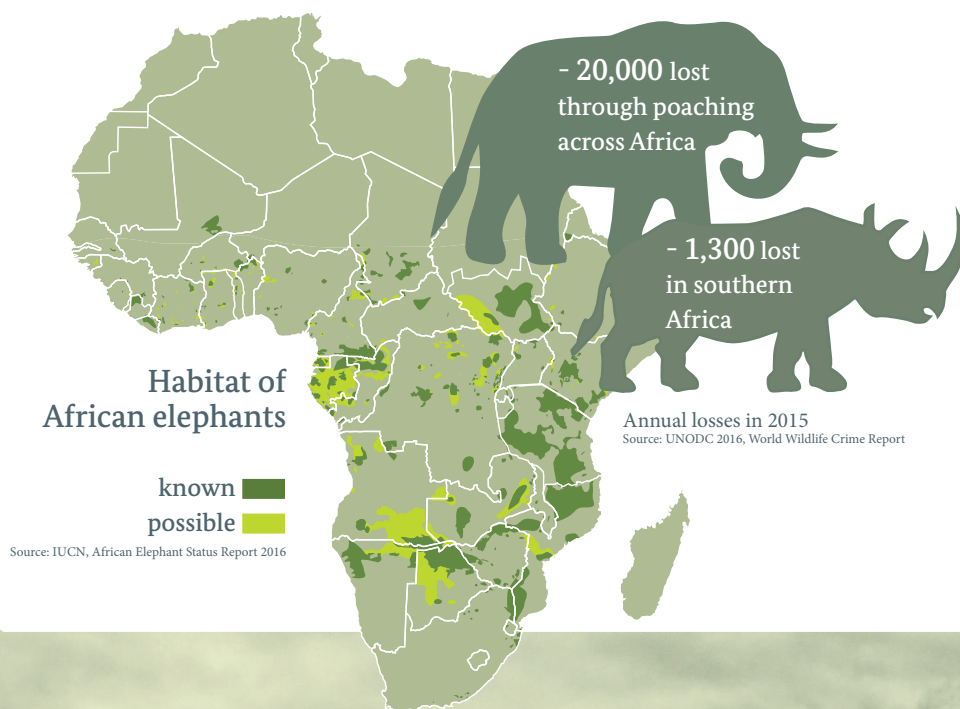




Stopping poaching – safeguarding natural livelihoods

The role and contribution of German development cooperation



Source: IUCN, African Elephant Status Report 2016

Annual losses in 2015
Source: UNODC 2016, World Wildlife Crime Report



Poaching inhibits development in African countries

Poaching in Africa has surged drastically. Every year around 20,000 elephants and more than 1,000 rhinos fall victim to poachers.¹ Poaching is threatening to overturn the ecological balance and is menacing the livelihoods of local populations. The poachers are heavily armed and organised in criminal gangs; their activities impact on the security situation, which in turn reduces the revenues from tourism. It is estimated that the tourism industry in Africa loses around 23 million euros every year as a result of poaching.² This is a very serious problem because about 15 million jobs in sub-Saharan Africa are directly or indirectly dependent on tourism. In some countries tourism accounts for up to 15% of GDP.

In Asian countries, ivory and rhinoceros horn are seen as status symbols, and rhinoceros horn in particular is used in traditional Asian medicine. The social acceptance and strong demand for these products in Asia only serve to push the illegal trade in them ever higher. This trade promises huge profits and there is little risk of prosecution. The illegal trade in wild animal products undermines the principles of democracy and the rule of law, exacerbates corruption and causes good governance to be further weakened.

The entire illegal trading chain generates “value added” of up to 21 billion euros. Overall, environmental crimes are the fourth most lucrative kinds of crime in the world. Most of the profits go to the middlemen and the big bosses of organised crime.

- 1 R. H. Emslie et al.: African and Asian Rhinoceroses – Status, Conservation and Trade. IUCN Species Survival Commission. 2016
- 2 Naidoo, R. et al.: Estimating economic losses to tourism in Africa from the illegal killing of elephants. Nat. Commun. 7, 13379 doi: 10.1038/ncomms13379. 2016



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

Successfully combating poaching and illegal trading in wild animals in Africa and Asia

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has founded a cross-border Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is now jointly financing this Partnership. Other German government ministries have also joined this partnership. The aim is to combat the problem of poaching in a joint effort that brings together policymakers, civil society and the private sector. Officials from game reserves and the customs authorities are working together, with German support, in a cross-border effort aimed at pursuing these crimes more effectively. Transit and consumer countries are being assisted in tightening their legislation. Staff from police forces, customs authorities and judicial services are being given training so that they are able to recognise illegal consignments of goods and conduct investigations. Profiling the consumers of such goods facilitates the drafting of targeted campaigns to reduce demand.



Supporting wildlife protection in Namibia

The BMZ has provided around 15 million euros to support successful efforts by the Namibian government to revise and implement national guidelines for community-based wildlife management. The Namibian environment ministry is receiving assistance for its efforts to implement a national wildlife protection strategy in the form of support for the creation of a national anti-poaching unit and pertinent infrastructure. Decentralised anti-poaching camps have been built, professional equipment procured and rangers have been trained so that Namibia can work in close cooperation with neighbouring countries on the implementation of cross-border wildlife protection measures with the aim of reducing poaching and illegal trading in wild animal products.



HOW THE BMZ'S APPROACH WORKS

The BMZ has been supporting the efforts of its African partner countries to reconcile the need to protect nature with the exigencies of development with great success for many decades. In order to combat poaching the BMZ uses an approach based on three pillars, which addresses the three basic problems caused by poaching.



STOPPING POACHING – SAFEGUARDING AFRICAN HABITATS

We are engaged in efforts to stop poaching on the ground and we are supporting measures that aim to uphold the ecological balance and preserve sources of income for the local population. Together with partner institutions in the field measures are agreed that strengthen the management of protected areas and get the local people involved.



HALTING ILLEGAL TRADING

By strengthening the justice system and customs authorities in the countries of origin and in transit countries we are helping to bring the illegal trade in wild animal products to a halt. We are promoting effective cooperation across different sectors with all relevant authorities.



CURBING DEMAND IN ASIAN MARKETS

We are supporting our partner countries in developing efficient law enforcement to bring the consumers of illegal wildlife products to book. In order to reduce the demand for ivory and rhinoceros horn, we are investing in campaigns to raise public awareness that target the consumers. For example, we are developing campaigns for travel companies aimed at making their customers – particularly those travelling to Asian transit countries – aware that the purchase and consumption of wild animal products is illegal.



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Turning poachers into gamekeepers in southern Africa

In the cross-border protected areas of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa), which now number 18 in total, there is a lack of qualified gamekeepers and park managers. The BMZ is therefore providing some 10 million euros to fund the training of gamekeepers in southern Africa. The local population is being involved via sustainable tourism activities and is learning that wild animals boost incomes and therefore merit protection. About half the budget is going to support the expansion of the South African Wildlife College (SAWC) in Kruger National Park. Future personnel for the parks are being trained at the College.

WHAT THE BMZ IS DOING

The BMZ is the biggest bilateral donor in regard to combating poaching, contributing some 190 million euros (as at 1 January 2018) for this task. The BMZ is a reliable partner, particularly when it comes to supporting protected areas in Africa, and has been for many decades now.

The current poaching crisis is threatening to destroy the development achievements that have been made in sub-Saharan Africa with negative impacts on important areas of work for the Marshall Plan with Africa. That is why the BMZ is continuing and consolidating the work in which it has been involved in this area. This is the only way we can support the efforts of those partner countries affected by these problems and of the people who live in them to fight poaching and the illegal trade in wild animal products – all the way from the protected areas in Africa via the trade routes to the markets in Asia.

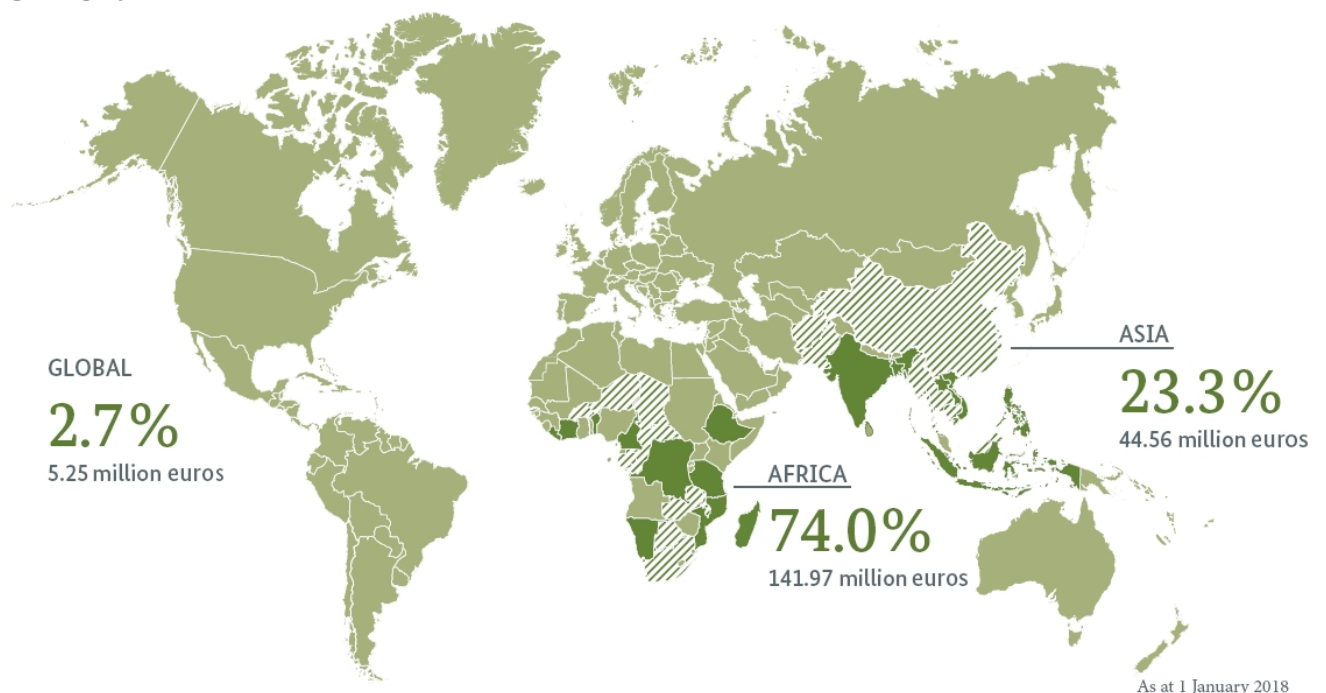


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German Development Minister Gerd Müller and Jumanne Abdallah Maghembe, the Minister for Nature Conservation and Tourism in Tanzania, officially hand over a husky aircraft in the presence of Christof Schenk from the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The aircraft will be used by the Tanzanian Wildlife Management Authority to combat poaching and keep the Selous Game Reserve under surveillance.

COUNTRIES WHERE THE BMZ IS HELPING TO COMBAT POACHING

Bilateral projects Ongoing projects: 58
 Regional and global projects Volume: 191.78 million euros



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