

Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

- 1.1 Country: GHANA
- 1.2 Project Title: ELEPHANT CONSERVATION THROUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN MOLE NATIONAL PARK AND ITS CORRIDORS- GHANA
- 1.3 Project Location: MOLE NATIONAL PARK, NORTHERN GHANA
- 1.4 Overall Project Cost: **US\$251,640**
AMOUNT Requested from African Elephant Fund: US\$135,450
- 1.5 Project Duration: SIX (6) MONTHS
- 1.6 Project Proponent: MOLE NATIONAL PARK (WILDLIFE DIVISION-GHANA)
- 1.7 Name of Project Supervisor: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE DIVISION OF GHANA
- 1.8 Address of Project Supervisor: P. O. BOX M239, ACCRA, GHANA
- 1.9 Telephone Number: +233 (0)244107143
- 1.10 Email: adunsiah@yahoo.com
- 1.11 Fax:
- 1.12 Date proposal submitted: 20th August 2015

2.0 Project Summary: (not more than 250 words)

Mole National Park (4,577km²), has the largest elephant population in Ghana. It is located in a fairly undisturbed Guinea Savannah ecological zone in Northern Ghana and fringed by 33 communities with an estimated population of about 40,000. The park is relatively rich in biodiversity. It is home to over 90 mammal species including the African elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard. Over 350 bird species, 33, reptiles, 9 amphibians and over 120 butterfly species have also been recorded in the park.

This population is probably the only viable of savannah elephants in Ghana. Aerial census conducted in 2006 gave the population as 401, excluding groups that might have been missed in the dense riverine forests. The long term survival of this healthy population is however threatened by the increasing fragmentation of the adjoining natural forests, including their traditional

migratory corridors. These coupled with Chinese contractor working in the area has escalated elephant casualties in the park, within their migratory corridor and in farmlands where they go raiding crops. According to H. Jachmann (2008) about 40 elephants from this population get killed annually, 30 of them outside the park during seasonal migration and while raiding crops.

This project will help secure the park's elephant population through effective law enforcement within the park, monitoring and safeguarding their movement through the corridor and collaborate with the local communities to check and control invasion and marauding of their farms and to reduce or prevent retaliatory the killings.

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)

Priority Objectives

1. Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trade in elephant products
2. Secure and maintain the habitat of the elephant population in Mole including its corridors including a small isolated in the Red Volta Valley
3. Reduce Human-Elephant Conflicts (HEC)
4. Secure Transboundary migratory route between the Red Volta Valley(Ghana) and the Kabore-Tambi NP in Burkina Faso.

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 African elephant population of West Africa has reached critically low numbers. The majority of surviving populations in the region are small, highly fragmented, surrounded by rapidly growing human populations and in many countries are primarily restricted to Protected Areas. 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 integrity of elephants in the region. It is clear that unless urgent action is taken immediately, the number of elephants in Ghana is likely to continue declining precipitously.

The 2007 IUCN African Elephant Status Report lists nine areas in Ghana with elephant populations. Five of these have extremely small populations, comprising less than 100 elephants. Of the remainder, Mole National Park has the largest population, estimated at more than 400 (Bouche' 2007) of which majority are restricted to the southern sector of the Park. The second largest population is in Digya NP, with an estimated 350 elephants. These two Parks benefitted from relatively recent (2006) surveys, whereas the surveys

relied on for population figures for the remaining 7 areas date as far back as 1998. 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. However, resources available for elephant conservation initiatives are currently not enough to ensure adequate protection of the populations. Being the largest and probably the only viable savannah population in Ghana, the Wildlife Division considers the Mole population as the single most important population and as such the necessary steps have been taken to ensure that this population remains viable in the long term.

The long term survival of the Mole population is however threatened by a number of factors including isolation resulting from obstruction of its natural corridors, poaching, human-elephant conflict including crop raiding and consequential retaliatory killing, among others. Two of the historical three corridors no longer provide safe passage for this population. The Mole- Nazinga Game Reserve (Burkina Faso) and the Mole- Gbele Resource Reserve corridors that hitherto, served as the North-Eastern and North-Western corridors respectively for the population have been lost to increased human settlements and activities. The Mole-Kenikeni-Yerada-Yakombo Forest Reserve-Bui National Park (South-West) is the third corridor and currently the only one still utilized by the population, even though this is also becoming somewhat unsafe for the seasonal migration of the population.

The over 33 communities fringing the park has an estimated population of 40,000. The activities of these communities place considerable pressure on the park and its resources as they convert lands including forested areas adjacent to the park and nearby protected areas into settlements, farmlands and hunting grounds and responsible for the poaching of animals including the elephants in the park.

A further threat to elephants in Mole is posed by demand for ivory from foreign nationals. From 2008 to date, Chinese companies employed to carry out the construction of a sports stadium in nearby Tamale, the construction of the Bui hydro-electric dam and the construction of the Ffulso- Damongo-Sawla road have led to the influx of Chinese nationals in the area resulting in increased demand for ivory. The Chinese are reportedly offering high prices for elephant tusks. This situation has placed considerable pressure on the park's elephant population which is also the main tourists attraction accounting for the over 14,000 tourists visiting the park annually and contributing to the local economy.

The Red Volta Valley Population and Ghana-Burkina Faso Transboundary population: A small resident population (20-30) is held up in the Red Volta Valley (RVV), closed to the Ghana-Burkina Faso border in the Upper East region of Ghana (about 360km North-East of Mole NP). It is surrounded by densely populated human settlements. An estimated 50-70 elephants from the Kabore-Tambi National Park (KTN) in South Burkina Faso make seasonal movement to and from the RVV through the narrow belt of gallery forest along the White Volta River which serves as a transboundary migratory route linking the two populations in Burkina Faso and Ghana. The trapped small population in the RVV and the migratory population from Burkina Faso during the rainy season are currently considered a national security threat due to the recurrent HEC in the

area for decades culminating in the loss of one human life in 2014 . A small team of Rangers from Mole NP are therefore positioned or frequently deployed to the areas to provide security to both human life and safety for the resident and migratory population from the KTNP.

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. The management of the Mole NP has combined these strategies over the last decade to protect the park and the elephant population in particular. The deployment of trained and motivated staff into newly constructed range camps, long range/extended patrols, recruitment of informants in the nearby communities to provide intelligence information to the law enforcement unit, information gathering using GPS by field staff, the introduction of a computerized monitoring system and the sensitization of staff of critical stakeholders such as the police and the judicial service, are all measures put in place over the last decade in Mole NP to strengthen law enforcement.

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 Committees (CRMCs) in 25 of the 33 communities, Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) and the Protected Area Management Advisory Units (PAMAUs). An elaborate Conservation and Public Awareness messages and programmes targeting community members and particularly schools were developed and embarked upon. These interventions and activities were largely supported by the Wildlife Division Support Project (WDSP) funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) between 2002 and 2008. Even though these programmes and activities are still running, they are not as effective as they should due to financial and logistical constraints when WDSP came to an end.

The support being requested from the African Elephant Fund (AEF) is therefore to reactivate and augment initiatives and efforts by the Wildlife division that have proven effective in the past and other new initiatives to strengthen the conservation of the elephant populations and their corridors in Mole NP and in the Red Volta Valley including the transboundary population from the Kabore-Tambi NP in Southern Burkina Faso.

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.

Law enforcement:

The Park currently has a 120-man anti-poaching patrol squad. A special taskforce will be formed out of this squad, trained, equipped and well-resourced to undertake the following;

- 1.1.** Conduct patrols in and along the park boundary, especially in those areas utilized by the elephants to protect and secure the elephant population and habitat.
- 1.2.** Reactivate the informer network, especially in communities where the Chinese buyers are suspected to be operating
- 1.3.** Liaise with the Ghana Police Service to mount road blocks to make seizures and arrests of people with elephant tasks and other products.
- 1.4.** Lobby Police, Prosecutors and the Courts to appreciate help in the fight against poaching and trade in elephant products.

2.0 Secure and maintain the habitat of the Mole elephant population including its corridors

2.1 Equip and resource the parks anti-poaching unit to effectively patrols within the park to combat poaching, encroachments and other illegal activities in the park and its immediate surroundings

2.2 Extend anti-poaching patrols into the Kenikeni, Yerada and and Yakombo Forest Reserves which serves as the only remaining migratory corridor and seasonally used by the population and where an estimated 30 elephants are killed annually. The three Forest Reserves and patches of unreserved areas is estimated at about 3,833km².

2.3. Identify the settler communities in the corridor and form CRMCs to help educate the settlers in the corridor and other areas outside the park with high elephant presence.

2.4. Recruit informants within the corridor and aid them with such resources to report the presence and activities of elephants in their areas to the park authorities to enhance monitoring and protection.

2.4. Educate and encourage farmers, especially those in the unreserved areas within the corridor not to block or obstruct the traditional routes of the elephants in the corridor with crop fields.

2.5 Prepare and install signage to indicate the wildlife corridor along the Fulfulso-Sawla highway in order to create awareness among the population

3.0. Reduce Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC).

3.1. Identify and map crop field vulnerable to elephant raid and support the farmers to protect their farms when the crops are getting matured and conducting patrols along the affected park boundaries to drive back the marauding elephants into the park

- 3.2. Introduce farmers to simple techniques capable of warding elephants from crop fields.
- 3.3. Educate and assist farmers in vulnerable communities to relocate their farms further from the park and grow crops that are not attractive to the elephants.
- 3.4. Carry out Conservation Education and Public Awareness Programmes in schools and communities fringing the park on the benefits of conservation in general and the park's elephant population in particular as the key economic drive to tourism development in the area, especially on CREMA lands.
- 3.5. Reactivate wildlife clubs in schools and communities that are currently dormant into "Friends of Mole Elephants" and support them to function as watchdog committees in their various communities.

4.0 Maintain Elephant habitat in the Red Volta Valley (RRV) and secure the migratory route between the Valley (Ghana) and the KT NP in Burkina Faso.

- 4.1. Establish working relationship with the authority in KT NP to monitor and update each other on the seasonal movement of elephants across the common border.
- 4.2. Collaborate with our counterparts in KT NP to formulate joint Programmes for the management of the migratory route.
- 4.3. Support the Wildlife Rangers deployed to the RRV with logistics and resources to effectively protect both human life and the resident and visiting elephant populations
- 4.5. Collaborate with relevant organizations in the area to educate farmers to reduce the rate of fragmentation especially within the unreserved portions of the valley and also on safety precautions for farmers when they get into contact with elephants in their farms or settlement in order to avoid casualties.

Reporting Procedures: The Park Manager will compile and submit Monthly progress of the project to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Division who doubles as the supervisor of the Project for onward submission to AEF secretariat either on monthly, bimonthly or quarterly depending on the project requirement.

6.0 Project Timeline –

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

#	OBJECTIVE/CTIVITY	OCT 2015	NOV 2015	DEC 2015	JAN 2016	FEB 2016	MAR 2016
1	Planning of Project activities						
2	Procurement of Project Equipment						
3.0	Implementation of activities						
3.1	<i>Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trade in elephant products</i>						

3.1.1	Train 120 Field Rangers in Law Enforcement					
3.1.2	Conduct Ranger Patrols within the park					
3.1.3	Reactivate/recruit informants					
3.1.4	Collaborate with National security to conduct Road block					
3.1.5	Lobby Prosecutors/Courts to prefer punitive sanctions against elephant crimes					
3.2	<i>Secure and Maintain the Mole Elephant Population including its Corridors</i>					
3.2.1	Equip and Resource Anti-Poaching Taskforce for the corridor					
3.2.2	Conduct Ranger Patrols in the Wildlife Corridor					
3.2.3	Sensitize Local Communities on Elephant Migratory routes in their settlements					
3.2.4	Recruit Volunteer to monitor and provide information on elephant presence and activities in the corridor					
3.2.5	Prepare and erect outdoor Billboards along the corridor to create public awareness					
3.3	Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) around MNP					
3.3.1	Identify and map communities vulnerable to elephant crop raids					
3.3.2	Train 100 Farmers in simple but effective techniques to reduce HEC and losses					
3.3.3	Support affected and willing farmers to relocate their farms away from the park					
3.3.4	Carry out conservation education in fringe communities and schools					
3.3.5	Form wildlife clubs in schools to become watchdog of Mole elephants					
3.4	<i>Maintain Elephant habitat in the RVV and Secure the migratory route between the sites</i>					
3.4.1	Collaborate with management of K-TNP and Monitor and exchange information on the movement of elephants in the corridor					
3.4.2	Collaborate with Counter parts in KT NP on joint initiatives to secure migratory route					
3.4.3	Resource the wildlife rangers deployed at the RVV to effectively protect both human life and the elephant population					
3.4.4	Sensitize residents to avoid settling on the					

	migratory routes and acts that irritates the elephants.					
4.0	Monitor and Evaluate Project implementation					
5.0	Project Validation and Reporting					

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):

NB: The Pride of Ghana is an on-going lion research and conservation and public awareness Project. It is a collaboration between the wildlife Division and Ricerca E Cooperazione, (RC) a Ghanaian based Italian NGO which has a component for staff training, community sensitization and provision of some research equipment. The Project which is jointly funded by the wildlife Division (Ghana), the Italian government and RC has its focus on lion research, construction of a research centre in the park and community-based tourism initiatives.

Contribution of funds by partners is as follows:

Italian Government....€839,993.32

RC.....€265,264.42

WD (Ghana)... .€576,092.00 (largely in kind: Infrastructure and staff)

The project is officially ending in December 2015 but with a component for monitoring until June 2016. It has no any restrictions.

Wildlife Division (WD)

The government of Ghana through the Ministry of Lands and Natural resources and the Forestry Commission empower the Wildlife Division to conserve and manage wildlife resources in the country. As such, the government through the ministry pays the salaries of staff of the wildlife division and provide partial funding for the operations and management of Ghana's Protected Areas.

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:

Any other budget lines:

Full Proposal Budget			
		Expected source of funds and amounts	
Budget line	Proponent(GOVT.) US\$	AEF US\$	

	Field Equipment (please list the equipment) [GPS Units, Tents, Cameras, haversack and Motorbikes]			
1.			35,000	
2.	Meetings/workshop	2,000	6,000	
3.	Production of Awareness and Education materials	1,000	8,000	
4.	Capacity building (Training)	1,000	15,000	
5.	GIS Expert/Software		5,000	
	Field supplies for 120 Rangers (e.g. Ranger uniform, boots, rain coats water bottles etc.)			
6.		18,000	18,000	
	Ranger Patrol supplies [Fuel, GPS batteries, ration etc.]			
7.		6,000	26,640	
	Form informer network, Volunteers and wildlife clubs			
8.			6,000	
	Assist up to 40 farmers whose farms are close to park and vulnerable to crop raids to relocate			
9.			8,000	
	Salaries and Allowances for 120 Rangers for 6 months			
10.		90,000		
	Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects Implementation			
11			4,000	
12	Final validation and reporting		2,000	
	TOTAL	118,000	133,640	

7.2 Please specify the proponents contribution towards the project

Wildlife Division (Ghana Gov't)US\$118,000
African Elephant Fund:US\$133,640
Total Budget.....US\$251,640

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.