LOCAL COMMUNITIES
First Line of Defense in Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade
CURRENT RESPONSES: WHAT IS STILL MISSING?

- Law enforcement along the entire value chain
- Reducing demand for illegal products
- Supporting communities and livelihoods
HELP ESTABLISH A SOLID POLICY PLATFORM

- African Elephant Summit (2013)
- London Declaration (2014)
- Kasane Declaration (2015)
- Brazzaville Declaration (2015)
- UNGA Resolution 69/314 (2015)
- SDG Targets 15.7 & 15.c (2015)
- Hanoi Declaration (2016)
- UNGA Resolution 71/326 (2017)

ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN COMBATTING IWT
HELP GUIDE DONORS AND IMPLEMENTERS

By better understanding how to meaningfully engage local communities in combatting IWT.
BEYOND ENFORCEMENT
WORKSHOPS

1. First Symposium (Muldersdrift, South Africa, February 2015)
2. Regional Workshop for West and Central Africa (Limbe, Cameroon, February 2016)
3. Workshop for Southeast Asia (Hanoi, Viet Nam, November 2016)
4. Workshop of Central Asia (in planning)
5. Workshop for Meso/South America (in planning)
THE BASIC EQUATION

BENEFITS FROM CONSERVING WILDLIFE - COSTS OF CONSERVING WILDLIFE > BENEFITS FROM ENGAGING IN IWT - COSTS OF ENGAGING IN IWT
UNDERSTANDING THE FULL PICTURE

- Identified a gap between success and failure of interventions
- Goes all the way back to uninformed - often flawed and sometimes naïve - Theories of Change by intervention planners
- The Action Research approach helps us to deeply interrogate the difference between conceptual strategies and the reality on the ground
**LONG-TERM IMPACT**

Decreased pressure on species from illegal wildlife trade

**OVERALL OUTCOMES**

- Reduced poaching / trafficking for IWT by community
- Reduced poaching / trafficking for IWT by outsiders

**CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOMES**

- Reduced recruitment of community members by poachers / traffickers engaged in IWT
- Reduced active or tacit community support for poaching / trafficking for IWT

**PATHWAY OUTCOMES**

- **A**. Stronger and more effective collaboration between well-capacitated community scouts and well-trained formal enforcement agencies
- **B**. Social norms effectively imposed on individuals engaged in poaching / trafficking for IWT
- **C**. Communities value wild plants and animals more as a result of increased benefits
- **D**. Communities are more empowered to manage and benefit from wild plants and animals
- **E**. Communities recognise and access tangible and intangible benefits from wild plants and animals

**RESULTS**

- **F**. Decreased antagonism toward wildlife
- **G**. Costs to communities imposed by presence of wildlife are reduced
- **H**. Communities can mitigate conflict better
- **I**. Communities have a greater diversity of non-wildlife-based livelihood options

**INDICATIVE INTERVENTIONS**

- **A**. Train and equip community members to act as effective law enforcement partners
- **B**. Train and equip formal law enforcement agents to act as effective law enforcement partners with communities
- **C**. Support strengthening of traditional sanctions that protect wild plants and animals
- **D**. Support other activities to generate livelihoods and other benefits from wild plants and animals
- **E**. Support or reinvigorate traditional values around wild plants and animals
- **F**. Recognise and profile effective community approaches against poaching / trafficking for IWT
- **G**. Support practical approaches to deterring problem animals at the site level
- **H**. Support insurance, compensation or offset schemes that reduce the cost of living with wildlife
- **I**. Support land use planning that reduces the human-wildlife interface

**ENABLING ACTIONS**

- **A**. Disincentivise activities contributing to IWT
- **B**. Increase incentives for stewardship
- **C**. Decrease costs of living with wildlife
- **D**. Support non-wildlife-based livelihoods

**Support development and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks for effective and fair wildlife protection and management**

- Fight corruption and strengthen governance
- Build community capacity and institutions

Understand and recognize the difference in accrual of costs and benefits at the individual vs. community level from: engagement in IWT; impact of IWT; impact of enforcement; engaging in wildlife stewardship; living with wildlife; and engaging in non-wildlife-related livelihoods.
FOUR PRIMARY PATHWAYS & KEY ASSUMPTIONS

DECREASED PRESSURE ON SPECIES FROM ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

A. Disincentivise activities contributing to IWT
B. Increase incentives for stewardship
C. Decrease costs of living with wildlife
D. Support non-wildlife-based livelihoods

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ENGAGING IN ACTION RESEARCH

Testing the Theory of Change

First Line of Defense Straw Model

Decreased pressure on species from illegal wildlife trade

Transition Zone

leadership transfers to community

Community Ownership

Modified from: Rowe, W. 2016. Applying Action Research Processes to a Community-based IWT Initiative
TESTING THEORIES OF CHANGE

Baseline TOC

Designer TOC

Community TOC
OUR TESTING APPROACH

1. Baseline TOC
   - Decreased pressure on species from Illegal wildlife trade
   - A. B. C. D.

2. Designer TOC
   - Decreased pressure on species from Illegal wildlife trade
   - A. B. C. D.

3. Community TOC
   - Decreased pressure on species from Illegal wildlife trade
   - A. B. C. D.

Key informant interviews

Inception workshop
Designer ToC Testing Tool
Community ToC Testing Tool
Community meeting
Validation workshop
DECREASED PRESSURE ON SPECIES FROM ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

A. Disincentivise illegal killing for IWT
B. Increase incentives for stewardship
C. Decrease the cost living with wildlife
D. Support non-wildlife-related livelihoods
TAKING IT TO THE FIELD...
OUR INITIAL SITES... but expanding
GATHERING INSIGHTS AND ANALYSING EXPERIENCES

- TWO PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS: CONSERVATION BIOLOGY & CONSERVATION LETTERS
- DEVELOPING DETAILED KENYA CASE STUDIES

www.iucn.org/suli
https://goo.gl/G1mXF9 (IUCN ESARO)
www.communitiesforwildlife.iied.org
• Toolkit and guidelines currently under development
• Designed to give guidance on carrying out this work
• Will help “train trainers” and speed up adoption
STRENGTHS OF THE FLOD APPROACH

• Exposes all stakeholders to:
  – Implicit ToCs of both communities and designers
  – Articulates differences *within* communities and *between* communities and designers
  – May expose reasons for success or failure of particular components of a project

• Enhance achievement of outcomes / impacts

• Provide lessons for other projects

• Provide lessons to help enhance the response to IWT at local, national, regional and international level.
FLoD STEERING COMMITTEE

- Dilys Roe, IIED & SULoi Steering Committee
- Holly Dublin, AfESG, SULi E/S Africa & Steering Committee
- Diane Skinner, SULi E/S Africa
- Leo Niskanen, IUCN ESARO
- Akshay Vishwanath, IUCN ESARO, Secretary
PROCESS LESSONS

– Independent facilitator
– Local language interpreter
– Clear explanation of process to “implementers”
– Gain deep understanding of “implementers” ToC
– Community focus groups—gender, age, ethnic groups
  Key informant interviews provide triangulation
– Repeated feedback for verification throughout process
– Critical to manage dominant voices
SUBSTANCE LESSONS (1)

– Overall our ToC holds true - all four pathways supported
– Even very similar communities have differing views
– None of them have focused on the poaching, per se, but are more concerned that they maintain a healthy ecosystem and that these species be a part of it for them to derive the benefits
SUBSTANCE LESSONS (2)

– Communities recognize the importance of law enforcement - IF it is in partnership with communities
– Strong laws and heavy penalties generally seen as fair
– Belief that both social sanctions and pressure, reinforce government penalties & stop poaching

BUT

– Strong objections that Kenya government responses to IWT and retaliation killings is stronger and faster than the response to deaths, injuries and other losses to wildlife
— A strong sense of “ownership” results in a motivation to protect

— Internal community dynamics are critical - gender, age and cultural differences

— Management of conflict and coexistence through land zoning – traditional or modern is critical
– Revenues from wildlife not sufficient - viable incomes from other means are critical - these are sometimes friendly to wildlife but sometimes not
– Strong trust and/or transparency with tourism ventures around earnings and sharing is essential
– Communities recognize that there are differences between individual vs community costs and benefits
EXPANDING FLod ROLL OUT
THANK YOU