

Engaging local communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade – experience in the SADC region

Online Event Report

9 July 2021

9am – 12pm CAT



This event was funded as part of the 'Learning and Action Platform for Community Engagement against IWT' (LeAP) project, funded by the UK Government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. The project is coordinated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent those of either the UK Government or IIED.



Background

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a recognised global challenge - both for conservation and development. It is critical that clear strategies are in place – nationally, regionally and internationally – to tackle poaching and wildlife trafficking. It is well recognised that there is no simple solution to tackling IWT. The different initiatives that have emerged have adopted multiple approaches. These can broadly be classified into three types:

1. Increase law enforcement and strengthen criminal justice systems
2. Reduce demand/consumption, and
3. Support community engagement in conservation and sustainable wildlife management.

To date, most attention has been paid to the first two approaches, with relatively limited attention to the third strategy. Since 2014 – the date of the first intergovernmental conference on IWT (The London Conference), IUCN and IIED have been collaborating to raise awareness of the importance of engaging local communities. This includes the ‘Learning and Action Platform for Community Engagement against IWT’ (LeAP) project, funded by the UK Government’s Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

This online learning event, organised by IUCN and IIED, was intended to bring this experience to SADC, in support of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (SADC LEAP) and the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement.

Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
09.00	Introduction to the event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the issue • Objectives of the meeting 	Dr Dilys Roe (IIED and IUCN SULi)
09.05	Opening comments from SADC Secretariat – on the IWT and the LEAP strategy	Dr Domingos Gove (SADC)
09.10	Opening comments from IUCN on the IUCN-SADC MoU	Luther Anukur (IUCN ESARO)
09.15	Mentimeter ice breaker – SADC Member State thoughts on community engagement	Dr Holly Dublin (IUCN ESARO and IUCN SULi)
09.35	Why engage communities in tackling IWT? Rationale and policy rhetoric internationally and within SADC	Dr Dilys Roe
9.55	Community engagement in practice – lessons learned from case studies from the SADC region	Liv Wilson Holt (IIED)
10.15	Q & A	Facilitated by Dr Dilys Roe
10.25	COMFORT BREAK	
10.35	Community perspective on IWT and their role in working with government, including examples of current collaborations	Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Chair Zambia CBNRM Forum Facilitated by Dr Holly Dublin
10.55	SADC Member States' perspectives on the role of communities in tackling IWT: how to strengthen cooperation between communities and government to achieve desired objectives	Interactive Mentimeter session facilitated by Dr Holly Dublin
11.15	Q & A: Opportunity for SADC Member States to raise any outstanding issues	Facilitated by Leo Niskanen, (IUCN ESARO)
11.25	Tools for improving community engagement and strengthening CBNRM: SAPA/GAPA/SAGE/FLOD	Dr Dilys Roe and Leo Niskanen
11.35	Wrap up followed by brief overview of next learning event which will focus in detail on FLoD (First Line of Defence)	Leo Niskanen
11.50	Closing comments from SADC Secretariat – including recommendations and/or next steps (if any)	George Wambura (SADC)
12.00	MEETING CLOSES	

Event overview

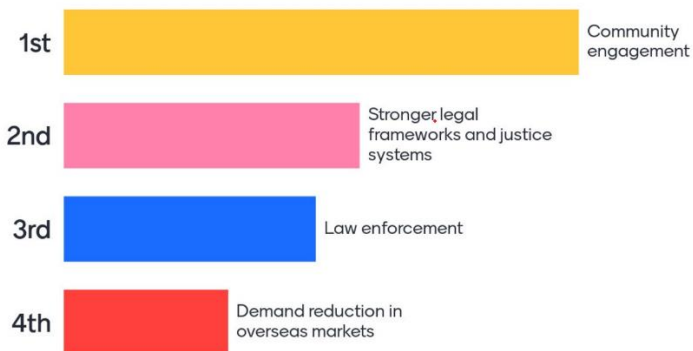
Participants were welcomed to the event by Dr Dilys Roe (IIED and IUCN SULi), followed by opening remarks from Dr Domingos Gove (SADC). Dr Gove highlighted the important collaboration between IUCN and SADC and stated that the meeting would help to improve the engagement of local communities in the implementation of the SADC LEAP strategy. Luther Anukur (IUCN ESARO) then gave further remarks on IUCN's commitment to supporting the implementation of the SADC LEAP strategy, particularly through the FLoD initiative.

The opening remarks were followed by an interactive icebreaker session using Mentimeter. Questions were as follows:

1. Is poaching and IWT a major issue in your country?

16 people responded **YES**, **2** people responded **NO**

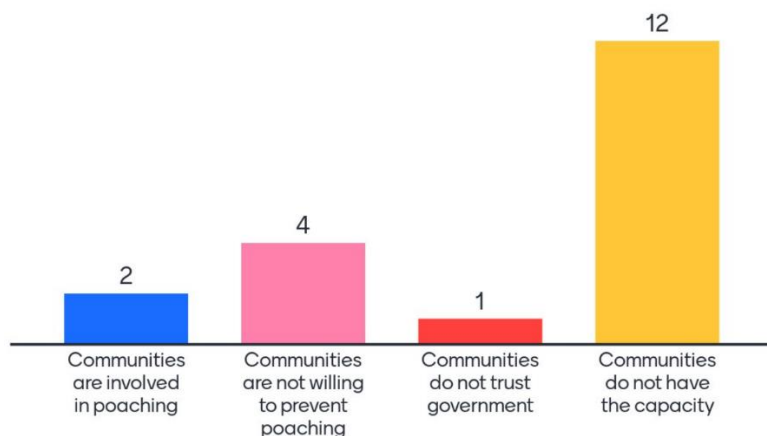
2. Which of the following do you think is important to help reduce poaching and IWT



3. Do you think that local communities should be engaged to help combat IWT in your country?

15 people responded **YES**

4. What do you think is the biggest challenge for engaging communities?



Dilys Roe then gave a presentation on why it is important to engage communities in tackling IWT, exploring reasons such as problems with relying on law enforcement, the history of social injustice in conservation, the importance of incentivising communities to keep wildlife on their land and that communities can be powerful agents in combatting IWT. She then highlighted that whilst there has been lots of policy rhetoric on community engagement as well as commitments made at international and national forums, there has been less progress on the ground.

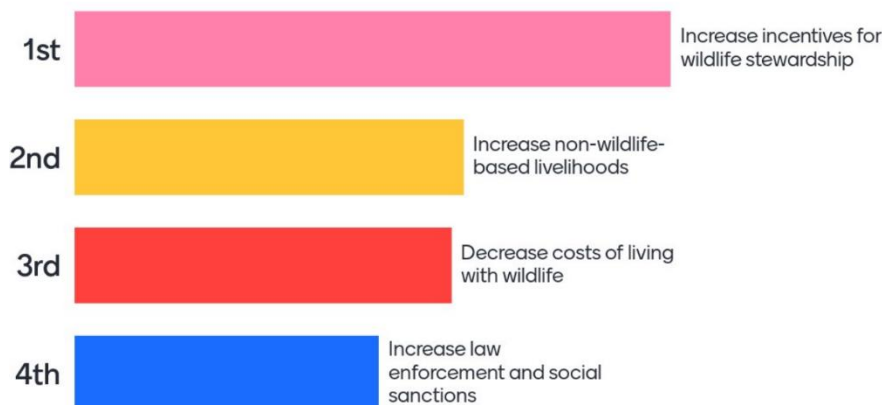
Liv Wilson-Holt (IIED) then provided an overview of the People not Poaching platform, a global online database of initiatives that engage communities in combatting IWT. She discussed commonalities from the initiatives, including how they have managed to reduce poaching and support livelihoods through for example enterprise development and by reducing human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Liv also discussed lessons learned, including the need to involve local people in the design and development of ideas, and the importance of forging strong partnerships with government authorities. There are over 25 initiatives on People not Poaching that are based in the SADC region, and these are available in an [online compilation](#).

A question and answer session followed, after which participants had a short comfort break.

After the comfort break participants were joined by Rodgers Lubilo (Zambia CBNRM Forum), who discussed how, in partnership with IIED, Zambia CBNRM Forum have been working on the development of a national framework for engaging communities in tackling IWT. He noted that they have been working closely with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in Zambia on the framework and mentioned that DNPW are very willing to assist in addressing this issue. Rodgers also discussed current activities in Zambia that are supporting community engagement in anti-poaching efforts, such as community scouts working side by side with wildlife police officers, and that 90% of those employed in Game Management Areas are from local communities.

A second interactive Mentimeter session followed to ask SADC Member States' their perspectives on the role of communities in tackling IWT. Questions were as follows:

1. Which of the following approaches might be the most effective when trying to engage communities to help tackle IWT?



2. In a few words share something new you have learned about community engagement today

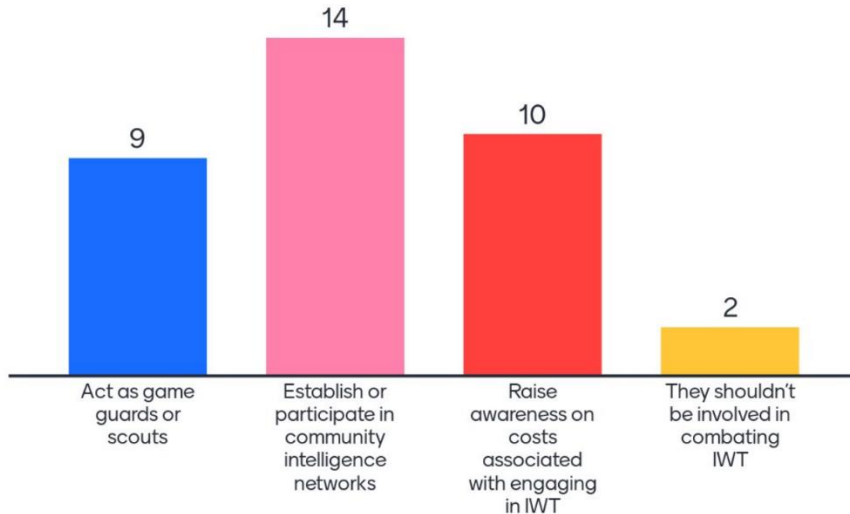
Responses included:

“There’s no one size fits all approach to engaging communities in law enforcement to tackle IWT”

“Communities are the first line of defence”

“The importance of diversification of the rural economy and ensuring that we have the right policy framework”

3. What can local communities do to assist in combatting IWT?



4. Where do you think the biggest challenges or barriers lie for governments in engaging local communities in combatting IWT?

Responses included:

“There is no trust”

“Ineffective instruments to address costs associated with HWC”

“Limited benefits to communities due to reduced tourism”

5. From your perspective, what have been the effects of COVID-19 on the involvement of local communities in illegal **domestic** use and trade of wild species?

8 people responded **INCREASE**, **2** people responded **DECREASE**, **5** people responded **STABLE**

6. From your perspective, what have been the effects of COVID-19 on the involvement of local communities in illegal **international** use and trade of wild species?

3 people responded **INCREASE**, **4** people responded **DECREASE**, **7** people responded **STABLE**

7. Would it be valuable to host a facilitated discussion between community representatives and national wildlife authorities on community engagement in tackling IWT?

17 people responded **YES**, **1** person responded **NO**, **1** person responded **NOT SURE**

This was followed by another question and answer session to allow SADC Member States to raise any outstanding issues. Dilys Roe then gave a brief overview of different tools for improving community engagement and strengthening CBNRM, including Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA), Governance Assessment for Protected Areas (GAPA) and Site-Level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE), from IIED and partners.

The final presentation was from Leo Niskanen (IUCN ESARO) who gave an overview of the FLoD initiative, including background, enabling actions and the four primary pathways: Increase the costs of participating in IWT; Increase incentives for stewardship; Decrease costs of living with wildlife; Increase non-wildlife-based livelihoods. He showed how these pathways map on to community-based elements within the SADC LEAP and noted that the Joint Meeting of the Ministries Responsible for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism in October 2019 specifically mentioned the SADC LEAP, urging Member States to report on the implementation of FLoD Guidelines as a tool to promote community engagement in the management of natural resources.

The event was closed by George Wambura (SADC), who thanked presenters and participants for their time and input.

Participants

Name	Country
Adrian Kholi	Botswana
Andrew Chomba	Zambia
Angel Avelempini	Botswana
Arthur Musakwa	Zimbabwe
Banele Maya	Zimbabwe
Betty Msimuko	Zambia
Carlos Lopes Pereira	Mozambique
Christine Mentzel	South Africa
Chuma Simukonda	Zambia
Cornélio Miguel	Mozambique
Dilys Roe	UK
Domingos Gove	Botswana
Edson Gandiwa	Zimbabwe
Eligi Paul Kimario	Tanzania
Fainos Chuma	Zimbabwe
George Wambura	Botswana
Georgina Kamanga	Zambia
Gilbert Ndjadi	DRC
Godfrey Mtare	Zimbabwe
Gooffreys Malipano	Zimbabwe
Holly Dublin	Kenya
Kwanele Manungo	Zimbabwe
Leo Niskanen	Kenya
Liv Wilson-Holt	UK
Lubasi Mungandi	Zambia
Luke Njiva	Zimbabwe
Lusizi Mwale	Zambia
Luther Anukur	Kenya
Mercy Chikwanha	Zimbabwe
Mike Mulena	Zambia
Munkuli Godfrey	Zimbabwe
Nobesuthu Adelaide Ngwenya	Zimbabwe
Nothando Moyo	Zimbabwe
Nunes Mazivile	Botswana
Nyasha Mutyambizi	Zimbabwe
Padgewell Mutape	Zimbabwe
Padgewell T Mazoyo	Zimbabwe
Patience Gandiwa	Zimbabwe
Patridge Marimbe	Zimbabwe
Pejul Calenga	Mozambique
Phillimon November	Zimbabwe
Reshmah Nundloul	Mauritius
Richard Fryer	Namibia
Robert Nyamini	Zimbabwe
Rodgers Lubilo	Zambia
Rumbidzai Mutetwa	Zimbabwe
Samson Chibaya	Zimbabwe
Sarah Kwanza	Zimbabwe
Sekayi Matanga	Zimbabwe
Sharon Musakwa	Zimbabwe
Silvanus Okudo	Tanzania
Sonja Meintjes	South Africa
Stanley Nyamayedenga	Zimbabwe
Thulani Methula	eSwatini

Timothy Kuguyo	Zimbabwe
Tom Doris	Zimbabwe
Trumber Jura	Zimbabwe
Vimul Vnunloul	Mauritius

Presentations

1. Why engage communities in tackling IWT? Rationale and policy rhetoric internationally and within SADC

Dilys Roe, IIED and IUCN SULI



Engaging local communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade – experience in the SADC region
Online learning event



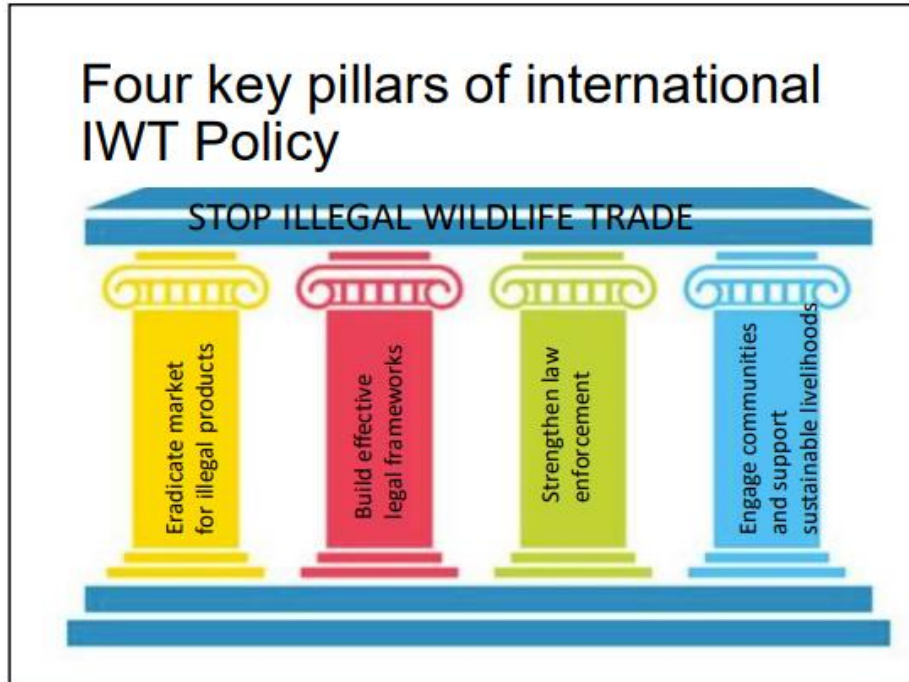
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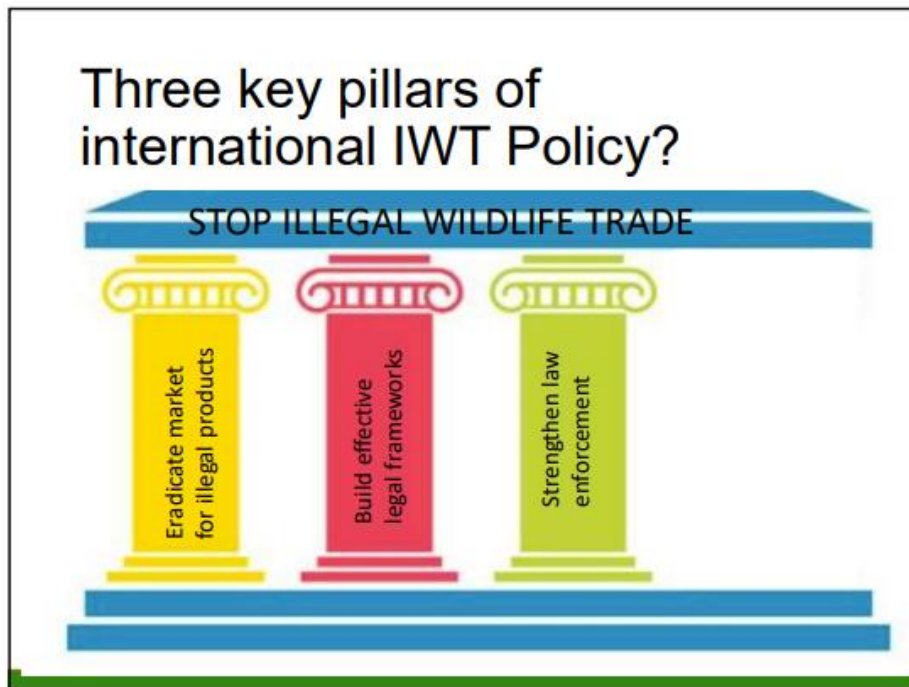
Why engage communities in tackling IWT?
Dilys Roe, IIED



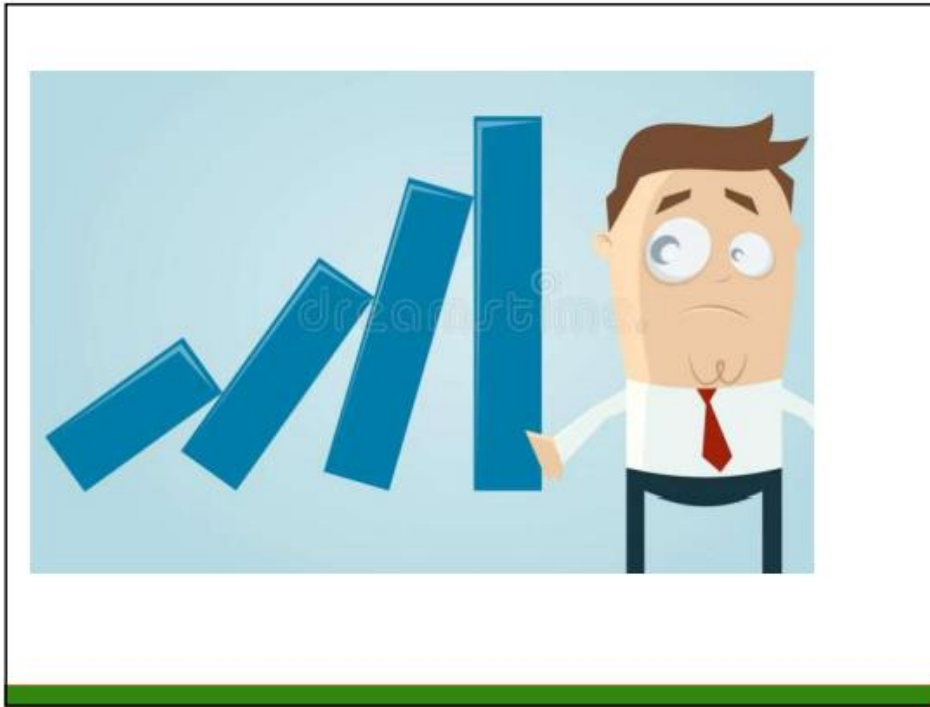
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Why is it so important to engage communities?



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1. Relying on law enforcement to stop poaching difficult, expensive, and only rarely effective



- Wildlife is on community land:
 - 1/4 of Earth's land managed by communities, 40% of formal conservation areas
- Community members live with and near wildlife - often involved in poaching
- Best-resourced law enforcement will struggle without community buy-in

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2. Communities have borne costs of conservation: its unjust for anti-IWT efforts to worsen this



- historical dispossession and exclusion
- anti-poaching efforts often target IPLCs, often unjustly
- loss of livelihood options through tightened access to wild resources
- massive social impacts of killing and incarceration of young men, loss of livelihood assets to pay fines
- human rights abuses

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3. Empowering communities and increasing the value of wildlife to them can have much broader conservation benefits



Habitat loss and degradation remains primary threat even for many species impacted by IWT...



...retaliatory killing due to human-wildlife conflict is also a major local threat for some species

Community-based approaches can build support for wildlife as a land use and tolerance for its impacts more broadly

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4. Communities can be powerful and positive agents in combatting IWT



Know what is happening on the ground – can be "eyes and ears" of enforcement

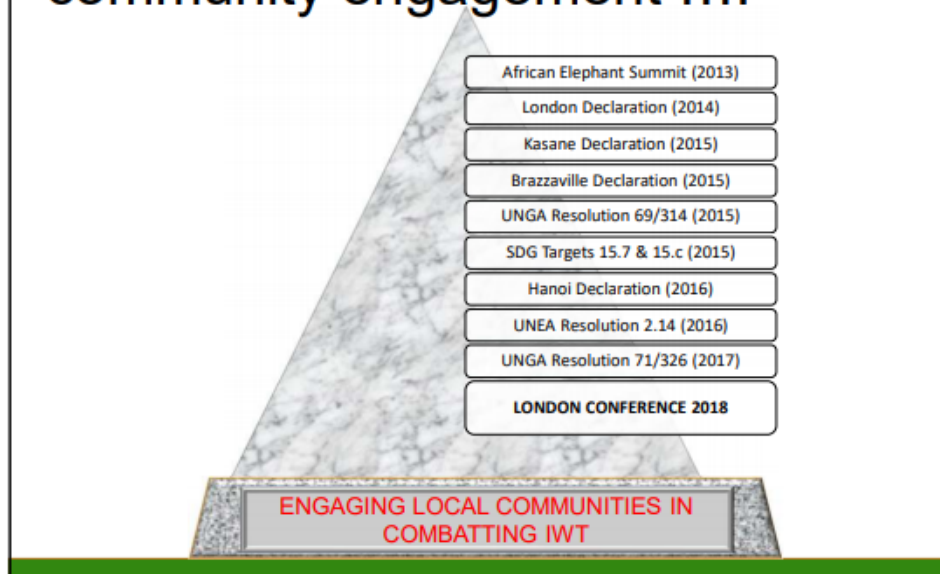
Highly motivated when have stewardship rights and / or when gain tangible benefits from conservation



Now many powerful examples of communities taking lead themselves or forming effective partnerships with authorities

10

Lots of policy rhetoric on community engagement



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Community commitments made...

- Tackle negative impacts of IWT on people
- Support sustainable livelihood opportunities
- Support community-led conservation
- Recognise community rights to benefit from wildlife
- Involve local people as law enforcement partners
- Reduce the costs of living with wildlife
- Support information sharing about community-based approaches

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SADC LEAP reflects many commitments...

- Highlights the role of community rangers in site-based law enforcement
- Recognises the need for communities living near wildlife areas to have regulated resource access and benefit from eg tourism and hunting
- Notes that legal instruments empowering communities to manage wildlife must be put in place, and
- Community capacity to manage wildlife build (including governance of CBNRM institutions)

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As do member states...

- Angola National Policy on Forests Wildlife and Conservation Areas promotes involvement and full participation of local communities as direct actors in wildlife management and protection,
- Botswana latest elephant management plan highlights the need for communities to benefit in order to increase tolerance of elephants
- Zambia National Parks and Wildlife Policy emphasises devolution of wildlife management rights, costs and benefits, wherever this is appropriate and tenable, to land owners and communities where wildlife exists

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Including IWT-specific strategies

- Namibia National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement (2021-2025)
 - “Local communities, through conservancies, are the custodians and active managers of communal natural resources” *and* “Communities, have a role to play in stopping poaching and combatting wildlife crime”
- South Africa - National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking - need to build partnerships with communities and ensure they benefit from legal sustainable use of wildlife

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Less progress on the ground



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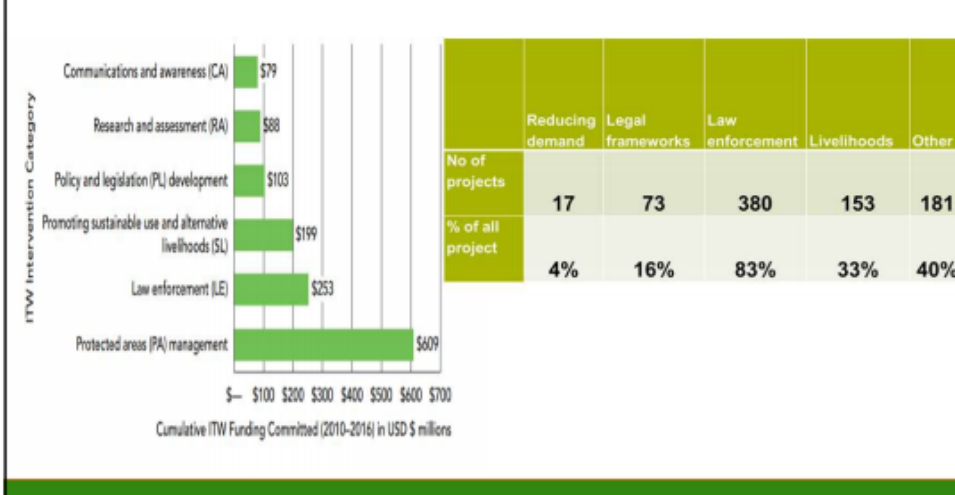
Country	Participants			Strengthening law enforcement						
	London	Kasane	Hanoi	Investing in capacity building	Strengthening capacity for specialised investigations	Establishing national cross-agency coordination and collaboration	Strengthening regional and global enforcement networks	Working with existing international agencies	Engaging the private sector	Strengthening the ICCWC
Africa										
Angola										
Botswana										
Cameroon										
Chad										
Congo										
DRC										
Ethiopia										
Gabon										
Kenya										
Madagascar										
Malawi										
Mozambique										
Namibia										
Rwanda										
South Africa										
Swaziland										
Tanzania										
Togo										
Uganda										
Zambia										
Zimbabwe										

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Country	Participants			Supporting sustainable livelihoods and economic development						
	London	Kasane	Hanoi	Tackling negative impacts of IWT	Supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities	Supporting community-led conservation	Supporting wildlife-based livelihoods/benefits from wildlife	Involving local people as law enforcement partners	Supporting info. sharing	Reduce cost of living with wildlife
Africa										
Angola										
Botswana										
Cameroon										
Chad										
Congo										
DRC										
Ethiopia										
Gabon										
Kenya										
Madagascar										
Malawi										
Mozambique										
Namibia										
Rwanda										
South Africa										
Swaziland										
Tanzania										
Togo										
Uganda										
Zambia										
Zimbabwe										

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Uneven allocation of funds across the pillars

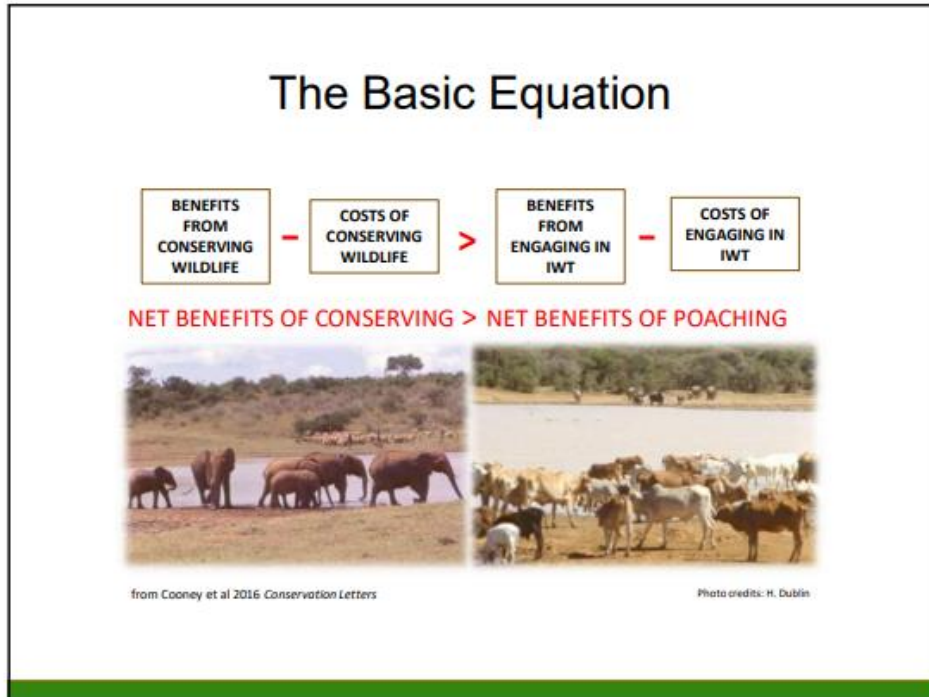


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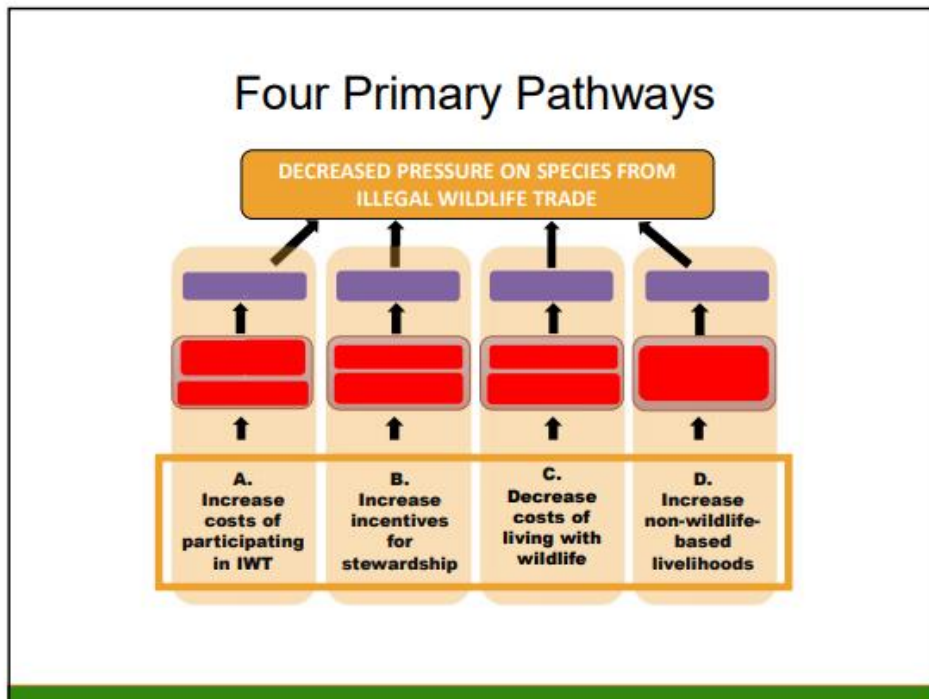
Challenges for community engagement

- No “one size fits all” approach or blueprint
- Capacity and governance constraints amongst CBOs
- High value of wildlife commodities and high levels of poverty
- Lack of alternative livelihood opportunities
- Human wildlife conflict fuelling resentment
- Lack of trust between communities and law enforcement agents

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Next step: moving from great policy to great practice



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THANK YOU



dilys.roe@iied.org

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2. Community engagement in practice – lessons learned from case studies from the SADC region

Liv Wilson-Holt, IIED



 **People not Poaching**


Community engagement in practice – lessons learned from case studies from the SADC region


9 July 2021
Liv Wilson-Holt

1

Who are we?

- IIED and IUCN SULI are supporting community engagement in initiatives that tackle illegal wildlife trade through the project: **Learning and Action for Community Engagement against IWT (LeAP)**.
- LeAP is funded by the UK Government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and includes the People not Poaching learning platform: peoplenotpoaching.org
- People not Poaching is designed to build a **global evidence base of case studies to understand how communities are engaged in tackling IWT**.
- We want to understand what works, what doesn't work – **and most importantly why** – in initiatives that have involved communities in anti-poaching activities.



 Community engagement in practice – lessons learned from case studies from the SADC region | 9 July 2021

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We have 26 case studies from SADC countries

Nearly all initiatives focus on **high-value species**, such as elephants, rhinos, big cats and pangolins.

Common approaches include:

- Supporting community-based ranger programmes
- Establishing informal intelligence networks
- Enterprise and skills development
- Empowering women
- Mitigating human-wildlife conflict
- Educating and raising awareness



Community engagement in practice – lessons learned from case studies from the SADC region | 9 July 2021

3

These initiatives have had some great successes

- ✓ Reducing poaching – with **NO poaching** in some project areas
- ✓ **Poachers converted to rangers** and enhanced community **intelligence**
- ✓ **Enterprise development and training** and **improved access to markets** resulting in increased income
- ✓ Enhanced **crop protection**, resulting in reduced human-wildlife conflict
- ✓ Communities have access to better **education, healthcare and sanitation services**



Community engagement in practice – lessons learned from case studies from the SADC region | 9 July 2021

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Lessons learned



- ✓ Local people must be **involved in designing and developing ideas**
- ✓ **Strong and trusting partnerships with government** are essential
- ✓ **Meetings with traditional leaders** are a cost effective and easy way to expand reach
- ✓ Spend **time building relationships** – community engagement can't just be one-off events
- ✓ Prioritise win-win outcomes for **both conservation and community development**

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Challenges

Developing long-term sustainable solutions

Lack of funding for trying new approaches

Consistent access to donor funding

Communities must like **AND** participate in an idea

High levels of poverty

Lack of opportunities for tourism

Logistical constraints

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Strengthening the capacity of Wildlife Management Areas to increase wildlife protection in northern Tanzania

Honeyguide Foundation is working in partnership with three Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and one Canine Unit across northern Tanzania, to **build capacity for community-based anti-poaching efforts**.

Key activities are:

- Training Village Game Scouts on anti-poaching techniques
- Reducing costs of wildlife protection for the WMAs, as this currently accounts for 60-75% of WMA management expenditure
- Designation of a grazing area for cattle in the dry season and wildlife in the wet season
- Supporting community anti-poaching teams to liaise with government departments regarding anti-poaching activities
- Supporting WMAs to create Community Investment Funds to formalise the process of directing tourism and hunting revenue to development projects



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The Community Rhino Ranger Incentive Programme

A collaborative, local-level rhino protection institution supported by Save the Rhino Trust and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The approach taken is **guided by the belief that securing a future for wild populations of rhinos depends on local people refusing to tolerate poaching**, and rhinos being more valuable alive than dead.



© Conservancy Rhino Ranger Support Group

- Monetary and non-monetary incentives
- Development of community-led eco-tourism enterprises
 - Creating a sense of ownership and stewardship toward rhinos
- Improving education and awareness about conservation and IWT

This initiative shows how **communities can effectively lead the protection of wildlife** and clearly demonstrates that having **rights to manage and benefit from rhino** coupled with a strong sense of ownership provide a foundation for effective community engagement in the fight against poaching.



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Community Markets for Conservation - COMACO

Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) is a business that incentivises conservation and has created a **market where conservation can be profitable**.

COMACO realised that people were **poaching because they had no choice**. The initiative was designed to **reward people for conserving natural resources** instead of punishing them for poaching.

COMACO invites individuals through forming producer groups to adopt a package of eco-agriculture and organic farming techniques that both **reduce the environmental impact of farming and drastically improve agricultural yields**.

This has **dramatically reduced incidents of poaching**, with food crops produced by villagers turned into quality products which are then sold across Zambia.



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Thank you for listening – any questions?

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- Facebook [@peoplenotpoaching](#)

Sign up to our newsletter on our home page: peoplenotpoaching.org

Look at our case study compilation from SADC countries – available in the chat box or on our website



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3. Tools for improving community engagement and strengthening CBNRM:

SAPA/GAPA/SAGE/FLOD

Dilys Roe (IIED and IUCN SULI) and Leo Niskanen (IUCN ESARO)

Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA)

SAPA focuses on impacts of PCAs on the wellbeing of local people and includes a basic governance assessment. SAPA can be used with almost any type of PCA.

SAPA process

- I. Preparation**
Planning the assessment
Review existing information
Stakeholder analysis
Facilitation team training
- II. Scoping**
First community meetings
First stakeholder workshop
- III. Information gathering**
Developing survey questionnaire
Household survey
Data analysis
- IV. Assessment**
Second community meetings
Second stakeholder workshop
- V. Taking action**
Communication
Planning action
Progress monitoring
Progress review

Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (SAPA)

Methodology manual for SAPA facilitators

Revised & expanded 2nd edition

Phil Franks, Rob Small and Francesca Booker

1

Governance Assessment for Protected Areas (GAPA)

GAPA focuses on governance challenges and underlying causes but is only for PCAs where actors are willing to explore sensitive governance issues.

GAPA process

- I. Preparation**
Planning the assessment
Review existing information
Facilitation team training
- II. Scoping**
Stakeholder workshop: scoping
- III. Information gathering**
Focus group discussions
Key informant interviews
Data analysis
- IV. Assessment**
Stakeholder workshop: validation
- V. Taking action**
Communication
Planning action
Progress monitoring
Progress review

Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (GAPA)

Methodology manual for GAPA facilitators

Francesca Booker and Phil Franks

2

Site-level Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE)

SAGE focuses on governance and equity. SAGE is less deep than GAPA but covers a broader scope of issues and costs less. SAGE can be used with any type of PCA.

SAGE process

1. Preparation	2. Assessment	3. Taking action
1.1 Introduction to SAGE	2.1 Facilitation skills training	3.1 Communication of results
1.2 Stakeholder analysis	2.2 Assessment by actors	3.2 Planning for action
1.3 Site profile	2.3 Synthesis workshop	3.3 Support for action
1.4 Assessment planning	2.4 Data analysis + basic report	3.4 Monitoring progress

Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) User's guide v1

October 2020

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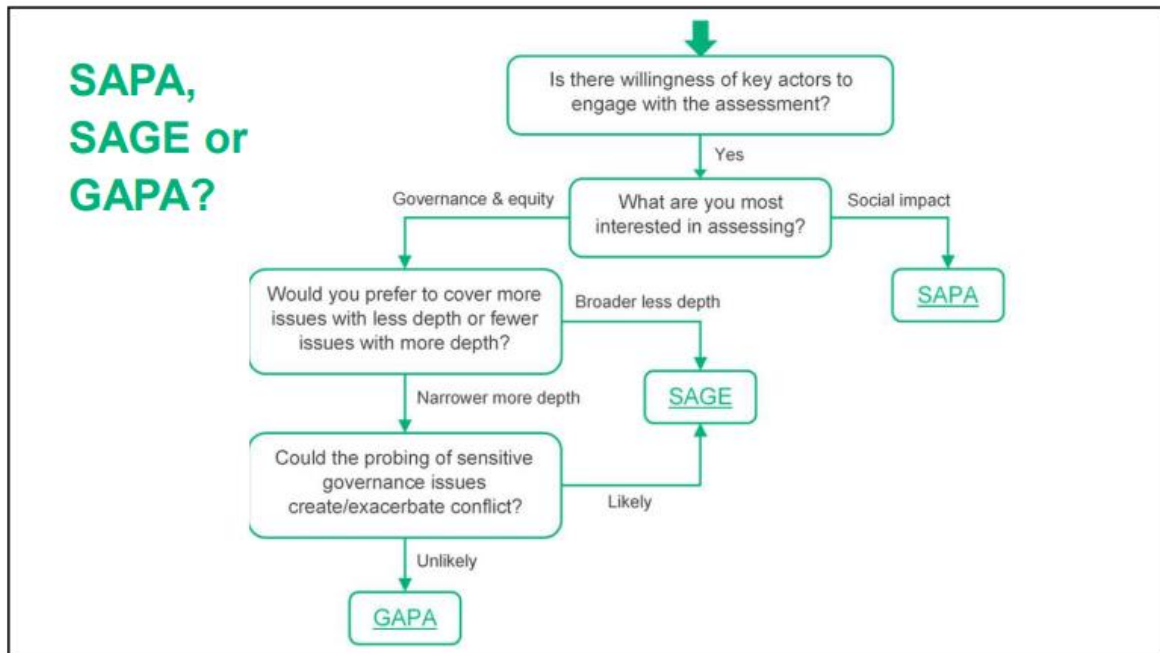
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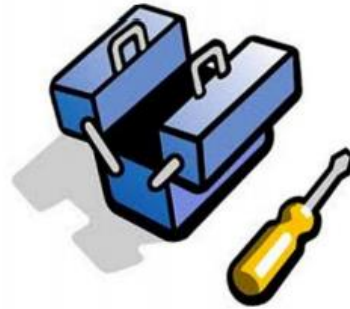
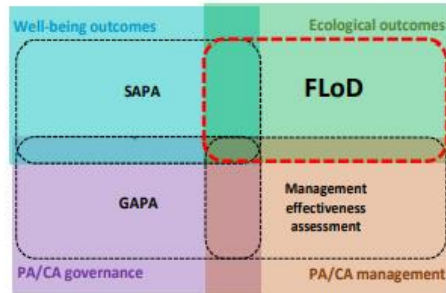
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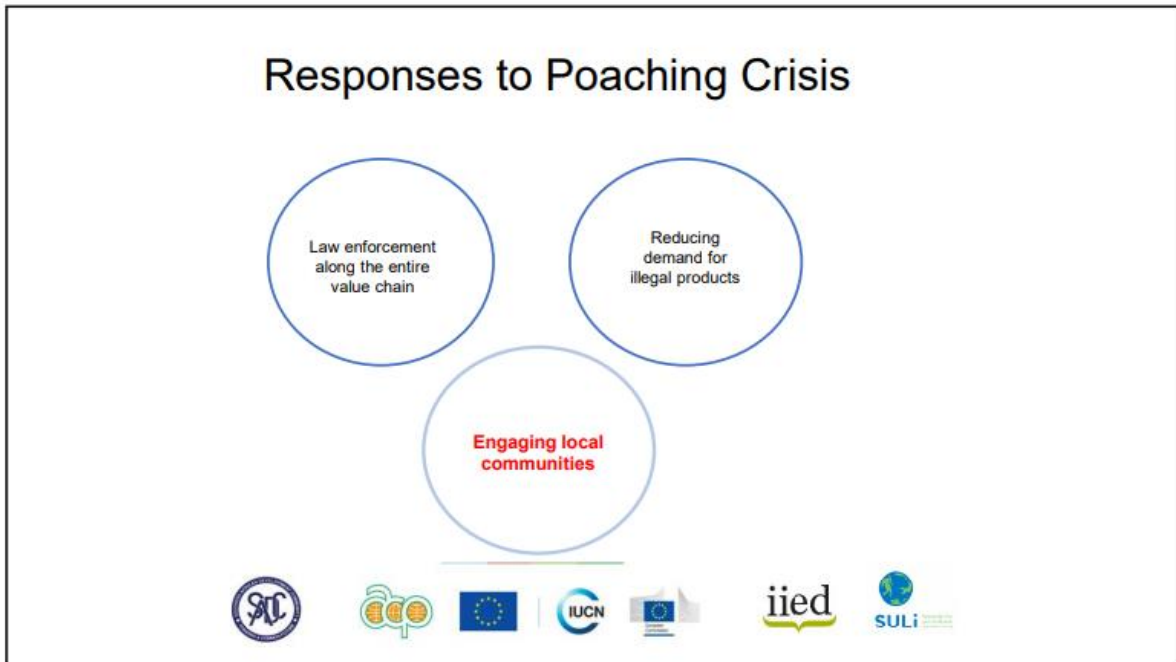
Local Communities: First Line of Defence Against Illegal Wildlife Trade (FLoD)



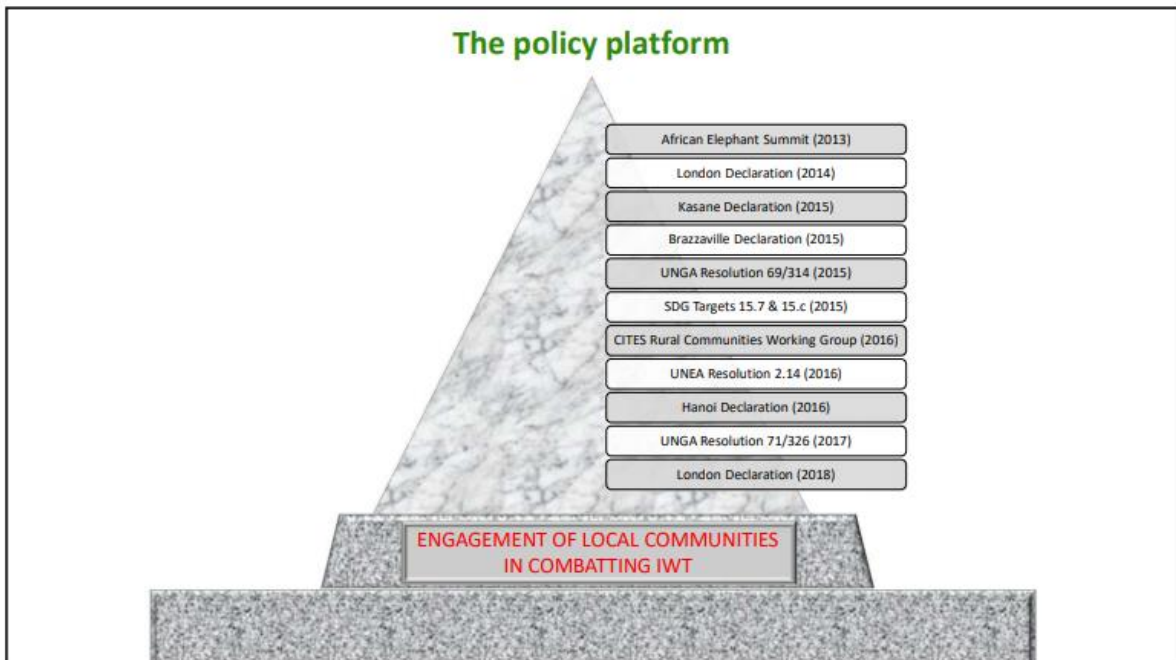
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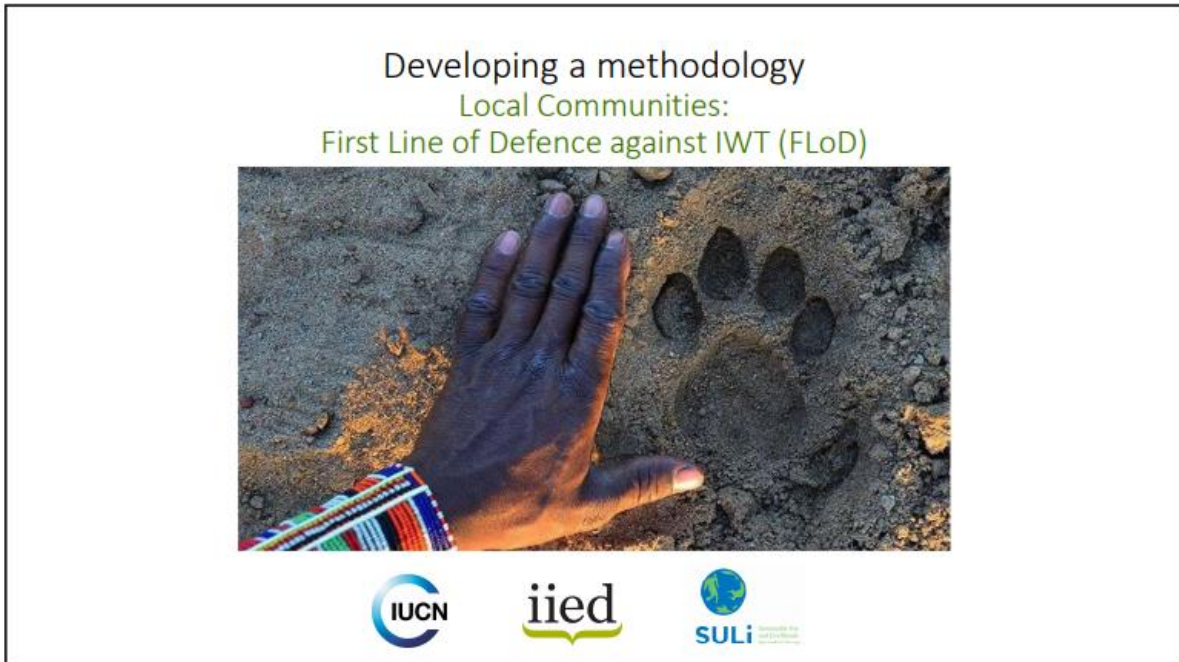
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Development of FLoD - Building our understanding



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The Basic Equation



NET BENEFITS OF CONSERVING > NET BENEFITS OF POACHING



from Cooney et al 2016 Conservation Letters

Photo credits: H. Dublin



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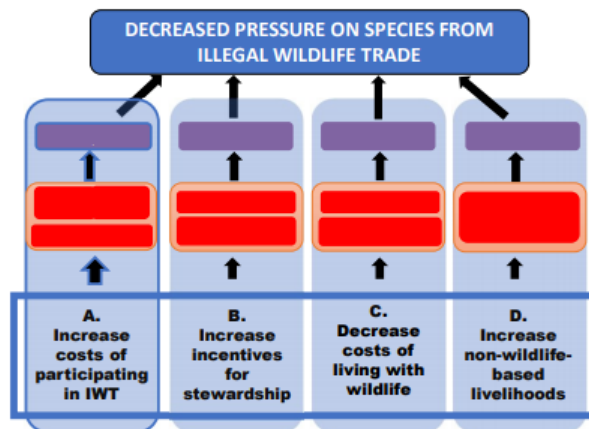
Enabling actions

- Support development and implementation of legal & institutional frameworks for effective & fair wildlife protection and management
- Fight corruption and strengthen governance
- Build community skills and capacity



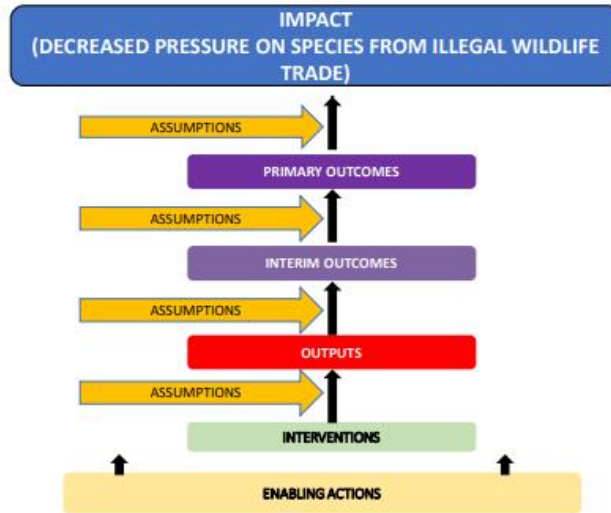
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Four Primary Pathways



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Theory of Change and Assumptions?



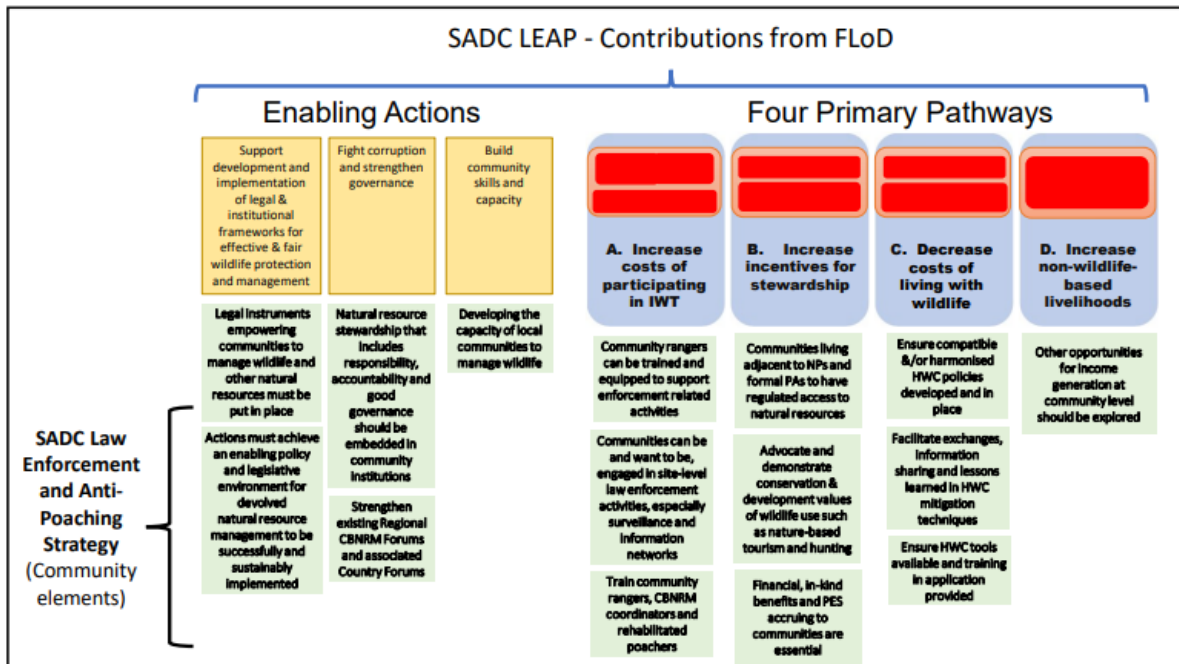
15

WHY FLOD METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS?

- **Articulates and interrogates the theories of change and key assumptions** of designers and implementers of anti-IWT interventions and **compares with those of local communities** using an Action Research process
- Highlights often flawed and sometimes naïve TOCs by intervention planners/implementers (and their donors) and divergence from reality on the ground
- Empowers communities, strengthens community voice, enhances collaboration and builds trust between implementers and communities
- **Helps design more effective interventions to combat IWT with community engagement**



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JOINT MEETING OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM

25TH OCTOBER 2019, ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Decision 17 (SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-poaching Strategy)

“7.2.1.7 Ministers:

(ii) urged Member States to:

(b) report on the implementation of “Local Communities First Line of Defence in Combatting Wildlife Crime (FLoD)” Guidelines as a tool to promote community engagement in management of natural resources”



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