



Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

1.1 Country: Nigeria

1.2 Project Title: Improving Law Enforcement and Reducing Elephant Poaching in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park through SMART

1.3 Project Location: Oban Division of Cross River National Park

1.4 Overall Project Cost: \$41,528

AMOUNT Requested from African Elephant Fund: \$25,310

1.5 Project Duration: 12 months

1.6 Project Proponents: Federal Ministry of the Environment in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society

1.7 Name of Project Supervisors: Dr Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewele and Dr. Inaoyom Imong

1.8 Address of Project Supervisors: (1) Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry, Plot 393/394 Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utako District, Abuja, Nigeria; and (2) 302 Bishop Moynagh Avenue, Calabar, Cross River State

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1.12 Date proposal submitted: 30 December 2017

2.0 Project Summary:

Covering 4,000 km² of rainforest, the Cross River National Park (CRNP) is an important site for elephant conservation in Nigeria. Up-to-date data on population size is lacking, but the population is likely declining due to poaching. Surveys in the late 1990s estimated a population of 74 elephants in the Park. CRNP consists of two separate Divisions – Okwangwo and Oban. This project focuses on the Oban Division which covers 3000 km² and is contiguous with Korup National Park, Cameroon. In addition to elephant, Oban is also home to other important endangered wildlife including Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*), Preuss's red colobus (*Piliocolobus preussi*), Drill monkey (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), and Slender-snouted crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*). However, Oban has been neglected and poorly protected for many years. As a result, hunting is widespread and elephants are often targeted by poachers. 3-4 cases of elephant poaching are reported each year although the actual number killed is likely much higher. In addition to poaching, habitat loss from farming and logging is an increasing threat. In 2016, WCS launched a law enforcement monitoring project in Oban based on SMART to address these threats. Since the start of SMART patrols in Oban, levels of hunting have gradually declined, but current patrol effort and coverage is limited and more patrols are needed to achieve significant impact. **This project aims to improve protection of elephants in Oban by increasing the number, coverage and effectiveness of patrols. The project also aims to raise levels of awareness and community support for conservation.**

3.0 Which Priority Objectives and Activities in the African Elephant Action Plan does this project fall under?

This project addresses **AEAP Priority Objective 1: Reduce Illegal Killing of Elephants and Illegal Trade in Elephant Products**, **AEAP Priority Objective 2: Maintain Elephant Habitats and Restore Connectivity**, and **AEAP Priority Objective 4: Increased Awareness on Elephant Conservation and Management of Key Stakeholders that include Policy Makers, Local Communities among other Interest Groups**.

To achieve these objectives, the project will implement:

AEAP Priority Activity 1.1.3: Equip wildlife authority staff on the frontline of enforcement with appropriate tools to carry out their mission as safely and as effectively as possible.

AEAP Priority Activity 2.4.1: Provide adequate resources for effective management of existing protected areas and dispersal areas.

AEAP Priority Activity 4.1.2: Develop and implement awareness programs targeting schools, local communities, policy makers, NGOs, business sectors, etc.

4.0 Project Rationale

Covering 3,000 km² of largely intact forest, Oban is an important site for forest elephant conservation in Nigeria. Yet the site has been neglected and poorly protected for many years, leaving hunting largely uncontrolled. Surveys in the late 1990s estimated a population of 74 elephants for the entire Park. Up-to-date data on the size of the Oban population is lacking, but it is likely declining due to poaching. It is estimated that 3-4 elephants are killed each year in Oban (possibly more). In addition to poaching, habitat loss from farming and logging is an increasing threat.

Park rangers are inadequately trained, and lack basic equipment and field supplies to carry out effective patrols. In 2016, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) launched a new project in Oban focusing on improving law enforcement monitoring through the use of SMART. SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) represents a major step forward for improved site-based conservation. SMART's software and training materials both extend and simplify existing technologies for monitoring efforts to tackle poaching and other illegal activities, making those technologies more effective, efficient and user friendly. For more information please see <http://smartconservationtools.org/>

WCS has an MoU with the National Park Service to provide support to Cross River National Park, but is not directly responsible for the management or protection of the park itself. Since starting SMART based patrols in Oban, effectiveness of law enforcement patrols has improved and levels of hunting are gradually declining. However, much greater patrol effort and coverage is required. In addition to poaching, habitat loss from farming and logging is an increasing threat to the elephant population. This project aims to improve the protection of elephants in Oban by increasing the number, coverage, and effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols. The project also aims to raise levels of awareness and community support for forest elephant conservation in Oban. It is hoped that this awareness raising can also help address the habitat loss from farming/logging and help improve park-community relations.

5.0 Detailed Proposal

Planning: The WCS project manager at Oban will work with CRNP staff at Oban to produce monthly patrol plans. Information from previous patrols will be used to plan subsequent patrols, targeting “hotspots” of illegal activities such as elephant poaching. WCS will provide logistical support and supervise all patrols to ensure that they are effective.

Procurement: field rations for ranger patrols including rice, beans, oil and salt, as well as fuel for vehicles used to support ranger patrols will be purchased locally by WCS. WCS will also purchase field equipment such as handheld computer devices used to collect data in the field, backpacks, boots, machetes, and first aid supplies for rangers to support patrols. Educational materials for conservation club activities and field supplies and fuel to support field trips and community meetings will also be purchased locally.

Implementation: 12 patrols will be organised by the WCS project manager at Oban each quarter in collaboration with CRNP staff. Each patrol team will comprise of 6-7 CRNP rangers and each patrol will last for 7 to 10 days. Data will be collected in the field by the patrol team using SMART. At the end of each patrol the WCS project manager will download all data into a SMART database and hold debriefing meetings with the rangers to gather feedback that can be incorporated into the planning of subsequent patrols. Refresher SMART training will be provided for CRNP rangers. The training will be done alongside patrols. CRNP rangers have previously been trained in SMART including using SMART data to plan patrols. CRNP management staff will also be trained to use SMART for patrol data analysis and reporting.

Working in collaboration with the CRNP education team, WCS will help to establish conservation clubs in schools around Oban to raise awareness and local support for the conservation of forest elephants. The project will also organize field trips and exchange visits for conservation clubs. Community meetings will be organized to discuss and raise awareness about elephants and generate support for their conservation. WCS will work to raise additional funds to ensure the long-term sustainability of these conservation clubs after the current project expires.

Monitoring and Evaluation: monthly debriefing meetings with the rangers will be used to troubleshoot and improve the effectiveness of the patrol program. Patrol data will be analysed monthly and quarterly by WCS and CRNP and used to adaptively manage the patrol program. Progress on the education and awareness program will be evaluated and documented in monthly and quarterly reports.

Reporting: WCS will produce monthly and quarterly reports based on the ranger patrols using SMART. Monthly and quarterly progress reports on the education and awareness activities will also be produced. These reports will be shared with CRNP and other stakeholders. At the end of the project a comprehensive final report will be produced by WCS and shared with all stakeholders.

Anticipated Outputs and Benefits

Output 1: twelve 10-day long-distance foot patrols completed each quarter by CRNP rangers.

Benefit 1: anti-poaching patrols reduce elephant poaching and destruction of elephant habitat in Oban.

Output 2: CRNP rangers receive refresher training in the use of SMART for anti-poaching patrols and law enforcement monitoring.

Benefit 2: SMART training and other technical and logistical support provided helps to raise morale among rangers and improve ranger performance.

Output 3: monthly reports circulated, and quarterly reports posted on the WCS Nigeria website <https://nigeria.wcs.org/>

Benefit 3: data on human activities and wildlife presented in monthly and quarterly reports used to adaptively manage the patrol program and improve project effectiveness.

Output 4: increased levels of awareness among communities.

Benefit 4: increased understanding of the importance of elephants results in increased support for their conservation and reduction in elephant poaching.

Output 5: a final project report including an evaluation of project effectiveness produced.

Benefit 5: communication of project impact creates increased interest and commitment among project stakeholders.

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.

<i>Milestones</i>	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Purchase of all field equipment completed by end of Q1	x			
Sufficient field rations & fuel purchased to sustain patrols each quarter	x	x	x	x
Twelve 10-day patrols completed each quarter	x	x	x	x
Refresher SMART training completed in Q2		x		
A detailed report produced each quarter	x	x	x	x
Final report produced in Q4				x
Establish conservation clubs in schools around Oban in Q1	x			
Support community meetings each quarter	x	x	x	x
Facilitate field trips and exchange visits between conservation clubs		x	x	x

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):

U.S Forest Service \$10,031 (August 2017 to July 2018)
Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation \$4,378 (January 2018 to December 2018)
North Carolina Zoo \$1,809 (January 2018 to December 2018)

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:

7.2 Please specify the proponents contribution towards the project

The proponent support is \$10,031

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.

TEMPLATE FOR PRESENTATION OF PROJECT BUDGET TO THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND
(Section 7.1 of the Project Proposal template)

FULL PROPOSAL BUDGET					
BUDGET LINE	Quantity/Days/ Participants	Cost/Unit	Expected source of funds and amounts		
			AEF	PROPONENT (GOVT.)	Other (Other NGO)
EQUIPMENTS/ GEAR/ SUPPLIES					
(If applicable list all purchases)					
Field rations (for 4 remote patrols/month)	48 patrols	105	2,000	3,040	
Vehicle fuel	12 months	70	840		
4 cybertrackers and accessories	4 pieces	750	3,000		
Field supplies (boots, machetes first aid supplies)	36 pieces	35	1,260		
Office supplies (for data sharing)	12 months	60	720		
Utilities (generator fuel)	12 months	60	720		
Communication (phone credit & data)	12 months	50	200	400	
TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING					
(If applicable: note number of participants, locations/venues, fees involved, activities involved, etc.)					
PRODUCTION OF AWARENESS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS					
(If applicable note all materials and prices for each item)					
Printing of customized school notebooks	2,000 pieces	1	2,000		
CONSULTANCY/PROFESSIONAL BACKSTOPPING SERVICES					
(If applicable note all services, number of consultants)					
Camping allowance (for 4 remote patrols/month)	48 patrols	175	4,523	2,877	1,000
Vehicle servicing & repairs	12 months	80	960		
Local transport to and from patrol sites	48 patrols	157	2,536	2,000	3,000
Local transport & travel for Education Officer	12 months	80	480		480
Overhead cost (20.60% of total direct costs)			4,151		
MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS					
(If applicable note all activities, number of participants involved, venues, etc.)					

TEMPLATE FOR PRESENTATION OF PROJECT BUDGET TO THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND
(Section 7.1 of the Project Proposal template)

Field trips & exchange visits	24 trips	65	910		650
TOTAL			24,300	8,317	5,130

Note: AEF funding does not offer provisions for:

- 1) Salaries**
- 2) Daily allowances & accommodation, unless it is part of training or activities in remote / rural areas**
- 3) Transport/ flights**
- 4) Vehicles, excluding bicycles and motorbikes**
- 5) Educational programmes - bursaries & interns.**