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CITES SC66 NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT Parties of 'primary concern'

Prepared for the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

Party: UGANDA

Reporting period: JUNE 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2015

SEPTEMBER 2015.

PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

At its 64th meeting (SC64), the CITES Standing Committee made recommendations requiring Uganda together with seven other countries mentioned in the ETIS Report to the Conference of Parties (CoP16) to develop and implement a national ivory action plan aimed at reducing illegal trade in ivory with milestones and time frames and report progress on the implementation of the action plans to the CITES Secretariat.

Uganda submitted a progress report on the implementation of the national ivory action plan to the CITES Secretariat in March 2014 and the evaluation of this progress was discussed at SC65. In line with recommendation d) of Document SC65 Doc. 42.2 and as set out in Document SC65 Com 7, Uganda wishes to report on the progress with the implementation of the national ivory action plan since SC65.

Generally, there has been good progress in the implementation of the national ivory action plan for Uganda. Most of the actions as will be shown in the summary of progress have been rated as either substantially achieved or on track. However, most of the actions on training and capacity building that were highly dependent on external support were dropped from the action plan following SC65. The category of training and capacity development was therefore dropped from Uganda's revised NIAP and most of the actions incorporated in Category two on strengthening enforcement and intelligence capacities.

Uganda is happy to report that the level of awareness on wildlife conservation and illegal ivory trade has significantly improved to the extent that it is no longer a concern of enforcement agencies alone but a

general concern among citizens. Due to increased awareness, more ivory seizures have been made in Uganda as a result of intelligence information from the citizens than two years before. Issues of ivory trade have been raised on the floor of Parliament for the first time and there is great hope that the fight against ivory and other illicit wildlife trade in Uganda that has been launched will yield positive results. A national dialogue on illegal wildlife trade has been held and the key recommendation was that such dialogues should be held more frequently and in all regions. As we move forward, Uganda will ensure that this dialogue is held every year to discuss pertinent issues of wildlife trafficking and any other topical conservation issues. Uganda has embraced the deployment of sniffer dogs at key ivory routes and in future sniffer dogs will be acquired and deployed at all exit points to combat illegal ivory trade. We also look forward to making use of the new forensics laboratory established in the region (Kenya) in ensuring successful prosecution of all ivory trafficking cases.

Progress to date

Uganda's ivory action plan had 20 actions to be implemented in six categories of Legislation, Intelligence and enforcement, coordination and collaboration, awareness creation, management of the national stockpile and confiscated ivory as well as Training and Capacity Development. Following the revision of Uganda's NIAP to drop the category of capacity development that was heavily dependent on external support, the NIAP remained with 17 key actions. Out of these 17 key actions, 8 have been rated as substantially achieved, 9 are on track while none rated as challenging and/or unclear.

Key achievements since SC65 include; Organizing a National Dialogue involving politicians, law enforcement agencies, judiciary, academicians and researchers/scientists to discuss the challenge of wildlife trafficking in Uganda as well as a Public talk on the World Wildlife Day on wildlife crime in line with the theme "*Wildlife Crime is serious; let's get serious against wildlife crime*". The other key achievement during the reporting period was Uganda's participation and coordination of the Operation COBRA 3 during which a number of seizures for ivory and other illegal wildlife products were confiscated. Several capacity building programs for law enforcement staff in intelligence and investigations have been introduced and this has resulted in increased ivory seizures in Uganda unlike previously when ivory shipped from Uganda would be seized elsewhere.

However, several other capacity development programs that relied mainly on external funding including specialized training of our intelligence staff could not be undertaken and remain challenging. A number of funding proposals have been written and submitted to the donors and we are hopeful that some of these proposals for staff capacity development and equipment provision shall be funded.

The other challenge that has to a less extent affected the implementation of Uganda's national ivory action plan is the seemingly slow pace of the completion of the revision of the national legislation on wildlife. However, Cabinet has already passed the principles for the amendment of the Uganda Wildlife Act and the Bill to revise the Act is being drafted for discussion by Cabinet and then Parliament.

Future outlook

The upcoming discussion and approval by Cabinet prior to discussion and passing of the Wildlife Amendment Bill by Parliament is expected to provide a springboard for the full implementation of Uganda's NIAP. Further, the acquisition and deployment of sniffer dogs at all entry and exit ports will make it difficult for anybody to use Uganda as a transit and/or conduit for illegal movement of ivory. Funding proposals have been written to a number of potential donors for this and we are hopeful that most of these proposals will be successful. There are some indications that a number of organizations including African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), STOP Ivory, Elephant Conservation Fund (ECF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and others are willing to provide financial and technical support to Uganda to implement key elements of the NIAP. Uganda submitted a formal request to CITES Secretariat for technical and logistical support in stockpile inventory and management and look forward to receiving this support.

PART B: Summary evaluation of actions (assigned progress ratings)

CATEGORY/PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
CATEGORT/PILLAR	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear		
1. Legislation		 1.1 Complete the process for amending the National Wildlife Act. 1.2 Develop regulations and guidelines to operationalize the Revised Wildlife Act 				
2. Strengthen Intelligence and Enforcement (national Level)	 2.1 Establishment and equipping of intelligence and enforcement unit at UWA 2.2 Deployment of enforcement and intelligence staff at key border points (Entebbe International Airport) 2.4 Creation of Inter- agency environment task force to combat wildlife and forest crime 	2.3 Acquisition and deployment of sniffer dogs at key entry and exit points				
3. Coordination and collaboration (national	3.1 Law enforcement collaboration with Police, Judiciary,	3.3 Capacity for international investigations				

	PROGRESS RATING					
CATEGORY/PILLAR	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear		
and international)	Customs, Civil Aviation established and operational 3.2 Regional Collaboration mechanism established through Lusaka Agreement (Coordinated Operation COBRA 3)					
	3.4 DNA Samples from confiscated ivory collected and sent for forensic analysis.					
4. Awareness Creation	4.1 Inter-Agency awareness seminars and	4.2 Awareness raising materials and brochures				
	workshops	4.3 National awareness raising program				
		4.4 Linkage with development Partners				
5. Management of ivory stockpile and	5.3 Annual stock taking of ivory and other wildlife	5.1 Strengthening Security of stockpile				
confiscated ivory.	trophies done	5.2 Development of procedure for stockpile management.				

PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)	
CATEGORY 1: Legislation			

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1.1 Complete the revision of the National Wildlife Act to address gaps in legislation	On Track <u>SC65 rating</u> : On Track	 A New National Wildlife Policy was approved by Cabinet in March 2014. The Policy provides a framework for wildlife conservation in Uganda. Principles for the Wildlife Amendment Bill were discussed and endorsed by Cabinet. Cabinet directed First Parliamentary Counsel to draft the Bill. First Parliamentary Counsel has now completed drafting of the Bill. The Bill will have to be discussed by Cabinet before tabling it to Parliament. The Bill is now before Cabinet. Progress Summary The activity is on track. All technical work on the revision of the Wildlife Act is complete. The remaining part is for the Uganda Wildlife Bill 2015 to be approved by Cabinet for presentation to Parliament for enactment.
1.2 Formulate guidelines and regulations to operationalize provisions of the amended Uganda Wildlife Act to address specific gaps and issues relating to prosecution and stronger/deterrent penalties for wildlife crime offenders	On Track <u>SC65 rating</u> : On Track	 Draft CITES Domestication Orders to implement CITES provisions in domestic wildlife legislation were finalized and are now before Cabinet. <i>Progress Summary</i> The activity is on track. All technical work on the Domestication Orders is complete. All that remains is Cabinet endorsement and obtaining a resolution of Parliament to gazette the Domestication Order.

CATEGORY 2: Strengthening Intelligence and Enforcement (National Level)

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
2.1 Strengthen the Intelligence Enforcement Unit at Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to curb the illegal wildlife trade in the country	Substantially achieved <u>SC65 rating</u> : Substantially achieved	 Established an intelligence unit at Uganda Wildlife Authority (80 staff) that has been strategically deployed to curb IWT. Conducted four important trainings in the last one year for our law enforcement and intelligence staff in (a) advanced intelligence and investigations, (b) data management and use of web based tools in management of wildlife crime, (c) Scene of Crime Management, and (d) Management of wildlife and forest crimes for enforcement officers include Wildlife Authority, Police, Customs, INTERPOL and Judiciary. Procured equipment and tools for the new Intelligence Unit (laptops, cameras, scanners, recorders and a wildlife crime database).
		 Progress Summary This action has been substantially achieved. Since the establishment of intelligence in Uganda Wildlife Authority, there has been tremendous progress in the fight to combat wildlife crimes in Uganda.
2.2 Deploy wildlife law enforcement staff at key/major entry and exit border points.	Substantially achieved <u>SC65 rating</u> : Unclear	 Wildlife enforcement staff have been permanently deployed at Uganda's International Airport and the result has been increased number of wildlife seizures at Entebbe Airport. Deployment at other key exit points is done based on intelligence information but there is good coordination and collaboration with Customs and Immigration in areas where wildlife officials are not deployed.
		 Progress Summary This action has been substantially achieved. Since the deployment of UWA staff at Entebbe International Airport, there have been increased seizures of ivory and other wildlife products smuggled through the Airport. It is almost impossible now to export ivory through Entebbe International Airport.
2.3 Explore the possibility of acquiring and deploying sniffer dogs	On Track <u>SC65 rating</u> : On Track	 Uganda received funding to the tune of USD \$25,000 from the African elephant fund to support the development of canine unit at Uganda Wildlife Authority. Uganda Wildlife Authority acquired two sniffer dogs and has been working with Uganda Police to train the dogs in sniffing ivory. One of the dogs is picking very well, but the

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)
at key transit routes		 second one has not done well. Training of staff to handle the sniffer dogs started in July 2015 and will end in October 2015.
		• UWA in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society has written funding proposals for acquisition and deployment of more sniffer dogs in fighting wildlife crime.
		Progress Summary
		 This action is on track. The sniffer dogs will first be deployed at Entebbe International Airport and as more dogs are acquired, deployment to other border areas will be considered. We are impressed with the current dog that has already picked very well in sniffing ivory. Once staff to handle the sniffer dogs finish their training, immediate deployment of the dog at the airport will be done.
2.4 Create a National Task Force on illegal	Substantially achieved	 An inter-agency task force comprised of Uganda Police, Uganda Revenue Authority (Customs), INTERPOL, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Civil Aviation Authority and the
ivory and other wildlife contraband	<u>SC65 rating</u> : Substantially achieved	Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence was established in 2013. The task force is being coordinated by INTERPOL Kampala Bureau and coordinated well planning for major operations including Operation WORTHY II and Operation COBRA III that Uganda actively participated in.
		 UWA has been proposed to take over the coordination of the Task force as the main areas of focus are wildlife and forest crimes.
		Progress Summary
		• This action has been substantially achieved. Since the creation of the task force, there is better coordination of the enforcement agencies involved in fighting wildlife crime in Uganda. Under the auspices of the Task Force, IFAW organized and facilitated a training of customs, wildlife enforcement and police officers in combating wildlife trafficking and general CITES provisions in May 2015. The training attracted over 60 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo. A similar training was organized in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in November 2014 where Uganda was represented by three officers from Customs, Ministry of Tourism,

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
		Wildlife and Antiquities as well as Uganda Wildlife Authority.
CATEGORY 3: Coord	ination and Coll	aboration (national and international)
3.1 Strengthen collaboration with other law enforcement agencies including Customs, Police, the National Army, INTERPOL, and LATF to fight illegal ivory trade and other wildlife related crimes	Substantially achieved <u>SC65 rating</u> : Unclear	 An inter-agency task force has already been formed incorporating all these agencies at national level and is being coordinated by INTERPOL. The Task force meets regularly and has planned and executed together major Operations (COBRA 3, WORTHY II). At the International Airport, Uganda Wildlife Authority is a member of a Joint Security Team at the Airport to curb illicit trade and other serious crimes. <i>Progress Summary</i> <i>This action has been substantially achieved. Since the creation of the task force, there is better coordination of the enforcement agencies involved in fighting wildlife crime in Uganda. The testimony for the good coordination and collaboration has been the successful joint planning and execution of two major international Operations (COBRA 3 and WORTHY 2).</i>
3.2 Strengthen regional cooperation and exchange information as a tool to curb ivory syndicate	Substantially achieved <u>SC65 rating</u> : On Track	 Strong coordination exists between UWA, Police, Customs, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) and Kenya Wildlife Services. Uganda continues to exchange information on wildlife trafficking with neighbouring states and agencies mainly Kenya Wildlife Service and LATF. As a result of coordination, joint investigations involving Uganda, Kenya and LATF are being conducted in relation to the big ivory seizures in Singapore and Malaysia that have been linked to Uganda and Kenya. Using INTERPOL and LATF, we are working with government of Kenya to track and arrest notorious wildlife traffickers with International Warrants of Arrest. Uganda is collaborating with other governments like Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and this has resulted in increased ivory seizures in the countries that are a result of information sharing. Uganda continues to participate in joint operations aimed at curbing wildlife crime

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
3.3 Establish and maintain capacity at the national level to assist in international and regional investigations	On Track SC65 rating: Unclear	 (COBRA III, WORTHY II etc). Uganda participated in the Regional Summit to Stop Wildlife Crime and Advance Conservation in Arusha, Tanzania from 7th – 8th November 2014. The summit culminated into formulation and signing the <i>"Arusha Declaration on Regional Conservation and Combating Wildlife/Environmental Crime: A Call to Action".</i> Uganda actively participated in the development process of the East African Community (EAC) Regional Strategy to combat poaching and wildlife trafficking. The Draft Regional Strategy is ready for discussion by the East African Community Sectoral Council. Uganda has continued to work with other agencies with capacity like UNODC, LATF and INTERPOL to build capacity of our enforcement officers in international investigations. One training has already been conducted in Uganda for Uganda Wildlife Authority enforcement and intelligence officers supported by US Department of Homeland and Security on data management and use of web based tools in international wildlife investigations. A wildlife crime database has been established at Uganda Wildlife Authority to track offenders of wildlife crime and use the info to inform prosecution and sentencing for more than one time offenders. A study on drivers and extent of wildlife crime in Uganda has been concluded and provides baseline information for future strategies and responses to ivory and other wildlife crime offenders. <i>Progress Summary</i> This action is on track at national level but somehow challenging for regional and international investigations. Much as some capacity has been built through tailor made trainings by partners, there isn't really enough capacity at national level to effectively undertake international and regional investigations. More capacity is still needed.
3.4 Provide samples from confiscated ivory	Substantially achieved	Uganda continues to collect samples from all large seizures of ivory and rhino horns for forensic analysis. Results from the analysis of two large ivory seizures in October and

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
for DNA analysis to ascertain its origin	SC65 rating: Substantially achieved	December 2013 were received and shared with CITES Secretariat. Samples have been collected from other seizures and are being processed for shipment to the US for DNA analysis. The challenge is the cost of sample collection, processing and transportation to labs. Good news is that we are aware of a new forensic lab that has been commissioned at Kenya Wildlife Service that should be of help to us in the future. This will reduce the cost of shipment and time to process and receive the results.
CATEGORY 4: Aware	ness creation	
4.1 Hold inter- agency awareness seminars and workshops with especially law enforcement agencies, judiciary officials and other security agencies on the importance of	Substantially achieved <u>SC65 rating</u> : Substantially achieved	 Three additional inter-agency awareness workshops involving Judiciary, Police, Immigration and Customs on wildlife trafficking were held in different regions of Uganda in 2014. This is in addition to five the previous year. The workshops have been instrumental in providing information and creating awareness among these stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime. One National Dialogue on Illegal Wildlife Trade involving wildlife practitioners (Tour operators, traders, academicians, politicians, law enforcement agencies and general public) was held in Uganda in October 2014 to raise national awareness. A public debate on wildlife trade was held on the eve of the World Wildlife Day 2015 and this was also used to create the much needed awareness of the need to curb illegal
wildlife and the need to fight illegal killing and trafficking of wildlife		 wildlife trade. Progress Summary This action though substantially achieved is a continuous and ongoing activity. Experience has shown that government workers get transferred and there is therefore
4.2 Produce/procure awareness materials for display	On Track <u>SC65 rating</u> : Unclear	 need to do this on a continuous basis. Working with Partner NGOs, a number of flyers and posters on wildlife trafficking have been produced and displayed in public places including the International Airport. 6 Radio and 3 Television talk shows on national stations have been held as part of the
	Unclear	campaign against illegal wildlife trade.

 4.3: Develop and implement a national awareness raising programme focused on the importance of wildlife conservation On Track SC65 rating: Unclear Working with Partner NGOs, a number of flyers and posters on wildlife trafficking have been produced and displayed in public places including the International Airport (see similar action in 4.4 below). 6 Radio and 3 Television talk shows on national stations have been held as part of the campaign against illegal wildlife trade. Uganda marked the World Wildlife Day and used the occasion to raise awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime Uganda marked the World Wildlife Day and used the occasion to raise awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime Uganda developed an elephant conservation action plan that has a number of strategies to address elephant poaching and curbing illegal viory trade. Progress Summary There is good progress on this action and action 4.2 above. As awareness is a continuous process, it is not fair to say that it has been fully achieved. In partnership with World Customs Union under the Project GAPIN, a number of awareness booklets, posters and flyers against illicit trafficking. Meetings were initiated with US Embassy to partner in raising awareness about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife crime with support from the US Ambassador to Uganda who is very passionate about wildlife conservation. Uganda, on the advice of UNEP-Nairob	ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
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ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)
5.1 Strengthen the security of the confiscated ivory	On Track <u>SC65 rating</u> : Substantially achieved	 A new secure ivory strong room has been established at Uganda Wildlife Authority following the loss of 1.2 tons of ivory from the strong room in mid 2014. Ten CCTV cameras have also been installed in strategic locations in and around the strong room to provide an additional security. Uganda regrets the loss of ivory from UWA strong room in mid 2014. Investigations into the matter are still ongoing but administrative measures were undertaken for staff that were charged with managing of the strong room that were reprimanded and punished accordingly. Some of them lost their jobs while others were redeployed. Uganda wrote to CITES Secretariat expressing the need for technical assistance in the management of the ivory stockpile. Progress Summary This action was earlier rated as substantially achieved but the subsequent loss of some ivory from UWA's strong room indicated the need for further measures to secure the confiscated ivory. New measures as described above have been put in place to prevent any future loss and a stockpile management protocol is being developed with support from STOP Ivory. This is however on track and expected to be completed by December 2015so that the rating for this action can revert to "Substantially achieved".
5.2 Develop procedure and implement the structure for record keeping of ivory stockpile	On Track <u>SC65 rating</u> : Unclear	 Uganda has written to CITES Secretariat and sought technical assistance in the management of the national ivory stockpile. Uganda has received response from STOP Ivory to assist with development of the procedure for stockpile management. Meeting with STOP Ivory to discuss further support to Uganda in developing protocols for stockpile management is scheduled for first week of October 2015.
5.3 Conduct regular stock taking of the wildlife specimen	Substantially achieved <u>SC65 rating</u> : On Track	 An inventory of wildlife trophies at Uganda Wildlife Authority has been done and the inventory submitted to CITES Secretariat. Some of the information required could not be easily obtained and remained as gaps in the inventory list. Annual stock taking of ivory to be conducted every Financial Year.

Annex Photographs showing the progress achieved in the implementation of Uganda's NIAP

CATEGORY 2: Strengthening intelligence and enforcement capacity at National level

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in collaboration with Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and with logistical support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) organized a five day training workshop for 60 intelligence and enforcement officers as well as customs officials from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda and DR Congo on "Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking during which officials were trained various aspects of ivory and other wildlife trafficking issues, CITES implementation, methods of concealment of smuggled ivory and other wildlife products as well as document verification by Customs officials. Below is a brief pictorial about the training workshop.



Participants at the May 2015 Prevention of wildlife trafficking training workshop group photo (above) and training session on CITES (below)



With support from United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs (UNODC), over 30 staff from Uganda Wildlife Intelligence and enforcement Unit as well as Environmental Protection Police were trained in Crime Intelligence Analysis to equip them with investigative skills to analyse data and achieve successful prosecution of wildlife trafficking cases. The Photograph below shows a cross section of participants at the UNODC organized training on crime intelligence analysis.







Photographs above show one of the sniffer dogs acquired undergoing training demonstration on how to sniff ivory. The dog is ready for deployment at Entebbe International Airport

CATEGORY 3: Coordination and Collaboration

Regional and national coordination and collaboration was strengthened through inter-agency awareness workshops and seminars. The photograph below shows a regional inter-agency stakeholder workshop held in Kampala to raise awareness and profile of transboundary wildlife conservation and trafficking in the Greater Virunga between Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo. Seated in the front row and fourth from left is the Ugandan Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities franked by Heads of Protected Areas in Uganda Rwanda and DR Congo and Permanent Secretary after opening the inter-agency regional coordination and awareness workshop.



CATEGORY 4: Awareness creation



Photograph above shows one of the awareness creation materials produced by Uganda in collaboration with WCO under Project GAPIN and placed at the International Airport to warn the passengers against wildlife trafficking.