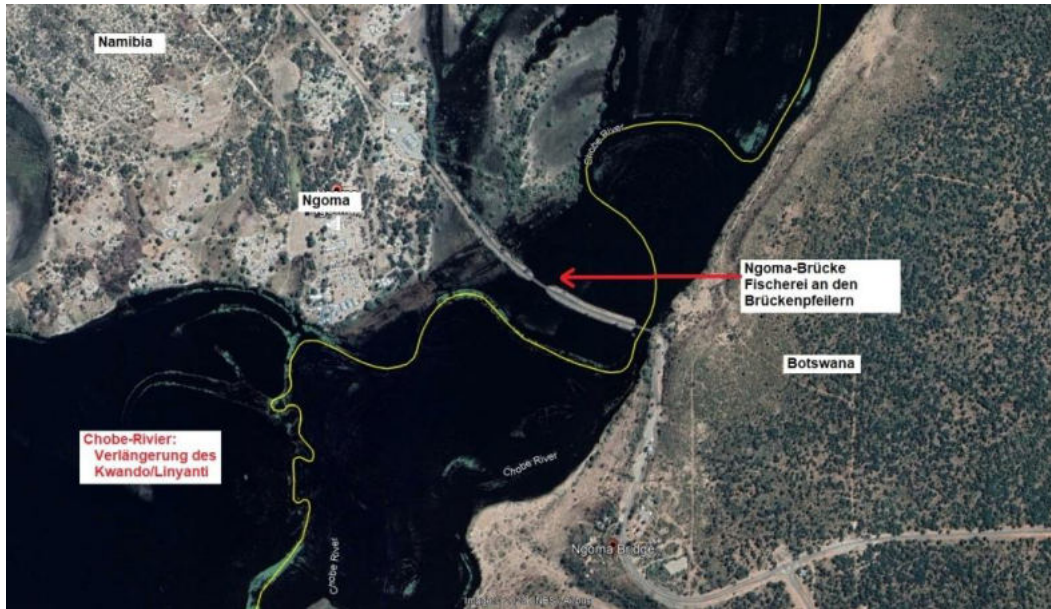


- [HOME PAGE](#)
- [ENVIRONMENT](#)
- INITIATIVE AGAINST NATURAL CRIME



Nature crimes



Many residents illegally fish from the Chobe River using curtain nets: Map: NMH



Illegal fishing on the Chobe River. Photo: Private



WhatsApp Image 2023-09-05 at 16.46.53 (1)

•

INITIATIVE AGAINST NATURAL CRIME

Poaching is closely linked to other forms of organized crime

A new initiative called the Nature Crime Alliance aims to combat nature crime worldwide. Poaching, illegal fishing and illegal logging are often linked to terrorism, money laundering and drug trafficking and require coordinated action.

Ellanie Smit

• 19 HOURS AGO - 2023-09-06 00:10:00

By Ellanie Smit, Windhoek

As one of the largest illegal economies in the world, natural crime is closely linked to terrorism, corruption, human rights violations, financial crime and other threats to peace and security. Now a new global initiative that builds bridges across disciplinary, geographical and legal boundaries in the fight against natural crime has been officially launched.

The Nature Crime Alliance is a global, cross-sector network that aims to strengthen political will, mobilize financial commitment and expand operational capacity to combat nature crime and the international criminal activities to which it is linked. According to the Nature Crime Alliance, this type of crime includes criminal forms of logging, mining, fishing, wildlife trafficking and land conversion. These crimes are often linked to each other and to other forms of international criminal activity.

“It is estimated that natural crime has become the largest financial driver of terrorism and other forms of conflict worldwide - \$110 billion to \$281 billion in annual criminal proceeds, with indirect impacts of \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion.”

Also The alliance, which is under the auspices of the World Resources Institute (WRI), aims to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Interpol as well as with frontline defenders, civil society organizations and representatives of the private sector. It was officially launched at the Global Environmental Facility in Vancouver, which was also attended by Namibian Environment Minister Pohamba Shifeta.

Ani Dasgupta, President and CEO of the World Resources Institute (WRI), said complex global challenges such as natural crime cannot be solved in isolation. The Nature Crime Alliance aims to promote greater collaboration between different sectors and disciplines to eradicate crimes against people and the planet. “The persistent misconception that Indigenous peoples are viewed as perpetrators of nature crimes must change by building partnerships with these communities as stewards of nature,” said Joan Carling, Executive Director of Indigenous Peoples Rights International. “The Importance of the Nature Crime Alliance for us lies in

Yulia Stange, director of the Nature Crime Alliance, added that crimes against nature and the associated impact on people, especially the most vulnerable, and on the planet have been ignored for too long. “The Nature Crime Alliance, working across intergovernmental treaties, agreements and organizations to prevent, disrupt and prosecute these crimes, has never been more urgently needed.”