



Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife State Department for Wildlife

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING POACHING AND ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN KENYA, 2025-2030

Theme: *Effective deterrence, timely detection and efficiently deal with poaching and IWT in Kenya*

JULY, 2025

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Tables.....	3
List of Figures	3
Foreword	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	7
Executive Summary.....	9
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	12
1.1 Background	12
1.2 Rationale for the Strategy	13
1.4 Methodology	14
CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS	16
2.1 Status of Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade	16
2.2 Impact of Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade.....	23
2.3 Drivers and Causes of Poaching and IWT	23
2.3.1 Legislation and Enforcement	24
2.3.2 Capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies in Handling Wildlife and Forest Crime	26
2.2.3 Collaboration among National and County Law Enforcement Agencies....	26
2.2.4 Transboundary and International Cooperation to Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade	27
2.2.5 Role of Local Communities and the Private Sector	28
2.2.6 Demand for valuable wildlife and wildlife products	29
2.2.7 Incentives to Local Communities to Protect Wildlife	30
2.2.8 Mobilizing Resources to Fight Wildlife and Forest Crime	31
2.4 Key Trends Influencing Combating Poaching and IWT	32
2.4.1 Key Trends' Milestones "Prouds" and Challenges "Sorries"	42
2.5 Lessons learnt and Insights in Combating Poaching and IWT	45
CHAPTER THREE: STRATEGY GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES	48
3.1 Strategy Goal	49
3.2 Strategy Objectives.....	49
3.3 Key Result Areas, Issues, Objectives and Strategies	49
CHAPTER FOUR: STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENT	55

4.1 Overview	55
4.2 Implementation Plan	55
4.2. Coordination framework.....	55
4.2.1 Responsible Institutions	55
4.2.2 Strategy Coordination Structure.....	56
4.4 Risk Management Framework	57
CHAPTER FIVE: STRATEGY FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION	58
5.1 Financial Requirements.....	58
5.3 Resource Mobilization strategies	59
5.3.1 Government Financing	59
5.3.2 Public Private Partnerships.....	59
5.3.3 Development Partners.....	59
5.3.4 Other Resources.....	60
5.3 Resource management.....	60
CHAPTER SIX: STRATEGY MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND LEARNING	61
6.1 Rationale for Monitoring and Evaluation.....	61
6.2 Institutional Arrangement.....	61
6.3 Evaluation and Reporting	62
6.3.1 Evaluation mechanism.....	62
6.3.2 Reporting mechanisms	62
6.4 Adaptive Learning.....	63
Annex 1: Strategy Implementation Matrix.....	64

List of Tables

Table 1: Key trends milestone “prouds” and challenges “sorries”	42
Table 2: Key Result Areas, Objectives and Strategies	49
Table 3: Strategy risk matrix	57
Table 4: Financial Requirement	58
Table 5: Resource gaps and mobilization strategies	59

List of Figures

Figure 1: Strategy Conceptual Framework.....	10
Figure 2: The Future Search Methodology and Process.....	15
Figure 3: The Most Affected Species	16
Figure 4: Population Trend for Elephants in Kenya, 1973 -2021,.....	19
Figure 5: Black and white rhino population trends in Kenya	20

Figure 5:	Elephant Poaching Incidences in Kenya, 2003-2023	21
Figure 7:	Pangolin Poaching Incidence in Kenya, 2013-2023.....	21
Figure 8:	Sandalwood trafficking incidences in Kenya, 2003-2023.....	22
Figure 9:	WT Seizures on Elephant parts, 2003-2023.	22
Figure 10:	Key Trends in Combatting Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT)	33
Figure 11:	Strategy Conceptual Framework	48
Figure 12:	Strategy Co-ordination Structure	56

Foreword

Kenya's rich biodiversity and iconic wildlife are invaluable national treasures, integral to our cultural heritage, ecological balance, and economic prosperity. However, these precious resources are under severe threat from poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT), activities that not only endanger our wildlife but also undermine national security, economic stability, and community livelihoods. The National Strategy for Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Kenya, 2025-2030 is one of its kind and Government's commitment to protecting our valuable assets the flora and fauna. The strategy provides a comprehensive framework whose goal is to reduce/eradicate poaching and IWT in Kenya by 2028

The strategy reaffirms Kenya's dedication to preserving its natural heritage for future generations. By implementing this strategy, we aim to safeguard our wildlife, support sustainable development, and reinforce Kenya's position as a global leader in wildlife conservation. It outlines a clear and actionable roadmap to strengthen wildlife protection, enhance law enforcement capabilities, promote sustainable livelihoods, and foster community engagement. Central to this strategy is the commitment to leveraging technology, improving intelligence and data sharing; fostering national, regional and international collaborations and partnerships while ensuring stringent legal frameworks to deter and prosecute wildlife crimes effectively.

Further, this strategy is an upshot of an extensive consultations and collaborations with various stakeholders including government agencies, conservation organizations, local communities and international partners. More than ever, we call upon all stakeholders to unite in this critical mission, recognizing that the protection of our wildlife is not just an environmental imperative but a national duty.

Together, we can create a future where Kenya's wildlife thrives, contributing to the pride, wellbeing and prosperity of our nation and the global community.

**Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife**

Acknowledgements

The development of the National Strategy for Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Kenya, 2025-2030 has been a collective effort that would not have been possible without the dedication, expertise and collaboration of numerous individuals and organizations.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife for their leadership and unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation. Special thanks go to the State Department for Wildlife for their relentless efforts on the front lines, protecting our nation's invaluable natural heritage. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the various governmental and non-governmental organizations, local communities, and international partners who contributed their insights, resources, and support throughout the strategy development process. The collaborative input from conservation organizations, knowledge institutions and advocacy groups has been instrumental in shaping a comprehensive and effective strategy. We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of law enforcement agencies, including the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Police Service and the judiciary whose efforts in combating wildlife crimes remain crucial to the success of this strategy. The integration of their expertise and resources is vital in ensuring robust enforcement and prosecution mechanisms. We are grateful to the international donors and partners whose financial and technical support has been pivotal in advancing our conservation goals. Their commitment to preserving Kenya's wildlife for future generations is deeply appreciated.

Finally, we recognize the tireless efforts of the drafting committee and all individuals who provided feedback, participated in consultations, and contributed to the development of this strategy. Your dedication and hard work are the foundation of this document and the future of wildlife conservation in Kenya.

Together, we will continue to work towards a sustainable future where Kenya's wildlife can thrive, free from the threats of poaching and illegal trade.

**Principal Secretary
State Department for Wildlife**

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASEAN	-	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	-	African Union
AWF	-	African Wildlife Foundation
CBD	-	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEC	-	County Executive Commissioner
CITES	-	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMIFAC	-	Central African Forests Commission
COP	-	Conference of the Parties
DNA	-	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EAC	-	East African Community
EAWEN	-	East African Wildlife Enforcement Network
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
EMCA	-	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
FLLoCA	-	Financing Locally-Led Climate Action
GCF	-	Green Climate Fund
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GEF	-	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	-	Green House Gas
Govt.	-	Government
HWC	-	Human-Wildlife Conflict
INTERPOL	-	International Police
IT	-	Information Technology
IUCN	-	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWT	-	Illegal Wildlife Trade
IWT & P	-	Illegal Wildlife Trade and Poaching
KEMFRI	-	Kenya Maritime and Fisheries Research Institute
KEPSA	-	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KFS	-	Kenya Forest Service
KRAs	-	Key Result Areas
KWCA	-	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
KWS	-	Kenya Wildlife Service
KWSTI	-	Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute

LATF	-	Lusaka Agreement Task Force
MEAs	-	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MERL	-	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
MLAs	-	Mutual Legal Assistance
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity and Action Plan
NCCAP	-	National Climate Change Action Plan
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NLC	-	National Land Commission
NPS	-	National Police Service
ODPP	-	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
PESTEL	-	Political, Economic, Environmental, Technological, Environmental and Legal
PFMA	-	Public Finance Management Act
RAMSA	-	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
RISDP	-	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
SADC	-	Southern African Development Community
SDW	-	State Department for Wildlife
SMART	-	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SWOT	-	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
UAVs	-	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UN	-	United Nations
UNODC	-	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCK	-	Wildlife Conservation Kenya
WCMA	-	Wildlife Conservation and Management Act
WCS	-	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRTI	-	Wildlife Research and Training Institute
WWF	-	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

Introduction

Illegal wildlife trade and poaching are pressing concerns in Kenya, posing serious threats to its rich biodiversity and conservation efforts. These illicit activities not only endanger wildlife but also have detrimental effects on tourism, local communities, and national security. To address these challenges, Kenya has developed a strategic approach that focuses on strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing enforcement, engaging communities, raising awareness, and fostering international cooperation.

This strategy recognizes that wildlife crimes is complex owing to its multi-faced crime involving a multitude of different actors, species, commodities, driving factors with different impact across environment, governance and socio-economic development aspects. Therefore, the strategy has been formulated to provide a structured response to combatting poaching and IWT in Kenya focusing on the issues relating to IWT ecosystem from the source, transit and destinations of illegally traded wild fauna and flora, and their products.

Situational Analysis

An assessment of the global, regional and national context of poaching and illegal wildlife trade by presenting the status, impact, drivers and underlying causes as well as the key trends that influence the operating environment for combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Kenya. Key challenges include the high demand and market value of endangered species, which fuels illegal trade, and insufficient enforcement due to limited resources and capacity within law enforcement agencies. Additionally, many local communities rely on wildlife for their livelihoods, and corruption coupled with poor coordination among agencies further exacerbates the problem.

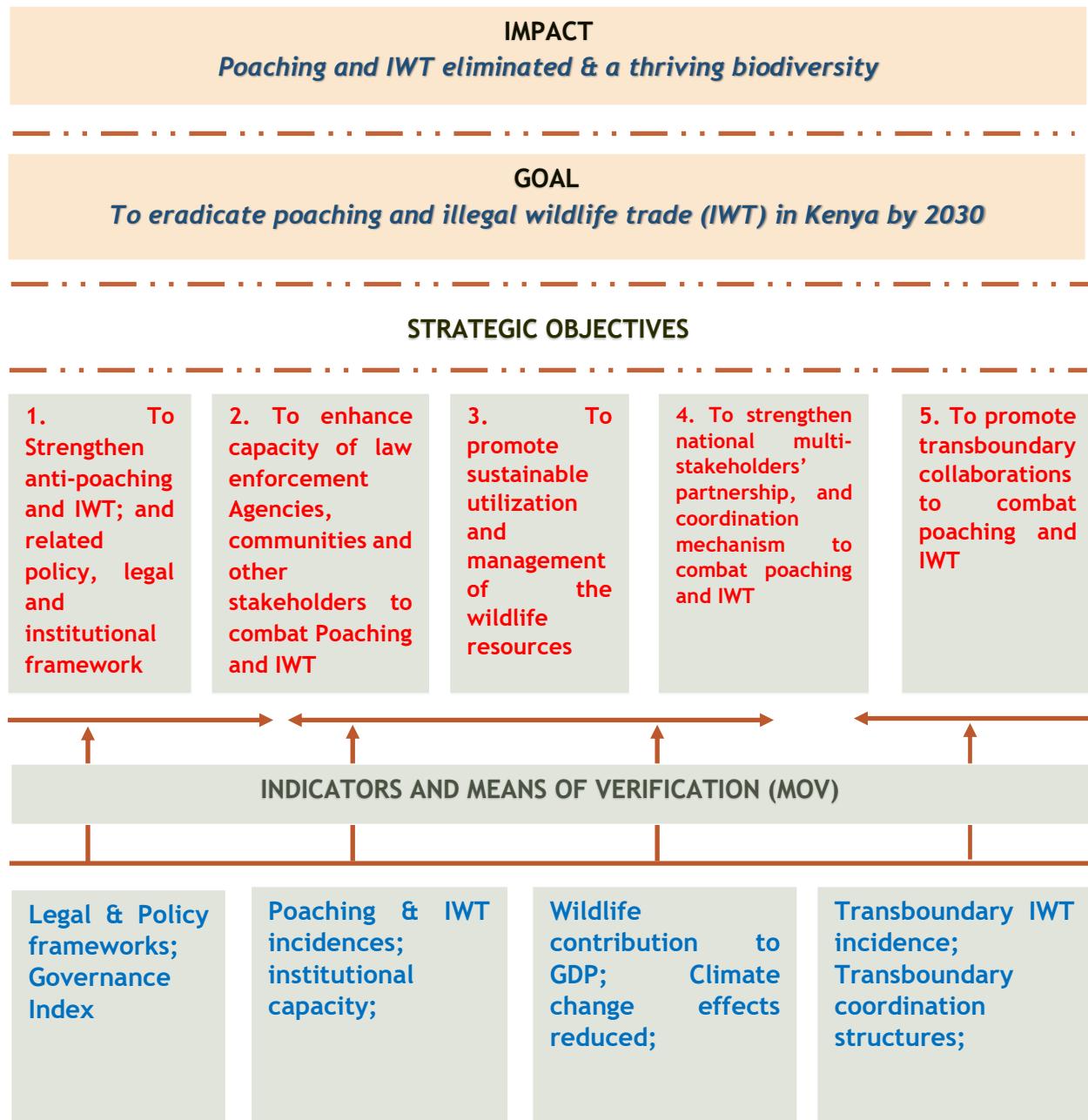
Enhancing laws and policies to effectively deter wildlife crimes, increasing the capacity and resources of law enforcement agencies, integrating local communities into conservation efforts, educating the public on the importance of wildlife conservation, and collaborating with international partners to combat transnational wildlife crime are key strategic trends in combating poaching and IWT in Kenya.

Reinforcing actions include updating and tightening wildlife protection laws, introducing harsher penalties for wildlife crimes, and training judicial officers to ensure effective prosecution. Enhancing law enforcement and surveillance includes training and equipping rangers, utilizing advanced technology for monitoring, and strengthening intelligence networks to dismantle poaching syndicates. Promoting community engagement and sustainable livelihoods involves developing alternative livelihood programs, empowering communities in conservation efforts, and ensuring

they benefit from tourism and conservation activities. Raising awareness entails launching public awareness campaigns, integrating wildlife conservation into school curricula, and using media to highlight success stories and conservation heroes. Fostering international cooperation involves strengthening regional partnerships, participating in global initiatives, and collaborating on data sharing and joint operations.

Strategy Goal, Objectives and Strategies

Figure 1: Strategy Conceptual Framework



Strategy Implementation, Co-ordination and Financing

This section highlights the strategy execution framework by outlining operationalization of the implementation plan, Coordination system, financing mechanisms, communication plan, and institutional capacities and skills requirement. It also highlights the principles of risk analysis and mitigation measures through Risk management framework

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and learning constitute a critical component for successful strategy implementation. In effect, M&E guides the State Department for Wildlife and other stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions and gauge the extent of achievement of intended results. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will involve tracking inputs, activities, processes, outputs and the ultimate outcomes of the overall strategy. Thus, ensuring prudent use of resources as planned within the implementation matrix projections, annual work plans, Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), and ensure timely implementation of activities to realize the stated objectives. Mid-term and end-term evaluation and review will be carried out to measure relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability and impact of the Strategy in addressing Poaching & Illegal Wildlife Trade.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The acts of poaching and engaging in illegal wildlife trafficking are significant and urgent worldwide crisis that poses a threat to the Earth's biodiversity and the livelihoods of those reliant on natural resources.

The illegal wildlife trade in wild fauna and flora involves the harvesting, procurement, transport, and distribution both domestically and internationally, of animals and plants, as well as their parts and derivatives, in violation of laws and treaties. It ranges in scale from single items being traded locally to commercial containers shipped worldwide to international markets¹.

The aforementioned criminal activities encompass the unauthorized pursuit, apprehension, and trade of animals that are safeguarded or at risk of extinction, together with their byproducts, including but not limited to ivory, rhinoceros' horns, tiger pelts, and pangolin scales. The magnitude of the issue is substantial, as per the estimation provided by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which places the value of this illicit market between \$7 billion and \$23 billion on an annual basis. This categorizes it as one of the most profitable types of organized criminal activities on a global scale².

The ramifications of engaging in poaching and participating in the illegal sale of animals have significant implications on biodiversity. These activities have been identified as significant contributors to the phenomenon of species extinction, posing a threat to several plant and animal species on a global scale. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a substantial number of species, over 35,000, are currently confronted with the peril of extinction. This alarming situation is mostly attributed to various factors such as poaching and the destruction of habitats³. The dilemma is further intensified by its repercussions on ecosystems, since the elimination of keystone species, such as elephants, disturbs ecological equilibrium and may result in excessive proliferation of flora, posing a threat to the overall well-being of the environment.

The need for animal items, such as ivory, traditional medicines, and exotic pets, is a key underlying factor contributing to the illegal wildlife trade. Asian nations, particularly, are prominent buyers of these commodities⁴. Hence, continuous efforts are being made to implement demand reduction programs and raise awareness in order to effectively tackle this crucial part of the issue.

¹ [African_strategy_strategy_africaine_africa.pdf](https://africanstrategy.africanstrategy.africa.pdf)

² <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/illegal-wildlife-trade>

³ <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Threats-to-Wildlife/Habitat-Loss>

⁴ https://www.unodc.org/documents/toc/Reports/TOCTA-EA-Pacific/TOCTA_EAP_c07.pdf

In addition to their ecological consequences, the activities of poaching and the illicit sale of wildlife have substantial social and economic implications. These actions frequently entail the participation of local people, who become involved as poachers or laborers, so offering them a means of generating revenue in areas characterized by limited economic prospects⁵. Nevertheless, these people are disproportionately affected by conservation initiatives, experiencing displacement and the erosion of their means of subsistence as restrictions become more stringent. The complex socio-economic aspects of this issue require a sophisticated strategy for both conservation efforts and community involvement.

International conventions and domestic legislations are crucial in mitigating the impact of this catastrophe. Numerous countries have implemented legislation in order to address the issue of illicit wildlife trafficking, while global accords like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) establish a structure for overseeing the commerce of endangered species. Notwithstanding these endeavors, the implementation of regulations arising out of the various conventions and legislations continues to be a substantial obstacle, given that perpetrators engaged in poaching and trafficking frequently conduct their activities in geographically isolated or politically unstable regions, characterized by inadequate governance and law enforcement capabilities.

In light of the problem at hand, a multitude of entities, encompassing governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities, are diligently engaged in efforts to address the issue of poaching and the illicit trafficking of wildlife. The endeavors encompass heightened surveillance, community involvement initiatives, and educational campaigns designed to enhance understanding of the ecological and ethical ramifications associated with these actions. Technological breakthroughs, including the utilization of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and data analytics, are also facilitating conservation endeavors through the enhancement of monitoring and reaction capacities. Notwithstanding the advancements achieved, the task of mitigating this unlawful commerce persists as an urgent issue that necessitates ongoing global collaboration and unified endeavors on various fronts.

1.2 Rationale for the Strategy

Conscious of the need to address policy, legal and institutional gaps that respond to threats of illegal wildlife trade, Kenya has taken significant steps towards codifying conservation and wildlife protection into a wildlife policy and legal framework such as; the Wildlife Policy (2020), the National Wildlife Strategy 2030 and Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA), 2013. The letter and spirit of these legislations is to provide high minimum penalties for poaching of threatened or endangered species. However, WCMA 2013 still lacks the subsidiary regulations

⁵ <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/wildlife-crime/module-1/key-issues/implications-of-wildlife-trafficking.html>

necessary to make it effective in practice. There is therefore need to formulate a National Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade

1.3 Scope

This strategy recognizes that wildlife crimes is complex owing to its multi-faced crime involving a multitude of different actors, species, commodities, driving factors with different impact across environment, governance and socio-economic development aspects. Therefore, the strategy has been formulated to provide a structured response to combatting poaching and IWT in Kenya focusing on the issues relating to IWT ecosystem from the source, transit and destinations of illegally traded wild fauna and flora, and their products.

To ensure policy coherence, the strategy is guided by national, regional and international policy, legal and regulatory frameworks. Key among them; The Constitution of Kenya 2010 through the National Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013; African Union Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, 2015; and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) of direct relevance to wildlife in Kenya such as CITES, UNODC among others

1.4 Methodology

In developing the National Strategy for Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade 2025-2030, systematic, integrated, participatory, evidence-based and context-specific approaches and methodologies were adopted.

A participatory process ensured a clear understanding of the context and facilitated ownership of the strategy process by all stakeholders. Key stakeholders, with a primary focus on Wildlife were actively involved in coordinating the strategy development process. The process targeted four segments of stakeholders: policymakers, implementers, beneficiaries, and strategic partners engaged in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the country.

The strategy development was spearheaded by the State Department for Wildlife's theory of change, derived from its institutional mandate in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade. This was translated into a results framework, outlining impact, outcomes, and specific outputs while articulating critical processes and inputs under each intervention area of the strategy.

Successful and lasting change in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade occurs when all voices are involved in the process. This includes key stakeholders, termed as, 'the people with; authority, resources, information, expertise, and need, as well as the 'odd voices'. In light of this, a three (3)-day workshop convened under the banner of future search conference: combating poaching and IWT in Kenya was held from the 24th to 26th of April, 2024 targeting key stakeholders. The stakeholders converged with a shared commitment to explore the interplay of past and present

realities and articulating common grounds for the future by determining the ambitions and creating action plans for implementation.

Guided by the principles of Future Search, participants engaged in intensive discussions, group exercises, and presentations, harnessing the collective wisdom of diverse stakeholder perspectives. Throughout the workshop, the focus remained steadfast on excavating the layers of history, deciphering the contours of the present landscape, and embarking on a journey of foresight to envision the possibilities of tomorrow.

Figure 2: The Future Search Methodology and Process



CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

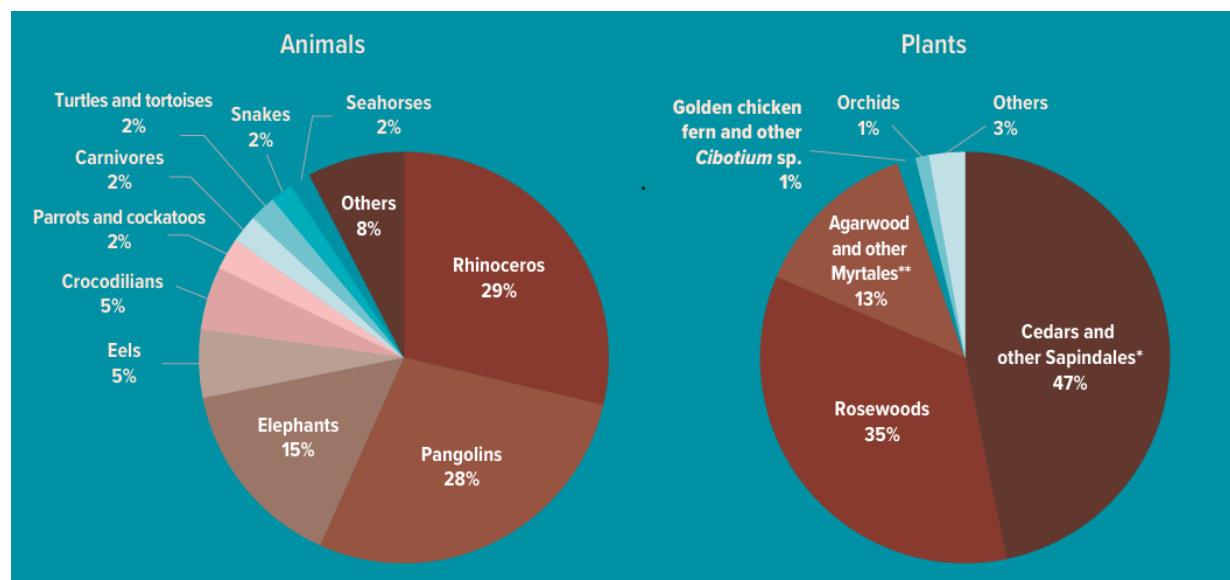
This chapter provides a global, regional and national context of poaching and illegal wildlife trade by presenting the status, impact, drivers and underlying causes as well as the key trends that influence the operating environment for combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Kenya. The chapter also highlights issues of legislation enforcement, prosecutions, judicial processes, international cooperation and emerging issues.

2.1 Status of Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade

Globally poaching and IWT pose significant challenge to many countries due to the multifaceted nature of the players and the complexities associated with combating wildlife crime. IWT is a multi-billion-dollar illicit industry, ranking among the largest illegal trades alongside drugs, arms, and human trafficking. According to international statistics most endangered species are speedily facing extinction⁶.

Several initiatives such as the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a major step in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade. UNODC and CITES have been at the forefront in working with nations to improve their legislative and judicial systems with view of addressing these crimes through knowledge sharing and capacity-building together to regulate global wildlife trade. At the international level, esteemed institutions including the International Police organization (INTERPOL) and UNODC have acknowledged the necessity of implementing comprehensive approaches to address the issues of illegal activities impacting flora and fauna -

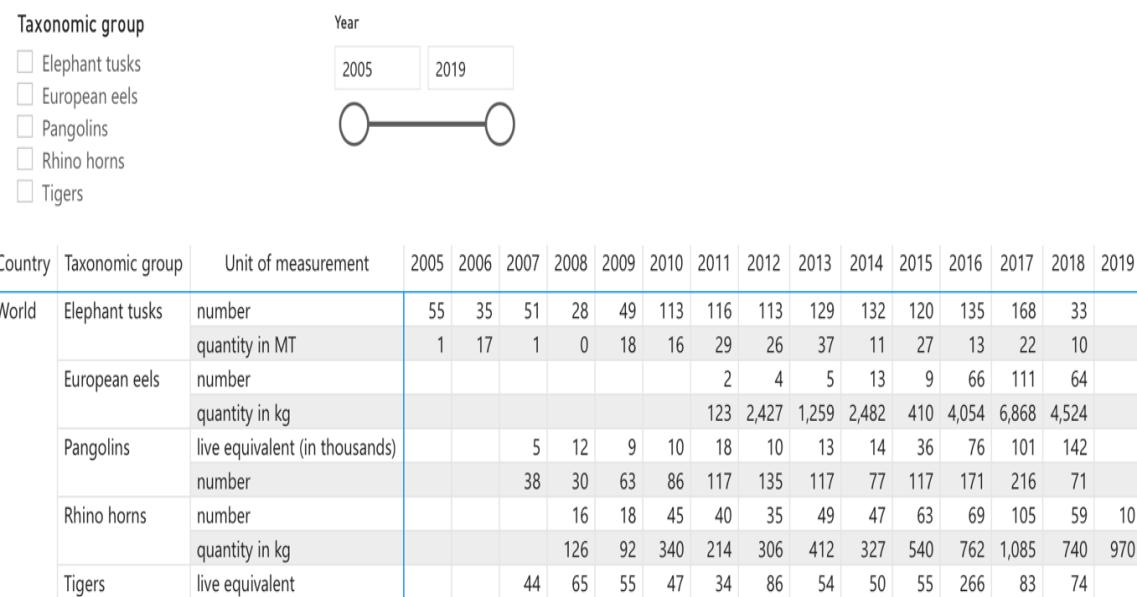
Figure 3: The Most Affected Species



Source: UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report, 2024

⁶ Worldwide wildlife crime report 2024- https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/wildlife/2024/Wildlife2024_Final.pdf

Wildlife seizures



East Africa faces unique conservation difficulties and opportunities. Poaching and Illegal Wildlife trade remains a major security challenge within the region, mainly due to the dynamism and transnational nature of these crimes. Despite the law enforcement efforts being put in place by the authorities, organized criminal syndicates are increasingly capitalizing on gaps in law enforcement and porous borders to launder and move wildlife contrabands within the region. This contraband include ivory, pangolin scales, rosewoods and East Africa Sandalwood which is illegally harvested in the region and smuggled through the neighbouring countries. - The Middle East and Asia are high demand destinations for the contraband.

Kenya is home to diverse wildlife resources. It has the third largest rhino population in the world after South Africa and Namibia and the fourth largest elephant population. Due to its abundant wildlife resources, the country has over the years faced tremendous pressure from poaching gangs and illegal trafficking syndicates who target these resources. In 2013, Kenya was blacklisted among the gang of eight countries classified as either source, transit or destination but were deemed to be complacent in combating Illegal Wildlife trafficking. Since then, a lot of efforts have been made which have resulted into the country being removed from the black list. These measures include the review of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013 to provide for stiffer penalties as well as enhancing collaboration and intelligence sharing amongst law enforcement agencies operating at the major airports, sea ports and one stop border posts. Other initiatives include training and strengthening the capacity of agencies charged with the responsibility of combating wildlife and environmental crimes. These measures have contributed to reduced poaching incidents targeting key species as well as a reduction in seizures originating from Kenya in outside jurisdictions. However, In spite of the efforts, Kenya just like other source countries, still faces challenges linked to wildlife and forestry crimes.

Kenya is not only a source but also a key transit country in the region for wildlife contraband due to its relatively well-developed transport and communication network. Drawing on data from the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), TRAFFIC's rhino database and KWS, the main sources of wildlife products trafficked through Kenya are:

- Tanzania (mainly ivory)
- Mozambique (ivory and rhino horn)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (- ivory and timber)
- From local population (ivory, rhino horn, big cat skins and pangolin scales)
- Uganda (mainly ivory, pangolin scales, timber)
- Zambia (ivory)
- South Sudan (ivory)

Since 2009, more ivory has exited through Mombasa than any other trade route out of Africa, primarily destined for China and Hong Kong with transit points in Malaysia, Viet Nam, Thailand and Singapore (Milliken, 2014), Nairobi JKIA has also recorded seizures of illegally acquired wildlife parts destined for China and Viet Nam. Kenya's national airline, Kenya Airways, operates direct flights from Nairobi to eastern Asia and has been reported to carry passengers with wildlife contraband as part of their baggage.

In 2016 Kilindini Port in Mombasa and JKIA, Kenya's main international airport in Nairobi, were - identified as the leading exit points for large volumes of wildlife contraband leaving Kenya.

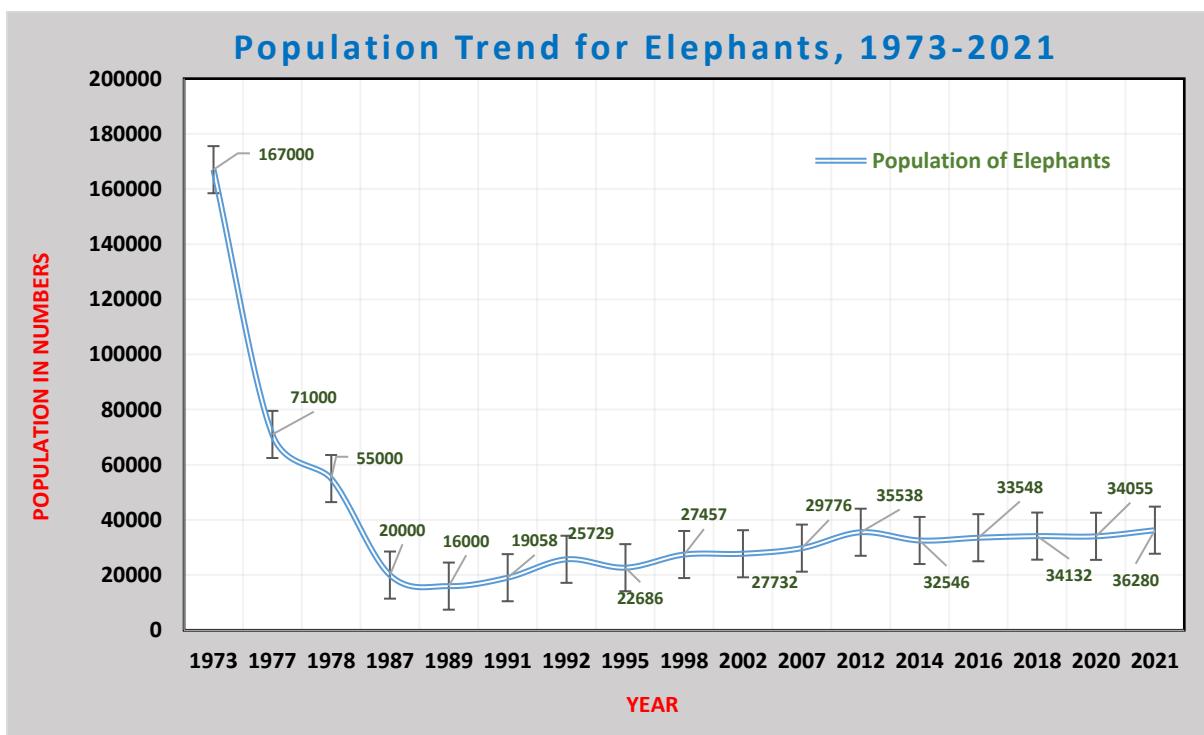
According to KWS sources, other leading entry and exit points commonly used for smuggling wildlife specimens are the Busia and Malaba border crossings. Both are on record for having been used to smuggle ivory into Kenya from the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Uganda for onward transit to the Far East through Kilindini Port-. KWS has also documented increased use of other lower tier entry/exit points along the borders with Tanzania, Somalia and Ethiopia. Arrests and recoveries have been recorded in Isebania, Namanga, Tarakea (Oloitokitok), Taveta, Lunga Lunga, Liboi and Moyale.

Recently, cases of bush meat have been on the rise, largely due to poverty, the impact of Covid 19 pandemic which led to loss of livelihoods by communities who neighbor parks and conservancies, including the issue of prolonged drought and the effects of climate change. It has also been observed that wildlife trafficking syndicates are increasingly changing their modus operandi and are now focusing on lesser species and plant species such as aloe and the East African sandalwood which are in high demand in South East Asian countries and especially in China.

-

Therefore, to address the issue of poaching and IWT, Kenya is signatory to a number of conventions and multi-lateral Environmental Agreements such as CITES, Ramsar convention and Convention on conservation of migratory species of animals and IUCN. Kenya also works closely with her neighbours through bilateral agreements and jointly within the regional enforcement mechanisms like the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) and Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Networks (HAWEN). The other relevant multilateral initiatives within the region include the Algiers Convention, Southern African Development Community's (SADC), Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030. The African Union's Algiers Convention represents Africa's commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. It promotes conservation and recognizes the interdependence of nature and human well-being, advocating for African states to harmonize policy to combat wildlife and forest crime.

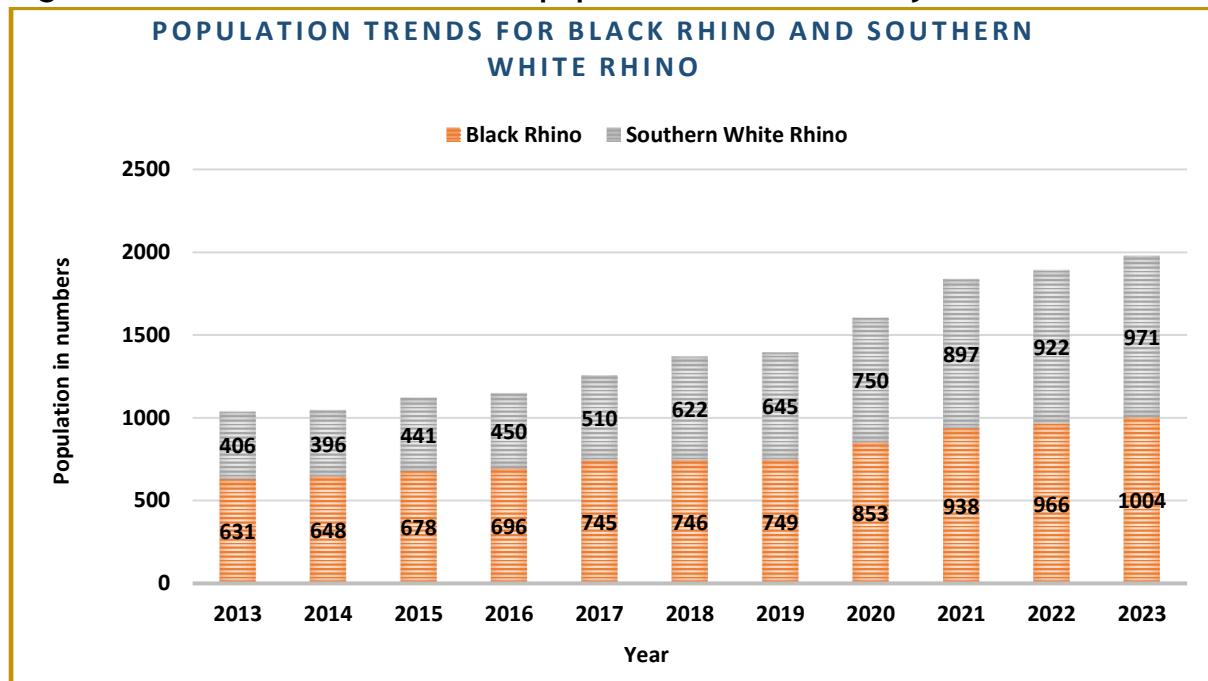
Figure 4: Population Trend for Elephants in Kenya, 1973 -2021,



Source: Kenya Wildlife Service, 2025

Figure 2 depicts a sharp decline in Elephant population from the year 1973 to 1989 largely attributed to Poaching and hunting. The interventions which include government ban on hunting, creation of a new enforcement entity (KWS) and enhanced multi-agency law enforcement initiatives. Resultantly, led to steady increase in the species population from 16,000 to over 36,000 from 1989 to 2021 respectively.

Figure 5: Black and white rhino population trends in Kenya



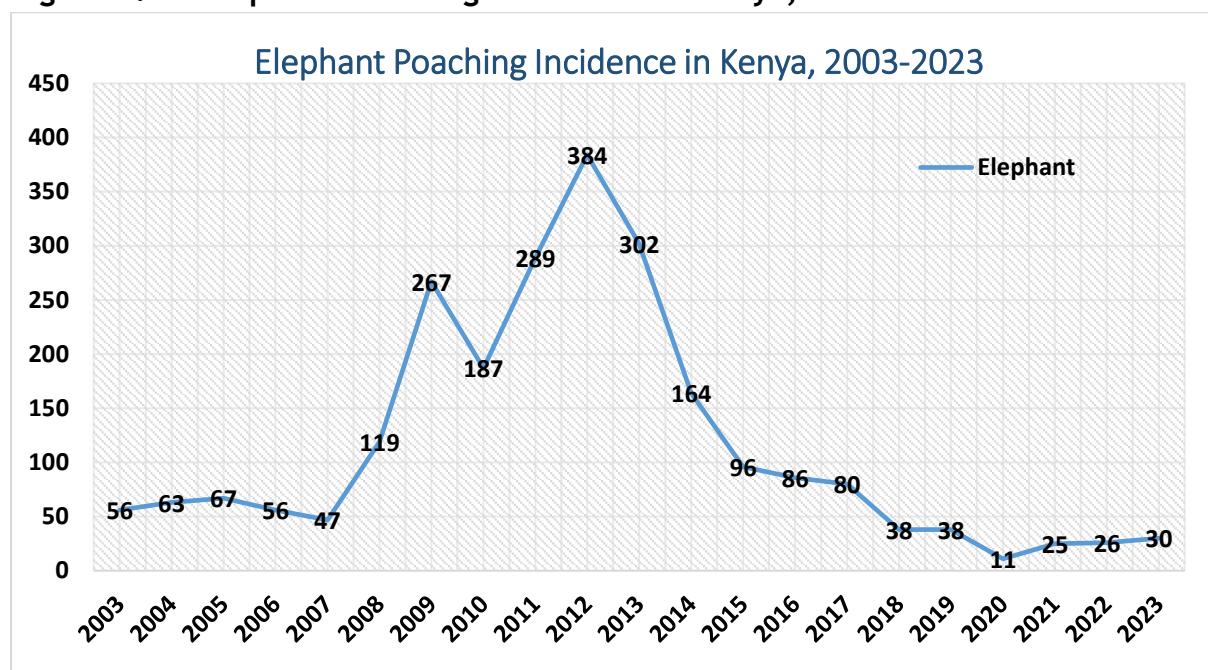
Observation

Prior to 2013, rhino population was low due to increased poaching and high demand of rhino horn in the international market and especially in the South East Asian countries.

After 2013, there was review of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act Cap 376 which introduced stringent penalties on poaching and IWT, and adoption of the multi -agency approach by the government, leading to reduced rhino poaching incidences. There was also Improved rhino management strategies -including establishment of sanctuaries leading to increased population and protection

Poaching Incidences in Kenya

Figure 6: Elephant Poaching Incidences in Kenya, 2003-2023



Source: KWS, 2024

Observations

The highest incidence of elephant poaching was recorded in 2012 at 384 and the lowest in 2020 with 11 incidences. The data also shows that there is marginal increase in poaching incidences from 2021 to 2023.

Figure 7: Pangolin Poaching Incidence in Kenya, 2013-2023

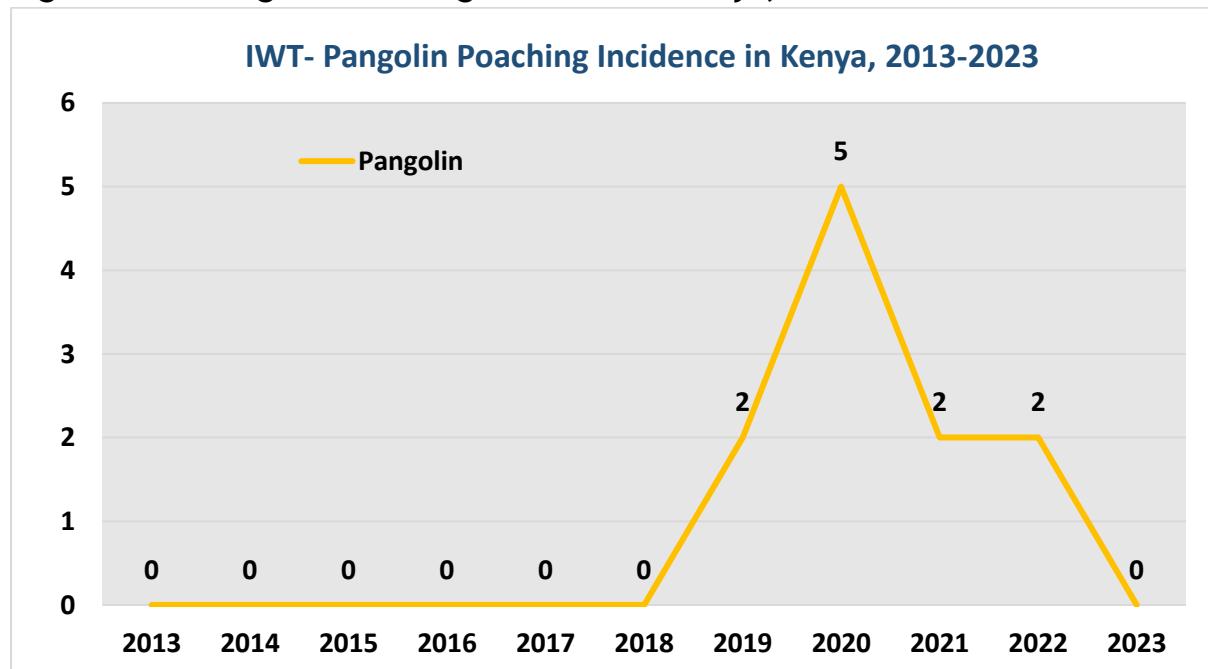


Figure 8: Sandalwood trafficking incidences in Kenya, 2003-2023.

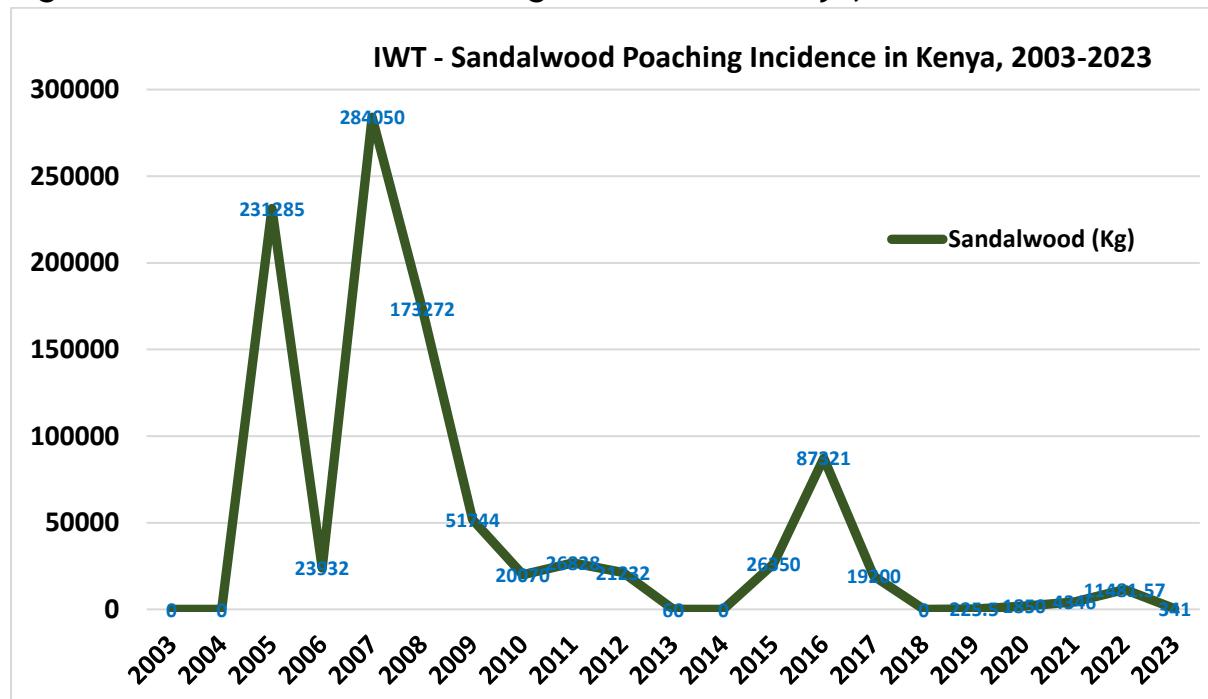
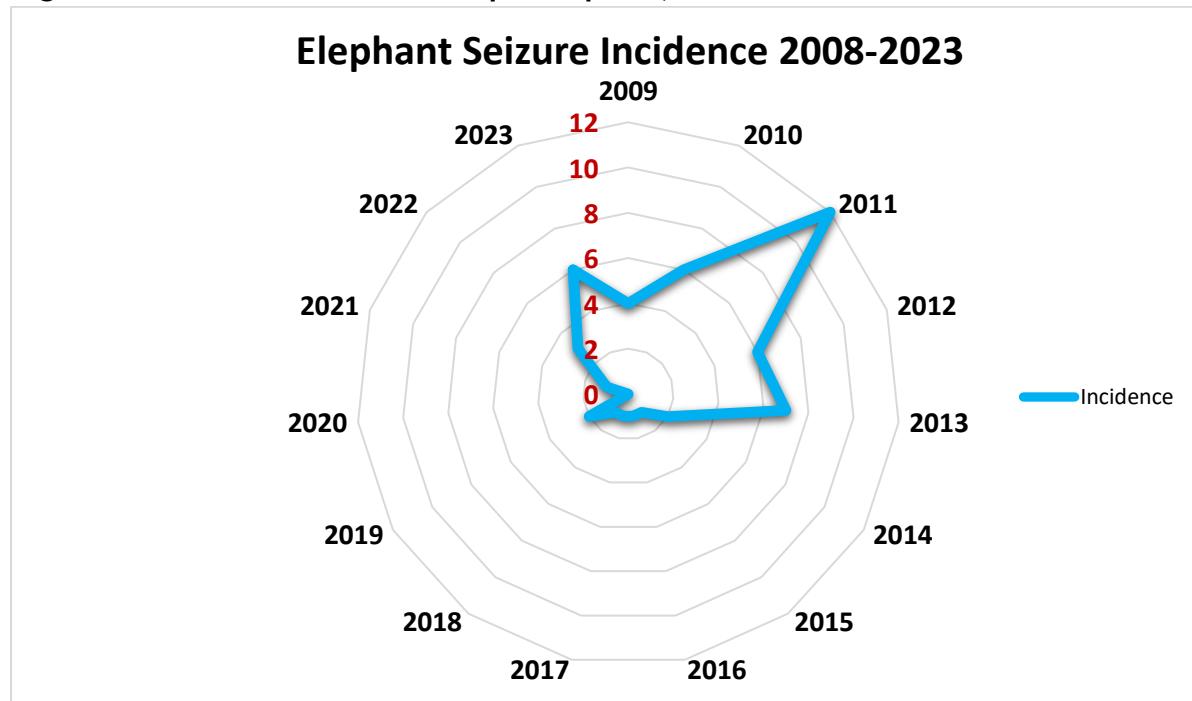


Figure 7: Sandalwood trafficking incidences in Kenya, 2003-2023.

Figure 7 show that the highest number of sandal recoveries were recorded in 2005, 2007 and 2008 leading to a presidential ban being imposed for a period of three years up to 2009, in order to protect the species from over exploitation.

IWT Seizures: Source, Transit and Destination

Figure 9: WT Seizures on Elephant parts, 2003-2023.



2.2 Impact of Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade

Illegal exploitation of wildlife has led to unprecedented biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, loss of livelihood, declining revenue generation, and climate change. Poaching and IWT poses significant effects broadly to environment, governance and socio-economic development.

2.2.1 Governance Impacts

Weak governance structures and corruption have grave political and security implications in that, they undermine the rule of law thus posing detrimental risks to role of government to enforce IWT laws, policies and regulations by weakening public institutions such as the police, customs, military and judiciary. In addition, it results to loss of revenues and increasing enforcement costs.

2.2.2 Environmental Impacts

Poaching and IWT has been established as a threat to the environment mainly through species over-exploitation, ecosystem impact, climate impacts, and dispersal of invasive species. On human health, three quarter of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, according to UNEP (year), transferred from animals to humans, facilitated by environmental destruction and wildlife crime. COVID-19, one of the global deadliest diseases in the recent past is highly suspected to be a zoonotic disease. Other infectious zoonotic diseases include Bird flu, Ebola, anthrax and monkey pox.

2.2.3 Social and Economic Impacts

Some of the social and economic harms relating to IWT include; loss of revenue, loss of livelihoods and well-being; business cost and losses; health risks and harm to defenders.

2.3 Drivers and Causes of Poaching and IWT

The drivers of poaching and wildlife trafficking in Kenya are multifaceted. Economic incentives are significant, as impoverished communities often view wildlife as a cheap source of protein and as resource for immediate financial gain, driven by demand from affluent markets abroad. Cultural beliefs and traditional medicine practices also sustain demand for wildlife products, perpetuating a cycle of exploitation despite legal prohibitions.

Moreover, weak governance structures contribute to ineffective law enforcement and regulatory oversight, enabling illegal activities to flourish. High-level corruption occasionally implicates officials tasked with conservation and law enforcement, undermining public trust and impeding efforts to combat wildlife crime effectively.

2.3.1 Legislation and Enforcement

Given the complexity of wildlife trafficking, international cooperation is critical. At the global scale, international institutions, notably the United Nations (UN), have acknowledged the significance of cooperation in addressing wildlife and forest crime.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), established by the UN, functions as a comprehensive international structure aimed at governing the global trade of wildlife and associated commodities. The UN General Assembly resolution 69/314 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife adopted on 30th July 2015 calls upon Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime. To combat wildlife and forest crime globally, international initiatives and agreements aim to integrate efforts and handle this complicated issue.

Several initiatives such as the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a major step in this regard⁷. UNODC's initiative emphasizes the necessity for a united legal and judicial response and supports cross-border coordination. It helps nations improve their legislative and judicial systems to address these crimes through knowledge sharing and capacity-building.

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the primary tool for combating transnational organized crime and is recognized as the most effective legal instrument to tackle the illegal wildlife trade as an international criminal activity. Given the breadth of the offences covered by UNTOC, improving the implementation and use of the UNTOC to investigate and prosecute activities related to the illegal wildlife trade where these activities meet the definitions of the Convention should be encouraged.

Supplementary tools to prevent and combat other forms of serious and organized crimes also already exist, such as the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in relation to corruption. Given the interconnectivity of the illegal wildlife trade, transnational organized crime and corruption, UNCAC may be a useful supporting tool in combating the illegal wildlife trade to the extent corruption is involved in the commission of wildlife crime and it is not covered by the UNTOC. In addition, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (*CITES") is also a relevant and effective international legal instrument to regulate legal and illegal trade in wildlife species of flora and fauna.

While CITES does not focus specifically on countering illicit trafficking, especially where serious or organized crime is involved, it should not be overlooked as a useful tool in addressing the illegal trade in wildlife. It has been observed that these

⁷ https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Annual_Report_GPWLFC2021.pdf

existing international instruments, although relevant in addressing the illegal wildlife trade, are under-utilized by Parties.

In particular, a challenge that has been identified in the context of UNTOC, is the failure to develop national legislation criminalizing illegal wildlife trade activities by Parties such that these activities are offences in domestic law that meet the definition of "serious offence" in the UNTOC. In its 2020 World Wildlife Crime Report, the UNODC highlighted that such enforcement gaps are likely caused by a combination of a lack of understanding of the nature of these crimes and broader impact, insufficient prioritization and/or a lack of capacity or resources".

UNODC and CITES work together to regulate global wildlife trade. CITES focuses on trade, but its laws affect wildlife conservation and anti-poaching worldwide. Esteemed institutions including International Police (INTERPOL) and UNODC have acknowledged the necessity of implementing comprehensive approaches in order to address the issue of wildlife and forest crime⁸. The organization provides training programs, technical support, and resource-sharing platforms with the aim of enhancing the capacity of law enforcement organizations globally. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, for example, serves as a platform for international collaboration and offers analytical tools for intelligence gathering. Similarly, the "Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime" by UNODC concentrates on enhancing legal frameworks and delivering specialized training to address these illicit activities on a global scale.

These endeavors exemplify the worldwide acknowledgment that the coordination and provision of adequate resources to law enforcement agencies are vital in tackling the cross-border characteristics of wildlife and forest offenses.

At the regional level, there has been a prioritization of efforts to combat wildlife and forest crimes by organizations such as the African Union (AU). The African Union's strategy⁹ aims to strengthen the capabilities of law enforcement agencies in Africa. Member nations are encouraged to establish specialist units, enhance cross-border coordination, and facilitate the sharing of intelligence in order to effectively combat these crimes. Regional organizations such as the SADC and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are crucial in facilitating capacity-building initiatives for law enforcement agencies within their respective geographical areas.

Focusing on East Africa regions and specifically Kenya, a country grappling with substantial difficulties pertaining to wildlife and forest crimes, there exist targeted programs and resources that prioritize the enhancement of capacity. The government of Kenya, in collaboration with esteemed organizations such as the IUCN and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), has initiated initiatives aimed at

⁸ Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime.

⁹ African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa

providing training and resources to law enforcement forces¹⁰. One illustrative instance is the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for Rangers" initiative, which aids rangers and law enforcement professionals in augmenting their proficiency in intelligence acquisition, monitoring, and patrolling.

In addition, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) engages in partnerships with several international organizations in order to enhance the skills and expertise of its personnel and investigators, thereby equipping them with the requisite resources and information to efficiently address instances of wildlife and forest-related offenses throughout the nation. However, this has not been sufficient in addressing the illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya.

Kenya has enacted stringent wildlife conservation laws, including the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act Cap 376, which provides a legal framework for protecting wildlife and regulating trade. However, challenges persist in enforcement due to resource constraints, inadequate training, and weak coordination within enforcement agencies. Prosecutions often face obstacles such as lengthy legal proceedings, evidentiary issues, and inconsistent sentencing, which undermine deterrence against wildlife crime.

2.3.2 Capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies in Handling Wildlife and Forest Crime

Enhancing the operational capabilities of law enforcement authorities to proficiently execute intelligence gathering, investigative procedures, and legal proceedings pertaining to wildlife and forest offenses is a matter of utmost significance on a global scale. In light of the increasing prevalence of illicit wildlife trafficking and deforestation, numerous international and regional efforts have been implemented with the aim of bolstering the capacities of law enforcement agencies in addressing these issues.

2.2.3 Collaboration among National and County Law Enforcement Agencies

The establishment of efficient cooperation between national and county law enforcement authorities to address wildlife and forest crime is a complex issue that has received significant attention on a global, regional, and national scale. Effective addressing of these crimes necessitates collaboration, as they frequently possess transboundary characteristics and require coordinated endeavors.

At the global scale, international institutions, notably the United Nations (UN), have acknowledged the significance of cooperation in addressing wildlife and forest crime. The CITES, established by the UN, functions as a comprehensive international structure aimed at governing the global trade of wildlife and associated commodities. CITES promotes collaboration among its member nations and emphasizes the importance of information sharing as a means to effectively address

¹⁰ African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). (n.d.). African Wildlife Foundation in Kenya.

the issue of illegal wildlife trading¹¹. In addition, it is worth noting that certain organizations, such as INTERPOL, have implemented specialized divisions, such as the Environmental Security Sub-Directorate, with the aim of promoting global collaboration between law enforcement entities in addressing these illicit activities. Research papers and reports published by these institutions frequently emphasize the imperative of international cooperation and the dissemination of exemplary methodologies.

In the context of specific geographical areas, entities such as the East African Community (EAC) and the SADC have been actively engaged in fostering cooperation among their constituent nations to address the issue of wildlife and forest offenses. These platforms facilitate the exchange of intelligence, coordination of operations, and harmonization of legislative frameworks among law enforcement organizations from various nations. The reports and publications produced by these regional organizations provide valuable insights into their collaborative endeavors and underscore the significance of regional collaboration.

In the context of Kenya, the government has implemented measures to facilitate cooperation between national and county law enforcement entities. The commitment to collaborative endeavors is exemplified by the implementation of strategies such as the establishment of multi-agency task groups, which involve prominent entities like the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and local law enforcement organizations. Often at time this organization work autonomously instead of working together hence resulting in conflict or duplication.

2.2.4 Transboundary and International Cooperation to Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade

Promoting cross-border and international collaboration in order to combat illicit wildlife trafficking is an imperative undertaking that has garnered substantial recognition on a global, regional, and national scale. The magnitude and intricacy of wildlife trafficking necessitate cooperative endeavors in order to successfully address this unlawful commerce.

At the international level, there is a recognition by global organizations such as the UN on the pressing need for transboundary collaboration in order to address the issue of illegal wildlife trade. CITES, established by the UN, functions as a primary worldwide structure for the oversight and control of the global trade in species facing the threat of extinction. CITES promotes collaboration among member nations, facilitating the exchange of information and coordination of actions in order to effectively address and mitigate this illicit activity. The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) to CITES¹² serves as a forum for nations to engage in dialogue and promote global collaboration. The scholarly literature pertaining to CITES, as well as publications published by UN agencies such as the UNODC, consistently

¹¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/Money-laundering-and-illegal-wildlife-trade.pdf>

¹² <https://cites.org/eng/disc/cop.php>

underscores the significance of international cooperation in effectively tackling the issue of illegal trade in wildlife. However, their implementation is wanting.

In the regional context, it is noteworthy that many organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the EAC, have acknowledged the need of collaborative endeavors aimed at mitigating the issue of illicit wildlife trafficking. The ASEAN-WEN was founded by the ASEAN with the aim of promoting regional cooperation, facilitating the exchange of information, and coordinating cooperative activities in relation to wildlife enforcement¹³. In a similar vein, the EAC fosters regional collaboration by means of various endeavors, such as the establishment of the East African Wildlife Enforcement Network (EAWEN).

In the context of Kenya, the government has implemented measures to foster global collaboration. Kenya actively participates in multiple international accords and collaborations, particularly with neighboring nations, with the primary objective of enhancing endeavors to mitigate wildlife trafficking.

2.2.5 Role of Local Communities and the Private Sector

The inclusion of local communities and business sector partners in the monitoring, prevention, and enforcement of anti-poaching and IWT has gained significant recognition as an essential strategy on a global, regional, and national scale. These collaborations utilize indigenous knowledge and local resources, while also including the corporate sector in initiatives aimed at environmental preservation.

The IUCN¹⁴ has placed significant emphasis on the significance of community-based conservation projects at the global level. It is emphasized that local populations possess significant information pertaining to wildlife and ecosystems, and their active participation can enhance the efficacy of anti-poaching and prevention efforts against IWT. IUCN actively encourages collaborations with the commercial sector in order to bolster conservation initiatives, acknowledging the potential of corporations to contribute financially and advocate for conservation causes. The research and reports conducted by the IUCN and its affiliated organizations frequently emphasize case studies and exemplary approaches concerning the involvement of communities and the private sector in efforts to combat poaching and prevent IWT.

In the African context, there has been notable regional engagement by entities such as the AWF in advocating for community participation and fostering collaborations with the business sector to advance conservation initiatives¹⁵. The Community Conservation Program of the AWF places significant emphasis on fostering community engagement and empowerment. This approach acknowledges the pivotal role that local people may play as crucial allies in efforts to combat poaching and

¹³ <https://asean-wen.org/>

¹⁴ <https://iucn.org/>

¹⁵ <https://www.awf.org/community>

prevent IWT. Furthermore, it is worth noting that regional entities such as the EAC have acknowledged the significance of engaging local communities and the corporate sector in regional conservation endeavors. The publications and reports issued by these organizations offer valuable insights into their endeavors to include communities and commercial sector collaborators in combating wildlife crime.

In Kenya, there have been efforts by the government and multiple conservation organizations to implement initiatives that engage local communities and the commercial sector in the prevention of poaching and IWT. An instance of collaboration can be observed in the partnership between the KWS and local communities¹⁶, facilitated through community conservancies. This collaborative effort aims to empower these people in safeguarding wildlife and effectively reporting any instances of unlawful activities. Furthermore, the establishment of collaborations between conservation organizations and private sector entities, including eco-lodges and tourism enterprises, has been initiated in order to aid conservation endeavors and enhance public consciousness regarding the significance of safeguarding wildlife. The reports and studies undertaken in Kenya frequently emphasize the achievements and difficulties associated with the engagement of local communities and the commercial sector in efforts to combat poaching and prevent illegal wildlife trade IWT.

2.2.6 Demand for valuable wildlife and wildlife products

The matter of increasing demand for bushmeat, pangolin and trophies has garnered significant global recognition due to its substantial implications for the pervasive biodiversity and public health. In light of the challenges posed by habitat destruction, overhunting, and zoonotic disease transmission, a multitude of international organizations and academic institutions have made significant contributions to the ongoing dialogue.

An illustrative instance can be observed in the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), an organization that has undertaken comprehensive research on the ramifications of bushmeat consumption¹⁷. The paper titled "The Bushmeat Crisis" brings attention to the ecological and health hazards linked to the habit of consuming bushmeat, underscoring the imperative of fostering worldwide consciousness in order to mitigate demand. Furthermore, CITES assumes a pivotal role in the regulation of global bushmeat trafficking, advocating for enhanced enforcement measures and the promotion of awareness campaigns.

Focusing specifically on the African continent, where the practice of hunting bushmeat is notably widespread, numerous regional organizations and research institutions have undertaken measures to tackle this matter. The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) has implemented strategies aimed at addressing the

¹⁶ <https://www.kws.go.ke/content/overview-0>

¹⁷ <https://www.wcs.org/get-involved/updates/wcs-issues-report-on-urban-bushmeat-consumption-and-infectious-disease>

issue of bushmeat consumption in Central Africa, which presents a substantial challenge to the preservation of animal populations in the region. The reports and publications of COMIFAC are regarded as useful tools that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the regional context and the difficulties it presents.

In addition, scholarly establishments such as the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies at the University of Ghana have undertaken investigations pertaining to the socio-cultural determinants that impact the demand for bushmeat in the West African region. The research conducted by the authors highlights the significance of culturally relevant awareness campaigns in promoting shifts in consumer behaviors.

Shifting the attention to Kenya, the matter of bushmeat consumption has also garnered attention. The KWS has taken a leading role in endeavors aimed at diminishing the demand for bushmeat through educational initiatives. The book titled "Addressing the Bushmeat Crisis in Kenya" provides an overview of the approaches implemented at the national level and emphasizes the achievements in mitigating bushmeat consumption within specific geographical areas.

In addition, it is worth noting that local NGOs, such as Wildlife Direct, have significantly contributed to the dissemination of knowledge and understanding within Kenyan communities regarding the potential ramifications associated with the practice of hunting bushmeat. The "Hands Off Our Elephants" campaign, while largely centers around elephants and the ivory trade, carries wider implications in terms of raising awareness about bushmeat consumption.

2.2.7 Incentives to Local Communities to Protect Wildlife

The global community has recognized the urgent need to offer increased incentives to local populations in order to promote animal conservation, given the escalating conflicts between humans and wildlife and the accelerating loss of biodiversity. International organizations, such as the WWF, have played a prominent role in promoting community-based conservation methods that integrate incentives.

A noteworthy publication offered by the WWF is the report titled "Community-Based Conservation: The Key to Preserving Biodiversity on Our Planet." This paper provides a comprehensive examination of international initiatives aimed at motivating local communities to engage in animal conservation, while also presenting case studies from several geographical areas to exemplify effective strategies. The significance of fostering collaborative endeavors among governmental bodies, NGOs, and local populations is underscored in order to effectively attain conservation objectives.

Focusing specifically on the African continent, where instances of human-wildlife conflicts are notably pronounced, regional groups such as AWF have been actively engaged in advocating for community-based conservation projects. The publication titled "Community Conservation in Africa: Engaging Communities in Sustainable Wildlife Management" by the AWF presents case studies that demonstrate the

successful outcomes of regional initiatives in enabling local communities to save wildlife and enhance their socio-economic well-being.

Moreover, it is worth noting that regional economic blocs such as EAC have acknowledged the significance of collaborative efforts as transboundary in tackling wildlife conservation challenges. The strategic plans of the EAC prioritize the provision of incentives and support to local communities in order to encourage their active involvement in conservation initiatives. This approach acknowledges the fact that conservation activities yield benefits that extend beyond individual communities and contribute to the overall well-being of the entire area.

Shifting our focus to Kenya, a nation widely recognized for its biodiverse environments, the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) has emerged as a crucial entity in advocating for community-driven conservation efforts. The report titled "Conservancies in Kenya: A Guide to Community-Led Conservation" elucidates the accomplishments of diverse conservancies in Kenya, offering a comprehensive account of how these endeavors have effectively motivated local populations to engage in wildlife preservation, all the while fostering sustainable land utilization techniques.

The government of Kenya has implemented policies aimed at bolstering incentives for local communities, including the implementation of revenue-sharing arrangements. The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 2013 delineates regulations pertaining to revenue-sharing, which guarantees that a portion of the tourism money is allocated to communities dwelling in close proximity to protected areas. The aforementioned legislation functions as a legally established structure aimed at promoting and encouraging the engagement of local individuals in conservation efforts.

2.2.8 Mobilizing Resources to Fight Wildlife and Forest Crime

The urgent global issue of addressing wildlife and forest crime necessitates the mobilization of essential resources, given its substantial ramifications for the environment, economy, and security. International institutions, including as INTERPOL and UNODC, have played a crucial role in enhancing global awareness and facilitating coordinated endeavors to address this matter.

The research titled "Mobilizing the World Against Wildlife and Forest Crime" by INTERPOL sheds insight on the global magnitude and consequences of these illicit activities and the necessity of international mobilization. Increased allocation of resources, fostering collaboration among nations, and implementing novel strategies is critical to address the issues of illegal wildlife trade and deforestation. .

The "Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime" implemented by the United Nations is an imperative undertaking. The framework offers a comprehensive approach for nations to effectively allocate resources and collaborate in order to address and mitigate illicit activity. The initiative

acknowledges the necessity of adopting a comprehensive approach to tackle wildlife and forest crime, encompassing legal, enforcement, and development strategies.

Focusing specifically on the African continent, which experiences significant instances of wildlife and forest crime, regional entities such as AU have been actively engaged in endeavors to gather resources. The African Union's "African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora" provides a comprehensive framework for effectively combating these illicit activities at a regional level. This statement underscores the significance of fostering collaboration among African states and mobilizing resources in order to successfully address wildlife and forest crime.

Moreover, EAC has acknowledged the necessity of a synchronized regional approach in addressing the issue of illicit wildlife trafficking. The "Regional Approach to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Eastern Africa" document delineates measures for the mobilization of resources, enhancement of capabilities, and promotion of cross-border collaboration. It duly recognizes the collective obligation of member nations in tackling this pressing matter.

In Kenya, a nation grappling with substantial obstacles pertaining to wildlife and forest crime, noteworthy endeavors have been undertaken to efficiently mobilize resources. The KWS has played a leading role in these endeavors, exemplified by the publication titled "Fighting Wildlife Crime: Kenya's Experience," which highlights the nation's tactics and achievements in addressing the issue of illicit wildlife trafficking. KWS has underscored the significance of sufficient financial resources, advanced technological capabilities, and global collaboration.

In addition, Kenya has implemented legislative measures aimed at mobilizing resources. The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 2013 provides financial resources for the purpose of supporting initiatives aimed at conserving wildlife. Additionally, it establishes a framework for imposing penalties on individuals involved in crimes linked to wildlife, so promoting the allocation of resources towards the enforcement of regulations and the conservation of wildlife.

2.4 Key Trends Influencing Combating Poaching and IWT

In our constantly shifting global environment, it's not merely advantageous but essential to comprehend the prevailing forces shaping our reality. As we traverse a diverse array of societal, technological, and environmental changes, being attuned to the pulse of current trends serves as a vital navigational tool amidst the uncertainties we face. The participants in the workshop identified several key trends encapsulating this dynamic landscape, each playing a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of our collective journey.

Figure 10: Key Trends in Combatting Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT)

Climate change	Depending on Aids for Program Financing	Low Returns from Conservation	Global Financing Flows	Lack of Alternatives for Livelihood	Increase in Market Demands for Wildlife Products		
		Capacity Building			High-Value Trophies for Livelihood		
Personnel Equipment	Dormant wildlife Utilization	Inadequate data on wildlife			Community Education and Outreach		
		Competing Land Use		Urbanization and Land Division			
Human-Wildlife Conflict	Infrastructure	Trends in Poaching and IWT			Foreigners' Demand for Wildlife Products in Kenya		
		Enforcement Laxity					
Law Reforms	Illegal Harvesting of Plant Species	Porous Boundaries	Multilateral Agreements	Kenya Being a Signatory of Global CITES, CBD, Treaties Convention etc.	Foreign Influence on Locals (Westernization)		
		Pangolin Commercialization		Wildlife Economy	Conflict on Transboundary		
Policy	Access to Benefit Sharing	Inadequate Governance	Global Reputation which is Pro-Protection	Unclear Value of Wildlife	Transboundary Partnerships		
		Conflicting Mandates of Institutions					
Political Stability	Insecurity	Conflict on Transboundary		Transboundary Partnerships			
		Non-Implementation of Strategies					

1. Capacity Strengthening

Inadequate Data on Wildlife: Without accurate information on species abundance, population trends, and poaching hotspots, it is difficult for authorities to effectively allocate resources and implement targeted conservation measures. Inadequate monitoring and surveillance systems also hinder the ability to assess the impact of poaching activities and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation interventions.

Dormant Wildlife Utilization: Despite the potential economic benefits of sustainable wildlife use, regulatory frameworks governing wildlife utilization, such as controlled hunting and ecotourism, have often been underutilized or poorly implemented. This has led to missed opportunities for local communities to derive livelihoods from wildlife in a sustainable manner, thereby increasing their reliance on alternative, often illegal, means such as poaching for income generation.

Technology and Research: Technological advancements and research play a crucial role in combating illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Innovations such as drones, DNA analysis, and remote sensing techniques have enhanced law

enforcement efforts by improving surveillance capabilities, gathering intelligence on poaching networks, and supporting evidence-based decision-making. Additionally, scientific research contributes to understanding wildlife ecology, behavior, and the drivers of illegal activities, informing the development of targeted conservation strategies. However, the adoption and integration of these technologies into wildlife conservation practices require adequate funding, technical expertise, and institutional support to maximize their effectiveness in addressing the evolving challenges of illegal wildlife trade and poaching.

Community Education/Outreach: Community education and outreach programs are to foster local stewardship of natural resources and promoting alternative livelihoods. Engaging communities in conservation initiatives helps raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation, the impacts of illegal activities, and the benefits of sustainable resource management. By empowering communities with knowledge and skills, such as wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching techniques, these programs can mobilize local support for conservation efforts and deter individuals from participating in illegal activities.

Personnel Equipment: Insufficient staffing levels, limited training, and outdated or inadequate equipment hamper the ability of enforcement agencies to detect, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crimes. To address this trend, there is a need for increased investment in recruiting and training law enforcement personnel specialized in wildlife protection, equipping them with modern technology such as GPS devices, night vision goggles, and communication tools, and strengthening inter-agency cooperation to enhance operational efficiency and coordination. Additionally, improving working conditions, providing incentives, and ensuring accountability and transparency within law enforcement agencies are crucial for maintaining morale and integrity among personnel tasked with combating illegal wildlife trade and poaching.

Capacity Building: This trend highlights the need for investing in training programs, knowledge transfer, and institutional development to enhance the skills and expertise of relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement personnel, conservation practitioners, judiciary officials, and local communities.

2. Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework

Kenya Being a Signatory of Global CITES, CBD, Treaties Convention, Kenya's status as a signatory to global agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) underscores its commitment to combat illegal wildlife trade and poaching. However, while these international treaties provide frameworks for regulating and protecting wildlife and biodiversity, challenges persist in translating these commitments into effective on-the-ground action.

Multilateral Agreements: Kenya's participation in regional and international initiatives such as the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union (AU) provides platforms for collaboration with neighboring countries and global partners to address transboundary wildlife crime. This is a great step towards management of IWT and poaching considering the transboundary nature of natural resources.

Porous Boundaries: Porous borders facilitate the movement of poachers, traffickers, and contraband across international boundaries, undermining law enforcement efforts and enabling illicit wildlife trade networks to operate with impunity. Weak border controls, corruption, and inadequate surveillance infrastructure exacerbate the problem, allowing criminals to exploit gaps in border security and evade detection.

Illegal Harvesting of Plant Species: Illegal harvesting of plant species poses a significant trend that threatens biodiversity and ecosystems in Kenya, exacerbating the challenges of illegal wildlife trade and poaching. While much attention is often focused on the poaching of iconic wildlife species such as elephants and rhinos, illegal logging, habitat destruction, and unsustainable harvesting of plant resources also contribute to environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. The demand for timber, medicinal plants, and other plant products, both domestically and internationally, drives illicit activities that undermine conservation efforts and jeopardize the survival of vulnerable plant species.

Enforcement Laxity: Enforcement laxity poses a significant challenge in addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya, undermining efforts to deter criminal activities and protect wildlife and biodiversity. Weak law enforcement capacities, inadequate resources, corruption, and impunity contribute to a culture of impunity that emboldens poachers, traffickers, and wildlife criminals. Despite legislative frameworks and international commitments to combat wildlife crime, enforcement agencies often face challenges in effectively implementing and enforcing laws due to institutional weaknesses, limited coordination, and insufficient political will.

Policy: Policy frameworks play a crucial role in addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by providing legal and regulatory mechanisms to guide conservation efforts, promote sustainable resource management, and deter illicit activities. However, gaps, inconsistencies, and weaknesses in policy formulation, implementation, and enforcement pose challenges to effective wildlife governance and law enforcement. Limited stakeholder engagement, inadequate consideration of local contexts and community perspectives, and bureaucratic hurdles often hinder the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive policies.

Human-Wildlife Conflict: Human-wildlife conflict exacerbates illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by fueling negative perceptions and retaliatory actions against wildlife, undermining conservation efforts, and increasing the vulnerability

of wildlife populations to poaching and habitat loss. Rapid human population growth, encroachment into wildlife habitats, competition for resources, and climate change contribute to conflicts between people and wildlife, leading to crop damage, livestock predation, and human injuries or fatalities. In response, affected communities may resort to retaliatory killings of problem animals or engage in illegal activities such as poaching to mitigate losses or generate income.

Law Reforms: Law reforms are essential for addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing penalties, and improving enforcement mechanisms to deter wildlife criminals and promote compliance with conservation laws. Despite existing legislation and international commitments to combat wildlife crime, gaps, inconsistencies, and loopholes in the legal framework pose challenges to effective law enforcement and prosecution of offenders. Inadequate penalties, lenient sentencing, and procedural hurdles may undermine the deterrent effect of wildlife laws and perpetuate a culture of impunity among poachers, traffickers, and wildlife criminals.

Access to Benefit Sharing: Access to benefit sharing is a key component of sustainable wildlife management and conservation in Kenya, providing incentives for local communities to engage in conservation efforts, protect wildlife habitats, and mitigate the drivers of illegal wildlife trade and poaching. However, challenges such as inequitable distribution of benefits, lack of transparency, and limited community participation in decision-making processes often hinder the realization of benefit sharing principles and undermine community support for conservation initiatives.

3. Wildlife Economy

Pangolin Commercialization: The trend of pangolin commercialization in Kenya represents a significant challenge in combating illegal wildlife trade and poaching. Pangolins, often referred to as the world's most trafficked mammals, are targeted for their scales, which are used in traditional medicine, and their meat, considered a delicacy in some cultures. Despite international protections and efforts to raise awareness about the plight of pangolins, demand for their body parts persists, driving a clandestine trade that exploits Kenya's pangolin populations. Poaching, trafficking networks, and corruption facilitate the illegal harvesting and smuggling of pangolins, threatening their survival and undermining conservation efforts.

Wildlife Economy: The wildlife economy in Kenya encompasses various sectors such as ecotourism, wildlife-based enterprises, and conservation initiatives, contributing significantly to the country's economy and livelihoods. However, the illegal wildlife trade and poaching pose a threat to the sustainability and integrity of the wildlife economy by undermining conservation efforts, eroding biodiversity, and damaging Kenya's reputation as a premier wildlife destination. Poaching of iconic species such as elephants and rhinos not only jeopardizes their survival but also undermines the tourism industry, which relies on the presence of charismatic wildlife to attract

visitors. Moreover, illegal activities such as trafficking in wildlife products divert resources away from legitimate wildlife-based enterprises and conservation initiatives, depriving local communities of economic opportunities and perpetuating a cycle of poverty and environmental degradation.

4. Livelihood

Increase in Market Demands for Wildlife Products: The trend of increasing market demands for wildlife products poses a significant challenge in combating illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Rising consumer appetites, both domestically and internationally, for wildlife products such as ivory, rhino horn, and exotic pets drive a lucrative underground market that fuels poaching and trafficking activities. Despite global efforts to curb demand through awareness campaigns and regulatory measures, the allure of wildlife products persists among certain segments of society. Moreover, emerging markets and online platforms facilitate the trade of illegal wildlife products, making enforcement efforts more challenging.

High-Value Trophies for Livelihood: The pursuit of high-value trophies for livelihood represents a complex trend in illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. For some individuals, particularly in marginalized communities, wildlife represents a valuable economic resource that can provide essential income and livelihood opportunities. The potential financial gains from poaching and trafficking in iconic species such as elephants and rhinos incentivize individuals to engage in illegal activities despite the associated risks. Moreover, trophy hunting, often marketed as a form of sustainable use, may perpetuate demand for wildlife products and contribute to the commodification of wildlife.

Economic Factors: Economic factors play a significant role in driving illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Poverty, unemployment, and economic inequalities create conditions that compel individuals to resort to illegal activities such as poaching as a means of survival or income generation. In regions where, alternative livelihood options are limited, wildlife may represent a valuable economic asset that is exploited for subsistence or profit. Moreover, economic disparities between source countries with abundant wildlife resources and destination countries with high purchasing power create incentives for illegal trafficking networks to exploit wildlife for financial gain.

Lack of Alternatives for Livelihood: The lack of viable alternatives for livelihood exacerbates the challenges of illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. In rural areas where communities depend on natural resources for their livelihoods, limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities may constrain their ability to pursue alternative income sources. As a result, individuals may turn to poaching as a means of supplementing their incomes or meeting basic needs. Moreover, human-wildlife conflicts and environmental degradation further diminish livelihood options, exacerbating dependency on wildlife resources.

5. Land and Land Use Management

Infrastructure: Kenya's illegal wildlife trade and poaching activities have been influenced by infrastructure development. As roads, railways, and other infrastructure projects expand, they often penetrate wildlife habitats, increasing accessibility to previously remote areas. This facilitates illegal activities such as poaching and trafficking by providing easier transportation routes for wildlife products. Additionally, infrastructure projects can lead to habitat fragmentation, disrupting animal migration patterns and making wildlife more vulnerable to poaching.

Competing Land Use: The trend of illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya is exacerbated by competing land use practices. Rapid population growth and agricultural expansion have encroached upon wildlife habitats, diminishing available space for wildlife populations. This competition for land resources intensifies human-wildlife conflicts and drives poaching as communities struggle to protect their crops and livestock from wildlife. Furthermore, the conversion of natural habitats into agricultural land reduces the suitable habitat for wildlife, forcing animals into smaller areas where they are more susceptible to poaching.

Urbanization and Subdivision: As urban areas expand and rural landscapes are subdivided for housing and development, wildlife habitats are increasingly fragmented and degraded. This fragmentation disrupts ecological balances and creates opportunities for poachers to exploit vulnerable species in isolated pockets of habitat. Moreover, urbanization can drive demand for wildlife products such as exotic pets, traditional medicines, and bushmeat, fueling illegal trade networks and incentivizing poaching activities.

6. Globalization

Foreigners' Demand for Wildlife Products in Kenya: The trend of foreigners' demand for wildlife products in Kenya exacerbates illegal wildlife trade and poaching by creating lucrative markets for prohibited items such as ivory, rhino horn, and exotic pets. Tourists and visitors from around the world, attracted by Kenya's rich biodiversity and iconic wildlife species, often contribute to this demand through the purchase of souvenirs, traditional medicines, and wildlife trophies. Despite international regulations and awareness campaigns, the allure of exotic wildlife products persists among some foreign consumers, driving a clandestine trade that exploits Kenya's natural heritage.

Foreign Influence on Locals Hence Demand for Wildlife Products: Foreign influence on locals in Kenya plays a significant role in driving the demand for wildlife products, contributing to illegal wildlife trade and poaching. Economic disparities, cultural exchange, and globalization have led to the adoption of foreign lifestyles, preferences, and consumption patterns among some segments of the Kenyan

population. This influence, coupled with poverty, limited economic opportunities, and lack of awareness about wildlife conservation, fuels a demand for wildlife products among certain local communities. Moreover, the involvement of foreign criminal syndicates in wildlife trafficking networks, often in collusion with local actors, perpetuates the cycle of illegal trade by exploiting vulnerable populations and undermining law enforcement efforts.

7. Governance

Inadequate Governance: Inadequate governance contributes significantly to the persistence of illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Weak governance structures, corruption, and institutional inefficiencies undermine efforts to enforce wildlife protection laws and regulate trade. Limited resources, capacity gaps, and insufficient coordination among government agencies further exacerbate the problem, allowing poachers and traffickers to operate with impunity. Moreover, lack of transparency and accountability in decision-making processes often erode public trust and confidence in wildlife management authorities, hindering collaborative efforts to address illegal activities.

Non-Implementation Strategies: The trend of non-implementation of strategies presents a significant challenge in addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Despite the existence of well-intentioned policies, action plans, and conservation strategies, many initiatives suffer from poor implementation due to various factors such as inadequate funding, limited political will, and competing priorities. As a result, critical interventions to combat wildlife crime, such as enforcement actions, community engagement programs, and habitat protection measures, may fall short of achieving their intended outcomes.

Conflicting Mandates of Institutions: Conflicting mandates among institutions involved in wildlife management and conservation exacerbate challenges in addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Overlapping jurisdictions, unclear roles and responsibilities, and institutional rivalries often hinder coordination and collaboration among government agencies, leading to gaps in law enforcement, information sharing, and policy implementation. Moreover, institutional fragmentation may result in conflicting priorities and strategies, undermining the coherence and effectiveness of efforts to combat wildlife crime.

Global Reputation which is Pro-Protection: Kenya's global reputation as a pro-protection advocate for wildlife conservation presents both opportunities and challenges in combating illegal wildlife trade and poaching. The country's commitment to wildlife protection and its prominent role in international conservation initiatives have earned it recognition and support from the global community. However, this reputation also attracts increased scrutiny and pressure to demonstrate leadership in combating wildlife crime and upholding conservation

principles. As a result, Kenya faces heightened expectations to implement robust enforcement measures, strengthen legal frameworks, and address governance challenges to maintain its reputation as a conservation leader.

Political Stability: Political stability plays a crucial role in addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by providing an enabling environment for effective governance, law enforcement, and conservation efforts. However, periods of political instability, unrest, or transition may undermine wildlife protection efforts, disrupt law enforcement operations, and exacerbate governance challenges. Political instability can create opportunities for criminal networks to exploit weaknesses in governance structures, evade prosecution, and escalate illegal activities. Conversely, political stability fosters continuity in policy implementation, enhances institutional capacities, and promotes long-term planning and investment in wildlife conservation.

Insecurity: Insecurity poses a significant challenge to efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by creating conditions conducive to criminal activities, undermining law enforcement efforts, and threatening the safety of conservation personnel and local communities. In regions affected by conflict, civil unrest, or insecurity, poaching syndicates may exploit instability to operate with impunity, smuggle wildlife products across borders, and engage in other illicit activities. Moreover, insecurity may deter investments in conservation, disrupt tourism revenues, and undermine community-based conservation initiatives, exacerbating poverty and environmental degradation.

Unclear Value of Wildlife: The unclear value of wildlife presents a challenge in combating illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by undermining incentives for conservation and sustainable resource management. While wildlife holds intrinsic value for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity, its economic value may be underappreciated or undervalued, particularly in regions where alternative livelihood options are limited. In such contexts, local communities may perceive wildlife as a source of competition for resources or view poaching as a means of generating income or mitigating human-wildlife conflicts.

8. Financing

Global Financing Flows: While international funding streams provide crucial support for conservation initiatives, they also present challenges related to accountability, sustainability, and dependency. Kenya relies on financial assistance from international donors, multilateral organizations, and conservation NGOs to implement anti-poaching measures, support wildlife conservation programs, and strengthen law enforcement capacities. However, fluctuations in funding availability, shifting donor priorities, and bureaucratic processes may disrupt funding flows and hinder the continuity of conservation efforts. Moreover,

dependence on external financing may limit Kenya's autonomy in setting conservation agendas and priorities, potentially undermining national ownership and sustainability of conservation initiatives.

Depending on Aids for Program Financing: While international assistance provides critical support for conservation initiatives, reliance on external funding sources may lead to challenges such as donor-driven agendas, unpredictable funding streams, and limited local ownership and sustainability of conservation programs. Additionally, bureaucratic processes, conditionalities, and reporting requirements associated with aid may divert resources and attention away from frontline conservation efforts. Furthermore, fluctuations in donor priorities and funding allocations can undermine the continuity and effectiveness of conservation programs, leaving gaps in anti-poaching measures and wildlife protection efforts.

Low Returns from Conservation: While conservation efforts generate various benefits such as biodiversity preservation, ecosystem services, and cultural heritage conservation, the economic returns from wildlife-based activities may not always be sufficient to cover conservation costs or provide meaningful livelihood opportunities for local communities. Limited market access, inadequate infrastructure, and regulatory constraints may constrain the development of wildlife-based enterprises and ecotourism initiatives, limiting their potential to generate revenue and contribute to poverty alleviation. Moreover, the economic value of wildlife may be undervalued or overlooked in national development agendas, leading to underinvestment in conservation and wildlife management.

9. Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships

Transboundary Partnerships: Transboundary partnerships play a crucial role in addressing illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya by fostering collaboration and information sharing among neighboring countries. Recognizing that wildlife crime often transcends national borders, Kenya engages in partnerships with neighboring countries and regional organizations to coordinate efforts, share intelligence, and implement joint enforcement actions. These partnerships enable cross-border cooperation in addressing poaching hotspots, disrupting trafficking routes, and apprehending wildlife criminals.

Conflict on Transboundary: Despite the potential benefits of transboundary partnerships, conflicts among neighboring countries pose challenges to coordinated efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and poaching in Kenya. Disputes over resource management, jurisdictional issues, and differing conservation priorities may hinder cooperation and information sharing among countries sharing wildlife populations and habitats. Moreover, political tensions, historical grievances, and competing interests may exacerbate conflicts and undermine trust and collaboration in addressing wildlife crime. Such conflicts can create vulnerabilities that poachers and

traffickers exploit, leading to increased illicit activities and wildlife exploitation along transboundary areas.

10. Emerging Issues

Climate change: significantly influences illegal wildlife trade and poaching trends in Kenya, posing multifaceted challenges to conservation efforts. As temperatures rise and weather patterns become more unpredictable, wildlife habitats face increasing pressure, leading to habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation. These changes disrupt ecosystems and alter the distribution and behavior of wildlife species, making them more vulnerable to exploitation by poachers. Moreover, climate-induced shifts in vegetation and water availability can exacerbate human-wildlife conflicts as animals encroach into human settlements in search of resources. Additionally, climate change may amplify socio-economic vulnerabilities, driving marginalized communities to engage in illegal activities such as poaching as a means of coping with environmental stresses and economic hardships.

2.4.1 Key Trends' Milestones "Prouds" and Challenges "Sorries"

During the future search workshop, participants reflected on the current state of IWT and the persistent issue of poaching, expressing both pride and regret in various aspects. They took pride in the collaborative efforts and progress made in recent years to combat IWT and poaching through international agreements, conservation initiatives, and community engagement. However, alongside this pride, there was a profound sense of regret regarding the continued challenges and gaps in enforcement, which enable the illegal wildlife trade to persist. Table 1 below are the identified milestones 'prouds' and the things we are doing wrong or not doing and that we are "sorry" about the trend.

Table 1: Key trends milestone "prouds" and challenges "sorries"

Milestones "Prouds"	Challenges "Sorries"
1. Financing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Tapping into global financing baskets such as GEF and GCFs.❖ Ratification of treaties to attract global channel finances.❖ Internal revenue generation by Agencies.❖ Leveraging existing financing mechanisms/systems like PFMA, 2013.❖ Government's strategic positioning in emerging global financial flows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Wildlife receives lower priority in revenue allocation.❖ Lack of clear benefit-sharing strategy.❖ Limited resources allocated to establish financial flow frameworks.❖ Low community engagement and awareness of existing financial mechanisms.❖ Influence of vested interests by individuals and authorities.

Milestones “Prouds”	Challenges “Sorries”
2. Collaboration and Strategic Partnership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hosting international bodies/institutions and established development partners. ❖ Physical presence of partners in communities. ❖ Streamlining resource mobilization through existing frameworks. ❖ Donor confidence and long-term commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Duplication of efforts among partners. ❖ Unhealthy partner competition. ❖ Inefficient funds flow mechanisms to counties. ❖ Lack of harmonization in local governance structures for natural resource management. ❖ Fixed partner interests not aligned with county plans. ❖ Instances of corruption.
3. Capacity Strengthening	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Presence of skilled human resources. ❖ Existence of supportive laws. ❖ Increasing governance capacity among conservancies. ❖ Rise in landscape association. ❖ Growing donor support for conservation. ❖ Increase in ranger numbers through community scouts. ❖ Numerous natural resources under county management. ❖ Strong capacity of KWS in park and sanctuary management. ❖ Compensation programs in place. ❖ Active community involvement in public participation. ❖ Rising community awareness of human rights and FPIC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Poor implementation of existing laws. ❖ Underutilization of skilled personnel. ❖ Weak management capacity. ❖ Majority of local authorities at nascent stages. ❖ Inadequate support for ranger training, equipment, and welfare. ❖ Slow bureaucracy in conservation registration. ❖ Limited extension services to conservancies compared to agriculture. ❖ Delayed ranger recruitment by KWS. ❖ Weak county capacity in reserve management. ❖ Exclusion of counties in wildlife legislation. ❖ Accumulation of pending claims.
4. Change of Land Use	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ndung'u Land Report (2003). ❖ Land use policy. ❖ National and County Spatial Plans/Land Use Plans. ❖ Urban and development plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Failure to implement the Ndung'u report. ❖ Delay in launching the National Spatial Plan. ❖ Uncontrolled development. ❖ Infrastructure development prioritized over wildlife conservation. ❖ Weak enforcement against encroachment on protected areas.

Milestones “Prouds”	Challenges “Sorries”
5. Policy and Legal Frameworks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wildlife Act, 2013. ❖ Forest Act 2016. ❖ EMCA 1999. ❖ Climate Change Act. ❖ Water Act 2016. ❖ Fisheries Act 2020. ❖ Wildlife Policy 2020. ❖ International conventions like CITES, Ramsar, CBD, and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Policy conflicts. ❖ Lack of policy harmonization. ❖ Need for stakeholder coordination in wildlife conservation.
6. Governance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ State Department of Wildlife. ❖ Key institutions like KWS, WRTI, KFS, KEMFRI, NLC, and Conservation Trust Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Overlapping mandates. ❖ Limited capacity in enforcement and funding. ❖ Inadequate supervision over private conservancies.
7. Wildlife Economy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Growth in tourism. ❖ Recognition of wildlife use rights. ❖ Effective tourism marketing. ❖ Favorable carbon regulations. ❖ Expansion of small-scale wildlife markets. ❖ Increase in fundraising events for wildlife conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lack of valuation of wildlife economy. ❖ Absence of regulations to promote user rights. ❖ Inadequate capacity to benefit from the wildlife economy. ❖ Uneven distribution of tourism destinations. ❖ Poor marketing of cultural and other destinations. ❖ Lack of clear frameworks for live animal trade and carbon income.
8. Livelihood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Direct and indirect income from conservancies. ❖ High community awareness of conservation benefits. ❖ Establishment of conservancies. ❖ Adoption of carbon credit schemes. ❖ Samburu County conservancies' funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Low household income from conservancies. ❖ Failure to diversify income sources. ❖ Lack of benefit-sharing between protected areas and adjacent communities. ❖ Donor dependency. ❖ Insufficient allocation for community development. ❖ Elite capture of benefits. ❖ Exclusion of women and youth from benefit-sharing schemes.

2.5 Lessons learnt and Insights in Combating Poaching and IWT

- ◆ **Emphasis on Species Conservation through Comprehensive Plans and Actions:** They underscored the necessity of implementing robust conservation plans and actions to safeguard wildlife species. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of clear signages to guide conservation efforts effectively.
- ◆ **Advocacy for Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife Resources:** Recognizing the economic potential of wildlife, they emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable practices in utilizing wildlife resources. Examples such as butterfly export exhibitions demonstrated the viability of wildlife utilization while ensuring long-term ecological balance.
- ◆ **Call for Research on Wildlife Habitat and Threats:** They stressed the critical need for research focused on understanding wildlife habitats and threats. By gaining insights into the ecosystems and factors impacting wildlife, informed conservation strategies can be developed and implemented.
- ◆ **Acknowledgment of Personal Contributions to Wildlife Conservation:** Each member acknowledged their role as personal contributors to wildlife conservation efforts. This recognition highlights the collective responsibility and individual commitment to protecting biodiversity.
- ◆ **Importance of Awareness Creation through Outreach Activities:** They highlighted the significance of outreach activities such as ivory turning and public events in raising awareness about wildlife conservation issues. These initiatives aim to educate and engage the public in conservation efforts.
- ◆ **Establishment of Wildlife Conservation Kenya (WCK):** The establishment of WCK represented a proactive step towards enhancing wildlife conservation efforts. This organization likely played a crucial role in coordinating conservation initiatives and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.
- ◆ **Advocacy for Early Age Awareness and Sensitization:** They emphasized the importance of starting conservation awareness and education at an early age. By instilling environmental consciousness in children, future generations can become stewards of wildlife and nature.
- ◆ **Promotion of Community Awareness and Engagement:** Recognizing the significance of community involvement, they advocated for initiatives promoting coexistence between communities and wildlife. Engaging local communities in conservation activities fosters mutual understanding and support for wildlife conservation efforts.
- ◆ **Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and Community Perception:** They highlighted the need to address human-wildlife conflict issues and community perceptions. By mitigating conflicts and fostering positive attitudes towards wildlife, sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife can be achieved.

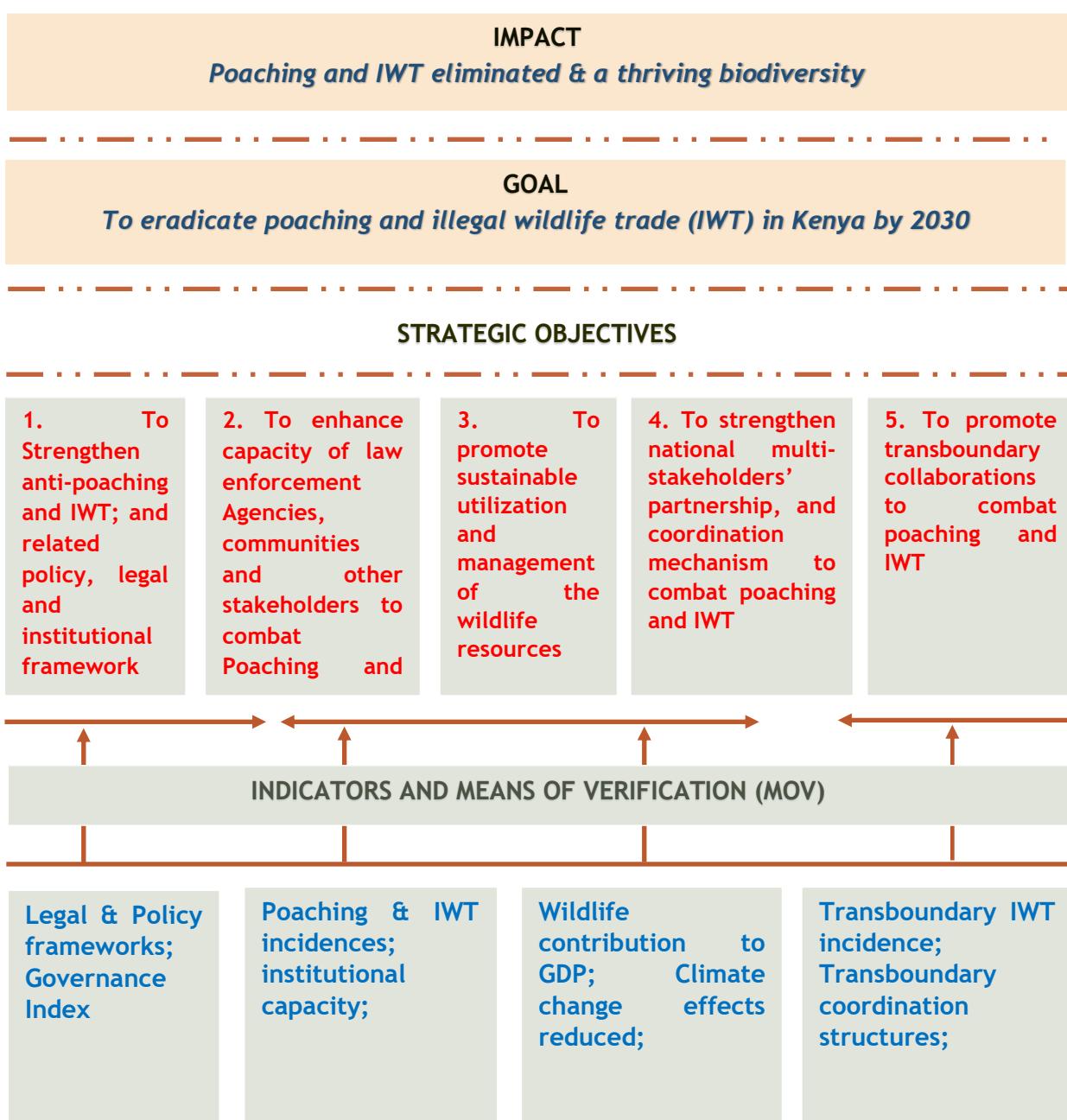
- ◆ **Institutional Development and Formulation:** They emphasized the importance of institutional development in addressing wildlife crime. Establishing effective institutions and frameworks is essential for coordinating conservation efforts and implementing anti-poaching strategies.
- ◆ **Development of Policies, Legislation, and Regulations:** The group highlighted the significance of developing comprehensive policies, legislation, and regulations for wildlife conservation. Strong legal frameworks are crucial for deterring wildlife crime and protecting endangered species.
- ◆ **Community Engagement and Participation:** Recognizing the role of local communities in conservation, they stressed the need for community engagement and participation. Involving communities in conservation initiatives fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards wildlife protection.
- ◆ **Establishment of Wildlife Corridors:** They acknowledged the importance of establishing wildlife corridors to facilitate the movement of animals and maintain genetic diversity. Wildlife corridors help mitigate habitat fragmentation and promote the long-term survival of wildlife populations.
- ◆ **Law Review and Reform:** The group advocated for regular review and reform of wildlife laws to address emerging challenges. Updating legislation ensures that conservation efforts remain relevant and effective in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
- ◆ **Active Participation of High Officials and Presidents:** They highlighted the significance of high-level involvement in wildlife conservation efforts. The active participation of heads of state and high officials demonstrates political commitment and prioritization of wildlife protection.
- ◆ **Improved Awareness of IWT and Forest Crimes:** The group emphasized the importance of raising awareness about the negative impacts of illegal wildlife trade and forest crimes. Increased awareness helps mobilize public support and encourages action against wildlife crime.
- ◆ **Innovations and Technology Modernization:** Utilizing forensic techniques and modernizing law enforcement technology enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of anti-poaching efforts.
- ◆ **Significance of the Wildlife Act 2013:** They highlighted key provisions of the Wildlife Act 2013, which includes community involvement in wildlife conflict resolution and protection. Additionally, the act focuses on protecting endangered species and provides mechanisms for compensating communities affected by human-wildlife conflict.
- ◆ **Global Strategies on Conservation:** They emphasized the importance of global conservation strategies such as the CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (RAMSA), and the IUCN Red List.

- ◆ **Global Financing Mechanisms:** The group highlighted global financing mechanisms such as the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as essential tools for supporting conservation initiatives worldwide. Adequate funding is crucial for implementing conservation projects and addressing the root causes of wildlife crime.
- ◆ **Improved Global Collaboration:** They emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration among countries and international organizations. Initiatives such as the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), Mutual Legal Assistance (MLAs), and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) facilitate cooperation in combating wildlife crime and strengthening law enforcement efforts globally.
- ◆ **Innovation in Investigation and Prosecution Techniques:** The group recognized the importance of innovation in investigation and prosecution techniques to combat wildlife crime effectively. Organizations like Interpol, Traffic, and the UNODC play a crucial role in developing and implementing strategies to disrupt illegal wildlife trade networks.
- ◆ **Global Market Reduction Efforts:** They noted efforts to reduce global demand for illegal wildlife products as a key strategy in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade. By addressing consumer behavior and reducing market demand, it becomes possible to undermine the profitability of wildlife trafficking networks.
- ◆ **Role of CITES in Global Conservation:** They highlighted the significant role of CITES in global conservation efforts. CITES facilitates the formulation of laws regulating trade in endangered species, supports the establishment of national conservation institutions like KWS, and maintains a global list of endangered species to guide conservation priorities worldwide.

CHAPTER THREE: STRATEGY GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Drawing from diverse perspectives on addressing the perennial challenge of poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) from the Kenya context, the need for a shared goal to actualize a desirable future, envisaging scenarios of positive transformation and impactful change is both critical and urgent. These envisioned success stories serve as beacons guiding strategic ambitions and action planning through collective efforts towards realizing shared aspirations and commitment to shaping a future that reflects true values, aspirations and collective potential.

Figure 11: Strategy Conceptual Framework



3.1 Strategy Goal

To eradicate poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Kenya by 2030

3.2 Strategy Objectives

The specific objectives are to;

1. strengthen anti-poaching and IWT and related policy, legal and institutional framework
2. enhance capacity of law enforcement Agencies, communities and other stakeholders to combat poaching and IWT
3. promote sustainable utilization and management of wildlife resources
4. To strengthen national multi-stakeholders' partnership and coordination mechanisms to combat poaching and IWT
5. To promote transboundary collaborations to combat poaching and IWT

3.3 Key Result Areas, Issues, Objectives and Strategies

Table 2: Key Result Areas, Objectives and Strategies

Key Result Areas	Issues	Objectives	Strategies	Key Activity
Policy, Legal and Institutional framework	Policy, legal and institutional fragmentation	To strengthen anti-poaching and IWT; and Related Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks	Develop, review, harmonize and implement integrated policies, laws and institutional frameworks on combating poaching and IWT	Collate, Develop /review, harmonize and implement policies and legislations on poaching and IWT
	Inadequate policies and legislations on poaching and IWT			Develop a harmonization framework on policies and legislations on poaching and IWT
	Poor implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies			Undertake periodic monitoring and evaluation for enforcement and compliance
	Incoherent policies, laws and regulations			Periodic review of existing policies and legislations on poaching and IWT

Key Result Areas	Issues	Objectives	Strategies	Key Activity
	<p>on poaching and IWT across jurisdictions</p> <p>◆ Inadequate policy and legislative capacity of agencies</p>			<p>Domesticate and implement transboundary strategies, policies, laws and treaties including MEAs</p>
			<p>Enhance policy and legislative capacity for Agencies responsible for Combating poaching and IWT</p>	<p>Support Capacity building of existing policies and legislations for national and county governments, agencies and communities</p>
				<p>Support Development of policies and legislations to county governments and communities</p>
				<p>Develop and implement institutional collaboration and coordination framework on (policy, legal and institutional engagement framework)</p>
Institutional Capacity Strengthening	<p>◆ Inadequate national, county, citizens and private sector capacity to combat poaching and IWT</p> <p>◆ Weak governance for combating poaching and IWT</p> <p>◆ Inadequate and incoherent data collection, sharing and use on poaching and IWT</p>	<p>To enhance the capacity of law enforcement Agencies, communities, and other stakeholders to combat poaching and IWT</p>	<p>Enhance capacity of wildlife related institutions and other stakeholders in combating poaching and IWT</p>	<p>Conduct capacity gaps and needs assessment for agencies directly involved in combating poaching and IWT</p>
				<p>Develop community knowledge through awareness creation to conserve and manage wildlife resources</p>
				<p>Develop and execute governance framework</p>
				<p>Embrace use of technological advancements in combating poaching and IWT</p>
	<p>◆ Low adoption of technological advancement to</p>		<p>Modernize, expand and upskill security and law enforcement agencies to</p>	<p>Conduct comprehensive trainings to upskill security personnel on emerging challenges in</p>

Key Result Areas	Issues	Objectives	Strategies	Key Activity
	combat poaching and IWT ◆ Operations on combating poaching and IWT in Kenya require sustainable financing IWT		detect, deter and prosecute crimes on poaching and IWT	combating poaching and IWT
				Adopt and procure advanced equipment and technology for real-time responses, patrols and surveillance to combat poaching and IWT activities
		Enhance data capture, management and sharing		Develop and operationalize mechanism for data capture, management, sharing, use and knowledge management
		Enhance resource mobilization and strategy financing		Develop and implement a robust financing strategy and models for resource mobilization
				Incentivizing innovative business models to increase revenue for conservation and combating of IWT
Wildlife Economy and Management	◆ Under-valued, under exploited, under-utilized and poorly managed wildlife resources ◆ Consistently low contribution of wildlife economy to National GDP ◆ Impoverished communities inhabiting within wildlife areas	To promote wildlife economy and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources	Promote valuation of wildlife resources - ecosystem services approach	Carry out economic valuation of Wildlife Resources for National Accounting (GDP)
	Promote diversification of the wildlife enterprises and economy			
	Enhance regulations on access to a variety of wildlife user rights to ensure strong, established and well-regulated markets (utilization)			

Key Result Areas	Issues	Objectives	Strategies	Key Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Need for harmonious coexistence with wildlife to enhance Communal ownership and value of Wildlife resources ◆ Need to ensure benefits from wildlife are favorable compared with other competing land use and is equitably shared encouraging local stewardship ◆ Lack of incentives to local communities to protect wildlife and ensure harmonious co-existence with wildlife ◆ Need for direct and indirect sustainable utilization of Wildlife Resources ◆ Poor land and land use management 		<p>Enhance access to benefits and incentives to variety of wildlife use rights</p>	<p>Create stakeholder awareness creation and sensitization</p> <p>Strengthen incentives to local communities to protect wildlife (Income from wildlife conservation represent a significant contribution to household income for communities living with wildlife)</p> <p>Develop and implement equitable and robust benefits sharing mechanism between the government (national and county) and local community.</p> <p>Develop framework for sustainable consumptive utilization of Wildlife Resources</p> <p>Promote inclusion of women, youth and PWDs in all levels of benefit sharing and decision making.</p>
			<p>Promote diversification of wildlife enterprises and economy</p>	<p>Map and implement non-wildlife nature based economic activities within Wildlife conservation areas</p> <p>Explore public private partnership to enhance investment in Wildlife Resources</p> <p>Develop conservation-based tourism recognition as a unique destination brand alignment with tourism circuit</p> <p>Explore Market based systems to support</p>

Key Result Areas	Issues	Objectives	Strategies	Key Activity
				<p>Wildlife conservation such as carbon credit</p> <p>Local communities and private sector involvement in anti-poaching and IWT prevention, monitoring and enforcement</p>
			Improve management of Wildlife conservation areas.	<p>Create sensitization and awareness of benefits for Wildlife conservation</p> <p>Enhance sustainable land use for wildlife conservation</p> <p>Ensure land designated for wildlife conservation is secured and productive</p> <p>Map, protect, conserve and secure land meant for Wildlife conservation and Corridors</p>
			Adopt climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Wildlife conservation areas.	Restoration of wildlife habitats and reduction of GHG emission
			Promote Research and development in Wildlife Resources	
Collaboration and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inadequate coordination among stakeholders-local communities public and private sector partners in anti- 	To strengthen national multi-stakeholders' partnership and coordination mechanisms to combat poaching and IWT	<p>Strengthen national multi-agency coordination mechanism</p> <p>Expand participation of conservation stakeholders in</p>	<p>collaboration among national and county law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife and forest crime</p> <p>Align development partner support with national IWT priorities</p>

Key Result Areas	Issues	Objectives	Strategies	Key Activity
	<p>poaching and IWT monitoring, prevention and enforcement.</p> <p>Weak transboundary and international cooperation to combat poaching and IWT</p>		<p>IWT enforcement</p>	<p>Build grassroots networks to monitor illegal wildlife use</p> <p>Support community conservancies rangers for local informants</p>
			<p>Institutionalize collaboration frameworks for efficient resource mobilisation and knowledge sharing</p>	<p>Establish a national resource mobilisation framework for IWT</p> <p>Setup IWT knowledge and evidence sharing platform linking counties, academia and enforcement agencies</p> <p>Establish IWT innovation and technology challenge with the support of non-state actors</p>
		<p>To promote transboundary collaboration to combat poaching and IWT</p>	<p>Enhance trans-boundary collaboration for joint operations and intelligence sharing</p>	<p>Develop and implement transboundary stakeholder collaboration and coordination framework</p> <p>Enhance investigation and prosecution of transnational organized crimes</p>
			<p>Operationalize relevant MEAs</p>	<p>Awareness creation amongst judicial and prosecutorial officers on MEAs obligations</p> <p>Conduct periodic MEAs progress reviews with lead agencies to strengthen operationalization</p>

CHAPTER FOUR: STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENT

4.1 Overview

This chapter highlights how the strategy will be implemented through the operationalization of the implementation plan and Coordination Framework. It also highlights the principles of risk analysis and mitigation measures through Risk management framework.

4.2 Implementation Plan

This strategy will be implemented through an elaborate work plan. The work plan shall provide detailed strategic objectives of each key result areas with well-defined strategic goals, actions/activities, key indicators, annual targets and annual budgets and responsibility for execution of the activities. The State Department for Wildlife will serve as the lead agency for the development of a national implementation plan. Each respective implementing agency will then develop their work plans with clear timelines and budgets to implement the strategy.

4.2. Coordination framework

4.2.1 Responsible Institutions

Policy Steering Committee

The strategy will be implemented through a multi-stakeholder approach with the Ministry of tourism and wildlife through State Department for Wildlife being the focal point. The lined MDAs will also form part of the Ministerial policy steering committee during the strategy implementation for example MoECC&F, Ministry of Internal Security, Ministry of Land, Ministry of transport, Ministry Trade and Industry, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Mining Blue Economy and Fisheries and CoG etc.

Project Implementation Committee

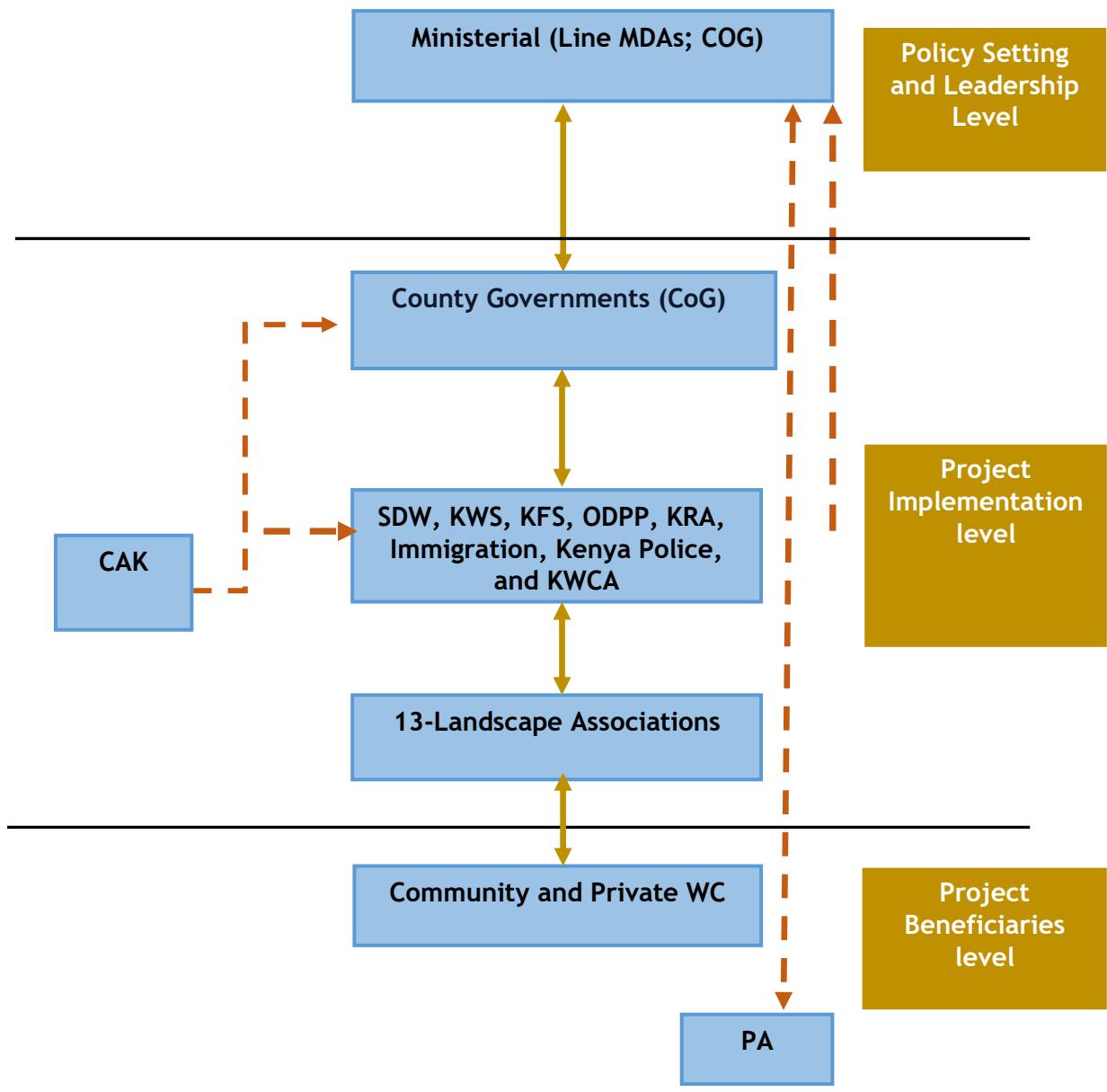
This will be coordinated through Stakeholder mapping and development of a stakeholder forum which encompasses all stakeholder within the Wildlife Conservation sphere such as; Respective County Governments, KWCA, CAK and the 13 established Landscape Associations. Development partners also will play a key role in the implementation and tracking of the Strategy results.

Project beneficiaries

The beneficiary of the full implementation of the strategy shall be wildlife security agencies, community and private conservancies as well as the Protected Areas (PA).

4.2.2 Strategy Coordination Structure

Figure 12: Strategy Co-ordination Structure



4.4 Risk Management Framework

Table 3: Strategy risk matrix

Risks	Risk Likelihood (L/M/H)	Severity (L/M/H)	Overall Risk Levels (L/M/H)	Mitigation Measure(s)
Political goodwill	M	H	M	Well formulated policies
Resettling the affected populations who have encroached conservation areas	L	H	M	Proper land use planning and other related plans
Suspicion and resistance to change	L	L	L	Awareness creation, Civic education and capacity building
Financing	H	H	H	Well-structured and realistic resource mobilization strategy
Stakeholder collaboration	L	M	M	Identification of common interest
Partnership and collaboration	L	M	M	Mapping of all stakeholder in conservation
Acquisition of modern equipment	H	M	M	Advancing with current technology
Effective management of competition, Heightened competing interest	H	H	H	Formulation Clear institutional roles
Conflicting external and internal Polies laws and legislation (e.g., Benefit sharing)	H	H	H	Harmonization of local, national and regional policies and other legislations
Natural calamities brought with Climate Change	M	M	M	Adaptation and mitigation, awareness creation, advisory and early warning systems established

CHAPTER FIVE: STRATEGY FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

This chapter highlights the financial resource requirement, resource gaps, resource mobilization strategies and resource management strategies for effective Strategy execution.

5.1 Financial Requirements

Table 4: Financial Requirement

#	Item Name	Specific financial slots	Source	Matching sources	Total Amount (KES) '000'
1	Project Visibility Stage	Workshop costing	National & County Governments	Other conservation Partners through PFP, Nature Bond, KRRE; Transboundary funding i.e SOKNOT	20,000
2	Project Planning	Training & capacity costing	National & County Governments	Other conservation Partners through PFP, Nature Bond, KRRE; Transboundary funding i.e SOKNOT	50,000
3	Project Implementation	Workshop costing Training & capacity costing Equipping costing	National & County Governments	Other conservation Partners through PFP, Nature Bond, KRRE; Transboundary funding i.e SOKNOT	100,000
4	Project M&E Stage	Monitoring costing	National & County Governments	Other conservation Partners through PFP, Nature Bond, KRRE; Transboundary funding i.e SOKNOT	50,000

5.2 Resource Gaps

Table 5: Resource gaps and mobilization strategies

#	Current sources	Identified Gaps	Projected Solutions
1	National & County Governments	Insufficient & Inconsistent Funding; Funding Prioritization;	Budgetary increase & allocation; Regular Fundraising; Budget reallocation
2	International Conservation Partners Donation	Insufficient & Inconsistent Funding; Fragmented funding avenues; Restricted Funding	Regular Fundraising; divergent proposal on Unrestricted funding
3	Internal Revenues	Insufficient & Inconsistent; Funding Prioritization	Budgetary increase & allocation; Regular Fundraising; Budget reallocation
4	Well wishers	Unreliable funding	Budgetary increase & allocation; Regular Fundraising;

5.3 Resource Mobilization strategies

5.3.1 Government Financing

This Strategy being coordinated by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, through the State Department for Wildlife, the Ministry will effectively bid for allocation of more resources through the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Budgets, focusing on priority areas of the strategy. In addition, it will explore opportunities for generating A-In-A, exchequer for the existing programmes, implement cost reduction to improve its financial status.

The State Department will also engage key stakeholders such as the County Government to influence County allocation through *matching funds* strategy towards implementation of the strategy. The SDW shall also engage the County Govt of Narok through the *One Mara Brand* resource mobilization Strategy to access resources on that specific landscape and other landscape strategies available.

5.3.2 Public Private Partnerships

The State Department for Wildlife will seek Public Private Partnerships to undertake the implementation of the various strategic outcomes.

5.3.3 Development Partners

The State Department through its existing resource mobilization mechanism on socio- economic development and investment opportunities for donor funding. This is done in collaboration Government Agencies and of the Development Partners

which includes; World Bank, KFW, KIDDP, KOICA, UNEP, UNDP, AfDB, DANIDA, GIZ, JICA, UNESCO, SIDA, USAID and UNICEF among others.

5.3.4 Other Resources

The other available resource opportunities that the State department for wildlife will explore include: the partnerships with other government departments and agencies, Public Private Partnerships, Development Partners and other sources such as CAK, KWCA, Foundations among others.

5.3 Resource management

The following measures will be put in place to ensure prudent and efficient utilization of resources;

- △ Minimization of duplication of strategic activities among partners and key stakeholders.
- △ Ensure quarterly, bi-annual and annual monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects and submission of quarterly Expenditure Budget reports to the respective institutions.
- △ Ensure that all payments to the Government are digitized in line with Government's Digital Finance Flagship Projects and as part of the PFMRs reforms.
- △ The Ministry will endeavor to centralize common services

CHAPTER SIX: STRATEGY MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND LEARNING

6.1 Rationale for Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and learning is a critical component for successful implementation of this Strategy. It is through M&E that the State Department for Wildlife will make evidence-based decisions and gauge the extent of achievement of intended results. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will involve tracking inputs, activities, processes, outputs and the ultimate outcomes of the overall strategy. This will ensure prudent use of resources as planned within the implementation matrix projections, annual work plans, Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), and ensure timely implementation of activities to realize the stated objectives. Mid-term and end-term evaluation and review will be carried out to measure relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability and impact of this Strategy in addressing Poaching & Illegal Wildlife Trade.

6.2 Institutional Arrangement

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Strategy. The Strategy will be implemented by SDW, KWS, WRTI, other MDAs, County Governments in partnership and collaboration with other relevant stakeholders including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and development partners. Considering the complexities of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, the National Government will endeavor to engage regional neighbors, international organizations and development partners involved in combatting poaching and illegal wildlife trade through technical working groups and technical committees.

The overall goal of the Strategy is to eradicate poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Kenya by 2030. To achieve this intended goal, the Strategy will be executed through a multi-sectoral approach. This execution will necessitate coordinated efforts, a robust framework for enforcement and compliance, along with the essential technical and legal tools.

6.3 Evaluation and Reporting

The State Department for Wildlife under the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife will be responsible for undertaking monitoring, evaluation and reporting of this Strategy. The Strategy will be implemented through annual implementation or action plans and will undergo a periodic review after which a final evaluation of the Strategy will be done at the end of the implementation period.

6.3.1 Evaluation mechanism

Three major evaluation activities will be undertaken:

1. **Mid-Term Evaluation:** will examine the progress towards achieving the set targets and will be undertaken two years into the implementation of the poaching and IWT strategy. The findings of Mid-term evaluation will help in making improvements to the Strategy implementation process.
2. **An adhoc Evaluation:** will be done to inform decision-making and implementation in the event of emerging issues, significant challenges and unexplained variance between the planned and achieved performance targets.
3. **End-term Evaluation** will be undertaken at the end of the Strategy implementation period to ascertain the level of achievement and help in designing future activities.

6.3.2 Reporting mechanisms

1. Developing and implementation of annual action plans and execution of the performance contract targets;
2. The Ministry to undertake monitor the implementation of the strategy by holding annual and regular review meetings; and
3. The Ministry to receive progress reports from all the implementing agencies and non-state actors.
4. Sustainable Monitoring and Evaluation will be integrated by building the capacity of local communities to monitor and report on poaching and illegal wildlife trade beyond the timelines of this Strategy to ensure sustainability on combating poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade.

6.4 Adaptive Learning

This will involve policy makers and wildlife managers learning from interventions and actions to modifying future actions based on the insights gained from learning. This strategy will be beneficial when addressing intricate challenges such as poaching and illegal wildlife trade and when there is uncertainty about the impact of various management actions on habitats and wildlife in entirety.

Annex 1: Strategy Implementation Matrix

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
To strengthen anti-poaching and IWT; and Related Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks	Develop, review, harmonize and implement integrated policies, laws and institutional frameworks on combating poaching and IWT	Collate, Develop /review, harmonize and implement policies and legislations on poaching and IWT	Coherent and Harmonized framework	Reduced Percentage of cases of poaching and IWT Number of harmonized policies	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	State Department for Wildlife
		Develop a harmonization framework on policies and legislations on poaching and IWT								
		Undertake periodic monitoring and evaluation for compliance and enforcement on poaching and IWT	Monitoring and Evaluation reports on poaching and IWT	number of Monitoring and Evaluation reports for enforcement and compliance on poaching and IWT	1	1	1	1	1	Kenya Wildlife Service
		Domesticate and implement transboundary strategies, policies, and treaties including MEAs	Domesticated transboundary strategies, policies and treaties including MEAs	Number of implementation status reports	-	1	-	1	-	SDW/KWS

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Strategic Objective 1: To enhance policy and legislative capacity for combatting poaching and IWT	Strategy 1: To enhance policy and legislative capacity for combatting poaching and IWT	laws and treaties including MEAs								
		Periodic review of existing policies and legislations on poaching and IWT	reviewed policies and legislations	Number of reviewed policies and legislations on poaching and IWT	-	1	-	1	-	SDW
	Strategy 2: To enhance policy and legislative capacity for combatting poaching and IWT	Support Capacity building of existing policies and legislations for national and county governments, agencies and communities	Education sensitization and awareness of national, County and community on existing policies and legislations. Increased awareness	Number of sensitization and awareness initiatives Number of people sensitized and trained	2	2	2	2	2	SDW/KWS/county government
		Support Development of policies and legislations to county governments and communities	policies and legislations Developed in counties on poaching and IWT	number of policies and legal frameworks developed	1	1	1	1	1	SDW/county government
	Strategy 3: To enhance policy and legislative capacity for combatting poaching and IWT	Develop and implement institutional collaboration and coordination framework on (policy, legal and institutional	multisectoral coordination framework developed	Reduced Percentage of cases of poaching and IWT	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	SDW/KWS

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
To enhance the capacity of law enforcement Agencies, communities, and other stakeholders to combat poaching and IWT	Enhance capacity of wildlife related institutions and other stakeholders in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade	engagement framework)								
		Conduct capacity gaps and needs assessment for agencies directly involved in combating poaching and IWT	Capacity needs gaps identified and documented	No of assessments reports	xx	xx				SDW, KWS, KFS, WRTI, KEFRI, County Governments, Kenya Police, Conservancies, NGOs
		Develop and execute governance framework			xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	
		Embrace use of technological advancements in combating poaching and IWT			xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	
		To conduct trainings and sensitization workshops to enhance community awareness and knowledge on the importance and need to conserve and manage wildlife resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased public participation in anti-poaching efforts - Reduced local community involvement in illegal wildlife trade (IWT) 	No of trainings and workshops conducted No. of incidences reported by the community	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	KWS, County governments, NGOs, communities

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Modernize, expand and upskill security and law enforcement agencies to detect, deter and prosecute crimes on poaching and IWT			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger community-led wildlife protection initiatives - Improved reporting of suspicious activities 							
		Conduct comprehensive trainings to upskill security personnel on emerging challenges in combating poaching and IWT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased detection rates of illegal wildlife trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- No. of officers trained No of incidences reported 		xx	xx	xx	xx	SDW, KWS, KFS, County Governments, LATF, NGOs, communities
		Adopt and procure advanced equipment and technology for real-time responses, patrols and surveillance to combat poaching and IWT activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced cybercrime detection of poaching and IWT markets - Enhanced forensic analysis techniques (e.g., DNA analysis) Adoption of advanced technologies such as drones, AI camera traps for surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of incidences detected 	0	xx	xx	xx	xx	KWS, KFS, County Governments, WRTI, KEFRI, Conservancies

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
		And blockchain for tracking wildlife products								
Enhance data capture, management and sharing	Develop and operationalize mechanism for data capture, management, sharing, use and knowledge management	Enhanced data capture, management and sharing	Database development Data sharing framework developed		xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	WRTI, KWS, KFS, County Governments, KEFRI, Conservancies
Enhance resource mobilization and strategy financing	Develop and implement a robust financing strategy and models for resource mobilization	-Sustainable funding for conservation programs such as grants, eco-tourism revenue and wildlife bonds, conservation levies,	-Percentage of sustainable funding to the total funding Amount of resources mobilized							MoWT, SWD, TNT, MECCF, County Governments, Conservancies, Development partners
		Increased partnerships with private sector/NGOs/donors	-No of partnerships and collaborations							MoWT, SWD, TNT, MECCF, County Governments, Conservancies, Development partners

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
			Reduced dependency on short-term donor funding	- Percentage of short-term vis a vis long term funding opportunity						MoWT, SWD, TNT, MECCF, County Governments, Conservancies, Development partners
		Incentivizing innovative business models to increase revenue for conservation and combating of IWT	Increased revenue towards conservation and combating poaching and IWT	No of innovative business models adopted						SDW, SDF, KWS, KFS, County governments, Conservancies
To promote wildlife economy and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources	Promote valuation of wildlife resources - ecosystem services approach	Carry out economic valuation of Wildlife Resources for National Accounting (GDP)	National Wildlife Resources Valuation Report <i>Monetary & non-monetary value of wildlife resources established</i> Catalogue of National wildlife resources	Wildlife Valuation Report (<i>Wildlife Account developed</i>) <i>wildlife resource</i> Wildlife catalogue						TNT, KNBS, SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA and Conservation Partners
		Diversification of the wildlife enterprises and economy	Nature based enterprises	No. of nature-based enterprises established						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA, Local

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Enhance access to benefits and incentives to variety of wildlife rights				No of households engaging on NBE Amount of revenue generated from the NBE No of people employed within the NBE						Communities and Conservation Partners
		Create stakeholder awareness creation and sensitization	Enlighted & empowered stakeholders on wildlife user rights	No of sensitization campaign held No of people sensitized						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA, NGAO and Conservation Partners
		Strengthen incentives to local communities to protect wildlife (Income from wildlife conservation represent a significant contribution to household income for communities living with wildlife)	Equitable Benefit-sharing mechanism Community Wildlife resource access mechanism	Amount of revenue shared No of house-hold benefiting from the shared revenue No of communities accessing wildlife resources						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities
		Develop and implement equitable and robust benefits	National wildlife resource benefits sharing formula	Amount of revenue and resources shared						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA &

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
		sharing mechanism between the government (national and county) and local community.		between NG, Counties and Community						Local Communities
		Develop framework for sustainable consumptive utilization of Wildlife Resources	Sustainable Consumptive Utilization framework & regulation.	No of framework & regulation developed Amount of revenue generated from Consumptive utilization.						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities
		Promote inclusion of women, youth and PWDs in all levels of benefit sharing and decision making.	Affirmative framework on wildlife resource decision making and benefit sharing forums	No. of youth, women, PWDs and IPLCs involved in decision making and benefit sharing						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities
		Promote diversification of wildlife enterprises and economy	Map and implement non-wildlife nature based economic activities within Wildlife conservation areas	A national NBE potential area map National handbook NBE	No of NBE Implemented					SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
		Explore public private partnership to enhance investment in Wildlife Resources	National Wildlife PPP framework National resource guide	No of PPPs on wildlife resources implemented National wildlife PPP framework National wildlife guidebook						TNT, SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities
		Develop conservation-based tourism recognition as a unique destination brand alignment with tourism circuit	National conservation-Based Tourism brand	No of Conservation Based Tourism products branded The amount of revenue generated from the Conservation based tourism products						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities & Conservation Partners
		Explore Market based systems to support Wildlife conservation such as carbon credit	A national report on alternative revenue activities from wildlife resource	Amount of revenue generated from alternative sources;						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities & Conservation Partners
		Local communities and private sector involvement in anti-poaching and IWT	Reduced poaching & IWT incidences	No of local community involved in incidents						SDW, Counties, CoG, KWCA & Local Communities &

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Improve management of Wildlife conservation areas.	Prevention, monitoring and enforcement	Prevention, monitoring and enforcement		Reporting & interception.						Conservation Partners
		Create sensitization and awareness of benefits for Wildlife conservation								
		Enhance sustainable land use for wildlife conservation								
		Ensure land designated for wildlife conservation is secured and productive								
	Adopt climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Wildlife	Restoration of wildlife habitats and reduction of GHG emission								

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
	conservation areas.									
	Promote Research and development in Wildlife Resources									
To strengthen national multi-stakeholders' partnership and coordination mechanisms to combat poaching and IWT	Strengthen national multi-agency coordination mechanism	collaboration among national and county law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife and forest crime	Enhanced coordination amongst law enforcement agencies Improved enforcement	Number of meetings (joint and inter-agency) Number of joint operations	1	2	2	2	2	KWS, KFS
	Expand participation of conservation stakeholders in IWT enforcement	Align development partner support with national IWT priorities	Coordinated and impactful financial and technical support	Volume of financial and technical support Number of development partners projects aligned with national IWT action						
		Build grassroots networks to monitor illegal wildlife use	Increased community involvement and intelligence gathering	Number active grassroots networks						

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
To promote transboundary collaboration to	Institutionalize collaboration frameworks for efficient resource mobilization and knowledge sharing			Number of intelligence reports						
		Support community conservancies rangers for local informants	Improved intelligence flow from communities	Number of successful cases linked to informant intelligence						
		Establish a national resource mobilization framework for IWT	Coordinated national funding for IWT initiatives	Amount of funds mobilized annually for IWT						
		Setup IWT knowledge and evidence sharing platform linking counties, academia and enforcement agencies	Central depository of IWT data and research that informs effective decision making	Number of users accessing the platform						
To promote transboundary collaboration to	Enhance trans-boundary collaboration for joint	Develop and implement transboundary stakeholder	Established transboundary collaboration framework	Number of joint operations Number of agreements signed						

Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activity	Results	KPI	Time-frame					Responsibility
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
combat poaching and IWT	operations and intelligence sharing	collaboration and coordination framework	Established transboundary ecosystem management plans	Number of plans in place						
		Enhance investigation and prosecution of transnational organized crimes	Increased successful prosecution of transnational wildlife crimes	Number successful joint investigations leading to arrest and convictions						
	Operationalize relevant MEAs	Awareness creation amongst judicial and prosecutorial officers on MEAs obligations	Enhanced Understanding of MEAs obligations Application of MEAs interpretations in judicial and prosecutorial processes	Number of judicial officers sensitized Number of cases where MEAs are explicitly referenced						
		Conduct periodic MEAs progress reviews with lead agencies to strengthen operationalization	Improved compliance and reporting on MEAs	Number of reports						