

GOAL
16**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

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SDG 16 supports the protection of fundamental freedoms by ensuring inclusive and representative decision-making, effective and accountable institutions and the promotion of the rule of law and equal access to justice for all. It also strives to reduce all forms of violence, end abuse, trafficking and exploitation of children, as well as illicit financial and arms flows while fighting corruption and bribery and combatting all forms of organized crime.

How do ecosystems and biodiversity support this SDG?

Biodiversity and ecosystems have been regarded as an essential element of human security, providing great wealth and well-being to most people across the earth, and securing livelihoods. Yet, the value of biodiversity has become a reason for conflict, crime, corruption and insecurity. The efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity thus go along with the fight against corruption, trafficking and violence resulting from weak institutions and the proliferation of organized crime. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is essential to avoid conflict over natural resources and human-wildlife conflicts, through the implementation of development strategies that take into account biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services benefitting local populations. These efforts should also involve better law enforcement, institutional support and capacity building to strengthen governance and effective institutions that improve countries' means to combat wildlife crime such as illegal logging and fishing, poaching and illicit trafficking of wild animals and plants.

Wildlife crime refers to the poaching and trafficking in wildlife and forest products in contravention of national and international law. It is among the most lucrative transnational crimes in the world after trade in illegal narcotics, humans and arms; it mirrors other organized crimes and usually develops in countries facing poor governance, rampant corruption and instability. Environmental and wildlife crime earnings represent significant costs to society as they undermine legitimate businesses and weaken essential institutions such as criminal justice systems, creating a vicious cycle that leads to further poverty and insecurity. Thus, protecting biodiversity and ecosystems is not only an opportunity to limit loss of natural resources and their related conflicts, but also a way to cut a source of finance of violent organizations by combatting illicit wildlife trafficking.

How does UNDP's work **SUPPORT** this SDG?

Case study: Asia's involvement in the global partnership on wildlife conservation and crime prevention

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is an escalating transnational threat to the security, stability and economy of entire countries and regions. This is alarmingly observed in poaching of both rhinoceros and elephants in Africa—in 2014 three rhinos were poached daily and 25,000 elephants were slaughtered over the year. Illegal wildlife trade affects all regions and includes a wide range of products from live animals to plant extracts. It is a lucrative business that helps finance criminal, militia and terrorist groups, and threatens the security and sustainable development of many nations.

The GEF-financed programme "Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development" has come as a response to this urgent need to address wildlife poaching and illegal trade as a development issue that deprives countries of their natural assets. It aims to strengthen cooperation between development partners bringing together biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods activities, and poverty reduction. This partnership includes as contributing agencies; the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank, along with international organizations with technical expertise in combating wildlife crime such as the CITES Secretariat, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). It will be implemented through country projects that focus on designing and implementing national strategies



to improve wildlife and protected areas management, enhance community livelihood benefits, reduce poaching, and eliminate illegal wildlife trade. Nineteen countries in Africa and Asia are taking action through the implementation of 20 national projects focused on IWT, 13 of which are being implemented by UNDP. There is also a global coordination project led by the World Bank which includes a global project to combat maritime trafficking implemented by UNDP.

In Asia, the programme includes four UNDP-implemented child projects, in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, and Thailand. The region is a platform for both supply and demand of illegal wildlife products, and also contains important transit ports along illicit supply chains. The country projects aim to reduce the extent of wildlife crime and the loss of globally significant biodiversity in the region by tackling various causes and factors influencing illicit wildlife trafficking. The projects will focus on complementary approaches to combat IWT such as institutional capacity, law enforcement, protected areas management, sustainable livelihoods, and behavior change and demand reduction.

Breaking the well-developed transnational networks that lie behind illicit wildlife trafficking requires improved international cooperation to enhance information and intelligence exchange, along with effective enforcement within and across borders. National projects thus focus on enhancing international cooperation in the region, through enhanced border controls in Indonesia and Thailand, or through strengthened partnership mechanisms between India and its neighbouring countries. International collaboration will also be progressed through the global project to combat maritime trafficking in wildlife that will focus on key transit ports in Africa and Asia.

PROJECT: Global partnership on wildlife conservation and crime prevention for sustainable development

MAIN DONOR: GEF

LOCATION: Global programme. National projects implemented by UNDP: Afghanistan, Botswana, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, Thailand, Zimbabwe. National projects implemented by other GEF Agencies: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Malawi, Philippines, South Africa, Vietnam, Zambia. Global coordination project implemented by WB and UNDP.

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Lack of enforcement at many levels has been impeding efforts to combat illicit wildlife trafficking. Lack of capacity and regulatory inconsistencies and gaps that facilitate the illegal trade in ivory, rhinoceros horn and tiger parts need to be addressed. To that end, projects in Thailand and India will provide capacity building on wildlife law and enforcement to environmental inspectors, police, border guards and customs officers, as well as awareness raising for prosecutors and judges. Indonesia's project will strengthen national wildlife trade regulatory frameworks, limiting the potential for illegal trade to occur, while also enhancing enforcement effectiveness in key trade ports. The creation of a central joint-agency task force under Thailand's Wildlife Enforcement Network (Thai-WEN) will also work at improving enforcement through actionable intelligence and the development of intelligence-led operations against trafficking networks.

In order to stop poaching and cut illegal supply chains for endangered species such as snow leopard and tigers, protected areas that constitute their habitat must be under constant surveillance and effective management. Therefore, in Indonesia, Northern India and Afghanistan, UNDP projects focus on improving management effectiveness in protected areas under threat through the development of effective wildlife monitoring, prosecution and other deterrent systems, and improved anti-poaching and surveillance measures. Human-wildlife conflict and hunting have also been observed as a major threat to the conservation of predator species, with animals killed by local herders in retaliation for livestock deaths likely to end up in illegal markets. In Afghanistan and Indian Himalayas, the value of snow leopard pelts incentivizes poor communities to kill and sell the predator that threatens their livestock. Projects aim to reduce this incentive by introducing alternative livelihoods such as eco-tourism, or enterprise development based on high value niche non-timber forest products, while raising awareness on the consequences of IWT among local communities. The projects intend to minimize conflict between local communities and snow leopards by enhancing communities' capacity to protect their livestock from predation.

The increasing demand for illegal wildlife products fuels poachers and traffickers' motivation to commit these crimes. Awareness raising and behaviour change campaigns conducted in Thailand and India will thus aim at changing public attitude and perception regarding ivory and other illicitly-trafficked wildlife products to reduce the market demand for these illegal goods.

The various country projects tackling complementary aspects of the fight against illegal wildlife trade have a strong potential to collectively achieve a global reduction in wildlife poaching, strengthen community-based wildlife management and sustainable tourism development, curtail trafficking, and reduce demand for illegal wildlife and forest products.

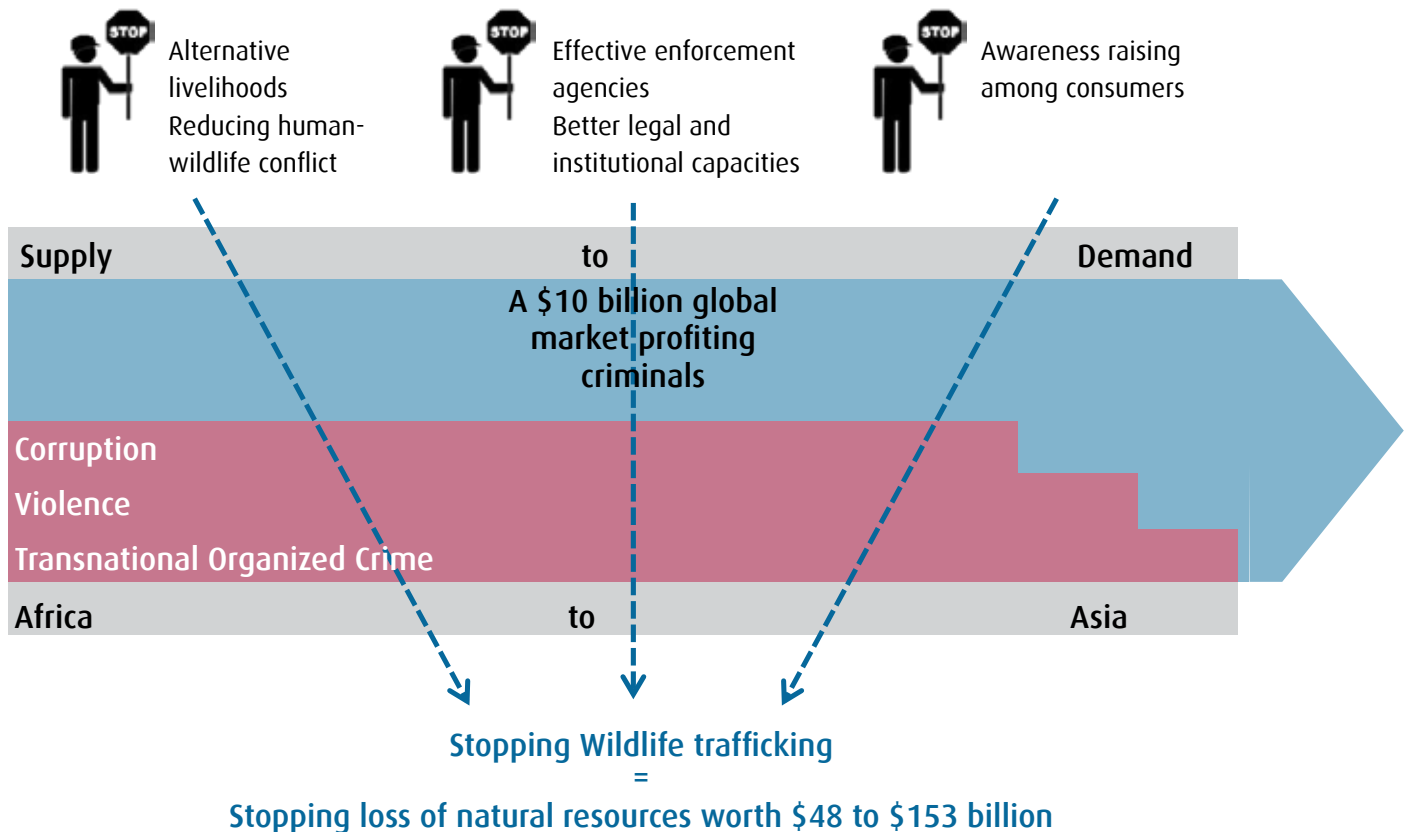


Nature count\$: Key impacts of the projects on the fight against corruption and organized crime in the context of illegal wildlife trade

The programme will help developing countries to address wildlife poaching and trafficking responsible for loss in natural resources worth US\$48 to \$153 billion globally, while enabling them to legally use and sustainably benefit from their natural resources. By tackling both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, the programme has the potential to significantly reduce global flows of illegal wildlife products, cutting the benefits of a market estimated to generate \$8 to \$10 billion every year—not including illegal fishing and logging—which profits criminal, militia and terrorist groups. Through its focus on increasing enforcement capacity and effectiveness in key countries and trade ports, the programme will help fragment illicit supply chains for rhino horn and ivory coming from Africa and supplying a high demand in Asia. Illicit trade in rhino horn potentially yielded around \$630 million between 2009 and 2012 benefiting Asian criminal syndicates, and armed groups and terrorist organizations such as Al-Shabab in Somalia and the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda.

Reducing illicit wildlife trade will also support national governments to increase revenues from wildlife-related activities such as eco-tourism. Furthermore, legal businesses that benefit from reduced corruption and a better and safer business environment can provide improved tax revenues. In India, the project helping to develop effective wildlife monitoring and prosecution by improving anti-poaching and surveillance measures and enhancing enforcement capacities of environmental inspectors, police, and border guards and customs officers will help reduce corruption related to wildlife poaching and trafficking in a country where corruption was estimated to cost \$5 billion to the economy in 2012.

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Asia and Africa from supply to demand



By combating illegal wildlife trade the program will help reduce violence (✓SDG Target 16.1) and illicit financial flows to violent and criminal organizations (✓SDG Target 16.4), will strengthen countries' institutional capacity and international cooperation to combat wildlife crime (✓SDG Target 16.6 and 16.a) and will contribute to a consequent reduction in all forms of corruption and bribery related to wildlife poaching and trafficking (✓SDG Target 16.5).

Further information on values and impacts

The programme aims at strengthening enforcement agencies in participating countries and mostly focuses on stopping illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, particularly endangered species. The improved institutional capacity, enforcement effectiveness and strengthened inter-agency and international enforcement cooperation will support countries to combat other environmental crimes including illegal timber logging and illegal fishing. Therefore the programme will help reduce the loss of natural resources estimated at \$48 to \$153 billion, comprising \$30 to \$100 billion from illegal logging, \$11 to \$30 billion from illegal fishing, and \$7 to \$23 billion from illegal poaching and trafficking of wildlife and forest products (UNEP-INTERPOL 2014).

Illegal trade in wildlife, excluding illegal fishing and logging, has a market value of \$8 to \$10 billion per year according to conservative estimates (GFI 2011). Involvement of armed groups and terrorist organization in wildlife trafficking has been reported and these potential links have been recognized by the UN Security Council.

Wildlife crime is viewed as a high-profit, low-risk crime. For example rhino horn is more valued than gold on the black market at around \$50,000 to \$60,000 per kilogram (UNODC 2013). The CITES Secretariat (2013) reported that between 2009 and September 2012, 12.6 tonnes of rhino horn were illicitly trafficked from Africa to Asia, equating to a potential \$630 million of illegal rhino horn at a \$50,000 per kg price.

Wildlife poaching and trafficking is entangled with corruption, supporting the flow of illicit products across illegal trade routes to reach end consumers (EIA 2015). Cutting IWT through more effective surveillance, enforcement and prosecution, stronger penalties and awareness raising among national authorities will help reduce corruption related to these activities.

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