Introducing the Environmental Crimes Fusion Cell

Our goal is to significantly improve the coordination, scale and quality of investigative effort against wildlife trafficking networks.

1. Network Investigations

2. Field Support

3. Technical Reporting
Poaching converges with other conflict and illicit activities

Sudanese army soldiers involved in ambush of rangers

Iranian ammunition used by to kill 300+ elephants in Cameroon

Congoles army commander supplies illicit weapons to rebel groups in DRC in exchange for ivory and gold

Illicit diamonds and ivory seized from smuggling operation in Botswana

Illicit copper smuggling network in Tanzania also transported ivory in 2013

Allegations of illicit logging operations aiding bush meat poachers in Gabon

Sudanese army soldiers involved in ambush of rangers

South Sudanese police crossing border to poach
Global Ivory Seizure Database

Documents over 700 ivory seizure instances between 2009 and 2015

Internally housed database using cutting-edge Palantir technology

Incorporation of official documentation including property registers, court records and bills of lading

60+ orgs in network
Wildlife traffickers use complex means of physical obfuscation to transfer contraband across geographical boundaries and through licit supply chains.

- 500 kg, Uganda
  - Obfuscated as Shea Butter

- 1.8 tons, Tanzania
  - Obfuscated in anchovies

- 6 tons, Malaysia
  - Obfuscated in timber

- 900 kg, Vietnam
  - Obfuscated in charcoal

- 1 ton, Vietnam
  - Obfuscated as peanuts
Typologies of Wildlife Crime

- 100-250 Containers
- 15-25 Chokepoint Ports
- 10-15 Shipping Companies

= Select major origin ports
= Select major transit ports
= Select major destination ports
Seizure Network Analysis: A Case Study

Over 14 tons of ivory products seized from a single, global network

Associated entities also linked to through entities in network to 6 other containers within the past year, 3 of which are known to contain ivory

Network map of information provided on Thailand Customs Press release

Using company registers, maritime shipping databases, local media reporting, and government documentation we expanded the network

Weeks later a second seizure occurred with several entities in common

2011, Tanzania
Illicit Copper

2013, Hong Kong
1,323 kg

2015, Thailand

2015, Singapore
3,700 kg

2013, Singapore
1,833 kg

2013, Mombasa
3,828 kg

2011, Tanzania
1,323 kg

2013, Hong Kong
Wildlife traffickers use licit financial service providers and conduct transactions across geographical boundaries.

Vixay Keosavang, a leading wildlife smuggling kingpin in Southeast Asia, allegedly has a transnational network of suppliers and buyers spanning Africa and Asia.

Banking correspondents in the US

Sales contract outlining wildlife sales, using banking networks in Vietnam and Laos, Denominated in USD

Transaction denominated in USD
innovation for peace