

ZERO POACHING

VISION · MISSION · STRATEGY



Background

Poaching is the illegal removal of wild species from their natural habitat. It affects many species of animals and plants and is fueled by the illegal wildlife trade, which is recognized to be the most serious and immediate threat to the survival of many iconic species. Poaching is no longer a rurally-driven need of resources necessary for survival by local people. It is fueled by urban affluent demand and run by international poaching syndicates, who use sophisticated financing mechanisms, technology and resources - on par with drugs, guns and human trafficking.

Recent studies have shown illegal wildlife trade is one of the top-five most lucrative illicit economies globally with the value estimated to be at least US\$50 billion per year, possibly up to US\$150 billion. Countries are not only losing their invaluable natural resources and their increasingly high conservation investments, but also jeopardizing national employment rates and economic growth as industries such as tourism will collapse without key natural resources. Poaching is a global problem that demands a global response.

Due to its wide spread nature and recent rapid escalation, many people may think poaching is unstoppable. However the small Himalayan country of Nepal has shown Zero Poaching is possible. Nepal achieved Zero Poaching in 2011 for rhinos, for the 12 months ending February 2014 for tigers, elephants and rhinos, and again for rhinos in the 12 months ending May 3rd 2015. If Nepal can achieve Zero Poaching so can other countries.

What is Zero Poaching?

Based on the experience of Nepal and that of international experts the definition of Zero Poaching is;

Zero Poaching is achieved when there are no detectable traces of poaching activity in an area over a set time period and there is no discernible impact on a species to sustain a stable or increasing population.

There are six pillars of Zero Poaching that must be addressed simultaneously for any country to be successful. These are Assessment, Technology, Capacity, Community, Prosecution and Cooperation.



ASSESSMENT
Conduct regular effectiveness assessments



TECHNOLOGY
Use the best available tools & technologies



CAPACITY
Increase field staff's ability to protect wildlife



COMMUNITY
Engage with local communities



PROSECUTION
Improve approaches for prosecution



COOPERATION
Share information regionally & nationally

The Vision

Our vision is 'a world free of poaching'. This is a formidable, challenging goal - not unlike ending poverty. We are setting our aim high in order to inspire and motivate governments, organizations and individuals to work together to effect a global unified anti-poaching action.

'A world free of poaching'

The Mission

In order to ensure Zero Poaching becomes a global reality, governments and organizations who are concerned about loss of economic resources, biodiversity conservation and the rule of law must work together. The mission statement is therefore;

Zero Poaching will be driven forward through a strong collaboration of governments, IGOs, NGOs and civil society for the benefit of conserving living natural resources and securing the future of people who depend on them through the implementation of the six pillars of Zero Poaching.

Global Process

Following the development of a number of Zero Poaching tools by many groups, and the adoption of the Zero Poaching Toolkit at the Symposium: Zero Poaching in Asia in Nepal in February 2015, the Zero Poaching platform is ready for accelerated action.

The overarching measure of progress for Zero Poaching will be to ensure countries are implementing the 6 pillars of the toolkit to measurably move towards Zero Poaching in all key sites for threatened species by 2020.

The strategy to achieve this will focus on three levels of implementation:

1. Mainstream Zero Poaching into international law enforcement and conservation strategies such as global species and wildlife crime led initiatives
2. Support the development and delivery of National Zero Poaching Action Plans based on rapid assessments of implementation gaps
3. Support the development and implementation of tools under the Zero Poaching Toolkit.

All activities are aimed at mobilizing and supporting government-led initiatives and will require the support and engagement of IGO's, NGO's and civil society within implementing countries.

1

Zero Poaching collaborative groups formed

Assist governments to bring together NGOs and regional bodies

2

National plans drafted

National plans are drafted by appropriate government ministries/departments in alignment with existing conservation and wildlife law enforcement plans, through collaboration with and supported by NGOs, IGOs.

3

National plans implemented

With appropriate funding alignment

4

Zero Poaching progress monitoring

A robust monitoring and evaluation system will be developed to ensure proper and timely roll out of Zero Poaching

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