



LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE

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PROGRESS REPORT ON LATF'S PROJECT TITLED "ENHANCING COOPERATION IN COMBATING ELEPHANT POACHING AND ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE IN EAST AFRICA"

JANUARY 2016

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



**LUSAKA AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS DIRECTED AT
ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD FAUNA AND FLORA**

"FOSTERING COOPERATION TO CONSERVE WILD FAUNA AND FLORA"

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In November 2015, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) received funding amounting to **USD 18,095**, being 70% advance payment of the total grant (USD 25,850), from the African Elephant Fund to support a Project titled “**Enhancing Cooperation in Combating Elephant Poaching and Illegal elephant Ivory Trade in East Africa**” under Small Scale Funding Agreement SSFA: 2015-32EAP-SB-000676-11267-14AC0004.
- 1.2 The project is designed to cultivate synergy, constructive dialogue and bolster cooperation among the wildlife institutions in order to effectively combat illegal ivory trade which is soaring into unmanageable levels, with the Eastern Africa sub region bearing the biggest brunt of the menace. It is imperative that wildlife directors of these states that host transboundary ecosystems move in concert to formulate as well implement strategies towards addressing the vice. The project will establish a Wildlife Director’s Forum that will promote constructive dialogue and sustain a united front against elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade in the sub-region and beyond.

2. Project Goal/Objectives

The main goal of this project is to enhance networking of wildlife institutions to combat elephant poaching and illegal trade in elephant ivory and other parts, products and derivatives. *(The specific objectives of the project are outlined in the Concept Note – Ref. Annex 1)*

- 2.1 The project is in line with the Elephant Action Plan Priority Objective 1 – Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products; Strategy 1.1. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other products and partly addresses Activity 1.1.4 on holding meetings with regional forums such as LATF to share and exchange law enforcement information and experience.
- 2.2 This Project also falls under Elephant Action Plan Priority Objective 2 – Maintain Elephant Habitats and Restore Connectivity, Strategy 2.2 – Establish and strengthen bilateral and multilateral support for the management of sites and corridors across borders; Activity

- 2.2.1 – Obtain bilateral and multilateral support for conservation and management of African elephant range states through meetings, workshops and other fora and Activity
- 2.2.2 – Develop joint programs to manage national and transboundary populations and habitats.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The two-day meeting to be held from **11th – 12th February 2016** at the **Laico Regency Hotel** in **Nairobi, Kenya** will draw at least 15 CEOs/Heads of Wildlife Authorities and Directors of Wildlife at relevant Ministries from five (5) East African countries of Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- 3.2 The meeting will be facilitated/moderated by resource persons drawn from LATF, UNEP, UNODC, Interpol Regional Bureau (East Africa) and KWS who have been invited and are in the process of confirming participation;

4. Status of the Implementation

- 4.1 Official invitations have been sent to the CEOs/Heads of Wildlife Authorities and Directors of Wildlife in respective Ministries regarding the meeting. The invitation letters were accompanied by the Concept and Programme/Timetable of the Meeting;
- 4.2 The participants and resource persons have been identified and nominated;
- 4.3 The meeting venue/conference facilities and accommodation for participants have been reserved/booked;
- 4.4 Meeting materials as well as promotional materials (banners etc) are being developed and/or procured;
- 4.5 Travel arrangements for participants and resource persons have been made; Air tickets will be issued by 5th February 2016;
- 4.6 The Chairperson/Representative of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee (AEFSC) has been invited to participate and make a presentation during the meeting;

- 4.7 The opening session will be graced and officially presided over by the Cabinet Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya;
- 4.8 The Meeting's Concept and Programme/Timetable (outlining topics to be covered) are annexed to this report as **I** and **II** respectively;
- 4.9 To date, LATF has made commitments to suppliers and service providers consistent with items budgets earlier submitted to and approved by AEF.

5. Budget & Financing

- 5.1 The total budgeted cost of the project is **SD 25,850** to be fully financed by African Elephant Fund.
- 5.2 LATF does not envisage any budget overruns or significant cost variations from the approved budgets of the project.
- 5.3 LATF will make in-kind contribution in terms of technical expertise and use of own equipment

6. Reporting

The narrative and financial accountability reports of the project will be submitted to African Elephant Fund Steering Committee by 29th February 2016.

7. Appreciation

LATF expresses its profound gratitude to the African Elephant Fund for supporting this Project that significantly contributes to the fight against wildlife crime thereby facilitating implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and other biodiversity related conventions.



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Concept Note

Wildlife Directors' Meeting to enhance cooperation in combating elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade in Eastern Africa

Activity funded by:



1. Summary

The Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), which is the Secretariat and operational arm of the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, will be convening a two-day Wildlife Directors Meeting from **11th – 12 February 2016** at the Laico Regency Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting will bring together Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), their Heads of Wildlife law enforcement from Wildlife Authorities and policy makers at the respective Ministries in five (5) East African elephant range states of Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Wildlife Directors Forum is designed to cultivate synergy, promote dialogue and bolster cooperation among the wildlife institutions and policy makers to effectively combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade which is soaring into unmanageable levels, with the sub-region experiencing the second biggest brunt of the menace after Central Africa according to current statistics (MIKE 2013¹).

The meeting is inspired by the need for wildlife directors in these states, which host many trans-boundary ecosystems, to move in concert in forging dialogue, formulating as well implementing common strategies towards addressing the vice within the sub-region. This forum is also in line with the “*Arusha declaration for regional conservation and combating wildlife/environmental crime*” that was signed on 8th November 2014 in Arusha, Tanzania by the wider Eastern and Southern African States of Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia most of which are elephant range states. The meeting will also build and expand on the outcome of the wildlife directors meeting held in March 2012 in Moshi, Tanzania between Kenya and Tanzania.

2. Statement of Need

Poaching of elephants and illegal ivory trade has escalated to unprecedented levels. This meeting is designed to bring wildlife directors and their top wildlife security heads to a consultative forum with a view of building a common understanding of the challenges, sharing experiences, formulating and facilitating execution of concrete measures towards addressing the entire illegal ivory trade chain from poaching of elephants to illegal trade in elephant ivory, parts or derivatives within the sub-region. During CITES CoP 16 (March 2013, Bangkok), Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were listed among the eight (8) countries identified as primary source, transit and destinations affected by illegal ivory trade. The countries were requested to develop and implement national action plans on elephant management to

¹ Status of African elephant populations and levels of illegal killing and the illegal trade in ivory: A report to the African Elephant Summit December 2013. Report by CITES Secretariat, IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group and TRAFFIC International.

reverse this trend. The directors will share their experiences in the implementation of their respective plans.

This initiative fulfils one of LATF’s mandate and strategies in supporting the efforts of Lusaka Agreement member states and other African states to enhance cross-border and international cooperation, under the provisions of the Lusaka Final Act, in the fight against illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in the region.

3. Main goal and specific objectives of the meeting

Main goal: Enhance networking of wildlife institutions to combat elephant poaching and illegal trade in elephant ivory and other parts, products and derivatives.

Objectives:

- i) Foster dialogue and promote synergy among elephant range states in East Africa to jointly formulate workable strategies and action plans to combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade;
- ii) Establish and strengthen existing bilateral wildlife management mechanisms focusing on combating elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade especially in shared ecosystems;
- iii) Forge a common front against illicit trans-national ivory trade within the sub-region, and;
- iv) Create a forum that can be replicated in other sub-regions in Africa and possibly culminating into a regional forum for wildlife authorities.

4. Sponsoring/Supporting partners

This meeting is financed by the African Elephant Fund. It will be facilitated by resource persons from LATF, UNEP, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL RB Nairobi. Selected conservation NGOs operating in the region/countries and other stakeholders will also be invited to the meeting.

5. Participants

The participants will be drawn from the following Ministries and Wildlife Authorities:

#	Country	Ministry/Authorities	No. of participants
1.	Kenya	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	1
		Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)	2

2.	Rwanda	Ministry of Trade and Industry	1
		Rwanda Development Board – Tourism and Conservation Dep’t	2
3.	South Sudan	Ministry of Interior and Wildlife Conservation	1
		National Wildlife Service	2
4.	Tanzania	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (Tanzania Wildlife Division – TWD)	1
		Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA)	2
		Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA)*	1
		Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA)*	1
5.	Uganda	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities	1
		Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)	2

**NB: A country may wish to send more participants but will cater for their expenses.*

The official from the Ministry will be the head of wildlife policy/conservation matters whereas the two (2) Wildlife Authority/Service officials will comprise the CEO/Director General and the Head of Wildlife Law Enforcement.

6. Organization/Methodology

The forum will be conducted through presentations, plenary sessions, thematic group work and discussions/deliberations facilitated by resource persons (LATF, UNODC, UNEP and INTERPOL). The presentations will focus on the current situation of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade as well as enforcement interventions being made to address the menace. These will enhance participants’ appreciation of the multi-scale threats and dynamics of the crime in the sub-region. Q&A sessions and general discussions will follow the presentations.

The Directors will exchange, consult each other and agree or make resolutions on matters of common interest. Salient matters to be identified during the presentations will be collated and deliberated further during thematic group discussions, crystalizing into recommendations to be considered by all participants during plenary sessions. These will include formalization and modalities on how the Directors Forum will conduct its business going forward and creation/formalization of three (3) bilateral cross-border mechanisms (Kenya/Tanzania; Kenya/Uganda; and Uganda/ South Sudan). At the end of the meeting, recommendations and strategies will be deliberated and way forward agreed for implementation.

7. Anticipated benefits/results

The meeting will lay a strong foundation for leveraging cross-border cooperation and collaboration among range states in addressing elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade and

thus buttress efforts on trans-boundary elephant conservation for enhanced socio-economic benefits in the respective states.

The Forum will, therefore, mark an important milestone towards the creation of networks for sustainability of regional wildlife conservation and environmental cooperation. The meeting will promote co-learning and the shared understanding necessary for the implementation of the relevant MEAs and global commitments in addressing wildlife crime.

Specifically the meeting will set ground for attainment of the following benefits/results:

- i) Enhanced regional/international co-operation among range states working collaboratively to address elephant poaching and associated illegal ivory trade;
- ii) Resources mobilized for effective fight against illegal ivory trade;
- iii) Improved protection and sustainable conservation of elephant populations in the sub-region;
- iv) Increased momentum for regional integration through cooperation of East African countries in elephant conservation;
- v) Improved elephant conservation and hence livelihoods of the local communities that depend on wildlife-based tourism.
- vi) Enhanced implementation of MEAs and international biodiversity related conventions/protocols as well as the African Elephant Action Plan.

8. Anticipated Outputs of the Meeting

This project's outputs will include, but are not limited to:

- i) Wildlife Directors Forum established for continued dialogue and shared knowledge on elephant conservation in East Africa;
- ii) At least three (3) bilateral mechanisms established/formalized (Kenya/Tanzania; Kenya/Uganda; and Uganda/South Sudan) on cross-border wildlife law enforcement for elephant protection;
- iii) At least 15 senior wildlife officials sensitized on the importance of bilateral, regional and international cooperation in addressing elephant poaching and illegal wildlife trade challenges, and;
- iv) Report on the Wildlife Directors' Forum.



WILDLIFE DIRECTORS FORUM

Enhancing Cooperation in Combating Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade in East Africa
11 - 12 February 2016: Venue: Laico Regency Hotel Nairobi, Kenya



Provisional Programme

Day 1	Day 2			Day 3			Day 4	
	Time	Activity	Responsible	Time	Activity	Responsible		
Arrival 10-2-2016	8:15 – 9:45	Official Opening	LATF	9:00 – 9:30	Role of INTERPOL in combating wildlife crime in the region	INTERPOL RB-Nairobi	Departure 13-2-2016	
				9:30 – 10:00	Role of UNODC in combating wildlife crime in the region	UNODC		
	09:45-10:15	Media Briefing/Health Break	All	10:00 - 10:30	Health Break	All		
	10:15 – 10:30	Election of the Chair & Presentation of the Meeting Objectives	LATF	10:30 – 11:00	Regional Efforts in Combating elephant poaching and ivory trafficking	LATF		
	10:30-11:00	Status of the Elephant populations in Eastern Africa	CITES -MIKE	11:00-13:00	Commitments and Actions (Policy and operational solutions) in fostering inter-state cooperation to combat elephant poaching and trafficking of ivory. (Moderated Discussion)	Countries		
	11: 00- 11:30	Illegal elephant ivory trade in East Africa	LATF					
	11:30 – 12:00	Status of African Elephant Action Plan & African Elephant Fund	Chair AEFSC					
	12:00-12:30	National efforts in combating elephant poaching and trafficking of ivory	Kenya					
	12:30-13:00		Tanzania					
	13:00-14:00	Lunch						
	14:00-14:30	National efforts in combating elephant poaching and trafficking of ivory	Uganda	14:00 – 15:30	Drafting of Recommendations and Resolutions	LATF/Experts from countries		
	14:30-15:00		South Sudan					
	15:00-15:30		Rwanda					
	15:30-16:00	Health break						
	16:00-16:30	Summary and overview of day's proceedings	LATF	16:30-17:00	Presentation and adoption of Resolutions	LATF		



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