FOREWORD

Today’s wildlife crime threatens the survival of endangered and vulnerable species in many African countries. Evidence documented by WildlifeDirect—a Kenyan NGO founded in 2004—shows that legal penalties designed to deter such crimes have had little impact on poachers and traffickers; worse, poor law enforcement and corruption among government officials and security forces facilitate wildlife crime and trafficking.

In a chapter on the poaching of elephants and rhinos, the Small Arms Survey 2015: Weapons and the World offers valuable analysis of the relative roles of different actors, including non-state armed groups, criminal networks, and commercial poachers, in wildlife crime. The research reveals that while poachers are becoming increasingly militarized, law enforcement units have yet to adopt a systematic approach to recording and tracing firearms and ammunition found at poaching sites—steps that increase the likelihood of identifying poachers, the sources of their guns, and broader trafficking networks. These findings are especially valuable to broader efforts to tackle the illegal killing of wildlife.

The volume’s chapter on armed violence around resource extraction sites is also pertinent to our work. As the Survey observes, the establishment of mining sites tends to be accompanied by the rapid urbanization of adjacent communities, growing inequalities, and shortfalls in service delivery—all of which attract a variety of armed actors and increase the pressure on natural habitats and wildlife.

I commend the Small Arms Survey 2015: Weapons and the World for the many insights it offers into the relationship between firearms and wildlife crime, as well as other pertinent small arms issues. I have little doubt that this volume will be of great interest to those working to protect our natural heritage, as well as others involved in arms control and the promotion of peace and security.

—Paula Kahumbu
Executive Director, WildlifeDirect
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# Index
ABOUT THE SMALL ARMS SURVEY

The Small Arms Survey is a global centre of excellence whose mandate is to generate impartial, evidence-based, and policy-relevant knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence. It is the principal international source of expertise, information, and analysis on small arms and armed violence issues, and acts as a resource for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and other stakeholders. It is located in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Established in 1999, the Survey is supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and current or recent contributions from the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as from the European Union. The centre is grateful for past support received from the Governments of Canada, Spain, and Sweden, as well as from foundations and many bodies within the UN system.

The Survey has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, law, economics, development studies, sociology, and criminology, and collaborates with a network of researchers, partner institutions, non-governmental organizations, and governments in more than 50 countries.

NOTES TO READERS

Abbreviations: Lists of abbreviations can be found at the end of each chapter.

Chapter cross-referencing: Chapter cross-references are fully capitalized in brackets throughout the book. One example appears in Chapter 7: "As a result, commanders who controlled areas with natural resources—especially gold and cassiterite (tin ore)—tended to become the wealthiest (VIOLENCE AND RESOURCE EXTRACTION)."

Exchange rates: All monetary values are expressed in current US dollars (USD). When other currencies are also cited, unless otherwise indicated, they are converted to USD using the 365-day average exchange rate for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014.

Small Arms Survey: The plain text—Small Arms Survey—is used to indicate the organization and its activities, while the italicized version—Small Arms Survey—refers to the publication. The Survey, appearing italicized, relates generally to past and future editions.

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This is the 15th edition of the Small Arms Survey. Like previous editions, it is a collective product of the staff of the Small Arms Survey, a centre of excellence on small arms and armed violence based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Numerous researchers in Geneva and around the world have contributed to this volume, and it has benefited from the input and advice of government officials, advocates, experts, and colleagues from the small arms research community and beyond. Several people who supported research for this edition of the yearbook asked to remain anonymous, we are grateful for their contributions, including some of the photographs used in this volume.

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—Keith Krause, Programme Director
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A ranger from the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy searches for poachers while on patrol, near Meru, Kenya, April 2013. © Tom Pilston/panos Pictures