

## Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

- 1.1 Country: **GHANA**
- 1.2 Project Title: **MITIGATING HUMAN – WILDLIFE CONFLICT AROUND BIA  
CONSERVATION AREA THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**
- 1.3 Project Location: **BIA CONSERVATION AREA, WESTERN NORTH, GHANA**
- 1.4 Overall Project Cost:  
AMOUNT Requested from African Elephant Fund: **US\$ 74,000.00**
- 1.5 Project Duration: **Ten months**
- 1.6 Project Proponent: **Government of Ghana/Wild Migration**
- 1.7 Name of Project Supervisor: **Mr. BERNARD ASAMOAH-BOATENG  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE DIVISION  
FORESTRY COMMISSION, GHANA**
- 1.8 Address of Project Supervisor: **P. O. BOX M239, ACCRA, GHANA**
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- 1.12 Date proposal submitted: **January 17, 2022**

## **2.0 Project Summary: (not more than 250 words)**

The Bia Conservation Area (BCA) comprises Bia National Park (BNP) (77.7km<sup>2</sup>) in the north and its adjoining Bia Resource Reserve (BRR) (227.9km<sup>2</sup>) in the south. The two forests form a block of 306 km<sup>2</sup>. BCA lies in the transition zone between the moist evergreen to the south and moist semi-deciduous forest zones to the north.

The forest holds viable key populations of large and charismatic mammals, especially the Forest Elephant, Bongo, and Yellow-backed Duiker. There are seven confirmed primates including the Western Chimpanzee, Sooty Mangabey and Western Black and White Colobus. There are over 200 bird species and more than 650 butterfly species have been identified.

The only viable population of forest elephants in Ghana occurs in the Bia-Goaso forest block. This population is estimated to be less than 250 individuals (Danquah and Oppong, 2013). The West Africa Elephant Conservation Strategy and the Ghana Elephant Conservation Action Plan, identifies the Bia-Goaso elephant block as a prime focus for immediate conservation attention. Unfortunately, the population continues to decline at an alarming rate due to poaching, habitat loss and serious human elephant conflicts outside of the BCA. Human elephant conflicts have been identified as the main threat to the survival of the Bia-Goaso elephant population, particularly through crop raiding. In response to this menace, the community members have declared retaliation measures including killing the elephants. This unfortunate community attitude threatens the sustainability of the elephants.

This project will empower the community members to institute measures to prevent elephant crop raiding. It will also help to secure the park's elephant population through monitoring and safeguarding their movement and control invasion and marauding of their farms. It is expected that this will eventually reduce or prevent retaliatory killings of the elephants.

3.0 Which Priority Objectives and Activities (there may be more than one) in the African Elephant Action Plan does this project fall under?

Priority Objective: To reduce Human – Wildlife Conflict (HEC)

4.0 **Project Rationale** – why is this project necessary and urgent? What threats face this elephant population (give, for example, what information you have regarding population details, trends in population (downward or upward), ivory seizure information, details about levels of poaching, human/elephant conflict, etc.).

### **PROJECT RATIONAL**

The Bia Conservation area has become an ecological island due to an expansion of unsustainable agricultural interventions, mainly for cocoa plantations and other land-use

practices thus fragmenting elephant home range into small patches within the forest landscape, without any reliable connectivity corridors. It was originally established that logging operations in the Bia Resource Reserve pushed the elephants out into the surrounding areas. Thereafter, the new flush of vegetation within the Resources Reserve became attractive to the elephants, making them concentrate more in this area than the more intact Bia National Park portion of the Conservation Area. However, currently, it's not known whether inadequacy of foraging resources inside the Conservation area are the push effect for the elephants to move out or the cocoa plantations outside the conservation area are the responsible factor. How can elephants be prevented from foraging in farms established within their home ranges? Is fencing a realistic option to keep elephants within PAs? What about other barriers? How can management of agricultural lands outside the park boundary reduce the risk of crop raiding?

A common phenomenon around many Protected Areas is crop raiding of farms adjacent to the boundary by animals. Elephants are the most notorious culprits. Crop raiding causes severe economic hardship on the farmers and their families. It also engenders much hostility from local people leading to illegal killing of the elephants in retaliation for the damage. The low level of staff numbers working in Parks who have to be deployed on law enforcement missions are rather sent to spend time in firing shots in the air to drive elephants away but after they are gone, the animals return to raid the farms thereafter. In the case of crop-raiding elephants, the root of the problem is probably the disruption of elephants' range, causing elephants to be compressed within a small area that is insufficient for their habitat requirements.

The Bia Conservation Area is simply too small for the existing elephant populations that are now restricted mainly in the southern and southwestern parts of the park and that this may be related to a higher abundance of cultivated cocoa plantations in closer proximity to the park's boundary compared to the northern sections of the park.

The biggest challenge in terms of Elephants in the park is Elephant crop/farm raids. In 2020, forty-one (41) Elephant farm raids were reported to the park by affected farmers and documented. In year, 2021, so far twelve (12) raids have already been reported bearing in mind the peak of the raiding periods are in the cocoa harvesting season which is the last quarter of the year. There is also inadequate resources to be able to tackle Elephant crop/farm raids.

There is low motivation to report raids because of wrong expectations by farmers for compensation not being met by the park. This is because some farmers have lost interest in reporting since no compensation will be given them and so they do not bother, especially when the raids have been done and the Elephants gone.

Another general constant threat in all PAs with Elephant is poaching and Bia is no exception. This is as a result of low staff strength to adequately patrol and give **effective** protection to the Elephants and wildlife in the park. There is also the lack of tools like Global Positioning System (GPS), and appropriate monitoring softwares to gather relevant data on the Elephants and other wildlife species and monitor field activities effectively.

Furthermore, there is the challenge of resources to develop and expand the necessary elephant pools to improve their numbers and visibility to facilitate and improve tourism. Finally, there is the lack of resources to constantly open up and maintain access roads and trails in the park to improve staff movement in the Park and therefore improve protection to the Elephants.

The long-term future is bleak for elephant populations of many range States and the loss of even a single elephant through poaching, conflict or any other threat, must be viewed as a serious blow to the future ecological integrity and survival of elephants in the region. It is clear that unless urgent action is taken immediately, the number of elephants in Ghana and the Bia Conservation Area in particular, is likely to continue declining precipitously.

Elephant conservation is viewed as a priority activity for Ghana. In this regard, Ghana was the first country in West Africa to prepare a national Elephant Conservation Strategy in 2000. The Strategy's primary aim is to ensure the conservation of viable elephant populations and their habitats in the country.

The Wildlife Authorities in Ghana have over the years, employed two main strategies; namely law enforcement and community education and outreach within fringe communities around the Parks and corridors to preserve the integrity of the parks and their critical habitats. Pilot projects on mitigating elephant crop raiding have also been successfully implemented in some selected wildlife reserves. The management of the Bia Conservation Area has combined these strategies over three decades to protect the park and the elephant population in particular.

Local community's attitude plays a vital role in the long-term existences of elephants along with other wildlife and their habitat. The Community Collaboration Unit of the park engages members of the fringe communities and other relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to embark on a number of initiatives that will help curb the unsustainable natural resource use and abuse around the park and to solicit their support for the protection and management of the park. They include the establishment of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs). An elaborate Conservation and Public Awareness messages and programmes targeting community members and particularly schools were developed and embarked upon.

The support being requested from the African Elephant Fund (AEF) is therefore to increase the protection of elephants and their habitats, mitigate HEC in Bia Conservation Area, through training and equipping of wildlife staff and fringe communities in best approaches for HEC.

5.0 Detailed Proposal – including activities to be carried out, milestones (at least quarterly milestones), timelines, equipment to be purchased, reporting procedures, etc. (not more than 1000 words). It will be helpful in evaluating this Project Proposal if you to divide it into Phases such as planning; Procurement; Implementation; Evaluation and Reporting

Should include anticipated benefits (including benefits to the conservation and management of elephant populations and communities) and outputs from the project, and how the project will be monitored and evaluated.

### **Objective**

**1.** The main objectives is to train and equip wildlife staff and local communities in appropriate HEC approaches. **2.** Increase awareness on forest elephant conservation and management among key stakeholders including local communities. **3.** Reduce human wildlife conflicts. The activities to be implemented to achieve the above objectives include:

- OUTPUT 1: Identify key areas of HEC
- OUTPUT 2: Carry out sensitization on HEC
- OUTPUT 3: Assess cropping patterns and other land use practices
- OUTPUT 4: Map and inventorize the small-holder farmers within the target area
- OUTPUT 5: Identify innovative local practices that are effective HEC
- OUTPUT 6: Assess appropriateness of other applicable techniques for HEC
- OUTPUT 7: Train Target Groups on HEC Mitigation techniques

**OUTPUT 1: Identify Key Areas of HEC**

- Activity 1.1: Community engagement
- Activity 1.2: Desk study
- Activity 1.3: Field monitoring
- Activity 1.4: Map of key areas (Hotspots) around the park with HEC

**OUTPUT 2: Carry Out Sensitization on HEC**

- Activity 2.1: Engage and select target communities for sensitization on HEC
- Activity 2.2: Organize community durbars to educate them

**OUTPUT 3: Assess Cropping Patterns and Other Land Use Practices**

- Activity 3.1: Obtain satellite imagery for the site
- Activity 3.2: Classification and ground trothing
- Activity 3.3: Map cropping patterns and other land use practices

**OUTPUT 4: Map and Inventorize the Small-Holder Farmers within the Target Area**

- Activity 4.1: Pick GPS points of small holder farms and owners at target area
- Activity 4.2: Compile data and map small holder farms at target area

**OUTPUT 5: Identify Innovative Local Practices That Are Effective HEC**

- Activity 5.1: Identify key stakeholders for engagement on local practices
- Activity 5.2: Engage stakeholders on innovative local practices for HEC
- Activity 5.3: Compile local practices that are effective for HEC.

**OUTPUT 6: Assess Appropriateness of Other Applicable Techniques for HEC**

- Activity 6.1: Identify other HEC techniques used at other sites
- Activity 6.2: Evaluate appropriateness of techniques for HEC
- Activity 6.3: Compile appropriate techniques for HEC

**OUTPUT 7: Train Target Groups on HEC Mitigation techniques**

- Activity 7.1: Prepare training and capacity building modules
- Activity 7.2: Train target group and park staff on HEC and monitoring
- Activity 7.3: Support target group to implement control
- Activity 7.4: Set up monitoring of elephant and HEC database at Park

**OUTPUT 8: Project Evaluation**

- Activity 8.1 Evaluation

**Reporting Procedures:**

The Park Manager will compile and submit Monthly report on progress of implementation of programmes and activities to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Division who is the supervisor of the Project for onward submission to African Elephant Fund either on monthly, bimonthly or quarterly depending on the project requirement.

6.0 Project Timeline – outline the timeline for proposed activities within this project. You may find it helpful to relate the timeline to the Phases identified in Section 5.0 above.

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

#OUTPUT	ACTIVITY	TIMELINE
<b>1 Identify Key Areas of HEC</b>	Activity 1.1: Community engagement	1 MONTH
	Activity 1.2: Desk study Activity 1.3: Field monitoring Activity 1.4: Map of key areas (Hotspots) around the park with HEC	
<b>2, Carry Out Sensitization on HEC</b>	Activity 2.1: Select and engage target communities for sensitization on HEC	1 MONTH
	Activity 2.2: Organize community durbars on HEC	
<b>3. Assess Cropping Patterns and Other Land Use Practices</b>	Activity 3.1: Obtain satellite imagery for the site	2 MONTHS
	Activity 3.2: Classification and Ground trothing Activity 3.3: Map cropping patterns and other land use practices	
<b>4. Map and Inventorize the Small-Holder Farmers within the Target Area</b>	Activity 4.1: Pick GPS coordinates of small holder farms and owners at target area	1 MONTH
	Activity 4.2: Compile data and map small holder farms at target area	
<b>5. Identify Innovative Local Practices That Are Effective HEC</b>	Activity 5.1: Identify key stakeholders on local practices	1 MONTH
	Activity 5.2: Engage stakeholders on innovative local practices for HEC Activity 5.3: Compile local practices that are effective for HEC.	
<b>6. Assess Appropriateness of Other Applicable Techniques for HEC</b>	Activity 6.1: Identify other HEC techniques used at other sites.	1 MONTH
	Activity 6.2: Evaluate appropriateness of techniques for HEC at the site. Activity 6.3: Compile appropriate techniques for HEC at the site	

<b>7. Train Target Groups on HEC Mitigation techniques</b>	Activity 7.1: Prepare training and capacity building modules	2 MONTHS
	Activity 7.2: Train target group and park staff on HEC and monitoring Activity 7.3: Support target group to implement HEC mitigation techniques Activity 7.4: Set up monitoring of elephant and HEC database at Park	
<b>8. Project Evaluation</b>	8.1: Evaluation	1 MONTH

**Proponents contribution towards the project: US\$10,200.00**

OUTPUT 1: Identify key areas of HEC OUTPUT 2: Carry out sensitization on HEC OUTPUT 3: Assess cropping patterns and other land use practices OUTPUT 4: Map and inventorize the small-holder farmers within the target area OUTPUT 5: Identify innovative local practices that are effective HEC OUTPUT 6: Assess appropriateness of other applicable techniques for HEC OUTPUT 7: Train Target Groups on HEC Mitigation techniques OUTPUT 8: Project Evaluation	
OUTPUT 1	US\$13,050.00
OUTPUT 2	US\$12,350.00
OUTPUT 3	US\$10,750.00
OUTPUT 4	US\$5,950.00
OUTPUT 5	US\$6,450.00
OUTPUT 6	US\$5,450.00
OUTPUT 7	US\$26,200.00
OUTPUT 8	US\$4,000.00
SUPPORT FROM WILDLIFE DIVISION US\$10,200.00	
TOTAL US\$84,200.00	

**BUDGET**

7.0 Has this project received or been pledged any other sources of funding (external)? Give all relevant details (for example, amount, source of funds, timetable, any restrictions):

7.1 Please provide a detailed proposed budget for this project (in US\$). You may find it helpful to relate expenditure to the Phases you have set out in Section 5.0

Any other budget lines:

<b>Full Proposal Budget</b>				
		<b>Expected source of funds and amounts</b>		
<b>Budget line</b>		<b>Proponent(GOVT.) US\$</b>	<b>AEF US\$</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Identify Key Areas of HEC</b>			
	Activity 1.1: Community engagement	600	6,000.00	
	Activity 1.2: Desk study	400	0	
	Activity 1.3: Field monitoring	500	4,000.00	
	Activity 1.4: Map of key areas (Hotspots) around the park with HEC	400.00	1,150.00	
	Sub Total	US\$1,900.00	US\$11,150.00	
<b>2</b>	<b>Carry Out Sensitization on HEC</b>			
	Activity 2.1: Select target communities for sensitization on HEC	350.00	2,000.00	
	Activity 2.2: Organize community sensitization durbars on HEC	1,000.00	11,000.00	
	Sub Total	US\$1,350.00	US\$12,350.00	
<b>3</b>	<b>Assess Cropping Patterns and Other Land Use Practices</b>			
	Activity 3.1: Obtain satellite imagery for the site	2,000.00	0	
	Activity 3.2: Classification and ground trothing	350.00	3,000.00	
	Activity 3.3: Map cropping patterns and other land use practices	500.00	4,900.00	
	Sub Total	US\$2,850.00	US\$7,900.00	
<b>4</b>	<b>Map and Inventorize the Small-Holder Farmers within the Target Area</b>			
	Activity 4.1: Visit and pick GPS points of small holder farms and owners at target area	500.00	4,450.00	
	Activity 4.2: Compile data and map small holder farms at target area	200.00	800.00	
	Sub Total	US\$700.00	US\$5,250.00	
<b>5</b>	<b>Identify Innovative Local Practices That Are Effective HEC</b>			



	Activity 5.1: Identify key stakeholders for engagement on local practices	200.00	1,500.00	
	Activity 5.2: Engage stakeholders on innovative local practices for HEC	400.00	2,100.00	
	Activity 5.3: Compile local practices that are effective for HEC.	100.00	950.00	
	Sub Total	US\$700.00	US\$5,750.00	
<b>6</b>	<b>Assess Appropriateness of Other Applicable Techniques for HEC</b>			
	Activity 6.1: Identify other HEC techniques used at other sites	200.00	1,500.00	
	Activity 6.2: Analyze appropriateness of techniques for HEC	400.00	3,100.00	
	Activity 6.3: Compile appropriate techniques for HEC	100.00	950.00	
	Sub Total	US\$700.00	US\$4,750.00	
<b>7</b>	<b>Train Target Groups on HEC Mitigation techniques</b>			
	Activity 7.1: Prepare training and capacity building modules	200.00	2,450.00	
	Activity 7.2: Train target group and park staff on HEC and monitoring	600.00	10,000.00	
	Activity 7.3: Support target group to implement control	900.00	10,000.00	
	Activity 7.4: Set up monitoring of elephant and HEC database at Park	300.00	4,000.00	
	Sub Total	US\$2,000.00	US\$24,200.00	
<b>8</b>	<b>Project Evaluation</b>			
	Activity 8,1: Evaluation	0	4,000.00	
	Sub Total		US\$4,000.00	
	Total	US\$ 10,200.00	US\$74,000.00	
	Grand Total	USD 84,200.00		

7.2 Please specify the proponents' contribution towards the project

Wildlife Division (Ghana Gov't) .....US\$ 10,200.00  
African Elephant Fund: .....US\$ 74,000.00  
**Total Budget.....US\$ 84,200.00**

Please submit the completed proposal, either by:

Email:

Fax:

You should receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal within 14 days. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement, please telephone:

Further details on any of the above details may be requested by the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund.