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COMBATting WILDLIFE CRIME IN MOZAMBIQUE

THE POLICY CHALLENGE

Poaching and wildlife trafficking threaten the survival of key species in Mozambique including elephant, rhino, lion and pangolin. Among African countries, Mozambique and Nigeria are the two most affected by the illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhino horns. In 2016, the last known white rhino in Mozambique was killed for its horn. Wildlife crimes are driven by organized global networks through multiple illegal activities, including money laundering, fraud, extortion, kidnapping and murder. Organized crime threatens Mozambique's wildlife, but also threatens citizens' safety and the nation's sovereignty and stability. Mozambique has a complex and comprehensive set of laws and enforcement procedures to stem the tide of wildlife trafficking and poaching, but effective implementation remains a challenge.



The true benefit of Mozambique's Conservation Law cannot be realized until the new powers given to authorities can be effectively used to arrest, charge, prosecute and convict wildlife trafficking and poaching criminals. A well-functioning prosecution and conviction system tightens the net around all wildlife criminals, reduces future crime levels, and demonstrates to front-line rangers and law enforcement that their efforts are worthwhile.

✓ PROSECUTING WILDLIFE CRIMES FROM CAPTURE TO COURT

- SPEED+ assists the government to more skillfully wield the entire suite of laws and regulations available to prosecute wildlife crimes. A comprehensive manual and nationwide training improved each step of wildlife crime prosecution, from arrest and evidence gathering to indictments under the most relevant laws and correct sentencing for maximum impact.
- The [Manual for Investigation and Prosecution of Wildlife Crimes](#) and training program provides step-by-step guidance for the prosecution of 90 wildlife-related crimes and associated activities such as asset recovery, crime mapping, and international legal cooperation. The Manual has customized versions for frontline park rangers, investigators, prosecutors, and judges.
- In the first quarter after training, successful indictments increased by 23%. The participatory process of developing the manual and delivering trainings built new inter-agency relationships, trust and knowledge sharing. The Attorney General credited these improved relationships for the 25% decrease in wildlife crimes in 2019, which was also the second year without any elephant kills in the country's largest conservation area, Niassa Special Reserve.

✓ KEEPING IVORY AND RHINO HORNS OFF THE BLACK MARKET

- SPEED+ supported an objective evidence-based assessment of Mozambique's management of a growing stockpile of ivory and rhino horns seized through improved enforcement of anti-poaching and trafficking laws. Mozambique is becoming an increasingly important transit point for wildlife contraband.
- The assessment provided a clear analysis of costs and benefits of different management approaches, including destroying the stocks or maintaining them for potential future sale.
- An audit of the current ivory and rhino horn inventory revealed losses since a 2016 audit, weak security at many storage sites, and poor recordkeeping. It also made clear that safekeeping these high-value assets carries high risks for the responsible staff from criminals and corrupt officials.
- Recommendations to the National Conservation Areas Agency (ANAC) included a comprehensive digital Stockpile Management System, a seizures database, and a national network of secured storage facilities. In response, ANAC sought further assistance from STOP IVORY and is now addressing these issues.

✓ SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

- The coronavirus pandemic has devastated the wildlife tourism industry which funds wildlife protection patrols. Poaching threats are on the rise in unprotected areas where communities are also suffering from tourism job losses. SPEED+ is supporting BioFund Mozambique to fund basic law-enforcement activities and offset lost incomes in surrounding communities.
- SPEED+ supported the national cultural shift against wildlife crime, creating a communication strategy for ANAC and supporting the first campaign, "Poaching Steals from All of Us", designed by WildAid.
- Young people are a vital part of long-term prevention. SPEED+ helped create annual youth-focused events such as World Biodiversity Day and World Pangolin Day. Theater, video, radio and posters attract the interest of schoolchildren and target youth in communities around conservation areas.
- SPEED+ has supported government research, reporting, and participation in fulfilling international commitments on wildlife crime such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

KEY INSIGHTS

- **Successful collaborations leverage resources and increase impact. SPEED+ successfully teamed with the Attorney General, the National Conservation Areas Agency, the National Criminal Investigation Service, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, WWF, BioFund Moz and others.**

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Supporting the Policy Environment for Economic Development in Mozambique