

# 9<sup>th</sup> International Wildlife Ranching Symposium

Key issues to consider in deliberations  
on a legal trade in rhino horn

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# Wildlife Trade

- ▣ Wildlife trade is any sale or exchange of wild animal and plant resources by people.
- ▣ The illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products is soaring, and is today a black market worth an estimated \$10 billion a year.
- ▣ Wildlife is also traded **legally** for food, fuel, building materials, clothing, sport, healthcare, religion and collections.

<http://www.traffic.org/trade/>

- ▣ The use of wildlife is vital to millions of people around the world.

# CITES

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The purpose of CITES is not to ban wildlife trade. The strategic vision for CITES makes this abundantly clear with the following wording:

*‘Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss.’*

CITES regulates international trade in over 35,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild **with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment.**

The CITES permit system seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal and traceable.

# Rhino custodians

- ❑ Designated Protected Areas (national and regional)

*These should be the crown jewels of the global commitment to biodiversity conservation – vital areas where natural evolutionary and ecological processes can operate with minimal human disturbance.*

- ❑ Private land-owners
- ❑ Indigenous communities

# Rhino range states

<u>Country</u>	<u>White Rhino</u>	<u>Black Rhino</u>
Botswana	239	48
Kenya	444	678
Malawi	0	26
Mozambique	29	2
Namibia	822	1,946
South Africa	18,413	1,893
Swaziland	76	20
Tanzania	0	133
Uganda	15	0
Zambia	10	32
Zimbabwe	330	472

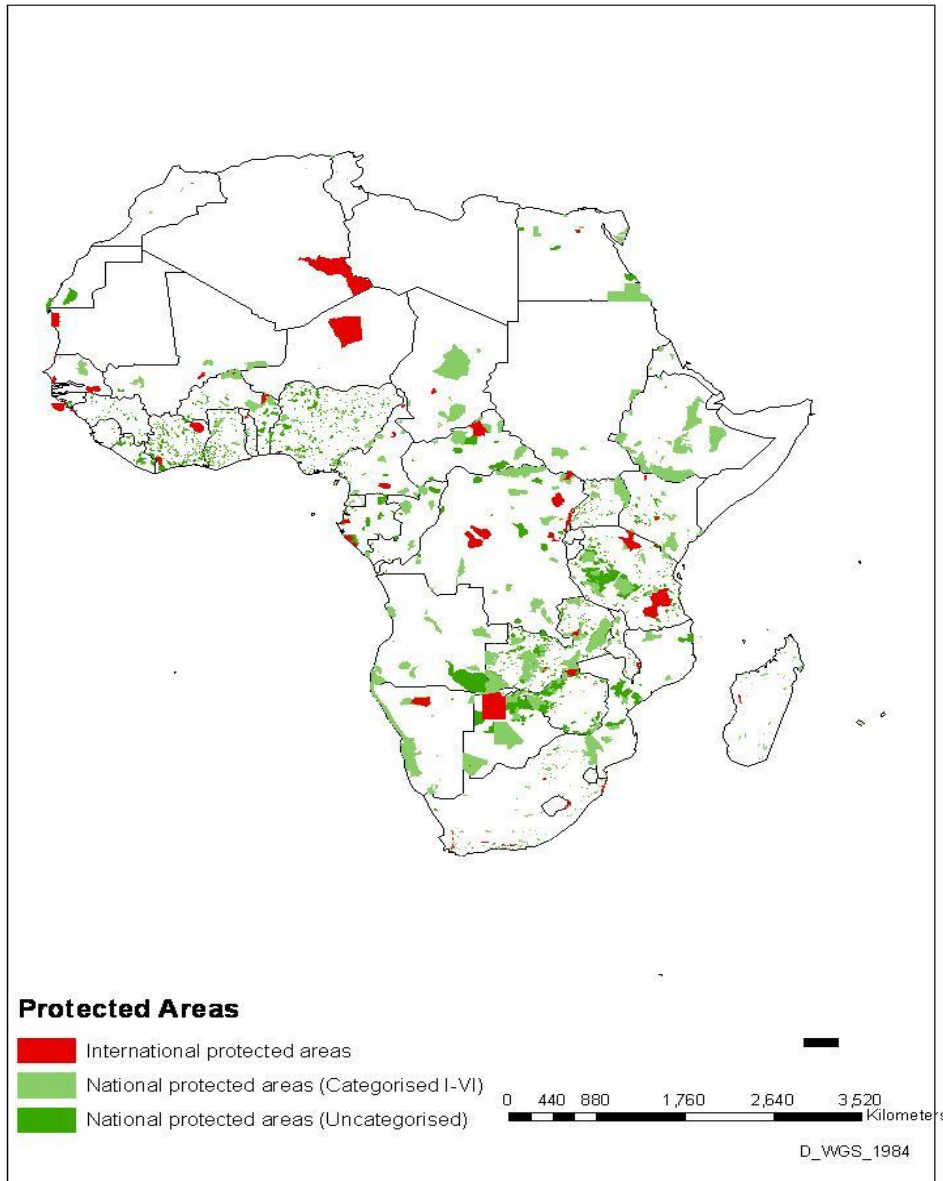
Knight, M. (2016). African Rhino Specialist report. *Pachyderm* 57: 12 – 42.

# Swaziland proposal to CoP 17

To alter the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Swaziland's white rhino, adopted at the 13th Conference of Parties in 2004, so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn which has been collected in the past from natural deaths, or recovered from poached Swazi rhino, as well as horn to be harvested in a non-lethal way from a limited number of white rhino in the future in Swaziland.

<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/prop/060216/E-CoP17-Prop-07.pdf>

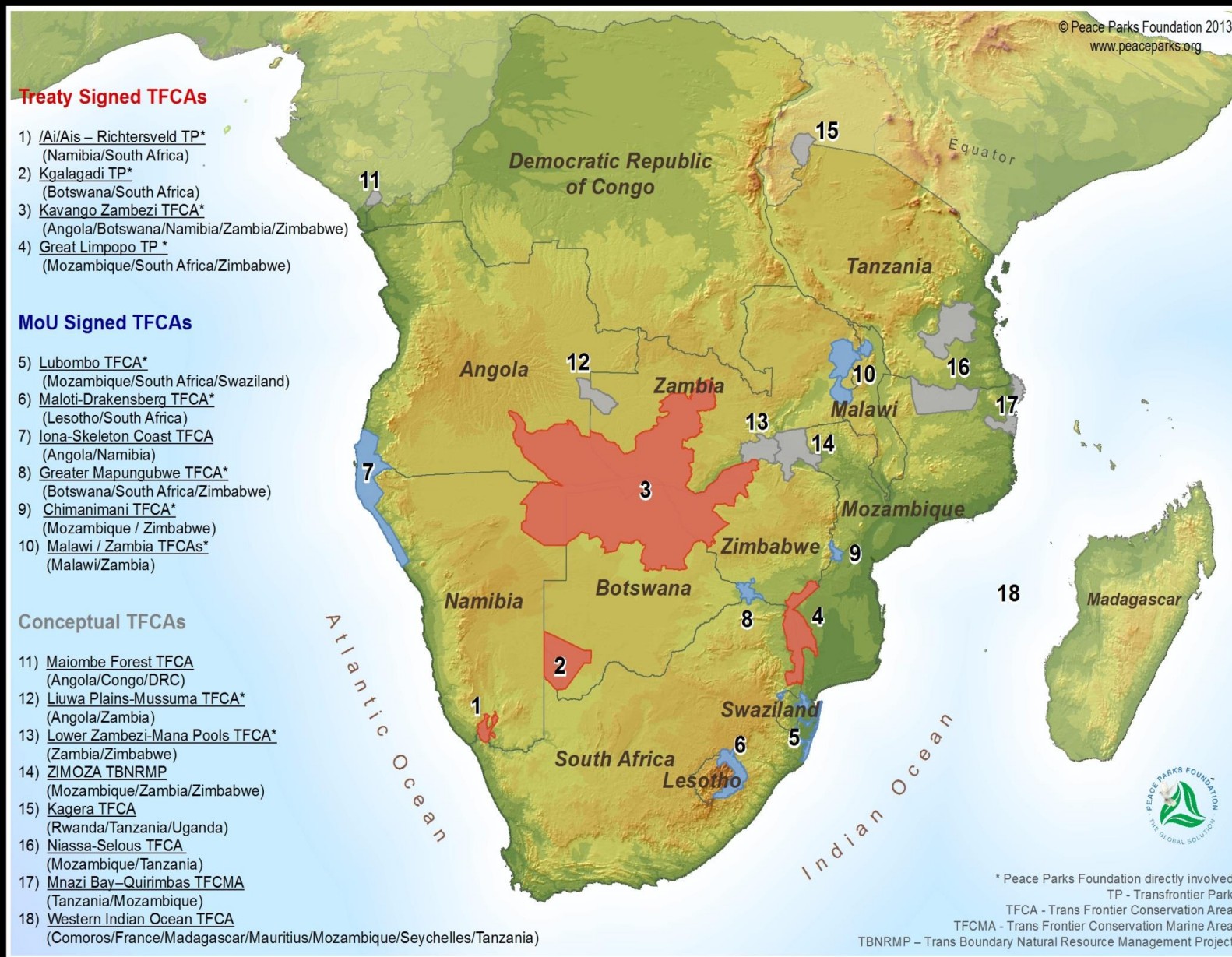
# Status of Protected Areas in Africa



- Increasing isolation of each PA, exacerbated by accelerating land transformation in surrounding areas and an increase in people living in poverty and facing food insecurity.
- Continued alienation of adjacent rural communities by punitive measures to protect wildlife, which in too many cases make little or no attempt to help these people develop alternative sustainable livelihoods.



# Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCAs)





Africa's human population has tripled in the last 40 years to more than 1.2 billion in 2016.

Today, 41% of the African population is under the age of 15.



Rapid population growth is typically associated with a large number of poorly educated young men with few job opportunities, a recipe for violence, conflict, and an increasing number turning to wildlife crime.

At least 400,000 head of cattle invaded the Tsavo West National Park in September 2015, depriving wildlife of pasture and water.



<http://allafrica.com/stories/201509280104.html>



# Further consequences of high rates of population growth



- Nearly 80 % of African people live on less than US\$2 per day.
- e.g. - 67% of Zambia's 12 million people live below the Poverty Datum Line.
- Of 6.2 million in Zambia's labour force, only 700,000 are formally employed.
- Millions are forced to survive on subsistence agriculture.
- The number of undernourished people in Africa continues to increase, with an estimated 217.8 million in 2014-16 compared to 175.7 million in 1990-92.

# Kruger National Park in 2015









# Consequences of poverty in Mozambique



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- Mozambique ranks 185<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries of UNDP's 2013 Human Development Index.
- Mozambique has become an inexhaustible supply of cross-boarder poachers seemingly not deterred by growing risk of death.

220 poachers killed in KNP since 2008. This year alone, to the end of August, there were 2,115 incursions into KNP.



# Importance of community-led solutions

IUCN (2015) Community-led solutions: a key force in tackling wildlife crime.

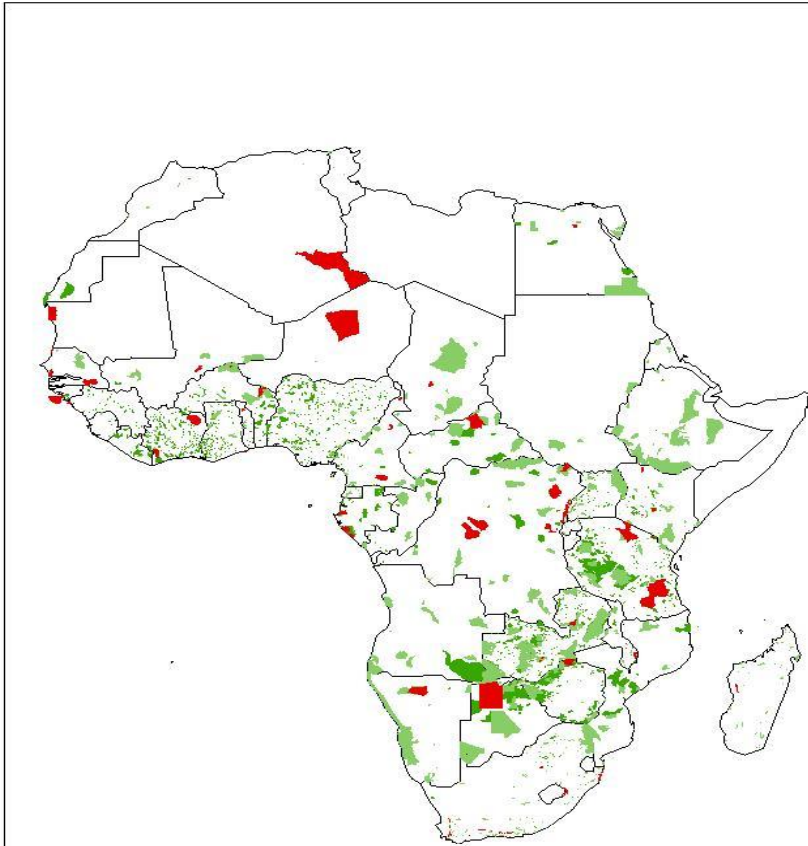
[http://www.iucn.org/news\\_homepage/all\\_news\\_by\\_theme/species\\_news/?18968/Community-led-solutions-key-force-in-tackling-wildlife-crime](http://www.iucn.org/news_homepage/all_news_by_theme/species_news/?18968/Community-led-solutions-key-force-in-tackling-wildlife-crime)



Around KNP, the National Wildlife Information Management Unit is working in partnership with People and Parks to collate information on poaching.

*The lesson here for all concerned with a secure future for the protected areas and for rhinos and other endangered species is that the engagement of communities is crucial .*

# Insecurity of Protected Areas in Africa



- Major shortfalls in financial support for virtually every PA in Africa, impacting on number and quality of staff, development and maintenance (roads, buildings, vehicles, fences), and research and monitoring.
- Throughout the continent, the majority of conservation staff do not receive adequate remuneration for the life-threatening situations they face in combatting wildlife crime.

Watson, J.E.M., Dudley, N., Segan, D.B. & Hockings, M. (2014).  
The performance and potential of protected areas. *Nature* 515: 67–73.

# Budget shortfall for the Kruger National Park



Ideally, the 19,485 km<sup>2</sup> KNP should have one **equipped** and **trained** ranger per 10km<sup>2</sup>

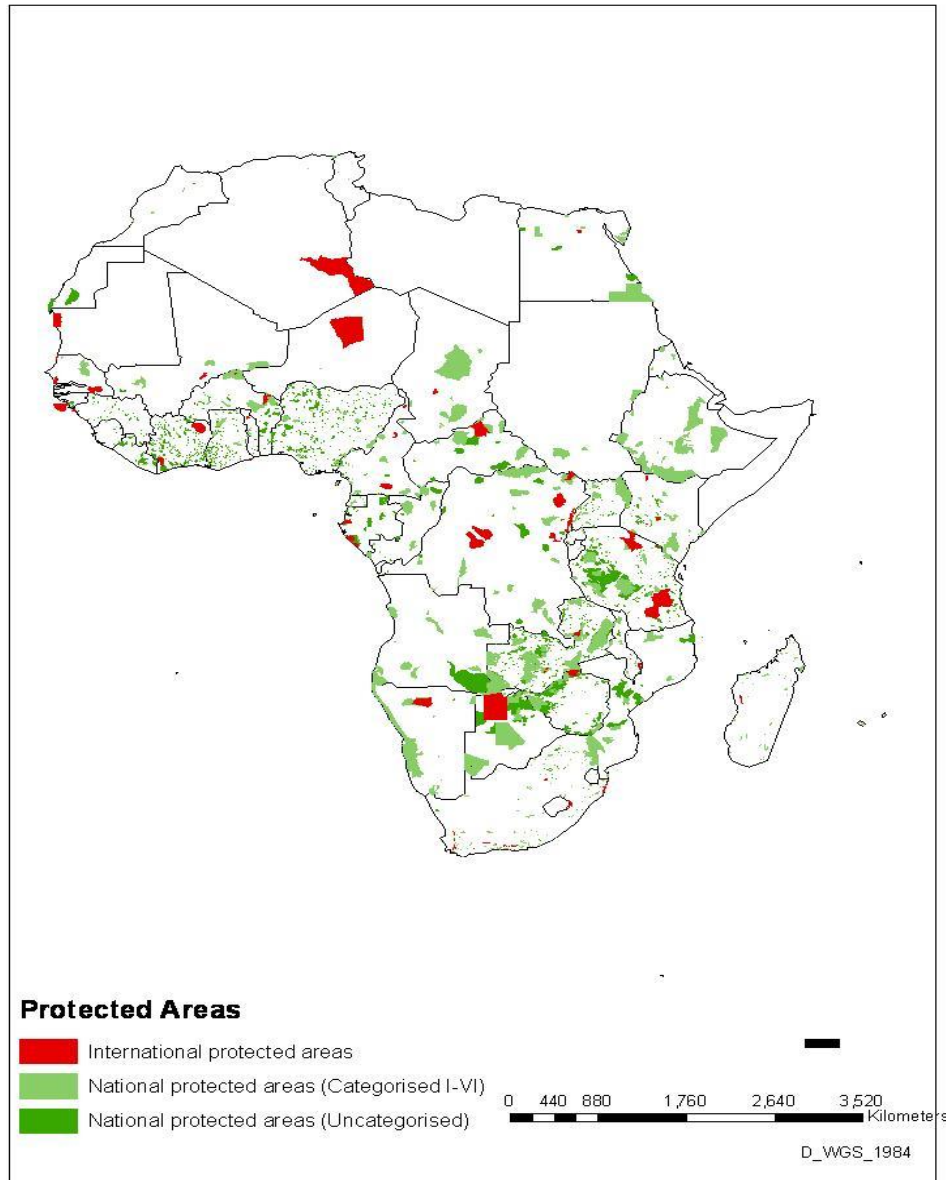
Numbers have recently increased to **one ranger per 23.7 km<sup>2</sup>**, supported by 90 SANDF field operators, the SA Police Service, and the State Security Agency.

In 2011 US philanthropist Howard Buffett pledged nearly \$24 million for rhino in the KNP, but in spite of this and increased staff, in 2015 826 rhinos were killed in the KNP out of a total of 1,175 for the whole country. To the end of August 2016, 458 rhinos killed compared with 557 for same time in 2015.

**With growing donor fatigue this is not a sustainable option.**



# Insecurity of Protected Areas in Africa



- Significant lack of political commitment to the PA network.
- Inadequate law enforcement linked to widespread corruption.

# Corruption index ranking in public sector in rhino range states

<http://www.transparency.org/country>

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Botswana (31); Namibia (55); South Africa (67);  
Swaziland (69); Zambia (85); Malawi (110);  
Mozambique (119); Tanzania (119); Uganda (142);  
Kenya (145); Zimbabwe (156).

Nearly 75 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to have paid a bribe in the past year. The police and the courts have the highest rate of bribery.

*“Corruption creates and increases poverty and exclusion.”*

José Ugaz, Chair, Transparency International

# Recent international actions to tackle corruption

1. Growth of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) has opened powerful new avenues for shaping global public policy through advocacy campaigns.
2. Suspension by Britain of bilateral aid to Uganda worth £27 million unless the then Prime Minister Mbabazi addresses allegations of millions of donor funds embezzled by his office.
3. Launch in February 2014 of **WildLeaks**, the first secure, online whistleblowing platform dedicated to wildlife crime. **WildLeaks** is the world's first whistleblowing initiative dedicated to wildlife & forest crime. See: <https://wildleaks.org/>



# Stop the developed world dictating to Africa on how to manage its wildlife



Essence of the issue here is the answer to a simple question:  
“Whose wildlife is it?”



Address the concerns about the philosophical underpinnings of the protectionist paradigm



Case of the Dallas Safari Club and auction of a black rhino hunt in Namibia

Dehorn all the rhinos in vulnerable areas











**Rhino horns are burned during the Global Rhino Horn  
Burning Ceremony on the eve of World Rhino Day at  
Dvur Kralove zoo in the Czech Republic**





# Seven options proposed for improved conservation of Africa's rhinos

1. Enhancing field security
2. Improve law enforcement, prosecutions & gathering of forensic evidence and intelligence, & identify and prosecute the middle-men, the “drivers” of the trade
3. Dehorn the rhinos in vulnerable areas
4. Poison the horns as a deterrent to the end-users
5. Campaigns in China and Vietnam to discourage use
6. Enable the continued translocation of rhinos to more secure areas (BRREP), and help establish ex situ populations (Texas and Australia)
7. Increase the value of rhinos on land in rhino range states, with the revenue going back to the conservation agencies, to the land-owner and the responsible communities through opening a legal trade in rhino horn.

# Concluding comments

- Persisting with the present range of options will only be possible with substantial ongoing financial support (not just for Kruger but for other areas too).
- In the interim we will have to witness the further mutilation and killing of rhinos, the loss of life of game guards and poachers, *and scarce human and financial resources being moved away from other priority conservation concerns.*
- Surely the legal trade option *deserves a resolute and more dispassionate and tolerant consideration* as a sustainable solution if rhinos are to survive?



Bottrill, M. *et al.* (2008). Is conservation triage just smart decision-making? *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 23:649 – 654.

- There is not enough money available to conserve all species and their habitats, a situation that will not change in the years ahead.
- We will have to prioritise which species or protected areas are more deserving of attention than others, focusing attention on the priorities and leaving the others to make do as best they can.
- This is reminiscent of the practice of ‘triage’, a word that comes from the French verb trier, meaning to separate, sift or select.
- It describes a practice that originated in World War I when French doctors were treating battlefield wounded at the aid stations behind the front line. Patients who would die anyway, whether they received medical attention or not, were moved to the bottom of the list and were sometimes given no help whatsoever.
- An increasing number of conservationists are recognising that it’s time to consider triage in their sphere too, focusing the limited resources available on species and habitats that can realistically be saved and giving up on the rest.