

# stopping wildlife trafficking in Kenya

**35,000**

estimated number of elephants, an increase from 16,000 in 1989 (source: Kenya Wildlife Service).

**40**

elephants lost to poaching in Kenya in 2018, compared to 80 in 2017 (source: Kenya Wildlife Service).

## human-wildlife conflict

(HWC) occurs when animals pose a direct and recurring threat to the livelihood or safety of people, leading to the persecution of that species. Retaliation against the species blamed often ensues

► A family of black rhinos with a calf.



Poaching and wildlife trafficking in Kenya threaten the existence of some of the world's most iconic species such as elephants, lions, rhinoceros, and other endangered species.

These animals are not only critical to maintaining the health and biodiversity of the ecosystems they inhabit, but also provide valuable economic opportunities for communities and governments as they draw tourists from Kenya and around the globe.

Poaching and illegal wildlife trade activities are often linked to criminal networks that are also involved in trafficking of people, drugs, and arms, jeopardizing the security of communities as well as wildlife.

### Human-wildlife conflict is on the rise, leading to an increase in wildlife crime

Pastoralists such as the Maasai have shared this stunning landscape with wildlife for generations, but population growth and lifestyle changes, including the expansion of agriculture, development of roads and the mining industry, have impacted the delicate balance between animals and humans.

With these growing pressures there is an increase in human-wildlife conflict in the region, resulting into more clashes between wildlife and local communities. People feel less tolerant towards wildlife and this makes the area potentially more susceptible to wildlife crime.

The continued demand for illegal wildlife products—such as ivory, pangolin scales, lion bone and rhino horn—drive poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

Kenya has emerged as a key transit country in Africa for wildlife contraband due to its relatively well-developed transport network. Much of these illegal wildlife products are destined for Asia and transit through Kenya's major hubs.



## 250

Wildlife Service rangers and law enforcement agents trained from 7 different agencies and 4 countries between November 2017 and November 2020

## 35

arrests of poachers and wildlife traffickers in 2018

◀ Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers participate in an IFAW-supported training program in Tsavo National Park in Kenya, in which they learn how to use navigational tools and techniques to help prevent elephant poaching.

▶ Herd of elephants walking.

▶ **see how at [ifaw.org](https://www.ifaw.org)**



#KeepItWild

### Countering wildlife trafficking in Kenya

Thanks to funding from the US State Department, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), and building on decades of work, IFAW is partnering with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to tackle poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Kenya.

#### ▶ Facilitate community rangers

This project will facilitate joint investigations across various community ranger groups, as well as build operational capacity and presence in the region. Rangers receive up to date, targeted training and mentorship focused on improving their investigations, including cross-border meetings to build knowledge on criminal networks.

#### ▶ Provide training for law enforcement to be able to effectively identify wildlife crime and enforce the relevant laws associated with it

As well as reviewing and updating the relevant law enforcement curriculum to make sure it is current, IFAW will deliver a unique training program 'Detecting Illegal Species through Prevention Training' (DISRUPT). This training will be delivered to law enforcement officials at Kenya's two major exit/entry points for wildlife trafficking (Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and the Port of Mombasa). The objective is to train law enforcement officers on how to prevent wildlife trafficking.

#### ▶ Working with the judiciary to facilitate higher prosecution outcomes/rates in wildlife-related crimes

Prosecution supported by proper investigations is vital in the fight against wildlife crime. This project will provide mentoring across wildlife crime cases, to allow the sharing of best practices as well as ensuring prosecutors and investigators possess the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their daily duties in accordance with the law.

#### ▶ Provide community rangers with critical non-lethal supplies and equipment

Local community rangers will be provided with important supplies to carry out their work including transport, uniforms, backpacks, flashlights, radios and listening devices.

#### ▶ Support the KWS air wing in its role on countering poaching

Facilitate additional training for the helicopter pilots and engineers and provide equipment for sufficient maintenance of helicopters to keep them airworthy.

#### ▶ Facilitate cross-border collaboration

IFAW will facilitate the annual cross-border symposium, held in Kenya, to discuss coordination and collaboration through intelligence sharing, and to present content on key aspects of this project including law enforcement trainings.