



Project Proposal to the African Elephant Fund (AEF)

1.1: Country:	Uganda
1.2: Project title:	<i>Strengthened law enforcement capacity to save the elephant population in Murchison Falls Conservation Area amidst Covid -19 pandemic</i>
1.3: Project location:	Murchison Falls Conservation Area, Uganda
1.4: Overall project cost (USD):	
Amount Requested from African Elephant Fund (USD):	49,932
Co-funding source and amount (if applicable) in USD:	8,547
1.5: Project duration:	12 months
1.6: Project proponent:	Mr. Edison Nuwamanya, Chief Warden Murchison Falls Conservation Area
Other project partners (if any)	N/A
1.7: Name and institution of project supervisors:	1. Mr. Sam Mwandha, Executive Director Uganda Wildlife Authority 2. Mr. Charles Tumwesigye Deputy Director Field Operations, Uganda Wildlife Authority.
1.8: Address of project supervisor:	Uganda Wildlife Authority Plot 7 Kira Road Kamwokya, P. O Box 3530 Kampala, Uganda
1.9: Telephone number:	+256 414 355 000. Mob. +256 772 461 908
1.10: Email:	sam.mwandha@wildlife.go.ug (supervisor) charles.tumwesigye@wildlife.go.ug (co-supervisor) edison.nuwamanya@wildlife.go.ug (proponent)
1.11: Date of submission:	6 th July 2020

2.0: Project summary (overall rationale, objectives of the project, expected outputs and expected results maximum 1 page)

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is a government agency under the Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities charged with the responsibility to manage all wildlife in the country. Murchison Falls Conservation Area (MFCA) the largest wildlife conservation area in Uganda that hosts approximately 2,726 elephants out of the total of about 6000 elephants in Uganda. The rest is distributed in other conservation areas mainly Queen Elizabeth and



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Kidepo Valley Conservation Areas. Uganda's elephant population has been in recovery mode having had a very bad history of poaching in the 1970s and 1980s. In Murchison Falls Conservation Area, the elephant population was estimated at over 9,000 in 1970. This drastically reduced as a result of poaching to about 308 by 1986. However, there has been significant recovery in the elephant population in Murchison Falls Conservation Area to 2,726 in 2019 due to improved law enforcement and support from partners.

The global Covid-19 pandemic that resulted in the shutdown of the tourism industry and country lockdown measures has brought some challenges to conservation of Uganda's wildlife resources in protected areas including Murchison Falls. With no tourism taking place, a number of neighbouring communities that were benefiting directly or indirectly from tourism have had their incomes dwindle. On the other hand, the lockdown measures announced by the government and closure of most businesses has forced many youths to run away from cities and towns to villages and many have resorted to poaching to survive as they have no formal employment. We have since March 2020 witnessed an increase in both armed poaching and poaching by traditional weapons (wire snares and wheel traps) in protected areas as the youth who have lost employment turn to poaching to meet their survival needs. A case in point is April 2020 where 100 poaching suspects were arrested in MFCA which had never happened before.

All this is having serious impacts on wildlife populations and the elephant population in MFCA that has been on the upward trajectory is at stake if urgent measures to strengthen law enforcement are not put in place. With tourism revenue that has been sustaining enforcement and other operations to protect elephants and other wildlife species drying up due to Covid-19 pandemic, UWA and MFCA in general are having challenges to prevent illegal killing of elephants for ivory and meat for sale, and human elephant conflicts.

The overall objective of this project is provided the needed financial and logistical resources to ensure sustained, stable or increasing elephant population in MFCA amidst the dwindling resources from tourism due to Covid-19 to support elephant conservation. This will be achieved through sustained and strengthened law enforcement patrol operations, strengthening intelligence, investigations and prosecution of suspects as well as putting in place measures to reduce human-elephant conflicts in problem animal hot spot areas. This proposal will contribute directly to Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 7 of the African Elephant Action Plan.

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)?

This proposal meets the following AEAP Objectives:

Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products;
Strengthening law enforcement capacity in MFCA will ultimately lead to reduced illegal killing of elephants in the conservation area as well as illegal trade. The project will address the logistical capacity gaps to undertake patrols, gather intelligence, investigate poaching and other illegal trade activities and prosecute suspects.

Objective 3: Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC)

This will be achieved through training and equipping of the already recruited community scouts to work with wildlife rangers in preventing human-elephant conflicts.



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Objective 4: Increase awareness on elephant conservation and management of key stakeholders that include policy makers and local communities among other interest groups;

The Project will work with other stakeholders in law enforcement including Judiciary, Police, Uganda Revenue Authority, Office of Directorate of Public Prosecutions to first of all make them aware of the challenges at hand and involve them in addressing the challenge.

Objective 7: Improve local communities' cooperation and collaboration on African elephant conservation;

Working with community scouts will cultivate a sense of responsibility cooperation and collaboration to champion the cause for elephant conservation.

Expected out puts

Overall output: Increased elephant population

Objectives;

1. To reduce the illegal killing of elephants

- (i) Increase patrols in elephant hot spot areas.
- (ii) Increase responses to reported cases of elephant injuries by wire snares and or wheel traps
- (iii) Reduce number of wire snares and wheel traps laid in the field by poachers.
- (iv) Reduce cases of armed poaching.
- (v) Improve wildlife investigations.

2. To reduce Human elephant conflict

- (i) Reduce human injuries/deaths in hot spot areas
- (ii) Reduce cases of crop raiding in hot spot areas.
- (iii) Improve community – park relations.
- (iv) Reduce revenge/management killing of elephants

3. Increased awareness about elephant conservation and management

- (i) Create awareness among judicial officers, Police, DPP, URA on wildlife laws

4. Improved local community cooperation and collaboration in African elephant conservation

- (i) Train and equip community scouts with personal protective equipment required during interventions to address human-elephant conflicts
- (ii) Sustained community engagements and awareness to conserve elephants.

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)

- Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) depends largely on internally generated revenue from tourism and some limited support from international Organizations to run all her conservation activities.
- Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, tourism was shut down and the organization has stopped realizing any revenue from tourism which has greatly



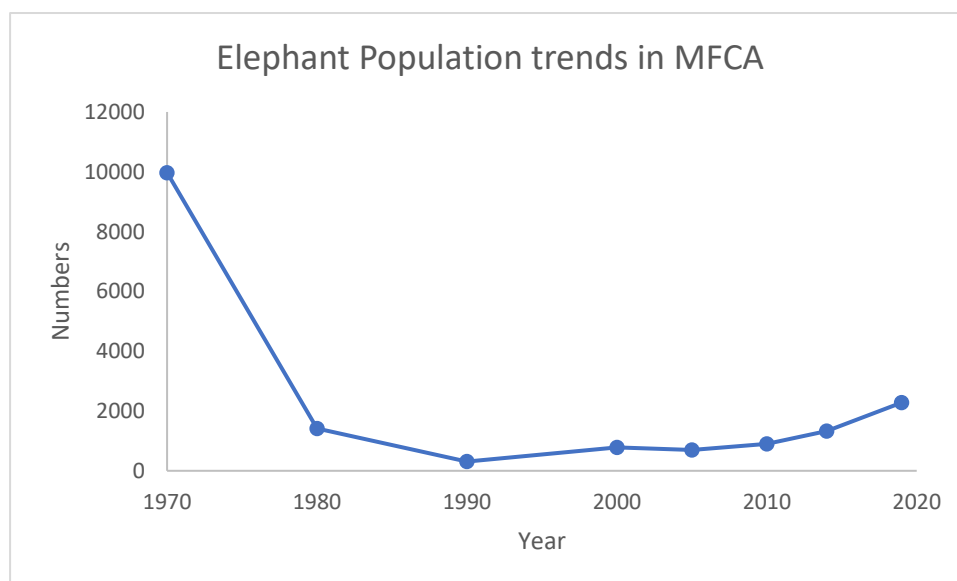
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impacted on funding of her operations especially those related to wildlife protection.

- The Covid-19 pandemic caused the shutdown of most sectors of the economy as the government announced a number of measures to address the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures included total lockdown which forced most people to run away from towns and cities to the villages. With no stable income for many people affected by the Covid-19 lockdown, a number of youth around wildlife protected area have resorted to poaching to meet their survival needs. Since March 2020 when the lockdown was first announced, we have witnessed a spike in both armed poaching and poaching by traditional weapons (wire snares and wheel traps) especially in MFCA. In only six-month period of 2020 only, a total of 5,432 wire snares have been collected by patrol groups in the park. We have also rescued a total of 5 elephants from snares set by poachers inside MFCA. In April 2020 alone a total of 100 suspected poachers were arrested for poaching related incidents in MFCA which has never been seen before. There has also been a general feeling that with the lockdown, UWA rangers are not able to patrol and undertake monitoring of elephants and other wildlife populations in the park. The poachers also know that tourism has stopped and there are no revenues for UWA and the staff morale is down. We need to ensure sustained law enforcement operations in MFCA and other protected areas to curtail poaching especially for the recovering elephant population. The support from AEF will be vital in keeping law enforcement operations in MFCA sustained for at least one year with the hope that within that period, tourism will have returned to provide the lost revenue to sustain operations.
- On the other hand, as earlier indicated, there has been a steady increase of elephant population in the Murchison Falls Conservation Area since 1986. This has resulted into increased influx of elephants in the communities resulting into Human – Elephant conflict (incidences of crop raids by elephants).
- In early 80's elephant population went down so much due to political turmoil that befell the country, however from 1980's, the population of elephants in MFCA started rising steadily as shown by the graph below due to improved protection.





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- Increase in both armed poaching and poaching by traditional weapons (wire snares and wheel traps) has left many animals injured. This is evidenced by significant rise in the number of wire snares recovered between January and June of 2020 compared to Jan-Dec of 2017, 2018 and 2019 and number of animals rescued from wire snares as per the tables below.

Poaching implements recovered in MFCA

Poaching implements	2017	2018	2019	Jan – June 2020
Spears	116	261	396	122
Wire snares	940	2089	4782	5432
Metal Traps	101	216	262	65
AK 47 Rifles	1	0	1	3

- The number of rescued animals is higher in 2020 (January – June 2020) compared to the total number of the same rescued throughout the whole of 2019 and 2018. This implies that there has been a significant rise in the number of wire snares laid between January and June of 2020 compared to the whole period of Jan-Dec of 2017, 2018 and 2019 as per the table below.

Big games rescued by mid 2020 compared to the whole year of 2019 and 2018 in MFCA

Species	2020 (Jan – June)	2019 (Jan – Dec)	2018 (Jan - Dec)
Elephant	5	4	2
Giraffe	60	79	24
Buffalo	9	18	1
Lion	2	2	1

- In terms of human-wildlife conflicts, there has been an increase in the number of incidents of reported human-wildlife conflicts between March – May 2020 (Covid-19 period) as compared to same period in 2019 as illustrated in the table below;

Period	No. of reported and responded to human-wildlife conflict incidents
March – May 2019	107
March – May 2020	164

All these show that the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on wildlife conservation in MFCA is real and needs to be mitigated.

5.0: Detailed Proposal – including activities to be carried out, anticipated milestones), timelines, reporting channels and procedures, etc. (3 pages maximum).



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In responding to this section, it would be helpful if you could divide it into five phases (see below tables):

The following activities will be implemented to address the challenges highlighted above and achieve the Project Objectives;

- Increased targeted patrols in hot spot poaching areas within the MFCA (Atil camp, Tangi valley, Kiba, Buligi, Nombe, Mupina, Acoto and Rabongo).
- Carrying out purposive wire snare/metal trap collection in Got apwoyo, Kabim, Borossus, Buligi and Semanya.
- Enhancing the awareness of judicial officers, Police, DPP, URA on wildlife laws and their roles in combating wildlife crime in general
- Strengthening and intensifying intelligence gathering in the poaching community hot spot areas (Acimi, Langele, Kamdini, Mutunda, Nebbi).
- Conducting investigations on cases involving elephant poaching.
- Conducting timely responses to rescue injured elephants.
- Training and equipping the already recruited scouts with personal protective equipment (PPEs).
- Conducting community awareness on how to live with elephants.



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5.0: Detailed Proposal

5.1.1: Planning

Statement of the objectives	Activities	Time frame (months)	Anticipated milestones	Indicators	Process consultation with Stakeholders
To reduce the illegal killing of elephants	Intensify patrols in targeted hot spot areas (Atil camp, tangi valley, Kiba, Buligi, Nombe, Mupina, Acoto and Rabongo)	12	384 patrols (08 hot spot areas X 01 patrol per week X 04 weeks X 12 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrol coverage maps and reports. 	N/A
	Carry out purposive wire snare/metal trap collection in Got Apwoyo, Kabim, Borossus, Buligi and Semanya	12	120 sweeps (05 hot spot areas X 02 sweeps per month X 12 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of wire snares and metal traps collected. Patrol coverage maps and reports. 	Coordinate with other Partners like Wildlife Conservation Society, Uganda Conservation Foundation
	Educate judicial officers, Police, DPP, URA on wildlife laws	Twice in 12 months	65 officials from 13 districts (Gulu, Oyam, Nwoya, Pakwach, Adjuman, Nebbi, Arua, Amuru, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Buliisa, Hoima and Kikuube)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training reports Increased number of convictions and custodial sentences 	Coordinate with African Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society
	Intensify intelligence gathering in the hot spots (Acimi, Langele, Kamdini, Mutunda, Nebbi)	12	05 hot spots X 2 times per month X 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact/field reports No. of intelligence led arrests/operations 	N/A



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	Conduct investigations on cases involving elephant poaching.	12	All cases of elephant poaching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on successful convictions 	Coordinate with Police, Judiciary and Office of DPP
	Conduct timely responses to rescue injured elephants	12	Depending on reported cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field reports 	
	Conduct spot checks on illegal elephant product trade routes	Once every month	All suspected illegal elephant product trade routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on spot checks 	
To reduce Human elephant conflict	Train and equip the already recruited scouts with PPEs.	First quarter of the project	100 scouts (50 on the north and 50 on the south)	Reports.	Collaborate with other Partners – AWF, WCS, UCF
	Conduct community awareness on how to live with elephants	Four radio talk shows in 12 months 02 stakeholders awareness in 12 months	04 radio talk shows (02 talk shows to cover Oyam, Nwoya, Pakwach, and 02 talk shows to cover Kiryandongo, Buliisa, Masindi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of awareness meetings conducted. • No. of talk shows conducted • Field reports 	



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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)

Item procured (goods, services, equipment, workshop)	Reason
05 Motor cycles (Bajaj)	01 for Law Enforcement to support operations
	02 for Intelligence to facilitate undercover operations
	01 investigations unit to facilitate follow up of court cases
	01 for Problem animal control unit to facilitate quick and timely response to Problem Animal Cases reported.
Solar lighting system in Atil camp.	To provide lighting, charging batteries for SMART phones, walkie talkies. UCF is building the outpost and we need to install lighting system.
100 pairs of gum boots, 100 overalls.	Problem elephant control in the villages
Veterinary drugs and equipment	To preserve specimens and treat injured elephants

5.1.3: Implementation: activity plan, timeline

Activities	Out puts	Delivery date
Conduct patrols in hot spot areas (Atil camp, tangi valley, Kiba, Buligi, Nombe, Mupina, Acoto, Rabongo)	384 patrols conducted	Every month and at the end of the project
Carry out purposive wire snare/metal trap collection in Got apwoyo, Kabim, Borossus, Buligi, Semanya	120 sweeps conducted	Every month and at the end of the project
Educate judicial officers, Police, DPP, URA on wildlife laws	65 officials from 13 districts educated on wildlife laws	First half of the project
Intensify intelligence gathering in the hot spots (Acimi, Langele, Kamdini, Mutunda, Nebbi)	Intelligence gathered in the 05 hot spots	Every month and at the end of the project



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Conduct investigations on elephant cases	All cases of elephant poaching investigated	As and when reported and at the end of the project.
Conduct timely responses to rescue injured elephants	All injured elephants reported rescued.	As and when reported and at the end of the project.
Conduct regular monitoring of elephants' safety	Elephants' safety monitored	Every month and at the end of the project.
Conduct spot checks on illegal elephant product trade routes	All suspected illegal elephant product trade routes.	As and when intel report indicates and at the end of the project.
Procure and install solar system at Atil ranger camp	Solar power system procured and installed	First quarter of the project
Equip the already recruited scouts with PPEs (gum boots and overalls)	100 scouts equipped with PPEs	First quarter of the project
Conduct community awareness on how to live with elephants	04 radio talk shows and 02 stakeholders awareness	First and second half of the project.

5.1.4: Monitoring and evaluation measures of the project

A Monitoring Plan (matrix) for the project will be developed. Midterm and end term participatory evaluation based on targets, performance indicators and physical verification will be undertaken as part of project implementation

5.1.5: Technical and financial reporting

Interim (6 months) reports for both financial and technical (narrative) purposes will be prepared by the Project implementation team at MFCA and reviewed by Project Supervisors at Uganda Wildlife Authority HQ before submission to AEF Secretariat at UN Environment. Standard templates provided by AEF Secretariat will be used to prepare the Project reports

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

This project is building on the already existing initiatives and support from Government of Uganda and other national and International Organization to the Uganda Wildlife Authority. The emphasis is continuity of the law enforcement programs amidst the Covid-19 pandemic impacts. With resumption of tourism in Uganda, Uganda Wildlife



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Authority will be in position to generate revenue to undertake sustained operations in Murchison Falls Conservation Area and other conservation areas. The funding is therefore expected to address the immediate challenges caused by Covid-19 that would not continue if Covid-19 is well managed.



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7.0: Will this project receive any other funding other than AEF? Government of Uganda through the Uganda Wildlife Authority budgetary support will put in USD \$8,547 as counterpart funding to support this project.

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 (calculations in Uganda shillings)	Unit cost (USD)	Total cost (USD)	AEF budget	Co-funding (Non AEF budget)
Conduct patrols in hot spot areas (Atil camp, tangi valley, Kiba, Buligi, Nombe, Mupina, Acoto, Rabongo)	384	Food ration (47,616,000=) 12 Hotspots areasx5,952,000	1,574.6	18,895.2	12,597	6,298.2
		Ranger Patrol Allowances (4 STAFFx3 daysX3,500X384) = 16,128,000 12 hotspots areasx2,016,000	533.4	6,400.8	4,276	2,124.8
		Procure 01 motor cycle (Bajaj) (Ugx 5,000,000 X 1 = 5,000,000=)	1,323	1,323	1,323	-
Carry out purposive wire snare/metal trap collection in Got apwoyo, Kabim, Borossus, Buligi, Semanya	120	Dry ration (Biscuits and water) (2pckt X 15 staff X5,000 X 10 patrols X 12 months) 18,000,000= 5 hotspots areasx3,600,000	952.4	4,762	4,762	
Educate judicial officers, Police, DPP, URA on wildlife laws	65 officials	Fuel refund; 4,000 X 60ltrsX 3 vehicles X 13 distrcits = 9,360,000=	2,476	2,476	2,476	
		Meals (Break tea, Lunch, Water) 50,000 X 65 (3,250,000=)	860	860	860	
Intensify intelligence gathering in the hot spots (Acimi,	05 hot spot areas	Fuel for 05 motor cycles; 4,000 X 12 lts X 2 times X 5 spots X 12 months (5,760,000=) 5m/cyclex1,152,000	304.8	1,524	1,524	



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Langele, Kamdini, Mutunda, Nebbi)		Procure 02 motor cycles (Bajaj); Ugx 5,000,000 X 02 = (10,000,000=)	1,323	2,646	2,646		
Conduct investigations	All elephant cases reported	Fuel; 4,000 X 40ltr X 03 times a month X 12 months (5,760,000=)	1,524	1,524	1,524		
		Procure 01 motor cycle (Bajaj) 5,000,000= X 01 = (5,000,000=)	1,323	1,323	1,323		
Conduct timely responses to rescue injured elephants	All elephant cases handled	Etorphine HCl (12 bottles) 12 vials X \$200 = \$2,400	200	2,400	2,400		
		Diprenorphyn HCl (10ml/Vials 6 vials X \$200 = \$1,200	200	1,200	1,200		
		Azaperone (5 vials) 5 vials X \$80 = \$400	80	400	400		
		Naltrexon (4 vials) 4 X\$150 = \$600	150	600	600		
		Dan inject delivery dart (20 pcs) 20 pcs X \$40 = \$800	40	800	800		
		Darting needles (2.2mm X 60mm) – 20 pcs 20 X \$10 = \$200	10	200	200		
		Compressed CO ₂ cartridge (4 pcs) 4 pcs X \$94 = 376	84	376	376		
		NDA fees and customs clearing	\$124	124		124	
Sub total							
Conduct spot checks on illegal elephant product trade routes		Fuel; 4,000 X 40ltr X 12 months (1,920,000=)	508	508	508		
Sub total		1,920,000=					
Equip the already recruited scouts with PPEs (Rain coats and Gum boots).		Procure rain coats for scouts; 100 X 60,000 = 6,000,000=	15.87	1,587	1,587		
		Procure rain gum boots for scouts; 100 X 25,000 = 2,500,000=	6.61	661	661		



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Conduct community awareness on how to live with elephants (04 radio talk shows)	Radio talk show – airtime for 01 hour; 1,500,000 X 4 quarters = 6,000,000=	396.75	1,587	1,587		
	Procure 01 motorcycle for PAC (Bajaj); 5,000,000 X 1 = 5,000,000	1,323	1,323	1,323		
Equip Atil camp ranger outpost with solar lighting	Procure and install solar system at the out post	5,000	5,000	5000		
Grand total			58,500	49,953	8,547	

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