

Annex 2 – Interim Progress Report

1. Identification:

Partners Name: Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (Gabon)

Budget line: BAC 2016-32EAP-SB-000676-11267-14AC0004

Expected Accomplishment(s): The project falls under the following African Elephant Action Plan's Priority objective:

Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products.

Output(s):

- Autonomy for Gabon on traceability analysis of ivory
- Determination of the geographical origin of the Gabonese national ivory stockpile
- Development of an operational database to compare the seized ivory and carcasses discovered in Gabon

Title of the approved PRC project: *“Traçabilité génétique de l’ivoire pour le renforcement de l’application de la loi au Gabon”*
(“Traceability genetics in ivory for strengthening of application of the law in Gabon”)

SSFA starting date: 15/03/2016

Reporting period: from 15/03/2016 to 15/08/2016

2. Summary of Status:

Brief description of the status of implementation of the SSFA at the time of reporting and progress towards achieving SSFA's objective

The implementation of the project started early in 2016 as we anticipated some activities since we received the grant agreement letter in September 2015. The equipment required for DNA genotyping (a real-time PCR machine) has been purchased and set up in the genetic laboratory in Libreville. 30 carcass samples and 458 ivory samples have been collected and preliminary tests of quality have been run. The laboratory technician has been trained in ivory sampling, DNA extraction and analysis, as well as safe laboratory practices. However, timelines of transfer of funds and suppliers and the implementation of new regulations by the Gabonese government for the physical inspection of imported goods before their shipment substantially delayed the procurement of laboratory consumables. A delay of six weeks in the implementation of the project is expected due to the postponement of some activities.

Therefore we hereby request the UNEP approval for a six-week extension of the implementation period (end date stipulated in the agreement: 15 September 2016; requested end date: 30 October 2016).

3. Activity delivery status

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
Laboratory equipment	Identification of a supplier in France. Acquisition of laboratory equipment. Ordering of laboratory equipment.	- Real-time PCR machine - 1 freezer - 1 cryogenic Dewar storage	February 2016 August 2016	On-going	The real-time PCR machine has been set-up in the laboratory in Libreville. The freezer and Dewar have been ordered but are still pending pre-shipment inspection (Bureau Veritas, France). This delay postponed the DNA extraction from ivory samples.
Laboratory training	Training in laboratory techniques: basics safe laboratory practices, DNA storage, DNA extraction, PCR, gel electrophoresis.	1 lab technician benefited from continuous training using different sample types (tissue, fecal, bones, ivory)	March to August 2016	On-going	The technician will be trained in ivory DNA extraction (using pulverization in liquid nitrogen) and SNP genotyping (using the real-time PCR machine) as soon as the consumables are delivered.
Collection of ivory samples	Training in ivory sampling. Extensive collection of ivory samples from the central and secondary ivory stockpile throughout the country.	- 1 laboratory technician and 20 ecoguards trained in ivory sampling - 458 ivory samples collected	January to August 2016	Completed	
Collection of carcass samples	Continuation of the systematic sampling of elephant carcasses initiated by ANPN in 2014. Purchase of sampling materials.	30 carcass samples collected	January to August 2016	On-going	Dependent on poaching and patrol intensity.
Optimization of extraction protocols	DNA extraction and testing of a subset of ivory and bone samples (PCR and gel electrophoresis using both mitochondria and nuclear markers).	10 ivory samples tested 5 bone samples tested	June - July 2016	On-going	The consumables (extraction kits, PCR plates) have been ordered but are still pending pre-shipment inspection (Bureau Veritas, France). This delay postponed the DNA extraction from ivory samples and subsequent genotyping.
DNA extraction of tissue	Purchase of laboratory consumables. Extraction of all tissue samples available.	30 tissue samples extracted	April – May 2016	Completed	
DNA extraction of ivory	Ordering of laboratory consumables.	Extraction kits Liquid nitrogen	August 2016	Delayed	
SNP Genotyping	Transfer of genotyping probes to the laboratory in Libreville. Ordering of laboratory consumables.	- 115 probes and mastermix - PCR plates and lids	March 2016 August 2016	Delayed	
National database for					After completion of previous activity (SNP genotyping).

poached elephant					
Data analysis and reporting		- 1 laptop			After completion of all the other activities.

4. List of attached documents

(for example, publications, meeting reports, participants list, reports of workshops, etc.)

Interim expenditure report.



Signature:

Date: 22/08/2016

Name and title of signing officer: Bourgeois Stéphanie, Project supervisor, Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux, Gabon