

SECOND AFRICAN ELEPHANT MEETING

DRAFT LIST OF PRIORITIES - VERSION 1.3

Based on the Strategic Framework for an African Elephant Action Plan

Gigiri, March 2009

ENGLISH

Objective 1: Increase awareness on elephant conservation and management across all levels

- Consolidate reliable information on the conservation and management of the elephant for the popular, scientific and political audiences (CA, EA)
- Encourage the dissemination of results to all stakeholder communities from local to elephant managers and conservationists (EA, CA)
- Raise awareness among stakeholders, policy makers and other interest groups on the basis of information gathered on the conservation of the African elephant (WA)
- Survey across the region of value systems regarding elephant conservation (SA)
- Put in place a communication strategy to help justify management actions (first regional and then beyond the region) (SA)
- Develop awareness programs for schools, NGO's, business sectors, etc (SA)
- Develop and implement an [IEC] on the conservation of the African elephant (WA)
- Incorporate traditional beliefs and feelings for the conservation of the African elephant (WA)

Objective 2: Build capacity in elephant conservation and management

- Enhance project management skills of wildlife managers to enable them to more effectively manage projects. (EA)
- Improve the expertise of wildlife managers to enable them to manage projects more effectively (CA)

- Develop activities to enhance capacity of decision makers, wildlife managers and researchers to acquire, access and make use of the best available information and to reinforce their adaptive management skills. (EA)
- Develop activities to improve the capacity of decision makers, wildlife managers and researchers to access the best available information in order to strengthen their skills in adaptive management (CA)
- Train Forestry and Wildlife officers in protected areas on African Elephant conservation (WA)
- Strengthen the capacity of PA managers on ecological research (WA)

- Capacitate magistrates, prosecutors, to prosecute wildlife cases and understand the importance of deterrent sentences / fines (SA)

- Training on MIKE MIST Monitoring and Law Enforcement (including, aerial surveys) (SA)

- Community capacity building on HEC mitigation (SA)

- Ensure that sufficient financial means and resources are available to provide capacity building and apply the 'lessons learned' on the ground. (EA, CA)

- Provide the necessary equipment to managers (WA)

Objective 3: Improve knowledge and management of elephant populations and their habitats

- Priority surveys for Eastern Africa: Virunga-Bwindi, Virunga Massif, Akagera - Ibanda, Kimisis-Ibanda, Mt Elgon, South Sudan, Omo-Gambella-Boma and Koft Sheraro Gash-Setit. (EA)
- In-country surveys in Malawi and Angola and coordinated transboundary surveys (SA)
- Conduct inventories of populations of in West Africa (WA)
- Conduct inventories to ascertain the biological status of populations of elephants and their habitat (CA)

- Elephant reintroduction and translocation: Rwanda as a priority for reintroduction. This can solve a number of problems for people that have too many and for populations that have too few. In existing ecosystems where elephants were living but have become extinct. (EA)
- Angola and Mozambique restock using IUCN guidelines for translocation (SA)
- Identify and rehabilitate migration corridors for effective protection of the African elephant and reintroduction into their natural habitat whenever possible (for example, PN Niokolo-Koba in Senegal (WA)

- Provide satellite collars to monitor cross-border and other populations, including Kilimanjaro-Amboseli, and Akagera-Ibanda, transboundary and Ethiopian populations (EA)

- Develop and maintain databases on elephant populations for management purposes (CA)

- Coordinating research efforts, create databases, compile and disseminate research findings (SA)

- Look for new and economically viable methods for the study of elephants on the continent (CA)

- Establish a mechanism for exchanging information between Range States for better monitoring of transboundary movements of elephants (WA)

Objective 4: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products

- Strengthen and direct resources towards capacity strengthening enforcement capacity in African elephant range states to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory. (EA)
- Fight poaching by strengthening the capacity of staff at all levels of conservation and management of the African elephant (CA)
- Strengthen the capacity of managers of African elephants to enforce laws (WA)

- Effectively enforce relevant laws and judiciary needs regarding the elephant conservation and management, including any authorized domestic harvesting, trade and international sale of ivory. Focus on regional harmonization and coordination, through inter alia, regional meetings, existing legal frameworks and other regional institutions. (EA)
- Strengthen and harmonize laws and policies in the region (WA)
- Strengthen and enforce laws on conservation and management of the elephant (CA)

- Establish a mechanism to exchange law enforcement information, including through regional meetings. (EA)
- Coordination of law enforcement activities between neighboring countries (SA)

- Control of legal and illegal domestic ivory markets through deterrent and other measures (SA)
- Register existing ivory stocks and close illegal domestic markets (WA)

- Implementation of MIKE and ETIS (SA)

Objective 5: Maintain and restore elephant habitat connectivity

- Develop programs for collaborative and participatory management of national and transboundary populations and habitats, actively involving communities at all stages of planning and implementation to establish connectivity between elephant ranges. (EA)
- Prioritize and coordinate trans-boundary management efforts (SA)

- Conduct cross-sectoral planning exercises to develop land use policies consistent with large, elephant-friendly landscapes (especially those surrounding areas of protected areas) starting from the local community to national levels, and transboundary wherever possible. (EA)
- Explore and prioritize opportunities range expansion and creation of corridors within the broader land use planning (cited Kaza, Limpopo, Niassa as already under exploration) (SA)
- Undertake feasibility studies to determine ways to maintain connectivity between elephant populations within and between countries (WA)
- Create and / or restore, where possible, the connectivity between areas of elephants within and between countries, sometimes with the establishment of corridors for their movement (WA)
- Assessment of habitat loss and fragmentation, with a focus on transboundary ranges. (EA)
- Develop participatory programs for managing national and cross-border populations and habitats by actively involving local communities in all stages of the planning and execution. (CA)

- Establish and strengthen bilateral and multilateral support for the management of sites and corridors border (CA, WA)

- Monitoring movements of elephants across borders to support management (SA)

Objective 6: Reduce human-elephant conflict

- Undertake studies to assess the nature and extent of human-elephant conflict (CA)
- Development of a database on HEC (SA)
- Compile, promote and disseminate information on interactions / HEC (WA)
- Evaluate the causes and socio-economic consequences of human-elephant interactions (WA)

- Apply adaptive management approach in addressing HEC mitigation, focusing on capacity building of local communities. (EA)
- Develop and implement participatory action plans to prevent and manage HEC (CA)
- Establish participatory processes for mitigation (SA)
- Harness indigenous knowledge and other deterrent methods for HEC, including emerging technologies (SA)
- Build capacity of elephant managers and local communities for the management of HEC (WA)

- Develop long-term plans to manage HEC under different scenarios, integrating both participatory planning and national policies. (EA)
- Develop or strengthen policy guidelines for the reduction of human-elephant conflicts at all levels (CA)

- Undertake appropriate land use planning, including harmonization across sectors. (EA)

Objective 7: Strengthen understanding and cooperation among range States

- Use existing political and economic frameworks to promote cooperation on elephant conservation and management, eg ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and COMIFAC (EA, CA)
- Apply current and or existing policies and instruments and other related protocols (SA)

- Facilitate technical and policy exchanges of information within and across regions and amongst all levels of stakeholders (communities to high-level decision makers) by means of trainings, forums, meetings, and study tours. (EA)
- Foster cross-sectoral, cross-border, regional and continental exchanges to integrate the needs of elephant conservation and management into national priorities and agendas, particularly socio-economic development planning. (EA)
- Facilitate the exchange of technology and encourage the dissemination of information and technical training for stakeholders at all levels on conservation and management of the elephant (from local to high-level decision-makers) (CA)
- Use regional institutions to exchange techniques and guidance on the management of elephants (WA)
- Organize inter-state meetings on the conservation of elephants (WA)

- Develop, strengthen and formalize policies, cooperation agreements and memoranda of agreements for the conservation and management of the elephant at the national, cross-border (inter-state) and international levels (CA)
- Harmonize policies for elephant management across the region (SA)
- Develop and implement agreements / protocols on management of trans-boundary populations (SA)
- Establish bilateral or multilateral agreements to support the management of sites and cross-border corridors (WA)

Objective 8: Assess the costs and benefits to people of elephants

- Identify and assess needs for the full participation of local people to conserve the African Elephant (WA)
- Conduct studies to assess the costs of living with elephants, ie the direct and indirect social and economic costs of elephants to humans (CA)
- Pilot study on cost-benefit assessment (a comparative study across different regions) (SA)
- Conduct studies to assess the opportunity costs of living with elephants (WA)

- Develop innovative incentive schemes that help to bring benefits to local communities, while simultaneously reducing costs of living with elephants. (EA)
- Assess and promote, as appropriate, consumptive and non-consumptive use of elephants and the sharing of benefits accrued with affected communities. (EA)
- Develop and implement innovative incentive plans that help deliver benefits to local communities (CA)
- Establish benefits for local communities affected by HEC (SA)
- Promote non-consumptive and consumptive use of elephants (SA)
- Promote activities aimed at sustainable management of the African elephant and the protection of their habitats which could increase the incomes of local people (WA)

Objective 9: Implement and monitor the African elephant action plan

- Establish a range States Working Group to complete the Action Plan. (EA)
- Pooling of resources (voluntary contributions of capacity, space, and funding) from range States to complete the Action Plan. (EA)
- Prioritize interventions in the African elephant action plan for fund raising and subsequent implementation, taking into account the geographical and geopolitical scope of each action (SA)
- Estimate the cost of activities and seek funding sources (WA, SA)

- Develop a mechanism to carry forward the plan, ensuring sustainability. (EA)
- Establish mechanisms for coordination, collection and use (in a sustainable manner) of funds for implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan (CA, SA)

- Establish clear and measurable targets for each objective and result (WA, SA)
- Implement and monitor progress (WA)
- Implement the actions called for in the African elephant action plan and report on these through a regular reporting mechanism through existing reporting mechanisms eg CITES biannual reporting (SA)
- Monitor progress in achieving the priorities identified in the Plan of Action for the African elephant (CA, SA)
- Agree on institutional arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan and for deciding on remedial measures in case no or too little progress is achievement (SA)