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The
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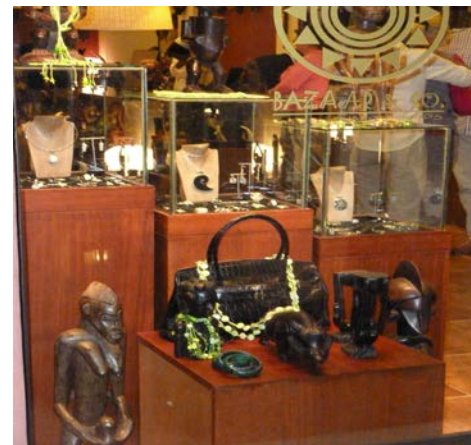
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



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 MAISHA
CONSULTING Ltd

MAISHA is an innovative security and risk management consultancy with a focus on environment and countertrafficking of contraband and natural resources.

MISSION STATEMENT Maisha provides strategic security solutions based on innovative, cost effective technology, socio-cultural and geo-political competence, and personal commitment to the client.



Conservation is changing

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Partners in...

Partnering with PMCs, UNPKOs,
private defence contractors (Northrop
Grumman, Paramount



Ministry
of Defence



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Wildlife crime as serious crime

- UN Resolution 2015, Production of the idea of wildlife crime as global threat



The everyday

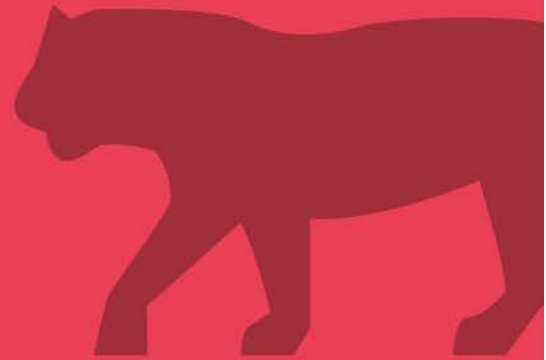
- Not always the spectacular, or armed
- Use of tech, eg drones, robotic sniffers, Realtime Platform



What is the effect?

- Re emergence of more violent and forceful approaches
- Two way trialling and learning for conservation and for warfare





What are the problems with militarisation of conservation?

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Defining militarised conservation

1. More forceful or armed forms of conservation
2. The development and application of military style approaches such as the development of informant networks, and counterinsurgency-like strategies
3. The use and applications of technologies originally developed by the military



Misunderstanding poaching and its drivers

- Colonial histories of defining poaching
- Failure to understand structural context of poaching
- Militarisation treats symptoms not causes



Experiences of local communities

- Mirror and recreate past injustices
- Documented incidences of torture, rapes, abductions and extra judicial killings
- But communities can also welcome enhanced security from conservation if it protects them from militias



Addressing ranger experiences

- Ranger as hero can trap rangers – doesn't map well onto their experiences
- Effect of surveillance tech on 'working day/working practices'
- Rising rates of workplace stress and PTSD



Conservation in conflict zones

- Partnering with military actors can deepen conflict dynamics
- Claims about ivory/IWT funding terrorism poorly evidenced but drive calls for militarised responses
- Working with UNPKOS, national armies and PMCs carries risk – taking sides, cannot assume they have a clean record in human rights and environmental protection

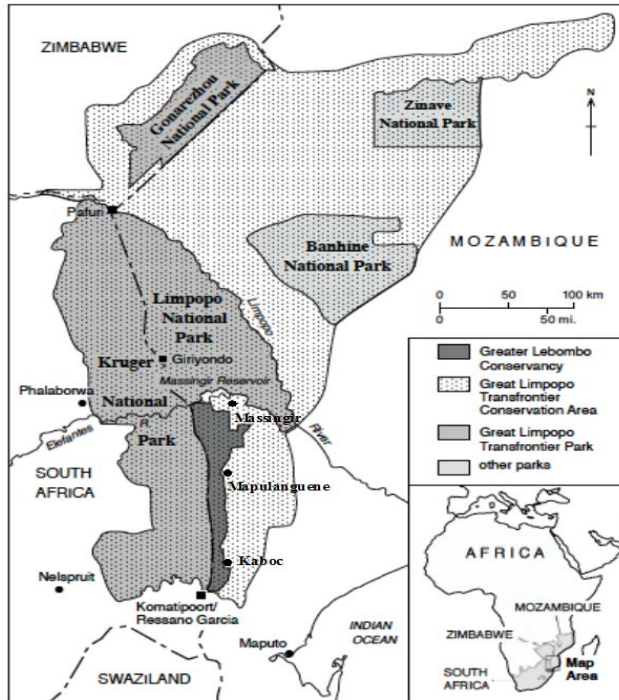


Political Economy of militarisation

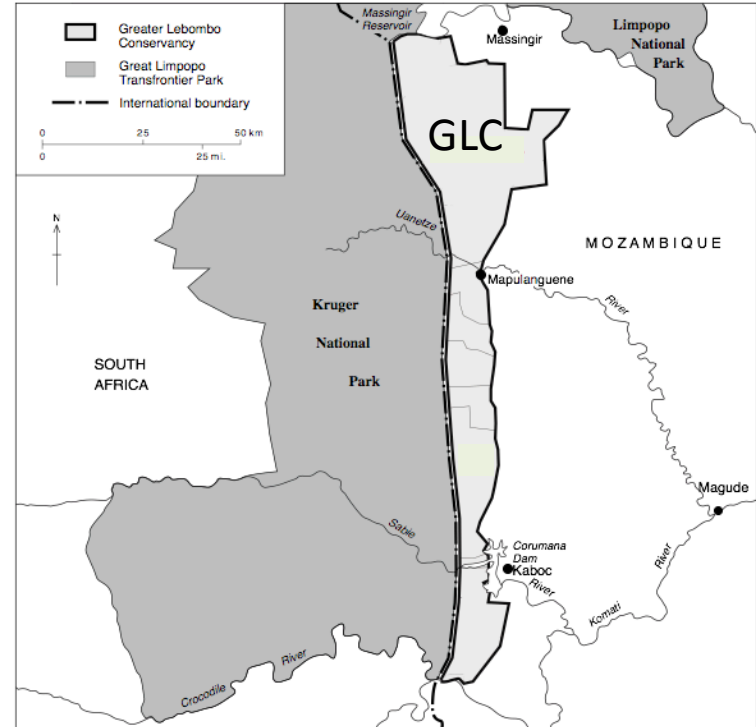
- Militarisation not necessarily driven by conservation needs, but by seeking greater profits and new markets
- Intelligence- led approaches taken up by NGOs – risks to investigators and informants because they are not properly trained in handling sensitive data



Researching Anti-Poaching in Mozambique & South Africa



“currently the most critical piece of land on the planet for rhino conservation. It is all that stands between the worlds highest concentrations of rhino and the world’s highest concentration of rhino poaching syndicates” (IAPF).



Militarization as Compromising Conservation's Social and Ecological Integrity



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Militarization as Compromising Conservation's Social and Ecological Integrity

To protect rhino (species), or to neutralise poachers?

Taking a Friend or Enemy Approach

- Community anti-poaching & conservation gone awry
 - Can't do CBNRM and Militarization at same time in same place
- Conservation funding & priorities sidelined – ecological impacts



Community Anti-Poaching & CBNRM gone awry?



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Right-hand militarized orientation, left-hand community orientation - doesn't work

“The militaristic approach is eroding years of work in trying to build more positive relations between the reserve and the communities and to get people on the side of conservation”

(Conservation Manager, Mozambique, 2016).





Conservation Funding, Priorities & Compromising Ecological Integrity

- Focus on specific species, counter-poaching at the expense of broad conservation mandates
 - Shift in resources, attention, training
- Rangers trained in counter-insurgency, paramilitary technique, not ecology, biology, monitoring, conservation
- In Kruger, 90% of rangers' time dedicate specifically to anti-poaching
- Whither the conservation ranger?





Image from
Protrack



Image from IAPF



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Alternatives

- Enforcement Side
 - Invest in rangers
 - Invest in capacity to investigate and prosecute
 - Formal law enforcement, not militarization
- Strengthen social integrity of conservation & protected areas
 - Actual ownership of and decision-making over wildlife and conservation
 - Not handouts to stay away
 - Hold those who use violence accountable

An urgency to think carefully and seriously about what militarized conservation can achieve and what it means for the social and ecological integrity of protected areas, conservation landscapes and related long-term sustainability.





Conclusion

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Finally....

- It is vitally important to reflect on militarised actions and interventions.
- Failure to do so, especially in urgent situations, may lead to a greatly enhanced willingness to use violence, with counter productive outcomes for people and for wildlife.

