



## **Progress Report**

# **National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) of Ethiopia**



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## 1. SYNOPSIS OF 'NIAP' IMPLEMENTATION

It is known that Ethiopia is one of the elephant range states in Africa. Various evidences have shown that the country is identified as *source* and *transit* for illegal trafficking of wildlife products including elephant ivory. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) is a government organization established for managing and conserving wildlife resources of the country.

Like many other African countries, the wildlife resources of Ethiopia has faced various problems. Illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife is one of the challenges that is negatively affecting the wildlife resources particularly those species that have market value. This includes elephants which is mainly poached for its ivory and leopard mainly poached for its skin. EWCA is doing various activities to combat this crime and save the few elephants existing in the wild environment of the country today.

Awareness raising, conducting regular patrols, collaborating with law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally are among the activities performed by EWCA to address the challenge. Few years ago illegal trade in wildlife products particularly elephant ivory had been common in some places within the country. EWCA has worked in close cooperation with national law enforcement agencies such as Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority, Federal and Regional Police Commissions, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice (judiciaries), prosecutors and National Information and Security Service and with various partners such as INTERPOL, UNEP, LATF, Born Free Foundation, and IFAW to tackle illicit trade in wildlife and wildlife products. As a result of the collaborative effort, the illegal trade is highly minimized to the level which could be hard to notice its presence today.

The National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) which has been developed by EWCA in December 2014 as per the recommendation of the CITES secretariate is also one of EWCA's efforts to eradicate illegal ivory trade across the country. The action plan has organized in five sections and has a total of 13 priority/key actions each of which involves several activities to be done within the implementation period of the action plan.



The NIAP enters in to action ten months ago. During this period, various significant actions/activities have been undertaken including:-

- Inventory of ivory stocks completed.
- Destruction of 6.1 tones seized ivory products in an official ceremony has been carried out.
- As per the schedule the existing wildlife legislation is under review now, provisions associated with the penalty framework are reviewed.

In the last ten months, about 69 arrest cases happened in connection to illegal possession of wildlife and wildlife products in the country. Of which 65 of them were arrested at Bole International Airport Addis Ababa. Except two passengers, they all are transit passengers who have been departing from other countries. All the suspects were presented to the court and convicted and penalized with fine. A total of about 400,000 Ethiopian Birr have been collected via penalty.

Lack of dedicated vehicle for law enforcement activities, insufficient man power and, poor trans boundary collaboration are among the challenges we face during the implementation period of NIAP so far.

EWCA, in close cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders and partners will perform the remaining activities intended to be done within the implementation period of the NIAP as effectively and efficiently as possible (Details on NIAP implementation progress is given in the next section of this report)



## 2. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF ACTIONS

A total of 13 key/priority actions and several associated activities have been planned to be carried out during the implementation period of the action plan. The following table shows the implementation progress of each NIAP action/activities according to our assesment since the action plan put in place.

Catagory/Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear
<b>A. LEGISLATION</b>	Consultation with stake holders has taken place to collect input for reviewing the existing penalty frame work	The Wildlife crime related provisions in the existing legislations is under review by focusing on on the whether criminality are dettered.		
	Experience and policy and legal framework/level of fines and prison sentences of two other range states (Kenya & Tanzania) reviewed	Work to integrate subsidiary legislative provisions in to EWCA wildlife legislation.		
		Provide recommendations to EWCA and Regional states on the results of the analysis to dissolve the gaps and harmonize the laws		
		Gaps in wildlife legislations between the federal & regional wildlife identified through discussion		
		New penalty frame work for wildlife crime drafted and still undergoing refining.		



Category/Pillar	Substantially achieved	On truck	Challenging	Unclear
<b>B. PROSECUTION</b>	Experts from Ministry of justice consulted on how judiciaries can be made strictly apply wildlife crime legislations	Delivered training to increase knowledge and awareness of prosecutors, judiciaries and other stakeholders on seriousness of wildlife crimes and associated penalties	Hold a meeting with the ministry of justice to discuss on the applicability of the guidelines	
	Training materials for educating law enforcement officers has been developed.	Commence a system for collecting information on wildlife crime penalties being applied.		
	Wildlife & their products identification manual prepared and printed to assist LEO doing inspection and control duties.	Organize a meeting for prosecutors and judiciaries working in Federal and Regional states offices to share their experience on prosecution and successes/failure of court cases		
		Arrangement to deliver training to south police and judiciaries' staff is on progress.		
		Feasibility of deploying sniffer dog unit or other mechanism for BIA assessed.		



Category/Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear
	More than 100 custom staff trained on job at different checking points on wildlife identification and smuggling techniques to increase their detection capacity.	Current systems, equipment and capacity gaps at BIA, in relation to illegal trafficking control identified to some extent. (gap in transit luggage inspection)		
		Distribution of Wildlife & their products identification manual has been distributed to more than 10 sites.		
		BIA customs and other LEO trained with the help of IFAW and we plan to offer same training for those officers not trained before.		
<b>C. INTELLIGENCE and INVESTIGATIONS</b>	Inventory of ivory stocks completed, with the help of STOP IVORY. Completed the marking of all ivory in the stock pile to conform to CITES Resolution Conf.10.10	Recruited experts for strengthening wildlife intelligence units & offer relevant training from appropriate agencies	Establish intelligence networks at least in key entry & exit points, in suspected illegal trade spots and at elephant site levels	
	Confiscated Ivory stocks destroyed in an official ceremony via burning.	Develop Standard Operational Procedures for the handling and transport of ivory		
	Carried out an audit of the country's current system for the storage and management of confiscated wildlife products	Set up sampling protocols for large seizures to undertake analysis of origin of seized ivory		



Category/Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear
		Strengthen the security of confiscated ivory stockpile, with assigning special officers and by reconstructing the store.		
		Conducted regular stocktaking (collection) of wildlife specimens and maintain accurate database		
<b>D. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME</b>	Good collaboration in place; most cases involving illegal ivory trade successfully investigated and prosecuted	Contact with local security forces, intelligence bodies and other relevant agencies on regular base to identify actors and locations of current networks on illegal ivory smuggling		
	Two awareness workshops with Customs, Judiciary, Police at major ivory route border posts undertaken to sensitize these stakeholders	Enhance the understanding of National and Regional States law enforcement units on the severity & implications of illegal ivory trade & other wildlife crimes & CITES requirements		
	Discussion carried out with Police, Interpol, Customs and Immigration, National Army, Judiciary and Intelligence bodies to establish a National Task Force	National Task Force consisting of key stakeholders (EWCA, regions, customs, police, judiciary, military and other security agencies) in place		
	Critical land and air ivory trafficking routes and 'high risk flights' assessed and identified.	Participate in and work for the realization of the establishment of the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HA-WEN)		



Catagory/Pillar	Substantially achived	On truck	Challengeing	Unclear
	Maintain cooperation and communication with relevant international law enforcement agencies/ organizations like INTERPOL	Establish cross border and regional cooperation agreements with sister PAs and Governments		
		Conduct joint cross border meetings for sharing information and experience to improve collaboration (Somaliland)		
<b>E. LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</b>	Three covert/sudden operations on suspicious sites, areas, shops conducted	Trace origin of the ivory used for the trade to enable action to be taken at source before it reaches market		
		LE system in omo and mago national parks reviewed and key barriers to effectiveness addressed		
		Assess state of local ivory markets and routes		





### 3. DETAILED EVALUATION OF ACTIONS

Category/Pillar	Key Action name	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments) interms of state of activities
<b>A. LEGISLATION</b>	<b>A.1 Improve legal framework on wildlife crime with a focus on increasing deterrents</b>	On track	Existing wildlife legislations is under review, the reviewing team is advised to give due attention to provisions related to wildlife crime.
			Consultation with stake holders to collect in put on specific legislative provisions relating to ivory trade and elephant poaching have been undertaken.
			Reviewed the experience and legal framework/level of fines and prison sentences in other range states ( <a href="#">Kenya and Tanzania</a> )
			New penalty frame work (fines and prison sentences) to deter criminals in wildlife sector has been drafted.
			Drafting subsidiary legislative provisions relating to the control of illegal ivory trade and elephant poaching and support the ongoing process in EWCA to redraft new wildlife legislation
			A proposal has been developed and submitted to IFAW for technical and financial support to improve law enforcement in two national parks where elephant poaching is relatively common (Omo & Mago National Parks). 20000USD is approved.
	<b>A.2 Analyze the gaps between the Federal and Regional States wildlife legislations on wildlife crime; for harmonization &amp; enhancement of EWCA's and Regional wildlife legislation</b>	On track	Discussion with the federal & regional wildlife authorities to identify the gaps in their wildlife legislations in controlling illegal trade in ivory have been carried out.
Recommendations have been provided to EWCA and Regional states on the results of the analysis to dissolve the gaps and harmonize the laws. For instance the penalty frame work is highly variable in regional and federal levels; this should be harmonized to effectively deter criminality and reduce the crime on wildlife. Also both the regional and federal wildlife legislations lack some important provisions			



Category/Pillar	Key Action name	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments) interms of state of activities
<b>B. PROSECUTION</b>	<b>B.1 Increase prosecution rates for illegal ivory trade and trafficking</b>	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of justice consulted on how judiciaries can be made strictly apply wildlife crime legislations, circular letter written from the ministry to all regional justice office.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ So far Delivered 4 training to increase knowledge and awareness of prosecutors (xx) , judiciaries (xx) and other stakeholders (xx) on seriousness of wildlife crimes and associated penalties,</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developed a wildlife crime training materials in a local language to be used in judiciary, police &amp; prosecutors training colleges/ academy.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hold a meeting with the ministry of justice to discuss on the applicability of the guidelines. The meeting participants have explained a guideline is useful but it should be developed in line with the rules and regulation of the country's justice system. It must be endorsed first by the ministry of justice. We are consulting our legal officers how to develop the guidelines.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A meeting was organized for prosecutors and judiciaries working in Federal and Regional states offices to share their experience on prosecution and successes/failure of court cases. In this regard, the federal prosecutors and judiciaries are doing well but the regional's not yet.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A system for collecting information on wildlife crime penalties is being applied.</li> </ul>
	<b>B.2 Increase illegal ivory trafficking detection rates at international airport and land borders and along trafficking routes.</b>	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wildlife and wildlife products identification skills of customs, security, police officers &amp; defense force improved via offering training and distributing publications that can be used as identification guide.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ wildlife &amp; their products identification manual developed with local language and 5000 copies printed to assist wildlife law enforcement. The ID manual is primarily distributed to LEO doing inspection or control duties /customs, police and other /</li> </ul>



Category/Pillar	Key Action name	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments) interms of state of activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current systems, equipment and capacity gaps at BIA, with a focus on cargo systems and transit luggage inspection reviewed and identified. It is noted that transit luggage and large commodities shipped via the cargo are poorly inspected.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 62 custom staff working in southern regions have been trained on job about wildlife trafficking and its consequences.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distributed wildlife &amp; their products identification manual for more than ten suspected trafficking routes.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arrangement to deliver training for south region police and judiciaries is in progress.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assess feasibility and develop sniffer dog unit or other mechanism for BIA and provide recommendations and priorities for improving detection. Discussion made with federal police relevant section and we are promised to use the federal police dog school facilities. Hence, It looks feasible. AWF is ready to offer 4 detector dogs and to train 6 people on how to manage and use the dogs.</li> </ul>
<b>C. INTELLIGENCE &amp; INVESTIGATIONS</b>	<b>C.1 Strengthen the intelligence networks of EWCA up to site levels to curb illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.</b>	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6 experts have been recruited to strengthen law enforcement in elephant range areas.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Site level intelligence network start to operate at two key sites – Babile Elephant Sanctuary and Omo National Park.</li> </ul>
	<b>C.2 Improve system for handling, transporting and storing ivory, including data management.</b>	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inventory of the ivory stock piles completed with the support of STOP IVORY, with marking of all ivory in the stock pile to conform to CITES Resolution Conf.10.10</li> </ul>



Category/Pillar	Key Action name	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments) interms of state of activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6.1 tones of Confiscated ivory stocks destroyed in an official ceremony on March 20, 2015 by burning (see pictures in annex).</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An audit of the country’s current system for the storage and management of confiscated wildlife products has been carried out</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish intelligence networks at least in key entry &amp; exit points, in suspected illegal trade spots and at elephant site levels</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the security of confiscated ivory stockpile has been strengthened through the following measures:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- changing the location to more safe place</li> <li>- Assign additional well trained rangers for increasing security</li> <li>- Collaborate with federal police intelligence officers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular stocktaking (collection) of wildlife specimens conducted and accurate database put in place</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Standard Operational Procedures (OPS) for the handling and transport of ivory have been drafted (or in development)</li> </ul>
	<b>C.3 Increase forensic support for prosecution and detection of origin of seized ivory.</b>	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sampling protocols for large seizures to undertake analysis of origin of seized ivory have not developed yet.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working on what support required by police to implement forensics for the effective prosecution and investigation of wildlife crime.</li> </ul>
	<b>C.4 Develop wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures and take the necessary measures to ensure their implementation.</b>	On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inter-agency task force identified the right procedures to be followed to improve intelligence and investigation.</li> </ul>



Category/Pillar	Key Action name	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments) interms of state of activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developed project proposal seeking additional financial &amp; technical assistance for implementing the wildlife crime investigations and intelligence operations and secured fund from IFAW, AEF.</li> </ul>
<b>D. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME</b>	<b>D.1 Improve national cooperation to combat illegal ivory trade and trafficking.</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">On track</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eight awareness workshop with customs, police and judiciaries around the border areas have been undertaken. 652 law enforcement officers trained with this particular program.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good collaboration in place; all cases involving illegal ivory trade successfully investigated and prosecuted</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding of National and Regional States law enforcement units on the severity &amp; implications of illegal ivory trade &amp; other wildlife crimes &amp; CITES requirements enhanced via training.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact with local security forces, intelligence bodies and other relevant agencies on regular base to identify actors and locations of current networks on illegal ivory smuggling</li> </ul>
	<b>D.2 Develop a national strategy for enhancing inter-agency coolaboration and wildlife controband detection.</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantially achived</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion made with Police, Interpol, Customs and Immigration, National Army, Judiciary and Intelligence bodies to establish a National Task Force</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Task Force consisting of key stakeholders (EWCA, regions, customs, police, judiciary, military and other security agencies) in Addis ababa in April 2015.</li> </ul>
	<b>D.3 Improve international cooperation and collaboration to combat illegal ivory trade and trafficking.</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">On track or challenging?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Critical land and air ivory trafficking routes and ‘high risk flights’ assessed and identified. This has been done by analyzing the incidences happened so far at Bole Intl. Airport and other land points. And through discussion with customs, security, and police.</li> </ul>



Category/Pillar	Key Action name	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments) interms of state of activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen cross border and regional information sharing and network system including current security and contraband systems, for both elephant sites and trafficking routes. Ethiopia is working with the horn countries to fight illegal wildlife trafficking via HA-WEN initiative. The initiative is now progressing.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct joint cross border meetings for sharing information and experience to improve collaboration (somaliland)</li> </ul>
<b>E. LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</b>	<b>E.1. Reduce illegal domestic sales and domestic involvement in ivory trade.</b>	On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trace origin of the ivory used for the trade to enable action to be taken at source before it reaches market. This is done via intelligence gathering performed by experts of EWCA in collaboration with the federal police intelligence officers. And we also considered frequency of seizure cases happened at various parts of the country.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Based on the existing/ previous information, servay has been made indirectly to see whether the market is still there or not. The open market is 100 percent eliminated but hiden exist.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Three covert/sudden operations undertaken, two in Addis Ababa and one out side Addis Ababa in Tulu bolo (photo and video annexed)</li> </ul>
	<b>E.2 Site based law enforcement efforts strengthened with an initial focus on babile elephant sanctuary, gambella, mago and omo national parks.</b>	Challenging ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Law enforcement system in omo and mago national parks reviewed based on the reports submitted from the national parks office, and key barriers identified.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide personel security training TO 15 PA's staff in omo and mago national parks.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct additional 4000 man-days of pateroling in omo/mago national park</li> </ul>





#### 4. ANNEX

**Annex-1:** Photos showing Destruction of the Ivory stock by burning on March 20, 2015 and H.E Deputy prime minister of the FDRE making a speech at the event.



**Annex-2:** Photos showing ID trainings given to Custom officers, Federal police, Regional police and National army at their job sites respectively.





**Annex-3:** Wildlife and wildlife products identification Manual prepared and published with a local language (i.e. Amharic) – front cover shown below



**Annex-4:** Some Photos showing findings of a recent covert operation conducted (please find attached with this report- A short video about the operation)







*The end*