Predicting Elephant Poaching

Anita Chandrasekaran

DATA 606 Capstone in Data Science

David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Nairobi, Kenya

400,000

African elephants remain[1]

Conservation Status[2]: **Vulnerable**

Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE)[3]: **0.53**

PIKE is calculated as the ratio of illegally killed elephants found to total carcasses found. A ratio greater than 0.5 indicates more elephants were killed illegally than any other cause of death.

[1]Thouless, Christopher, et al. "African elephant status report 2016." *Occasional Paper Series of the IUCN Species Survival Commission* 60 (2016).

[2] World Wildlife Foundation

[3]Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. “New report highlights continued threat to African elephants from poaching.” *CITES Press Release.* 10 May 2019.

Identify

Create dataset that identify factors which may affect poaching such as:

- Geographic features
- Economic pressures
- Ivory demand
- Season

Rank

Determine influence of these factors and rank importance

Predict

Develop predictive algorithm using rankings to aid in conservation efforts