

The background of the slide features a stylized landscape. The upper portion is a dark green field filled with various shades of green, creating a sense of depth and texture. Below this, a horizontal band of bright orange and yellow represents the ground or a body of water. The bottom edge of the slide is a dark, textured line, possibly representing a horizon or a path. The overall design is modern and abstract.

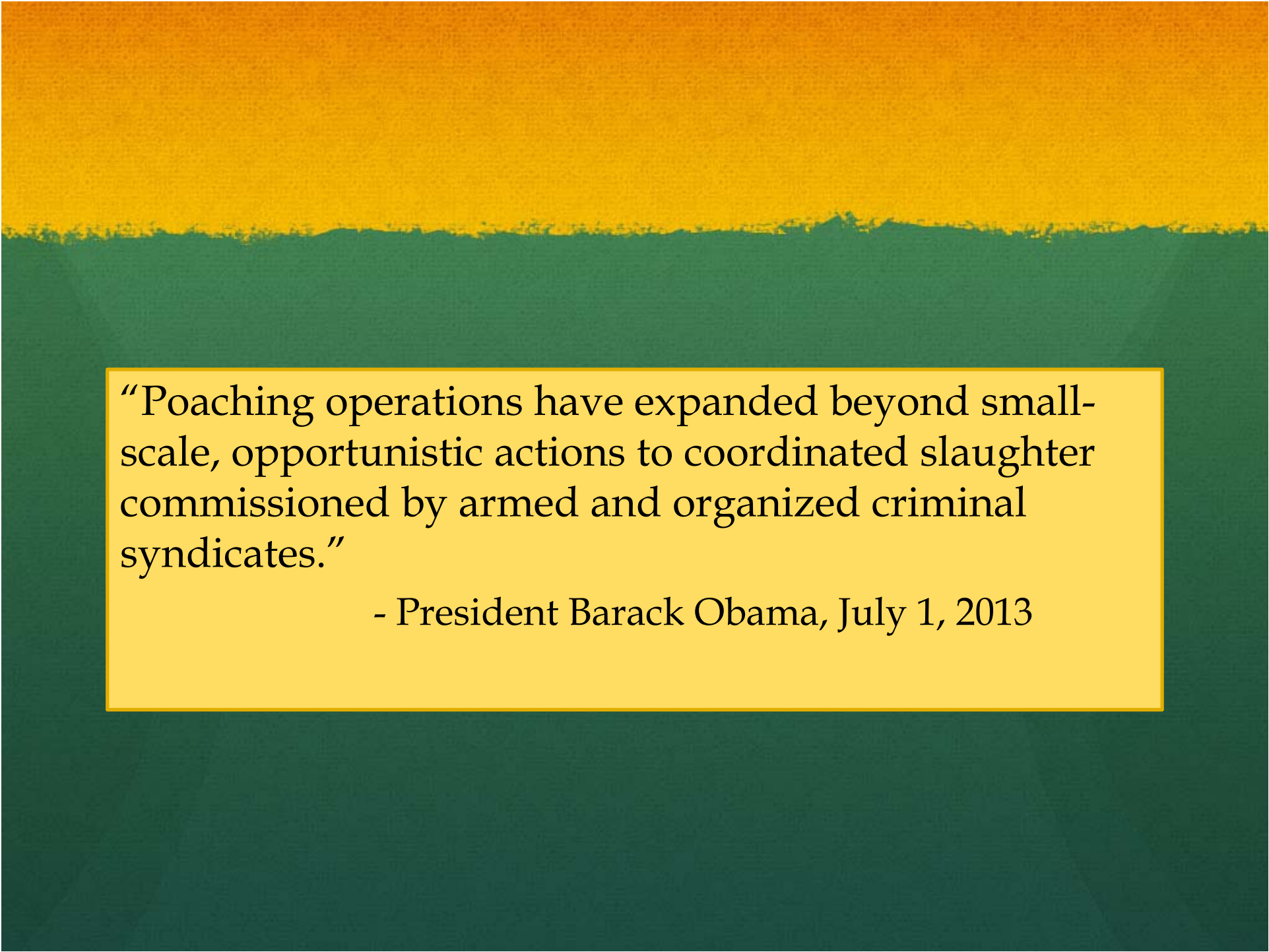
# Wildlife Trafficking

ASEAN Regional Forum on  
Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime  
Inter-Sessional Meeting, April 2014

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# Overview

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“Poaching operations have expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to coordinated slaughter commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates.”

- President Barack Obama, July 1, 2013



# Understanding the Security Threat



# Executive Order to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

U.S. President Obama announces Executive Order during a trip to Africa on July 1, 2013

- Mandated an inter-agency Task Force led by Co-Chairs from the Departments of State, Interior, and Justice
- Identified support for law enforcement training and technical assistance in Africa
- Convened an Advisory Council of 8 non-governmental group of experts
- Directed the development of a U.S. National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

# National Strategy

## National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking released February 11, 2014

- 17 U.S. government agencies engaged
- Focuses on three key areas:
  - ✓ International cooperation
  - ✓ Strengthening domestic and global law enforcement
  - ✓ Demand reduction
- Near-complete commercial trade ban on elephant ivory in the United States



# Global and Domestic Actions

- UN Crime Commission (April 2013) and the Economic and Social Council (July 2013) adopted a resolution, which encouraged Member States to treat “protected species of fauna and flora” as a serious crime under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- Secretary Kerry announced the first ever reward offer under the Department of State’s Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program in November 2013
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service crushed nearly 6 tons of seized elephant ivory in November 2013
- London Event on Illegal Wildlife Trade and London Declaration in February 2014

# Regional Highlights

- Major Ivory Seizures: Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia
- Ivory Destruction: Philippines, China, Hong Kong (upcoming)
- Country Action Plans: Vietnam
- March 3: World Wildlife Day Activities: Australia, China, Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia
- SE Asia Public Service [Announcement](#)





# Regional Activities

- ASEAN
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Pillar for wildlife trafficking
  - ASEAN Regional Forum on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime
  - ASEAN SOMTC
- Pathfinder Dialogue I (2013) and II (2014): APEC, ASEAN, PIF
- APEC
  - Anti-corruption and Transparency Working Group
  - Demand Reduction Workshop
  - WEN Workshop
- Regional Training
  - Marine Investigative Training for ASEAN-WEN and PIF in July 2014
  - ILEA Bangkok Wildlife Investigative Training in December 8-19, 2014
  - Supporting Lower Mekong Regional Cooperation Through Law Enforcement/Ranger Training

# Operation Cobra II

- A global cooperative effort coordinated among law enforcement officials from 28 participating countries, modeled on a similar operation -- Cobra I -- that took place in 2013.
- This investigative training initiative was held at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok through the USAID's ARREST Program.
- Cobra II resulted in over 400 arrests and 350 major wildlife seizures in Asia and Africa, including elephant ivory, rhino horn, turtles, eels, and rosewood.

# Conclusion

- International Cooperation:
  - ✓ Strengthen national, regional, and international cooperation against wildlife trafficking
- Law Enforcement:
  - ✓ Treat wildlife trafficking as a serious crime through legislative actions
  - ✓ Ensure stiffer penalties and fines are given to wildlife traffickers to deter criminal activity
  - ✓ Adopt a higher rate of prosecutions to convictions for wildlife traffickers
- Demand Reduction:
  - ✓ Increase consumer awareness and demand reduction





# Thank you!

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