



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# INTERAGENCY COORDINATION BEST PRACTICES

USAID Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Group  
November 16, 2021  
9-10AM EST

*This presentation was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development.  
It was prepared by Environmental Incentives, Foundations of Success and ICF for the Measuring Impact II (M12) Contract.*

# Today's Agenda

- Overview of CWT Learning Series (3 min)
- Padlet Questions (30 min)
- Discussion and Q&A (25 min)

# Purpose of the CWT Learning Series

- Learning exchange to facilitate the sharing of knowledge among USAID staff that work on USAID CWT activities
- Opportunity to share lessons learned while implementing key CWT strategic approaches, develop stories of innovation and change, and create action plans to apply to learning from the exchange to their own programming



# Join USAID's Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Group for a 2021 Virtual Learning Exchange

**September 21**  
Demand  
Reduction Peer  
Assist  
Webinar

**October 19**  
Transboundary  
Cooperation  
Knowledge  
Harvest

**November 16**  
Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Best Practices

**December 14**  
Strengthening  
the Judiciary  
Experience  
Sharing

Each event will feature speakers from USAID and partners, with shared lessons learned about strategic approaches, discussions on the latest evidence, and opportunities to identify action plans for implementing learning. Learning briefs on each topic will also be developed and shared widely.

**Join us on Tuesdays at 9am EST**





# TODAY'S SPEAKERS

**Mary Rowen**

USAID, Biodiversity Division  
Lead



**Melody McNeil**

USAID/Central Africa  
Regional Program



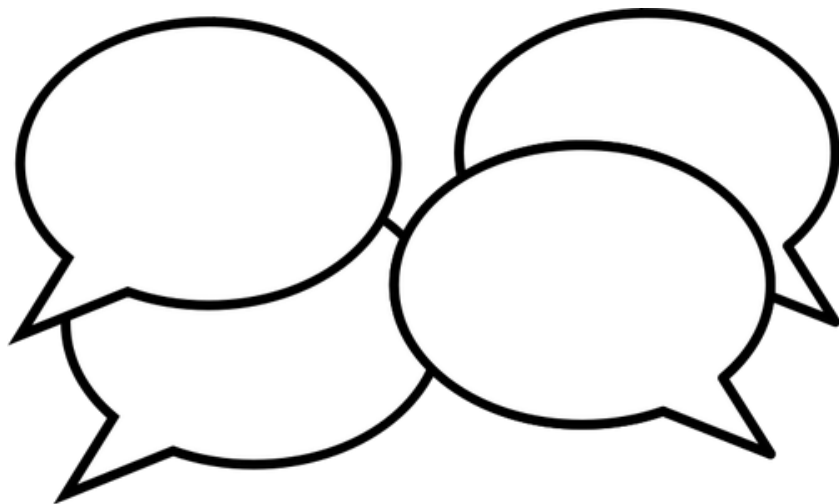
**Angela Hogg**

USAID/Southern Africa



# How the Conversation Will Work

- Go to our [Padlet](#). What questions do you have on interagency coordination?
- Upvote the questions you'd like to hear the speakers answer.
- If your burning question isn't there, add it! Use the chat box if you can't get into the padlet.
- During the discussion: post your experiences and thoughts in the chat--include #insights you get from the speakers!



# Interagency Collaboration Questions

- What can we do in situations when progress stalls in an activity under an interagency partnership, and even good coordination is not helping mobilization in a manner that USAID needs? Are there any corrective measures?



# Discussion Notes

## Speakers' framing points

- Get to know other agencies, why they are the table, what they hope to get out of the coordination
- Understand how other agencies operate, where decisions are made in terms of funding sources and work assignments
- Invest in expectation setting and ongoing communication
- Use multiple forms of communication (emails, meetings, formal and informal, lunches, relaxed settings like cocktails). This helps build trust and respect for each others' capabilities, for the comparative advantage of what each brings to the table
- Interagency Coordination is requires a lot of effort in terms of time and staffing, but it's worth it; when we all work together, we can really achieve a lot.

## Differences / potential tensions between USAID and other agencies

- Other agencies' stereotypes of USAID: checkbox, Treehuggers, downers, too focused on systems-building, governance, massive bureaucracy
- Perceptions of USAID as having all the money and lots of power make some agencies hesitant to "step on USAID's toes."
- Other agencies don't have USAID's field presence or staffing power and can't participate at the same level of monitoring and design or engagement in technical subject matter. For example INL is pushing out more money than they're staffed to manage.
- Other agencies aren't decentralized like USAID; decisions are made in Washington
- Other agencies have different gender make-up, i.e. fewer women than USAID
- Sometimes you have to overcome historic tensions or conflicts between individual actors or institutions. This takes a lot of work and a lot of communication.

# Discussion Notes

## Best practices / advice

- Do attend the coordination meetings, even when you're really busy. They are critical for relationship building.
- Offer to take on coordination organization to help out busy colleagues from other Agencies. For example, the ESTH Officer can be overloaded; offer to co-lead.
- If you have leadership support and budget, it's great to include coordination as part of someone's job description
- Having regional coordinators in bilateral Missions is helpful at streamlining coordination
- Can rely on DC-based colleagues to help address toxic relationships or even just confusion about roles and capabilities. For example to support END act coordination with ESTH officers and INL.
- Learn when to reach out and when to stand our ground and share our objectives, roles and expectations
- Bring in others as subject matter experts; it helps them see the bigger context and shows respect for them and their capabilities
- For Leahy vetting, putting in place standard operating procedures can help
- Much around coordination is personality driven, making it all the more important to show up. Absence from fora means a hostile personality can take over that space. Build allyships with people who work around the hostile personality to counter-balance them

# CWT Learning Group Tools and Resources



USAID DDI/BIODIVERSITY  
Combating Wildlife Trafficking  
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING GROUP



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## LEARNING GROUP RESOURCES

- [CWT Learning Group Site](#)
- [CWT Learning Agenda](#)
- [CWT Crime Toolkit](#)

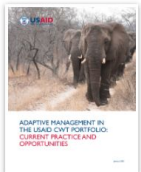
### What's Happening



#### Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Exchange: Demand Reduction Posters

In November 2019, USAID hosted a regional CWT learning exchange in Bangkok, Thailand. The exchange featured poster presentations on demand reduction campaigns ...

[Read More](#)



#### Adaptive Management in the USAID CWT Portfolio: Current Practice and Opportunities

USAID's combating wildlife trafficking portfolio offers an opportunity to understand how adaptive management is practiced across a discrete portfolio. To this ...

[Read More](#)

## Combating Wildlife Trafficking Learning Group

The CWT Learning Group is focused on building a knowledge base around how best to build capacity, reduce consumer demand, and improve community engagement to combat wildlife crime.

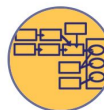
USAID has a long history of support for efforts to combat wildlife trafficking (CWT). These efforts are currently being prioritized due to a dramatic increase in the volume and scope of the threat in recent years and the February 9th, 2017 Executive Order on enforcing federal law with respect to transnational criminal organizations and preventing international trafficking.

Among the many strategic approaches employed by USAID to combat wildlife trafficking and outlined in the Agency's *Measuring Efforts to Combat Wildlife Crime Toolkit*, USAID's Biodiversity Division chose three for special attention for the CWT Learning Group based on their frequency in USAID programming: (a) reducing consumer demand through behavior change methodologies, (b) building capacity for effective enforcement and prosecution, and (c) increasing community conservation action and support to combat wildlife trafficking. These three strategic approaches are defined by development hypotheses (theories of change), as well as a combined hypothesis that, if implemented, these strategic approaches will increase the risks for wildlife criminals and reduce profits from wildlife trafficking, which will then reduce overall wildlife crime, leading to improved conservation results.

While used across many countries, there is often little supporting information available to practitioners regarding the effectiveness of these approaches or the validity of key assumptions. As USAID begins or ramps up efforts, there is an important opportunity for this Learning Group to support cross-mission collaboration to capitalize on previous experiences, share the latest information, and build the evidence base for these approaches.



### What You Can Do Here



See What We've  
Learned



Read the Latest  
Research



Ask the Group



Meet Other  
Members



Attend an Event



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# THANK YOU!

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**Megan Hill, Environment Specialist**  
Biodiversity Division  
[mhill@usaid.gov](mailto:mhill@usaid.gov)

