



BIOSEC

BIODIVERSITY AND SECURITY



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



**Prof Rosaleen Duffy & Dr Jo Tidy,
Politics Department, University of Sheffield**

Political Ecology of Security: British Army

training in APUs

BIOSEC

BIODIVERSITY AND SECURITY

Political Ecologies of Security

- Conservation as a reason for & means of violence (Neumann, 2004; Bocarejo and Ojeda, 2016)
- Increased concerns about poaching and IWT



Militarisation

- Political ecologists at forefront of critiques of growing militarisation - Builds on political ecologies of conflict
- Eg Ramutsindela, Ybarra, Lunstrum, Buscher, Masse, Duffy, Marijnen, Kelly, & others
- But little engagement with securitization debates – also bring in green criminology, international interventionism and environmental security





**Securing Wildlife,
Conserving Gendered
Military Power**
BIOSEC

BIODIVERSITY AND SECURITY

British military restructuring

reforms following draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan – ‘Army 2020’

Defence cuts & reluctance to engage in ground conflicts

Africa identified as a zone of emerging security concern

Wildlife conservation ideal platform to reimagine the military



UK as leader in IWT

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
Michael Gove MP (2017)

‘we are funding training missions of this kind around the world...These plans will put the UK front and centre of global efforts to end poaching and the insidious trade in ivory’



Militarisation/professionalisation

‘I think there were learnings from Gabon that were taken to the Malawi project. So the ways that the project operated in Gabon it was to bring rangers in to a central point, train them, and send them back out to their teams. And they were finding that that wasn’t working so well so they have adapted it slightly so that now they bring whole teams but still train them centrally. Whereas for Malawi they were embedding with the teams in their park on their home turf. So they were working with the terrain and with the kind of equipment they had available and the support they had locally in the park. They have learned from Gabon, applied it to the Malawi project and had some positive initial results’ (anonymised interviewee)



professionalisation

‘Their approach is to professionalise the rangers essentially, that’s how they talk about it, so they are not doing weapons training, or teaching combat techniques, they are teaching them to get between poachers, or where the poachers might be coming from and the animals so that they might put them off or stop them from getting there in the first place through interception and tracking techniques’

(anonymised interviewee)



Two way learning exchange

MoD Company Sergeant Major Francis Condron

‘Tracking is a fascinating skill, and the rangers are so enthusiastic and happy to share their experience. It is such a useful skill to have, and now having this knowledge I think I’ll be able to use it in other situations as a useful survival skill, both with the Army and at home. I have already taught my kids the basics’



BIOSEC

BIODIVERSITY AND SECURITY



Conclusions

Need to build a political ecology of security

**Two way exchange between conservation-
military**

Deployments reimagine and conserve the

army

BIOSEC

BIODIVERSITY AND SECURITY