

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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American Geographical Society Endorses “tenBoma” Counter- Poaching Initiative

Description: The American Geographical Society announces its endorsement of the tenBoma initiative, developed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). tenBoma aims to organize a unique stakeholder network to support the anti-poaching and community security efforts in Kenya, a country committed to fighting wildlife crime, which is often connected to the same criminal syndicates dealing in drug smuggling, gun running and human trafficking.

[New York City, NY] – [December 9, 2015] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today the endorsement of the *tenBoma* counter-poaching initiative, developed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

With international criminal syndicates involved in elephant, rhino and other poaching, tenBoma addresses the critical need for law enforcement to enhance its coordination and intelligence analysis in order to catch poachers before they kill. While there are many community groups, government agencies and non-governmental organizations working to combat poaching, these stakeholders must all come together to build an enforcement network that can defeat the organized criminal network. The premise of *tenBoma* is that all stakeholders will contribute data and analysis to a central intelligence hub, which will then produce a more comprehensive picture of poaching networks operating across the Kenyan and international landscapes.

“The secret to success for the *tenBoma* project is information and analysis. We are using the same techniques that were used by military intelligence units to prevent terror attacks in Afghanistan and Iraq to predict and prevent poaching,” said Azzedine Downes, President and CEO of IFAW. AGS Councilor and Chairman of the AGS Endorsement Committee, Jared Novick added that “The *tenBoma* project demonstrates how geography is a common reference for understanding complex situations and working to change them for the better. We see geography as a driving force behind *tenBoma* to help preserve wildlife and to provide insight into environmental crime.” To learn more about the *tenBoma* initiative, visit <http://1a1.402.myftpupload.com/news-and-information/tenboma/>.

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in geography for over 163 years. The mission of AGS is to advance geographic knowledge and the recognition of its importance in the contemporary world. AGS promotes the use of geography in business, government, science, and education with a goal to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS is the only organization focused on bringing together academics, business people, those who influence public policy (including leaders in local, state and federal government, not-for-profit organizations and the media), and the general public for the express purpose of furthering the understanding of the role of geography in our lives. AGS provides leadership to frame the national discussion of the growing importance of geography and geospatial tools. The Society maintains its headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, New York.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1969. IFAW saves individual animals and conserves animal populations and habitats all over the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW is working to make a better world for animals and people.

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