

Fighting Wildlife Crime: Unsung Heroes



Posted by [David Maxwell Braun](#) of National Geographic Society in [Voices for Wildlife](#) on September 22, 2016

Fighting Wildlife Crime: The Unsung Heroes | National Geographic

Journalist and National Geographic Fellow Bryan Christy uses investigative journalism to expose illegal wildlife trafficking around the globe. This is the first in a series of interviews with the people fighting wildlife crime on the front lines.

Wildlife trafficking today is unlike anything the world has ever seen before,” says Bryan Christy. The award-winning investigative journalist and National Geographic Fellow adds: “Rare animals are being exploited by criminal syndicates who have access to advanced technology, advanced weapon systems. There’s a huge imbalance in terms of the resources Law Enforcement have and the resources criminal networks have. Imagine going into the bush against a group of armed poachers, and you’re not sure whether your weapons will fire.”

Fighting Some of the Worst People in the World

The most important and unsung element of wildlife crime are the rangers on the ground,” Christy says. “These men and women are asked to go out and fight some of the worst people in the world.” The more time he spends doing his investigative work, the more he realizes it is a human story, Christy adds. It is to the benefit of criminals and their networks to keep these matters in the dark, he says. “So it sounds small, but sharing these stories is incredibly important.”

Bryan Christy recently chaired a global seminar and training summit in Washington, D.C., focusing on collaboration between wildlife law enforcement agencies across the world. Read more about this below.

Uniting Against Organized Wildlife Crime

Law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and business leaders gathered from across the world in Washington recently to share information and expertise and organize a concerted strategy to combat the global scourge of wildlife trafficking.

The unprecedented collaboration was heralded at the National Geographic Society's headquarters on Tuesday, at an event held against the backdrop of recent news of a catastrophic plunge in the last wild populations of African elephants and other species. The meeting also set the stage for CITES CoP17, a conference in Johannesburg at the end of this month that will bring more than a hundred governments together to review the planet's biggest wildlife challenges and opportunities.

[Read the whole post »](#)

**More About National Geographic's Contributions to
Fighting Wildlife Crime**
National Geographic Society
Saving Big Cats: Around the world, trophy hunting,



habitat loss, and conflict with humans are putting big cats at great risk. [See what we're doing to help.](#)

A Voice for Elephants: Elephants may be large, heavy and thick-skinned, but they are being threatened with extinction in the wild by poaching for their ivory, and by human impact on their habitats. “A Voice for Elephants” is a resource for information about this critical species, a forum for discussion, and a rally point for those who want to stand with them.

National Geographic Media

The National Geographic **Special Investigations Unit** (SIU) is dedicated to shining light on commercial-scale exploitation of wildlife and other valued resources, identifying weaknesses in national and international efforts to protect wildlife, and empowering institutions and individuals working for a better world. Stories cover a range of human activity, from crime to heroism. You can find all of the SIU's stories at [Wildlife Watch](#).