

## **Criteria for Evaluation and Selection of Proposals Submitted to the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee**

### **1. Introduction**

The African Elephant Fund (AEF) is the funding mechanism for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP). The Steering Committee of the African Elephant Action Plan will use the criteria outlined in this document for the purposes of evaluating and selecting which Proposals should receive funding from the African Elephant Fund.

### **2. Division of Available Funds**

The following process was agreed at the African Elephant range States meeting in Nairobi, November 2010:

- i) Funds that are not earmarked shall be divided into 70% for a regional account and 30% for a discretionary account.
- ii) The regional account shall be divided into four equal parts. Each part shall be exclusively allocated to proposals submitted by African elephant range States in each of the four subregions, so as to guarantee that each subregion benefits from the Fund; and
- iii) The discretionary account shall be used for any proposal identified by the Steering Committee as urgent and consistent with the AEAP's Priority Objective 1, 2 or 3

### **3. Basic Principles for Evaluation and Selection of Proposals to the African Elephant Fund:**

- **Impartiality:** Each Proposal shall be evaluated equally based on its own merits.
- **Sustainability:** The project proposal must demonstrate how it can be sustained in the long term, i.e. beyond the funding period. This must encompass long-term socio - economic and ecological aspects.
- **Transparency:** A summary communication will be sent by the Steering Committee to all applicants explaining in clear terms why a Proposal has been accepted or rejected. Where appropriate, advice will be offered to guide applicants in improving future applications. The proposal should demonstrate stakeholder involvement, for example, communities that may be affected, other organisations, or NGOs are involved in the project or will be informed about the project and their role in the project, where relevant or appropriate.
- **Quality:** Priority will be given to Proposals that demonstrate they can produce high quality outputs that meet the Priority Objectives outlined in the African Elephant Action Plan.
- **Source of Proposal:** Priority will be given to Proposals submitted by the designated Competent Authority (CA) of one (or more in the case of joint Proposals) African Elephant range State. Proposals may be submitted by the CA in collaboration with other stakeholders.

- **Independent Advice:** The Steering Committee may choose, at its discretion, to seek the independent advice of relevant experts in relation to the evaluation of certain Proposals.
- **Earmarked Funds:** Funds that have been donated to the AEF for a specific region or a specific purpose will be deployed by the Steering Committee according to the instructions of the donor.
- **Uniqueness, innovation and replicability:** Projects that are unique, and may result in new innovations relating to elephant management, as well as those that can be replicated in other range States will be prioritised. This could include proposals aimed at addressing a fragile population or unique ecosystems to be conserved to ensure the conservation of the specific population of African elephants.
- **Good governance:** The project proposal should demonstrate that good governance systems are in place or provided for, including financial management; monitoring and evaluation; and reporting. Proposals reflecting this information adequately, will be prioritised.

#### 4. The Evaluation and Selection Process

Each Proposal shall be allocated a Number and evaluated using the following guidelines (to be completed by the Steering Committee):

Scoring:

- 0: Non-compliance;
- 3: Approximately 50% compliance;
- 5: 100% compliance

Proposal Number:	<i>Scoring applicable</i>	<i>(where</i>	Comments
Which region does the Proposal fall under (East, Southern, Central, West)?			
Is the Proposal submitted by the designated Competent Authority of one or more African elephant range State(s)?			
Which AEAP Priority Objective(s) does the Proposal meet?			
Which AEAP Activity(ies) under the Priority Objective(s) does the Proposal meet?			
Does the Proposal demonstrate a clear conservation benefit to elephant populations of			

range States?		
Does the Proposal demonstrate a clear conservation benefit to elephant populations in another or more range States?		
Does the Steering Committee consider this Proposal to be both urgent and meet AEAP Objectives 1,2 or 3?		
Does the African Elephant Fund have enough money available to fund the Project Proposal in full?		
If not, does the Proposal identify other sources of secured funding?		
Has the AEAP/AEF Proposal Form been completed in full and been submitted by the Competent Authority?		
Sustainability Will the project be sustainable in the long run (ecological, economical, social)		
Transparency Stakeholder involvement, communication where relevant relating to the project documentation		
Quality		
Uniqueness, innovation and replicability		
Good governance Submitted through competent authority in a timely manner and financial management of the funds to be allocated		

**5. Urgency (Draft - based on discussions at meeting that took place in the margins of CITES COP 16):**

To qualify for funding from the Discretionary Account (valued at 30% of donations received by the AEF), proposals must:

- Address Priority Objectives 1, 2 or 3 as set out in the AEAP; and
- Require actions to be initiated and completed in no more than 6 months;
- Include actions relating to:
  - Securing small / vulnerable populations that are faced with an immediate threat;
  - Criminal investigations;
  - Prevent immediate Human-Elephant Conflict;
- Be replicable in other range States, where possible;
- Result in a quick win situation for the elephant population involved;
- Be endorsed by the sub-region as a priority project.

Example: A Proposal may request funding from the Discretionary Account to support the emergency deployment of anti-poaching officers to a remote area where elephant poaching has suddenly escalated (AEAP Objective 1).