Project Proposal to the African Elephant Fund (AEF)

1.1: Country: Zimbabwe

1.2: Project title: An integrated conservation and management approach to African elephants during a period of social and economic crisis in Hwange, Northwest Matabeleland Elephant Region, Zimbabwe.

1.3: Project location: Hwange National Park, Northwest Matabeleland Elephant Region

1.4: Overall project cost (USD):
  Amount Requested from African Elephant Fund (USD):49 940.00
  Co-funding source and amount (if applicable) in USD: 00.00

1.5: Project duration: July 2020 to July 2021

1.6: Project proponent: Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

Other project partners (if any) *(please submit or attach an endorsement letter from national government entity responsible for wildlife)*:

1.7: Name and institution of project supervisor: Mr. Samson Chibaya and Mr. Tinaapi Hilary Madiri

1.8: Address of project supervisor: Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Stand No. 704 Baobab Shopping Centre, Hwange, Zimbabwe.

1.9: Telephone number: +263 773 507 436, +263773289298

1.10: Email: schibaya@zimparks.org.zw, hmadiri@zimparks.org.zw.   .

1.11: Date of submission:

2.0: Project summary (*overall rationale, objectives of the project, expected outputs and expected results* maximum 1 page) (*How is this project addressing COVID 19 related challenges that are hampering elephant conservation?*)

The government of Zimbabwe traditionally considers elephants an important part of national and international heritage, a keystone species ecologically and a valuable natural resources that contributes to conservation and rural development. Against this background an array of tools including institutional arrangement, legislation, and manpower and resources set aside for conservation.

Hwange National Park is the largest park in Zimbabwe occupying an area of about 14 600km² km. The park holds the largest elephant population in Zimbabwe with estimates of 45 846 elephants (Dunham et al., 2014).This number represent more than 50% of Zimbabwe's total elephant population. The 2014 National Aerial survey results in Zimbabwe indicated an increase in the numbers of elephants in the park since 2001 using a similar method.

Global sector lost estimated US$80 billion during the first quarter of 2020 (www.unwto.org/international-tourism-and-Covid-19). There has been 100% cancellation of bookings due to COVID-19 that form the basis for conservation funding for protected areas, community conservancies and Campfire areas (allAfrica.com). The travel bans and closure of the tourism industry has resulted in reduction of funds available to the government and this has affected conservation efforts.

Hwange is home to an array of biodiversity and conservation activities such as law enforcement patrols, vegetation studies, population studies, artificial water provision and ground water abstraction. Human elephant conflict management through the identification of hot spots, attendance to and active management of conflict incidences in adjacent communities remains a priority. It is important that these on-going law enforcement, research and monitoring activities continue gathering information on elephant and other wildlife species for sustainable conservation.

RECOGNISING the serious and increasing levels of threat currently facing elephants, including institutional and enforcement capacity, local overabundance, human-elephant conflicts, climate change and the compounding effect of COVID 19 pandemic, patrolling of protected areas should be continued to safeguard wildlife.

With virtually no revenue from tourism, conservation efforts have been crippled due to lack of resources. There is need for financial support for ongoing operational activities relating to elephant management in light of reduced conservation funding.

The objectives of the project is to complement management, research and community engagement efforts through SMART an integrated monitoring and reporting tool in light of reduced conservation revenue.

The expected output and results of the project will better inform management and policy formulation through sustaining on-going law enforcement efforts, research and monitoring projects, human and elephant conflict management strategies.

3.0: Which **priority objectives, strategies and activities of the project** (there may be more than one) are related to the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP)?

AEAP objectives: (For reference)

The approach to this project is motivated by the need to harness limited resources to achieve elephant protection through law enforcement activities, research and monitoring as well as conflict management thus creating an environment in which elephants and people co-exist given during a period of economic and social crisis induced by COVID 19 pandemic.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products
STRATEGY 1.1: Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.
Activity 1.1.2. Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.
Activity 1.1.3. Equip wildlife authority staff on the frontline of enforcement with appropriate tools to carry out their mission as safely and effectively as possible.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 2: MAINTAIN ELEPHANT HABITATS AND RESTORE CONNECTIVITY
STRATEGY 2.4: Ensure adequate maintenance of current elephant habitat within and between elephant range States
Activity 2.4.1. Provide adequate resources for effective management of existing protected areas and dispersal areas.
Activity 2.4.2. Improve or maintain good management in existing protecting areas in African elephant range States.
Activity 2.4.5. Investigate impacts of climate change on elephant habitat and elephant populations through appropriate research.
PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 3: REDUCE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT (HEC)

STRATEGY 3.1: Apply adaptive management approaches in addressing HEC mitigation, focusing on capacity building of managers and local communities.
Activity 3.1.1. Establish a database using existing and new data on the types, extent, causes and impacts of HEC and mitigation measures for such conflicts.
Activity 3.1.3: Train and equip wildlife officers and local communities to ensure that appropriate HEC management approaches are implemented.
Activity 3.1.5. Evaluate the causes and socio-economic consequences of human elephant interactions.
STRATEGY 3.2: Establish participatory processes for mitigation of HEC.
Activity 3.2.1. Compile and disseminate information on HEC mitigation measures.
Activity 3.2.3. Harness traditional/indigenous knowledge and other deterrent methods for HEC, including emerging technologies.

4.0: Project Rationale – why is this project necessary? What threats face this elephant population (for example, what information you have regarding population details, trends in population (downward or upward), ivory seizure information, details about levels of poaching, human/elephant conflict, habitat loss etc.) (*2 pages maximum*)

Hwange National Park (14 600km^2) the largest park in Zimbabwe, is located in an arid area (annual precipitation 606 mm) and has two perennial rivers (Deka and Bumbusi) restricted to the far North Western Section of the Park. The park holds Zimbabwe's largest and increasing elephant population estimated at 45 846 elephants (Dunham et al., 2014). Therefore unlike other range state in Africa, Zimbabwe is grappling with the problem of overabundant elephants. Associated with this is the increasing human-elephant conflict (HEC), possible impacts on vegetation and other wildlife species and elephant induced landscape change and need to resource anti-poaching units to effectively protect the growing population.

The elephants are at the same time threatened by poaching, loss of habitat, degraded forage, reduced institutional capacity to fund resource protection as well as water scarcity (droughts) associated with climate change. COVID 19 pandemic has presented a critical time to protected areas management. While acknowledging the relatively growing elephants population in its range states (Shaffer et al., 2019), the pandemic and its aftermath could undermine decades of conservation effort through reduced protected area management effectiveness (Hockings et al., 2020; Gitari-Mitaru and Snyman, 2020).

Supporting stakeholder conservation organizations operating in Hwange have been equally affected by the COVID 19 pandemic in terms of revenue generation as their sole business is tourism. Normally some of these organization have small anti-poaching units carrying out anti-poaching in collaboration with ZPWMA rangers or offer anti-poaching resource support in the form of fuel and patrol rations. Without revenue they have also been forced to scale down in order to cut operating costs further removing support and resource protection to elephants and other species as well. With no source of livelihood, this put pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems as people turn to

alternative sources of subsistence and income increasing incidences of environmental crime (Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association Report May 2020).

While there is increasing need for research and monitoring of impacts related to COVID 19, resources for research and monitoring have been severely reduced. The contribution of external researchers has been greatly affected as most have suspended operations causing huge gaps. There is strong justification for maintaining research and monitoring activities were possible. The Kalahari nature of the environment and absence of perennial rivers means Hwange is sustained by artificial game water (104 boreholes). Monitoring of artificial water provision and impact on landscape and other species becomes critical. Further new monitoring programmes for assessing impacts of COVID 19 on wildlife crime, law enforcement effectiveness and HEC are required (Hockings et al., 2020).

Increasing cost of conservation awareness, meetings to share ideas on elephant protection and management are likely to increase. While the most important strategies of social distancing and prohibition of gatherings is critical in reducing the spread of COVID 19, the need to disseminate information on elephant management issues and come up with strategies to address HEC and landscape conservation remain critical.

This places Hwange national park in a unique position and appeal for funding to facilitate elephant conservation. The project seek to foster the conservation and management of elephants through integrated law enforcement, research and monitoring, human-elephant conflict mitigation in view of COVID 19 related impacts. There is imminent need for funding to capacitate, resource field personnel in carrying out research and monitoring activities enhancing the effectiveness of elephant management and protection.

The project seeks to ensure that activities for effective management and protection of elephants in Hwange are achieved. The outbreak of COVID 19 has resulted in revenue constraints in the park following decline of the main source of revenue from tourism. This is likely to continue for a period extending over a year given research findings that on average 19.4 months is required for recovery of tourism following a disease outbreak of this nature (Global Rescue and the World Travel and Tourism Council, 2019). Resource protection through law enforcement become critical during a period of economic decline (Gandiwa et. al, 2014) by ensuring that elephant protection through anti-poaching activities, investigation and prosecution work is sustained.

References

Byron Zamasiya, Nqobizitha Ndlovu, Nobuhle Mabikwa and Mutuso Dhliwayo (2020). The Effects of COVID 19 pandemic on wildlife reliant communities and conservation efforts in Zimbabwe, 1st Edition Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), 31 March 2020-15 May 2020.

CoP18 Inf. 32. Showcasing implementation of Zimbabwe's national elephant management plan (2015-2020) and its national action plan, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora

Dunham, K.M., Mackie, C.S., Nyaguse, G. and Zhuwau, C. (2015b) Aerial Survey of Elephants and other Large Herbivores in north-west Matabeleland (Zimbabwe): 2014. Parks and Wild Life Management Authority, Harare, Zimbabwe and Great Elephant Survey, A. Paul G. Allen Project. 124pp

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Fletcher, R., Büscher, B., Massarella, K., & Koot, S. 'Close the tap!' COVID-19 and the need for convivial conservation.

Gandiwa, E., Heitkönig, I. M., Lokhorst, A. M., Prins, H. H., & Leeuwis, C. (2013). Illegal hunting and law enforcement during a period of economic decline in Zimbabwe: A case study of northern Gonarezhou National Park and adjacent areas. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, *21*(3), 133-142.

Marc Hockings Marc Hockings, Nigel Dudley, Wendy Ellio, Mariana Napolitano Ferreira, Kathy MacKinnon, MKS Pasha, Adrian Phillips, Sue Stolton, Stephen Woodley, Mike Appleton, Olivier Chassot, James Fitzsimons, Chris Galliers, Rachel Golden Kroner, John Goodrich, Jo Hopkins, William Jackson, Harry Jonas, Barney Long, Musonda Mumba, Jeffrey Parrish, Midori Paxton, Carol Phua, Raina Plowright, Madhu Rao, Kent Redford, John Robinson, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Trevor Sandwith, Anna Spenceley, Candice Stevens, Gary Tabor, Sebastian Troëng, Sean Willmore and Angela Yang (2020) Editorial Essay: Covid-19 and protected and conserved areas

Marshall, M. (2020). Conservation in crisis.

Neupane, D. (2020). How conservation will be impacted in the COVID-19 pandemic. *Wildlife Biology*, *2020*(2).

Shaffer, L. J., Khadka, K. K., Van Den Hoek, J., and Naithani, K. J. (2019). Human-elephant conflict: A review of current management strategies and future directions. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *6*, 235.

Zibanai, Z. (2018). The Tourism Sector: A bright light in Zimbabwe's depressed economic environment.

Zimbabwe's Proposal 11.23 to CITES

5.0: Detailed Proposal – including activities to be carried out, anticipated milestones), timelines, reporting channels and procedures, etc. (3 pages maximum).
In responding to this section, it would be helpful if you could divide it into five phases (see below tables):

African Elephant Fund

Ensuring a secure future for African Elephants and their habitats

UN environment programme

5.1.1: Planning

Statement of the objectives	Activities	Timeframe	Anticipated milestones	Indicators	*Channels or process Consultation with stakeholders/partners*
To sustain and strengthen law enforcement activities in Hwange National Park	Training and Capacity building on the use of SMART and MIKE Strategic deployments of anti-poaching units	1 year	Capacitated anti-poaching units	Number of field rangers trained Number of patrols conducted	ZIMPARKS Operations/Scientific Services Unit
To strengthen research and monitoring in HNP	Support protocols for monitoring elephant mortalities. Document elephant impacts on vegetation and the utilisation of natural and artificial water.	1 year	Increased understanding of elephant mortality (age and sex). Increase understanding of elephant habitat interaction Better understanding of natural and artificial water utilisation by elephants.	Records and reports (SMART and MIKE). Survey records and reports Number of boreholes monitored and water levels measured	ZIMPARKS Operations/Scientific Services Unit
To reduce incidence of human-elephant conflict	Sustain protocols for Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) management.	1 year	Identification of hotspot areas and improved strategies of mitigating HEC.	Hotspot areas identified and mapped (Reports and maps)	ZIMPARKS Operations/Scientific Services Unit

	React to human-elephant conflicts		Number of reports attended to.		

5.1.2: Procurement (goods, services, equipment, travel, workshop, accommodation etc.)
(Please explain what goods and services you will be procuring and for what purpose)
1. The project procure goods and resources critical for the ensuring effective elephant protection through law enforcement, research and monitoring activities.
2. Critical resources to improve and facilitate:
(a) mobility: fuels, tyres and vehicle service kits
(b) Communication: servicing of basic radio communication equipment, data and airtime for informers communications, stationery
3. Field support: Ranger dry patrol rations
4. Field Monitoring equipment: Cyber trackers, Camera traps and accessories for implementing Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART).
5. Field research tools: range finders, tape measures, sample collection kits, weather monitoring kites, water level meters and camera traps.
6. Human-elephant conflict: chilli wax and chilli bombs, tool kits

5.1.3: Implementation: activity plan, timeline

Activities	Outputs	Delivery Date
Training of trainers on SMART, MIKE and Data Analysis	Number of trainers trained on SMART, MIKE and Data analysis	First Quarter
Procurement of Ranger field equipment (cyber trackers, Digital Cameras, Patrol Rations, Computer and projectors)	Number of equipment sourced and purchased	First Quarter
Strategic deployments of rangers for law enforcement, research and monitoring and HEC mitigation	Number of deployments Number of areas covered	On-going
Field surveys/Data collection on mortalities, HEC incidences.	Established database for long-term monitoring of elephants	Second Quarter

	Number of reports produced (SMART and MIKE)	
Field surveys/ Data collection on impacts of elephants on vegetation	Number of surveys conducted	Second Quarter
Monitoring of borehole water levels	Number of boreholes monitored	On-going
React to human-elephant conflicts Management of incidence of human-elephant conflicts	Number of reports attended to. Database on human-elephant conflict established	On-going

5.1.4: Monitoring and evaluation measures of the project

(Please explain how the monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted)
The monitoring and evaluation (M & E) of the project will be done through established internal control systems, Internal Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) and Auditors during the project. The reports produced will be shared to all the project funders, partners and implementers. The current methods used in monitoring and evaluation of projects will be used as advised by the UNEP. The report will be shared to all relevant stakeholders.

5.1.5: Technical and financial reporting

(You will be expected to submit interim and final reports for this project in the UN standard template: Please provide details of the responsible officer/entity who will be responsible for preparing these reports and please confirm your capacity to comply with these requirements)
The technical reports will be prepared by the Hwange national park Scientific Unit in collaboration with the Management Unit. The finance Unit will be involved in compiling financial statements and producing a financial report according to required financial standards.

6.0: Please explain long term measures to ensure sustainability of the project.

The project is done in line with the Hwange National Park General Management Plan (2016-2026) and the National Elephant Management Plan 2015-2020 which is currently under review. The General Management Plan addresses the issues and threats facing the park for a holistic approach to the management of the park. Hence

the project is a priority and of interest at organisational, national level and regional level.

Training of trainers will ensure sustained field staff training for SMART to ensure that staff is equipped with the knowledge and capacity to monitor and collect data for the project. The development of a database will allow storage and management of data that will be easily accessible and available for monitoring purposes in the long-term so as to inform adaptive management.

The engagement with communities will ensure that effective awareness is raised amongst stakeholders. This will allow active participation and engagement of communities in conservation.

7.0: Will this project receive any other funding other than AEF? Give all relevant details (for example, amount in USD, source of funds, any restrictions? Please specify.

Project will not receive any other financial funding other than the operational framework of Zimparks (this includes ranger salaries, staff wages, existing vehicles and equipment and infrastructure)

7.1: Please provide a detailed proposed activity-based budget for this project (in USD) as per table below:
(*N/B: Expenses that fall under incidental procurement* which amounts to 20,000$ or above, or 15% of the total budget (whichever is lower), will require that the implementing partner be subject to the UN procurement assessment.*)

*Incidental procurement: equipment, vehicles, travel, furniture, supplies, commodities and materials.

Budget						
Activity	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost (USD)**	**Total Cost (USD)**	**AEF budget**	**Co-funding (Non-AEF Budget)**
Activity 1: Law Enforcement **Training of trainers on SMART and MIKE**						

Item						
Training trainers (30) on SMART and MIKE and Data Analysis (meals and accommodation	7 days	30 men	15	3150	3150	
Accommodation and transport	7 days	25 men				Zimparks
Printing of manuals and aids for SMART training, field data collection and analysis	100	1 module	10	1000	1000	
Procurement of Ranger field equipment						
Ranger patrol boots	200		35	7000	7000	
Patrol rations	200	12	1000	12000	12000	
Service kits for vehicles	4	2	170	1360	1360	
Fuel for deployments	500 litres	12 months	4	28000		Zimparks
Cyber trackers	30	1	250	7500	7500	
Personal Protective Equipment	80					Zimparks
Sub-total					**32000**	
Activity 2:Research and Monitoring						
Field surveys/ Data collection participation on aging carcasses, collection of specimens from carcass, vegetation monitoring and setting up of camera traps						
Fuel for field surveys/data collection	600 litres	12	1.2	8640	8640	
Desk top computers (High processing speed)	3		500	1500	1500	
Digital camera	3	1	1000	3000	3000	
Printer (with scanning and photocopying functions)	3	1	400	1200	1200	
Projector and Screen	3	1	500	1500	1500	

Procurement of Bee hives	5 Areas	5	84	2100	2100	
Sub-total					**17940**	
Total Cost					**49940**	

The following budget items are not funded by the AEF, as agreed by the rules of procedures of the AEF Steering Committee:
1. Salaries, excluding experts/consultants hired for specific activities related to project implementation;
2. Daily subsistence allowances and accommodation, unless it is part of training or activities in remote/rural areas;
3. Flights, purchase of vehicles, excluding bicycles and motorbikes;
4. Educational programmes including bursaries & interns.

Please submit the completed project proposal to: **mamadou.kane@un.org** and **dorris.chepkoech@un.org**; with a copy to**: unep-africanelephantfund@un.org**

You should receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal within 14 days. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement, please call: +254 719744186 / +254 710602646.

Additional information on the project proposal may be requested by the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund.

N/B: The full project proposal should be translated into a two-page executive summary in the other working languages of the AEFSC (English/French and vice-versa).
For more information, please visit our website: www.africanelephantfund.org