

# Final Progress Report

**Partners Name:** African Parks Network

**Budget line:** African Elephant Fund

**POW 2019-2020 Sub-programme:** African Elephant Action Plan

**Expected Accomplishment(s):**

- 1 – Have elephant tracking collars;
- 2 – Have collaring operation for ten elephants
- 3 – Continuous monitoring of elephant collar data.

**Output(s):**

- 1: Collars are purchased and delivered to Chad.
- 2: Ten elephants are collared.
- 3: Real-time monitoring of newly collared elephants to monitor movement and behavior.

**Title of the approved PRC project:** Elephant Collaring Operation" in Zakouma National Park, Chad

- SSFA/2021/ 3661

**SSFA starting date:** 29/04/2021

**Reporting period:** from 29/04/2021 to 29/07/2021

## 1. Summary of Status:

African Parks received USD 42,300 in funding to conduct an elephant collaring operation in Zakouma National Park in Chad. This project, implemented between November 2020 and July 2021, made it possible to install 7 additional collars to the 10 planned for the project due to additional collars obtained from our partners. Due to some logistical, weather, Covid 19 and climate challenges in Zakouma, African anticipated in ordering the collars since November 2020 which made it possible to have the collars on time in Zakouma for the collaring operation in February and March 2021. A total of 17 elephants including five males and 12 females were collared and, all the 17 new collars were successfully displaying on the control room system and monitored 24/7. This brings our number of active collars back up to 39 after numerous collars unfortunately dropped prematurely throughout 2020. All the activities funded by the project are fully completed. This report is the final project report and summarizes achievements.

## 2. Activity delivery status

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity	Comments -
Activity 1: Purchase Africa Wildlife Tracking collars in South Africa, deliver to Chad	10 new GPS/UHF satellite tracking collars were purchased from South African supplier, Africa Wildlife Tracking, and subsequently airfreighted to Chad. 10 new GPS/UHF satellite tracking collars purchased and delivered to Chad. Additional collars plus subscription will be purchased on the remaining balance. Details in the full report attached	Elephant collars are delivered to Chad	December 2020	Completed	The Africa Wildlife Tracking collars are ordered from South Africa. To meet the right collaring period and mitigate risks due duration of production by AWT, to time required to airfreight the collars to Chad and pass through customs, and to transport by road to Zakouma in a challenging Covid 19 context, AP orders were placed well in advance (latest November).
Activity 2: Have collaring operation for elephants	Collaring operations were conducted between February and March 2021 using a fixed wing aircraft coupled with foot and vehicles. Measurements such as height, foot circumference and tusk length are taken along with tail hair and blood samples. Following the protocol described in the attached document, between the 16 February and 26 March 2021 we successfully collared 17 elephants including five males and 12 females. All 10 AWT collars were successfully placed between this period, including three bulls and seven females.	17 elephants including five males and 12 females were collared.	February – March 2021	Completed	During a collaring mission, in order to locate the herds, a reconnaissance flight is deployed to locate a herd. Once the herd is located from the air, vehicles are deployed with the collaring team. The team is positioned as close to the herd as possible and then track the herd by foot. Prior to darting an elephant, the vet must first decide whether there is a suitable elephant, i.e. not pregnant or with small juveniles. If there is not a suitable elephant, the team must retreat and redeploy the aircraft until a new suitable herd is observed. As a result, during the 2021 elephant collaring, we required additional aerial and vehicle support than originally estimated.

<p>Activity 3: Continuous monitoring of elephant collar data.</p>	<p>The satellite collars provide park management with twenty-four seven detailed information on the movements of the herds and solitary bulls, which allow for a targeted law enforcement strategy and strategic deployments of Rangers. It is therefore expected that the project will lead to enhanced elephant protection now and over time. The information derived also allows the park management unit to study the elephant movements more closely, aiming to predict and anticipate future movement patterns.</p>	<p>The 17 new collars are already successfully displaying on the control room system and monitored 24/7. This brings our number of active collars back up to 39 after numerous collars unfortunately dropped prematurely throughout 2020.</p>	<p>23 July 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>No major challenge as this process is straightforward and well mastered by African Parks.</p>
---	---	---	---------------------	------------------	--

**3. List of attached documents**

Zakouma National Park Final Detailed Report Prepared for African Elephant Fund

**Signature:**



**Date: 29/07/2021**

**Name and title of signing officer:** Hugues Akpona, Head of Institutional Funding, African Parks