Research Paper

REWARDS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ANTI-POACHING AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

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What is poaching?

Illegal or illegitimate taking of wildlife
Key factors for framing the research

- Local Markets
- International Wildlife Value
- Non-local Poachers
- Local Community
- State
- Private
- Community
- State
Scenario 1

Local poachers on community lands, taking low value wildlife, for local consumption
Scenario 2

Non-local poachers on community lands, taking high value wildlife for international markets

militarization – organized crime
Scenario 3

Local and non-local poachers on state managed lands, taking low and high value wildlife, where local rights are not recognized.
Sources of information

• Literature
  – Community policing
  – Community engagement in CBNRM
  – Community engagement in illegal bushmeat hunting and trade
  – Community engagement in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts

• Interviews with practitioners

• Case-studies
Lessons from the literature

Community policing
Lessons from the literature

Community policing--

- Return to the police officer on the street
- Attempt to increase legitimacy of the police
- Police need communities to “co-produce” public safety
- Mutual trust essential
- Fear of reprisals so anonymity key
  - Community organizations
- Community cohesion
  - Neighborhood is important
  - Collective action
Lessons from the literature

Illegal bushmeat hunting and trade

How communities regulate the behavior of members and what would motivate community members to break community natural resource use rules
Lessons from the literature

Illegal bushmeat hunting and trade

- State owns the resource
- Laws and enforcement often not considered legitimate
- Little or no risk of being arrested or punished
- Visibly corrupt arresting authorities
- Undermines compliance with the rule-of-law
Lessons from the case studies

Scenario 1: When community rights are formally recognized, poachers are primarily local and wildlife is of low value.

Scenario 2: When community rights are formally recognized and wildlife is of high value.

Scenario 3: When community rights are not formally recognized and the state attempts to halt poaching.
Scenario I: Rights and low value

Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Communal Conservation Area, Peru
Scenario I

Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Communal Conservation Area, Peru

- Poaching threat from outsiders (botes congeladores)
- Rivers relatively easy to police
- Regional government supported rights of locals
- Community cohesion and collective action
- Community compliance with own hunting/fishing rules
Scenario II: Rights and high value

Community conservancies, Namibia
Scenario II

Community conservancies, Namibia

- National law conferring rights to local communities
- Trophy and eco-tourism - $6.2m in 2014
- Communities are the eyes and ears
- Social cohesion and tangible benefits
- Responsive and trustworthy national police force
- Wildlife populations stable or growing
Scenario III: No rights, high value

Protecting tigers by protecting livestock, Indonesia
Scenario III

Protecting tigers by protecting livestock, Indonesia

- Wildlife Response Units help protect livestock from tigers
- Local informants now work with Wildlife Crimes Unit
- More income from livestock (Goats for Hope)
- Retaliatory killing of tigers and snares for pigs stopped
- Improved trust and collaboration with police
Take-home messages

Factors that motivate local communities to engage in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts
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Community has rights of ownership and benefits directly from conservation
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- Tenure security
- Income security
- Food security
- Physical security
- Cultural identity
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Enabling condition
Community has the capacity to exercise their rights
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- Members are motivated to defend community assets
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Cross-cutting enabling condition
Community and arresting authority receive adequate levels of technical and financial support from government and conservation partners
Take-home messages

Eyes and Ears NOT Armed Arresting Authority
Take-home messages

Trust and cooperation with a responsive and competent police and judiciary
Thank You