

# 4th GLOBAL MEETING OF WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS

Panama Convention Center, Room America 1

Panama City, 21 – 22 November 2022

**Session 2 – Increased collaboration and communication, both within and between networks**

*Rhino and Elephant Security Group*



1. Opportunities, challenges and lessons learned to facilitate increased collaboration within the network, and across networks.

## 1.1 Best practice:

a) Have consistent persons as Chairperson and Vice in position for long periods

b) Engender willingness of member states to support RESG through country representatives keeping the senior management informed about the RESG

c) Circulate meeting venues through different member countries



1. Opportunities, challenges and lessons learned to facilitate increased collaboration within the network, and across networks.

## 1.2 Key challenges:

a) No fixed funding resources

b) COVID travel restrictions curtailed face-to-face meetings

c) Although our Constitution enables Wildlife, Police, Customs and other members from many countries to work together towards a common goal, we do not have a government “home”



1. Opportunities, challenges and lessons learned to facilitate increased collaboration within the network, and across networks.

### 1.3 Lessons learnt:

a) Reduced face-to-face meetings reduce interactions as individuals lose personal contacts across borders

b) Dynamic nature of institutions requires constant attention by individuals to remind their institution of the relevance of the Network



2. Key communication and collaboration challenges identified within the network and with other networks.

a) There is a need for a continuous “driver” of communications within the network.

b) No “communications officer” exists for our Network, currently the Chairman and V/Chairman fill this role

c) Country members work together bilaterally using channels created or strengthened by the Network, but no consistent feedback is provided to the Network



3. Opportunities to enhance collaboration within the networks and with other networks identified.

a) The recognition by NGO funders of the importance of the Network is benefitted by our historically target species being rhino and elephant

b) We keep members informed about “good” international programs / efforts e.g. RhODIS, TRACE *et al* and “bad” ones e.g. ivory / bomb locator device

c) To enhance our status of “neutrality” in supporting wildlife crime investigations by strengthening our working relationship with the SADC structure while not being driven by a single country

d) The willingness of member states, Provinces and NGO`s to support and facilitate RESG activities for more than 30 years

