

**5TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2015
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
1.	Welcome and Opening of the Meeting	<p>The 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the AEF convened on Friday 11 September to 12 September 2015 to discuss a wide range of matters related to the implementation of the activities under the Fund, consider proposals from range states submitted for funding as well as modalities for the same.</p> <p>The Chair, Mr. Patrick Omondi (Kenya), welcomed all in attendance and with a few opening remarks, thanked the host Ethiopia for the warm welcome extended to the SC members at Friendship Hotel International in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.</p> <p>Dawud Mume Ali, Director General of the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority welcomed participants, highlighting that the meeting shall be recorded concurrently with a CNN promotional video that he was involved in. Additionally, he noted the achievements and challenges Ethiopia has faced to date in regards to it being a hotspot for transiting of wildlife products.</p> <p>In his welcome remarks, Dawud Mume Ali (Ethiopia) highlighted challenges faced in obtaining revenue for hosting the 5th AEFSC meeting and apologized for the speedy planning on events in preparation for the meeting. Nevertheless, he thanked all for availing themselves to attend the meeting, and a special thanks to Stop Ivory (SI) a non-governmental organization working to implement the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) - a funding mechanism similar to AEF, for their support in covering the cost for accommodation for SC members.</p> <p>Mamadou Kane (AEF Secretariat) welcomed and thanked all SC members for making themselves available on short notice. With special welcome to Miet Van Looy (Belgium) as this is their first meeting as donors for the AEF, and thanked Ethiopia for hosting the meeting and to SI for facilitating costs for the meeting.</p> <p>Frank Barsch (Germany) noted to all SC members that his Government is happy to commit the €500,000 to AEF and hopes that all the funds can be utilized by December 2015 or latest February 2016.</p> <p>Miet Van Looy (Belgium) introduced herself and noted that Belgium is looking forward to working with AEF.</p> <p>Marcel Van Nijnatten (Netherlands) presented himself and informed SC members of the Netherlands pledge to AEF of €120,000.</p>

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>His Excellency André William Anguilé, Ambassador to Gabon in Ethiopia introduced himself, welcomed all to Ethiopia and thanked AEF for the work that they continue to do for the African elephants.</p> <p>Present AEF members: AEF Secretariat, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Botswana, Congo, Gabon and all thanked Ethiopia for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality. Present Stop Ivory (SI) members: Alex Rhodes and his colleagues Winnie, Alex. Guests: Ambassador of Gabon to Ethiopia.</p>
2.	<p>Working relationship between the AEF and EPI</p>	<p>Introductions from Stop Ivory CEO Alex Rhodes and his colleagues Winnie and Alex.</p> <p>Presentation from Alex Rhodes on the achievements of the first meeting of the EPI countries.</p> <p>Discussing the makeup of the initiative and the difference between EPI and AEF, he noted that EPI is comprised of EPI countries that to date include: Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Gambia, Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Tanzania, and UK. Furthermore, he indicated that the initiative is a presidential initiative open to everybody to support and not restricted to only range states since it seeks to engage other countries, other non-African countries, IGOs, NGOs, and the private sector in a combined effort to support the AEAP. Additionally, the EPI countries call for additional measures to be taken, call themselves in their own sovereign capacity to make further commitments in relation to ivory. Noting that the tool EPI uses to help countries implement the AEAP at a National Level is the NEAP, which is a set of standards and guidelines for NEAP developed together with IUCN and other partners to facilitate the development of NEAP's.</p> <p>Lastly, he welcomed AEF to sit as an ex-officio on the implementation board of the EPI in a possible joint initiative to implement the AEAP.</p> <p><u>Recommendation from SC:</u></p> <p>Despite some range states aligning with SI and the EPI, there are many other range states that have not confirmed their desire for partnership with EPI. It was emphasized that all range states must deliberate on possibilities of alignment before confirmation of working together.</p>

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
3.	Attendance and Apologies	<p>Sub-regional representatives from Botswana, Congo, Kenya, and Gabon attended the meeting. Three donor countries (Belgium, Germany and Netherlands) were also represented.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Burkina Faso, Ghana and CITES. The quorum was agreed upon in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>(In the absence of Burkina Faso and Ghana quorum shall be achieved virtually, through teleconferencing or other technology.)</p>
4.	Adoption of the Agenda	<p>The Chair (Patrick Omondi) went through the agenda and it was agreed that some items be reorganized so that the core business of the agenda, the evaluation and funding of the proposals submitted is thereby allocated enough required time.</p>
5.	Matters arising from 4th AEFSC Meeting	<p><i>From the Minutes of the 4th AEFSC meeting:</i></p> <p>Mamadou Kane discussed the eleven (11) projects that were approved at the 4th AEFSC meeting at Kilaguni. He apologized for the delay in payments as a result of the new UN system UMOJA, and because of it there were black outs in service and that no new legal instruments were being processed until UMOJA was launched and fully operational from June 1st, 2015. Due to the delay in payments the implementation of the projects were delayed but the AEF Secretariat has signed all Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFA) and funds have been transferred to the respective beneficiaries</p> <p>Since the last meeting Ghana has replaced Nigeria, Ethiopia replaced Sudan, Congo has replaced Cameroon and Kenya has taken over the chairmanship.</p>
6.	Report of UNEP on Funds disbursement	<p>Mamadou Kane (AEF Secretariat) presented a table on all funded projects since the beginning of the Fund and the status of the funding as approved from the last AEFSC for each country funded as well as funds available per region and what is requested per region (based on equal sharing per region):</p>
7.	Update on AEF Website	

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>Presentation from Barbara Matu (AEF Secretariat) on AEF website and awareness strategies.</p> <p>Barbara informed the SC members of the updates made on the AEF website such as newly developed features including purpose driven statements, revised reporting system, added social media presence on Twitter and Instagram and new look to the website. Also notified members of the future ideas of adding more communication forum such as Facebook, Youtube, and development of a documentary on AEF ambassador Yaya Touré at Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to reach wide audience base. She also noted the internal collaboration between UNEP Division of Communication and Public Information (DCPI) and AEF to situate AEF within an existing UNEP presence having over 431,000 followers.</p>
8.	<p>Follow-up on UNEA 1: Resolution on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife: Way-forward and modalities for UNEA 2.</p>	<p>Mamadou Kane (AEF Secretariat) informed the SC members that following the UNEA 1 the resolution was a huge boost to the AEAP and that the work of AEF can remarkably gain more worldwide attention if a report is developed to be reviewed at the UNEA 2.</p> <p>He noted that the steps taken by UNEP are to take a proactive role in the administration of the African Elephant Fund (AEF) to ensure its contribution to the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan.</p> <p>Notable steps include:</p> <p>Staffing: The Secretariat's capacity has been enhanced with additional staff that joined the team in July 2015, making the fund fully functional and fast-tracking services to all Range States. The efficiency of the newly revamped Secretariat has been recognized at the just concluded 5th meeting of the AEF Steering Committee, held in Addis Ababa 11-12 September 2015.</p> <p>Resource Mobilization: On top of its own support directly to the fund in the form of Human Resources and money to develop communications materials, UNEP has mobilized additional funding, including: 500,000 Euros from Germany, 120,000 Euros from the Netherlands, and 50,000 Dollars from Belgium. These new contributions have doubled the budget of the fund within a period of six months.</p> <p>Administration of the fund: To-date, 30 projects totaling almost USD 2 million have been funded and are under implementation. Activities funded under the AEF are focused primarily on the objectives of the African Elephant Action Plan, namely reducing illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products, maintaining elephant habitats</p>

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>and restoring connectivity and reducing human-elephant conflicts. Additional measures under the project include advocacy, training, awareness raising, and capacity building.</p> <p>Visibility and awareness raising: In addition to various promotional materials, which have provided more visibility for Range States and donors to the fund, UNEP has also supported the fund with a revamped website: www.africanelephantfund.org</p> <p>Next steps: To further advance on the opportunities that the AEF offers for the conservation of African elephants, Member States need to be encouraged to channel more funding to the AEF, rather than support bilateral or other alternative initiatives.</p>
9.	Review of Submitted Funding Project Proposals	<p>Review and evaluation of projects were on the twenty-three (23) submitted project proposals for funding.</p> <p>Proposals were presented by various regional reps with queries/comments and input on improvements/other recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the Central African region six proposals were presented: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cameroon- Strengthening The Protection Of Elephants In Cameroon- \$43,821.00 (25,000,000 Fcfa) b. Congo 1- Conservation de l'éléphant de forêt dans la zone forestière des Plateaux Batékés (182,800) c. Congo 2- Formation des agents forestiers affectés dans les directions départementales de l'économie forestière (DDEF) de la partie sud, exerçant dans les services de faune et aires protégées aux méthodes et techniques de lutte contre le grand braconnage (\$100,000) d. Gabon 1 - Developing A Quadcopter And Infrared Camera System To Monitor And Track The African Forest Elephant (\$16,399.80)

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>e. Gabon 2- Genetic Traceability Of Ivory For Law Enforcement In Gabon (\$39,500)</p> <p>f. Republic Of Equatorial Guinea- Support For Elephant Conservation In The Republic Of Equatorial Guinea/ Apoyo A La Conservación De Los Elefantes En La República De Guinea Ecuatorial (\$37,525.69) (21.444.600 F. Cfas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabon 1 was approved for funding from the sub-regional account. • Gabon 2 was approved for funding from the German funding. • Cameroon was not approved. Proposal lacked a detailed budget and it was recommended that they reevaluate their budget and then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Congo 1 was not approved. It included salaries and bonuses in addition to other expenses that are not authorized by the AEAP. However it is a good project and it was recommended that they reevaluate their submission based on AEF criteria for proposals then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Congo 2 was not approved. Budget needs to be reassessed and it was recommended that they reevaluate their submission based on AEF criteria for proposals then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Republic Of Equatorial Guinea was not approved. They did not submit their proposal in the recommended AEF project template and language criteria. It was recommended that the resubmit proposal in one of the working languages of the AEF (Eng/Frn), and should reevaluate their proposal and budget and then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. <p>2. From the East African region four proposals were presented:</p> <p>a. Ethiopia - Improving Field Intelligence And Investigation Capacity For Ivory And Other Wildlife Crimes In Ethiopia (\$66,900)</p>

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>b. Kenya 1- Building Capacity And Developing Tools For Elephant Censoring And Elephant Mortality Monitoring In Tropical Mountain And Forest Habitats In Kenya (\$60,000)</p> <p>c. Kenya 2- Creating Awareness For School Children And Local Community For Elephant Conservation In The Face Of Climate Change In Kiangondu, Tharaka Nithi County (\$46,710.00)</p> <p>d. Tanzania (LAFT)- Fostering Cooperative Enforcement Towards Curtailing Illegal Killing Of Elephants In The Ruaha-Rungwa Ecosystem In Tanzania (\$20,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya 1 was approved for funding from the sub-regional account. • Ethiopia was approved for funding from the discretionary account. • Kenya 2 was not approved. It was deemed to have originated from an unknown source and was not received by the Competent Authority (CA). • Tanzania (LAFT) was not approved as it was noted by the Chair (Kenya) that since the last meeting LAFT projects have not submitted project results, therefore it was recommended that they submit progress reports for evaluation of implemented projects before further funding is offered. <p>3. From the Southern Africa region six proposals were presented:</p> <p>a. Angola- Resolution Of The Human-Elephant Conflict (\$50, 000)</p> <p>b. Botswana - Spatial And Behavioral Analyses Of Elephants Roaming Outside Expected Range Using Modern Monitoring Tools (\$34,000)</p> <p>c. Namibia- Aerial Survey Of Elephants In The Northwest Of Namibia (\$75,681)</p> <p>d. Malawi- Building Capacity, Efficiency And Effectiveness Of Field Staff To Combat Poaching And The Illegal Trade In Ivory (\$12,440)</p>

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>e. Zambia (LAFT)- Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity To Combat Illegal Killing Of Elephants In Zambia (22,100)</p> <p>f. Zimbabwe- Wildlife Protection And Combating Illegal Trade In Wildlife (\$9,913,225.00)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angola was approved for funding from the discretionary account. • Botswana was approved for funding from the sub-regional account. • Namibia was approved for funding from the sub-regional account. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi was not approved. It included expenses that are not authorized by the AEAP. It was recommended that they reevaluate their submission based on AEF criteria for proposals then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Zambia (LAFT) was not approved as it was noted by the Chair (Kenya) that since the last meeting LAFT projects have not submitted project results, therefore it was recommended that they submit progress reports for evaluation of implemented projects before further funding is offered. • Zimbabwe was not approved- It included expenses that are not authorized by the AEAP. It was recommended that they reevaluate their submission based on AEF criteria for proposals then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. <p>4. From the West Africa region seven proposals were presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Burkina Faso - Strategic Work plan To Support Sustainable Management Of Elephant Populations In Burkina Faso \$88,261.00 b. Ghana - Elephant Conservation Through Law Enforcement And Stakeholder Engagement In Mole National Park And Its Corridors (\$135,450)

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>c. Ivory Coast 1- Applying A Standardized Methodology Of Counting And Monitoring Elephant Numbers Of Comoé National Park, World Heritage And Biosphere Reserve/ Application D'une Méthodologie Standardisée De Comptage Et De Suivi Des Effectifs D'éléphants Du Parc National De La Comoé, Patrimoine Mondial Et Réserve De Biosphère (\$50,400.00)</p> <p>d. Ivory Coast 2- Improvement Of Knowledge Of The Elephants Involved In The Conflicts With Men/ Amelioration Des Connaissances Sur Les Elephants Impliques Dans Les Conflits Avec Les Hommes (\$95,368.50)</p> <p>e. Ivory Coast 3- Strengthening Surveillance And Improving The Protection Of The Tai National Park Forest Elephants And The Classified Forests Of Tai And Port/ Renforcement De La Surveillance Et Amelioration De La Protection Des Elephants De Forets Du Parc National Tai Et Des Forets Classes De Dassioko Et De Port (\$21,831.00)</p> <p>f. Mali- Strengthening law enforcement capacity in close collaboration with local communities to protect the Gourma elephants of Mali and Burkina Faso (\$140,500)</p> <p>g. Senegal- Assistance To The Restoration Of The Elephant Population/ Assistance Au Processus De Restauration De La Population D'elephant (\$74,352.00)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana was approved for funding from the German funding. • Burkina Faso was not approved. Proposal lacked a detailed budget and it was recommended that they reevaluate their budget and then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Ivory Coast 1 was not approved. The proposal lack necessary details on implementation of project and the budget was poorly constructed. It was recommended that they reevaluate their budget and then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Ivory Coast 2 was not approved. Although well developed, there were reservations in regards to the feasibility of the budget. It was recommended that they reevaluate

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>their budget and then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivory Coast 3 was not approved. Although well developed, it has budget items that are not authorized under the AEAP. It was recommended that they reevaluate their budget and then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Mali was not approved. . It included expenses that are not authorized by the AEAP. It was recommended that they reevaluate their submission based on AEF criteria for proposals then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting. • Senegal was not approved. It was suggested that project should partner with larger conservation projects in the country to preserve larger existing populations. It was recommended that they reevaluate their submission based on AEF criteria for proposals then resubmit for consideration in the next meeting.
10.	Conclusions and Recommendations	<p>Eight (8) projects were approved utilizing the German funding of \$174,950 which is €154,865.50. Two projects, Ghana of \$135,450 and Gabon of \$39,500 shall be implemented thanks to the German funds. Four (4) projects Ethiopia, Botswana, Namibia and Gabon shall be funded using the sub-regional funds and two (2) projects Kenya and Angola shall be funded using the discretionary funds.</p> <p>Understanding the requirements of the German Government on their funding needing to be utilized by December 2015 or by latest February 2016, it was the recommendation of the AEFSC members that the only projects eligible for funding are the two (2) projects that are Ghana (6 months) and Gabon (5 months). Therefore the unallocated €345,134.50 from Germany shall be returned and it is the hope that Germany shall recommit these funds at a later date.</p>
11.	Closure of Meeting	<p>Mamadou Kane (AEF Secretariat) reminded all members that planning for the next SC meeting should begin well in advance of the intended date.</p> <p>Patrick Omondi (Kenya) suggested that AEF Secretariat create a possible fund that should assist members in covering costs of hosting.</p> <p>Cyril Taolo (Botswana) suggested that a committee be developed to review the project</p>

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
		<p>proposals before the actual SC meeting to assist members in weeding out the proposals that are eligible for funding under the AEF criteria for selection.</p> <p>All members thanked Dawud Mume (Ethiopia) and his assistants in planning and organizing a wonderful cultural experience and hosting the 5th AEFSC meeting.</p> <p>Dawud Mume (Ethiopia) thanked all that attended as well as his assistants and translators in creating a successful event that has assisted in combating threats to the livelihood of our African elephants.</p>