

## **Political Ecologies of Security: The Militarization of Conservation**

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### **Abstract**

This paper focuses on the militarization of conservation in order to develop our understanding of the political ecologies of security. Under the label of 'wildlife crime', poaching, trafficking and wildlife losses have been recast as global security threats – including high profile (but poorly evidenced) claims that the illegal wildlife trade funds global terrorist networks. Concerns about poaching and trafficking have led conservationists to seek urgent responses to tackle the impact on wildlife. This sense of urgency has, amongst other factors, driven a greater level of integration of the logics of militarization and security with those of conservation. This holds potentially far-reaching consequences, and so it is important to engage critically with the militarization of conservation in order to identify and reflect on the problems it produces for wildlife, for people living with wildlife and for those tasked with implementing militarized strategies. In this paper I briefly reflect on one manifestation of this approach: the deployment of UK troops to train and support anti poaching operations in Africa.

### **Biography**

Rosaleen Duffy is Professor of International Politics at the University of Sheffield. She currently holds an ERC Advanced Investigator Award of Euro 1.8 million for the BIOSEC project, which investigates the integration of security and biodiversity conservation in the field of the illegal wildlife trade. She is a political ecologist, and her research interests include neoliberalisation of nature, ecotourism, poaching, wildlife trafficking, transfrontier conservation and global environmental governance. She is author of numerous books and papers on the global politics of conservation, including *Nature Crime* (Yale University Press, 2010), and as part of the BIOSEC project she is writing a book about Political Ecology of Security.