

- Side Event's name: ***Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species by Addressing Poaching and Illegal Trade***
- Name of the institution/ agency: World Wildlife Fund and World Bank
- Date: Monday, May 26, 2014
- Hour and room established: 17:45 - 19:15, Room 2
- Contact person: Barney Long
- E-mail: Barney.long@wwfus.org
- Phone number (including area code): +001 (202) 495-4771
- Cellphone / mobile number: +001 (202) 352-0741

Abstract: The global value of illegal wildlife trade (including high value species, timber and fisheries resources) is estimated at \$19 billion per year. However unlike most other transnational crimes, wildlife trafficking involves a finite set of resources that are quickly running out. As numbers of rhinos, elephants and tigers dwindle, the prices that can be fetched for their rare horns, ivory, bones and skin increase ever further, creating a vicious circle leading to extinction.

Poaching and illegal trade generates increased opportunity costs, weakens institutions and governance systems, undermining protected area management systems and poverty reduction efforts, and undermines the rule of law and economic development. Effective governance becomes unreachable in a situation where wildlife crime flourishes, fostering corruption and destabilizing government systems. In these circumstances, achieving any kind of conservation success will become increasingly difficult. . Thus being able to tackle poaching and illegal trade at the appropriate scale is critical for conservation globally and will make a significant contribution to achieving Target 12 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

The global attention that poaching and illegal trade has received in the past year has elevated this issue to the highest political levels in many governments and international fora. With the platform of partnership and action that is evolving the time is ripe to achieve success and the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy will provide countries with the opportunity to act.

Proposal: The side event will highlight several key opportunities for a successful approach to addressing poaching and illegal trade, including:

- Effective protected area management and community-based solutions;
- Scalable anti-poaching improvements;
- Collaborations and innovations on anti-trafficking, and;
- How to reduce illicit demand for known threatened species.

Format:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 17:45-18:00 | An opening address to snapshot the scale of wildlife crime |
| 18:00-18:05 | An intervention by GEF Sec on Program 3 of the GEF biodiversity strategy:
Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species |
| 18:05-19:15 | Scalable solutions already at work in the field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero poaching • Anti-trafficking: hardening transactions through chain of custody work • Sensitizing the criminal justice system • Anti-money laundering • Reducing Illicit Demand |
| 19:15-19:25 | Summary and closing remarks. |