

# Pro-poor responses to wildlife crime

Building capacity for pro-poor responses to  
wildlife crime in Uganda



# In brief

Wildlife crime has been identified as a key issue worldwide, negatively impacting biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. Such crime takes many forms - from international organised crime, to local level incursions into protected areas, to collections of resources for subsistence needs. International wildlife crime can result in reduced security and loss of critical resources for poor people and national economic development. Crucially, responses to wildlife crime can adversely affect the livelihoods of poor people by alienating them from critical livelihood resources, disproportionately targeting minor drivers of wildlife loss. This project aims to build national capacity in Uganda to deliver pro-poor responses to wildlife crime and, by increasing our understanding about the interactions between wildlife crime and poverty, draw out lessons with international applicability.

## Why now?

- International wildlife crime has moved to the top of the conservation and development agenda. Recent calls to address wildlife crime have emphasised the need to increase law enforcement, a blunt instrument that can disproportionately persecute minor actors.
- Rural poverty is a major driver of wildlife crime, as such understanding the socio-economic context of illegal wildlife use is crucial to inform conservation efforts.

### London Declaration, CBD and CITES

In February 2014 the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference held in London brought together NGOs and world leaders from over 40 nations. The London Declaration agreed key actions to stamp out illegal wildlife trade; including measures to help eradicate the demand for wildlife products, strengthen law enforcement, and support the development of sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by wildlife crime.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) are working closely together on these issues and

acknowledge that more evidence is needed on the livelihood impacts of wildlife crime and its enforcement. For example, CITES Resolution 16.6 (2013) recognises the potential adverse impacts of their CITES listing on the livelihoods of poor people, and in response encourage the involvement of rural communities in developing policy for wildlife crime.

## Our ambitions

### Pro-poor voice

The project will work with the poorest households living in and around protected areas, where wildlife crime of various types occur, to ensure their voice is heard.

### Policy influence

The ultimate project goal is to ensure policy makers - both within Uganda and internationally - have the tools and capacity to understand interactions between wildlife crime, biodiversity and poverty so they are more able to target interventions that accrue long term benefits to rural communities. Learnings from the project will be shared internationally for those conservation managers, development practitioners and policy workers facing similar challenges.

# Outputs and outcomes

The project outputs and outcomes are centred around three key questions:

- 1. What are the drivers and impacts of wildlife crime at the local and national level?**
- 2. What are the socio-economic profiles and motivations of individuals who participate in wildlife crime?**
- 3. In the eyes of local people, government and conservation managers, which interventions are most effective in reducing wildlife crime and contributing towards poverty alleviation?**

Success in answering these questions will enable conservation efforts that are better executed and well integrated. To ensure law enforcement is more appropriately targeted and works synergistically with local livelihoods. By 2017 we will have delivered:

## New evidence

We will review existing evidence on the drivers and impacts of wildlife crime in Uganda. The project will additionally gather new evidence from local perspectives on wildlife crime and conservation interventions. To do this, we will use novel and appropriate techniques to understand sensitive behaviours.

## Tools and resources

The project will build the capacity of UWA to monitor and manage wildlife crime, both nationally and in the focal protected areas. We will strengthen the tools and resources that the UWA can use, including providing a fully functioning wildlife crime monitoring database. The project will also enhance UWA's skills to analyse and interpret law enforcement and social data.

## Policies and institutions

We will ensure policy makers not only have the tools but also the capacity to understand the interactions between wildlife crime, biodiversity and poverty. This is important in order to secure wildlife crime policies that mitigate the negative impacts of wildlife crime, as well as being pro-poor and embracing fairness.



# Implementing Partners

## International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED works with some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in the decision making arenas that affect them - from village councils to international conventions. For more information visit: [www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)

## Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

UWA conserves and manages Uganda's wildlife. As a government agency, it is mandated with the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and protected areas in Uganda in partnership with neighbouring communities and other stakeholders for the benefit of the Ugandan people and the global community. For more information visit: [www.ugandawildlife.org](http://www.ugandawildlife.org)

## Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action education and inspiring people to value nature. WCS was established in 1895 and has been supporting conservation in Uganda since 1957. Since 2000, WCS has had a permanent research presence in Uganda and has been undertaking research, supporting protected area management and working to reduce people-park conflicts by improving livelihoods. For more information visit: [www.wcsuganda.org](http://www.wcsuganda.org)

## University of Oxford

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science (ICCS) is an academic research group based in the Department of Zoology and the University of Oxford. ICCS works at the interface of social and ecological systems, using a range of approaches to address key issues in current conservation. Our underlying philosophy is that in order to make progress we need to consider the incentives, pressures and challenges faced by individual decision-makers. Professor E.J. Milner Gulland is currently Scientific Advisor to IIED's Darwin-funded project based at Bwindi National park in Uganda. For more information visit: [www.iccs.org.uk](http://www.iccs.org.uk)



# Timeline of activities

2017	Ongoing communication and dissemination	Final Project Workshop and publications	Policy Influence
	Training	Training for UWA on the 'Wildlife Crime Database'	Capacity Building
2015 - 2016	Fieldwork & data analysis	Surveys; Evidence review published; CITES workshop	Research
	Wildlife Crime Database	Develop database & production of manual	Database
2014	Project work plan developed	Evidence gathering on wildlife crime - poverty linkages	Evidence Review
	Research group formed & work plan developed	Preparatory site visits and design of surveys	Planning
	Main Activities	Specific Activities	

# Get involved

Let's work together to ensure a better integration of wildlife crime and poverty alleviation in policy and practice. There are many ways for you to contact the team, get involved and spread the word.

## Visit our website

[www.iied.org/ugandawildlifecrime](http://www.iied.org/ugandawildlifecrime) - for more information.

## Work with us

The project team is keen to learn about current activities and existing sources of evidence. If you know of:

- Existing conservation and development interventions in Uganda that aim to tackle wildlife crime, including (but not limited to) enforcement effort, livelihood support projects and revenue sharing schemes; please email any of the Uganda contacts below.

### Uganda contacts:

**Aggrey Rwetsiba, UWA** - [aggrey.rwetsiba@ugandawildlife.org](mailto:aggrey.rwetsiba@ugandawildlife.org)  
**Andy Plumptre, WCS** - [aplumptre@wcs.org](mailto:aplumptre@wcs.org)

- Existing evidence on the drivers and impacts of wildlife crime, with a focus on the interactions between poverty and wildlife crime; please email any of the UK contacts below.

### UK contacts:

**Dilys Roe, IIED** - [dilys.roe@iied.org](mailto:dilys.roe@iied.org)  
**E.J. Milner-Gulland, ICCS** - [e.j.milner-gulland@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.milner-gulland@zoo.ox.ac.uk)

## Get in touch

To be informed of project publications as they become available, please send your name, institution and email address to Fiona Roberts: [fiona.roberts@iied.org](mailto:fiona.roberts@iied.org)

## About our funders

This project is grant aided by the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund through UK Government Funding. However the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the UK Government.



## Project Materials

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### Biodiversity

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*Keywords:*  
Wildlife crime, Poverty, Uganda,  
Pro-poor, Livelihoods

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