

# **NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN FOR NIGERIA**



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## NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN FOR NIGERIA

### INTRODUCTION

CITES national ivory action plans (NIAPs) are a practical tool that is being used by the Convention in 19 of these 22 Parties to strengthen their controls of the trade in ivory and ivory markets, and help combat the illegal trade in ivory. Each plan outlines the urgent measures that a CITES Party commits to deliver – including legislative, enforcement and public awareness actions as required – along with specified timeframes and milestones for implementation.

Nigeria was included as one of the eleven countries identified as countries of “secondary concern” by the CITES Standing Committee at 65<sup>th</sup> meeting (SC65, Geneva, July 2004) to work with the Secretary and its consultants to finalize the development of national ivory action plans (NIAPs) to combat illegal ivory trade, with timeframe and milestones, by 31 October 2014.

As a contribution to the process of developing NIAPs, each party of secondary concern has been provided with the assistance in undertaking a preliminary self-assessment of its capacity to combat wildlife crime and to effectively control trade in ivory and ivory market according to five main wildlife law enforcement pillars: Legislation, Prosecution, Intelligence and investigation, National and international wildlife crime cooperation, Law enforcement operation.



MAP OF NIGERIA SHOWING ELEPHANT PROTECTED RANGE

## NIGERIA ELEPHANT POPULATION

General statistics:

Country area is 923,770km<sup>2</sup>

Range area (% of country): 22,968km<sup>2</sup> (5%)

Protected range coverage (% of country): 3%

Protected range (% of known and possible range in protected area):70%

Nigeria's elephants live in small relict populations, divided between forests in the south and savannas in the north. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and the fragmentation of the elephant range is an inevitable consequence of increasing human density, agriculture and settlement. The last two general surveys conducted in Yankari suggest that elephant are concentrated in the southeast of the park, where there is least disturbance from human activity (Nicholas 1999, Omondi et al 2006b). This range has

been categorized as known range, doubtful range is area where human population density is estimated to exceed 15 person per km<sup>2</sup>, while the rest of Yankara has been reverted to possible range



Map of Yankari Game Reserve

In addition, a migratory population may still move between Chad Basin National park and Waza National Park in Cameroon, but recent reliable information is lacking. Elephant may also move between Nigeria and Baban Rafi Forest in Niger, and between the cross Rivers National Park (oban division) and Korup National Park in Cameroon.

#### THREATS TO ELEPHANTS POPULATION AND ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE

Most elephant populations in Nigeria are small, fragmented and probably not viable in the long term. Only the Yankari population in northern Nigeria has good prospects for

survival but encroachment and poaching continue to be a threat to elephant in the park (Omondi et al, 2006). Nigeria seems to have made a little progress in regulating its large domestic ivory market. The size of the market appears to be increasing, and the country continues to be an important hub in the international trade. Most of the ivory trade Nigeria believed to have originated Central Africa (Gouroush et al 2003, traffic.2004). Despite ban on the international trade in ivory, African elephants are still being poached in large numbers. Their ivory tusks are the most sought after, but their meat and skin are also traded. Tens of thousands of elephants are killed every year for their tusks. The ivory is often carved into ornaments and jewelry – China is the biggest consumer market for such products.

The present National Ivory Action Plan was thus drawn up in an effort to address these issues. It includes a vision, a global objective, specific objectives, priority actions and also an implementation methodology.

## VISION

Elephant poaching and trafficking of ivory and other elephant products are minimized in Nigeria.

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To enhance Nigeria effort to fight against poaching and control the illegal ivory trade by engaging all relevant national agencies and other stakeholders and by improving cooperation with neighboring countries.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Improve the available legal instruments and increase penalties to effectively address wildlife crime and illegal ivory trafficking.
2. Ensure that cases of wildlife crime are effectively prosecuted and that appropriate penalties are applied to deter wildlife crime offenders.
3. Increase the use of intelligence and investigation procedures to more effectively curb criminal networks involved in wildlife crime
4. Improve coordination at national and regional level to effectively control borders and prevent illegal trafficking.
5. Improve protection of the remaining elephant population in key range area in Nigeria.

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Following institutions were involved in the development of the Nigeria NIAP and will have an important role in its implementation.

- I. Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry
- II. National Environmental Standard Regulation and Enforcement Agency(NESREA)
- III. National parks (NPs)
- IV. Customs Authority
- V. Airport Authority
- VI. Ministry of justice

## PREPARATION OF THE NIGERIA NIAP

**Step 1:** Studying the reading the recommendations sent from the CITES Secretariat.

**Step 2:** Federal Ministry of Environment ( Department of Forestry) held a meeting with the relevant stakeholders on the important for the implementation of the action plan. The stakeholders involved are Federal Ministry of Environment (Department of Forestry), National Environmental Standard Regulations and Enforcement Agency (NESREA), National Parks, Customs Authority, Airport Authority.

**Step 3:** Self-assessment on wildlife crime and law enforcement capacity made and submitted to CITES.

**Step 4:** The draft NIAP document for Nigeria prepared and feedback obtained from CITES via the consultant and experts within the institutes.

**Step 5:** Final NIAP document prepared for Nigeria.





## PROPOSED ACTIONS

The proposed actions with their milestones are detailed in the table below

Law enforcement Pillars	Priority Action	Responsible National Agency	Milestones			
			By 30 APRIL 2015	By 30 OCT. 2015	By 30 APRIL 2016	By 31 OCT. 2016
A. Legislation	<p>A1. Amend the legal frame work on endangered species law, with a focus on increasing the fine.</p> <p>A2. Complete drafting and approval of the National Wildlife Protection Bill which includes the penalties that are sufficient enough to serve as a deterrent (fines and prison sentence included)</p>	Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV), Department of Forestry (FDF)	<p>The species protection draft is Submitted to Federal Executive Council(Government) for approval</p> <p>Ministry of justice input</p>		<p>Submit bill to National Assembly (parliament) for passage into law.</p> <p>National assembly (parliament proceeding) on the endangered species amendment of the species act.</p> <p>Final draft species protection bill</p>	<p>Complete drafting and approval of the National Wildlife Protection Bill which includes the penalty that is sufficient.</p> <p>National Assembly approval of the amended bill.</p>
	A3. Strengthen different wildlife legislation in Federal States	(FMENV),(FDF),			A collaboration mechanism establish between Federal States (regional).	Legislation harmonization strengthen in at least three states

	(sub regions) for harmonization				Meeting with Federal States and other stakeholders to discuss and identified the challenges in their wildlife legislation and modus operandi on how to handle illegal wildlife trade.	with international airports e.g Lagos, Kano, Abuja
	A4.Prepare a summary of existing legislation and penalties for dissemination to the judiciary				Compendium existing legislation and penalties prepared and printed.	Compendium distributed to court
	A5. Review national wildlife legislation and compare penalty frameworks with neighboring countries.			Desktop review of different legislations and penalty frameworks in the region carried out.	Regional meeting organized in cooperation with neighboring countries to discuss the discrepancies between the different wildlife legislations and to develop recommendation.	Recommendations implementation at the level of Nigeria
	A6. Organize training session of all judiciary personnel to raise awareness of the wildlife legislation and					Training session for the judiciary personnel on wildlife legislation.

	new penalty framework					
B. Prosecution	B1. Develop and implement recommendations with the Ministry of Justice and police on how to more efficiently implement the wildlife law, in particular by proposing the establishment of specialized prosecutors at the level of each state dealing with wildlife crime and by creating specialized police brigades to deal with wildlife crimes.	(FMENV),(FDF), National Environmental Standard Regulations and Enforcement Agency(NESREA), Ministry of Justice, Police			Workshops organized with the Ministry justice and police to develop recommendation on wildlife law and how to apply the law	Implement the workshop recommendations (for example specialized prosecutors appointed in each of the Federal State.
	B2.Increase awareness and capacity of Judiciary and police on wildlife crime targeting enforcement and prosecution for better	FMENV), ( FDF), NESREA, Ministry of Justice.			.	Legislation training session organized for judiciary, police in different enforcement institutions and trained personnel on enforcement

	understanding on the current legislation through training and capacity building.					targeting on wildlife crime and the understanding of the fines.
	B3. Establish a database to collect information on the prosecution of cases, showing how many cases were stated and how many led to condemnation and what penalties.				Consultation with Ministry of Justice on how to develop and manage the database	Database designed and tested in different transit route
	B4.Improve reporting to ETIS				All date on seizures of ivory are centralized at FMENV  Training for FMENV staff(10) on how to submit reports to	Regular report to ETIS ensured

					ETIS in close cooperation with TRAFFIC	
C. Intelligence and investigations actions	C1. Develop and implement appropriate wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures by strengthen links with other agencies, provide opportunities for interaction.	(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA, Custom, and police	Meeting to be convened with all relevant agencies to bring agencies to create inter-ministerial understanding on illegal trade and the use of intelligence to address it and to develop recommendations	.	Based on the recommendations, develop intelligence and investigation procedure and setup a network between all agencies to share intelligence on trafficking  Train of 15 staff each of relevant agencies in wildlife investigation and the use of intelligence and investigation procedure.	Intelligence network operation in combatting illegal ivory trafficking.
	C2. Carryout audit on stocks in the custody of National environmental Standard Regulations and Enforcement Agency.	(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA.			Inventory of stocks of ivory seized and update the date the items were confiscated and sources of the ivory.  Comprehensive list of stocks of ivory held at NESREA and by other agencies and government service.	Carry out an audit of the NESREA storage facilities and other storage facilities used for ivory.  The rescue facility for confiscated wildlife products is reinforced and well secured.

					All confiscated items with other agencies will be brought together for proper documentation.	
	C3. Gather intelligence on domestic illegal ivory market e.g Lekki market, hotels and crack down on illegal trafficking at these markets.	(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA, state wildlife unit or conservation unit	Inventory carried out in Lekki ivory market on different species of ivory, sources, prices and ways the sellers acquired it for selling.	Inventory made of the most significant domestic ivory markets in addition to Lekki market.	Meetings held with Lagos State Conservation unit to discuss the modus operandi on how to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in Lekki ivory market (Lagos) and detailed recommendations for actions developed  Intelligence gathered to better understand supply chains to the domestic markets identified.	Supply chains to domestic markets broken through targeted law enforcement action.  Large scale operation to close down illegal ivory trafficking at Lekki market
	C4. Hold specialist training on wildlife Crime investigation, intelligence and investigations standards wildlife enforcement officers.	(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA, Custom, and police.			NESREA staff to have a para-military training, if possible uniform will be recommended.	A specialist training for at least 20 each for (FMENV),(FDF) and NESREA staff targeted for enforcement activities.

	<p>C5.Strengthen the forensic Capacity by training wildlife staff in handling of forensic evidence from wildlife crime scene and on tools for collection. Training will be on forensic evidence of items, method of identification and materials will be supplied in which police support will be needed in this operation</p>	<p>(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA.</p>			<p>Train staff of (FMENV),( FDF), NESREA staff on forensic analysis of seized items (atleast 5 staff from different agencies)</p>	<p>1. Establishment of forensic laboratory to use its capacity for wildlife crime investigations. 2. Forensic expert hired.</p>
<p>National and international wildlife crime cooperation</p>	<p>D1.Development of trans boundary wildlife enforcement framework with neighboring countries which include Benin Republic in the West, Chad and Cameroon in the East and Niger in</p>	<p>(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA, Custom, National Parks</p>			<p>Meeting with agencies of neighboring countries especially Republic of Benin, Chad and Cameroon to discuss improving wildlife crime enforcement at common border and develop recommendations.</p>	<p>Develop and implement specific action plan with identified priority countries to curb cross boundary trafficking of ivory</p>

	the North.					
	D2.Set up a coordination committee between all involved agencies to monitor implementation of the NIAP under chairmanship of FMENV and ensure participation of other stakeholders (NGO, private sector) in NIAP implementation.	(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA, Custom and Police			Present NIAP to potential stakeholders and ensure their participation  TOR of coordination committee agreed between agencies involved in NIAP implementation	Coordination committee meets once every 6 months to evaluate progress in implantation.
	D3.Strengthen wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at International airports, sea ports, exit points and transit routes.	(FMENV),( FDF), NESREA, Custom and Police			Increase levels of wildlife staff like five (5) each in every exit points and borders  Provision of equipment for identification of ivory and wildlife specimen on Nigeria borders which includes Chad Border, Republic of Benin border, Cameroon border and	Increase levels of detection of illegal/wildlife specimen.



					Niger border.  Staff trained on the use of equipment for effective identification of wildlife specimen.	
	D4.Strengthen the link and cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies to inspect, seize and confiscate illegal shipment of wildlife specimen				A high level of meeting organized with officials of the enforcement agencies present at the border post (police, custom and wildlife officers to discuss how to improve coordination in wildlife crime enforcement	Permanent coordination set up mechanism between the agencies
	D5. Sensitization airlines as well as passengers to create awareness about the possibility of penalizing any airline violating rules and shipping illegal wildlife				Awareness workshop with airlines and custom at the airport (at least 3 workshops)  Development and signature of code of conduct with airlines on the measures they will take to ensure no ivory or other illegal wildlife contraband is transported	Printing of flyers and distribution to the airlines and customs
E. Law Enforcement	E1.Develop and implement a	Bauchi State government and	List of priority site established	Anti-poaching strategy developed	Anti-poaching strategy implemented	Anti-poaching strategy

Operations actions	detailed and concrete anti-poaching strategy (including timely and benchmark) for Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Edo State and other priority elephant areas detailing the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved and specific capacity requirement.	Wildlife Conservation society (WCS)		with all stakeholders on each of the priority sites.	in Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Edo State  Sufficient financial means and resources made available to provide capacity building and apply the lessons learned on the ground.	implemented in other Game Reserves
	E2.Ranger-Based Monitoring.( SMART?) implemented in all priority elephant sites.	National Park Service (NPS)		Training of over 30 rangers to implement SMART at Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Edo State.	Training of rangers in SMART in other priority elephant sites. SMART operational in Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Edo State	SMART operational in other priority sites
	E3.Improve status and	National Park Service (NPS)	Patrol Staff. ( Law Enforcement	Modern equipment for patrol and		

	capacity building of patrol staff in key priority elephant site.		Managers, Rangers, Staff at all sites properly trained and equipped for effective monitoring, self-esteem and protection) in Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Edo State.	management will be supplied in Yankari Game Reserve and other priority sites.  Patrol coverage in Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-River and other key elephant range sites increased.		
	E4. Involve local Communities in law enforcement activities through local intelligence gathering in key elephant sites	National Park Service (NPS) and States.		Awareness raising activities implemented ensure participation of local communities around key elephant sites in law enforcement	Local intelligence system functional in key elephant sites	
	E4. Step up law Enforcement efforts outside protected areas.	National Park Service (NPS)				Patrol coverage outside protected areas increased and improved intelligence gathering and data base management on potentially illegal activities

## Indicators to monitor impacts of the priority actions

<b>Law enforcement pillar</b>	<b>Propose indicators</b>	<b>Base line data and Means of verification</b>
A. Legislation	Completed draft and approval of the National Wildlife Protection Bill which include new penalty framework	1.National Assembly parliament proceedings on the amendment of the wildlife protection bill 2.Current penalties/fines in the existing National wildlife legislation 3. Federal Executive Council memo. 4.Extract of the Federal Council approval
	Harmonization of different wildlife legislation in states, regions and sub-regions (neighboring countries)	Number of meetings and workshop held and types of memorandum of understanding (MOU) established in combating illegal ivory trade.
B. Prosecution	Increased confiscation of ivory at all exits which include sea ports, airports and different custom checkpoint borders.	Effective penalties/fines attributed.
	Number of arrest which lead to effective prosecution and condemnation.	Database follows up judiciary cases.
C. Intelligence and investigations action	Number of arrests linked to intelligence gathering	Report from enforcement agencies
	Number leaks of confiscated wildlife ivory products	Report to CITES
	No openly sold ivory at Lekki markets	Report of law enforcement missions at Lekki
D. National and international cooperation to combat wildlife crime	Status of trans-boundary wildlife enforcement framework with neighboring countries.	Extend cross border collaboration to all neighboring countries

	National strategy to enhance inter-agency collaboration	
	National cooperation between working groups	Number of joint enforcement actions
E. Law enforcement operations	Effective protection of remaining elephant population.	Carcass rates (SMART)
	Patrol coverage of key elephant site	SMART database