Combating Wildlife Trafficking through CARPE III

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Conservation @ USAID

USAID supports conservation in over 50 countries. Most programs in Africa and Asia address poaching or wildlife trafficking (April 2013)
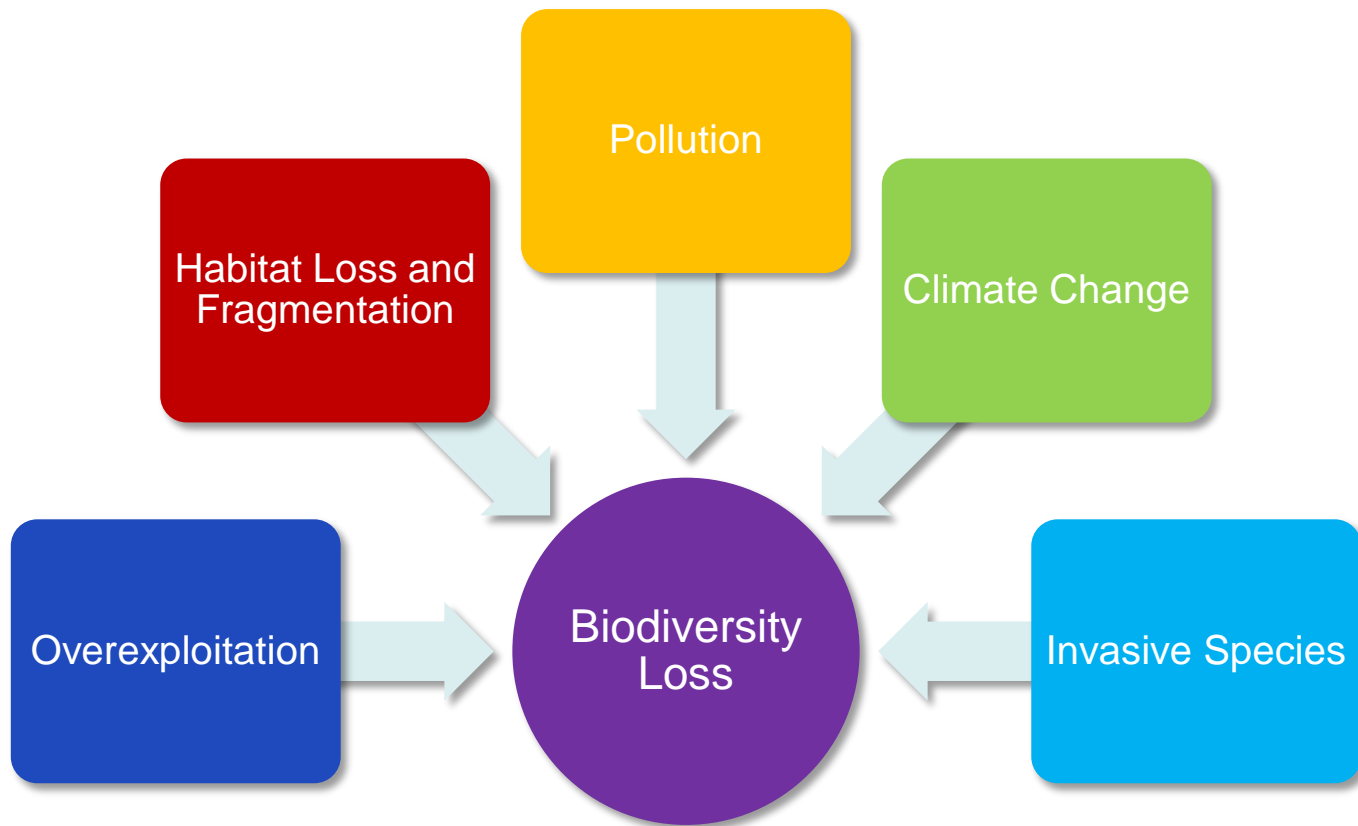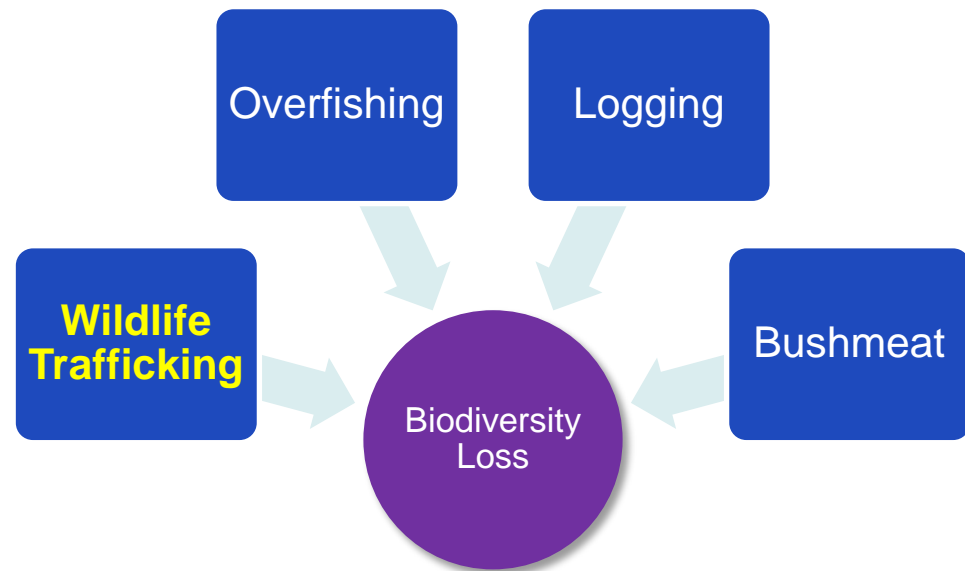
Conservation @ USAID
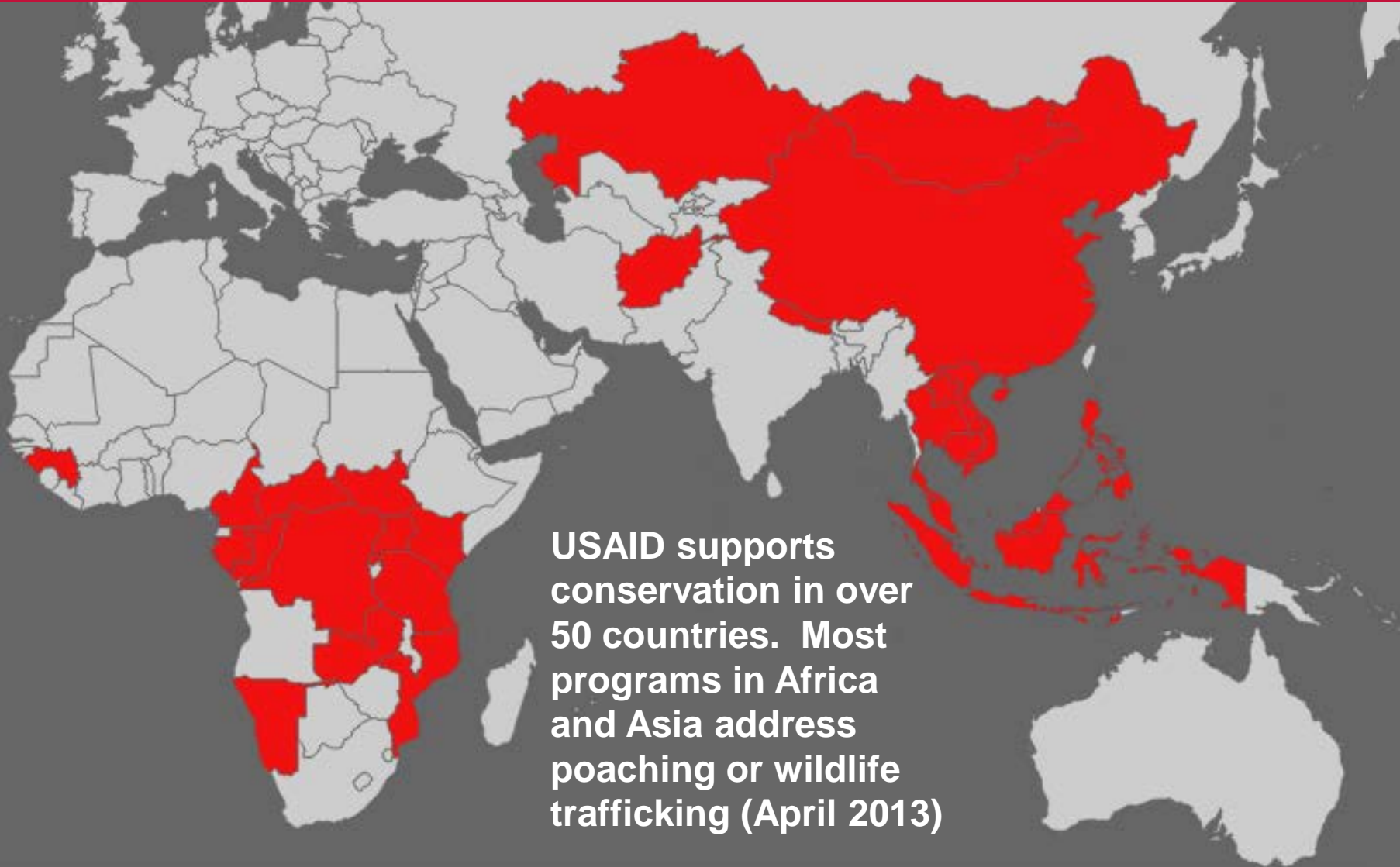
Main Drivers of Biodiversity Loss

Wildlife Trafficking is Unique Among Threats:

- Rangers are being killed
- Rural communities have the most to lose and little to gain
- Profits finance other criminal activities
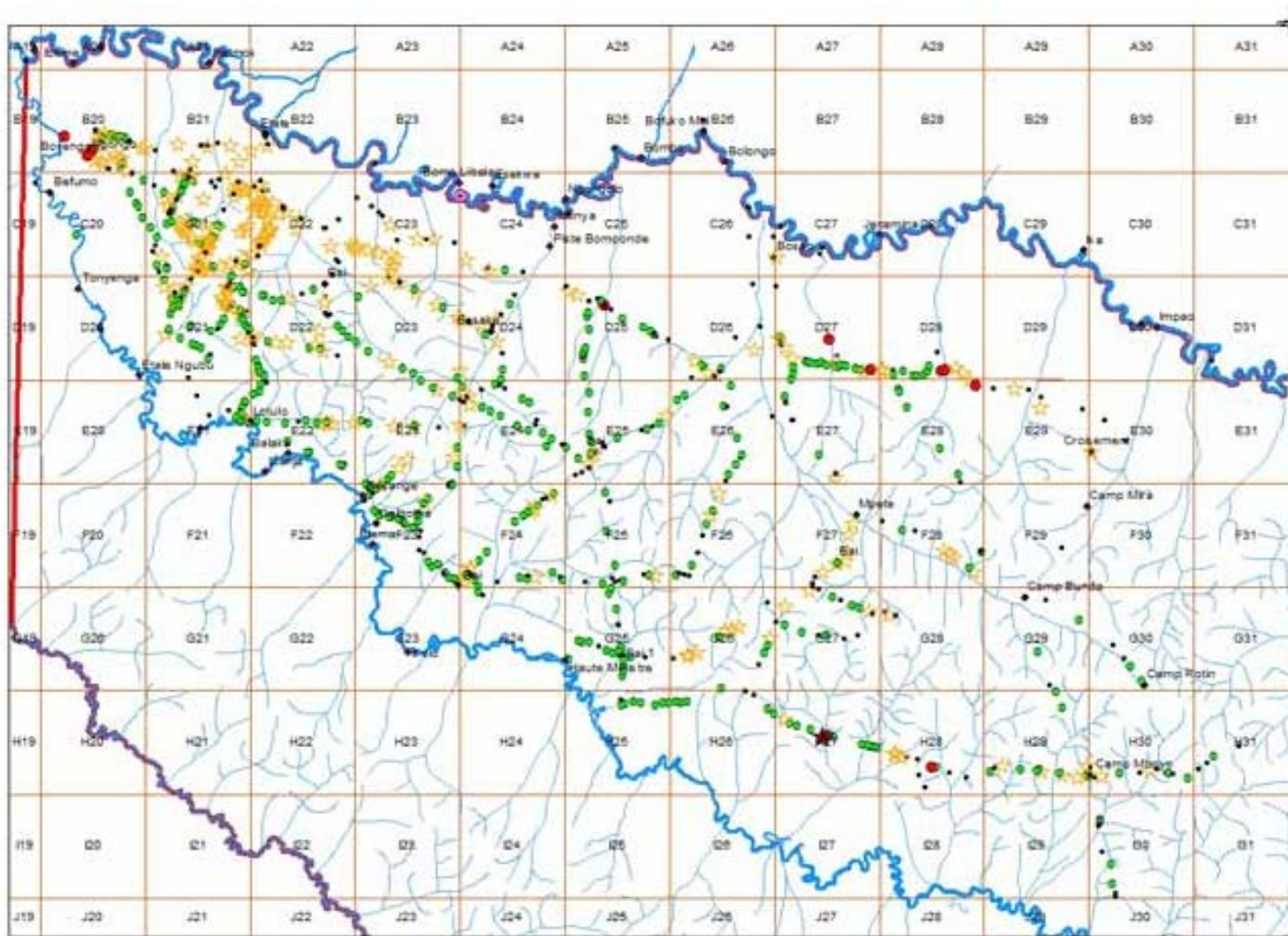- USAID has special authority to support law enforcement for conservation purposes

CARPE partners provided ecoguard training and were vigilant to poaching, but it wasn't the focus of work in Phase II

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RESULTS:
30 poachers arrested
7 prison sentences
120+ firearms confiscated
1 ton bushmeat destroyed
Elephant circulation tripled
Surveys & patrols resumed

Maps Courtesy Zoological Society of Milwaukee

- CARPE II was great for great apes, helped assess and protect habitat across basin

- Meanwhile: forest elephant populations crashed from 2006-2011 due to steady and occasionally high profile poaching

- USAID funds managed by CARPE and FWS supported much of the survey work that helped recognize this decline

- **CARPE Phase III was designed to build on prior work while strengthening efforts related to:**

  – Wildlife Crime

  – Community-Based Natural Resource Management

  – Climate Change Mitigation through REDD+

Central Africa Forest Ecosystem Conservation:

- SMART is being rolled out in every landscape, with associated technical and law enforcement training & informant networks

- Working with and despite courts to ensure existing laws are enforced

- MLW: ICCN has adopted and will implement the 8-step counter-poaching approach AWF recently helped develop

- Mbandaka: major trafficking center, will improve judiciary capacity

Environmental Monitoring and Policy Support:

- SCAEMPS will collate and share landscape-level data on law enforcement, SMART and related information

- Collaboration with WRI, and law enforcement lead WCS, was written into most CAFEC applications

- COMIFAC will revise Pd'C to align with country goals for wildlife trafficking, and support the wildlife LE Action Plan of PAPECALF

- LAGA and PALF have an explicit role replicating model in DRC

- Connecting Global Forest Watch 2.0 alerts to patrols, SMART

- Collectively improving transparency and countering opportunities for corruption

- Could facilitate the changes to policy, collaboration and capacity needed for a Central African Wildlife Enforcement Network

- Anticipate much more work with law enforcement, paramilitary and military
- More work to address drivers of wildlife trafficking outside of landscapes
- Creative monitoring
- Leahy Law requires more advanced planning for training of LE
  - State requests 30 days to vet "security forces" for any record of human rights abuse
  - Vetting requirement (and consequences) could deter participation by key agencies

- USAID and State can advise on LE regulations
- FWS and USFS can provide direct assistance
- Collaboration with other USAID Activities:
  - ABCG and SMART
  - Global Health's Emerging Pandemic Threats Program
  - Wildlife TRAPS program with TRAFFIC
  - ARREST program in Southeast Asia

OPERATION COBRA

- USAID, FWS and China
- 100's of arrests
- 6,500 kg of ivory
- 2,600 live snakes
- Wool from 10,000 Tibetan antelope
- 324 hornbills
- 102 pangolins and 800 kg pangolin scales
- 22 rhino horns
- 10 tigers and 7 leopards

© Operation Cobra

- Elephant poaching and ivory trade reduced. What about trade in pangolins and parrots?
- Security and safety improved
- Corruption rooted out of agencies
- Judiciary and police more accountable
- LE and Media are an effective deterrent
- Joint reporting by USAID and FWS