

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTORS THAT HAVE LED TO INCREASED POACHING
ACTIVITIES IN KENYA**

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Studies (IDIS), University of Nairobi.**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented before to any university for academic award.

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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated with love and gratitude to Ruth Waceke, wife, Faith Gathoni and Gracious Wangui (daughters), David Mburu and Kennedy Mwaura (sons).

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ABSTRACT

With the key focus on the case of Kenya's increased poaching activities, this study broadly sought to examine the main factors that have exacerbated poaching. The study was guided by three objectives namely: to investigate the catalysts to the increased poaching in Kenya, to examine the effectiveness of multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching activities in Kenya and to evaluate the implications of poaching activities in Kenya. The study has noted that the most key catalyst to poaching is the presence of international market with a very high purchasing power of poached wildlife products. The study noted that rhino horns and elephant horns fetch a lot of money in the international black market. This is as a result high cultural value attached to the usefulness of the rhino horns and ivory to the final consumer as well as the huge gap between demand and supply of the poached products. Apart from the presence of international market, other catalysts to poaching in Kenya include; socioeconomic factors such as poverty, corruption and unemployment. The concept of multiagency is still new and due to multidisciplinary nature, it has a lot of complexity especially due to different operating procedure of agencies. The study has specifically noted that, there is poor coordination among the multi-agencies components since they come from different units. For instance, the multi-agencies involve the KWS, (GSU), (AP), regular police, (NIS) and criminal investigation department which have different doctrine of operation and sometimes having different command. At strategic level, the multiagency has clear operating procedure and guidelines, however, the problem is at tactical level because the multiagency has not been well harmonized together to operate as one body. Based on the third objective, the study has established that, poaching has far reaching implications that spread across the nation, region and internationally. Among the implications to poaching, the study has found that tourism sector is most affected sector by poaching of wildlife. This is because wildlife stands out to be the single most tourist attraction factor, therefore, poaching means wildlife and especially the big four which attract tourists will decrease and this will eventually decrease the number of tourists in Kenya. Tourism contributes about 12% of GDP of Kenya and provides employment to more than 500,000 people. This elevates tourism to one of the major economic sectors in Kenya that contribute towards realization of vision 2030.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AWF	-African Wildlife Foundation
CAR	-Central African Republic
CAS	- complex adaptive systems
CID	- Criminal Investigation Department
CITES	- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CoP	- Conference of the Parties
DPP	- Director of Public Prosecution
DRC	- Democratic Republic of the Congo
EAPCCO	- Environmental Crime Project by Institute of Security Studies/
ECOSOC	- economic and social council
ICCF	- International Conservation Caucus Foundation
INTERPOL	-International Police
KAA	- Kenya Airport Authority
KFS	- Kenya Forest Service
KNBS	-Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KRA	- Kenya Revenue Authority
KWS	- Kenya Wildlife Service

LATF	- Lusaka Agreement Task Force
LRA	-Lord's Resistance Army
MIKE	-Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants
MRC	- Mombasa Republican Council
NCB	- National Central Bureau
NGO's	- Non-governmental organizations
NIS	- National Intelligence Service
NPS	- National Police Service
ODPP	- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
PIUS	-Prosecution and Investigation Units staff

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Background of the Study

Poaching of wildlife and the corresponding illegal trafficking of trophies has become a lucrative local and international business.¹ The contemporary significant reduction of wildlife populations may be attributed to the poaching menace domiciled in several conservation areas around the world. Illegal trade in wildlife resources encompasses illicit processes of procurement, transportation, marketing and distribution of wildlife products, whether in the form of live animals, animal products, fisheries or forest materials in contravention of both national and international laws. As posited by Alacs and Georges “in the last decade, several media coverage and government briefings have been shared about the rise in poaching incidents particularly in relation to the more photogenic animals, such as elephants and rhinos in Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya among other African countries”.²

However, the high demand for horns has led to the extinction of Western Black Rhino and the Northern White Rhino and it is feared many other animals are critically endangered or faced with extinction from their natural habitat. Several factors which have led rise of poaching in Kenya which include; pet trade, luxurious accessories, bush meat, alternative medicines, high poverty levels and cultural beliefs among others. This study therefore aims to create awareness

¹ Alacs, E Georges ,A (2008). Wildlife across our Borders: A Review of the Illegal Trade in Australia. *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 40 (2), 147-160

² Ibid

of this global issue by expanding knowledge about the issue.³ The knowledge would be critical to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Governmental and Non-governmental conservation bodies, communities that neighbor wildlife parks, government security agencies and tour companies among others. Haken observes that the illegal international trade in wildlife products imposes a significant harm on the least developed and developing countries, leading to economic and structural damage which is even more destructive than losses in biodiversity.⁴ Just like all other forms and fields of organized criminal cartels such as drug and human trafficking, wildlife trafficking cartels exploit poverty and inequality to recruit people to engage in poaching activities within territories with little or no government presence.⁵

The traffickers who comprise of various actors that include both local and international dealers operate underworld networks that run from source to the market. Trafficking of wildlife products thrives from the existence of foreign markets which offer financial rewards to trophy dealers. Other conditions such as human wildlife conflicts occasioned by the sharing of ecosystems between communities and wildlife continue to enable poaching activities. For instance, ivory is harvested following the killing of elephants by agricultural communities on account of invading their farms.

Although the real motives of engaging in illicit wildlife trade are not yet clear, it is believed the existence of foreign markets is the main reason that fuels poaching. Poaching is an obstruction to the countries in their conservation development. This is due to the fact that instead of deploying

³ WWF-US.(2015).*AnnualReport2015*.Retrieved from http://assets.worldwildlife.org/financial_reports/24/reports/original/WWF_2015_Annual_Report.pdf?1448491241

⁴ Haken, J. (2011). *Transnational Crime in the Developing World*. Washington DC: Global Financial Integrity:

⁵ Ibid

resources to improve conservation and management of natural resources, the resources are channeled towards prevention⁶ of poaching. As a consequence, the loss of resources that could be available for tourism development cannot be overemphasized. Here, it is important to recognize the correlation between armed groups and remote, almost stateless wildlife parks which provide ideal cover for poachers from state agencies. Ivory poaching is centered in Central, Eastern, South Africa's national parks with DRC's Garamba National Park.⁷

In Kenya, a number of national parks and game reserves such as Mt. Kenya area national parks, Amboseli and Tsavo game reserve areas have experienced increased incidences of poaching. Private ranches have not been spared from the vice either. Titeca analyzes the scale of the ivory trade within and without Eastern Africa, noting that Mombasa is the transit port of ivory from DRC, Uganda and Kenya for shipment to Asia. As a communication, transportation and financial hub in the region, Kenya is attractive to wildlife trophy trade dealers who want to export their wildlife products from the region to foreign markets. Actors such as South Sudanese armed groups, Congolese government soldiers and rebel groups as well as foreign actors (including peace keeping missions) and Lord Resistant Army (LRA) as well are traditional poachers all implicated in ivory trafficking.⁸ Titeca points out that ivory tusks harvested by LRA are generally exchanged for arms and food, while other publications mention the role of LRA in ivory poaching though there is no hard evidence linking the LRA to the transnational flow of ivory.

⁶ Kristof, T. (2013). *Out of Garamba, into Uganda: Poaching and Trade of Ivory in Garamba National Park and LRA-affected Areas in Congo*. Antwerpen: University of Antwerp

⁷ Titeca, K. Edmond, P. (2019). Outside the Frame: Looking Beyond the Myth of Garamba's LRA Ivory-Terrorism Nexus. *An interdisciplinary journal exploring linkages between society, environment and development*, 17(3), 258-269

⁸ Op-cit

Agger and Hutsonnot posits that, “LRA poaching operations fuel instability, however, the collection of ivory marks a significant break with past LRA practices of self-sufficiency, which points to the possibility of the group running out of options to sustain their operations”. Other armed non-state actors frequently cited include; Somali and Sudanese ivory poachers, situations of civil strife and unstable governments in Kenya's neighborhood have been linked to increased poaching of elephants within Kenyan borders. While the Kenya’s porous borders such as the long Kenyan border with Somalia have been reported to be vulnerable to cross-border poaching activities, proceeds from the Kenya Somalia border poaching activities may be funding terror activities of Al Shabaab militia group.⁹ Indeed, reports indicate that the Somalia based Al Shabaab funds its activities from revenues sourced from among others, charcoal and ivory poached from Kenya.

Besides Kenya being a source of wildlife products, her relatively developed Harbours and Airports have been used as transit points for wildlife trophies from Kenya and neighboring countries, with Dozens of ivory consignments being seized annually at the Kenya ports and foreign ports in Thailand and Singapore. Poaching activities are increasingly taking place in protected areas such as conservancies, national parks and game reserves and this has brought in the aspect of corruption among law enforcement agencies such as KWS, National Police Service (NPS), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Kenya Airport Authority (KAA) officials who have been accused of facilitating the vice and hence, weakening state institutions and the rule of law. The involvement of state officials in the trophy trade makes it difficult for the state to

⁹ International Fund for Animal Welfare report. (2008).Retrieved from <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/31-1594197>

counter the illegal trade.¹⁰ This study therefore, aims to explore the factors that have precipitated increased poaching over the past decades using Kenya Wild Service as a reference point and the way forward for a lasting solution to the protection of the endangered species.

1.1.1 Poaching for Ivory and Rhino Horns in Africa

The existence of a vibrant black-market trade involving ivory and rhino horns worth hundreds of millions of dollars is fueling corruption in some African ports, customs offices and security forces in addition to being new sources for revenues for insurgent groups and criminal networks across the continent. Unlike other forms of organized crimes such as narcotics and small arms trafficking which have no animal casualties; it is the high number of killed elephants and rhinoceroses that drive poaching trade. Poaching is not a new phenomenon in Africa as reports indicate that the practice has been happening for centuries. However, in recent times, about 30,000 elephants have been killed since 2007. This rate of killings of elephants surpassed their birth and growth leading to a significant decline of their population.

Poaching for rhino horns has been on a steady increase. Initially, poaching of rhinos in South Africa between 2000 and 2007 was rare as just over 10 rhinos were killed per year, In contrast, 2008 saw an exponential increase in Rhino killings with, the number of rhinos killed recorded big about 1004 rhinos being killed in 2013 in South Africa. South Africa has been losing over 1,000 rhinos per annum, since 2013 even as growing elephant population becomes threat to the existing ecosystem, characterized by massive destruction of vegetation. Interestingly, elephant

¹⁰ Douglas, L. R. & Alie, K., (2013). High Value Natural Resources: Linking Wildlife Conservation to International Conflict, Insecurity and Development Concerns. *Journal of Biological Conservation*, 171 (2014), 270-277

poaching in South Africa has been insignificant as poachers have targeted rhinos whose population is relatively high as compared to other conservation areas in the African continent.¹¹

Trade in rhino horns and elephant tusks has established new connections among organized criminal networks operating in Africa and beyond. Poaching as an organized crime is increasingly becoming complicated due to the use of sophisticated weapons and technology like the Global Positioning Systems (GPS) by poachers, a pointer to the difficulty of dealing with poaching menace. As a result of the poachers' sophistication, scores of game rangers in Chad, (DRC), Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya have been killed. One of the most vivid examples involves an incident in which a whole section of wildlife rangers was wiped out in an ambush by poachers in Chad in 2012. These killings have been exasperated by corruption which has seen members of security agencies being incorporated into the poaching syndicates. For instance, stakeholders reported that 22 elephants were killed and their ivories worth more than 1 million USD Dollars harvested in DRC by the Ugandan soldiers during a cross border swoop in March 2012, other reports have also incriminated DRC, South Sudan, Sudan and (CAR) forces in poaching syndicates. It is feared that wildlife trafficking's high profits may lead to deep unprofessional conduct of Africa's security agencies and thus influencing them into engaging in other criminal activities with negative regional security development.

Between 1960 and 1970's, Eastern and Central Africa provided an ecosystem that accommodated the largest elephant population in the continent. CITES, an agency that monitors and reports illegal killing of elephants alludes that to the unfavorable levels in respect to ivory

¹¹ International Fund for Animal Welfare report. (2008). Retrieved from <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/31-1594197>

poaching in East and Central Africa. CAR, DRC, Tanzania and Kenya are some of the countries that are most affected by poaching. Kenya is relevant to the study as a transit state as illustrated by seizures of ivory consignments at Kenya's airports and seaports destined for overseas market especially far East South Asian countries. While there is significant reduction in collection of raw ivory in Kenya due to stringent measures, DRC, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe remain source countries to most of the ivory seizures. However, consignments that sneak through the entry and exit points within Kenya demonstrate either rampant corruption or insufficient monitoring by the relevant agencies.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Kenya has a multi-agency approach to deal with poaching activities so as to preserve its diminishing wildlife resources. The approach is meant to bar criminals from preying on the country's reducing wildlife resources. However, despite this multi-pronged arrangement, poaching activities are still rampant in the country. It is this contradiction of the presence of many agencies fighting poaching and simultaneous thriving of poaching that this paper endeavours to unravel. Maybe, a closer examination of the workings of the multiple agencies involved in anti-poaching initiatives may unravel some of the reasons behind this uncomprehendable turn of events in Kenya's anti-poaching campaign.

Besides Kenya being a playground of poaching activities, the poaching itself is on an increase. This increase continues to astound both scholars and practitioners in wildlife issues in the face of global and local anti-poaching campaigns. It is this gap that paper hopes to fill. Moreover, unearthing the drivers behind the increase will go a long way to expose the obvious and the

hidden ramifications not only of poaching but also the new consequences of its increase in Kenya. This new information may help in reversing the worrisome trend of normalization of poaching and its expansion in Kenya, a development which has the potential to lead to the extinction of Kenya wildlife treasure.

1.3 Research Questions

- i. What factors have caused increased incidences of poaching in Kenya?
- ii. How effective are multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching in Kenya?
- iii. What are the implications of poaching activities in Kenya?

1.4 General Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to examine the main factors that have exacerbated poaching using Kenya as a case study.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives of the Study

- i. To investigate the catalysts to the increased poaching in Kenya
- ii. To examine the effectiveness of multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching activities in Kenya
- iii. To evaluate the implications of poaching activities in Kenya

1.5 Literature Review

This study reviews both theoretical and empirical literature. Theoretical literature is important because it has been used to examine the key debates on international poaching activities. Empirical literature is equally important for this study, since it has been used to help identify the key knowledge gaps in the whole concept of the factors influencing increased poaching in Kenya.

1.6 Theoretical Literature Review

To identify and examine the key debates around poaching in Kenya, this study has been guided by three theoretical foundations namely: the Opportunity Routine Activity Theory, Complexity Theory and the Game Theory. The theories are also applied on this study to help conceptualize the factors that have led to increased illegal poaching in Kenya and the effectiveness of multi-agencies strategies applied to counter poaching activities.

1.6.1 Opportunity Routine Activity Theory

The theory was developed by Cohen and Felson who posits that “for a crime to take place the following elements must be present which include; a motivated offender with criminal intentions and the ability to act on these inclinations, a suitable victim or target, and the absence of a capable guardian who can prevent the crime from happening”.¹² These elements manifest in a number of poaching incidences in African countries including Kenya.

¹² Felson, M. & Cohen, L. (1980). Human ecology and crime: *A routine activity approach*. *Human Ecology*, 8(4), 389-405

The application and relevance of this theory in poaching is its explanation of the factors that precipitate poaching activities. Though poachers are influenced by a combination of many motivations, the financial benefit is predominant. The fact that national parks and game reserves are expansive in nature makes it attractive to individuals keen to engage in poaching. The expansive nature of parks and reserves exposes them to criminal activity including poaching. Moreover, the expansiveness of national parks and game reserves makes the work of securing them problematic, a scenario that poachers exploit to engage in their criminal activities. A number of parks and reserves in Africa and beyond are inadequately guarded due multiple reasons including, their vastness and difficult terrain. National parks and game reserves are also guarded by inadequate security personnel who are in themselves demoralized in their work.

1.6.2 Complexity Theory

According to Schneider and Somers the theory “tries to ease comprehension of systems as diverse as cells, human beings, forest ecosystems and organizations that are only partially understood by traditional scientific methods”.¹³ However, it can be comprehended “as the study of complex adaptive systems (CAS) in which Ronald & Dietterich defines the word “complex” as “the diversity, through a great number, and wide variety of interdependent, yet autonomous parts, “Adaptive” refers to the system’s ability to alter, change, and learn from past experiences and the “system” as a set of connected, interdependent parts; a network”. Additionally, they argue that

¹³ Schneider, M., & Somers, M. (2006). Organizations as complex adaptive systems: Implications of Complexity Theory for leadership research. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 17(4), 351-365.

“while there are a great number of CAS existing at different scales, complexity theory reveals that there are common, interrelated principles which can be observed across all CAS”.¹⁴

In an endeavor to have a clear portrait of poaching activities in Kenya, it is important that the activity is treated as complex system that has diverse players with different roles. Though from a distance they may look independent entities, this theory helped to reveal their independence. In addition, the players are not static in their roles as they too are victims of the dynamic nature of the criminal poaching enterprise. New developments require some players, while bringing in new ones to ensure the continuation and prosperity of the poaching activities. The theory also helped to show the dynamism of players involved in poaching activity. In sum, this theory unraveled all the components, parts and players of poaching as the phenomenon is an intricate criminal underground network.

1.6.3 Game Theory

The theory involves learning the interplay among independent, self-interested agents. Turocy and Bernhard von posits that “these agents may be individuals, groups, firms, or any combination of these and that the concepts of game theory provide a language to formulate, structure, analyze, and understand strategic scenarios.”¹⁵

Interdependence is inherent in humankind despite the constancy of confrontations during such cooperation. As such, human history is much of fights and wars, as it is a history of successful

¹⁴Zimmerman,B, Lindberg,C, &Plsek, P. (2001). Edgeware: Insights from Complexity Science for Health Care Leaders. *Journal of Science*, 246

¹⁵ Turocy, T & Bernhard von, S .(2001) .*Game Theory*. Texas: Texas A & M University

cooperation.¹⁶ As much the increase of complex technologies, institutions, and cultural norms can be said to be regulating human interactions, it is underlying human interactions that allow the entry of the technologies, institutions and norms even as the changes in the interactions dictate their transformation. Dictates of scholarship have split human behavior into different subjects for convenience purposes as in reality an individual's behavior has significance on other individuals. Therefore, the theory views that the interactions and actions within a group of have an effect on the outcome that is of interest to all. In poaching, any of the player's actions has significant bearing on all other parties especially; when the action is strategic i.e. they should be aware of the fact that their actions affect others. In sum, game theory studies strategic interaction within a group of individuals and poaching is well founded in such scenarios.

1.7 Empirical Literature Review

The study has thematically reviewed literature alongside the three research objectives namely; to interrogate catalysts to increased poaching activities in Kenya, to examine the effectiveness of the multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching activities in Kenya and to evaluate the implications of poaching activities in Kenya.

1.7.1 Catalysts to the Increased Poaching activities in Kenya

1.7.1.1 Poverty

Kockesen, and Efe, argues that “poverty is directly and indirectly linked to poaching and trafficking of ivory and rhino horn from Sub-Saharan Africa. In order to respond effectively to the links

¹⁶ Kockesen, L & Efe, A. (2007) *An Introduction to Game Theory*. New York: New York University

between poverty, trafficking and poaching in Sub-Saharan Africa, we need to understand how it developed because there is no easy link between poverty and trafficking”.¹⁷

Adams¹⁸ distinguished four key arguments in the conservation-poverty debate which includes “a conservation and poverty are separate policy realms, Conservation should not compromise poverty reduction, poverty impedes conservation because poaching and environmental degradation is often pursued by the ignorant poor. When people become richer, they are more likely to accept conservation policies. Addressing poverty is therefore a means of directly and indirectly promoting conservation and that poverty reduction depends on sustainable resource use. Where livelihoods depend on living resources, their sustainable use will promote both the resource and the livelihood associated with it.”

Most people in Africa are poor and Wildlife conservationists and development experts posit that many Africans tend to engage in poaching activities because of poverty. Additionally, (ICCF), states that “The extreme poverty of many African communities induces their complicity in African-based, Asian-run poaching networks”. However, this is carried out by organized criminal networks but more associated to poverty. The ICCF and other NGO’s have played an instrumental role in the campaign against poaching crisis in Africa.

1.7.1.2 High Demand of Wildlife Products from Wealthier Countries

Before 1970s, Eastern Africa was home to the largest elephant populations on the continent.

Reports by CITES monitoring agency, Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) indicates

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Adams , M. A., Avelling, R., Brockington, D., Belliott,J., Hutton, J., Roe, D., Vira, B., & Wolmer, W. (2004). Biodiversity Conservation and the Eradication of Poverty. *Journal on eradication of poverty*, 306, 146-148

that due to increased ivory poaching in East Africa, the ecosystem is at crisis, with Kenya and Tanzania registering highest levels. The growing Asian economies and their increased demand for Africa's natural resources including wildlife and wildlife products has given momentum to poaching. The rising price of ivory and rhino horn in black market at more than US \$1,870 and \$ 65,000 per kilogram coupled with cultural values attached to these products inform of among others symbols status and traditional medicine respectively, perpetrates the illicit trophy trade. Furthermore, CITES decision to permit two elephant ivory one-off sales after the 1989 ivory ban revamped the ivory trade.¹⁹ Kenya is considered both a range state and as a transit state. Illegal ivory poached in Kenya and elsewhere passes through Kenyan sea ports and air ports to various destinations indicating that, corruption may be rampant or there is no sufficient monitoring at these exit ports. Poor communities engage in these crimes because of high demand of wildlife products from the wealthier communities or countries.²⁰

However, according to a recent IUCN report on elephant meat trade in the Central African region “the demand from wealthier communities was a key stimulus for illegal hunting²¹ these economies remain major legal and illegal importers of wildlife.” In addition, as reported in 2008 by TRAFFIC-ASIA “the increase in illegal trading of wildlife was directly related to the rise in incomes in the region,²² it linked local-level rural harvesters, professional hunters, traders, wholesalers and retailers with the final consumers of wildlife, in distant locations from the

¹⁹ Adetunji, Jo. (2008, July). China Given Green Light to Buy African Ivory Stockpile. Support *the Guardian*, 15, pp. 173

²⁰ Hongfa, XU & Compton, J. (2008). The State of Wildlife Trade in China. Traffic, China: TRAFFIC East Asia China Programme.

²¹ Stiles, D., Redmond, I., Cress, D., Nellemann, C., Formo, R.K. (2013). *Stolen Apes – The Illicit Trade in Chimpanzees, Gorillas, Bonobos and Orangutans. A Rapid Response Assessment*. Norway: Birkel and Trykkeri AS

²² Duffy. R. (2010). *Nature Crime: How We're Getting Conservation Wrong*. New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press).

source of the product. The illegal wildlife trade provides varying levels of economic support to different communities, a source of regular income and a safety net or as profitable business.²³

1.7.1.3 Proliferation of small arms and light weapons of Poaching in Kenya

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the region has increased the illegal trade of wildlife products among the communities neighboring wildlife areas. For instance in increase of small arms and light weapons from neighboring countries like Somalia are just, but among other factors fuelling organized wildlife crime including banditry in Kenya. The porous border between Kenya and Somalia has enhanced wildlife criminal activities since they serve as safe havens for the Somali poachers, who engage in the vice during their retreat to their bases. Besides poaching, these weapons have also been used to perpetrate other crimes.

Since 2008, there has been a gradual escalation in elephant poaching with criminals using diverse methods of poaching and transportation of wildlife products aimed at circumventing security agencies operations against poaching. The poaching fueled proliferation of arms continues to cause general insecurity in Kenya as guns are used by criminal groups to perpetrate crime. These crimes include inter-community clashes informed by cattle rustling and competition over resources such as water and pasture. The proliferation also continues to fuel crimes in Kenya urban centers and villages as gangs take advantage of the easily available guns to terrorize innocent citizens. The above drivers have in consequence fueled new security challenges including negatively influencing Kenya entry ports, giving Kenya a bad international image as

²³ Hongfa, XU & Compton, J. (2008). The State of Wildlife Trade in China. Traffic, China: Traffic East Asia China Programme.

narco state which is unable to protect its wildlife resources. Similarly, the trade has exacerbated other criminal activities such as terrorism.

1.7.2 Strategies to Counter Poaching activities in Kenya

In the Horn of Africa, poaching of wildlife products was carried out by armed bandits from Somalia who operated outside officially protected wildlife areas. Before establishment of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in 1989, inadequate support to conserve and manage Kenya's wildlife contributed to massive poaching, parks insecurity, low morale and inefficiency within Wildlife Conservation Department. This threatened the survival of both elephant and rhino species. This followed an establishment of a uniformed and disciplined KWS which consequently improved wildlife protection resulting in wildlife and tourism sectors stabilization. Again, Kenya's 1989 public ivory stockpile destruction heightened global poaching consciousness issue along with 1989 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), of Wild Fauna and Flora's ban on international trade in ivory that led to a further degeneration of elephant poaching and subsequent recovery of their numbers.

KWS is mandated with the role of ensuring conservation of wildlife through enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations. Consequently, KWS has put specific security strategies and measures to combat organized wildlife crime. Mainly, a multiagency approach comprising KWS and other security agencies has been adopted to achieve wildlife security at local level. All stakeholders including relevant government agencies such as the judiciary, customs, border control and immigration authorities and private conservation bodies including local communities and ranchers among others have collaborated, with a view of implementing required security

strategies to counter the threat of poaching. At regional level, Kenya's cross-border collaborative efforts with Tanzania and Uganda have been targeting trans-boundary crimes of nature with some success. This largely involves working closely with international and regional law enforcement bodies, such as the International Police (INTERPOL) and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, which has also immensely contributed to reduced organized wildlife criminal activities not only in Kenya but also within the region at large.

The role played by conservation bodies like the (AWF) among others to facilitate community and trans-border areas wildlife protection and coordination with KWS to achieve wildlife conservation and security related goals cannot be underrated. For instance, the recent AWF's capacity enhancement of KWS's Canine Detection Unit by providing additional dogs and training support is evident. The unit is charged with detecting wildlife products contraband mainly ivory and rhino horn at entry and exit points such as airports, border points and seaports thereby intercepting and disrupting the illicit trade. Additionally, AWF and other partners have been organizing workshops across the country to sensitize relevant stakeholders such as local police, magistrates, customs, immigration officials and communities among others on impact of poaching and trafficking of wildlife trophy, as well as about the existing wildlife laws and the need for enforcing them.²⁴

At global level, measures and efforts to tackle the threat posed by poaching and wildlife trophy trade have advanced, focusing to reduce both supply and demand aspects of illegal wildlife trade.

²⁴ CITES. (2013, December). Status of African Elephant Populations and Levels of Illegal Killing and the Illegal Trade in Ivory: *a Report to the African Elephant Summit*. Retrieved from https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/african_elephant_summit_background_document_2013_en.pdf

It involves mainly enhancing wildlife protection on the ground (reducing supply) with escalated civic education campaigns at consumer markets (reducing demand). Both governmental and non-governmental organizations have been coordinating at both local and international levels in the process of eradicating the threat posed by poaching and trafficking of wildlife and their products.

1.7.3 Implications of Poaching Activities in Kenya

1.7.3.1 Human Wildlife Conflict and Poaching Activities

Human-wildlife conflict has become a global challenge and an issue of great concern to governments across the world. Poor governance in many African countries including Kenya has largely encouraged poaching and wildlife trophy trade activities across the region. Human wildlife conflict ranging from farms and properties destruction and deaths by wild animals have had a negative bearing on people's life. This has mainly occurred in game parks and national reserves neighborhoods in counties such as Nakuru, Laikipia, Narok, Baringo, Kajiado, Taita Taveta, Nyeri and Meru. The marauding wildlife mainly arising from lack of physical separation between communities and animals has restricted people's movement during night and to some extent rainy season. More so, long term undressed issues like competition for existing resources such as water, livestock predation and risks of contracting livestock diseases further complicated the situation.

According to (AWF) prevention and mitigation are the two basic approaches of managing human-wildlife conflicts. Preventive measures can prevent or minimize the risk of conflicts between communities and wildlife. It includes complete separation by either evacuating one

away from the other, or setting up physical separation between them. Muruthi²⁵ further observes that, although prevention may be the best option, it may also be coupled with timely reactive approaches following human-wildlife conflicts. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)'s implementation of revenue sharing scheme generated from park entrance fees with neighboring communities' aims at encouraging communities to take part in wildlife conservation.²⁶ KWS also funds community amenities like hospitals, water supply, cattle dips and schools. This has been identified as another potential source of conflict as KWS has observed lack of transparency in the distribution of wildlife benefits. For instance, Sindiga has indicated that despite provisions for channeling part of wildlife revenue local communities in Kenya, KWS has to first meet its financial needs before any other consideration making implementation almost impracticable. Muriithi also argues that the process of compensation for the victims that have been injured or killed by wildlife is usually insufficient and ineffective.

Additionally, poaching is an unrelenting universal problem with a major effect on Africa particularly the East and Central African region. The global appetite for wildlife products such as ivory and rhino horns is endangering elephant and rhino population in African countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Like many countries in Africa, wildlife criminality in Kenya has created challenges to wildlife conservation endangering Kenya's modest numbers of elephants and Rhinos.

²⁵ Muruthi , P. (2005). *Human-wildlife conflicts: Lessons learn t rom AWF's African Heartlands*. Nairobi : African Wildlife Foundation: Nairobi

²⁶ Leakey, R. (1990). Richard Leakey talks to Swara. *Journal of East African Wildlife Society*, 15 (1), 4-8

Nevertheless, Africa has undergone a re-emergence of widespread poaching and trafficking of wildlife products which has posed new challenges to wildlife security.²⁷ The growing market for wildlife product especially ivory and rhino horn has prompted elephant and rhino poaching in Kenya and Africa in extension. Similarly, new trends and patterns involving wildlife poaching and trophy trafficking including areas targeted by poachers, weapons and tools used including snares and poisoning of animals especially in new areas that previously did not experience poaching activities. There have also been an emerging new methods, trafficking routes and concealment techniques by poachers, couriers/transporters and international dealers engaged in the vice. So far, evidence gathered has indicated that poaching continues to thrive at high level which if left unabated could lead to decline and possible extinction of some of prestigious African elephant population in future.

1.7.3.2 Implication of Conflict on Tourism Industry

Poorer communities in conflict areas lose the value of wildlife to organized militia and rebel groups who use ivory and rhino horn to fund their operations. Furthermore, it prevents the development of tourism because tourists are put off by the risks associated with a combination of conflict zones and poaching.” Conflict poses a challenge to the tourism industry and as a result this affects the economy and tourism value of wildlife in countries such as CAR, Sudan, Chad,

²⁷ Warinwa, F., Kanga, E., & Kiprono, W.(2014) . Fighting Wildlife Trade in Kenya. *The magazine of the United Nations*, 1(2)

DRC and the Rwanda-Uganda-DRC border areas. The tourism sector is worsened by increased poaching especially by the rebels in order to fund and conflicts and wars.²⁸

1.7.4 Summary of Review of Literature

Theoretical and empirical review of existing literature on the study objectives was done. Literature was reviewed on the catalysts that have led to increased poaching in Kenya, the effectiveness of multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching activities and the implications of poaching activities in Kenya. Corruption by KWS officers, government officials, local communities and other actors, weak governance and structures, high poverty levels have increased the poaching crisis in Africa as discussed above. There is need to enact stringent measures and policies that will help curb this menace that is threatening the lives of wildlife and livelihood of millions. In Kenya for instance, if this menace is not addressed it's projected to negatively affect the country's economy and biodiversity. Thus, there is need for the global community need to enhance local, regional and international cooperation in order to guarantee the security of our wildlife.²⁹

1.7.5 Research Gap

From the above literature review, the study discloses three main gaps which include: Firstly, there is lack of adequate knowledge among the public on importance and relevance of wildlife.

²⁸ UNODC.(2012). Environmental Crime, the Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber. Retrieved from http://www.unodc.org/res/cld/bibliography/environmental-crime-the-trafficking-of-wildlife-and-timber_html/TOC12_fs_environment_EN_HIRES.pdf

²⁹ CITES (2013, December 2). *New Figures Reveal Poaching for the Illegal Ivory Trade Could Wipe out a Fifth of Africa's Elephants over Next Decade*. Retrieved from https://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131202_elephant-figures.php

Secondly, there is lack of adequate public involvement in not only wildlife conservation but also in other conservation efforts involving other areas such as forests. Lastly, the literature review has identified inadequate political will to stem out corruption within the system, which has also negatively impacted on war against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife trophies.

1.8 Research Hypothesis

The study is based on the following hypotheses:

H1: Increased poaching in Kenya is exacerbated by poverty in the country.

H2: Security strategies for deterring poaching in Kenya have not been very effective.

1.9 Study Justification and Significance

The research findings were significant in informing policy makers about the poaching problem and recommend ways to help in the development of suitable policies that can effectively deal with poaching in order to save Kenya's wildlife from extinction.

1.9.1 Academic Justification

This study is important as it will generate new literature for the academicians in the conservation of wildlife in Kenya and other countries that experience poaching activities. It will also facilitate policy adjustment by policy makers on efforts to conserve wildlife.

1.9.2 KWS Management

This study is intended to provide information to the management to influence their anti-poaching policies and their implementation in Kenya.

1.9.3 The Police

This will enable them to become conversant with the poaching menace and develop mechanisms for effective investigations, arrests and prosecution of culprits engaging, aiding or abetting the poaching menace.

1.9.4 Policy Makers

The study is also necessary to policy-makers for it will identify weak points and to propose recommendations for the legal and institutional framework, to facilitate the formulation of a multi-agency coordination approach policy framework to address the poaching and wildlife trafficking phenomenon in Kenya.

1.10 Theoretical Framework

1.10.1 Opportunity Routine Activity Theory

The theory was developed by Cohen and Felson, who contents that “three elements must be present for a crime to occurs and they include; a motivated offender with criminal intentions and the ability to act on these inclinations, a suitable victim or target, and the absence of a capable guardian who can prevent the crime from happening.”³⁰ These three elements must converge in time and space for a crime to occur.” The theory further postulates that criminal activities are a

³⁰ Felson, M. & Cohen,E. (1980). Human ecology and crime, a routine activity approach. *Journal on Human Ecology*, 8(4), 389-405.

“structurally significant phenomenon,” meaning that violations are neither random nor trivial events.”³¹

This study employ the theory in explaining issues surrounding poaching in terms of availability of ready market for the wildlife products especially elephant tusks and rhino horns and the high prices that the items attract. The theory can be used to explain presence of willing poachers, presence of national parks and reserves and struggling state authorities who ate unable to stamp out the poaching menace.

In the context of poaching, poachers are motivated by their socialization that celebrates crime as a form of success. Individuals who decide to engage in poaching take advantage of the wildlife environment which is vast and remote. For such individuals, crime is normal as the opportunities are available. Moreover, if the target is unprotected and it has substantial rewards, the motivated poacher will commit the crime.

In terms of suitable targets in poaching, the choice is influenced by the poacher’s perception of the target’s vulnerability including its suitability and accessibility. Once, all these fall into place, the poacher will proceed to undertake the crime. In respect to national parks and reserves, the ineffective presence of guardians is unable to deter individuals from poaching, thus encouraging the poaching menace. This ineffectiveness is due to the insurmountable challenges of physically guarding vast parks and reserves. The presence of ineffective man guarding the parks and reserves alongside poor use of technological systems enables poachers to enter them and engage in crime in form killing targeted animals for their lucrative trophies.

³¹ Ibid, p. 390.

1.11 Research Methodology

The chapter looks at the methodological approach of the study to be adopted to achieve the objectives stated earlier. It focuses on the study design, area of study, target population, sample size, sampling design, data collection instruments, data collection procedures, piloting, data analysis and presentation.

1.11.1 Research Design

A research design entails “the plan, structure and strategy to be utilized in investigating the research problem and obtaining answers to research questions. It entails a blue print under which a study is conducted, ensuring there is maximum control over factors having potential influence on the validity of the findings.”³² The researcher adopted the descriptive research design. This design aims to provide an accurate and valid representation of variables relating to the research question and allows for collection of information from a large number of people by sampling.³³ This study design was deemed as the best to fulfill the objective of the study as the result would provide an insight in understanding the factors that have led to increased poaching activities in Kenya.

³² Mugenda, O.M., & Mugenda, G. (1999). *Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. Nairobi: Acts Press

³³ Patricia, S & Rangarjan, N.(2013). *A Playbook for Research Methods: Integrating Conceptual Frameworks and Project Management*. Stillwater, Oklahoma: New Forums Press

1.11.2 Target Population

According to Ngechu,³⁴ population is defined as “a set of elements, people, events, services and groups of things or households under investigation”. Statistically, the target population is “the specific population whose information is desired to meet the research objectives”. According to Kerry and Bland,³⁵ “the technique produces estimates of overall population parameters with greater precision and ensures more representative sample is derived from a relatively homogenous population”. The target population of this study involved KWS, police officers, convicts, ex-convicts and conservationists. The study was based in Nairobi where KWS, police, prisons and conservation agencies are located.

1.11.3 Study Sample

For the purpose of this study the number of respondents has been determined using the underlisted formula adopted from Mugenda & Mugenda (1999) for calculating population that is less than 10,000.

$$nf = \frac{n}{(1 + n)N}$$

Where nf = Desired sample size, when the population is less 10,000

n = desired sample when the population is more than 10,000

N = estimate of the population

³⁴ Ngechu, M .(2004). *Understanding the Research Process and Methods: An Introduction to Research Methods*. Nairobi: Acts Press

³⁵ Kerry, S & Bland, J. (1998). *The intraclass correlation coefficient in cluster randomization*. Rockville Pike, USA: National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine

$$\text{Sample size} = \frac{157}{1 + (157/307)}$$

= 157 Respondents

The sample was spread out on the following groups as listed on the table below.

Table 1.1: Research Population and Sampling Technique

Respondents	Number of Respondents	Sampling technique
KWS	60	Random sampling
Convicts	10	Snow-balling
Ex-convicts	7	Snow-balling
Police	60	Random sampling
Conservationists	20	Random sampling
TOTAL	157	

Source: Researcher, 2019

This sample comprised the five categories highlighted on table 1.1 above. Sampling for each category applied different sampling techniques as indicated on the table above.

The respondents expected to provide answers to the research questions included KWS officials, convicts, ex-convicts, police and conservationists. As observed by Carr, Zikmund, Babin and Griffin, sample size for each stratum is not allocated in proportion to the portion size of the stratum but is dictated by analytical considerations under this method.³⁶ Thus, the sample size

³⁶ Carr, B., Zikmund, W., Babin, B., & Griffin, M. (2010). *Business Research Method*. Fort Worth, TX: Dryden Press Fort Wort

increases for strata of greater sizes with the greatest relative viability. According to Dawson” for large scale quantitative survey, there was need to contact many more people than would be for a small qualitative sample”³⁷.

1.11.4 Data Collection

Data are facts presented to the researcher from the environment under the study.³⁸ This research study relied mainly on primary data. Primary data is sought for its proximity to the truth and its control over error.³⁹ This method is appropriate in capturing the relevant experiences and attitudes as presented primarily by the actors. Such information is invaluable to a research that is investigating reasons responsible for increased poaching in Kenya. A self-administered structured questionnaire, consisting of both open ended and closed ended questions was used. The questions were designed to elicit specific qualitative and quantitative responses. A cover letter was obtained from University of Nairobi to enable the administering of the questionnaire. A questionnaire is a useful tool for collecting data from respondents and enables them to express their views more openly and clearly. In order to address the research question adequately, the questionnaire had section A which collected background information of the respondents and sections B to D collected information related to each of the study objectives. The questionnaires were distributed to managers of the game reserves and national parks within targeted areas in Kenya. In cases where managers are not authorized to respond to certain issues, the researcher delivered the questionnaire to the proprietor. Where necessary, the researcher provided any clarification required by the respondents before picking the questionnaire.

³⁷ Dawson, C. (2002). *Practical Research Methods*. Newtec Place, UK : How To Books Ltd,

³⁹ Cooper, R., & Schinder, S. (2013). *Business Research Methods*. New York: McGraw Hill.

1.11.5 Pilot Study

Pilot study involves “a preliminary study conducted in order to evaluate time and cost in attempt to predict an appropriate sample size and improve upon the study and study design prior to performance of a full-scale research project”.⁴⁰ To help refine the tools of data collection, the research sampled 157 respondents from different locations its pilot study. The pilot study helped to identify potential field research problems before the full study.

1.11.6 Data Analysis

Data analysis is defined as “a process of systematically applying statistical or logical techniques to describe, illustrate or evaluate data”. Since this study employed both qualitative and quantitative research method, the emerging data was analyzed by use of SPSS, Excel and content analysis. As such, the questionnaires which were received from respective respondents for analysis of the responses acquired. The resultant conclusions drawn from the analysis of the responses was compared to the objectives with a view of establishing if the objectives of the study were realized or not. The collected data was systematically organized, edited and entered. Also, consistency and uniformity in data collection and completeness of information was checked. Data collected was then be organized and analyzed to enable meaningful analysis of data distribution using tables.

⁴⁰ Stephen , H.(2007). *Designing Clinical Research*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

1.12 Chapter Outline

This project is structured into five chapters with an introduction and conclusion of the themes discussed in every chapter.

Chapter one gives a general introduction to the study. It provides the background of the study, the problem statement, research questions and objectives, Empirical literature and theoretical review, hypothesis, study justification and significance, theoretical framework and methodology.

Chapter two presents the catalysts to the increased poaching in Kenya

Chapter three examines the effectiveness of multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching activities in Kenya

Chapter four evaluates the implications of poaching activities in Kenya

Chapter five presents the summary of the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study findings.

CHAPTER TWO

CATALYSTS TO INCREASED POACHING IN KENYA

2.0 Introduction

There has been increased demand for wildlife ivory internationally. This has led to insurgence of international poachers in Kenya with an international network of foreigners. This has been evident through massive ivory on transit through the Mombasa port to foreign countries such as China. This chapter covers the main factors leading to increased poaching activities which includes: Poverty and Wildlife Trophy Trafficking, Corruption, Unemployment of Youth, Inadequate funds, Economic Growth in Asia, Proximity to Unstable Countries, Insecure Communities and Proliferation of Illicit and Light weapons, Weak Enforcement of Law, Ready Market and Availability of Supply, Globalization of International Crimes and Terrorism.

2.1 Factors Contributing to Wildlife Trophy Trafficking

The study observed several factors leading to wildlife trafficking in Kenya as outlined below.

2.1.1 Poverty and Wildlife Trophy Trafficking

Majority of the respondents indicated that poverty drives people into poaching. In this scenario, poachers are just victims of poverty, however they are also actual killers of rhino and elephant, the reason why government has to invest much on anti-poaching efforts. In order to address poaching, there is need of concerted government efforts to establish development, which is the only long term sustainable solution to minimize poverty, since poor people in Kenya are understandably poor to an extend they contribute to insecurity since they are involved in

poaching crime. For instance, most of respondents in Nairobi argued that most of people living along the parks are marginalized; take for example the community surrounding Tsavo national park and Masai Mara National park. As observed by Save Rhino Foundation, Poaching incidences increase during drought season.⁴¹ One of respondents argued that “we poach because we have no other choice, we must provide for our livelihood, I personally poach not because it is not my wish to poach but because of poverty and unemployment”. In this scenario, tough circumstances of nature drive one into poaching. As it is in other business enterprises, the poaching cartels have actually been in constant lookout for new opportunities and chances to maximize their profits in international black market of wildlife products. The study also found that, in areas where poverty is worst also there is a high level of elephant and rhino poaching.

2.1.2 Corruption and Unemployment of youth

The born free report of 2015 on wildlife trophy trafficking indicates that “in Kenya there is enough evidence of how sophisticated surveillance equipment’s like GPS locaters, established to protect rhinos and elephants, is instead being used by poachers with help of government officials to both locate and target their prey”.⁴² Corruption is the leading driver of poaching menace in Kenya. When corruption is already endemic in society, then it is easy for cartels to corrupt the system more, exploit poor people and evade capture.

Poaching of elephant and rhino in Africa is alarming and has drawn international attention. For instance Buffet has provided Africa national parks with equipment of high technology such as

⁴¹ Dean, C. (2016). *The Rhino Foundation report of 2016-2017 on Poaching Statistics in East Africa*. Retrieved from <https://www.savetherhino.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SaveTheRhinoInternationalImpactReport2016-17.pdf>

⁴² Weru, S. (2016). *Wildlife Protection and Trafficking Assessment in Kenya*. TRAFFIC, Cambridge: UK

helicopters, sophisticated drones and night vision to fight poaching in Kenya. This is a clear indication that poaching in African has drawn international attention hence it has become a major international topic of the day. For instance, “take a case of UN Security Council, Barack Obama and the Clintons of which all addressed poaching and illegal wildlife trade. As a result elephant summits were convened in Tokyo, London and Gaborone in Botswana”.

Respondents also attributed poaching to growing number of unemployed youths in Kenya. Poaching crisis is exacerbated by high levels of unemployment among the youths, who yearn for quick money from wildlife products through international black market. However, efforts to anti-poaching have been handicapped by the issue of underfunding of KWS.

2.1.3 Inadequate Funds for Modern Equipment’s

It was largely observed by the rangers that their operations have been affected by lack of modern equipment such as drones of high technology and night vision goggles. This problem is as a result of high unmet financial requirements by the State, hence this creates virtual existence of parks since they are only existing as protected parks in paper but not in reality.

According to CITES “Kenya and Tanzania have become the primary export points for illegal trade of ivory in Africa with products destined to Thailand, China and Vietnam”.⁴³ The International demand for Ivory and rhino horns have actually fuelled dramatic decline of elephant and rhino. For instance CITES report indicate that in 1978 Africa had 1.7 million

⁴³ Dean, C. (2016). *The Rhino Foundation report of 2016-2017 on Poaching Statistics in East Africa*. Retrieved from <https://www.savetherhino.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SaveTheRhinoInternationalImpactReport2016-17.pdf>

elephants however the census taken in 2007 indicated that the number has catastrophically declined to between 470,000 and 500,000.⁴⁴

2.1.4 Economic Growth in Asia

Majority of the respondents also attributed increased poaching to growth of Asian economic tigers which has in turn increased demand for Africa elephant ivory. This high demand has led to high prices of Ivory especially, the case of Vietnam and Singapore where there is existence of myth of ivory being treated as a medicine to treat certain types of cancer. This corresponds to UNEP report of 2014 which linked increased poaching to rise in price of rhino horns and ivory at international black market.⁴⁵

2.1.5 Proximity to Unstable Countries, Insecure Communities and Proliferation of Illicit and Light weapons

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons from neighboring unstable governments like Somalia and pastoral communities such as Pokot, Karamajong and Turkana increases access of weapons by bandits which enhances poaching activities. The porous Kenya- Somali border has also led to development of well-organized Somali gangs and in other cases terrorists, who poach in order finance their terror activities. A study done by Buchanan and Rebecca illustrated that Kenya tourism industry has been negatively impacted by insecurity specifically, as a result of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, the industry has lost more than 7.9% of its

⁴⁴ Ibid, P 7.

⁴⁵ McConnell, T. (2013, July). Elephant Tusks: The New Blood Diamonds. *The Salon Magazine*. PP..123

earning.⁴⁶ The study has found that, Kenyan GDP has been negatively affected by proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, which has led to high rates of poaching, hence reducing tourism earnings which is a major source of foreign currency in Kenya.

Weak enforcement of legislations was also highlighted by respondents as factor which has facilitated to increase in poaching. Majority of respondents cited poaching thrived because anti-poaching laws were not well enforced. Exconvicts interviewed actually argued that, for a poaching in protected areas to be successful, there must be a network of connection between KWS officials, politicians, influential businessmen and the market abroad. For instance one exconvicts stated that “Our group had a good connection between KWS officials and influential politicians, the KWS official issued us with guns, night vision goggles and drones which helped us to get the correct location of the rhino, because we targeted rhino more than elephants which have higher demand and more money than ivory”. Richard Leakey, director of Kenya wildlife service from 1989 to 1994 invented a system to recover components of fired cartridges, in many occasions this system found the fire arms used were from registered police officers including KWS officers.⁴⁷ Talk of shooting your foot, the KWS goes against its core responsibility, instead of protecting the wildlife it has in turn became a major source threat to wildlife.

Adetunji argues that, poaching in Kenya was to a large extent conducted by armed bandits from Somalia with clear connection with existing influential cartel in Kenya, however, poaching highly declined after establishment of Kenya wildlife service in 1989 and following event of

⁴⁶ Rebecca, M (2014, August). Elephant poaching deaths reach tipping point in Africa. *BBC News*.

⁴⁷ Richard, L. (2004, December). Allowing sustainable trade in endangered species would make a few dealers rich, while wiping out Africa wildlife. *The Guardian Magazine*. PP-24.

ivory stockpile in same year, which raised international awareness within poaching issue.⁴⁸ In the same year after burning of ivory stockpile CITES imposed ban on trade of ivory internationally making it relatively easy to contain extensive poaching in Kenya. However Adetunji posits that lately Kenya has witnessed re-emergence of widespread poaching of rhino and elephant which presents a new challenge to protection of this two species, Adetunji further expounds that poachers are using sophisticated weapons with night visions and drones and also target areas which were unimaginable before.⁴⁹ According to elephant tusks report, if poaching continues at this level, some African elephant population is likely to disappear in next decade.

2.1.6 Weak Enforcement of Law

Weak enforcement is caused by lack of proper training of KWS officers, inadequate resources, and ineffective legal system, poor governance, greed as well as lack of political will to conserve wildlife, despite it being among major service export of Kenya. The political machinery has actually failed catastrophically to formulate and implement proper legislative policies to protect poaching of rhino and elephant. The issue is a matter of concern because poaching has actually outpaced natural replacement of this two species; hence we contemplate their extinction just as it has happened with the extinction of white rhino in Kenya. Even if Kenya has recently done review on wildlife act and introduced a tougher policy, the new rules still do not deter the determined poachers. When poachers are arrested they have the right to be given bond in order defend their accusation while outside. The respondents argued that, when poachers are given bond, they are able to use their network of operation with powerful cartel to destroy evidence, in

⁴⁸ Adetunji, P. (2009). *Kenya endemic poaching problem, Rhino graveyard highlights*. Independent Publishers: U.K.

⁴⁹ Ibid

case one is found guilty the sentence is very light, compared to the crime committed and its implication.

For successful protection of rhino and elephant, significant resources have to be deployed in the sector, including better payment of KWS officers. The enforcement of ban against animal trophy cannot be successful with national policy enforcement only, but requires support from the international community. The international community can support in banning black market for wildlife products in countries such as Malaysia, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. Presence of international black market for this illegal trade makes poaching to qualify as transnational organized crime due to its nature of operation.

2.1.7 Ready Market and Availability of Supply

Jason contends that, the Asian black market value of rhino horn is currently US\$65,000 per kilo. He views that, the high value of rhino horn depicts there is huge demand of rhino horns brought about by the huge gap between supply and demand.⁵⁰ The current rate of loss to poaching will make rhino extinct just within our lifetime. The underlying cause of massive poaching is high demand for rhino horn in Asia. The future generation will blame Asia for its inability to promote sustainability of rhino and elephant if the two species get extinct. The use for Rhino horns has turned away from medicinal value to making of jewellery and artifacts. It has actually turned to an area of investment. The going stereotype of a poacher as a “poor man struggling to feed his family” may not go well with reality when it comes to highly valued rhino horns of which the main players in this act are well organized wealthy criminal syndicates. As long as there is a

⁵⁰ Jason, G. (2018) *.Rhino horn must become a socially unacceptable product in Asia..* Edinburgh, Scotland: Edinburgh Napier University press.

huge demand for rhino horns coming from rich people in Asia, poor people (poachers) will kill rhinos for their horns.

According to Nam and Martin, Vietnam is the world's largest consumer of Rhino horns. The two scholars argue that "in 2018 alone 1,100 rhinos were killed by poachers and currently there is only 29,500 rhinos left in world."⁵¹ This corresponds to respondents who argued that, in Vietnam rhino horns are viewed as a symbol of status and medicine when the horn is grinded into powder. As a symbol of status, rhino horns are shared to demonstrated wealth across social and professional networks relationship. Offering a rhino horn as a gift to those in political power in Vietnam to get a certain favor is a common affair. This has made rhino horn to attract high prices in result potential profits from this trade far away outweighed any risk. The cultural believes about rhino horns are so much entrenched in Vietnam society rendering the campaign against use rhino horn achieve very minimal if anything. Just as human population in Vietnam as well as their per capita income, the demand for wild trophies has also grown in Kenya. This has also led to a large number of poachers in such a way killing of one or two poachers does not make any difference. The reality remains it's so hard to deconstruct a certain culture or strong believe, hence this is the reason why it's hard to tell Vietnamese consumers of rhino that the rhino horn is useless unless it's with its original owner. The study found that, ridiculous myths about rhino horns in Vietnam have contributed to right rate of their poaching in Kenya.

Porous borders, proximity and accessibility of Kenya to the Indian Ocean have increased transportation and smuggling of illegal tusks. In 2009 Kenya reported the worst record on

⁵¹ Nam, D., & Martin, N, (2019). *What Vietnamese really believe about rhino horn and what that means for poaching*. København, Denmark: University of Copenhagen.

poaching “249 elephants were killed, compared to 147 in 2008 and 47 in 2007, in April 2011, Thai customs office seized 247 tusks worthy \$4.1 million which were traced by Interpol as coming from Mombasa port in Kenya”. This illustrates that the demand for rhino horns and ivory has become ubiquitous causing poaching in Kenya.

One of the respondents who is a conservationist argued that, organized criminal networks possess better capabilities than that KWS officials, where they possess greater sophisticated firepower, intelligence networks, bountiful resources and penetrative capability to government institutions through corruption, making it easier to carry out their operations with greater success. Availability of supply of these products is but another factor which has led to intensification of poaching. In this context, supply refers to availability of both rhino horns and ivory in both legal and illegal channels. Kenya and Africa in general is well blessed with rich biodiversity, however the problem often in form of mismanagement of this resources. The issue of poor governance coupled with wide spread corruption and weak enforcement makes the organized criminal syndicate to permeate in government institutions and operate with very minimal risk of being traced. For instance in 2013 a container of 13.1 tons of wild trophy heading Far East were impounded in Mombasa. Since this is a contraband trade the owner never known, and also never claimed for his commodities.

According to a respondent who is an exconvict, the supply of rhino horns and ivory are always ready immediately the customer’s make down payment. However, as demand continuously goes up, it is highly unlikely that the supply will sustain the demand. This is because the national governments and international community must up together to tame alarming illegal trade of

wild trophies, if not the two species will quickly be a talk of past. It is quite important to note that, the measures to address poaching are as complex and challenging as the poaching itself. For instance, when security is tightened to ensure no poaching the demand of these products automatically shoots high and prices go very high. The high price gives the poor poacher a high appetite, hence they choose to risk death but still poach. This makes poaching of rhino and elephant to become a complex phenomenon of which requires multifaceted and multidimensional approach in order to deal with it.

2.1.8 Globalization of International Crimes

Globalization is one of the key aspects shaping the world in 21st century, even though globalization has been there for long, it has from the first decade of 21st century and onwards expanded rapidly than ever before. Globalization has its benefits and challenges. One of the major challenges of the globalization is that it has helped in expansion of organized criminal networks which has led to increased category of transnational crimes. Originally, the category of transnational crime included drug trafficking, human trafficking and money laundry however; nowadays no one can deny that wildlife trophy trafficking falls under category of transnational crime. For instance, one of the respondents who is a conservationist said that “poaching has not just increased because of presence of illicit arms but because globalization has intensified and linked local criminals with international powerful criminals”.

One of the major characteristic of globalization is that, it has led to liberalization, reduction and removal of legal barriers between national borders in order to facilitate the flow of goods, capital, services and labour. Even though globalization has opened national borders for

international borders, it has as well opened national borders for international organized crime and in this case trophy trafficking. A UN Office on Drugs and trophy trafficking report states that, “global drug trade generates more than \$320 billion a year in revenues on international black market”.⁵² More so, the report indicates that trophy trafficking coexists with international terrorism, especially the case of Somalia where terrorists have resulted to poaching in order to fund their operations. The new opportunities of globalization like more efficient technology have actually aided trophy traffickers in conduct of their deals. The high rate of poaching cannot be separated from globalization. Globalization facilitates the complex web between the poacher, supplier and the consumer.

Margaret posits that “it is due to porous international trade barriers and the seemingly contradictory nature of globalization, the poaching of rhino and elephant has become a global topic of discussion”.⁵³ For her, re-emergence of poaching as a global issue is one of negative impact of globalization. To combat such an extensive trade against poaching that transverse across the world, it is perfectly not a responsibility of only a few affected nations but it requires strong global community with proper coordinated government approaches and well formulated policy.

International trade, transportation and technology are continuously evolving to more sophisticate phenomenal, the forces of globalization have facilitated formation of criminal networks required to move the ivory from forest or savannah to international black markets. Christy investigation has recently demonstrated how ivory trafficking funds activities of terrorist groups not only in

⁵² UNODC. (2008). *United Nations Office of Drugs and wild trafficking report of 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

⁵³ Ibid

Africa but across the world. Trade in Ivory is one of the means which has made LRA, Al-shabaab and ISIS forge a relationship. Ivory trafficking is used to restock terror groups' arsenals in preparation for bloodshed.

2.1.9 Terrorism

According to convicts and ex-convicts respondents, a link exists between poaching and terrorism in Kenya. One of the ex-convict respondent indicated that al-Shabaab poach elephant ivory and rhino to finance their activities.

The study has noted that, there is unclear link between poaching in Kenya and terrorism. One of respondents who is an exconvict indicated that, al-shabaab also poach rhino and elephant trophies to finance their operations. Margaret argues that, “the U.S military plans for Africa should include providing useful intelligence to end elephant and rhino poaching in order to cut a key source of funds for Al-shabaab and al-qaeda terror groups”.⁵⁴ Similarly, Stimson a U.S think tank, based on a research conducted in Kenya has argued that “the spike in poaching and wildlife crime coincides with the increased involvement of sophisticate transnational organized criminals and terrorist organizations”. “Even though we might not know the extent of relationship between poaching and terrorism, we know that there is an important link between poaching and security”. Stimson specifically argues that one of the best ways to end poaching is to educate consumers in Asia and urge them not to buy these products.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Margaret, V. (2019). *Rhinoceros poaching in the context of Globalization*. New Haven, United State : Yale Publishers

⁵⁵ Stimson, J. (2017). *Building public-private partnership to thwart poachers in Kenya*” *Environmental security wildlife trafficking*. Seattle: University Washington Press.

2.2 Chapter Summary

The study has noted that poverty, corruption, high value of wildlife trophies, ready market, and unemployment, weak enforcement of law, globalization and availability of firearms in prohibited hands as the main catalysts contributing to poaching in Kenya. The chapter has also noted that there are some factors which operate beyond the resolute of the national government such as a case of nexus between globalization and poaching. This calls for global community to cooperate in order to save rhino and elephant from brink of extinction.

This chapter specifically contributes towards achieving of the first objective of the study. The chapter has shown that despite a lot of concerted efforts to terminate poaching at its roots, poaching has instead intensified hence becoming global problem. The high magnitude of poaching requires a global campaign to impart knowledge to consumers of wild trophies; this is to make them understand that wild trophies are useless to them, but only useful to their original owner and in this case rhino and elephant.

2.3 Chapter Findings

This chapter has found that there is a complex web of factors which contribute to poaching of elephant ivory and rhino horns. It has been established that globalization is a major factor contributing to the poaching. For instance, globalization has enabled transnational criminal organizations to establish links globally with more awareness between the actual poacher and the consumers who are many miles apart. In addition, the study has found that despite globalization being a general factor contributing to poaching due to its universality, corruption and poverty were found to be the main push and pull catalysts to poaching in Kenya.

CHAPTER THREE

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MULTI-AGENCY SECURITY STRATEGIES IN COUNTER POACHING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

3.0 Introduction

The wildlife trafficking has metamorphosed hence presenting a significant threat to international, regional and national conservation efforts, especially in the case of elephants and rhinos. This chapter therefore, examines the multi-agency security strategies and its effectiveness to counter poaching activities in Kenya. The chapter covers rationale for multiagency security strategies, joint operations, comprehensive strategy on reduction of wildlife crimes in Kenya, internal collaboration and partnerships of key state institutions in combating poaching, regional collaboration between Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, NGO's, public awareness, legal provisions, creation of jobs for youths to reduce wildlife trafficking and use of state of art technology to counter poaching.

3.1 Rationale for Multiagency Security Strategies

Every security agency has its own standard operating procedures. Each procedure has both advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, multiagency security strategies will combine to give the best synergy in as far as poaching activities in Kenya, regional and world over is concerned. Multiagency is a new concept to improve coordination and synergy among various security players. During the study one of the respondents who is KWS officer indicated that "Multiagency has to a higher extent succeeded in countering of poaching because, since the government involved various security agencies in countering poaching, we have actually

recorded fewer cases of poaching compared with period before its establishment”. For instance in Westgate case, each security organ was operating as independent security entities based on their standard operating procedures. The outcome was rivalry as opposed to complementarity. It was noted that during Dusit D2 terrorist attack, there were improvement in multiagency coordination that were complimenting each other instead of being rivalry, hence it terror attack was quickly thwarted and many lives were saved.⁵⁶

The multiagency structures comprise of NPS which conducts patrol in national parks and arrest of poachers, NIS) which is charged with mandate of gathering and disseminating of intelligence to other agencies on matters involving poaching, CID which is the agency which conducts investigation, KWS which is the main body charged with protection of wildlife in Kenya, Judiciary is charged mandate of proving suspects to be guilty and then charge them for the offence committed, DPP, prisons detain the charged criminals, immigration department has the main role of detecting the movement of people and goods inside and outside the country and KPA which checks the good before they are shipped to other countries.

3.2 Joint Operations by different security organs

A large number of respondents and especially the KWS officers when asked what is the nature and structure of multi-agency strategies, majority indicated that “Multiagency comprises of different security agencies who conduct joint operations with main objective of countering poaching. This corresponds with Steinhart who argued that, the inclusive anti-poaching strategy of Kenya which brought together its security agencies in countering poaching has succeeded

⁵⁶ Stimsom, J. (2017). *Building public-private partnership to thwart poachers in Kenya*” *Environmental security wildlife trafficking*. Seattle: University Washington Press.

hence Zimbabwe should take the same approach.⁵⁷ Joint operation is main strategy undertaken by the multiagency to counter poaching in Kenya. The joint operations include pooling resources together for the purpose of joint training, investigations, intelligence collection and paramilitary course. There is also the approach of sharing of drones, personnel and communication systems all in effort to counter poaching activities in Kenya. Intelligence sharing is one of major strategy to counter poaching in Kenya. For instance, one of the KWS respondents argued that “Involvement NIS in countering of poaching comprises one of the major milestones; this is because since the National intelligence Service was involved in countering poaching there has been meaningful reduction in poaching”. Charles argues that, structuring of NIS body charged mandate to provide intelligence on poaching has led to 40% reduction of poaching cases in Kenya since 2014.⁵⁸

3.3 Comprehensive Strategy on Reduction of Wildlife Crimes in Kenya

Wildlife crime in Kenya is ever evolving and portends new challenges in wildlife conservation efforts. As is the trend across the world and specifically in the region, wildlife crime within the Country is projected to escalate and tremendously impact on the country’s biodiversity and subsequently economy, if not urgently addressed. To enhance wildlife security and strengthen law enforcement, the KWS has established discrete strategies to combat wildlife related crimes. KWS law-enforcement Units work in tandem with other internal security agencies and the military in matters affecting wild fauna and flora at international, regional and local arena to ensure maximum protection of wildlife. Structured engagements with internal security agencies,

⁵⁷ Edward, S. (2016). *Inclusive Anti-poaching, Exploring the Potential and Challenges of Community based Anti-poaching in Kenya*. Berlin: Researchgate.

⁵⁸ Kihiu, C. (2017). *NIS Help Agency’s War on Poaching*. Nairobi: University Press

relevant County and Government offices, Customs and Immigration offices, KAA, private ranches, local communities among other conservation stakeholders, have been stepped up to address matters of mutual interest and in drawing and implementing area specific security strategies to combat poaching among other wildlife crime.⁵⁹ The partnership and engagement with the judicial system at National and County levels has also been enhanced. Regionally, cross border collaborations with Tanzania has been in existence for more than a decade. Similar collaboration with Uganda is being established to address wildlife related crimes at bilateral level. LATF and INTERPOL are resourceful in partnerships aimed at combating wildlife crimes of international nature occur.

Wildlife crimes, particularly the illegal trade in wildlife products, jeopardize long term sustainable conservation of biodiversity hence causing extinction of a range of species of flora and fauna. This illegal trade mostly takes place in developing or least developed countries, which contain most of the world's biodiversity, while developed countries provide demand for the illegal wildlife products. This illegal wildlife trafficking and trading involving animals, plants, their parts/products and derivatives is a global phenomenon with grave and at-times irreversible impact on the global ecosystems, biodiversity's and national economies.

Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products in Kenya is considered one of the predominant threats facing survival of varying flora and fauna species with most affected being elephants and rhinos. In order to counter poaching, KWS utilizes law enforcement as one of the wide range of tools for wildlife management which ensures compliance with formal statutes that are established to ensure and enhance sustainable management of wildlife. These measures encompass

⁵⁹ GoK. (2013). *Wildlife Conservation and Management Act*. Nairobi, Kenya: Government of Kenya Printer

prevention, detection, suppression, arrest, prosecution, conviction and punishment to create a disincentive that will convince potential offenders not to break the law.⁶⁰

To deter and fight wildlife crimes, particularly wildlife poaching and trafficking in their products, KWS has institutionalized and enhanced specialized security components that are deployed across the country. These include the Canine Unit, Horse Unit, Prosecution Unit, Security Data, Research and Development Units, Wildlife Investigation Unit, Intelligence Unit and Emergency Management Unit. The Canine Unit helps in sniffing wildlife products / tracking wildlife offenders, while the Horse Unit eases accessibility of mountainous terrains. The Prosecution Unit helps in prosecution and conviction for wildlife related offences as the Security Data, Research and Development Unit engages in information management, study of emerging trends and recommend appropriate solutions.⁶¹ Wildlife Investigation and Intelligence Units help in investigation of wildlife crimes while the Emergency Management Unit deals with different disaster situations. As Kenya remains a conduit for illicit consignments of wildlife and their products to international destinations, strengthening of these Units and more partnership with the relevant agencies and stakeholders, will be some of the strategies of winning the war against wildlife crime.

KWS has continued to remarkably invest in training and capacity building to enhance its law enforcement component. The KWS Law Enforcement Academy, which is located in Tsavo West National Park, offers paramilitary courses and other specialized law enforcement training to KWS staff to equip them with law enforcement skills. Apart from training KWS staff, the

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Graham, M. (2012). *Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Laikipia County 2012 – 2030*. Nanyuki, Kenya: Laikipia Wildlife Forum

Academy also trains other stakeholders involved in law enforcement and specifically Wildlife conservation. These include Private Wildlife Sanctuary's staff, the County Councils and the (KAA). KWS has trained over 1,000 conservancy scouts at KWS Law Enforcement Academy to secure wildlife outside protected areas and to meet the training demands of its enforcement staff. The Academy is being upgraded to a Centre of excellence in wildlife law enforcement training. This involves reviewing all the courses offered to incorporate the lessons learnt to address emerging wildlife security issues, expansion of wildlife protection scope and enhancing of training facilities. KWS has also significantly benefitted from other capacity building programs such as training opportunities and technology transfer as offered by other partners both within and outside the country to its institution and/or law enforcement staff.⁶²

3.4 Internal Collaboration and Partnerships of Key State Institutions in Combating

Poaching

The KWS respondents indicated that, they work in close coordination with other law enforcement agencies in all matters concerning wildlife security at international, continental, regional and local arena. In addition Biegus and Christian argue that there is an improved global response on Poaching, this due to new emerging global wildlife crime regimes.⁶³ Structured engagements with other law enforcement agencies such as Government offices, Customs and Immigration Departments, Kenya Airports Authority, local communities, and other conservation stakeholders have been enhanced. For successful prosecution of wildlife crimes and training of KWS Prosecution and Investigation Units staff, KWS works hand in hand with the Office of the

⁶² King, A. (2013). *Conservancies in Kenya: Report to the Kenya Land Conservation Trust*. Isiolo, Kenya

⁶³ Olga, B., & Christian, B. (2017). *Improved Coordination of the World in Countering International Wildlife Trophy Trafficking*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

(ODPP). With this collaboration, the KWS has mounted successful investigations and prosecutions against wildlife crime which have led to successful convictions. It was also noted that, KWS has further extended this partnership to other internal security agencies such as the NPS, the NIS and the Directorate of Criminal Investigation to ensure effective prosecution of wildlife crimes, surveillance and profiling of poachers and illegal wildlife trophy dealers in the country.

3.5 Regional Collaboration between Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Regionally, multilateral cooperation with neighboring states such as Tanzania and Uganda, has also been established to combat poaching crimes across the borders, to ensure that conservation efforts in one country are complemented in the other States rather than compromised. Kenya has particularly collaborated with Tanzania in key wildlife security areas such as Prevention of inter-border movements of illegal firearms, Prevention of illegal trade in wildlife trophies and smuggling of animal products, enhancement of biodiversity and tourism security in protected areas, prevention of human and livestock encroachment into wildlife protected areas, management of uncontrolled and controlled wild fires in wildlife protected areas and exchange of research findings and strategies which are relevant to wildlife security and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem.

INTERPOL and LATF have been in the forefront in efforts to facilitate, coordinate and offer support in wildlife security efforts. Some of the areas where KWS collaborates with international, regional and local stakeholders in wildlife law enforcement include: KWS taking an active role at regional level in environmental protection e.g. being an active member of the

EAPCCO, cooperation between INTERPOL and KWS through NCB, Member/host of LATF. INTERPOL and Lusaka Agreement Task Force have been in the forefront in efforts to facilitate, coordinate and offer support in wildlife security efforts, cross border wildlife security collaborations with Tanzania, participation in regional and international law enforcement operations geared towards fighting wildlife crime e.g. Operation Cobra, Operation Worthy, World Custom Organization facilitated operations and finally training of law enforcement personnel at local, regional and international institutions.⁶⁴

Kenya's proposal and efforts to combat poaching of rhinos and elephants won a tremendous support/backing of the 16th (CoP) during the (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora meeting on wildlife trade held in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Kenya has since submitted an "Ivory trade Action Plan to reduce poaching & Ivory Trafficking" after being profiled as one of the eight countries in the world affected by increase in illegal ivory trade. The goal of this Action Plan is to ensure successful cooperation among States and Non-State Agencies to reduce or eliminate poaching of elephants and illegal ivory trade.⁶⁵

The primary areas of the Action Plan are: "wildlife security legislations, enforcement actions, investigations and national inter-agency collaboration and coordination, collaboration on international and regional wildlife security enforcement, outreach, public awareness and education and national reporting to CITES Secretariat and Standing Committee". These action plan themes as outlined to CITES are being accomplished by the KWS, relevant government

⁶⁴ Opongo, E. (2015) *The Nexus Between Poaching and Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons Regional Report, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic Of Congo, Kenya, Uganda And Tanzania*. Nairobi

⁶⁵ CITES (2013, December 2). *New Figures Reveal Poaching for the Illegal Ivory Trade Could Wipe out a Fifth of Africa's Elephants over Next Decade*. Retrieved from https://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20131202_elephant-figures.php

offices and other wildlife conservation stakeholders. KWS also takes part in international wildlife law enforcement operations aimed at disrupting poaching and wildlife trafficking syndicates. Some of the operations undertaken in recent past include participation in inter-regional operations code-named "COBRA" that are carried out under the coordination of LATF between where KWS is usually the lead collaborating agency in Kenya.⁶⁶

3.6 Support from Non-Governmental Organizations

KWS has received tremendous support from non-state actors, especially the NGOs that have been in the forefront of raising the plight of wildlife within the country and beyond. The non-governmental organizations are the champions of the public campaigns and offer information and even bargain for certain actions from decision makers. The non-governmental organizations which help in fight against trophy trafficking includes: big life foundation, save the elephants and Stimson organization

3.7 Raising Public Awareness

The main aim of raising public awareness against wildlife trafficking is to decrease or eliminate the demand for products arising from wildlife crimes by educating and warning them against repercussions of wildlife crime. Public awareness seeks to reduce demand by changing the attitude and believe of people about wild life products. This may involve changing believe of

⁶⁶ Ibid

Vietnamese people where rhino horns attract high prices because they believe rhino horn cures cancer.⁶⁷

The interventions through the public engagement are comparatively many with numerous ways being taken to educate the public about negative implications of wildlife poaching and trophy trafficking, which include but not limited to health and underdevelopment. According to Robert, it's hard to stop wildlife trophy trafficking if we don't involve the society actively in conservation efforts. Engaging the society in conservation is crucial for lasting and effective conservation. Robert views that, it is immorality to human beings to drive other species to immorality hence there is need to raise awareness, shift attitudes, increase knowledge and build compassion for wildlife conservation among communities living along the wildlife protected and unprotected areas. When the rangers establish partnership with local neighboring community, the community will inform rangers of outside poachers.⁶⁸ Public engagement is one of peaceful ways to win hearts and minds of local community by making them to get fascinated by nature. The more awareness we have for nature, the more we value it, and the more able we are to see that we are part of it and depend on it.

The study found that in Kenya, there is little public awareness on importance of wildlife. One of respondent who is currently a convict of wildlife crime argued that “there is need to seriously consider creating public awareness on wildlife importance through the social media forums, introduce wildlife studies in school in order to come up with a community which appreciates the

⁶⁷ EU. (2016). Report on action plan against wildlife trafficking 2015-2016. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/WAP_EN_WEB.PDF

⁶⁸ Robert, S. (2012). Community outreach essential to stop poaching and recover wildlife” Panda wildlife platform. Worldlife for future. Retrieved from http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?205811/Community-outreach-essential-to-stop-poaching-and-recover-wildlife

importance of nature, if this is not done the tough laws of Kenya will be defending undefendable with ever skyrocketing price of rhino horns and elephant ivory coupled with poor people living along the national parks”. Globally campaign aimed at creating public awareness like the global march for elephants, rhinos and lions have been held to educate the public against wildlife crimes. This awareness has also been carried out in Kenya through productions of films of wildlife worriers.

3.8 Convention of International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES)

With 172 member countries, CITES is the largest and most important international conservation convention. Even though CITES has achieved some success, its successes are outweighed by failures. For instance, placing some species under protection has actually led to increase in value of wildlife products in the black market as the case with rhinoceros horns and elephant horns. An increase in value of these products has led to proportionate rise in illegal killing and trading in ivory and rhino horns. As a result the poaching of elephant and rhino stands high than their birth rate in Kenya and rest of Africa. Another critical issue which renders CITES incapable of rendering its mandate is lack of any international enforcement mechanism. This restricts its effectiveness internationally. CITES urges every country to make its own laws and enforcement mechanism to counter any illegal trade on endangered flora and fauna.

The member countries where poaching occur lack effective government control needed to effectively enforce restrictions enlisted in CITES. This is because of strong criminal syndicates which network with powerful government officials through corruption. Generally, there is also lack of consensus internationally on how best to address wildlife trophy trafficking. This creates

a discrepancy in the functioning of legal framework hence offering a platform for perpetrators to commit the wildlife crime easily and get extremely high returns out the business.

Usually, CITES appendixes animals depending on their level of threat. The level of threat has actually been contested politically by various countries that have their interest in trade of the animal products. For instance South Africa has been accused of giving license to hunters an issue which has currently been associated with increased poaching and nearing extinction of white rhino. South Africa has also occasionally sought for quotas from CITES to dispose its stockpile of rhino horns and elephant ivory to the market. The approval for sale of these products has led to increased poaching in turn. This issue has received a lot of criticism because it sustains the Far East market for wildlife trophy trafficking. This controversy has been brought about by believe by some countries that legalizing trade of elephant ivory and rhino horns will lead to decrease in demand of this products hence poaching will decrease, and government take control of the trade to ensure these species don't get extinct.

3.9 Legal Provisions

Even though the constitution of Kenya does not have direct provisions guarding wildlife protection, it has section 71 of right to life which is construed by many to extend to healthy environment. In addition, Kenya has enacted Wildlife Act which came into force in January 2014. This Act is aimed to ensure protection, conservation as well sustainable utilization and conservation of wildlife resources in Kenya. This law was quickly drafted in response to alarming poaching of elephant and rhino which by the time the law came in to force the white

rhino were only and got extinct in 2018 after the death Sudan the remaining male in Al-pajeta. The new law also gives Counties an authority to take care of wildlife within their territories.⁶⁹ Before this law was enacted, poaching in Kenya was a low risk affair with very high returns in international markets. However, the new law in Kenya sets out stiffer fine to offenders, a move which was expected to discourage poaching. In January 28th 2014, a court in Kenya successfully prosecuted and convicted a Chinese citizen of wildlife smuggling. This was the first person to be arrested, charged, prosecuted and found guilty under the Act. Tang Yong Jian was fined Kshs. 20,000,000 or equivalently be detained for a term of seven years for being in possession of an elephant tusk weighing 3.4 kilograms.⁷⁰

Kenya is also committed to full operationalization of this law in order to build a future on which people live in harmony with wildlife hence enjoy proceeds of nature. In an effort to counter the human wildlife conflict, the law provides for high awards as a result of injury or death caused by the wild animals. The law also provides that anyone found aiding importation and exportation or turning a blind eye will have to face imprisonment of not less than twenty years or a penalty of not less than 100 million.⁷¹

Despite this law being in force poaching is still happening in Kenya and this is one of key motivating issue which encouraged this study. When respondents were asked what should be done differently in order to eradicate poaching? Majority took almost a similar line of thought. For instance, 80% of respondents argued that “the only way is to first minimize corruption in

⁶⁹Ayling, J. (2015). What sustains Wildlife crime? Rhino Horn Trading and the Resilience of Criminal Network. *Journal of International Wildlife Law and policy*, 116(1), 57-80

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ WWF. (2014, February). *Kenya finally gets a new wildlife law*. Retrieved from <http://wwf.panda.org/?216350/Kenya-finally-gets-a-new-wildlife-law>

Kenya if not so, the multi-agency and tough laws will not help, since it will be hard to catch and prosecute the offenders”. Other 65% believed that to counter wildlife trophy trafficking we should first abolish the market for this products on demand side. The challenge for this point of view is that, the market which is alleged to be in Asia and the supplier being Africa are very much in distant localities actually different continents.

3.10 Creation of jobs for Youths to reduce Wildlife trafficking

According to Rosalind, in 2017 march, during economic and social council (ECOSOC) meeting the agenda on discussion was “how to intensify job creation to reduce wildlife trafficking”.⁷² This agenda came as a result of ever increasing population of unemployed youths in Africa and the association of unemployment with wildlife trafficking especially by youth.⁷³ The impoverished persons engage themselves in illicit deals including wild trophy trafficking as easy escape route from extreme poverty. Therefore, creation of jobs to the active and the potential poachers can be a way of giving them an alternative means of providing for their family instead of poaching.

When wildlife is well managed it actually becomes a key component in the country’s economic advancement through foreign exchange earnings, direct and indirect domestic earnings, employment and other investment opportunities it can generate. Wildlife through tourism can actually contribute more to economy than what it contributes through illegal trafficking of wildlife trophy.

⁷² Rosalind, R. (2004).*Poaching: International trade of endangered species, the CITES treaty and compliance*. London: Royal institute of international affairs.

⁷³ Ibid

3.11 Use of Technology to Counter Poaching

A joint project between South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Mozambique has come up with more effective technology has been developed to counter-poaching. This has been done by development of virtual net around the national reserve through a connection of multipoint router networker internet aimed to track people rather than wildlife. When an authorized enters the Kruguler national sensors automatically raises the alarm to alert the conservationists. However, this system has of late been criticized because by the time the alarms are raised, the poachers are already inside the national park hence this system is to a great extend a good breakthrough in efforts to counter poaching. The efforts are being done to make the system more of proactive as opposed to reactive. When the system becomes fully effective, poachers will no longer be a threat in national parks.

Tagging and Sensor system by Sigfox Foundation is another breakthrough in technology which will surely counter poaching. The system is being tried in Zimbabwe and Kenya. In this case, every elephant and rhino has a sensor on its horn with a battery which can last for five years. This system is trying to remotely track every animal on national park and capacity to sense any human being within the radius of ten kilometers. The sensors are also developed with camera traps in an event of serious danger.

3.12 Chapter Summary

This chapter has noted that despite various strategies being development to counter poaching in Kenya, poaching is still a national disaster. The study has also noted that legal enforcement, gathering and sharing of intelligence by NIS and creation of awareness are the two major

interventions in Kenya to counter poaching disaster. These two main strategies by Kenya have been noted to be less effective as result of rampant corruption in Kenya as well as poverty. This was noted from respondents who argued that, for multi-agency strategies against poaching to be effective in Kenya, then we first have to eliminate corruption and poverty which are the two main catalysts to poaching. As a result, the multi-agency strategies to counter poaching are less effective in Kenya as poaching still continues at a rate that can lead to extinction.

There has also recently been collaboration between KWS and non-governmental organizations that are at forefront to champion for animal right to life. For instance, the Big five foundation, and Save the Rhino and Elephant organizations operating have been attributed to development of more severe legal penalties to poachers in Kenya. This was as result of enormous campaign to seek the attention of the government and the public on the alarming intensification of poaching of rhino and elephant species in Kenya an issue which later caught the attention of president. Despite the fact that the non-governmental organization having good faith in conservation of wildlife and championing of wildlife right to life, this organizations lack enforcement authority required to address the issue of poaching. This makes these organizations less effective.

3.13 Chapter Findings

The chapter has found that multiagency strategies have actually reduced the cases poaching in Kenya. For instance KWS reported in 2018 that the multiagency strategies have reduced elephant poaching by 50% to 40 cases in 2018. However the existing level poaching can still make elephant and rhino species to get extinct, despite existence of coordinated efforts by multiagency to counter poaching activities in Kenya. The study has noted that, gathering and dissemination

of intelligence, legal enforcement and creation of public awareness as the major strategic interventions which have contributed to reduction of poaching cases in Kenya. On the other hand, the study has found that poverty and rampant corruption as the key forces challenging the effective operation of multiagency strategies.

CHAPTER FOUR

IMPLICATIONS OF POACHING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

4.0 Introduction

Due to the 21st century globalization, poaching activities have had far reaching implications. This chapter investigates the implications of poaching activities in Kenya. It covers socioeconomic implications, threat of organized criminals, country instability, underdevelopment, and increased crime, impact of poaching on proliferation of small arms and light weapons and wildlife cybercrime.

4.1 Negative Implications of Poaching

This section covers the implications of the poaching.

4.1.1 Economic impact

Majority of respondents especially the convicts and ex-convicts argued that, poaching contributes to poverty, because it leads to decreased tourists, hence reducing the foreign exchange earned through tourism sector. According to Meghan, “extinction of rhino and elephant species can bring negative economic impacts on tourism industry”.⁷⁴ A community which relies on its wildlife to attract tourists will have to face greater risk of serious economic turmoil if poaching is prevalent in that community. The collapse of tourism industry has got spillover effect to other sectors such as in hotels, restaurants and transport especially tour firms. Charles and Steffanee argued that, poaching is not just bad for rhinos and elephants, it hurts economy as

⁷⁴ Meghan, P. (2010). *Legal, Moral and Biological Implications of Poaching and Illegal Animal Trafficking on an International Scale*. Newport: Salve Regina University.

well. Even though it is quite difficult to establish a correct figure of wildlife trafficking due to its clandestine nature of operation, poaching is estimated to cost Africa 25 million U.S dollars annually.⁷⁵ The impact of poaching is highly felt on source country as it also impacts negatively on development. For instance, the recent intensification of poaching and threat of extinction of elephant and rhino species has made the government to increase funds on anti-poaching activities which is an added burden to our economy, since these resources would have been allocated to other important sectors like health.

Tourism is one of the liberalized sectors in Kenya, meaning that foreigners are allowed to invest in this sector. For tourism sector to attract foreign direct investment, security is actually one of the important factors which attract investment in a country. This is so if a country has criminal syndicates attacking the same resources which the investor is interested. This reduces the investor confidence hence shift their enterprises to another country where it is secure.

Developing countries tend to rely more on natural resources for their revenue. Depletion of wildlife as a result of poaching is actually a loss of key revenue sector. Smith argues that, “poaching of elephant and rhino has caused quite significant damage to Kenyan economy by taking away current and legal economic opportunities for Kenya by reducing the natural capital on which all future income opportunities are hinged on”. In addition, “poaching has led to decrease in number of wildlife which has in turn led to decline in number of tourists hence this has also led to decline in foreign exchange”. According to KNBS), tourism accounts for 13% of

⁷⁵ Steffanee, W. (2016, June). Poaching is not bad just bad for the elephants, it hurts the economy too. *Support the Guardian*.

Kenyan GDP which amounts to 1.1 billion U.S dollars.⁷⁶ This makes tourism to be the second income generating sector from agriculture. The declining number of wildlife has made tourists not enjoy the desirability of the wildlife they knew. For example poaching has severely dented the tourism industry in Kenya to extend that the hotels have scaled down their operations including closing down operations.

Adamson argues that, many tourists usually arrive in Kenya with an expectation to see the big five; yet poaching threatens the wildlife and largest part of tourism industry.⁷⁷ Decline of elephant and rhino population has a direct effect to problems being experienced in tourism sector and beyond to include unemployment. In 2013 the World Bank report on economic status of Kenya included that Kenya receives an average of 1.8 million visitors annually as tourists. This really makes tourism industry to be one of the major foreign exchange earners of the country. Foreign exchange in turn determines the strength of a currency and economic growth of a country.

In July 2013, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) found a container at Mombasa port with ivory worthy 855 million shillings. The increased poaching, poses a great threat to tourism sector which eventually leads to loss unemployment of local communities. This is because tourism alone provides 550,500 jobs in Kenya and contributes to 11% of Kenyan GDP. This makes poaching to a critical threat to Kenyan economy.

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Adamson, G. (2017, May). The War on Wildlife and Its Protectors. *The New Yorker*

4.1.2 Threat of Organized Criminals

Brown posits that, there is convergence between criminal networks involved in wildlife trophy trafficking, human trafficking, drug trafficking and smuggling of weapons across international borders.⁷⁸ One of the respondent argued that “Criminal organized networks are determined to make money by any method possible hence they can traffic anything including drugs, people and wildlife. There is no criminal network group which specializes on poaching alone, they engage in many crimes”. The organized crime usually breaks law in more than one country and has an implication to national security. Wildlife trophy trafficking criminals operate in network of organizations which provide sophistication, efficiency, resilience and scale. According to John, wildlife trophy traffickers involve wealthy and powerful criminals with ability to undermine State, democracy and economy mainly through use of corruption, violence and re-investment of their profit. Even if criminal gangs have been existence for, the intensity and scale of operations has increased as a result of globalization. Globalization has turned the world into a capitalist global village.

Globalization has increased the cross border migration with less stringent requirements. This has strengthened the operation of cross border organized criminal activities. Economic activities provide a range and opportunities for organized criminals to operate. Wildlife trafficking breeds corruption and empowers criminals hence weakening the government, as it is the case of Italian mafia, Nigeria organized crime and Chinese triads who operate from hongkong and Taiwan. Chinese triads do not operate in china due to primitive charges. The increased number of organized criminal groups, their ability to mutate and their wide scale of operation, is a reason

⁷⁸ Vanda,B. (2018). Wildlife and Drug Trafficking, Terrorism and Human Security, Complex link between wildlife trafficking and drug trafficking. *The Journal of Complex Operations* , 7(4), 125-136

enough for international community to craft a better way to contain the adhoc nature of these crimes.

According to Anne, whenever there is a network moving illegal goods across the national borders, there is inevitably government officials involved, by protecting the criminals or pretending to have a blind eye on what is happening. Anne views that, there is actually an existing East Africa network moving ivory, guns and drugs.⁷⁹ The overlap between drugs and ivory smuggling is normal since both crimes are conducted by the same criminal networks.

4.1.3 Country Instability

One of the major consequences of international organized criminals is that they precisely destabilize government in order to engage well in international trophy trafficking. These are more prevalent in developing countries where there is weak enforcement of law, poor governance, porous border as well as corrupt prone systems. This feature are commonly embedded in developing countries which are also the source of international trophy trafficking. The weak countries are the main transit routes for wildlife trophy trafficking networks which normally operate with impunity. The illegal wildlife trophy trafficking attracts numerous side effects. For instance, it fuels conflict which in turn deteriorates national security leading to instability inside a country, as well as fuelling armed conflict across international borders.

On February 2014, USA president Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 which sought to establish 45 million U.S dollars to help in countering of illegal wildlife

⁷⁹ Peters, A. (2016). Corruption as a violation of International Human rights. *European Journal of International Law*, 29(4), 1251-1287

trafficking trade.⁸⁰ Many people may wonder why U.S has decided mobilize funds to counter illegal wildlife trade happening many miles away from its borders, while it has many internal problems which require funding. In this case, the point is that illegal wildlife trade is linked to financing of terror groups and other militant organizations, which has led to fuelling of violence throughout Africa and spilled over across international borders, hence threatening U.S interest in those countries. Therefore, combating of illegal wildlife trade is not geared towards protecting of wildlife species from a blink of extinction, but the main agenda is to promote stability in Africa and counter terrorism activities by denying terrorists the source of finance.

Organized transnational criminal networks can sometimes become powerful and challenge or replace the states monopoly as it happens in part of Colombia, Peru and Somalia terrorism and piracy group. Many of the countries bordering Kenya have experience a long period of civil unrest and armed conflict for instance Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda hence has strengthened the operation of transnational crime, because civil unrest and conflict provides safe haven to criminal enterprise.

4.1.4 Under-development

Organized criminal networks and corruption have capability to hold a country into a vicious circle of underdevelopment. The illegal trafficking negatively impacts the community, threatens prevalence of human security, thwarts development, scares investment especially the foreign direct investment and breeds corruption among the government institutions.

⁸⁰ Charles, W. (2016). *H.R.2029 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*. Washington, D. C : The U.S. Government Publishing Office

High crime rate is associated with instability, hence both domestic and foreign investors are scared of investing in unstable country for fear of losses and destruction. Perfectly, organized crime heightens the cost of conducting a business which is in turn a disincentive. Stock market exchange and tourism sectors are very sensitive to violence. For instance, the 2013 Westgate mall attack by terrorists led to immediate depression of Nairobi stock exchange market as well as direct negative impact on tourism. This is because of decrease in number of tourists because of the fear instigated by terrorism, coupled with issuance travel advisory against Kenya by western countries. Due this single attack, Britain resulted to evacuation of its tourists from Kenya through the British Airways. The incidence was also worsened by the Social media especially the CNN which baptized Kenya as the hotbed of terror activities and other organized crimes. These impacts negatively on foreign trade and foreign direct investment. Transnational organized crime destroys part of productive capacity of state and criminal activities usually reduce expected returns to investment.

The degree of damage has increased with new trends in international system and particularly globalization which has enhanced criminal enterprise across borders.⁸¹ Organized criminal networks and corruption kills the trust between the state and its subjects and in process undermine democracy. The issue of security and development has actually come to be linked together. For instance, the former U.N secretary general Kofi Annan once argued that “we cannot have security without development, we cannot have development without security and we cannot have either without respect of human rights”. The organized criminal networks also make

⁸¹ Awong, S. (2011). *A critical analysis on the reasons of underdevelopment in Africa*. Munich, Germany; GRIN Publishers

the government to lose a lot of money through corruption. Crime easily erodes the tax base through bribery of tax man by criminal networks.⁸² The revenue finds its way into pockets of corrupt individuals instead of the money being directed into other important sectors like health service and education.

The lower the level of development, the higher the insecurity in a country. In many cases, the organized criminals find it easy to operate on underdeveloped countries because these countries are unable to manage their security systems effective perhaps due to lack of enough resources, efficient technology and strong institutions as opposed to strong men. Organized criminal networks find it difficult to operate in developed countries since developed countries have a higher capability to manage their security issues efficiently.⁸³ In 2009 during the annual general assembly meeting, many head of States reiterated the of international community to cooperate in order to craft an integrative approach to counter international trafficking of wildlife trophy and drugs which is associated to threat of international peace and security. This is because of close linkage between transnational crime and terrorism which is a threat to security and development across the world.

Wildlife trophy trafficking is a crime which does not respect international borders. It is actually insurmountable threat crisscrossing all continents. Therefore, there is no any single state which can control these crime single handedly, hence this calls international community to come together. A cooperation to promote development especially in third world has been one of the

⁸² Bhattacharyya, S. (2008). Root Causes of African Underdevelopment. *Journal of African Economies*, 18(5), 64-244. doi: 10.1093/jae/ejp009

⁸³ Awong, S. (2011). *A critical analysis on the reasons of underdevelopment in Africa*. Munich, Germany; GRIN Publishers

means by international community counter organized criminal networks. For instance, the MDG's and now the sustainable development goals are geared to foster development as part of countering security threats in Africa.⁸⁴

4.1.5 Increased Crime

The highly organized armed criminal networks do not only engage in wildlife trophy trafficking but they are also directly linked with human rights violations as well as political instability. Poachers also use their arms not only to kill elephants and rhinos but also to steal, extort and terrorize local citizens. The armed militia such Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is not only widely known to have engaged in poaching of elephants and rhino but also have reportedly killed thousands of innocent civilians, raping women, chopping of hands and legs, chopping women breasts as well as kidnapping of young girls and boys.

Girls are kidnapped to be wives of militia in the bush, while the boys are recruited and trained as militia and grow up as killer child soldiers. The kidnapped boys are forced to poaching as well carrying of wildlife products. Transnational criminal networks are attracted into poaching because of the huge returns and lower risk associated with poaching. The illegal high profits obtained from poaching funds militia groups and terrorism hence these contributes vicious cycle poaching. The proceeds of poaching are used in buying of guns, grenades, bombs paying their members as well as planning of terror attacks by terrorists such as Al-Shabaab which is believed to poach in Boni forest.

⁸⁴ Bhattacharyya, S. (2008). Root Causes of African Underdevelopment. *Journal of African Economies*, 18(5), 64-244. doi: 10.1093/jae/ejp009

4.2 Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Apart from Pastoralism, poaching is also another factor which is associated with proliferation of small and light weapons. The weapons used in poaching are also being used in other criminal activities such as committing of theft, killing and cattle rustling. This has led to fear, anxiety, insecurity suspicion as well forcible and voluntary displacement.

The high number of illegal guns especially in Nairobi has led to high level of armed crime which in turn fueled demand for illegal possession arms as well as licensed possession arms. The government report indicates that there are currently 650,000 illegal arms.⁸⁵ This has increasingly posed a significant security threat since the holders of the arms use them to perpetuate conflicts.

According to Chemin, most of the weapons are made of the most recent technology and their source is traced to be smuggled by organized criminal networks. For instance, the poachers are associated with the most sophisticated weapons including night vision goggles, snares and other equipment's to be used by the actual killers.⁸⁶

These weapons pose a serious socio-economic, political instability and other security risks all over the country. These weapons have aggravated crime especially in Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu, Thika and Eldoret since they are the weapons of choice for criminals. These weapons have also reached to the local organized criminal groups such as Mugiki, Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) hence these poses a serious danger to the country national security aspirations. This more so danger because there is close link between terrorism and other organized criminal

⁸⁵ Opongo,E. (2015) *The Nexus Between Poaching and Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons Regional Report*. Nairobi

⁸⁶ Wepundi,M., Nthiga, E., Kabuu,E., Murray, R., & Alvazzi del Frate, A. (2012). *Availability of Small Arms and Perceptions of Security in Kenya: An Assessment*. Geneva, Switzerland : Small Arms Survey

groups. Such as the case MRC in Mombasa and Al-Shabaab. James associate's illicit arms with sexual gender based violence, perpetual insecurity and killing of the innocent people. The illicit possession of arms has a negative implication on economy. For instance, The British oil explorer Tullow had in numerous occasions' suspended work due to bandit prone Turkana areas thereby dealing a blow to Kenya's early oil export drive.⁸⁷

In Kenya, the pastoralist communities are widely believed to possess the highest amount of illegal firearms. The recent resurgence of poaching is attributed to be one of the factors which have contributed to the increased demand for small arms and light weapons, as well as proliferations organized criminal groups and strengthening of the already existing criminal groups. In year 2009, police recovered 100,000 rounds of ammunition from hardware shop owned by a private businessman in Narok town.⁸⁸ Narok town is not a distance from Maasai Mara National park which hosts a good number of rhino and elephants. Therefore, ammunitions of that magnitude posed a serious danger to rhinos and elephants in Maasai Mara national park as well as other parks in Kenya. The recovery of carcasses with rounds of ammunition is a clear indication of firearms being used in poaching. Most of the weapons being used by poachers can only be sourced from military personnel's. For instance, the most common weapon being used by poachers include the M-16s which is made in American and G3s which is a German made. Irrespective of the source of the weapons, the bare fact that poachers can easily acquire these weapons is great cause of concern because possibility of poachers to have a direct link with terrorism groups and other organized forms of criminal groups.

⁸⁷ Bevan, J. (2016). *Kenya's Illicit Ammunition Problem in Turkana North District*. Geneva : Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

⁸⁸ Sigei, J. (2009, December). Kenya police recover cache of weapons. *Daily Nation*, PP. 24-26

4.3 Wildlife Cybercrime

The wildlife trophy traffickers exploit web-based platforms to profit from endangered animals which are one of the dark sides of technology. The advancement in technology combined with the rising buying power has been associated with increased ease of exchange between the consumer and the poacher. The largely unregulated online business allows criminal syndicates to sell illegally obtained wildlife trophy across the globe. The purchasing of rhino horns, elephant ivory, tiger cubs and pangolin scales is as simple as click, pay and ship. The cybercrime poses a serious danger to international financial services especially the banking and use of credit card services.

The cybercrime contributes to loss of billions of dollars. The pervasive online crime has made the people and government to lose hope with digital systems which are necessary for business and economy. Currently, computers are used as the new weapon by organized criminal networks and especially in poaching. According to Tania, there is vast quantity of live animals and their parts available for sale on online platforms.⁸⁹ This poses a threat to the future survival of many species hence these calls for the need to disrupt the wildlife cybercrime. The eBay was the first company to burn sale of wildlife products from their websites. Recently, there has been development of the Global Coalition to End Wildlife trafficking online which has in 2018 removed and blocked over 45,000 prohibited wildlife listings. This platform also aims to reduce wildlife trafficking online by 80% by 2020.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ Tania, L. (2018). *The poaching crisis and how to tackle illegal wildlife trade under the spotlight in Africa, every problem has a solution and every solution needs support*. Yarmouth Port: International fund for Animal welfare

⁹⁰ Yan, W. (2018). *A global coalition forums to stop online wildlife crime*. Washington, DC: World Wildlife Fund

4.4 Chapter Summary

The study has found that transnational criminal networks engaged in poaching deals are still the same one involved in drug trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling of small and light weapons across the world. The transnational criminal networks engaged in poaching operate in adhoc nature to escape from law enforcement and this poses a serious threat to national security and stability of a country. The study also established that porous borders and corrupted officers have exacerbated trafficking of wildlife products, which have led to negative implications on the country's economy. However, the study found that poaching has a negative implication on economic development and employment. Wildlife attracts much of the tourists in Kenya, therefore depletion or extinction of wildlife and especially the big five spells doom to the tourism sector which creates employment opportunities for many Kenyans.

Furthermore, the study also noted that, organized criminal networks have contributed to cybercrime which breeds fear to digital financial systems. This has resulted to online marketing for wildlife products where the poacher, supplier and consumer meet online. This is one of the bad sites of the technology which is being exploited by wildlife criminals. The increased poaching and its pervasive impact on human security, confirm the second objective that Security strategies for deterring poaching in Kenya have not been very effective.

4.5 Chapter Findings

The chapter has established that poaching has negative implications extending to socioeconomic and political instability, unemployment, corruption, proliferation illicit arms and increase of crime incidences. In addition, the chapter also found that, transnational criminal networks

involved in poaching do not specifically focus on committing wildlife crime, but also involve themselves in other forms of crime such as the human and drug trafficking. Tourism contributes 10.5% of Kenyan GDP which means that tourism is a major source Kenyan foreign exchange which is under threat due to poaching. The study has also noted that poaching can also negatively impact on vision 2030.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

With the key focus on the case of Kenya's increased poaching activities, this study broadly sought to examine the main factors that have exacerbated poaching. This chapter therefore, covers summary of the key findings flowing from the three key objectives that guided the study, namely: to investigate the catalysts to the increased poaching in Kenya, to examine the effectiveness of multi-agencies strategies to counter poaching activities in Kenya and to evaluate the implications of poaching activities in Kenya. The chapter also covers the research conclusion and recommendations.

5.1 Summary of the Findings

This section covers the key findings from each objective of the study.

5.1.1 Catalysts to Increased Poaching in Kenya

The study has noted that the most key catalyst to poaching is the presence of international market with a very high purchasing power of poached wildlife products. The study noted that rhino horns and elephant horns fetch a lot of money in the international black market. This is as a result high cultural value attached to the usefulness of the rhino horns and ivory to the final consumer as well as the huge gap between demand and supply of the poached products. Apart from the presence of international market, other catalysts to poaching in Kenya include; socioeconomic factors such as poverty, corruption and unemployment.

5.1.2 The Effectiveness of Multi-Agencies Strategies to Counter Poaching Activities in Kenya

The concept of multiagency is still new and due to multidisciplinary nature, it has a lot of complexity especially due to different operating procedure of agencies. The study has specifically noted that, there is poor coordination among the multi-agencies components since they come from different units. For instance, the multi-agencies involve the KWS, (GSU), (AP), regular police, (NIS) and criminal investigation department which have different doctrine of operation and sometimes having different command. At strategic level, the multiagency has clear operating procedure and guidelines, however, the problem is at tactical level because the multiagency has not been well harmonized together to operate as one body. This is evidenced by the failure of multiagency strategies to reduce poaching to a bearable level and hence, confirms the second hypothesis of the study, which states that security strategies deters poaching in Kenya have not been very effective.

5.1.3 Implications of Poaching Activities in Kenya

Based on the third objective, the study has established that, poaching has far reaching implications that spread across the nation, region and internationally. Among the implications to poaching, the study has found that tourism sector is most affected sector by poaching of wildlife. This is because wildlife stands out to be the single most tourist attraction factor, therefore, poaching means wildlife and especially the big four which attract tourists will decrease and this will eventually decrease the number of tourists in Kenya. Tourism contributes about 12% of GDP of Kenya and provides employment to more than 500,000 people. This elevates tourism to one of the major economic sectors in Kenya that contribute towards realization of vision 2030. Despite tourism being one of the sector which is negatively affected by poaching, the study also

found implications of poaching to extend to socioeconomic, political instability, proliferation of illicit arms as well as unemployment.

5.2 Conclusion

In a nutshell, among other factors, the study found existence of international market as the key catalyst to poaching. The presence of international market clearly operates beyond the resolute of one State, hence this calls for different countries to establish a joint venture in fight against poaching. Other catalysts to poaching include weak enforcement of law, poverty, corruption, high value of wildlife trophies, availability of firearms in prohibited hands and globalization as main catalysts to poaching in Kenya.. The link between the actual poachers and international dealers in wildlife trophy trafficking has become very strong as a result of globalization forces linking the distant localities of the world together and minimizing the world into a global village. The new prospects of globalization like more efficient technology have actually aided trophy traffickers in conduct of their deals. It is actually hard to separate poaching from globalization because globalization is the key engine contributing to the complex link between poachers and consumers of wildlife products internationally.

The study also noted that, despite various strategies having been developed to counter accelerating incidences of poaching, poaching is still a menace to existence of key wildlife like elephant and rhino. The multiagency strategies have in fact reduced the poaching rate; however the prevailing rate of poaching can still get elephants and rhinos to extinct. The study noted that, the multiagency strategies are less effective due to lack of proper harmonization among the different units comprising the multiagency. There is need for harmonization because the

multiagency is comprised of different units with different standard operating procedure. The multiagency seems to be operating well at strategic level; however, that has not trickled down to tactical level because each unit comprising the multiagency seems to be operating on its own as opposed to operating together as one team. Other factors reducing the effectiveness of multiagency include wide spread poverty and institutionalized corruption.

Additionally, poaching activities have got far reaching implications not only nationally, but internationally. Key among the implications of the poaching is ability to degrade the earning from the tourism sector, which is an important sector in creation of foreign exchange and contribution to economic development in Kenya. The collapse of tourism industry has got spillover effect to other sectors such as in hotels, restaurants and transport especially tour firms. Therefore, poaching is not just bad for rhinos and elephants, but it hurts economy as well.

5.3 Recommendations

This study recommends Kenya to use international network to help fight vice by convincing countries to put a ban any products from trophy materials. The study also recommends the government to find a way of harmonizing standard operating procedures of all stakeholders involved in the anti-poaching operations. Policy makers and academicians should prioritize the issue to countering poaching and help in harmonizing the multiagency.

5.4 Areas for further Research

This study was carried out in Kenya and specifically in Nairobi County. While the findings on this study can be generalized in Kenya, they cannot be generalized to other countries experiencing trafficking of wildlife trophies. Therefore, similar studies need to be carried out in other countries which face similar wildlife crimes. This will aid on comparison and broad generalization of the findings on wildlife trophy trafficking across international borders.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire

SECTION A: PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1. What is your gender? Yes No
- 2. What is your age?
- 3. What is your highest level of education?
 Undergraduate College College Not Completed Secondary School
 Primary School Never Attended.
- 4. What is your affiliate department?
.....

SECTION B: FACTORS LEADING TO INCREASED POACHING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

- 1. Is poaching a threat in Kenya? Yes No
- 2. If Yes, state why?
.....
.....
.....
- 3. What are some of catalysts to poaching activities in Kenya?
.....
.....
.....

4. How have these factors been catalyzed in Kenya of late?

.....
.....
.....

5. In your own opinion, what do you think should be done differently?

.....
.....
.....

SECTION C: EFFECTIVENESS OF MULTI-AGENCY STRATEGIES TO COUNTER POACHING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

1. Are you aware of existence of multi-agency strategies to counter poaching activities in Kenya? Yes [] No []

2. If yes, what is the nature and structure of these multi-agency strategies?

.....
.....

3. How effective are these strategies?

.....
.....
.....

4. What are some of the challenges the multi-agency security approach encounter?

.....
.....
.....

5. How best would these challenges be dealt with?

.....
.....
.....

SECTION D: IMPLICATIONS OF POACHING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

1. Are there any implications to poaching activities in Kenya that is known to you?

Yes [] No []

2. If yes, explain.

.....
.....

3. Are there mechanisms/strategies put in place to counter these implications?

.....
.....
.....

4. How effective are these mechanisms?

.....
.....
.....

Appendix II: RESEARCH PERMIT



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254-20-2213471,
2241349,3310571,2219420
Fax: +254-20-318245,318249
Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke
Website : www.nacosti.go.ke
When replying please quote

NACOSTI, Upper Kabete
Off Waiyaki Way
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA.

Ref. No. **NACOSTI/P/19/31598/30671**

Date: **7th June, 2019.**

David Wangombe Karanja
University of Nairobi
P.O Box 30197-00100
NAIROBI.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on *“Assessment of the factors influencing wildlife poaching activities in Kenya.”* I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Nairobi County** for the period ending **7th June, 2020.**

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner, and the County Director of Education, Nairobi County** before embarking on the research project.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall deposit **a copy** of the final research report to the Commission within **one year** of completion. The soft copy of the same should be submitted through the Online Research Information System.


BONFACE WANYAMA
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO

Copy to:

The County Commissioner
Nairobi County.

The County Director of Education
Nairobi County.

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:
MR. DAVID WANGOMBE KARANJA
of UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, 0-100
NAIROBI, has been permitted to conduct
research in Nairobi County**

**Permit No : NACOSTI/P/19/31598/30671
Date Of Issue : 7th June,2019
Fee Received :Ksh 1000**

**on the topic: ASSESSMENT OF THE
FACTORS INFLUENCING WILDLIFE
POACHING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA**

**for the period ending:
7th June,2020**




.....
**Applicant's
Signature**


.....
**Director General
National Commission for Science,
Technology & Innovation**

**THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION ACT, 2013**

The Grant of Research Licenses is guided by the Science,
Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014.

CONDITIONS

1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period.
2. The License and any rights thereunder are non-transferable.
3. The Licensee shall inform the County Governor before commencement of the research.
4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies.
5. The License does not give authority to transfer research materials.
6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project.
7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report within one year of completion of the research.
8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice.

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**National Commission for Science,
Technology and Innovation
RESEARCH LICENSE**

Serial No.A 25228

CONDITIONS: see back page

POACHING

ORIGINALITY REPORT

13%

SIMILARITY INDEX

8%

INTERNET SOURCES

3%

PUBLICATIONS

11%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	Submitted to Curtin International College Student Paper	1%
2	Submitted to Kenyatta University Student Paper	1%
3	www.chathamhouse.org Internet Source	<1%
4	link.springer.com Internet Source	<1%
5	Submitted to Strathmore University Student Paper	<1%
6	Submitted to University of Nairobi Student Paper	<1%
7	Submitted to University of Portsmouth Student Paper	<1%
8	Submitted to Atlantic International University Student Paper	<1%
9	Submitted to Bolton Institute of Higher Education	<1%