



Workshop Announcement
for the
Conservation Asia 2018 Meeting

Workshop title: Optimising protection using the SMART Approach

Workshop languages: Russian (main language) and English

Workshop duration: Three days

Workshop fee: USD 100

Organization: Wildlife Conservation Society, Asia Program

Main educators: Antony Lynam and Michiel Hötte

Antony Lynam has 30 years experience designing and implementing conservation projects in protected areas in Asia, Australia and the United States. He currently oversees the implementation of SMART in more than 10 countries in SE, S and Central Asia. He is the lead for the SMART Training Taskforce which is developing training approaches and interagency partnerships across more than 600 sites globally. Tony designed and taught some of the first multiagency law enforcement training courses offered by the Wildlife Conservation Society in Thailand, Myanmar, Lao, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Mongolia, China, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. He designed and conducted law enforcement monitoring training for frontline staff in 8 countries in Asia and three countries in southern Africa under the CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme.

Michiel Hötte has a master degree in business economics and management from the University of Amsterdam and has worked in The Netherlands as a management consultant for KMPG and for Deloitte & Touche. Since 1996 he has been involved in conservation in the Russian Far East and since 2006 he has been working on the implementation of SMART (and its earlier iteration called MIST). Michiel presently manages a successful SMART program for WCS that aims to improve protection at seven federal-level protected areas in Amur tiger habitat in the Russian Far East.

Background Information

SMART has rapidly become the global standard for protection monitoring and management and presently SMART is used in more than 600 conservation areas and 50 countries worldwide. The

"SMART Approach" uses patrol monitoring data in management cycles that are aimed at step-by-step improvements in patrol quality. If applied properly, this approach can produce substantial improvements in protection. SMART monitoring makes it possible to measure trends in poaching pressures and other threats, and providing that protection capacity is sufficient, SMART can help to bring threats to wildlife and their habitat under control and secure the survival of threatened conservation target species.

However, successful introduction of SMART is difficult and many projects fail to achieve significant, long-term improvement of protection quality. Technical issues related to use of the SMART computer program can be difficult, but are rarely a significant barrier. More often problems arise due to inadequate motivation of enforcement staff, or even more commonly, an inability for the staff managing SMART to fully embrace changes needed in management approaches. This workshop is dedicated to explaining how to avoid these pitfalls and how to improve chances of successful implementation.

Workshop goals and topics

The main goal of the workshop is to provide a basic understanding of the management processes associated with protection based on the SMART Approach. At the centre of this approach is the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). Participation in this workshop will provide a basic understanding for NGO staff, site staff and national conservation managers of the potential merits of SMART and how to develop management protocols to insure success in introducing SMART to individual sites, or to a regional or national SMART law enforcement program.

Although the various modules and technical aspects of the SMART computer program will be briefly discussed, the workshop will mainly focus on managerial issues related to the design and introduction of SMART-based protection monitoring and adaptive protection management. Participants will learn what SMART-based protection management entails and how it differs from traditional protection management. They will learn how to design and organise the various stages of introducing SMART to a conservation area.

Workshop participants will learn how to:

- Assess if a conservation site is suitable for the introduction of SMART and they will learn how to address weaknesses and improve suitability before introduction of SMART starts.
- Understand the functionality of the SMART tool for designing tailor-made procedures for patrol data collection, data logistics, data entry and data quality management, data evaluation and feedback to patrol teams that fit the local circumstances at a particular conservation site.
- Timely spot and address various problems that often occur during the introduction of SMART.
- Organise and evaluate SMART patrol monitoring trial periods.
- Produce effective patrol reports and presentations, and organise effective feedback meetings with patrol teams.

- Pros & cons of SMART-based ranger incentive systems and options for the design of these systems.
- Conduct annual evaluations of SMART-based protection systems. What topics can be covered in these evaluations, what information sources can be used, and how evaluation reports can help optimise SMART-based protection at site-level and national level?
- Learn how the SMART approach is being implemented at conservation sites ranging from chaos to optimized management, from a range of case studies in Asia.

Workshop participants profile

Participation in the workshop will be very useful for both first-time SMART users without prior experience as well as for more experienced conservation managers who want to optimise the use of SMART at one or more sites or at national level.

Concretely, we would like to invite to participate in the workshop:

- Conservation NGO staff assisting in the introduction of SMART or considering doing so.
- National or provincial protection managers from ministries or from other conservation agencies.
- Protected area directors and their protection managers.