SMART Partners

The SMART Partnership is a group of global conservation agencies, conservation organizations, and individuals that share a mission to conserve biodiversity, reduce the impacts of illegal extraction and trade of natural resources, strengthen law enforcement related to biodiversity conservation, and strengthen overall management of conservation areas.

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SMART values

- Freely available and open source
- Responds to needs and feedback from front-line users
- Scalable and customizable to a wide variety of locations and contexts
- Packaged with an extensive support and training network
- Commitment to long-term funding and support through the SMART Partnership

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What do I need to use SMART law enforcement monitoring?

SMART law enforcement monitoring is part of the base SMART installation.

- Computer (laptop or desktop) with Windows OS, machine (laptop or desktop) with min 4GB RAM, 8 or higher recommended
- SMART law enforcement monitoring requires that basic SMART software programs is installed and configured for your site(s) (see a Guide to Getting Started with SMART for more)

When you are ready to move forward with SMART law enforcement monitoring, contact your SMART Partner or info@smartconservationtools.org.

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Protected areas are at the conservation frontline of efforts to protect species and habitats from poaching and other threats. To respond effectively, protected area staff need information on where threats are occurring and the capacity to address them quickly. Often, these solutions need to be implemented in remote places, with limited staffing and resources. SMART was developed to respond to these fundamental needs.

SMART—The world’s leading tool for conservation law enforcement monitoring

With SMART now implemented in over 200 protected areas worldwide, it has become the leading global solution for protected areas monitoring and conservation law enforcement. SMART has enhanced law enforcement effectiveness, improved morale of protection teams, and reduced threats to wildlife and other natural resources across the world. Its strength is derived from its community-owned and driven development and its flexibility: SMART is able to perform in connected and disconnected environments, and is well suited for low-capacity environments where threats are greatest.

SMART LEM enables the collection, storage, communication, and evaluation of data on patrol efforts, patrol results, and threat levels. When effectively employed to create and sustain information flow between rangers and conservation managers, SMART LEM can help to substantially improve protection of wildlife and their habitats.

What is SMART?

The SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) Approach combines a cutting edge protected area management tool with capacity building and a set of best practices. The SMART software makes it possible to collect, store, communicate and analyze ranger-collected data on illegal activities, wildlife, patrol routes, and management actions to understand where efforts should focus, and evaluate ranger performance. It comes with a mobile data collection app combined with a powerful analysis and mapping interface designed for, and customizable by, local users.

Empower rangers by:

- Motivating them in their day-to-day work by optimizing the data collection process for patrol teams
- Using ranger data to provide patrol teams with regular feedback and review and to improve patrol management
- Ensuring accountability and good governance through clear and standardized measures of law enforcement performance for rangers and managers

How can SMART law enforcement monitoring help?

1. Prioritize resources and plan patrols

   - SMART is user-friendly to help managers strategically plan and deploy their enforcement operations
   - Integration of patrol data with intelligence data provides a more complete picture of poaching and the people involved

2. Demonstrate the impact of patrolling through:

   - Rapid and accurate reporting of patrol data and enforcement activities
   - Impactful reporting and analysis tools for more accurate interpretations of data
   - Tracking legal and administrative cases resulting from patrols and enforcement actions

When implemented appropriately, SMART law enforcement monitoring can contribute to greater detection of illegal activity, increased effectiveness of enforcement activities and arrests, and reductions in both wildlife crime incidents and forest loss.

IMAGE: Nathanlie Ingle/WCS

IMAGE: WCS Thailand

IMAGE: WCS Colombia