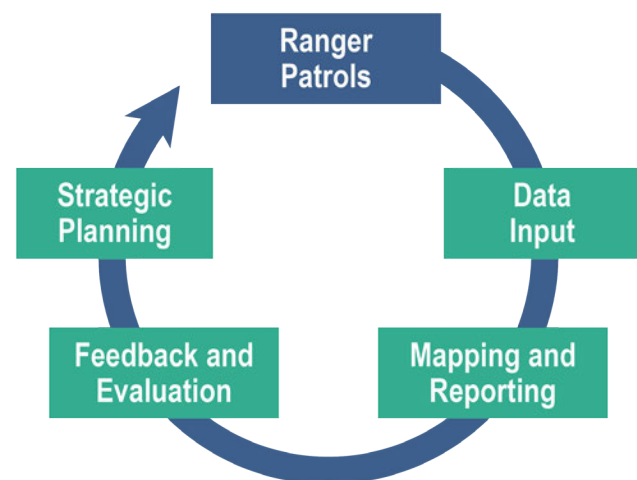# What is SMART?

SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) is much more than a data collection method. It's a suite of best practices aimed at helping marine protected area and wildlife managers better monitor, evaluate and adaptively manage patrolling activities.

SMART includes a powerful software application that improves the ability of marine protected area agencies and other patrol-based programs to manage areas effectively and combat illegal activities.

SMART has been designed by a team of expert software engineers and conservation scientists who have worked side by side with conservation managers around the world. The SMART team understands the needs of frontline enforcement, and recognizes the challenges of protecting the marine realm in the face of increasing threats and limited resources. SMART uses the power of information and the importance of accountability to help direct resources to the places they are needed most.

Ranger Patrols

Data Input

Mapping and Reporting

Feedback and Evaluation

Strategic Planning

SMART

To find out more visit
www.smartconservationtools.org

Get the SMART solution
for your protected area

SMART
Powerful. Adaptable. Free.

In what contexts can I use SMART?

The SMART software application is straightforward, designed to be used by site-based staff and can be adapted into most local languages. From community patrols to marine protected area managers, any group, agency or individual directly engaged in, supporting, or responsible for enforcement patrols can use SMART. It can be used across a broad range of conservation contexts, from strictly protected areas to multiple-use zones, and from terrestrial to marine ecosystems.

What can SMART do for you?

MOTIVATE rangers in their day-to-day work by capturing the data they collect while on patrol—including both efforts and results from patrols, such as dealing with poaching and other illegal activities—and using these data to demonstrate the value of their efforts for improved management through regular feedback and review.

EMPOWER conservation managers with timely and accurate information on what threats are occurring, where they are occurring, and how their enforcement teams are responding.

GUIDE conservation managers in using this information strategically to better plan and manage their patrolling operations.

ENSURE accountability and good governance by providing clear and standardized measures of law enforcement performance for staff management, administration and reporting.

How is SMART different from other monitoring tools?

SMART was created by conservation practitioners who have extensive experience both with existing monitoring tools and with law enforcement. SMART builds on the success of existing tools, but provides additional functionality not present in any previous monitoring system.

Key benefits of SMART include

- User-friendly features to help managers strategically plan their enforcement operations—including preparation of workplans, evaluation of patrol targets, and more efficient visualization of enforcement coverage and performance

- Integration of patrol data with intelligence gathered from a variety of different sources, providing a more complete picture of poaching and the people involved

- Tracking of legal and administrative cases resulting from enforcement action

- Improved reporting and analysis features for more accurate interpretation of the data

- Availability in the local language of the user

- Compatibility with a wide variety of GPS units and data collection devices

- User support through extensive training materials, practical guidelines and technical assistance

- Affordability—SMART is free to everyone and "open-source," meaning that it is not owned by any single organization and can be easily adapted to meet the varied and changing needs of users

- A Community Forum, which gives users worldwide the chance to suggest improvements and share lessons learned

- A business plan and active global SMART community to ensure SMART development is financed and supported over the long term

What if you're already using another monitoring tool?

If you're already using an existing law enforcement monitoring tool, then most of the hard work has already been done! Having an active enforcement operation in place, and rangers who are familiar with collecting standardized patrol data, is as important for SMART as it is for any monitoring tool.

The good news is that SMART is designed to be compatible with MIST, CyberTracker and CITES-MIKE databases. This means you can take steps to convert your old data-bases into SMART databases. It also means you don't have to change your existing data collection forms or retrain your rangers in new methods or protocols. On the contrary, SMART is intended to make your work easier.

Some initial training in data entry, analysis and reporting is required in order for SMART users to take advantage of the new features. Site managers should also be made aware of SMART's new capabilities. The partnership of organizations that has developed SMART is committed to providing adequate training materials for users to make this transition as smooth as possible.

How do you get started using SMART?

If you're just starting up, SMART offers a wide range of training materials and practical guidelines to help you decide whether SMART is right for you. SMART will also provide you with all you need to know about setting up SMART in your site and ensuring its long-term success.

SMART applies best practices compiled from sites across the globe by people with on-the-ground experience in implementing law enforcement monitoring systems. You can directly contribute to the SMART global community by sharing lessons learned and joining the discussion on future SMART development.