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Beira, Mozambique

Anti-Poaching

ABOUT MCF

We are a conservation organization dedicated to saving wildlife within various areas throughout Mozambique. Our anti-poaching units are tactically equipped giving them an advantage over the poachers & poaching syndicates they face on a daily basis.

We also work closely with local communities through a strategy called anti-poaching through anti-poverty. Providing and supporting local people to become educated, employed and to provide themselves with a means to survive so they needn't resort to poaching.



Example of one of our quick reaction units.

WHY Anti-Poaching?

Reported wildlife trafficking and seizures of animal parts have increased dramatically over the past few years. The illicit wildlife and plant trade is [estimated to be worth \\$70-213 billion a year](#) and infringes on the natural resources of countries and wealth of businesses around the world.

Anti-poaching was the first program focus when MCF was established and continues to be the primary mission focus for the organization: to stop illegal wildlife crimes and arrest poachers.

The ecosystems that balance our climate and make life on Earth possible are under extreme threat. Without sufficient action and along with humankind, many species are destined to extinction. There has never been a more critical issue in the history of human civilization than the immediate protection of the natural world.



Lioness killed by poachers for traditional medicine & sale of body parts to Asia.

THE CHALLENGE

To educate the local communities on the ecological benefits and value of the wildlife and habitat in the region. For thousands of years the local villagers have been free to hunt and gather for the survival of their families. Unfortunately due to population growth & habitat destruction this is no longer sustainable and needs to be tackled immediately. The key to our success has been providing alternative forms of income generation to the local communities for them to accept this program.

Predominantly the poaching within the regions we control is subsistence poaching through the use of wire snares and traps. The traps and snares are incredibly efficient but do not target specific species or gender of wildlife anything can and often is caught in these. Sadly lion, leopard & hyena are very susceptible to these traps as all too often the poachers set a trap line and fail to monitor the line for several days. Once an animal is caught, dies and starts to rot the smell attracts the carnivores in the area and they are often caught in the remaining unsprung traps.

We provide training and employment to many of the local villagers within the region by enrolling in our ranger training programs which provides them with a financial income so they no longer have to depend on the land for their survival.

All of our rangers have been recruited from local villages within close proximity of the conservation areas we protect. They are regularly rotated with rangers from other conservation areas we control as many of the poachers in the region are well known or in some cases family members of the rangers we employ. This rotation system has proved incredibly successful in catching and prosecuting various syndicates in the region.



Often lions like this Male as well as other predators are accidentally caught in poacher's snares when they encounter other dead animals in snare lines.

OUR TACTIC

There is no single, silver bullet that alone can stop wildlife crime or even hope to significantly reduce it. The answer is to adopt a broad approach that involves many tools and partners.

MCF rangers conduct extensive daily patrols on foot and by vehicle to gather intelligence, detect and intercept illegal activity, monitor activity via hidden field cameras, and GPS technology to thwart poachers and prevent habitat destruction. Working alongside local government departments and our network of informers from local communities, MCF rangers are able to prevent most instances of poaching and successfully apprehend poachers who do manage to kill. Once poachers are apprehended, MCF works with local prosecutors to ensure that they are punished to the fullest, and most appropriate, extent of the law.

We have made it a priority to identify the local blacksmith in each respective region who manufactures the gin traps and muskets that are predominantly sold to and used by the poachers in the region. They are now employed by MCF as well as known poachers in the region are given a chance to enroll for training and if they qualify become fully employed as rangers.



Gin Traps removed from our areas over a period of 4 months. By locating the manufacturer of these traps and employing him we have greatly reduced the poaching in this area.

SUCCESS STORY



Poacher who we apprehended has now become one of our most productive rangers.

