of legislation to prosecute offenders so that penalties are robust enough to reflect the gravity of the crimes committed and deter would-be future traffickers. These include the use of legislation for customs, money laundering, anti-corruption, organized crime, and arms control.
- **Africa China relations**  
Since 2012, AWF has worked to stop the demand for elephant ivory and rhino horn in China by collaborating with influential government officials and celebrities. Celebrity-studded Public Service Announcements (PSAs) supported by AWF featured ambassadors including the former NBA star Yao Ming, actor Jackie Chan and Virgin Group Founder Sir Richard Branson have created awareness on the ivory and rhino horn trade's impact and communicated the horrors of poaching. Surveys show that these initiatives have increased public awareness around the illicit trade of ivory and rhino horn, and that tolerance for ivory products is decreasing. China's official announcement to shut down its domestic ivory trade and the implementation of this ban in 2018 will contribute to curbing poaching and IWT.

## | The Way Forward

AWF's successes to date in stemming African wildlife loss through tactics to stop the killing, stop the trafficking and stop the demand are not enough. Fundamentally, Africa's wildlife stands a chance only if it is valued and cherished by Africans. That is why AWF is working with African leaders at every level to raise the importance of wildlife as part of their development agendas. This includes building the capacity of African Wildlife Authorities to enforce wildlife laws, and at the highest national levels of decision making, it means making the case for wildlife and wild lands as part of a sustainable development trajectory that brings prosperity to the people of Africa.

Thus, alongside efforts to combat IWT, AWF also stresses the importance of creating economic value for wildlife in and around wildlife rich landscapes. This means empowering communities to manage land and habitat for wildlife and receive tangible benefits from living with wildlife. AWF's programmes support community conservancies, protected area financing and conservation entrepreneurship as strategies for creating benefits from conservation. There is an urgent need to scale up business models that generate revenue and establish structures that share benefits among stakeholders.

AWF will also continue working with the African governments, African Union and regional economic blocks to ensure wildlife is part of Africa's development agenda going forward.



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