SMART Partners

The SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) 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.

smartconservationtools.org

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

What do I need to use SMART for marine law enforcement and monitoring?

SMART law enforcement monitoring is part of the base SMART installation and includes marine taxa. Other functionality, such as mobile data collection or ecological monitoring, can be easily added to your installation as needed through a few simple steps.

- 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 information)

When you are ready to move forward with SMART law enforcement monitoring, contact your SMART Partner or info@smartconservationtools.org.
Marine protected areas (MPAs) are at the conservation frontline of efforts to protect species and habitats from pervasive threats. To respond effectively, MPA 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 law enforcement monitoring 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 patrols and conservation managers, SMART 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 the option for a mobile data collection app, combined with a powerful analysis and mapping interface designed for, and customizable by, local users.

How can SMART law enforcement monitoring help improve marine conservation at your site?

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

2. 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

3. 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 incidents of both crime and habitat destruction.