



6TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND, 12-15 JANUARY 2016  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

NO	AGENDA ITEM	STATEMENTS AND DECISIONS
	<b>Introduction and background</b>	<p>The 6th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the AEF convened from Tuesday 12 January 2016 to Friday 15 January 2016 to discuss matters related to the implementation of activities under the Fund and consider project proposals from range states. (All proposals were from range states which were requested to amend elements of their previously submitted proposals during the 5<sup>th</sup> AEFSC meeting.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Note: The 6<sup>th</sup> AEFSC meeting took place in the margins of the CITES Standing Committee lunch hours and evenings, therefore limited time was available for each days meeting.</b></li></ul>
1.	<b>Welcoming of members of the AEFSC and brief remarks</b>	<p><b>Members of the AEF in attendance:</b> <u>Regional representatives from East Africa:</u> Patrick Omondi- <i>Kenya (Chair of AEFSC)</i>, and Dawud Mume Ali- <i>Ethiopia- (Vice-Chair of AEFSC)</i>, <u>regional representatives from West Africa:</u> Benoit Doamba- <i>Burkina Faso</i> and Kofi Nana Adu-Nsiah- <i>Ghana</i>, <u>regional representatives from Central Africa:</u> Roger Albert Mbete- <i>Congo</i> and Flore Koumba Pambo- <i>Gabon</i>, <u>regional representatives from Southern Africa:</u> Cyril Taolo- <i>Botswana</i>, Abednico Macheme- <i>Botswana</i>, Mpho Tjjane- <i>South Africa</i> and Olga Kumalo- <i>South Africa</i>, <u>Donors:</u> Marcel Van Nijnatten- <i>Netherlands</i>, Frank Barsch- <i>Germany</i>, Miet Van Looy- <i>Belgium</i>, <u>CITES Secretariat:</u> Tom de Meulenaer, Julian Blanc, David Henson and Mrigesh Kshatriya, <u>AEF Secretariat:</u> Mamadou Kane and Barbara Matu.</p> <p>The Chair, Mr. Patrick Omondi (Kenya), welcomed all in attendance from the steering committee and thanked Mrs. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema Division Director of the Division of Environmental Law and</p>



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		<p>Conventions (DELC) of UNEP for joining the meeting.</p> <p>Two donor representatives Frank Barsch (Germany) and Marcel Van Nijnatten (Netherlands) informed all SC members that their governments shall be committing €500,000 and €120,000 respectively to the AEF for the year 2016.</p>
2.	<b>Attendance and quorum</b>	All members of the AEF Steering Committee were present and a quorum was therefore established.
3.	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	<p>The Chair (Patrick Omondi) went through the agenda of the previous (5<sup>th</sup> AEFSC) meeting and adopted it.</p> <p>He read out the agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> AEFSC meeting and all members agreed that some items must be reorganized to ensure that the core business elements such as the evaluation and funding of the proposals submitted were given enough time for review.</p>
4.	<b>Matters arising from 5<sup>th</sup> AEFSC Meeting</b>	<p><b><i>From the Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> AEFSC meeting:</i></b></p> <p>Mamadou Kane updated members on the status of the eight (8) projects that were approved at the 5<sup>th</sup> AEFSC meeting in Addis Ababa: He apologized for the delay in payments of proposals approved at the 5<sup>th</sup> AEFSC meeting. He noted that the delay in payments impacted on the implementation of the projects and thus delayed the starting dates, but ensured all members that the agreements are awaiting</p>

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		signatures from all parties which would enable funds to be transferred.
5.	<b>Review of Submitted Project Proposals</b>	<p>Review and evaluation of the seven (7) re-submitted project proposals for funding.</p> <p>Proposals were presented by various regional representatives followed by queries/comments and inputs on improvements/recommendations from other members of the Steering Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. From the Eastern Africa region <b>one</b> proposal was presented:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Kenya- <i>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).</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Kenya proposal was not approved. It was rejected for a second time as it was deemed to have originated from an unknown source and was not received by the Competent Authority (CA) in this case the Kenya Wildlife Service.</li></ul></li></ol></li><li>2. From the Southern Africa region <b>one</b> proposal was presented:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Zambia (LAFT) - <i>Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity To Combat Illegal Killing Of Elephants In Zambia (21,250.00).</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Zambia proposal was approved for funding.</b></li></ul></li></ol></li></ol>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Zambia (LATF) proposal was approved and it is worth noting that since the last meeting LATF have submitted progress reports on the status of the 2 projects implemented in Central Africa and East Africa entitled <i>Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity to Combat Elephant Poaching and Ivory Trafficking in Central Africa</i> and <i>Enhancing Cooperation in Combating Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade In East Africa</i>.</li></ul> <p>3. From the Western Africa region <b>five</b> proposals were presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Burkina Faso - <i>Strategic Work plan To Support Sustainable Management Of Elephant Populations In Burkina Faso</i> and in French entitled <i>Plan d'Action Pilote En Appui À La Stratégie Et Au Programme De Gestion Durable Des Éléphants Au Burkina Faso</i> \$88,260.00.</li><li>b. Ivory Coast 1- <i>Applying A Standardized Methodology Of Counting And Monitoring Elephant Numbers Of Comoé National Park, World Heritage And Biosphere Reserve</i> and in French entitled <i>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</i> (\$50,400.00).</li><li>c. Ivory Coast 2- <i>Improvement Of Knowledge On Elephants Involved In Conflicts With Men</i> and in French entitled <i>Amélioration Des Connaissances Sur Les Elephants Impliqués Dans Les Conflits Avec Les Hommes</i> (\$90,160.00).</li><li>d. Mali- <i>Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity In Close Collaboration With Local Communities To Protect The Gourma Elephants Of Mali And Burkina Faso</i> (\$110,950.00).</li></ul>

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		<p>e. Senegal- <i>Project for the Conservation of Populations of Elephants (Loxodonta Africana) in Niokolo-Koba National Park</i> and in French entitled <i>Projet d' Appui à La Conservation des Populations d' Eléphants ( Loxodonta Africana) du Parc National Du Niokolo Koba (\$51,415.00).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Ivory Coast 2 proposal was approved for funding. The project was deemed to be cost effective and would be able to reduce incidents linked to human-elephant conflict which is necessary as evidenced by the increased number of incidents reported in the park.</b></li><li>• <b>The Mali proposal was approved for funding. The project is supported by numerous partners and is expected to impact tremendously on the enforcement capacity within the country and offer shared conservation benefits to populations of surrounding range states.</b></li><li>• The Burkina Faso proposal was not approved. Although the project intends to work to sustain an important elephant population, the proposal lacked a detailed budget with a clear distinction between the government contribution to the project and the AEF contribution, and had a poorly developed methodology for sustaining populations.</li><li>• The Ivory Coast 1 proposal was not approved. The proposal lacked necessary details on implementation of the project and the budget was poorly constructed. No changes seemed to have been enacted from the last submission.</li><li>• The Senegal proposal was not approved. It was the recommendation of the steering committee that the project should initiate cooperation and support from the government of Senegal. (For sustainability in conservation efforts the government should be a player in implementation of the project.) In addition, recent reports on the elephant population within Senegal from programs such as</li></ul>

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		MIKE (supported by numerous partners) show no signs of elephants in Senegal.
6.	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<p>Of the seven (7) proposals resubmitted only three (3) shall be supported for funding.</p> <p>The agreed AEF criteria for evaluation and selection of projects stipulates that all projects must be scored on an overall score of 50 with a threshold of 25, depending on available funding. It is at the discretion of the AEFSC to determine the final approval upon review of submitted proposals.</p>
7.	<b>Closure of Meeting</b>	<p>It was requested by the Chair of the AEFSC, Patrick Omondi (Kenya) and supported by all members of the steering committee that the next AEFSC be hosted by Gabon.</p> <p>The exact dates of the next meeting are to be determined in the coming weeks after consultation with Gabon. Possible suggestions for the dates of the next meeting were late May or early June 2016.</p> <p>Members of the SC noted that the next call for proposals should be undertaken soon, however it should be done after a revised budget template had been developed and approved by the AEFSC.</p> <p>In revising the budget template it was suggested that the AEF Secretariat should work closely with the program specialists in Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) on a template for viable and more detailed budgets to enable range states to submit proposals and establish better and more strategic projects.</p>

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