



LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE

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PROGRESS REPORT ON LATF'S PROJECT TITLED "STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY TO COMBAT ELEPHANT POACHING AND IVORY TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL AFRICA"

JANUARY 2016

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



**LUSAKA AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS DIRECTED AT
ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD FAUNA AND FLORA**

"FOSTERING COOPERATION TO CONSERVE WILD FAUNA AND FLORA"

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In November 2015, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) received funding amounting to **USD 30,000**, being advance payment of the total grant (USD 39,550), from the African Elephant Fund to support a Project titled *“Strengthening law enforcement capacity to combat elephant poaching and ivory trafficking in Central Africa”* under Small Scale Funding Agreement SSFA: 2015-32EAP-SB-000676-11267-14AC0004.
- 1.2 The Project is designed to support capacity building for wildlife law enforcement personnel whose responsibilities include the fight against elephant poaching in Cameroun, Central African Republic (CAR) and Republic of Congo and especially within the Sangha Trinational Site (TNS).

2. Goal/Objectives of the training

- 2.1 This Project is in line with Priority Objective 1 of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) which seeks to reduce the illegal killing of African elephants and illegal trade in Elephant products. The project will address Strategy 1.1. To strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.
- 2.2 The Project is also in line with Strategy 1.4 Strengthen the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants, Activity 1.4.1. Build capacity of judiciary, police and other enforcement agencies to effectively enforce laws both at national and international levels.

3. Status of the preparations

- 3.1 The six-day training to be held from **25th – 30th January 2016** at the **CIB-PROGEPP Conference Room** in **Kabo/Ouesso, Congo** will draw 25 law enforcement personnel of the Sangha Trinational Site (Congo/Cameroun/CAR) mainly comprising senior enforcement, investigators and intelligence personnel in Congo, Cameroun and Central African Republic.
- 3.2 Official communication has been made to the CEOs/Heads of targeted Wildlife Authorities/agencies/units and dignitaries regarding the training. The invitation letters were accompanied by the Concept and tentative Programme/Timetable of the Training;
- 3.3 The Director of LATF visited Brazzaville, Congo in December 2015 and held a series of consultative meetings with the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development ,

Directors Congo BNAL and other officials of participating agencies in preparation for the training;

- 3.4 The participants and resource persons have been identified/nominated and are well prepared for the training;
- 3.5 Resource persons will be drawn from LATF, NCB –INTERPOL Brazzaville, Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development (MFESD), National Police Service Directorate (NPSD), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and National Bureau to the Lusaka Agreement (NBLA) of the Republic of Congo.
- 3.6 The training will be held under supervision of the Director of LATF who will also serve as a resource person;
- 3.7 The training venue/conference facilities and accommodation for participants have been reserved/booked. All the participants will be accommodated in Kabo/Ouessou and requisite arrangements are in place;
- 3.8 The Minister for Forest Economy and Sustainable Development or his representative will grace the opening and closing sessions.
- 3.9 Observers from AEF/UNEP, National Commission for UNESCO Congo, WCS and TNS Coordination Team will have been invited to attend the sessions as appropriate. There will be media coverage by specialised local reporters.

The tentative composition of confirmed participants is as follows:

| Agency | Cam | CAR | Congo | Resource pax | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Participants : | | | | | |
| 1. TNS Congo site | | | 5 | | 5 |
| 2. TNS Cameroun site | 5 | | | | 5 |
| 3. TNS Central African Republic site | | 5 | | | 5 |
| 4. TNS Enforcement Brigade Kabo | | | 5 | | 5 |
| 5. TNS Enfoncement Unit PROGEPP Kabo | | | 5 | | 5 |
| Sub-total | 5 | 5 | 15 | | 25 |
| Resource persons/Facilitators: | | | | | |
| 1. LATF | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 2. NCB-INTERPOL | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 3. MFESD/Congo NBLA/CAFPA* | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 5. ODPP | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Grand Total | 5 | 5 | 15 | 6 | 31 |

**MFESD – Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development of Congo; NBLA – Congo National Bureau to the Lusaka Agreement; CAFPA – Congo Agency for Fauna and Protected Areas.*

- 3.9.1 Training materials, certificates as well as promotional materials (banners etc) have been developed and/or procured;
- 3.9.2 Travel arrangements for trainees/participants and resource persons have been made;
- 3.9.3 The Chief Guest to grace and preside over the opening session on 25th January 2016 will be the Minister of Forestry and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Congo or his representative. The LATF Director and TNS Chief Coordinator will also attend and give remarks at the opening session.
- 3.9.4 The training's Concept and Programme (outlining topics to be covered) are annexed to this report as **I** and **II** respectively;
- 3.9.5 To date, LATF has made commitments to suppliers and service providers consistent with items budgets earlier submitted to and approved by AEF.

4. Budget and Financing

- 4.1 The total budgeted cost of the project is **SD 39,550** will be fully financed by African Elephant Fund.
- 4.2 LATF does not envisage any budget overruns or significant cost variations from the approved budgets of the project.
- 4.3 LATF, Congo BNAL, CAFPA, Police and ODPP will make in-kind contribution in terms of technical expertise and use of own equipment.

5. Reporting

The narrative and financial accountability reports of the project will be submitted to African Elephant Fund Steering Committee by 29th February 2016.

6. Appreciation

LATF, on behalf of itself and the beneficiary countries, expresses its deep gratitude to the African Elephant Fund for supporting this Project that significantly contributes to the fight against wildlife crime thereby facilitating implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.



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CONCEPT NOTE

LATF TRAINING FOR SANGHA TRI-NATIONAL SITE (TNS) _ ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

OUESSO, CONGO - JANUARY 2016

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) in collaboration with Congo BNAL

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



1. Summary

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Beneficiaries of the training: | Cameroun, Central African Republic and Republic Congo (TNS) |
| Objective of the training: | Strengthening law enforcement capacity to combat elephant poaching and ivory trafficking in Central Africa - Intelligence & Investigations & Prosecution |
| Tentative duration and period: | At least 5 days, End January 2016 |
| Tentative number of trainees: | At least 25 TNS enforcement personnel |
| Partners: | LATF, BNAL, MEFDD, TNS, National Police, Prosecutors, Judiciary, CAFPA, INTERPOL-NCB, National Commission for UNESCO, UNEP-AEF |
| Training Organizers: | -Lusaka Agreement Task Force –LATF, -Congo National Bureau to Lusaka Agreement (Congo BNAL) -TNS Directorate |
| Project Supervisor: | Bonaventure EBAYI P.O. Box : 3533-00506 Nairobi Tel: +254 20 2513345/ 722 204008 Email: Administrator@lusakaagreement.org |

2. Introduction/Background

Following successful securing of funding from AEF-UNEP by LATF on behalf of Congo, Cameroun and Central African Republic, LATF will leverage its experience and competence in undertaking regional specialized training for enforcement personnel. The training is designed to address identified skills and knowledge gaps for wildlife law enforcement personnel whose responsibilities include the fight against elephant poaching in Cameroun, Central African Republic (CAR) and Republic of Congo. This is in response to the growing elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory, in the Sangha Trinational Site (TNS) a Trans-boundary conservation ecosystem in the North-western Congo Basin where Cameroon, the

Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo converge. The objective is to strengthen law enforcement capacity in the target countries to effectively surmount the increasing challenge of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade.

LATF in collaboration with the CITES Management Authorities in the three (3) countries, National Bureau to Lusaka Agreement and TNS Directorate will organize and undertake a 5 day specialized training of trainers course for wildlife law enforcement officers in Ouessou, Congo (Brazzaville) involving 25 trainees drawn from Sangha Trinational Site. The training will be provided by at least five (5) experienced trainers drawn from LATF, ICCWC Partners and National Agencies (Police, Wildlife Authority, Directorate of Public Prosecution and National Intelligence Service and the Judiciary).

This training is in line with Priority Objective 1 of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) which seeks to reduce the illegal killing of African elephants and illegal trade in Elephant products. The training will address 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 and 1.1.2. Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.

The training also is in line with Strategy 1.4 Strengthen the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants, Activity 1.4.1. Build capacity of judiciary, police and other enforcement agencies to effectively enforce laws both at national and international levels.

3. Training Rationale

Poaching of elephants in the Central African region is reported to be on the increase. The political instability in CAR has exacerbated the problem. According to the 2013 MIKE/ETIS¹ report, the Central African Region has consistently shown high PIKE (Proportion of Illegally killed Elephants) ratios of more than 0.8 indicating that more than 80% of elephants found dead were deemed illegally killed. The poaching levels are higher in the Central African region compared to the Southern and Eastern African regions. Maisels *et al*,

¹ *Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants/ Elephant Trade Information System of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*

(2013)² in a recent modeling exercise estimated that the elephant population across Central Africa declined by more than 60% in the last 10 years.

With regard to illegal trafficking of ivory, Cameroun and Congo are clustered together with countries of a secondary level of concern in the 2013 MIKE/ETIS report as they repeatedly play important supporting roles in the illicit ivory trade. They represent a mix of source, transit and exit countries and territories for illicit consignments of ivory from Africa. The report recommends that countries in this cluster which includes Cameroun and Congo need to strengthen law enforcement effort as they are occasionally involved in large-scale movements of ivory, and therefore play host to organized crime syndicates. As such ivory trade issues in these countries deserve greater focus at national and Trans-national levels.

In light of the foregoing, strengthening of law enforcement capacity to combat elephant poaching and trafficking in Cameroun, CAR and Congo especially in the Sangha Trinational Site, a World Heritage Site as well as a key habitat for forest elephants, remain of great importance to reverse the high levels of poaching currently being experienced. If left unattended, the illegal killing of elephants in the Congo Basin region poses a serious threat of their extinction.

4. Justification

This training will be implemented by LATF in collaboration with Wildlife Authorities of the three countries namely Cameroun, CAR and Congo and other partnering agencies/organizations. It will focus on the Sangha Trinational Site (TNS) which is a trans-boundary conservation complex in the North-western Congo Basin where Cameroon, CAR and the Congo meet. TNS encompasses three contiguous national parks, with an area of 746,309 hectares comprising Lobéké National Park in Cameroon, Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in CAR and Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park in Congo. Dzanga-Ndoki National Park comprises two distinct units connected by a buffer zone of 1,787,950 hectares which includes Dzanga-Sanga Forest Reserve in CAR. TNS is very rich in biodiversity and a key habitat to forest elephants, Western Lowland Gorilla and the Chimpanzee, Nile Crocodile as well as the Goliath Tigerfish. In recent years, the area has reported a significant decrease in elephants and other large mammal populations, and experts fear that organized groups of poachers are taking advantage of the current political situation in the Central African

² Maisels F, Strindberg S, Blake S, Wittemyer G, Hart J, et al. (2013) Devastating Decline of Forest Elephants in Central Africa. *PLoS ONE* 8(3): e59469. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0059469

Republic to expand their illicit operations in the region.

This training Programme seeks to strengthen law enforcement in the TNS focusing on Intelligence and Investigation Techniques and Judicial procedures. LATF has in the past successfully conducted cross border wildlife enforcement mentorship workshops in the TNS areas which promoted an understanding of the common enforcement challenges in the region and recommended for joint undertakings such as the envisaged training intervention. To this effect, TNS has established anti-poaching unit comprising officers from the three (3) States that require to be trained to effectively carry out their mandate. It is noted that in July 2015, LATF and BNAL carried out a basic training course for TNS with the support of National Commission for UNESCO. In this respect, LATF plans to undertake this specialized course as a Training of Trainers to impart knowledge and skills to the officers of the transnational Unit. The trainees will be drawn from wildlife authorities/transnational units while at least five (5) trainers will be drawn from LATF, ICCWC Partners and National Agencies.

5. Anticipated Benefits and results

The training course will contribute to disruption of the criminal networks that engage in poaching of elephants and illegal trade in ivory their parts, products and derivatives. The project will achieve the following benefits/results:

- i) At least 25 law enforcement officers drawn from wildlife authorities will directly benefit from the training through enhanced skills, knowledge and awareness on wildlife law enforcement; this core team of trainers will in turn impart the skills learnt to their workmates during subsequent trainings in their respective countries
- ii) Improved performance of enforcement officers in intelligence gathering, enforcement operations and investigations as well as regional collaboration will go a long way in securing the Elephants in their natural habitats in the Sangha Trinational Site/Ecosystem.
- iii) Reduced poaching will also safeguard the female elephant (matriarch), a prime target by poachers, whose killing leaves the rest of the family members vulnerable to poaching resulting from loss of guidance and breakdown of family structure.
- iv) Improved law enforcement will enhance species reproduction and hence the attainment of optimal sex ratios and age structures leading to viable elephant populations in the long run.

The main output of the training will be skilled enforcement personnel and a strong wildlife enforcement network that can reduce poaching and trafficking in the three countries while cooperating effectively with other affected countries. The trained officers will also be able to train more officers in their respective countries.

6. Training Preparation Activities

The specific activities will include:-

- i) Developing of the Training Program;
- ii) Selection and accreditation of participants;
- iii) Identification of resource persons/facilitators;
- iv) Booking of training venue, facilities and accommodation;
- v) Facilitation of travel for participants and resource persons to the training venue;
- vi) Convening of the training;
- vii) Reporting to African Elephant Fund/UNEP.

UNEP - AEF and other interested parties such as UNESCO may wish to send representatives to observe the proceedings of the training. LATF will carry out overall monitoring and evaluation of the training to ensure that the objectives are attained. Trainees will also be invited to fill an evaluation form on completion of the training to determine whether training delivery was in line with their needs and expectations.

Further, the success of the planned training will be evaluated by assessing the effect and trainees' performance and service delivery within their Units through subsequent law enforcement operations. Their technical reports and feedback will be used as yardsticks for measuring the improvement in performance.

7. Activity Work-plan

| # | Activity | Responsible | Timeline |
|-------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| i) | Notification to partnering agencies/countries | LAT & BNAL | 30 th Nov 2015 |
| ii) | Develop Training Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept Note • Topics and Timetable • Teaching materials | LATF&BNAL | 15 th Dec 2015 |
| iii) | Selection and accreditation of the trainees and identification/contacting the resource persons /facilitators and guests | BNAL&TNS & LATF | 15 th Dec 2015 |
| iv) | Booking of training venue, facilities and accommodation. | BNAL&TNS | 20 th Dec 2015 |
| v) | Production of banners and Certificates | LATF&BNAL | 30 th Dec 2015 |
| vi) | Progress report to UNEP-AEF | LATF | 8 th Jan 2016 |
| vii) | Facilitation of travel of participants and resource persons to the training venue | LATF&BNAL | 10 th Jan 2016 |
| viii) | Purchasing and branding of training stationery | LATF&BNAL | 10 th Jan 2016 |
| ix) | Convene training of trainers for 25 law enforcement personnel of the TNS unit (Congo/Cameroun/CAR) in Congo | LATF&BNAL&TNS | 25 th Jan 2016 |
| x) | Preparation and submission of the Project /Training financial accountability reports to AEF/UNEP. | LATF | 26 th February 2016 |

8. Methodology

The training will be organized by LATF in collaboration with BNAL and TNS Directorate. It will be carried out under auspices of the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Congo. The sessions will be conducted through presentations/lecturing and demonstrations, group work and practical exercises as well as round-table discussions to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences. Specialized video materials will also be used as appropriate. The trainees will be issued with Certificates of Training Completion signed by the Minister for Forest Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Congo, TNS Coordinator and Director of LATF.

The main training components will include:

- i. Overview
- ii. TNS initiative, MEAs and Biodiversity related Conventions
- iii. Intelligence
- iv. Investigations Techniques
- v. Crime Scene Proceedings
- vi. Judicial Procedures
- vii. Field Practices



TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR SANGHA TNS

Date: 25th – 30th January 2016
Venue: CIB-PROGEPP Conference Room,
Kabo/Ouesso, Congo



Provisional Programme

| DAY | SESSIONS | COURSE TOPICS | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 1 | Arrival at the training venue | | All |
| 2 | Session 1 Opening and introduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration of participants - Introduction of participants - Opening Ceremony - Group Photo and Health Break | BNAL All LATF All |
| | Session 2 : Course Introduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expectations of the Training - Participants' knowledge assessment - Presentation on course objectives - Basic Ecology overview, - Biodiversity related Conventions and Agreements - Basic training techniques - Tailored teaching methods | LATF LATF LATF LATF LATF BNAL BNAL |
| 3 | Session 3 : Judicial processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Penal Code - Investigation Techniques - Judicial Investigation - Judicial Processes - Round table discussions - Session Evaluation | Prosecutor LATF Prosecutor Police BNAL LATF |

| DAY | SESSIONS | COURSE TOPICS | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 4 | Session 4 : Techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intelligence Techniques - Intelligence Agent/Officer - Surveillance - Informant Recruitment and management - Arrests & Seizure proceedings | Police/BNAL LATF BNAL BNAL Police |
| 5 | Session 5 : Techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime Scene Inspection & management - Interview & Interrogation Techniques - Evidence management (chain of custody) - Undercover Operations - Protective Security - Intelligence teamwork preparations - Briefing and De-briefing - Intelligence gathering techniques - Surveillance - Case file compilation processes | Police Police/LATF BNAL LATF Police LATF BNAL LATF BNAL Police Police |
| 6 | Session 6 : | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants knowledge assessment - Field practical exercises - Training Milestones & Course Evaluation - Participants round table discussions and recommendations | LATF/BNAL LATF/BNAL BNAL/Participants Participants |
| | Session 7 : Closure of the training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of Certificates - Vote of thanks - Closing remarks - Cocktail | Congo/LATF Participants Congo/LATF/TNS LATF/BNAL |
| 7 | Departure | | All |