Political Ecology of Security

#EndWildlifeCrime?

BIOSEC

Biodiversity and Security
Political ecology of Security

• #End WildlifeCrime
• A quadruple win: fight terrorism, help governments respond to security threats, raise profits for the private sector and help communities.
Political ecology of security

- What political work is being done by the phrase ‘wildlife crime is serious crime’?
- Who or what is doing that work and with what effect?
Why does it matter?

• Bocarejo and Ojeda (2016) conservation as a means and reason for violence; Neumann (2004) war for biodiversity – relies on racial stereotyping
• Vandergeest, Peluso, fairhead, Lunstrum, Le Billon
Effects on the ground

Wildlife crime & green criminology

• drawing on Lynch and Stretesky, 2014; Gore, 2017; Wyatt, 2013
• Is IWT a crime against humanity, against environment, against wildlife?
2017 Trump Executive Order

‘Transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including transnational drug cartels, have spread throughout the Nation, threatening the safety of the United States and its citizens. These organizations derive revenue through widespread illegal conduct, including acts of violence and abuse that exhibit a wanton disregard for human life. They, for example, have been known to commit brutal murders, rapes, and other barbaric acts’
Organised crime and the threat of CONVERGENCE
Responding to threat convergence

ICCWC established in 2010 because of the increasing sophistication and involvement of organized crime networks in wildlife crime

Brings together Interpol, CITES, the World Bank, The World Customs Union and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime
Omissions

Doesn’t address the forms of IWT which threaten non charismatic species
Fails to address role of states and standing armies as engaged in IWT

Photo: Meredith Gore
Conclusions

• Rendering IWT as serious organised crime can be used to support and drive a more coercive and violent approach to conservation
Conclusions

• This is delivered by states, NGOs, PMCs, private reserves

• It is changing what conservation is, and crucially it is changing what conservation can be in the future

• Need to unpick these political ecologies of security