Study Tour on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade through (Maritime) Transport Supply Chains – Knowledge Exchange on Best Practices & Lessons from GWP GEF6 Projects

11-14 October 2022, Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort, Mombasa, and Tsavo East Education Centre, Tsavo Conservation Area, Kenya

Between 10th and 14th October, the UNDP-GEF-USAID Project '*Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia*' implemented by UNDP under the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP) in collaboration with the GWP Kenya National Project '*Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking In Kenya through an Integrated Approach*' hosted a study tour for GEF6 GWP country projects to learn more about supported initiatives and innovative practices in Kenya and the region as well as build capacities on lessons learning. Representatives of 10 GEF6 GWP national projects from Africa and Asia participated in this workshop.

This report provides a summary of information shared and activities on the tour.

Contents

Annexes

1. Background to the tour

The UNDP-GEF-USAID Project *"Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia"* is supporting multiple activities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to increase the capacity of government agencies and the private sector to prevent, detect and intercept wildlife trafficking. The programme is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and USAID and implemented by UNDP under the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP). Additionally, the project is supporting GEF6 GWP National Projects in Africa and Asia to extract lessons learned and best practices, particularly with a focus on combating Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). These lessons and practices represent invaluable resources that can be used by similar projects to improve their effectiveness.

Project activities are aligned with three main components. This study tour is implemented under the third component, contributing to objectives of Components 2 and 3:

- **Component 1.** Increasing awareness, incentives, and capacity for port-based law enforcement staff, port operational staff and the shipping industry, to support the achievement of best practice in combating maritime wildlife trafficking at seaports.
- **Component 2.** Bringing together different ports, countries and players to work cooperatively on combating wildlife trafficking across key illicit trade chains.
- **Component 3.** Identify, document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned on combating wildlife trafficking and ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of project results, along with coordination of monitoring and evaluation across the GWP to support a consistent approach to measuring the effectiveness of counter-wildlife trafficking efforts.

As part of Component 3, UNDP is further supporting a pilot programme with 6 countries from September to December 2022 that guides them through an action-learning process on compiling lessons learned in order to extract lessons and upskill country teams. This study tour provided an opportunity for those countries to come together and exchange with other GWP GEF6 projects to progress this pilot.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the tour were the following:

- To strengthen relationships between countries on the GWP programme;
- To share knowledge on innovative counter-trafficking practice examples to inspire further action;
- To learn from the Kenyan project and share relevant learnings from other projects;
- To explore what makes good lesson learning;
- To share initial outputs of the GWP Lessons Learning Pilot Training;
- For countries on the Lessons Learning Pilot exercise to come together to progress the pilot.

3. Participants and hosts

The tour was kindly hosted by representatives from UNDP Kenya and the Kenyan government who are responsible for delivering the GWP Kenya National Project '*Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Kenya through an Integrated Approach*'. The tour was organised by Tamara Tschentscher UNDP-GEF Knowledge Management Officer, supported by Petra Valastinova, Lizzie Crudgington and Rebekah Phillips, on behalf of the UNDP-GEF-USAID Project, "*Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia*" as part of the Global Wildlife Programme (in short: Maritime Trafficking Project).

Participants in the study tour came from 10 countries who each manage national projects funded by the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP). These countries were Botswana, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. In addition, speakers from the following organisations shared their expertise and joined for the first day of the tour: Kenya Maritime Authority; Uganda Revenue Authority, WildAid, Kenya Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Kenya Revenue Authority, APOPO and Grace Farms Foundation.

4. Agenda summary

Monday 10th October	Arrivals at Sarova Whitesands Hotel
Tuesday 11th October	Innovative practices supported by the Maritime Trafficking Project
	Welcome & expectation setting
	Presentations on innovative counter-trafficking practices from representatives from partner organisations of the Maritime Trafficking Project (Kenya Maritime Authority; Uganda Revenue Authority, WildAid, Kenya Directorate of Criminal Investigation, Kenya Revenue Authority, APOPO and Grace Farms Foundation).
	Welcome dinner and presentation of certificates of collaboration in IWT awareness campaign at Mombasa port
Wednesday 12th October	Learning from each other
	Presentation of factsheets from each country and marketplace/ carousel of discussion
	Travel to Voi Wildlife Lodge, Voi
Thursday 13th October	Counter-trafficking initiatives supported by GWP Kenya
	Visit to Tsavo East National Park
	Presentations on the successes and challenges of tackling wildlife trafficking and poaching for bushmeat, the engagement of community rangers, first responders and crime scene management from Kenya Wildlife Service, Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association and Kenya Wildlife Service Investigations Unit at Tsavo East Education Centre
Friday 14th October	Learning how to learn best
	Discussion on lessons learned from the field trip to Voi
	Training in what good lessons learning is, how to do it well and hands-on exercises crafting of lessons for sharing from the pilot programme.
	Farewell reception
Saturday 15th October	Departures

5. Report of proceedings

DAY ONE: Innovative practices supported by the Maritime Trafficking Project

Day one was focused on presentations and discussions around innovative approaches and programs supported by the Maritime Trafficking Project. The aim of the presentations was to provide knowledge and inspiration to participating country project representatives to consider and explore needs and opportunities for similar initiatives in their country contexts.

Welcome and expectation setting

The first exercise of the tour was to welcome all the attendees. Washington Ayiemba, Natural Resource Management Specialist, UNDP Kenya, welcomed everyone to Kenya on behalf of the Kenyan National Project. Tamara Tschentscher, UNDP Knowledge Management Officer, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Global Wildlife Programme and the UNDP-GEF-USAID Project, "*Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia*". Following this, working with the facilitation and lesson learning consultants, Lizzie Crudgington and Rebekah Phillips, attendees introduced themselves and set their expectations for the tour, what they hoped to share and contribute to it and their Principles of Participation.

Group discussion on participants' expectations (left); Washington Ayiemba (right).

The "Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia" Project

Tamara Tschentscher gave an overview of the [Maritime Trafficking Project](#) and its supported activities and partners. The project is supporting multiple activities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to increase the capacity of government agencies and the private sector to prevent, detect and intercept wildlife trafficking through (maritime) container cargo transport supply chains. It mainly promotes activities at the ports of Mombasa, Dar es Salam, and Zanzibar, as well as Kampala dry port. The best practises that were spotlighted on day one of the study tour are supported by this project.

The project pursues a strong partnership approach with law enforcement and the private sector, working to strengthen capacity at ports to reduce the trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products by sea. The scale of the challenge is huge, with up to 1 billion containers shipped every year. The project works with businesses both directly and indirectly focusing on cargo transport. With 90% of world trade being

seaborne and an estimated 72-90% of illicit wildlife products in terms of volume being trafficked through maritime transport, the sector holds a responsibility to engage against this transnational organised crime.

Tamara Tschentscher on the Maritime Trafficking Project and context of this study tour. Photo: Petra Valastinova, UNDP.

Following the presentation, attendees discussed the spectrum of activities on this theme that they were tackling in their own National Projects. From the discussion it was clear that addressing the private sector's role in trafficking and particularly via use of transportation was still not the focus of National Projects, although there was more action being taken on this front than initially understood. For example: Botswana targets particular couriers used in transporting trophies from hunting; Tanzania is gathering intelligence on transport routes; Tanzania and Botswana are collaborating on a transport hub which is a hotspot for transportation of illegal wildlife trade (IWT); Ethiopia is focusing on its main international airport and working with customs officials there; Malawi has roadblocks and checkpoints for intercepting lorries as does Thailand. In terms of tackling cargo, Kenya has a large multi-agency container control programme at Mombasa port and Ethiopia has a container programme which focuses on destination countries; Thailand also has a container scanning programme. Thailand is working on awareness raising with shipping and logistics services and India is building capacity of those working with businesses to intervene if necessary. Kenya has a registration of businesses working in logistics and businesses can apply for Approved Economic Operator status, under the East African Approved Economic Operator programme, which supports businesses' capacity to prevent and detect IWT and allows them quicker processing if they adhere to certain procedures. This is complemented by serious criminal investigations led my multi-agency liaison.

The next presentations focused on implementing policies and working with business.

Implementation of the "New International Maritime Organisation Guidelines for the Prevention of Smuggling of Wildlife on Ships engaged with International Maritime Traffic" and the Know your Customer Framework

Katherine Kithikii, Kenya Maritime Authority, spoke about the introduction of the new International Maritime Organisation Guidelines on smuggling of wildlife through shipping. These guidelines were developed by a working group led by Kenya, and including UNDP, WWF, EIA, TRAFFIC and the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce and were adopted in May 2022 after receiving support from Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Tanzania, the Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the International Organisation of Airports and Seaports Police (INTERPORTPOLICE). This is a bold first step by the IMO to combat wildlife trafficking through maritime shipping supply chains.

The guidelines focus on bringing down the illegal networks exploiting the maritime shipping industry to traffic wildlife. Part 1 of the guidelines provides information on the nature and context of maritime smuggling of wildlife; which species are subject to trafficking and the common methods used by traffickers to conceal illegal wildlife on ships. Part 2 focuses on extensive recommendations for competent government agencies and the private sector separately, with an emphasis on due diligence, responsibility-sharing and cooperation between all stakeholders along the supply chains. The guidelines mainly interact with CITES. There

Katherine Kithikii on the new IMO IWT Guidelines.

is no monitoring & evaluation plan to monitor implementation of the guidelines, member states should do this at a national level and Paragraph 3 asks for sharing of experiences.
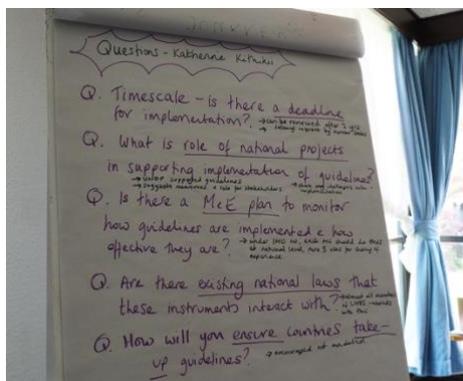
Questions for Katherine.

Katherine highlighted potential challenges in implementing the guidelines including budgetary limitations and the development and review of relevant legal frameworks as well as the constant challenges of collaboration and co-ordination. Following this, she also gave an overview of the *Know Your Customer Framework* which responds to the increased need to identify, analyse and understand who one is doing business with to avert implications of involvement in illicit activities during trade. The Framework shows businesses how to identify customers, verify their identity, understand their activities and sources of funding and monitor their activities.

Following the presentation, the discussion focused on the following areas:

1) How national projects are currently promoting/implementing compliance with the new IMO guidelines

Some countries are yet to do anything in response to the guidelines (Botswana, Zimbabwe), particularly those that are landlocked or focused on territories far away from the sea (Malawi). For others, while their own national project is not acting on the guidelines, others in government are already starting to respond to them. Some countries have been taking specific actions that align with the guidelines: capacity building the relevant law enforcement agencies (Kenya); resource mobilisation and aligning policy (Tanzania) raising awareness of red flags and promoting the Know Your Customer Framework (Uganda). Others are already carrying out quite a number of activities recommended in the guidelines such as vetting of vessels before registration, background checks on vessels, scanning of containers, forming multi-agency units, capacity building of businesses, deployment of sniffer dogs and scanning.

2) What more needs to be done?

Some countries reflected that more collaboration between the private sector and government is needed to implement the guidelines and that the guidelines need to be introduced into stakeholder training. Others identified the need to consider incorporating the guidelines in a general review of wildlife laws. Others still needed to become more familiar with the guidelines and create buy-in from the responsible authorities for their institutionalization.

Discussion on the IMO Guidelines and KYC Framework.

3) What is/will be challenging?

Countries agreed that raising sufficient financial resources to support mobilisation and time to implement the guidelines will be a challenge. Other challenges come from: corruption, training needs on species identification, international collaboration needed to tackle transnational crimes; need for sharing information when often there can be silo mentalities amongst organisations and mainstreaming within the Blue Economy development agenda. Lastly countries described the challenge of incorporating the guidelines in law and aligning them locally.

4) What support is needed to overcome these challenges?

Universally, countries stated that more resources are needed to help with implementation. Secondly, capacity development is needed to help the various players understand the guidelines and how they relate to maritime activities. Lastly, awareness raising is needed and joint collaborations between countries and with NGOs to share intelligence and also practical applications, such as the effectiveness of new technologies for example.

Damas Masologo summarizing group discussion.

Securing transport supply chains: the East African Community (EAC) Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme

Martin Ojok, Uganda Revenue Authority, spoke about the East African Authorized Economic Operator Programme which tackles the challenge of cargo inspection to detect IWT. Currently, only 2% of cargo globally is inspected and it is challenging for customs officers to distinguish which cargo is likely to contain illegal wildlife products. The scheme harnesses the power of business knowledge, as businesses know the problem doesn't start at the border but much earlier when the IWT enters the transportation chain.

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Martin Ojok on the EAC AEO Programme.

The scheme is a voluntary supply chain security program facilitated by customs – it covers the EAC Countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda. It works by giving "Trusted Operator" status to operators that are undertaking certain procedures and checks (based on the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards). In return, businesses receive faster movement through international ports saving them resources and facilitating global trade advantages. The scheme was born out of a similar scheme introduced to tackle terrorism. Regular audits, intelligence gathering and inter-agency co-operation are used to check that companies are still complying. The main entities involved are customs; cross-border regulatory agencies, government trade and legal departments and intergovernmental organisations.

The scheme increases the visibility of the supply chain, separates high from low-risk consignments and allows customs to facilitate low risk transactions with reduced fear of IWT passing through. There are currently 142 companies taking part in the scheme, which between them cover 10% of global trade, and compliance with requirements has been shown to be 98%. Most businesses have taken their responsibilities seriously in ensuring their supply chains remain low risk, for example some companies have dropped clients that they were suspicious of and have provided intelligence information about suspicious shipments.

In order to implement such a scheme, countries need to explore whether they have the relevant legal framework to do so, and supporting infrastructure (such as risk management and post clearing audits) as well as the relevant political support and IT infrastructure. Martin recommended taking a regional approach as that allows the wider supply chain impact to be seen. Implementation requires collaboration between a wide number of stakeholders and technical expertise. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) should be included as they are often the link between big businesses.

Challenges can come from business resistance, not recognising how it can benefit them and not trusting the scheme-believing there must be a hidden agenda behind it. This can be tackled by awareness raising sector by sector and ensuring there is sufficient support available to help companies implement the scheme. An unexpected challenge comes from Customs Officers themselves who do not like *not* verifying cargo as that is a core function of their role and believe there shouldn't be exemptions on who is checked. Challenges also remain with inter-agency co-operation, particularly between countries, and the legal challenges of sharing data on operators- as if operators aren't seeing the benefits of the scheme through reduced checks it undermines compliance. This needs the development of suitable IT infrastructure to ensure better co-operation.

Jishu Chakraborty (left) and Martin Ojok (right).

Following these presentations the focus moved to awareness raising and encouraging reporting from workers and community members.

IWT Awareness Raising Campaign using Football Ambassadors

Maz Robertson, WildAid, spoke about a new awareness campaign being run in port areas to increase awareness of wildlife trade. WildAid specialises in mass media campaigns to effect behaviour change. Their main aim in this campaign is to reduce the consumption and trafficking of illegal wildlife products through awareness raising of the problem in the ports amongst port workers – often young males – in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The campaign promotes the anonymous reporting of tip-offs via a telephone hotline in each country. The work is a culmination of 1.5 year's work and was launched in July in Tanzania, August in Kenya and September in Uganda. The campaign has a core implementation period of three months, and an extended period in Uganda.

Maz Robertson on the IWT awareness campaign.

Maz showed some of the campaign videos which use Premier League and national football players from the three target countries to share a message about illegal wildlife trade, as well as leaflets and posters in English and Swahili showing commonly trafficked products and how they can be concealed. WildAid has also created graphics for social media (containing the crucial information only). Lastly, they are producing billboards to go up near ports, stickers to go on trucks and are using radio broadcasts to raise further awareness.

WildAid shared ten key guidelines for running a successful communications campaign:

1. **Problem identification:** Undertake research (through recent news articles and reports, workshops) to identify the real problem. *In this case, it became apparent that port workers are often unaware of wildlife laws and the consequences both for them if they overlook trafficking of items, and the wider consequences for the wildlife of the country. Reporting levels were low and workers stated that they don't know what to look out for.*
2. **Concept review:** Review what's been done before and any lessons learned and avoid duplication. *In this case, WildAid saw that similar work had been done before, but not focused on ports. There had also been similar campaigns building on the enthusiasm for football in Eastern and Southern Africa to raise awareness on HIV and promote HIV testing during the FIFA World Cup.*
3. **Stakeholder on-boarding:** Map out how stakeholders would interact with the campaign and would have responsibilities for various parts of it, then elaborate the value of the campaign to them. *In this case, WildAid had a target to reach 9,000 port workers while partners would be closely engaged for distribution of materials and running the hotline in each country.*
4. **Audience:** Identify specifically who your audiences are down to their specific demographics. Then the messages should be targeted to speak to this audience. *In this case, the audience was male port workers, primarily under the age of 40.*
5. **Identify distribution channels:** These channels will impact what and how much you are able to say. The value for money may vary in each country. *In this case, radio was far cheaper in Uganda than Kenya for example.*

6. **Call to action:** Identify the specific action you are wanting your audience to take. *In this case, port workers are being asked to report wildlife crime by calling an anonymous, toll-free hotline.*

7. **Messaging:** The messaging needs to be simple and clear, and who delivers the message is as important as what it says. *In this case, WildAid distilled the messages down to two areas: how wildlife trafficking affects jobs and wildlife and also how it affects the nation's natural heritage. The campaign used footballers as they are young, male and popular with the target audience. They were notably not paid for the campaign so their participation reason couldn't be questioned.*

8. **Design:** As well as creating designs that will be attractive and eye catching to the target audience, scripts need to be written and post-production organised. *In this case, there is a consistency of design across all media and the*

Campaign material samples.

national colours of each country are used to invoke a sense of national pride. On social media, the image of the footballer dominates to attract immediate attention.*

9. **Launch:** Launches need to be planned, timed appropriately and momentum driven through the release of material. Attention needs to ensure that material doesn't get taken and distributed to unintended audiences. *In this case, new videos are being released every three weeks.*

10. **Measure impact:** Campaigns need robust monitoring plans to ensure impact can be assessed. *In this case, a pre-survey on knowledge of wildlife trafficking was conducted with port workers and non-port workers, this will be repeated after three months of operations to assess the impact of the campaign amongst both. Also, seizures of IWT and reports via the hotlines will be assessed.*

Setting up and operating an Anonymous Reporting Hotline

Paul Mumo, Kenya Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), spoke about the set-up and operation of Kenya's anonymous reporting hotline as part of a multi-agency approach to crime reporting. It is this hotline that the WildAid campaign refers the public towards.
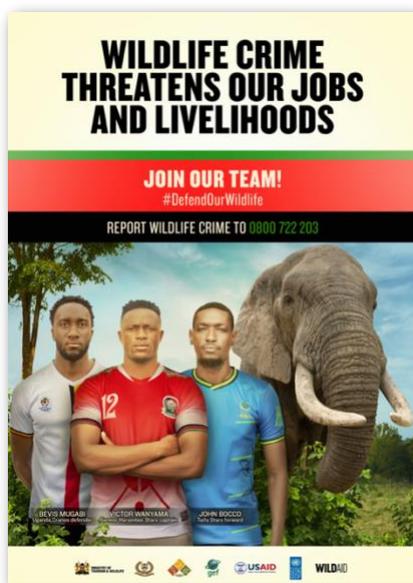

Paul Mumo on the DCI reporting hotline.

The hotline was set up with support from the UK government and opened in December 2020, and is used to report a number of crimes, of which wildlife crime is one. The hotline is toll-free and anonymous so it allows communities and workers to report suspected crimes easily and without repercussions. The call handlers are all police officers with investigative and intelligence backgrounds. They are trained in call handling, intelligence collection, interview techniques and are multi-lingual. Repeated training is undertaken by the British High Commission, FBI and DCI Academy periodically. The reports received by the handlers are analysed for authenticity and then distributed to the relevant agencies.

Any report regarding wildlife crime is referred to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and successes in crime investigation using data from the hotline are reported back to ensure the impact of the hotline can be assessed. Periodically, stakeholders in government, law enforcement agencies, Kenya Wildlife Service and communities are brought together to show the impact of the hotline and raise awareness.

Q&A session on the campaign and hotline.

Countries looking to set-up a similar process would need to go through a procurement process for IT software and hardware and recruitment of personnel. Challenges come from agent recruitment, attrition and expectations; awareness raising and customer satisfaction; measurement and monitoring; poor mobile receptions and system and hardware maintenance. Accurate feedback of impact is important.

IWT Campaign poster for Kenya.

An interesting discussion ensued at the end of the WildAid and DCI presentations as to whether the faces of suspects caught with illegal wildlife items should be publicised in social media and whether the value of items seized should be promoted. WildAid strongly recommended that suspects shouldn't have their faces shown, as they are still to be found guilty in court and that the value of items seized shouldn't be publicised as it can encourage others to engage in such crime. It was highlighted that the value of items is always disclosed in courts, as it helps with sentencing, and media can find out this information then, so it cannot be hidden.

The focus of the presentations then moved to detection of IWT in cargo.

UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme: Risk Profiling, Detection and Interception

A key step in reducing transnational trafficking is *detecting* the illegal wildlife trade. This session focused on detecting trade in cargo. Once cargo arrives at a port (often in huge quantities) how do customs know where to prioritise detection efforts? Khamis Mbarak, Kenya Revenue Authority spoke about the multi-agency Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) at the port of Mombasa, Kenya, and how risk profiling can be an effective and efficient way to identify which goods warrant further inspection by customs. Risk profiling works by identifying 'higher risk' cargo and prioritises this for further investigation. It therefore enables customs to be more strategic and efficient in the deployment of further resources.

The JPCU is part of the Container Control Programme (CCP) established by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 2004 and seeks to improve supply chain security in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. The CCP is operational in over 70 countries and units exchange information on a platform developed by the WCO called ContainerComm.

Khamis Mbarak on the UNODC and container risk profiling.

The JPCU in Mombasa consists of 5 major agencies (Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Revenue Authority/Customs and National Police/Intelligence Service). It also collaborates with a wide variety of other agencies. It has set-up Container Targeting Units who identify high-risk containers as well as undertaking awareness raising activities and enhancing co-operation nationally and internationally. Its remit is broader than wildlife crime, also tackling money laundering, counterfeit goods, terrorism, drugs and arms.

Shipments are identified as high risk through looking at the following criteria:

- **Intelligence profile of company/owner:** involved in previous detection; subject of alert; information from partners/informant;
- **Routing of container:** sensitive source/destination country; unusual transport method; originated or transited a free zone; freight costs excessive for type/weight of cargo.
- **Documentation of consignment:** Shipper/Consigner not traceable; new company; address not existing or a hotel; first shipment; vague descriptions.
- **Consignments in the containers:** Goods that can easily be procured within the country or from neighbours; goods not consistent with line of business; commodities used before for smuggling; vague descriptions.

Suspicious containers are blocked, inspected and if relevant items are seized and cases are prosecuted under CITES by the DCI. Canine units are used to inspect containers where present.

Challenges include delays in communication with businesses as to what is happening with blocked containers; lack of proper equipment for offloading and crucially loading items back (sometimes they don't fit) and porous borders.

The use of detection rats (HeroRats)

Dr. Isabelle (Izzy) Szott, from APOPO, spoke through video link, about a new experimental approach she is leading where rats are being trained to detect illegal wildlife items in containers.

Dr. Izzy Szott on the HeroRats.

APOPO uses African Giant Rats native to East Africa who were initially used in landmine and tuberculosis detection. They are trained through clickers and positive reinforcement (using food mostly). In relation to IWT, rats have advantages as they can access tightly packed containers via ventilation grids. They are also very versatile as they don't have handler relationships and will work for anyone who has food, they are cheaper to house

and feed than dogs. However, Isabelle stated that they wouldn't be able to replace dogs as they cannot cover open areas, their real potential is in working alongside canine units.

The research carried out to date has shown that rats can identify products from illegal wildlife species, with a high degree of accuracy after training (which takes approximately 5 months). They can also

Dr. Izzy Szott through Zoom on the HeroRats

distinguish these from other items that aren't useful to indicate, for example items used to hide contraband. Second rats are always used to verify results. They can also identify mixed IWT items. During trainings, they identify the presence of items within a shipping container through pulling a ball on their vest which sounds an alert. Currently, the team are measuring their ability to detect IWT from outside the container and the rats are about to be trialled in situ at the port of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
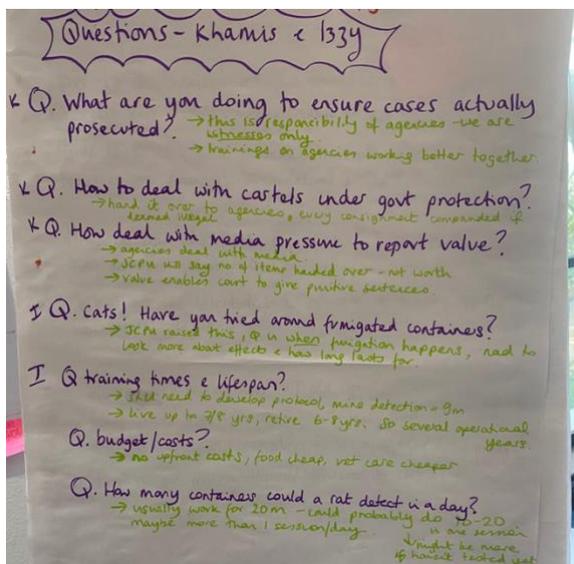

Questions for Izzy.

In terms of setting up a programme using rats, APOPO always works in partnership, so would manage the rats themselves but would hire local staff to supplement. All rats are bred in Tanzania and are used to the East African climate. They can operate in temperatures from 21-54 degrees centigrade. They have a versatile diet and also eat specialist pellets, and require routine veterinary care. They can live and work up to 8 years old. To date, trained rats have worked for 20 minutes/day which may identify 20-30 containers, but the team anticipates a rat could work several sessions per day and will test capacity further. As the rats are nocturnal, they work in the early mornings and late evening.

Disrupting Environmental Crimes through Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery

Lastly, attendees learned about the concept and approach of 'following the money'. Prior to the presentation, attendees crowdsourced a list of questions, which the speaker Rod Khattabi, Grace Farms Foundation, ably addressed while he spoke about how financial investigations (FI) can be an effective way of identifying and prosecuting the kingpins behind IWT.

Rod spoke about how transnational organized criminal networks are moving illegal wildlife products using a variety of smuggling techniques, often using existing infrastructures and well-developed routes. The vast profits that these crimes generate have to be moved across borders for the criminals to benefit. Financial investigation techniques can target these proceeds, identify suspicious transactions in the regulated sectors and prevent the smuggling of cash across the borders. By using the concept of 'following the
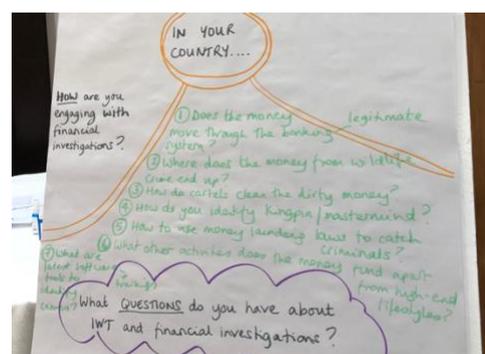
Crowdsourced questions on FI.

Rod Khattabi through Zoom on FI.

money' investigators can target financial flows, identifying members of organised crime gangs, taking away the profit from these crimes and in doing so reduce the reinvestment in crime. Rod described how even illegal organisations require money to operate, so removing the money effectively cripples the criminal organisations. Most of the money will come into the country via shell corporations and money will exchange hands at every point: the poacher will be paid, the middle-man will be paid, the courier will be paid. Once reclaimed the money can be used legitimately by the IWT prevention programmes.

Rod advised starting a financial investigation as early as possible, as they are lengthy, taking 6-8 months to complete. As part of investigations into IWT, requests should be submitted to banks and records analysed. Transboundary investigations are even more complex and require mechanisms between law enforcement units in the respective countries. The evidence that is collected is powerful as it is documented and proves the crimes have been undertaken and are hard to refute in court. Banks also generate regular reports of suspicious activities which can be good leads.

Investigating financial crimes requires multi-agency collaboration, which is usually facilitated by sharing the proceeds of the crime based on percentage of work undertaken. Kingpins are often based in Asia, where countries don't always co-operate, however InterPol can be used as a means to catch them.

Collecting questions from participants.

Reflections on the Day and Welcome Dinner

At the end of the day participants reflected on the day and what had been their biggest takeaways from the various presentations and information shared. A Welcome Dinner was held with all participants, at which Certificates of Collaboration were presented to Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and the Kenya Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in gratitude for their invaluable support of the IWT awareness campaign at Mombasa port. The same certificate was passed on to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) who were not able to participate in person.
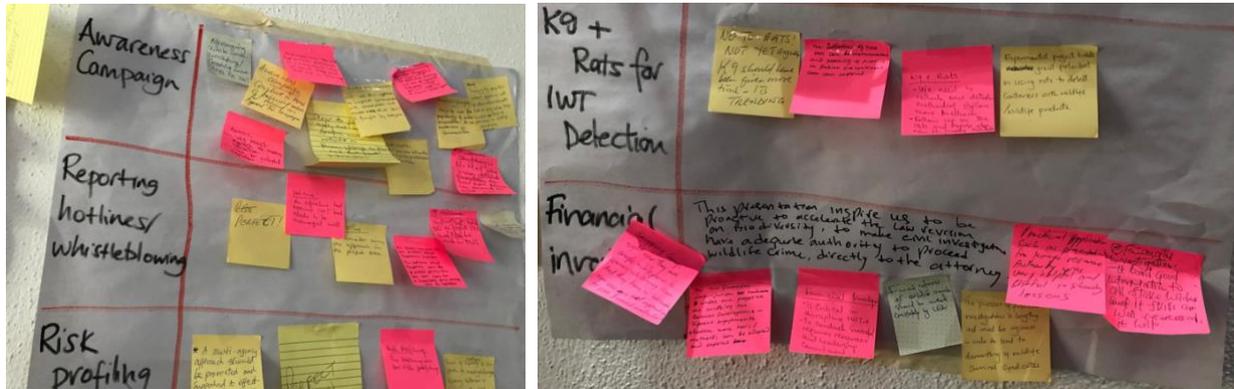
Reflections on Day 1.

Maz Robertson presenting certificates to Khamis Mbarak (KRA; left), James Kyalo (KPA; middle), and Daniel Oburi (DCI, right).

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DAY TWO: Learning from each other

Day two focused on GWP-internal peer exchange, with national project leads sharing experiences and lessons from the activities they are running.

The day started with reflections on best practice in peer exchange. How could attendees get the most from the information they were to hear from other partners? The discussion revealed that participants were keen on asking thoughtful probing questions; considering the different contexts and what is transferable; asking how they could help; sharing why things happened and being brave in sharing challenges/failures.

This was followed by the sharing of country focused activities and lessons learned.

Boniface Chebii on GWP Kenya.

Sharing country activities

Prior to the tour, each country project had developed a 'factsheet' about an activity they were undertaking as part of their national project that they believed would be of interest to others considering the thematic study tour focus on counter trafficking activities. These factsheets were printed as A1 posters and put up before the day's session for attendees to browse. The formal session

Daniel Assefa on GWP Ethiopia.

operated in three rounds. In each round, 3-4 national project representatives gave a brief three minute presentation on their activity. Following the presentations, attendees were welcome to join the presenters at one of 3-4 'discussion stations' to discuss the activity in more detail. Attendees were encouraged to share solutions, to challenges the presenters were facing, as well as share their similar experiences and ask any questions they wanted answers to. The factsheets were on the following activities:

➢ **Botswana:** Using a National Poaching Strategy to bring together agencies into a joint operations centre

➢ **Ethiopia:** Inserting modules on wildlife crime into the curriculums of police, customs and academic training colleges

➢ **India:** Setting up joint intelligence centres at the state level and running hands-on training programmes for law officials

Adrian Ntombo Kholi on GWP Botswana.

➢ **Indonesia:** Using cyber-profiling to monitor and detect the online trade in protected animals

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- ➢ **Kenya:** Multi-agency training on wildlife crime, intelligence, investigation and prosecution skills

- ➢ **Malawi:** Upskilling and supporting ranger effectiveness through using SMART tools, creation of camps, roads and clear park boundaries

Oumar Tamboura on GWP Mali.

- ➢ **Mali:** Creating and mobilising an anti-poaching unit to address the threat of poaching and armed units in an elephant reserve

- ➢ **Tanzania:** Training up law enforcement personnel in intelligence gathering, investigations, joint operations and prosecution of environmental crimes

- ➢ **Thailand:** Creating an intelligence centre and gathering tiger DNA from captive animals to prevent them entering the illegal market

- ➢ **Zimbabwe:** using a landscape approach to increase benefits from wildlife for local communities.

Klairoong Poonpon on GWP Thailand.

Kennedy Nzeru on GWP Malawi.

Munashe Matare on GWP Zimbabwe.

Jishu Chakraborty on GWP India.

Travel to Voi Wildlife Lodge

Following the factsheet session and lunch, attendees travelled for 3.5 hours by bus to the town of Voi to stay at the Voi Wildlife Lodge. The journey was an opportunity for more informal networking and during the journey, discussions ensued amongst attendees on the topics of managing community relations, dealing with transboundary issues and training techniques/capacity building. The route the bus took was along one of the trunk roads to Uganda and was heaving with freight lorries, highlighting the challenge of monitoring cargo along these kinds of busy trunk routes.

On arrival at the lodge, there was tea and cake in a cabin overlooking land on the border of the Tsavo East national park as the sun set, where elephants, hippos, giraffes, zebras, gazelles and water buck could be seen. This was followed by a group dinner.

Participants at Voi Wildlife Lodge. Photos: top: Petra Valastinova, UNDP; bottom: Jishu Chakraborty, UNDP.

DAY THREE: Counter-trafficking initiatives supported by GWP Kenya

Day three was designed to provide participants an opportunity to 'see the GWP Kenya project in action' at one of their two target sites, the Tsavo Conservation area. The day started early, with a 2.5 hour game drive before breakfast in the Tsavo East National Park. The group was able to see the arid landscape of the park which had been exacerbated by the recent drought that has been affecting food sources, and the elephants in particular were looking very thin and pawing the ground for food. The group was fortunate to see multiple elephants, a large herd of zebra, a lioness, multiple gazelle, dikdik and water buck, guinea fowl, baboons and mongoose on the drive.

Tour participants entering Tsavo East National Park. Photo: Petra Valastinova, UNDP.

Game drive and elephants at Tsavo East National Park.

Following breakfast, the group arrived at Tsavo East Education Centre for presentations from the local teams on their strategies for engaging rangers and communities, and training teams in crime scene management to lay the basis for effective and successful prosecutions in court.

The group was welcomed by Wilson Njue, Senior Warden for Tsavo East National Park. The GWP Kenya team had gathered Wardens, Rangers, Community rangers, representatives from Kenya Wildlife Service, Voi police station, the Director of Public Prosecutions for the area, the Area Officer in charge of wildlife crime, Intelligence Officers and Scene of Crime Investigators for the group to meet. There

were three presentations, with some wonderful hospitality, followed by a re-enactment of the stages involved from identification of animal parts indicating possible wildlife crime to sentencing.

Tour participants listening to a presentation from Wilson Njue, Senior Warden at Tsavo East National Park. Photo: Petra Valastinova, UNDP.

Presentations by Wilson Njue (middle) and Moses Odhiambo (right) from KWS.

Law enforcement in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking in Tsavo landscape

Senior warden, Wilson Njue, gave an introduction to the Tsavo East Conservation Area, which is part of the largest protected area in Kenya (43,000km2) and hosts the largest population of elephants in the country (around 14,000 currently, for comparison there were 120,000 in the 1950s). Work here is multi-sectoral by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Community Rangers, the Police and Conservancy Rangers.

Wildlife in the park has many threats, including poaching and wildlife trafficking, but in addition: bush meat poaching, climate change which is causing drought and bushfires, human wildlife conflict, livestock incursion, the introduction of invasive species which reduce suitable ecosystems for key species, land-use change with an increasing population, encroachment and habitat destruction for charcoal production.

Dealing with climate change is focused on mitigation. For example in 2017, over 300 elephants died due to the drought mainly due to hunger. Following the drought, boreholes were spread around the park and water was pumped to the Northern areas to ensure there was sufficient water near food supplies.

Work by the teams locally has reduced poaching of key species by over 90%, less than 15 elephants have been poached in 2022; and has reduced livestock incursion by over 85%. This is as a result of more arrests and a high conviction rate (around 85%). However, bushmeat poaching is still a major challenge. Currently, there is rhino and elephant population growth in the area.

Rangers showing snares recovered from Tsavo East (left); bushmeat packed on motorcycles (right). Photos: KWS.

Poaching: There was a marked increase in bush-meat poaching in Tsavo East as a result of COVID, with local communities struggling to survive during the period as well as for commercial reasons. Methodologies used amongst poachers are changing, the wardens are seeing an increased use of poisoned arrows (which are silent) and snares. Activities to reduce poaching include ground (on foot and in vehicles) and air patrols taking place every day. There is a co-ordinated approach working with ranches on intercepting poachers and with the police on prosecutions. There are more than 11 de-snaring teams who intercept up to 200 snares a day. At night, ambushes and night patrols are conducted supported by intelligence from covert activities. Despite all these activities, bushmeat poaching is increasing in the park (demonstrated by the fact that almost 1,800kg of Dikdik meat has been recovered from poachers in 2022 so far compared to 400kg in the whole of 2021. De-snaring teams walk along boundaries, covering 14-20kn per day. So far this year, they have already found 8% more snares compared to the whole of 2021. Oryx, giraffe, warthog, zebra and eland poaching has also increased, which are typically meats used to feed families.

Charcoal production and charcoal transportation is also used to hide bushmeat, canine units are used to check charcoal bags before they leave ranches.

KWS inspecting truck transporting charcoal. Photo: KWS.

There is a strategic plan 2019-2024 for the park, a key tranche of which is to convert more ranches bordering the park into conservancies. To achieve this, work is being done on enhancing capacity building and training rangers in crime scene management and prosecution. KWS is also providing equipment, running awareness campaigns and supporting joint patrols. In addition, members of the Community Wildlife Service department will go to community meetings and churches to ensure the community can better understand the benefit of wildlife, also using social and traditional media. Some park revenue also goes back into community lands (via the government) for drilling boreholes, repairs, pumps and employing scouts.

Monitoring of key species is undertaken by 4 companies with platoons as well as aerial patrols. Community intelligence is also used to count animals in community areas. Monitoring of activities of rangers is conducted through a real-time app called Earth Ranger and an operations centre.

The Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA)

Noel Kasololo, Programs Officer at the TTWCA, next gave an overview of how the TTWCA works in partnership with KWS. The TTWCA exists to support development of wildlife conservancies and other related economic activities for improved livelihood in Taita Taveta County. It has secured 1,000,000 acres, 24% of the county, for integrated land-use such as ranching, tourism, carbon trading and mining. This area covers about 40,000 homes. In these areas, TTWCA supports rangeland management; supports wildlife conservation; supports community livelihood initiatives; supports habitat restoration and protection and influence policy decisions – currently pushing for a Conservancy Fund from national government.

There are currently 246 rangers in the area supported with equipment (VHF radios, GPS kits, motorbikes, fire-fighting equipment) and training by KWS. However, the provision of equipment and training is not yet sufficient across all teams (150 rangers have been trained currently). Around 42 KWS officers are deployed across the ranches and carry out joint patrols and operations with community rangers. The Community Rangers don't have the power to carry out arrests.

Ranger training in Kasigau. Photo: TTWCA.

Engaging with the community is a large part of the TTWCA's role and currently they are encouraging youth and women to engage further, as most young people have little interest in natural resource management but will be the area leaders in 20 years. They are supporting community beekeeping, basket weaving and supporting women's groups with entrepreneurship. They are also introducing rainwater harvesting in schools and villages to reduce water pressure in the area.
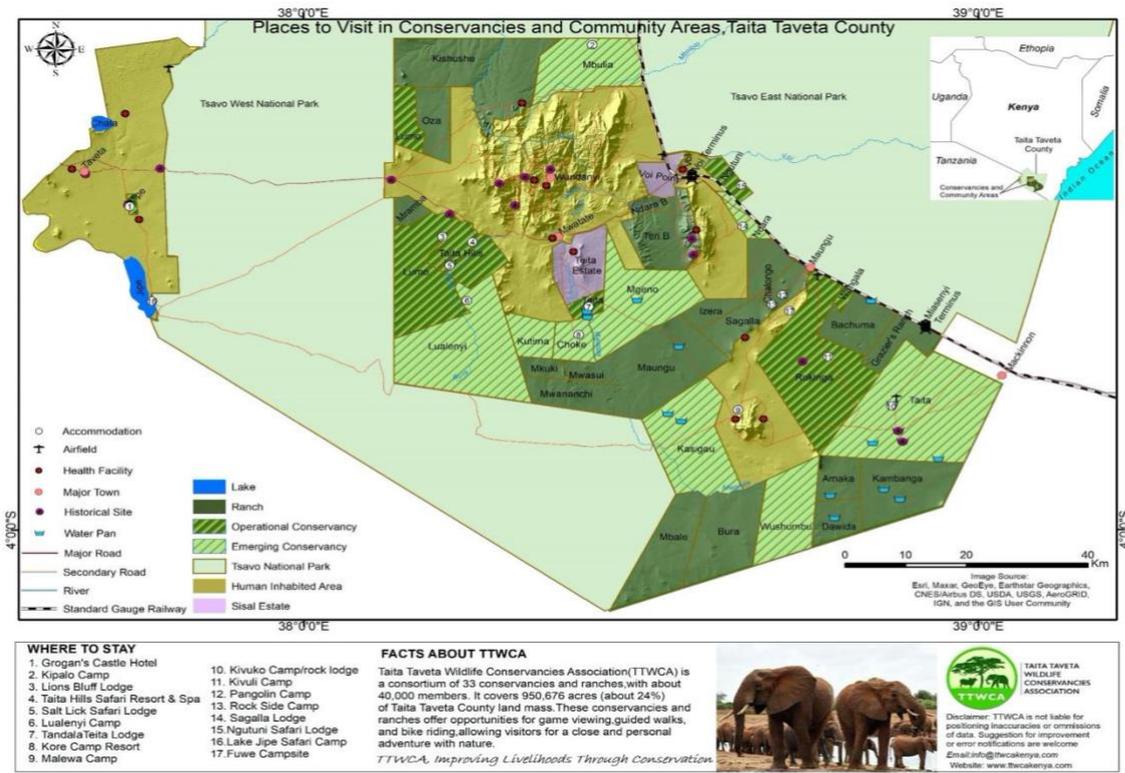
Map of ranches adjacent to Tsavo East National Park. Source: TTWCA.

Crime investigation and crime scene management

The final presentation of the day came from Moses Odhiambo, Wildlife Investigation Department at KWS, who talked about the role of the first responders in arriving at wildlife crime scenes and crime scene investigation techniques. First, he described the different divisions within KWS which includes the Crime Division and Protection Divisions. The Wildlife Investigations Department investigates crime cases, scenes of crime and carries out intelligence investigations. It gathers information and works with informants to prevent crime.

Moses described additional methods of poaching they are dealing with, these included: powerful torches to blind animals, putting items in transit trucks on the side of the highway, small vehicles and motorcycles used for transport and donkeys on tough terrain.

Next, Moses talked about the role of the first responders in combating wildlife crime. The first responder is the first person (or team) who arrives at the scene of the crime and is likely to be a Ranger

Torches & machetes confiscated from poachers. Photo: KWS.

or Community Ranger. The main aim of the first responder is to preserve and secure the crime scene, otherwise the evidence gathered from the scene will be useless in court. To date, 75 (out of 700) Rangers have been trained in scene of crime management as a first responder through an interactive, practical hands-on training program. The first responder's main tasks are to cordon and protect the crime scene, take GPS coordinates and patrol the area for any witnesses, evidence or perpetrators. They should then stand guard until a trained investigator arrives. Normally, Rangers patrol in teams of 3-10, which ensures that guards are not left alone at the crime scene.

First responders securing the site (left); investigators processing the scene to collect evidence (right).

The investigator's role is to identify whether a crime has been committed; collate clues for use in court; undertake interviews with witnesses or interrogations with suspects; process the scene, flagging, marking, photographing and collecting evidence; taking forensic evidence to identify the animal species and for potential identification of the suspect and other linked cases.

Investigator collecting DNA from carcass.

The investigators have legal authority to both interrogate suspects and make arrests. Prosecutions are made by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). They can also seize property and investigate wildlife crimes outside protected areas.

Following the presentations, the team of local partners provided a wholehearted re-enactment/ demonstration of dealing with a wildlife crime from first responder to judge. The group was able to witness all the processes that each member of the chain goes through from the warden being alerted to a potential crime; KWS officers being first on the scene and securing it; investigators taking evidence; further intelligence identifying potential suspects; a KWS unit intercepting the suspects in a vehicle; investigators arresting the suspects, taking further evidence from the vehicle and recovering ivory; the suspects being taken to the police station and interrogated; and then a case being made to the ODPP Deputy Director of Prosecutions allowing a trial to take place. The

Demonstration of suspects being arrested and interrogated.

Senior Warden confirmed that this was a condensed version of the practical training that is undertaken over 5 days to drill rangers in crime scene management and response.

Travel back to Mombasa

Following the presentations and simulation, the group returned to the Voi Wildlife Lodge for lunch accompanied by a number of GWP Kenya partners hosting the group at the education center, including the Senior Warden of Tsavo East and the Deputy Director of Prosecutions. After lunch, the group embarked on the 3.5 hour bus journey back to Mombasa, arriving back around 8.30pm for dinner.

Lunch at Voi Wildlife Lodge (Boniface Chebii, left; Munashe Matare, right).

DAY FOUR: Learning how to learn best

The final day of the tour particularly focused on lessons learning, with reflections on the Kenyan field visit, training on how to craft good lessons and final reflections on the whole tour.

Reflections on the IWT Kenya project

The day started with reflections on the visit to Tsavo East. Delegates reflected on how well trained and prepared the Kenyan teams were, the usefulness of technology such as the EarthRanger tool, and were impressed by the fact that KWS was able to bring judges, prosecutors and police to the park, showing the good relationship they have with these agencies and how important they deem environmental crime to be.

Rebekah Phillips facilitating.

Some delegates felt they had learned how they should focus more on first responders as they are so crucial to prosecution of crime cases. Others on how well the Kenyan team integrated human rights (such as only using women to search other women) and not showing suspect's faces on social media (this didn't align with the DCI approach which showed within a country there can be differing approaches between agencies). Lastly, attendees reflected on how despite all the effort being undertaken by the KWS teams and TTWCA Community Rangers and the great collaborations they have locally with other agencies, and all the technology and training they have, poaching is still increasing. It reminded them that despite all efforts the wider socio-economic situation will always be outside of the control of on-the-ground teams and action is needed to acknowledge and respond to these situations.

Participants sharing reflections on the field trip to Tsavo East.

Capacity building on lessons learning

Next, Lizzie Crudgington presented on what the composition of a good 'lesson' is and how lessons should be gathered, stored and presented. She advised that when formulating lessons learned, national projects should include their experience on what works (or doesn't) and why, AND include enough information and guidance for other project teams to be able to improve the design or delivery of their projects based on the lesson presented.

More fundamentally, she also reiterated how an 'enabling environment' should be created within projects to give confidence to project participants to reflect on what worked and why within their projects. By 'enabling environment' she stated projects

Lizzie Crudgington on lesson learning.

need leadership and culture to value the practice of capturing and recording lessons; the skills and systems to do so, and lastly the resources (time and funds) to do so.

This presentation built on the work being done with six pilot countries, five of whom were present, on an Action Learning Pilot exercise being carried out between September and December 2022 on lesson-learning. It is leading to a publication on lesson learning within GEF6-funded projects due to be published in late 2022/early 2023.

The pilot had started with a survey of national projects and how they felt lesson learning was currently undertaken at project level. Lizzie reported back on some of the findings from this survey which showed that the current enabling environment was not encouraging good lesson learning: while participants understood the value of lesson learning, there was limited confidence in all involved in delivery to identify, capture and share lessons learned effectively as many had not been trained in this (and didn't know where to find guidance); they were unsure what to capture and how to analyse 'why' things or worked or not; there were not sufficient systems in place to capture lessons systematically; and lastly, they did not have time for it, nor feel it was properly valued. Addressing skills and training is part of the reason for the Action-Learning pilot exercise.

Categorizing examples in 'Good', 'Bad', and 'Ugly'.

Following Lizzie's presentation, participants undertook a group exercise (named The Good, The Bad and the Ugly). For this exercise, participants had to work in groups and sort through cards with 'lessons' written on them. For each card they had to decide, as a group, whether they thought the statement on the card was a well-drafted lesson (the Good), a poorly drafted lesson (the Bad) or a statement that wasn't a lesson at all (the Ugly). To help with this process a handout was shared which gave some key tips on what a good lesson learning statement should include.

Group exercise.

The exercise and handout helped participants understand that lesson capturing and learning was a fundamental part of sharing their experiences with others which can help improve GWP projects in their own countries and others going forward. However, lessons are only useful if captured in sufficient detail.

Group exercise.

Following this exercise, each country worked on redrafting a lesson learned from their own project using the learning from this session.

Shaping lessons from action-learning pilot countries

Lastly, working with the five pilot countries present (Indonesia, Thailand, Kenya, Botswana and Ethiopia) participants worked in two groups to help them improve the lesson they had started to prepare for publication.

This peer-group exercise worked as a form of peer review. Each pilot country presented the lesson they were working on and the 'peers' in their group then asked questions and asked for clarifications, thereby making it clear what further information a reader would need to know about the lesson presented to be useful. 'Peers' also shared what was particularly interesting for them and where they had similar experiences in their own countries. The lessons that were worked on during this session will be captured as case-study lessons and published as part of the Action Learning process.

Strengthening lessons from action-learning pilot countries.

Reflections on the tour

The day ended with participants looking back to the key objectives of the tour, sharing reflections on their key takeaways from the week and filling in evaluation forms. All had found the tour a valuable learning experience and had particularly enjoyed being able to develop relationships further with other national projects which they hoped to carry forward.

Sharing reflections on the study tour.

Closing reception

The day ended with a closing reception at the hotel and a dinner.

Closing exercise & final photo of the study tour emphasizing interconnectedness of participants protecting wildlife across the world.

6. Annexes

I.   List of participants
II.   Detailed agenda
III.   Presentations
IV.   Country factsheets
V.   Photographs
VI.   Summary of evaluation responses
VII.   Speaker bios
VIII.   IMO Guidelines on IWT