



# Can a Basic Income Stop The Illegal Wildlife Trade?

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A black and white photograph of an elephant on the left and a rhinoceros on the right, both looking towards the center where the text is located. The elephant's head and trunk are visible on the left, and the rhinoceros's head and horn are visible on the right.

# The Idea – 2 Stages

**Stage 1:** Can a Basic Income stop the Illegal Wildlife Trade and reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict?

**Stage 2:** Can a Tiered Basic Income help to rebuild the natural world, supporting the new 3-Rs?

- Re-habilitation
- Re-vegetation
- Re-wilding

**This presentation focuses on Stage 1**



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# The Idea – Stage 1

Can a Basic Income stop the Illegal Wildlife Trade and reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict?

- International Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is valued at **USD ~\$20bn annually** (4<sup>th</sup> largest transnational crime)
- Subsistence poaching and human-wildlife conflict further contribute to decimation of wildlife in Africa
- Lack of food security and absolute poverty play a big role in all 3 issues
- A Basic Income will address food security. Could it also greatly reduce motivation to poach for IWT traffickers?
- Design and implement a trial in Zimbabwe starting 2018

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# The Problem – IWT

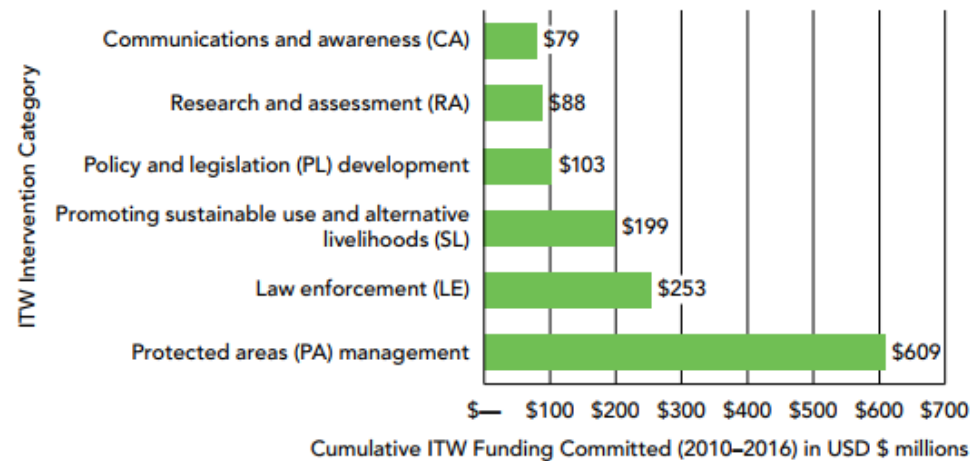
- **Hight value:** USD ~\$20bn annually
- **Low risk:** ‘Easy’ crime – lax enforcement, low penalties, mostly ignored
- Legal trade system (CITES) full of loopholes
- Targets ‘high-value’ species:
  1. Elephants: 35,000 (10% of total) killed annually
  2. Rhinos: 1,300 (5% of total) killed annually
  3. Pangolins: 100,000 – 1million killed annually
- **Growing demand:** mainly from China & SE Asia as high status goods



# Current Solutions Not Working

- ~USD \$1.0bn spent on protection, anti-poaching and law enforcement between 2010-16

FIGURE 10. Cumulative IWT Commitment Amounts by Intervention Category, 2010–2016



- No significant effect on poaching levels
- ~**USD\$200M** spent on promotion of sustainable use/ livelihoods (trade)



# Sustainable Use Not Working

## The BIG LIE about lion trophy hunting

Printed on 10 August, 2017 by Simon Eyles in Hunting, Opinion Editorial, Wildlife and the Opinion Editorial print series. — 71 Comments

Posted: August 10, 2017

So often we hear from the pro-hunting lobby that by killing free roaming lions, trophy hunters are actually saving lions.

Well, if my aunt had bulls she'd be my uncle.

That term "sustainable offset" often creeps into the justification. The trophy hunting of free roaming lions is about as sustainable as putting ice cubes in a mug of steaming coffee. Let's dig deeper into this issue of sustainable, shall we?



A lion skin as a trophy from a hunt in Namibia © Tom Koene/Namby

### The end of wild elephants? Why we must not let Africa become one giant food farm

The world's rapid population rise risks turning Africa into one giant farm with no room for wildlife. We need to think again, says the head of UN Environment



## Tanzania's ghost safari: how western aid contributed to the decline of a wildlife haven

Lions, elephants and hippos have vanished from Kilombero valley after UK- and US-funded projects helped turn a once-thriving habitat into farmland, teak, and sugar plantations



© Lions, elephants and hippos have all vanished from Kilombero valley, Tanzania. Photograph: Sophie Townsend/for the Guardian

## Has big conservation gone astray?

Analysis by Jeremy Hance on 26 April 2016



• In Part I of Conservation, Divided, veteran *Mongabay* reporter Jeremy Hance explores how the world's biggest conservation groups have embraced a human-centric approach known as "new conservation" that has split the field over how best to save life on Earth.

• Neither side of the debate disagrees that conservation today is failing to adequately halt mass extinction. But how to proceed is where talks break down, especially when it comes to the importance of protected areas and the efficacy of the biggest, most recognizable

- A 2013 study by conservation-minded economists, found that on average only 3% of money generated by trophy hunting winds up in the hands of local people
- Most development projects don't consider local wildlife populations and can end up decimating them
- Sustainable use/livelihoods model of neoliberal donors contributing to decline in wildlife



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# Sustainable Use Bracket Creep

- **Ecologically sustainable use** e.g. eco-tourism, 'true' trophy hunting,...has become
- **Sustainable use** e.g. canned hunting and it's supply chain,...has become
- **Farming (and Farming is NOT Conservation)**
- Bracket creep not challenged by global conservation
- Over generalization of the benefits of sustainable use model e.g. accepted even when it won't stop poaching



Oxford Martin Programme on the  
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE



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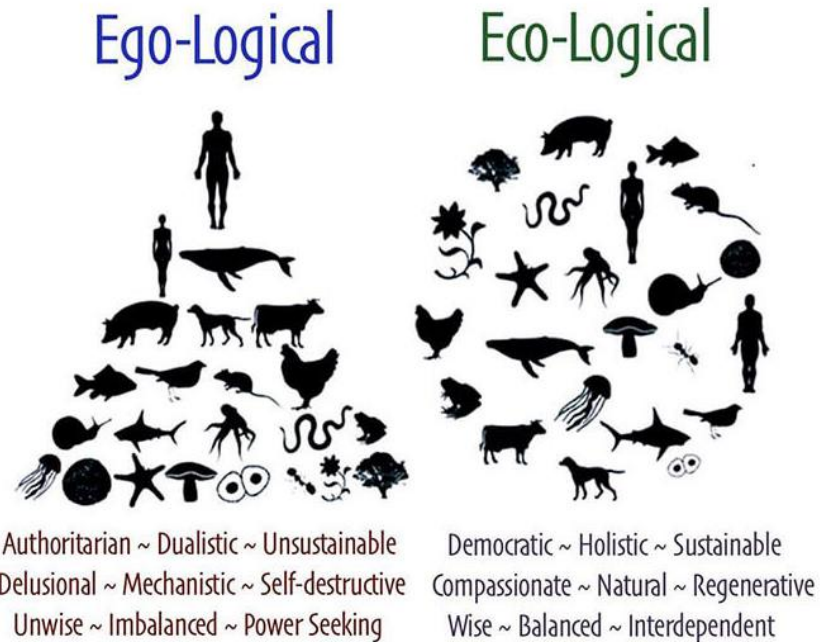
## TRADING IDEAS





# Future Can't Be Human-Centric

Human-centric model adopted by society and global conservation, don't let the Basic Income go the same way:



Christopher Chase, 2014



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## Other Solutions to IWT

- No agreement and lack of cooperation on **international law enforcement**, kingpin usually protected in their home countries
- **Demand Reduction** campaigns in Asia can work, but demand reduction is poorly understood, poorly executed and poorly funded
- Appealing to 'higher' values useless as **wild animals have no intrinsic value** in main demand countries (China, Viet Nam, Thailand, Laos)

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# If US\$1bn for Protection Can't Stop The Poaching What Can?

- Lack of economic opportunities and lack of food security lead to poaching
- Proximity is the main factor – most poaching is done by communities surrounding the protected area
- Risk / reward equation clearly favours reward with current policy settings and prices paid for high-value species

**Poverty + Opportunity + Incentives = Poaching**



# Poaching Incentives

- **Poachers** can earn up to USD \$10,000 for a pair of rhino horns
- **Informers** offered USD \$200-500 for info on animal location or anti-poaching measures
- Protected areas surrounded by very poor communities (< USD \$2/day)
- Huge incentive to help traffickers compared to relative risk
- Traffickers supply the means to poach – rifles/machine guns etc
- Traffickers rely on info and/or recruitment from local communities





# Lack of Food Security

- Wildlife in reserves/parks provides easy opportunities to poach via snaring
- Snares are easy to set and cheap, but indiscriminate (e.g. kill lions, not just antelopes)
- Wildlife intrusions into community destroy crops (elephants) or kills stock (big cats) or kill/injure humans (elephants)
- Often community attitude towards reserves/conservation is negative
- Illegal harvesting of animal feed/fire wood destroys forests and increases potential of injuries caused by wildlife





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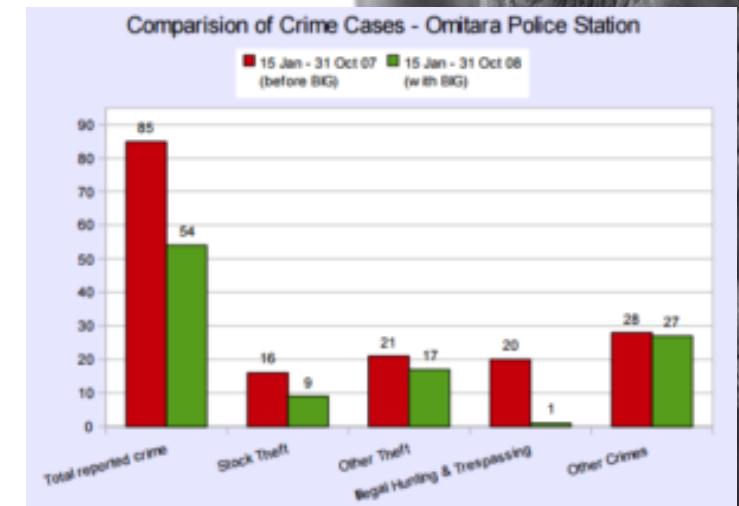
# The Solution - Basic Income?

**Already evidence that a BI can address poverty and food security.** Nature Needs More would like to test if providing a BI of ~ USD \$1,000 pa would:

- **Reduce incentives to poach for IWT** – is the level of income high enough to change the risk/reward equation?
- **Reduce/eliminate subsistence poaching and reduce human-wildlife conflict?**
- Be a solution and is it affordable and feasible on a larger scale?

# Prior Evidence? BI On Crime Rates

- Namibia Basic Income Grant Pilot in 2008 in Otjivero
- Not designed to measure impact on poaching, BUT
- **Poaching was cited as most common criminal activity:**
  - *“Poverty and unemployment are the reasons for these criminal activities. Otjivero is a tiny place and there is no source of income there. **Most people hunt or poach just for survival.**”*
- In 2007, 20 instances of illegal hunting and trespassing were recorded between January and October
- In 2008, after the introduction of the basic income pilot, the count fell to only ONE instance during the same time period







# The Solution – Feasibility

## Feasibility = Geography + Demographics

- Most protected areas are in regions with low population densities
- Even very large reserves such as Kruger NP in South Africa are mostly surrounded by other protected areas
- Most communities around reserves are quite small and depend on subsistence farming
- The terrain is usually rough, roads are poor and access is difficult
- Low population density keeps trial cost contained whilst covering large area
- Example: Hwange NP in Zimbabwe

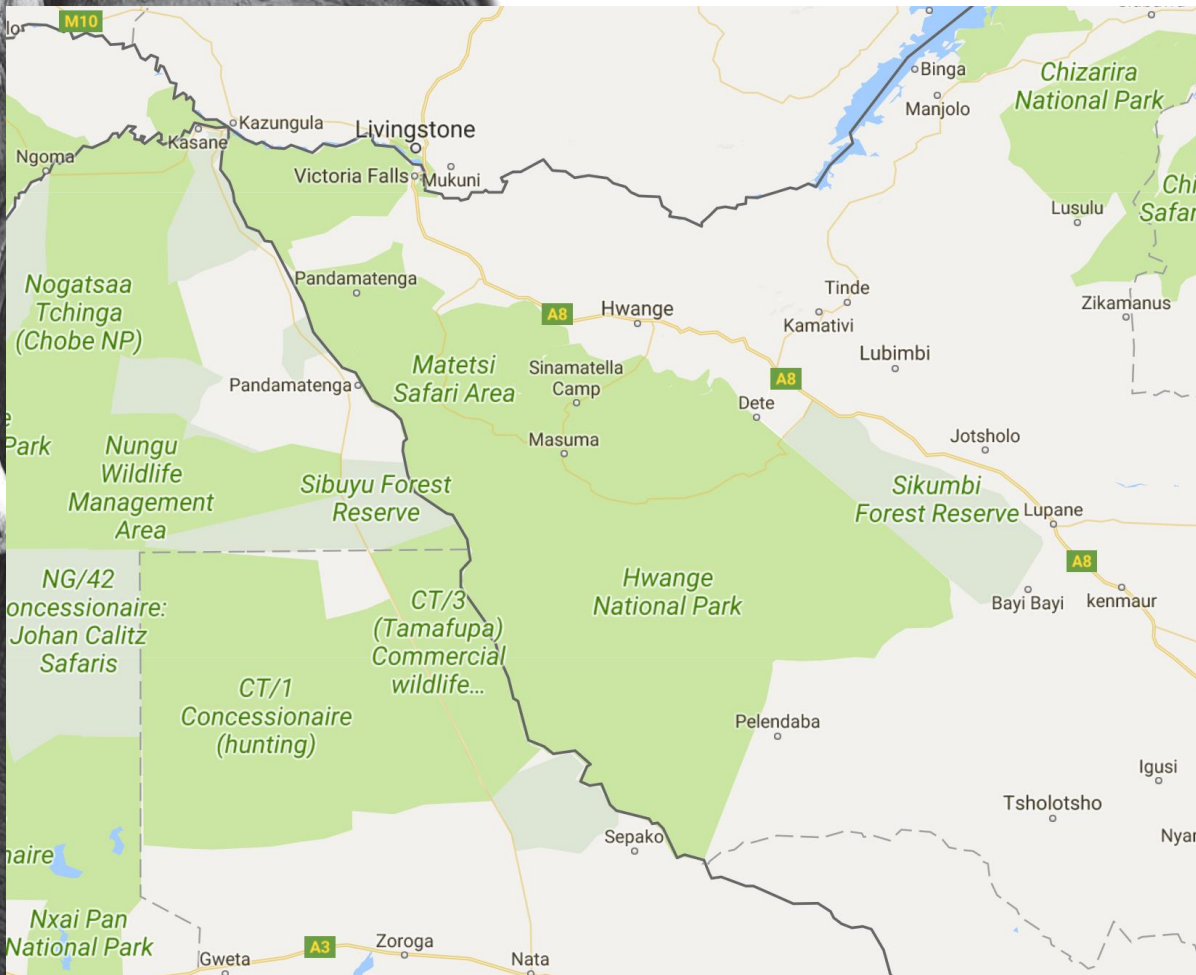


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# Feasibility Example – Hwange NP



- Surrounded mainly by other parks and hunting reserves
- Only one main access road
- Only along SE border are community and farming areas



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# The Test – BI Trial

## Basic Income Trial to Test Hypothesis

- Can be run in many suitable locations in Southern Africa at a relatively small scale (1,500-2,000 people)
- Scale would be sufficient to test hypothesis that it reduces IWT and subsistence poaching, and human-wildlife conflict
- Stage 1 - 2 year trial duration would be sufficient to test effect
- Baseline data can be gathered from parks management and from community surveys
- Poaching of elephants and rhinos can be monitored (patrols, aerial surveys)
- Behaviour change can be measured effectively

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# The Test – Basic Income Trial

## Partnerships & Implementation

1. Nature Needs More – trial design, fundraising, stakeholder management, project management
2. Research Partner(s) – trial design, baseline measurement, ongoing measurement, final evaluation, publication
3. Implementation Partners – local NGO for enrolment and monitoring, park management, community leaders
4. Payments Partner – mobile payments





## Next Steps

1. Circulate project proposal
2. Location scouting trip in Zimbabwe in Nov 2017
3. Set up advisory board
4. Approach potential research partners
5. Approach potential funders
6. Select location and implementation partners
7. Finalise trial design
8. Secure funding
9. Anticipated trial start in late 2018