

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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HORN OF AFRICA WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT WORKSHOP

1. This information document has been submitted by Ethiopia on behalf of countries in the Horn of Africa who have participated in the workshop outlined below in relation to agenda item 29 on *Enforcement matters*.¹
2. In recognition of the problems associated with wildlife trafficking in the Horn of Africa region, including the absence of an organized inter-governmental effort to address wildlife trafficking in the region, which is both a source and transit route for illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products destined for consumer markets, Parties and stakeholders held a wildlife trafficking workshop with a focus on forming a regional wildlife enforcement network to halt wildlife trafficking in the Horn of Africa.
3. The workshop was hosted by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) in collaboration with the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Center (HoAREC/N), the United States of America Department of State, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and was held at the African Union Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, October 3-4.
4. The workshop was attended by government representatives from seven countries in the Horn of Africa Region (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan, Somaliland, Sudan and Uganda); representatives from the non-governmental organizations IFAW, TRAFFIC, Freeland Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and HoAREC/N; the CITES Secretariat, Addis Ababa University; and representatives from various embassies in Ethiopia, including from the European Union and the United States of America.
5. The workshop was opened by Ethiopia, which reinforced the strong interest of the Ethiopian Government in both controlling illegal wildlife trafficking and ensuring the welfare of wildlife in legal trade and highlighted Ethiopia's readiness to work with regional and international partners on curbing wildlife trafficking in the Horn of Africa region.
6. Workshop participants recognized that the fight against wildlife trafficking was not only about protecting wildlife but it also that it contributes to the sustainable development of the continent and a more secure and stable Africa.
7. The outputs of workshop were a statement by all participants of the urgent need for a regional wildlife law enforcement network for the Horn of Africa Region and Terms of Reference for the establishment of a steering committee with a mandate to pave the way for the formal establishment of a wildlife enforcement network for the Horn of Africa Region.
8. The Parties proposed that the regional wildlife enforcement network be hosted by IGAD, headquartered in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia was unanimously selected as the Chair of the steering committee and Uganda was selected as the secretary.
9. The statement by the Participants included an agreement to:

¹ *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- a) Establish a committee from among the government representatives with a mandate to pave the way for the formal establishment of a wildlife law enforcement network in the horn of Africa,
- b) Increase coordination and cooperation among horn of Africa region national law enforcement agencies,
- c) Accept the offer made by Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) to facilitate the envisaged establishment of the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network, and
- d) Seek the support and cooperation of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other potential partners to facilitate the work of the committee and build long term enforcement capacity at both the national and regional levels.

10. The Terms of Reference for the steering committee were:

- a) **Objective of the committee:** The committee has the following objective
- b) To facilitate the establishment of Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network - HAWEN
- c) **Members of the committee:** the committee is established having one member from each country present in the workshop i.e. Djibouti; Ethiopia; Kenya; Sudan; South Sudan; Somaliland; Somalia and Uganda.
- d) **Structure of the committee:** the committee will have a chair, secretary and members.
- e) **Mandate of the committee:** the committee will have the following mandate:
 - i) Will facilitate the establishment of the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network-HAWEN.
 - ii) Members of the committee will communicate electronically as frequently as possible to pave the way for the establishment of HAWEN by working with the concerned authorities in their respective countries.
 - iii) Will draft an agreement to be distributed electronically to each country concerned authorities to be commented and be ready for signature.
 - iv) Will organize an appropriate venue for signature.
 - v) Will communicate with intergovernmental organizations like IGAD, the new partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), CITES, INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC), etc. and regional and international affiliated conservation NGOs like IFAW; Born Free Foundation (BFF), TRAFFIC, HoAREC/N, WCS and others compatible with the objectives of the committee for the fulfillment of its mandate until the final establishment of HAWEN.
 - vi) The committee may have meetings to be convened when necessary based on the availability of funding.
- f) **Timeline of the committee:** the committee will persist until the establishment of HAWEN and will dissolve after fulfilling its mandate.