Illegal Trade in Wildlife: an Environmental, Economic and Security Challenge to be considered by UNEA

Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, Sunday 22 June, 2014

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Scale of the crisis

- Rapid and global escalation of illegal trade in some species
- Involving wide range of flora and fauna
- The consequences span environmental, social, security and economic implications

- Estimated **USD 48-153 billion** of resources is lost through illegal trade of wildlife, including timber and fisheries globally each year
Illegal Trade in Fauna

**Rhino** poaching increased by 7700% in South Africa between 2007 and 2013.

Across Africa, **1 elephant** is killed every 20-25 minutes.

- Seizures of **great apes** have **doubled** from 2012 to 2013.
- **Illegal fisheries** accounts for an estimated 20% of the world’s catch.
Illegal logging and trade in timber

Illegally sourced timber estimated to represent 10-30% of the total global timber trade. Of the illegally sourced wood entering EU and USA, approx 2/3 is as paper/pulp/chips.

• degrades forests
• impedes sustainable development
• promotes corruption
• funds armed conflict
• Impacts on local communities: eg over 200 rangers in the Virunga NP killed in last decade defending park against militias operating charcoal trade estimated at USD 28million/yr.
Huge economics impacts from theft of natural capital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental crime</th>
<th>Annual loss of resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illegal trade and poaching of other fauna and flora</td>
<td>USD 7-23 billion</td>
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<td>Illegal fisheries</td>
<td>USD 11-30 billion</td>
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<td>Illegal logging and trade</td>
<td>USD 30-100 billion</td>
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<td><strong>Total illegal trade in wildlife</strong></td>
<td><strong>USD 48 – 153 billion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual ODA</td>
<td>Ca. 135 billion</td>
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- Increasing evidence linking wildlife trade to **organized crime** networks and **threat finance**
- The **world's fourth largest** illicit trade
- Priority on the illegal trade and taxing in **charcoal**
Multidimensional Challenge

• Barrier to sustainable development

• Complex combination of
  o weak governance
  o unregulated trade
  o loopholes
  o laundering systems
  o sophisticated transnational crime
  o demand

• Undermining government institutions and rule of law
Environmental crime network

New and old trafficking routes

- Environment-related illegal trafficking. Includes wood, wildlife, animal parts (i.e. ivory, rhinoceros horns and fur) and wastes
- Main illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing areas
- “Traditional” illegal trafficking. Includes heroin, cocaine and human beings

- Main destination country
- Main transit country
- Country of origin of “traditional” illegal trafficking
- Main country or region of origin of environmental related illegal trafficking
Environmental, economic, and social impacts only effectively tackled through:

- Coordinated efforts of the international community, national governments, police, law enforcement agencies, and civil society
- Addressing all elements of the supply chain
The scale and nature of illegal wildlife trade has been recognized in a range of international fora, including eg:

- UNGA Resolution 68/193
- UNSC Resolutions 2134 and 2136 (2014)
- Gabarone and Paris 2013
- London, and Dar Es Salaam 2014
- UNEA

And on the ground implementation.

However, implementation deficit remains...
UNEP’s Work on Illegal Wildlife Trade

Three inter-related components considered priorities for UNEP collaborative action:

I. Maintaining political momentum, including through strengthening the evidence base

II. Providing support to legal, judicial and enforcement measures and promoting capacity development for rule of law

III. Strengthening international efforts to develop and catalyze demand reduction strategies
• Illegal trade in wildlife at the first United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

• Ministerial Dialogue on Illegal Wildlife Trade, June 26\textsuperscript{th} 2014: the largest Ministerial gathering in the current poaching crisis

• The Dialogue will guide the finalizing of a UNEA Resolution on illegal wildlife trade, to be adopted during the UNEA closing session
Illegal Wildlife Trade events at UNEA

**Tuesday 24 June**
10:00 – 17:00  Symposium on the Environmental Rule of Law
13:15 – 14:45  Side Event: Illegal Trade in Wildlife

**Wednesday 25 June**
13:00 – 13:45  Launch of Rapid Response Assessment on Wildlife Trade
14:15 – 15:00  Media Round Table - the Illegal Trade in Wildlife

**Thursday 26 June**
8:45 – 10:00  Launch of Intl Partnership to Fight the Illegal Timber Trade
13:45 – 14:45  Briefing on two themes of the High Level Segment
19:00 – 22:00  Ministerial Dialogue on Illegal Wildlife Trade

*Ongoing consideration of resolution*