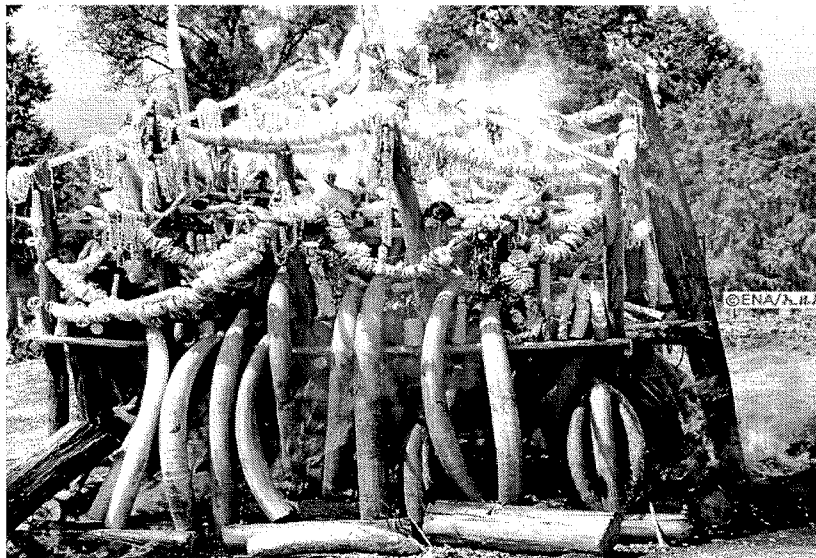




Progress Report

Ethiopian National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP)



Prepared by:
Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA)
NIAP Focal person: Mr Daniel Pawlos

Submitted to:
The CITES secretariat

Reporting period:
December 2014 – June 2016



PART A. Synopsis of 'NIAP' implementation

It is known that Ethiopia is one of the elephant range states in Africa. Like in other range states, the elephants of Ethiopia has faced various problems, of which habitat loss and poaching are the main ones. A range of evidences have shown that the country is identified as *source* and *transit* for illegal trafficking of elephant ivory. There are also certain evidences that show presence of illegal ivory trade within the country. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) is a government organization established by proclamation number 575/2000 for managing and conserving the wildlife resources of the country.

Elephants are mainly poached for its ivory and this illicit activity harms the population of elephants severely across the country. 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 in areas suspected for illegal acts, penalizing criminals, 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. Due to this, various international bodies were blaming the country. EWCA has started working vigourously with national law enforcement agencies especially with the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority, Federal and Regional Police Commissions, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice (judiciaries), prosecutors and National Information and Security Service to address the challenge. EWCA also work with various partners such as INTERPOL, AEF/UNEP, LATF, Born Free Foundation, and IFAW to tackle the illicit ivory trade and trafficking. As a result of the collaborative effort, the illegal ivory trade and trafficking is highly minimized to the level which could be hard to notice its precence today.



As per the recommendation of the CITES secretariate adopted at the 65th SC meeting (Geneva, July 2014) where Ethiopia identified as one of the *secondary concern countries*, EWCA has developed a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) in December 2014 to eradicate illegal ivory trade and trafficking 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 national action plan.

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

- National Wildlife act amendment bill made ready to be presented to the government for approval.
- Recommendations provided by the regional states are incorporated in to the new drafted wildlife act to dissolve the gaps and harmonize the laws.
- Prosecution on wildlife crime improved
- Inventory of ivory stocks and Destruction if 6.1 tones seized ivory products in an official ceremony has been carried out,
- Penalized criminals,
- Published and distributed booklet on identification of wildlife and their products, to assist implementation of wildlife laws,
- Conducted several covert operations targeting ivory trade and trafficking.

Since December 2014 to date, about 143 arrest cases happened in connection to illegal possession of wildlife and wildlife products mainly ivory. 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 858,000 Ethiopian Birr have been collected via penalizing the criminals.



Insufficient man power the head quarter as well as at the protected areas, light sentences of the court on criminals, poor local community engagement in tackling illegal ivory trade and trafficking, poor trans-boundary coolaboration and lack of dedicated vehicle for law enforcement activities are among the challenges, facing during implementation period of the NIAP so far.

It is hoped that EWCA in close cooperation and collaboration with the key stakeholders and partners will perform the remaining NIAP actions/activities within the implementation period of the NIAP as effectively and efficientlly as possible, by trying to resolve those challenges hampering implementation of the NIAP.

PART B. 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 national action plan. The following table shows the implementation progress of each NIAP action/activities according to our assessment since the action plan put in place.

Catagory/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
A. LEGISLATION	- Existing wildlife legislations reviewed.	- Subsidiary legislative provisions integrated into EWCA wildlife legislation review process	- At least one harmonized legislation in place, and one other drafted			
	- Consultations with stake holders has taken place to collect input for reviewing the existing penalty frame work.	- Wildlife act amendment bill presented to the government for approval	-			
	- Experience and policy and legal framework/level of fines and prison sentences of two other elephant range states (Kenya & Tanzania) reviewed					
	- New wildlife crime penalty frame work (fines and prison sentences) drafted.					



Catagory/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
	Gaps in wildlife legislations between the federal & regional wildlife identified through discussion with the Regional States wildlife authorities					
	Recommendations provided to EWCA and Regional States on the results of the analysis to dissolve the gaps and harmonize the laws.					
B. PROSECUTION	Experts from Ministry of justice consulted on how judiciaries can be made strictly apply wildlife crime legislations	Hold a meeting with the ministry of justice to discuss on the applicability of the guidelines	Guidelines materials for judiciaries produced & disseminated			
	Training materials for educating law enforcement officers has been developed (10,000 copies of booklet published).	Implementation of recommendation at bole airport	Anti-trafficking messaging increased at BIA and on in flight communications on Ethiopian Airlines flights			



Category/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
	- Wildlife & their products identification manual prepared and printed to assist LEO doing inspection and control duties.					
	- Delivered training to increase knowledge and awareness of prosecutors, judiciaries and other stakeholders on seriousness of wildlife crimes and associated penalties					
	- Commence a system for collecting information on wildlife crime penalties being applied.					
	- 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					
	- Delivered training to south police and judiciaries' staff					
	- Feasibility of deploying sniffer dog unit or other mechanism for BIA assessed					



Category/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	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.					
	- Detection rates on wildlife crime improved					



Category/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
C. INTELLIGENCE and INVESTIGATIONS	- Inventory of ivory stocks and marking of all ivory in the stock pile to conform to CITES Resolution Conf.10.10 completed,	- Site level network operating at 1 key site	- Federal and site level training provided to LEO on setting up and managing intelligence networks.			
	- 6.1 tones of Confiscated Ivory stocks destroyed in an official ceremony via burning.	- EWCA has at least 11 dedicated intelligence officers in place	- Site level networks operating at 3 key sites			
	- At least 6 experts recruited for strengthening wildlife intelligence units & relevant training given to them from appropriate agencies	- Establish intelligence networks at least in key entry & exit points, in suspected illegal trade spots and at elephant site levels	- Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for the handling and transport of ivory developed. by reviewing experience of other countries & international standards			
	- Regular stock inventories conducted to confirm that all new ivory is correctly catalogued, stored and data entered.	- Develop Standard Operational Procedures for the handling and transport of ivory	- Set up sampling protocols for large seizures to undertake analysis of origin of seized ivory			
	- Regular stocktaking (collection) of wildlife specimens conducted and accurate database maintained	- Scene of crime training to PA staff	- Police support for use of forensic in dealing with the wildlife crime.			
	- Carried out an audit of the country's current system for the storage and management of confiscated wildlife products	-	-			



Category/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
	- Recruited experts for strengthening wildlife intelligence units & offer relevant training from appropriate agencies - Strengthen the security of confiscated ivory stockpile, with assigning special officers and by reconstructing the store					
D. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME	- Good collaboration in place; most cases involving illegal ivory trade successfully investigated and prosecuted	- Cross border cooperation to share information on trafficking – such as with Somali land	- Establish cross border and regional cooperation agreements with sister PAs and Governments			
	- Two awareness workshops with Customs, Judiciary, Police at major ivory route border posts undertaken to sensitize these stakeholders					
	- Discussion carried out with Police, Interpol, Customs and Immigration, National Army, Judiciary and Intelligence bodies to establish a National Task Force					

Category/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
	- 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					
	- Enhance the understanding of National and Regional States law enforcement units on the severity & implications of illegal ivory trade & other wildlife crimes & CITES requirements					
	- 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)					

Category/ Pillar	Substantially achieved	On track	Limited progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	Unclear
	- Conduct joint cross border meetings for sharing information and experience to improve collaboration (Somaliland)					
	- Maintain cooperation and communication with relevant international law enforcement agencies/ organizations like INTERPOL					
	- Report on seizures and arrest associated with elephants made to ETIS,					
E. LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS	- 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	- Security training to PA staff			
	- Assess state of local ivory markets and routes	- LE system in omo and mago national parks reviewed and key barriers to effectiveness addressed - Local security force				
	-		- 40 sets of scouts equipments			

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PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
Category A. LEGISLATION		
A.1 Improve legal framework on wildlife crime with a focus on increasing deterrents	Substantially achieved	- Existing wildlife legislations is reviewed, - During reviewing the legislations, due attention has been given to those provisions related to wildlife crime for instance the penalty frame work; - Stake holders consulted and collected in put on specific legislative provisions especially to those relating to illegal trade, trafficking and poaching. (four consultations) - The experience and legal framework/level of fines and prison sentences in other range states (Kenya and Tanzania) reviewed. - New penalty frame work (fines and prison sentences) which we beleive able to deter criminals in wildlife sector has been drafted, which looks stronger than the existing one. - 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 - Final consultation made so that the draft wildlife act ammendement bill is made ready to be presented to the government for approval in this fisical year.

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
A.2 Analyze the gaps between the Federal and Regional States wildlife legislations on wildlife crime; for harmonization & enhancement of EWCA's and Regional wildlife legislation	Substantially achieved	▪ 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, and gaps already identified.. ▪ 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, which are now addressed in the draft.
Category B. PROSECUTION		
B.1 Increase prosecution rates for illegal ivory trade and trafficking	Substantially achieved	• Ministry of justice consulted on how judiciaries can be made strictly apply wildlife crime legislations, circular letter written and dispatched from the Ministry to all regional justice office ordering them to take strong action on illegal ivory traders and traffickers. • Four awareness raising training to 40 prosecutors, 23 judiciaries and more than 60 investigators on seriousness and negative impacts of wildlife crimes and associated penalties • Developed a wildlife crime training materials in a local language to be used in judiciary, police & prosecutors training colleges/ academy • Hold one 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 on how to proceed and develop the guidelines.

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
		• 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 already doing well. But prosecution in the regions were low, now after the meetings there is some improvements. • A system for collecting information on wildlife crime penalties is being applied
B.2 Increase illegal ivory trafficking detection rates at international airport and land borders and along trafficking routes	Substantially achieved	• Wildlife and wildlife products identification skills of customs, security, police officers & defense force improved via offering training and distributing publications that can be used as identification guide. • Wildlife & their products identification manual developed with local language and 5000 copies printed to assist wildlife law enforcement. • The ID manual distributed to LEO doing inspection or control duties /customs, police and other/ in Bole international airport and other custom checking points. • 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. • 62 custom staff working in southern regions of the country have been trained on job about illegal wildlife trade and trafficking and its consequences. • Distributed wildlife & their products identification manual for more than ten suspected trafficking routes including border areas. • Arrangement to deliver training for south region police and judiciaries is in progress.

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
		- 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. - Draft MOU is prepared and commented by EWCA, Ethiopian federal police commission and AWF. Now the three parties are ready to sign and go ahead on detector dogs issues.
Category C. INTELLIGENCE & INVESTIGATIONS		
C.1 Strengthen the intelligence networks of EWCA up to site levels to curb illegal wildlife trade and trafficking	On truck	- Six experts have been recruited to strengthen law enforcement in elephant range areas in PAs - Site level intelligence network start to operate at two key sites – Babile Elephant Sanctuary and Omo National Park
C.2 Improve system for handling, transporting and storing ivory, including data management	Substantially achieved	- 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 6.1 tones of Confiscated ivory stocks destroyed in an official ceremony on March 20, 2015 by burning which reveals that the government of Ethiopia is highly committed to fight illegal ivory trade and trafficking. (see pictures in annex) - An audit of the country's current system for the storage and management of confiscated wildlife products has been carried out. - Establish intelligence networks at least in key entry & exit points, in suspected illegal trade spots and at elephant site levels is in progress.

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
		▪ the security of confiscated ivory stockpile has been strengthened through the following measures: - changing the location of the ivory store to more safe place - Assign additional well trained rangers for increasing security of the stock - Collaborate and exchange information with federal police intelligence officers and security service to safe guard the stock until some decision made on it. • Regular stocktaking (collection) of wildlife specimens conducted and accurate database put in place • Standard Operational Procedures (OPS) for the handling and transport of ivory have been drafted (or in development)
C.3 Increase forensic support for prosecution and detection of origin of seized ivory	On truck	• Sampling protocols for large seizures to undertake analysis of origin of seized ivory have not developed yet • Working on what support required by police to implement forensics for the effective prosecution and investigation of wildlife crime
C.4 Develop wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures and take the necessary measures to ensure their implementation.	On truck	• Inter-agency task force identified the right procedures to be followed to improve intelligence and investigation • Developed project proposal seeking additional financial & technical assistance for implementing the wildlife crime investigations and intelligence operations and secured fund from IFAW, AEF

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
Category D. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME		
D.1 Improve national cooperation to combat illegal ivory trade and trafficking	Substantially achieved	• Eight awareness workshop with customs, police and judiciaries around the border areas have been undertaken. 652 law enforcement officers trained with this particular program • Good collaboration in place; all cases involving illegal ivory trade successfully investigated and prosecuted • Understanding of National and Regional States law enforcement units on the severity & implications of illegal ivory trade & other wildlife crimes & CITES requirements enhanced via training • 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
D.2 Develop a national strategy for enhancing inter-agency collaboration and wildlife contraband detection.	Substantially achieved	• Discussion made 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 Addis ababa in April 2015 • 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
D.3 Improve international cooperation and collaboration to combat illegal ivory trade and trafficking	Substantially achieved	• 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.

Action	Evaluation	Summary of progress (comments)
		- 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 HIA-WEN initiative. The initiative is now progressing - Conduct joint cross border meetings for sharing information and experience to improve collaboration (somaliland)
Catagory E. LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS		
E.1. Reduce illegal domestic sales and domestic involvement in ivory trade	Substantially achieved	- 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 - 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 hidden exist - Four covert/sudden operations undertaken, two in Addis Ababa and one out side Addis Ababa in Tulu bolo (photo and video annexed)
E.2 Site based law enforcement efforts strengthened with an initial focus on babile elephant sanctuary, gambella, mago and omo national parks		- Law enforcement system in omo and mago national parks reviewed based on the reports submitted from the national parks office, and key barriers identified - Provide personel security training TO 15 PA 's staff in omo and mago national parks - Conduct additional 4000 man-days of pateroling in omo/mago national park

PART D: Indicators

Law Enforcement Pillar	Indicators	Performance (progress against indicator)
A. LEGISLATION	- Amendment of wildlife act, with scale of new penalty framework. - Federal and regional wildlife provisions on wildlife crime are harmonized	- New wildlife act drafted. - Gaps between federal and regional wildlife legislation identified.
B. PROSECUTION	- Status of prosecution rates, - Status of detection of contraband in ivory	- Improved prosecution rates - Detection improved at BIA and at border custom checking points, via enhancing the enforcement capacity of officers through training and use of new techniques.
C. INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATIONS	- Intelligence networks established up to site levels. - Mechanism in place to improve system for handling, transport and storing ivory. - Forensic evidence to prosecution. - Wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures.	- In progress at this moment. - Preparation of SOPs in progress - Start discussion with police on how to use forensic for prosecution and detection of origin. - No formal wildlife intelligence and investigation procedures currently.

Law Enforcement Pillar	Indicators	Performance (progress against indicator)
D. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME	Status of National cooperation.	National cooperation with all law enforcement agencies improved at least at site levels and selected illegal trade spot areas
	National strategy to enhance inter-agency collaboration.	National Task Force that specifically deal with wildlife crime established though it is not actively operating
	Set up cross boarder collaboration with two neighbouring countries.	Cross boarder collaboration to South Sudan and Somalia is going on, besides Kenya.
	Comply to international obligations	Timely Comply with international obligations
E. LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS	Status of illegal domestic sales in ivory.	Domestic sales in ivory significantly reduced in hot spot areas via conducting covert operations
	Status of site-based law enforcement effort	Strengthening site-based law enforcement effort at least at four sites in progress.

The end