Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

1.1 Country: Zimbabwe

1.2 Project Title: Enhancing the Capacity Of Sengwa Wildlife Research Institute To Deliver Training In SMART Ranger Based Monitoring (RBM) System In The Sebungwe and other Elephant Range Areas in Zimbabwe.

1.3 Project Location: Sengwa Wildlife Research Institute (SWRI), Zimbabwe

1.4 Overall Project Cost: **$65,300**
          AMOUNT Requested from African Elephant Fund: **$53,800**

1.5 Project Duration: 2 years and on-going

1.6 Project Proponent: Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

1.7 Name of Project Supervisors: Mr Gilbert Hope Moyo and Mrs R. Mandisodza-Chikerema

1.8 Address of Project Supervisor: Sengwa Wildlife Research Institute, P. Bag 6002 Gokwe, Zimbabwe

1.9 Telephone Number: 00263 772 433 907 and 00263 712 737 872

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1.11 Fax: N/A

1.12 Date proposal submitted: 31 December 2017 resubmitted 06 August 2018

2.0 Project Summary: (not more than 250 words)

The results of the 2014 national aerial survey in Zimbabwe indicated that the elephant population in the Sebungwe Region had plummeted by 75% from the previous 2001 estimate of 13989 to 3407 (Dunham et al 2015). This decline has been attributed mostly to poaching, loss and fragmentation of habitats, increased human-elephant conflicts and possible migration of elephants outside the region. It was, however, noted with concern that the monitoring of elephant populations and related management activities both within and outside the Protected Area (PA) system in the Sebungwe Region has been largely inconsistent.

In line with the Sebungwe Elephant Management Action Plan (2015-2020) the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) intends to implement The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) as the standard framework and database management system for the collection, storage and analysis of data on law enforcement, ecological monitoring and other site-based elephant conservation activities in the Sebungwe Region. The implementation of SMART is a national priority program for the ZPWMA.

Currently SMART is being implemented in isolated elephant range areas like Gonarezhou and two MIKE sites in the mid-Zambezi valley but the impact is very insignificant given the large size of the elephant range, the large numbers of rangers based in key elephant range areas, and also high staff movements/turnover resulting in those few trained in SMART being moved to non-SMART implementing sites and being replaced by those without experience in SMART implementation). Training of all levels must be institutionalised by building capacity of Sengwa Wildlife Research Institute (SWRI) to effectively deliver training in SMART ranger based monitoring (RBM) system.

SWRI was originally established to conduct and support ecological monitoring in the Sebungwe region. The development of relevant short courses and associated training materials will be coordinated by SWRI in collaboration with Mushandike Wildlife College of Zimbabwe and so will be the delivery of training. SMART will provide a standardized and coherent elephant monitoring system hence the ZPWMA seeks to mobilize the funding required establish capacity of SWRI to deliver training of SMART to personnel in the Sebungwe region and other key elephant conservation sites in other sub-regions.

Dunham K. M., Mackie C. S., Nyaguse G., and Zhuwau C. (2015). Aerial Survey of Elephants and other Large Herbivores in the Sebungwe (Zimbabwe): 2014.

3.0 Which Priority Objectives and Activities (there may be more than one) in the African Elephant Action Plan does this project fall under? (For ease of reference, Priority Objectives are attached under Appendix 1)

The SMART framework is designed for monitoring a wide range of conservation activities such as law enforcement, biological monitoring, human-elephant conflict and intelligence networks hence the project falls under a large cross-section of the Priority Objectives and Activities in the African Elephant Action Plan which include:

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 elephant products.
Activity 1.1.1.: Assess law enforcement capacity and needs in respective range States.
Activity 1.1.2.: Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.
Activity 1.1.3.: Equip wildlife authority staff on the frontline of enforcement with appropriate tools to carry out their mission as safely and effectively as possible.

Priority Objective 3: reduce human-elephant conflict (HEC)

Strategy 3.1: Apply adaptive management approaches in addressing HEC mitigation, focusing on capacity building of managers and local communities.

Activity 3.1.1.: Establish a database using existing and new data on the types, extent, causes and impacts of HEC and mitigation measures for such conflicts.

Priority Objective 5: strengthen range states knowledge on African elephant management

Strategy 5.2: Develop mechanisms of acquiring and disseminating information within and among elephant range States.

Activity 5.2.1.: Maintain and update databases on elephant populations for management purposes.

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.).

The conservation and protection of large mammals such as elephants is increasingly becoming more challenging especially in regions like the Sebungwe where human population density is escalating. Of the four major elephant range areas in Zimbabwe, the Sebungwe Region has the highest human density which is estimated to reach 44people/km^2 in some parts of the region by 2020. Research has shown that when human population densities exceed the 15people/km^2

threshold elephant populations tend to suffer drastic declines (Hoare, 1997). The 75% decline in the Sebungwe elephant population is largely related to anthropogenic factors mainly high levels of poaching, increased human-elephant conflicts, habitat loss and fragmentation and the possible migration of elephants out of the region due to range contraction.

In the 5 year period from 2011-2015 a total of 260 illegally killed elephant carcasses were recorded in the 5 Protected Areas (PAs) of the Sebungwe Region. This figure represents an average loss of 52 elephants per year which is almost 2% of the current estimate (N=2894) of the elephant population in the PAs. The information is based on sightings of carcasses by rangers on patrol. The figures could be more considering the limited man-power and area of coverage by the patrol rangers in most PAs. Taking into account other elephant off-takes such as natural mortalities, unsustainable trophy quotas and problem animal control (PAC), the overall annual elephant mortality has been surpassing the annual rate of increase of 5% in most cases. In Nyaminyami District which is a CITES MIKE site, for example, between 2010 and 2014 the district reported a total of 61 poached elephants, received 1844 human-elephant conflict reports and took-off 47 elephants as PAC and also took-off 130 elephants from sport hunting quotas. These figures amount to 238 elephants over the 5 year period at an average of 48 elephants per year or 11.7% of the current population estimate(N=411) in the district.

In order to strengthen on-going conservation efforts and to facilitate the implementation of adaptive management strategies there is an urgent need for the development of systems and tools for measuring, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of law enforcement, biological monitoring, socio-economic and other community-based conservation activities in a standardized framework within the Sebungwe Region. This project is very important because it will establish capacity within the SWRI to effectively deliver training in SMART ranger based monitoring system for effective collection, storage, analysis and reporting of data on elephant conservation activities in the Sebungwe region and other elephant range areas in Zimbabwe. The assistance of the African Elephant Fund is therefore urgently sought to complement the on-going efforts of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in mobilizing the financial resources required for staff training and purchase of equipment.

Hoare, R. E. (1997). The Effects of Interaction with Humans on Elephant Populations of the Sebungwe Region, Zimbabwe. D.Phil. Thesis, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Zimbabwe. 188pp

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.

Planning Phase: Terms of Reference (ToRs) and selection of consultants

Activity: The planning phase of the project will be focused mainly on developing ToRs for consultancy services to develop curriculum and associated training modules and selection of consultants through a competitive bidding tender process.

Milestones: ToRs in place and consultants selected

Time Frames: First quarter

Procurement Phase: Purchase of Equipment

Activity: During the procurement phase the SWRI and the College will:
1. Purchase critical and appropriate material (GPS units) for teaching (both theoretical and practical aspects) of field data collection using ranger-based data collection techniques; and 2. Purchase critical and appropriate materials for teaching RBM data management and analysis. Practical field data collection will be conducted at Sengwa Wildlife Research Area where the SWRI is located

Milestones: All equipment purchased and delivered to the Sengwa Wildlife Research Institute

Time Frames: Second quarter 60 days (1 April-30 May 2019)

Implementation Phase: Training and Distribution of Equipment

Activity: The implementation stage will mainly be focused on the following:
1. Development of curriculum that aims to teach ranger based data collection techniques using various tools (such as VHF radios, GPS units and paper, cyber-trackers, maps), basic and advanced database management, and analysis and utilization of monitoring information. The approach will be to include develop short-term courses consistent with other short courses recognised by Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, as well as developing customised courses depending on specific needs.
2. Certification/approval of curriculum by Government
3. Development of materials and aids for teaching all courses that are part of the curriculum
4. Development of training plan for regular provision of training and refresher training in SMART RBM system to all levels of ZPWMA staff in Sebungwe and other sub-regions
5. Training of officers/lecturers that will deliver training in the different courses

Milestones:
SMART RBM system training curriculum developed and certified by government
Materials, aids and training plan for teaching all courses that are part of the
curriculum developed
5 officers/lecturers trained to deliver training in the different courses of the
curriculum

Time Frames: Third Quarter 100 days (15May-30August 2019)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Activities: The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the project will be
conducted through engaging of an M&E consultant. The consultant will produce a
report to be submitted to all project partners

Milestones: M&E Consultant engaged and report produced

Time Frames: After 18-24 months

Project Outputs and Benefits

The project outputs will be:

Protected Areas are generating regular and reliable information on the
status and threats to elephants and other forms of biodiversity, of law
enforcement and management effort, in order to support decision making on
appropriate management, protection and enforcement needs;

Law enforcement, adaptive management and monitoring systems, protocols and
capacity are strengthened in key elephant conservation areas in the sub-region

Benefits
Law enforcement,
adaptive management and monitoring systems, protocols and capacity a
re **strengthened** in key elephant conservation pas in the region.
Role of elephants in ecosystem process not compromised

Improvements of livelihoods for CAMPFIRE communities through increase in
revenues from consumptive and non-consumptive utilization of large and viable
elephant populations
Revenue flows to ZIMPARKS improved from consumptive and non-consumptive
utilization of large and viable elephant populations

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.

Phase	Activity	Time Line	Milestone
A. Planning	1. Develop ToRs for developing courses and materials; 2. Selection of consultants	15 Jan-15 March 2019	1. ToRs produced 2. Consultants selected
B. Procurement	1. Purchase of equipment	1 April-30 May 2019	All equipment purchased by 30 May 2019
C. Implementation	1. Develop a short courses and training materials for teaching Ranger Based Monitoring for SMART. 2. Quality control and approval process of courses and materials through Higher educations Ministry 3. Training of lecturers who will deliver modules and short term course 4. Development of training plan for staff in Sebungwe region	30 May-30 August 2019	- Set of moduless and associated teaching materials/ aids produced - Quality control and certification of program with the Ministry - Trained Officers/Lecturers to teach each course - Training plan for the Sebungwe and other elephant range areas developed

5. Monitoring and Evaluation	1. Independent Consultant hired to do M&E report	18-24 months	Report circulated to all stakeholders

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):

Co-funding from the government of a total amount of $11,500.

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

Details included in Table annexed to the document:

FULL PROPOSAL BUDGET					
			Expected source of funds and amounts		
BUDGET LINE	Quantity/Days/ Participants	Cost/Unit US$	AEF	PROPONENT (GOVT.)	Other (please specify)
PLANNING					
Development of ToRs			1500	1500	
Advert (local and international media) inviting bids for consultants			500	500	
Adjudication and selection of consultants			1000	1500	
EQUIPMENTS/ GEAR/ SUPPLIES					
(If applicable list all purchases) Group size of 20-25 participants for RBDC training, 10 for database management and 10-15 for adaptive management training					
Hand held GPS Units (Garmin 72H)	15	200	3000		
Ruggedized Cyber-trackers	15	150	2250		
Garrett Ace 250 Metal Detector	10	500	5000		
Cameras	10	200	2000		
GPS batteries (gvt costs)	1000	0.5		500	
VHF radios	10	150	1 500		

Desk Top Computers	5	200	1000		
Printer (with scanning and copying functions)	1	300	300		
Training aids and materials production			2500	1000	
TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING					
(If applicable: note number of participants, locations/venues, fees involved, activities involved,etc.)					
Consultant fees for developing modules for training ranger based data collection using several tools/devices/materials	15	500	7 500		
Consultant fees for developing modules that set framework for training basic & advance SMART database management	5	500	2 500		
Consultant fees for developing modules for training in data analysis and utilization of monitoring information in adaptive management.	15	500	7 500		
Consultative workshops where consultants present drafts to ZPWMA and key stakeholders	5	1000	5 000	2000	
Approvals of modules by Higher Education Committee. (Gvt input)					
Training of trainers workshops	3	1000	3 000	4 500	
PRODUCTION OF TEACHING MATERIALS					
(If applicable note all materials and prices for each item)					
Printing of manuals and aides for modules of RBDC			2250		
Printing of manuals and aides for modules of basic & advanced SMART training			2250		
Printing of manuals and aides for modules of data analysis and information utilization for adaptive management training			2250		
General stationery		1000	1000		
TOTAL			**53 800**	**11 500**	

Any other budget lines:

7.2 Please specify the proponent's contribution towards the project

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) has made the implementation of SMART a national priority programme. The ZPWMA will therefore provide the necessary technical, logistical and also complement the AEF's financial support to enable the strengthening of SWRI to offer training in SMART RBM systems in the Sebungwe Region and other elephant range areas in Zimbabwe. For example vehicles, accommodation and workshop venue costs will be covered by the ZPWMA.

Please submit the completed proposal by: Email: africanelephantfund@unep.org
You should receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal within 14 days.
If you do not receive such an acknowledgement, please telephone: (254) 20 7625069 / (254) 20 762 5046

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