



WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Global Wildlife Conservation Group



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May 5, 2015

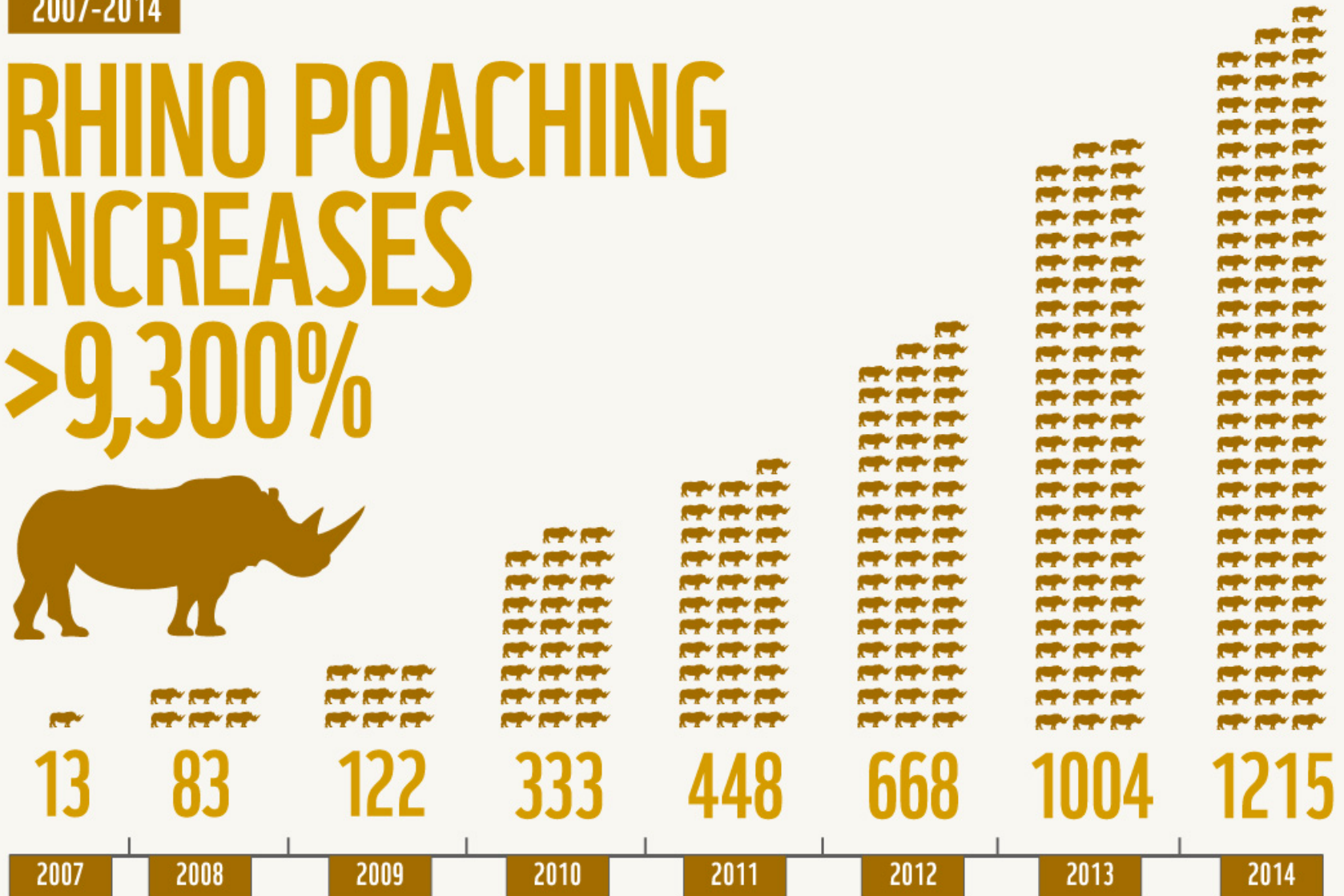
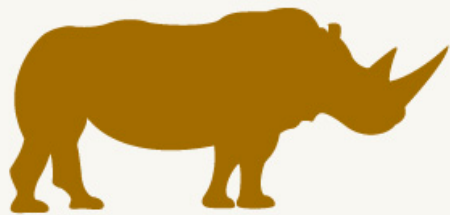
<https://sites.utexas.edu/wildlife/>

Presenters

- Leo Carter
- Caitlin Goodrich
- LinhPhung Huynh
- Cliff Kaplan
- Delfina Rossi
- Wade Tanner

2007-2014

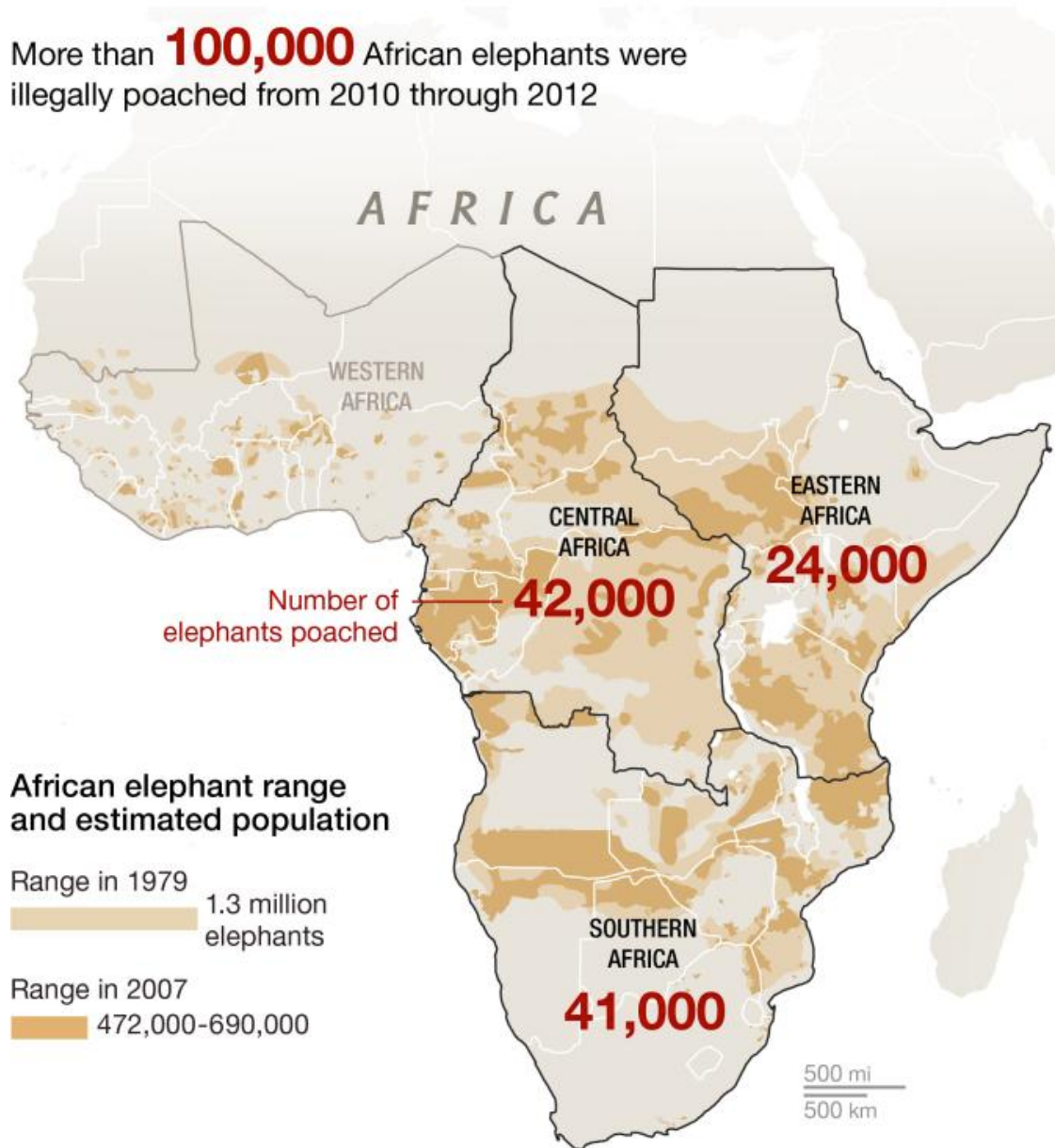
RHINO POACHING INCREASES >9,300%



NUMBER OF RHINOS POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA

New Poaching Numbers

More than **100,000** African elephants were illegally poached from 2010 through 2012



VIRGINIA W. MASON AND BRAD SCRIBER, NGM STAFFSOURCES: COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY; SAVE THE ELEPHANTS; MONITORING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS (MIKE); DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE; DIANE SKINNER, AFRICAN ELEPHANT SPECIALIST GROUP, IUCN.

Elephant populations in western Africa, representing about 2 percent of the species, were excluded from the study. Regional estimates differ from continental totals because statistical models generated regional and continental estimates separately.

Importance to the United States

Executive Branch

- 2013 Executive Order
- 2014 National Strategy
- 2015 Implementation Plan

Congress

- House Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Trade Promotion Authority Mark-Up
- S27 Wildlife Trafficking Enforcement Act of 2015
- Reauthorization of Save Vanishing Species Stamp



2013 Executive Order

The poaching of protected species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their derivative parts and products (together known as "wildlife trafficking") represent an international crisis that continues to escalate.

Poaching operations have expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to coordinated slaughter commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates. The survival of protected wildlife species such as elephants, rhinos, great apes, tigers, sharks, tuna, and turtles has beneficial economic, social, and environmental impacts that are important to all nations. Wildlife trafficking reduces those benefits while generating billions of dollars in illicit revenues each year, contributing to the illegal economy, fueling instability, and undermining security. For these reasons, it is in the national interest of the United States to combat wildlife trafficking.

Six Papers

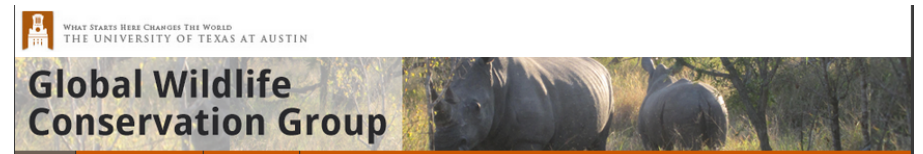
- Consumer Demand
- Security
- Multilateral Approaches
- Sport Hunting
- Ecotourism
- Public-Private Partnerships

Demand

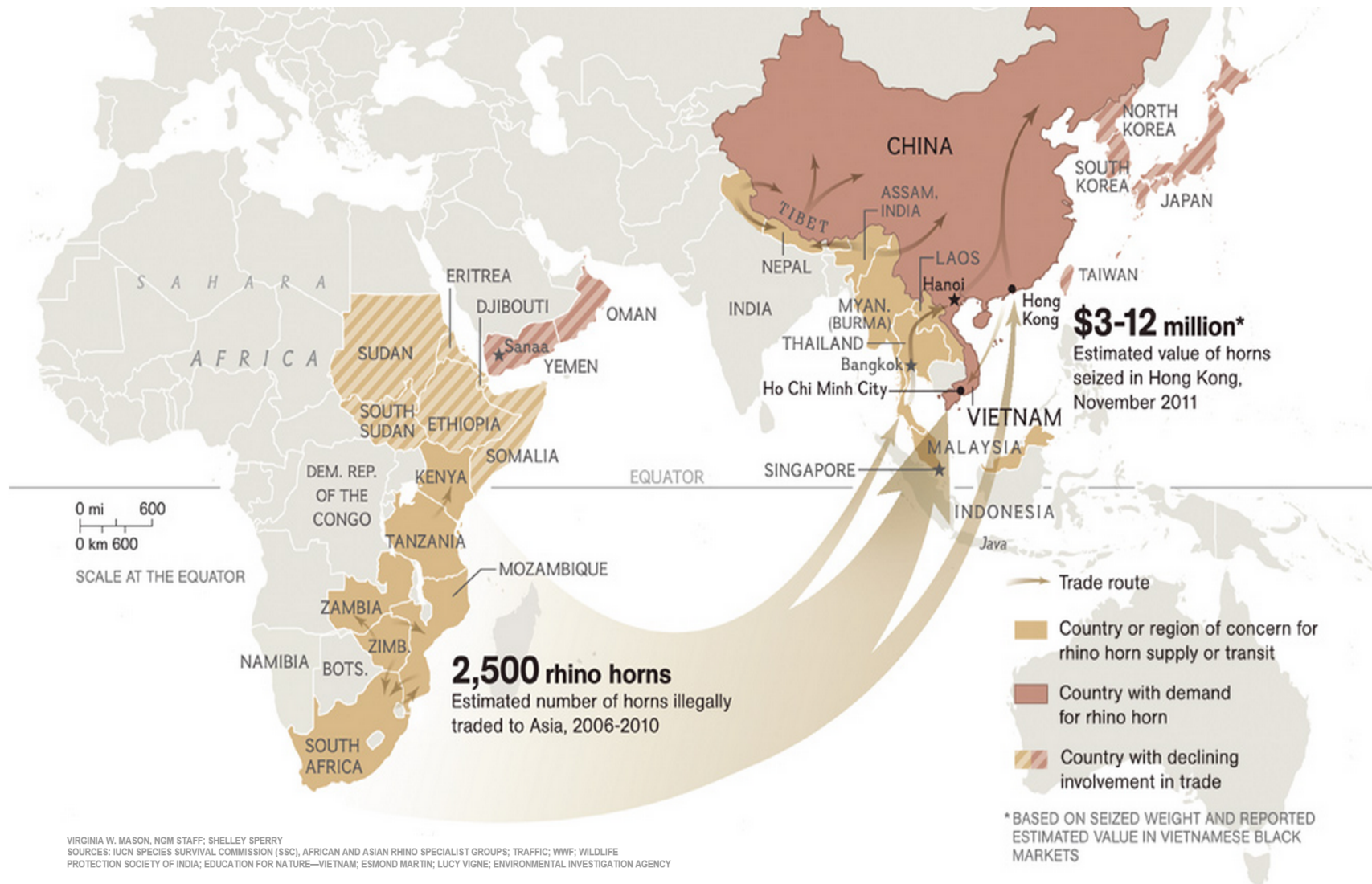
National Strategy

Focus on “reducing demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products through targeted, evidence-based approaches to changing critical consumption patterns that drive wildlife trafficking at home and abroad... The markets for illegally traded wildlife exist for different reasons in different parts of the world and so the approaches that work well in the United States may find less success elsewhere; **effective strategies will need to be tailored to be country and species-specific.**”

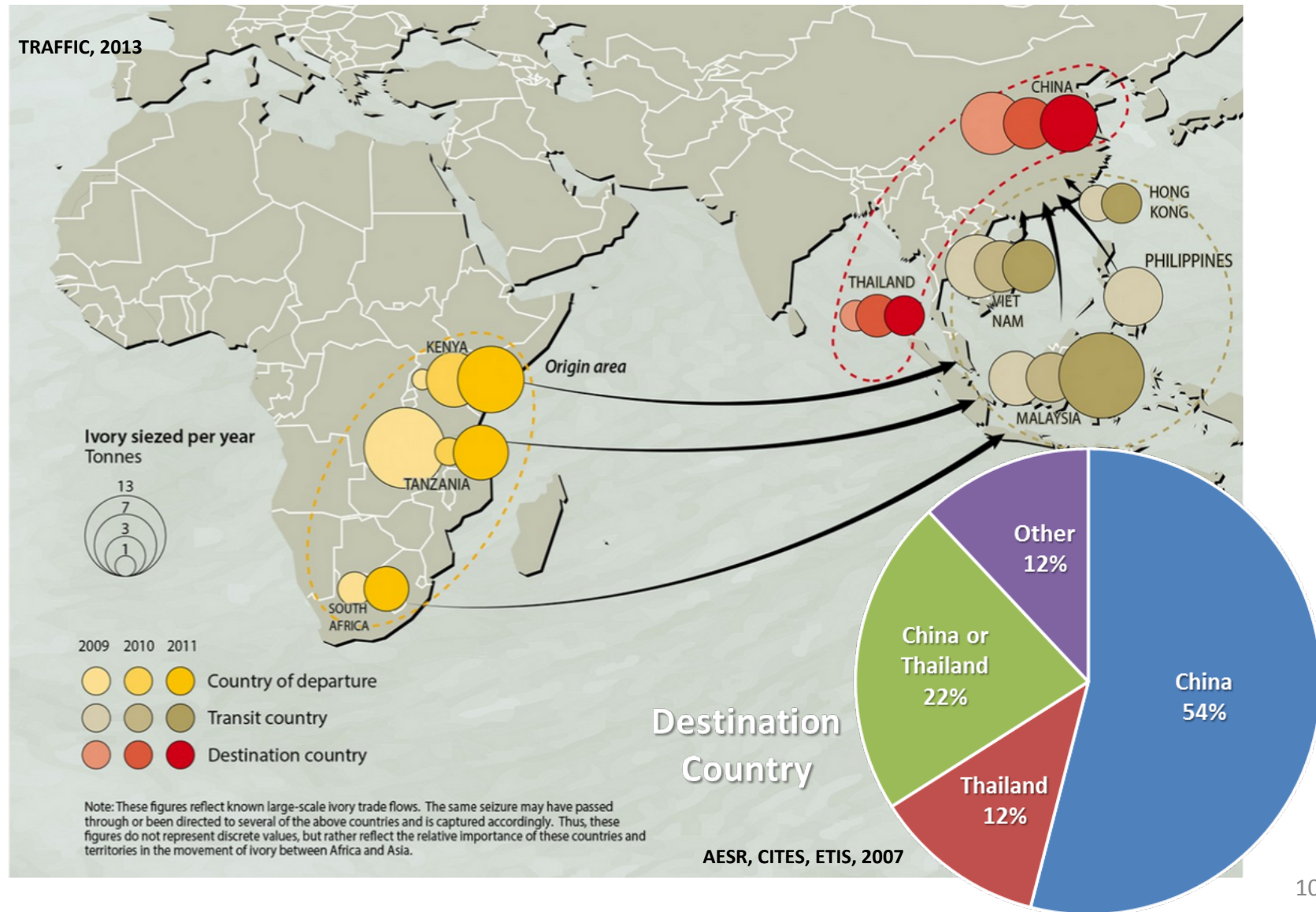
National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking:
Implementation Plan



Global Rhino Horn Trade



Large Scale Ivory Seizures



Our Approach

Questions:

Demand for what?

From where?

By whom?

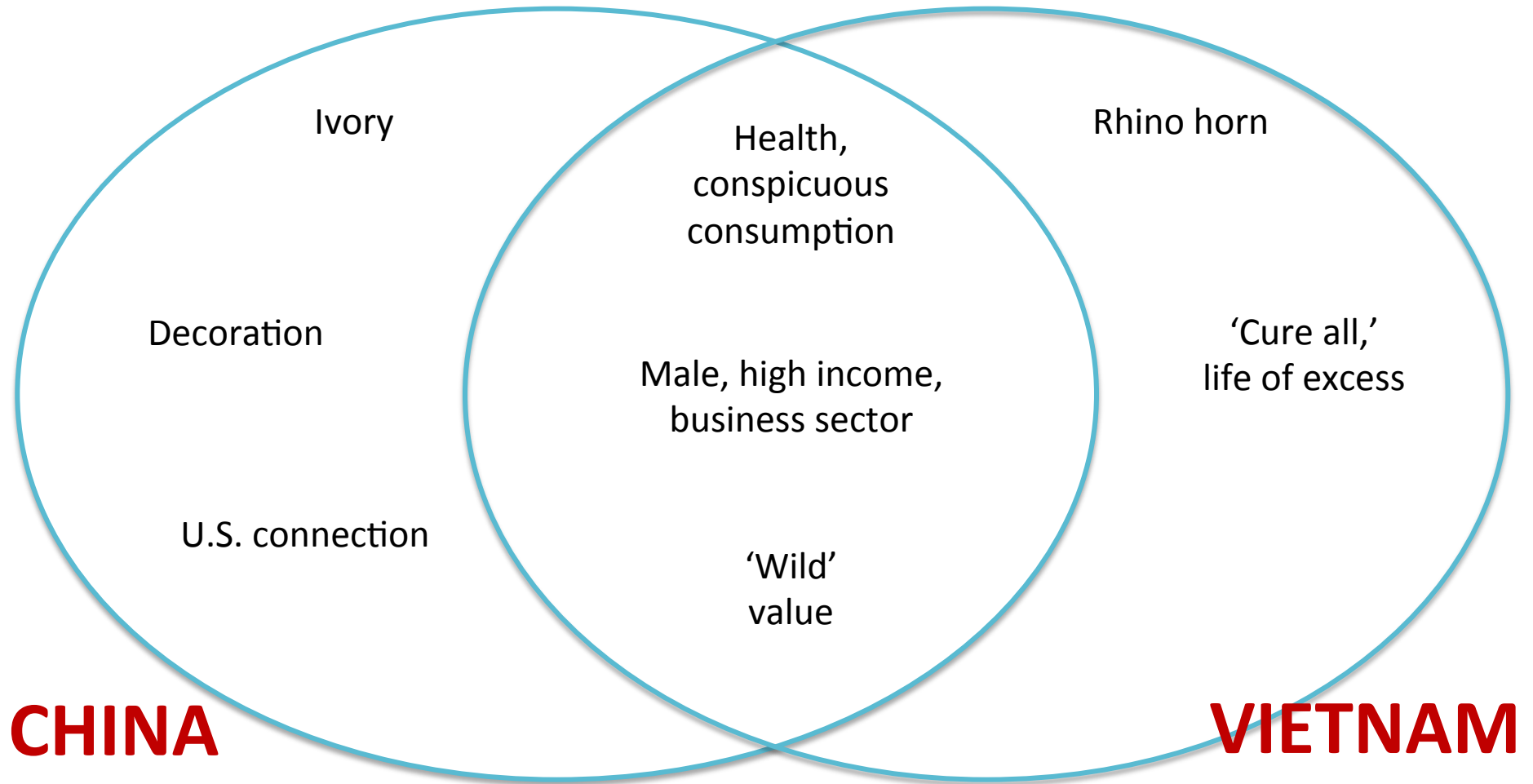
Methodology:

Existing surveys

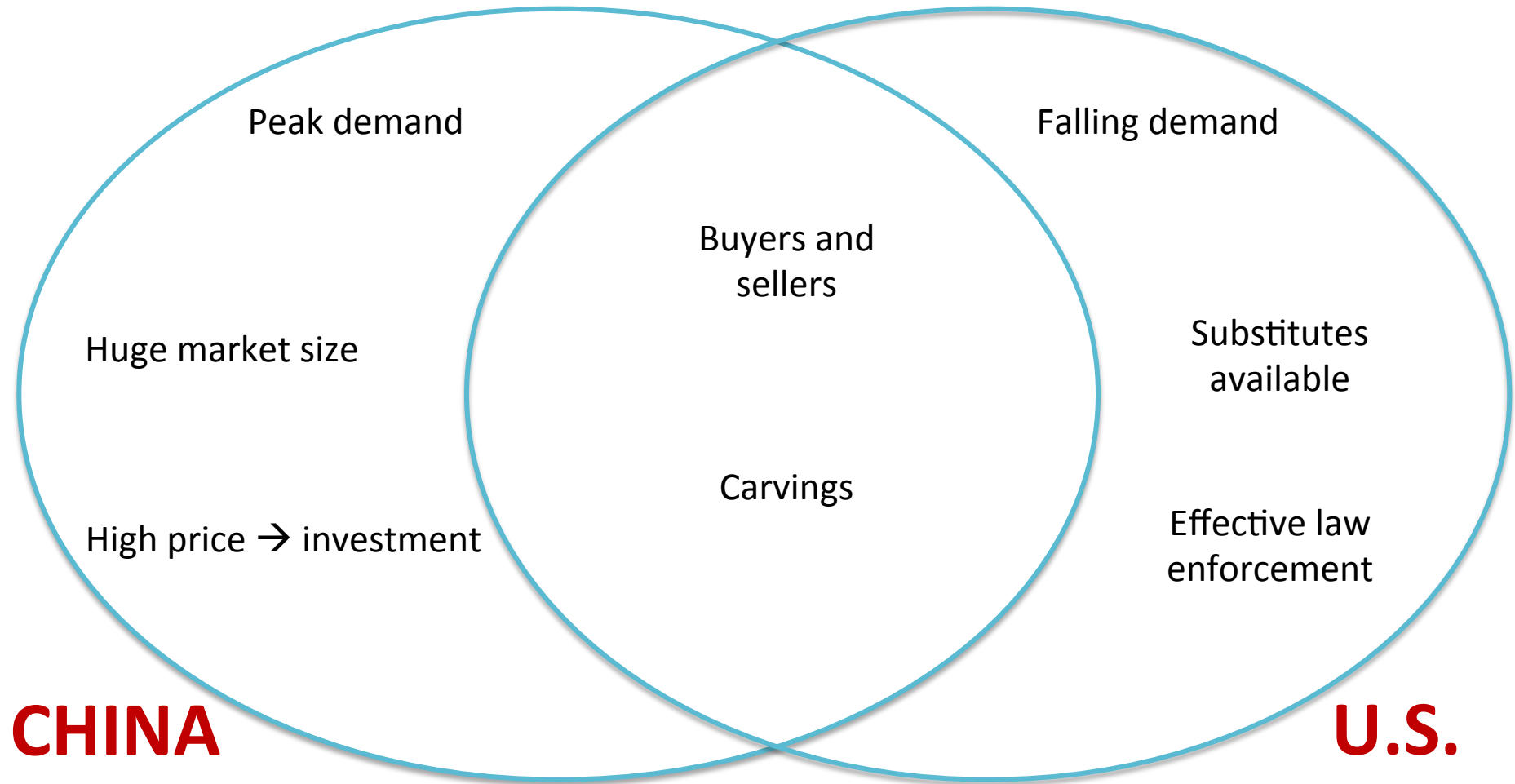
Campaign analysis

Interviews in China

Comparison: China and Vietnam



Comparison: Ivory in China and U.S.



Main Insights

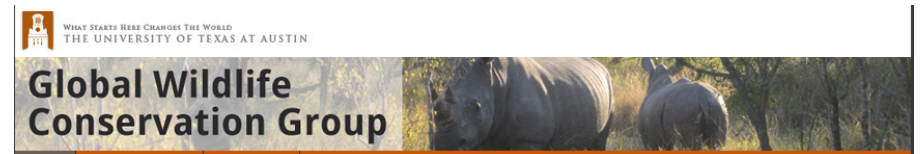
- Demand varies by
 - product and purpose
 - country, sub-region
 - age, gender, income level, education level, job
- Trend: Young male, high income, business and government sectors
- Ivory demand in U.S. and linkages to China
- Capacity -- willingness

Security

Wildlife Trafficking and National Security

Wildlife trafficking is both a critical conservation concern and a threat to global security with significant effects on the national interests of the United States and the interests of our partners around the world.

From the National Strategy for
Combating Wildlife Trafficking



Our Approach

1. Create a framework to determine the specific pathways that connect wildlife trafficking and security
2. Test that framework through detailed examination of 7 case studies
3. Craft policy options that address wildlife trafficking's nexus with security

Our Findings

- Wildlife trafficking is primarily a threat to U.S. interests abroad because it:
 - Serves as a way for rebel groups, militias and terrorists to fund violence and destabilization
 - Undercuts good governance in range, transit and demand states
 - Fuels transnational organized crime
 - Undermines economic development

Selected Policy Options

- Increase capacity for monitoring and investigating financial flows associated with wildlife trafficking
- Direct relevant agencies to create a periodic report exploring which groups and entities derive funding from wildlife trafficking
- Expand use of information software to increase availability of data

Multilateral Approaches

Multilateral Efforts to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

- Multilateral efforts parallel each of the three Strategic Priorities in the *National Strategy*
 - Strengthen enforcement
 - Reduce demand for illegally traded wildlife
 - Build international cooperation, commitment, and public-private partnerships

Our Approach

1. Apply a functional framework:
 - Seven key functions
 - Ten major organizations
2. Take a deeper look at the challenges that each organization faces, looking for patterns between the organizations
3. Craft policy options that address systemic challenges

Major Organizations

Inter-Governmental

- CITES
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- INTERPOL
- World Bank
- World Customs Organization
- UN Security Council
- ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network

Non-Governmental

- Wildlife Conservation Society
- World Wildlife Fund
- TRAFFIC

Key Challenges

- Lack of information about species health and poaching incidence
- Limited finance
- Inadequate intelligence gathering and enforcement
- Limited state capacity
- Coordination problems among major organizations
- Demand management, lack of information about demand

Selected Policy Options

- Offer explicit support, including financial support, for the *Technology and Innovation Fund* proposed by CITES
- Incorporate wildlife concerns into authorizing and implementing legislation on international trade deals
- Direct the USFWS or DOS to convene a special task force for coordination and information dissemination among the major organizations

Sport Hunting

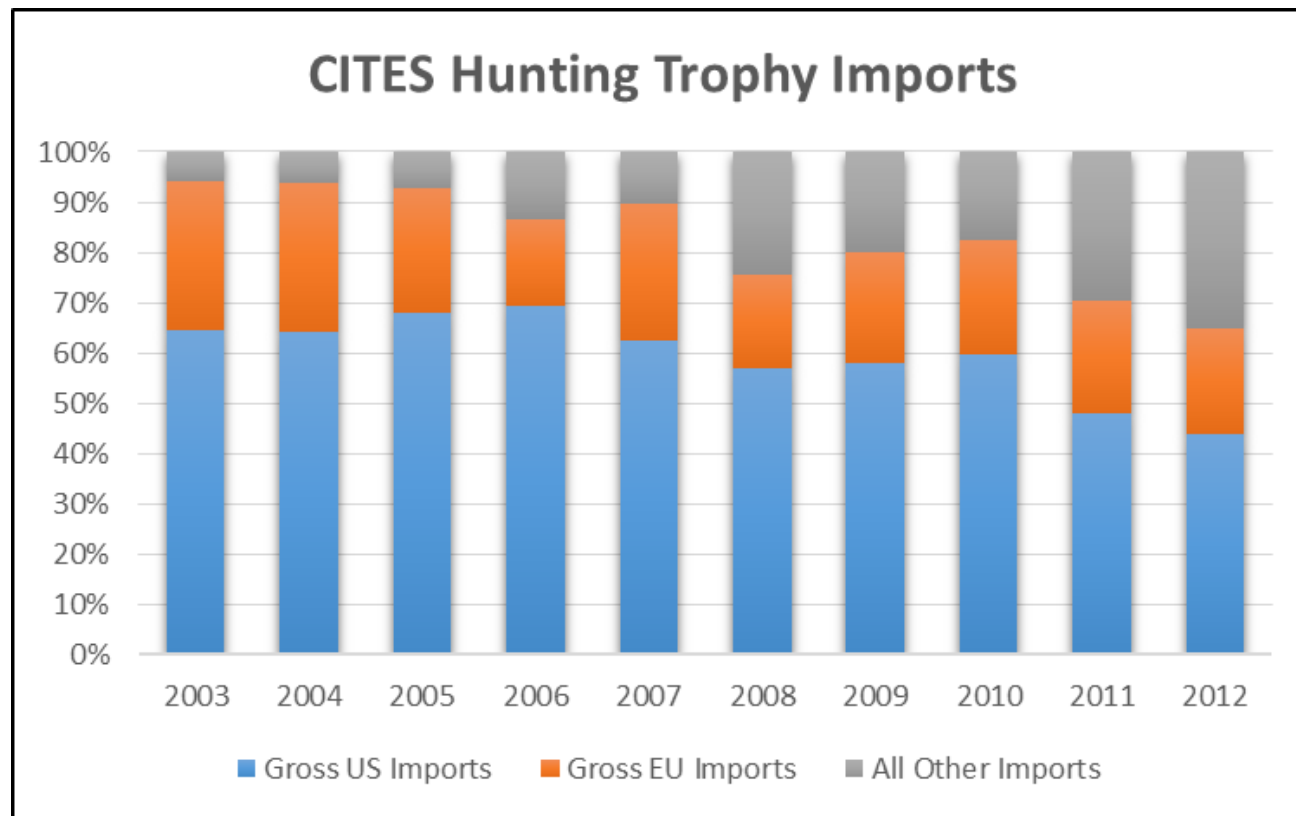
Sport Hunting

- Viewed as a beneficial conservation tool by some, detriment to conservation by others
- Implemented through CITES at the national level
- Non-detriment findings (NDFs) are required for import/export

Significance to U.S.

- National Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Current legislation
 - H.R. 326: Allow polar bear trophy imports
 - H.R. 697: Ivory imports
 - H.R. 1099: Farmers and baiting game birds
 - S. 659: Combination of H.R. 326 & 1099

Significance to U.S.



Our Approach

1. Compile current regulations, data, and research on sport hunting
2. Examine impacts on wildlife and local communities
3. Craft policy options that address concerns with current sport hunting management

Our Findings

- Sport hunting can support local communities, economies, and conservation as part of a sound management program
- Results vary on a country-by-country and species-by-species basis
- Lack of accurate data evident

Selected Policy Options

- Certification programs
 - Ensure hunting expenditures reach conservation efforts and local communities
- Import scrutiny
 - Increase wildlife inspectors at ports
- Non-detriment finding policies
 - Include sunset clause

Ecotourism

Wildlife Ecotourism

Support Community-Based Wildlife Conservation:

*Work with local communities to strengthen reporting of poaching and other trafficking activity and create support for conserving wildlife, including through **work to strengthen or create economic incentives for local communities to protect wildlife.***

From the National Strategy for
Combating Wildlife Trafficking:
Implementation Plan

Our Approach

1. Original fieldwork and interviews in Tanzania
2. Data gathered (UNWTO, World Bank)
 - Identification of current and potential countries with ecotourism
3. Review of existing U.S. programs (USAID, FWS)

Countries with ecotourism

Region	Country	Annual international tourism (thousands of visitors)	Annual international tourism expenditure (\$ million)	Annual tourism expenditure/GDP (%)	Annual tourism expenditure/total exports (%)	Annual employees in tourism (thousands of employees)
Africa	Kenya	1,631	748	4.70	17.50	
	Mozambique	1,375	221	2.23	6.52	40
	Namibia	927	400	5.33	12.30	
	South Africa	8,158	7,546	2.90	9.82	583
	Tanzania	857	1,365	3.4	20.17	
	Uganda	858	522	5.46		
	Zimbabwe	1,761	683	10.57	15.93	
Asia	India	4,889	16,772	0.92	4.14	
	Laos	2,572	383	5.20	17.30	
	Malaysia	24,737	18,975	7.18	8.02	856
	Nepal	627		2.50	23.08	
	Thailand	17,517	26,264	9.22	12.66	
Europe	Iceland	683	757	5.58	27.76	15
Latin America	Costa Rica	1,935	2,160	5.98	20.56	97
	Ecuador	1,158	679	1.18	4.02	101
	Guatemala	1,885	1,137	3.04	12.16	
	Haiti	280	332	25.98		4
	Panama	847	1,974	11.06	15.22	
Oceania	Australia	4,519	26,090	2.38	11.62	766

Indirectly:
10%!

Tourism indicators of countries with wildlife ecotourism sector. Source: UNWTO. Data is average per country over the period 2009-2013
Tanzania expenditure over GDP from the World Bank Group report. "The Elephant in the Room; Unlocking the potential of the tourism industry for Tanzanians". February 2015

U.S. Support for Ecotourism

Agency	Country	Year	Amount	Type of Support
USAID	Tanzania	2010-2013	\$ 5,195,000	Promoted Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) that have the potential to support the eco-tourism
FWS	Gabon	2014	\$3,000,458	Direct support by enhancing anti-poaching capacity.
FWS	Uganda	2014	\$49,800	Direct support by enhancing anti-poaching capacity
FWS	Uganda	2007	\$47,352	Indirect support by studying the patterns of wildlife.
FWS	Cameroon	2014-2019	\$100,000	Indirect support by enhancing the education of college students in wildlife park management and conservation.
USAID	Kenya	2008-2015	\$7,000,000	Educating local communities on conservation.
FWS	DRC	2014-2019	\$400,000	Establishing wildlife habitat and educating local

Policy options

- Propose the creation of an **accreditation system** for ecotourism
- Review effectiveness of USG-supported programming in Africa for **wildlife management areas and anti-poaching**
- Provide funding for an anti-poaching **hotline**

Public-Private Partnerships

PPPs & Illegal Wildlife Trade

- The private sector can bolster the public sector through:
 - Increased funding and manpower
 - Increased logistical support
 - Creating a marketplace of ideas

Areas of PPP involvement:

- Enforcement and monitoring
- Species and habitat conservation
- Demand reduction through public awareness and education
- Information gathering
- Fundraising & leveraged funding

Supply Chain Enforcement

- NGO pressure on the private sector through publicity
 - IFAW on Ebay, TRAFFIC and Alibaba
- Standardize regulatory practices across industries
- Corporate responsibility implications:
 - shipping, air travel, and tourism
 - Leading by example: Ebay → Rakuten → UPS?

NGOs & Awareness Campaigns



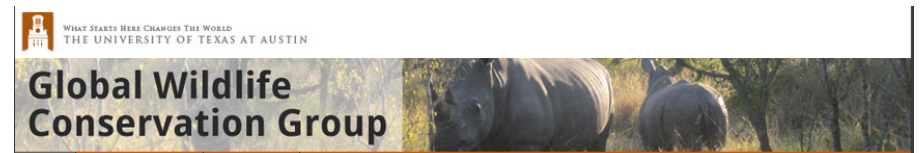
US-Financed Awareness Campaigns

Current USFWS grants and leveraged funding campaigns:

- Anti-poaching training and logistics
- Customs and law enforcement capacity building
- Demand reduction awareness campaigns (**only 3% of funding**)

USAID/ARREST campaigns:

Public awareness and media campaigns in China, Vietnam, and Thailand (iThink and FinFree)



Policy Options

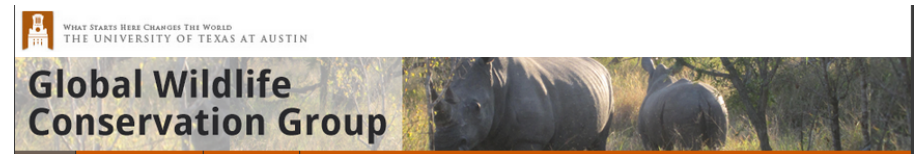
- Support international standard setting
 - Congressional hearings with private sector
 - Comprehensive studies on global wildlife trade and the actors involved
- Foster sharing of information and best practices on curbing demand
 - GAO report, hearings, funding vehicles
 - Involving international NGOs and private sector
 - Improving awareness campaigns and externalizing review process

Thank you for the opportunity

BACKUP SLIDES

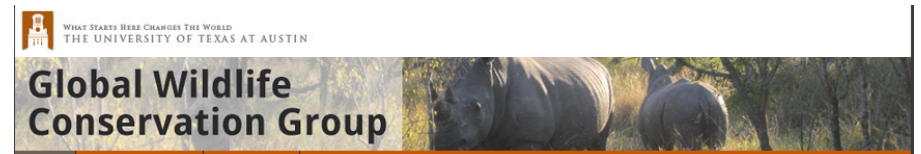
Pathways

- Direct:
 - Sale of wildlife items used to fund attacks against the American homeland and/or American bases, embassies, or people abroad
 - Wildlife items smuggled into the United States, possibly among other illicit items (e.g., weapons, drugs) or by the same groups that engage in smuggling of other illicit goods
 - Wildlife items smuggled in that contain infectious pathogens
- U.S. Interests:
 - Wildlife items used to fund extremist organizations that do not threaten the United States directly but could threaten U.S. allies/key regional actors
 - Poaching violence and/or wildlife items used to fund rebel groups that pose a threat to peace and security
 - Wildlife crime undercutting governance in range, transit and demand states that are strategically important to the United States
 - Wildlife crime used to finance transnational criminal networks
 - Wildlife crime undermining economic development and growth through increased violence



Case Studies and their Pathways

- *Al Shabaab's* involvement in the ivory trade to finance its operations, which include potential **attacks** on the United States or U.S. citizens as well as their wider **extremist** network
- *Trafficking of wildlife products on U.S. soil* which includes illegal products being **smuggled** into the U.S. and the involvement of **transnational crime**
- The *Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)* involvement in the ivory trade to fund their **rebel group**
- *Violence in Virunga* includes **rebel groups** funding their operations, links to **transnational crime** and the undermining **economic development** in the surrounding region
- The *Uganda military's* possible involvement in elephant poaching and the ivory trade, undermining **governance** and involving the army in **transnational crime**
- *Ivory smuggled from Africa to Asia*, undermining **governance** in range, transit and demand states and perpetrated by **transnational crime**
- The *Xaysvang network in Laos* that is involved in the wildlife trade through Southeast Asia but appears to be operating with impunity, undermining **governance** and contributing to **transnational crime**
- *A 2012 mass elephant killing in Cameroon*, including the involvement of **rebel groups** and undermining **economic development** in the region.



Policy option (extra)

Hotline to report poaching.

Pros:

- remove fear of negative repercussion from reporting poaching
- Involve more institutions and stakeholders in fighting poaching,
- make easier to track poaching,
- Increase arrests of poachers.

• Cons:

- investment in the technology and human resources,
- different parties could misused the hotline if the conservation goal is not clear,
- the security and anonymity of the hotline cannot be breached,
- poachers might have an incentive to compromise this hotline.

Comparison: Religious Use in Thailand and The Philippines

