Case Study – Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Malawi

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Challenges in Combatting IWT

- Professional Criminal Enterprise
- Geography and Displacement
- Coordination between Agencies
- Low Status
- Enforcement Tactics
- Information and Intelligence
- Presence of Corruption
Local Industry to International Crime

- Exponential increase in value
- High demand and substantial return
- Ready access to product
- Weak sanctions
- Risk to Reward Ratio attractive
- Different enforcement approach
GIZ Review - Supply Chain Corruption

• Park Management to Judicial Process
• Thuma – 100 arrests resulted in 10 court cases
• Recycling of Seized ivory
• Case of 781 tusks for $5000 fine
Geography and Displacement
Status

- Enforcement agencies with wide remits
- Conflicting demands and priorities
- Finite resources
- IWT not a priority for most
- Record keeping poor to non-existent
- Data is not shared between agencies
- No foundation to develop effective strategy
- Inefficiency enables corruption to develop/remain hidden
- Effects public inclination to help
Strategic Coordination

- National Strategy
- Common SOP’s
- Action Plan
- Priorities
- Database
Tactical Coordination

Special Investigation Unit

• Raise profile
• Develop Crime specific skills
• Pool Resources and Expertise
• Complement and drive general level of enforcement
• Improve interagency relationships
• Enable development of proactive investigation
• Better opportunity to identify corruption in the system
Proactive Investigation

- Proven methodology against organised/professional crime
- Test purchasing
- Controlled deliveries
- Development of Informants and an informant handling system/protocols
- Integrity Testing
- Use of undercover officers
- Whistleblowing mechanisms
- Financial Investigation and asset forfeiture/recovery in conjunction with the FIU
Information and Intelligence

Proactive Investigation requires

• Unit to develop information into useable intelligence
• Identify targets for proactive investigation
• Trends and patterns for targeted disruption or prevention exercises
• Malawi – Norway funded such a unit for Cashgate
• Equipped and trained in IBM i2
• Since GIZ review now combining corruption and IWT
• Exceptional Results
Links Emerging

- Parks – patrol and management level
- Customs/Police – persons and vehicle freedom
- Clearing and forwarding agents
- Recycling – products, vehicles
- Payments for early warnings
- Links between crime syndicates, business development and government officials
- FIU – warning of financial/international interest
- Judicial Process manipulation
Thank You