



Project Proposal to the African Elephant Fund (AEF)

COVID 19 related evaluation criteria:

1. The project should address priority objectives 1, 2 or 3 as set out in the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP);
2. The project should start its activities within 3 months of its approval by the steering committee and completed in no more than 12 months from its inception;
3. The project should be subject to at least one or many of the following criteria:
 - a) Secure small / vulnerable populations that are faced with an immediate threat;
 - b) Address prosecution and criminal investigations;
 - c) Prevent immediate human-elephant conflicts;
 - d) Address a site that is experiencing an escalation in poaching;
 - e) Address a site that is experiencing a decline in law enforcement capacity.
4. Funding request should not exceed 50,000 USD.

1.1: Country: Chad

1.2: Project title: *Elephant Collaring Operation, Zakouma National Park*

1.3: Project location: Zakouma National Park, Chad

1.4: Overall project cost (USD):

Amount Requested from African Elephant Fund (USD): \$50,000

Co-funding source and amount (if applicable) in USD:

1.5: Project duration: November 2020 – February 2021

1.6: Project proponent: African Parks

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: Leon Lamprecht, African Parks

1.8: Address of project supervisor: Zakouma National Park, Chad

1.9: Telephone number: +27 71 869 0225

1.10: Email: leonl@africanparks.org

1.11: Date of submission: 6 July 2020

2.0: Project summary



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In agreement with the Chadian government, African Parks takes complete park management responsibility for the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem. A large portion of the elephant range falls within the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem, part of the 30,000km² under management. Since a new law enforcement strategy was put in place, poaching has decreased in excess of 90% without a single poaching incident inside the park since January 2016. Due to this increased law enforcement and absence of any elephant poaching, the elephant population is increasing and is starting to re-establish their old migratory patterns which have traditionally taken them extensive distances outside of the park boundary during the wet season. This terrain is particularly difficult to access during the wet season with numerous communities living within the migration corridor between Zakouma and Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve.

Satellite collars provide park management 24/7 with detailed information on the movements of the herds and solitary bulls to inform a targeted law enforcement strategy. It is therefore expected that the project will lead to enhanced elephant protection. The information derived also allows the park management unit to study the elephant movements more closely, aiming to predict and anticipate future movement patterns. As 42 collars are currently active this has positively contributed to long term sustainability of our counter poaching operations. The elephant collars allow for accurate deployment of Law Enforcement teams on the ground and facilitate aerial surveillance. In September 2019, the large breeding herd left the park for the first time since 2013, eventually settling in an area approximately 100km from Zakouma base. It is only due to our tracking abilities that we were able to pick up this movement and deploy Ranger cavalry teams to this heavily flooded area and thus maintained the 24/7 security protocols in place within the park itself.

Due to COVID, the Park has lost approximately \$500,000 in tourism revenue for 2020 as a result of the shut down in our tourism activities as of mid-March. This funding is crucial for core park operations (biodiversity monitoring and law enforcement) – such as the wet season survey to maintain oversight of our key species numbers, elephant collaring, and aerial monitoring of our elephant populations.

Local communities are also feeling the effects of COVID which has led to wide-spread unemployment and loss of wages. In communities heavily reliant on subsistence farming, the travel restrictions imposed by the Chadian government has had numerous adverse effects on their ability to provide for their families. Crop raiding elephants during the coming dry season would compound negative effects on vulnerable communities. By tracking the elephants, communities can be made aware of approaching herds via an active radio network in some of the villages in the migration corridor, and park rangers can be deployed to effectively deter the animals from the crops whilst in the area.

The key success indicators for this project are outlined below.

Outputs: Ten elephants collared by February 2021 once roads are accessible again after the rainy season; Real-time monitoring of newly collared elephants along with 42 active collars to monitor movement and behaviour; Optimise ranger deployment accordingly.

Outcomes: Streamlining ranger deployment for 24/7 protection of family and bachelor groups; Optimising the use of the Park aircraft for aerial surveillance thus decreasing costs; Reduced human-elephant conflict; Improvement in community relations with effective assistance provided by Park rangers during crop season.



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Impact: Elephant population is effectively protected from poaching resulting in increased population numbers; Positively creating a constituency for conservation in the local communities surrounding the park.

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)

Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products;

Objective 2: Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity;

Objective 3: Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC)

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

Objective 5: Strengthen range States knowledge on African elephant management;

Objective 6: Strengthen cooperation and understanding among range states;

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

Objective 8: African Elephant Action Plan is effectively implemented.

The proposed collaring project firmly addresses:

Objective 1 Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products:

Under AP management poaching has decreased by over 90% since 2010 with no elephant poaching incident within the park since January 2016. Annual collaring of elephants is a critical part of our law enforcement strategy as it allows our Ranger teams to patrol in the vicinity of family and bachelor groups, providing 24/7 security and immediate response to any security incident.

Objective 2 Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity:

In 2017, African Parks was granted the mandate to manage the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem (30,000 km²). After years (2013-2019) of staying within the Zakouma National Park as a result of increased safety, the elephants are starting to migrate more widely across the ecosystem, as they have done historically. With the collaring, we can ensure they are well protected even as they move through less accessible and intensively protected lands, especially during the wet season. African Parks is also working toward upgrading the conservation status of SMFR from Faunal Reserve to National Park, allowing for improved habitat protection.

Objective 3 Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC):

In light of the expanding elephant movements, it is crucial we have the ability to accurately monitor the movement of large portions of our elephant population so we can proactively deploy rangers in order to assist villagers with crop raiding elephants.

Objective 5 Strengthen range States knowledge on African elephant management:

Cooperation with Chad National Elephant Program as well as with Wildlife Conservation Society in north-eastern Central African Republic.

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

Zakouma National Park runs an extensive community and environmental education programme highlighting the importance of nature conservation.



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)

The elephant population of Zakouma National Park is one of the northernmost populations of African elephant, and one of the last remaining remnants of a once thriving population in the Republic of Chad. Due to decades of conflict and instability in the area, few elephant populations nowadays remain in the country. Zakouma National Park saw a significant decrease in the elephant population from an estimated 22,000 elephants in the 1970's to around 4000 in 2002. This number plummeted once again down to 450 in 2010. With the onset of African Parks management in 2010 we have seen a steady increase in these numbers, estimated at 559 according to the last aerial survey done in 2018.

In order to monitor the movements of the elephants, 42 elephants are currently fitted with active collars. The first ten collars were fitted in 2011. The ten years of data derived from the GPS collars has proven to be invaluable for effective park management and law enforcement. Unfortunately, the collars have an average life expectancy of two to three years, necessitating yearly collaring operations in order to maintain a minimum number of active collars. The historical and real time data from the collars has been used to: actively protect the elephants with dedicated law enforcement teams on the ground which shadow the herds 24/7; to implement a community outreach and education programme in the villages along the migration corridors; and to highlight the importance of the protection of areas outside of the national park.

During the wet season, extensive wildlife displacement occurs as large portions of the park are wholly inundated. Several mammal species, including elephants, move outside of the park boundary during this time. The wet season spans from June to October, during which time the elephants have been observed migrating to two core areas: the northern zone, north west and north east of Darasna, and the western zone around Domoti. Movement in the western corridor has been observed via satellite tracking to extend as far as Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve (SMFR). During September 2019 the large breeding herd once again left the park in to this corridor, eventually settling 100km's west of Zakouma before migrating back again.

In the dry season between November and May, the elephants predominantly remain within the Park. Concentrated in the eastern sector of Zakouma, the pools of water in the main river system, Bahr Salamat, provide the last sources of drinking water in the region. The total wet season elephant range based on 2000-2014 data is approximately 25,514km². Although the elephants do not migrate extensively outside of the park every year, it is crucial to anticipate that the elephants will resume their previous migratory movement, particularly as the population numbers grow. The collar data plays an integral role in contributing to Park managements understanding of the drivers of these movements so that future migratory movements can be predicted and law enforcement and management adapted timeously and accordingly.

Although no elephants have been lost to poaching since January 2016, vigilance is of paramount importance especially as surrounding elephant populations diminish which will once again make Zakouma a prime target. Increasing human population pressure



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also need to be taken in to account. AP is currently working on a Land Use Management plan for SMFR with the intention of upgrading their status to National Park. Under its current proclamation, nomads and local populations are allowed to enter the reserve and use its natural resources.

The Zakouma elephant anti-poaching strategy implemented by African Parks has revolved around the monitoring of elephant movements, using Satellite GPS collars. Knowing the precise location of the elephants allows for continuous surveillance by law enforcement patrols deployed. Since 2010, the incidence of poaching has decreased by more than 90%.

As a result, the elephant population is on the rise, currently estimated at 559 elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). These elephants have the peculiarity of forming one large herd while at times, dispersing periodically into several smaller groups. It is our duty to ensure that the entire elephant population movements are monitored and the whole herd protected. Anticipating changing future movement patterns, this will only be achieved by increasing the number of animals fitted with GPS collars.

African Parks has recently signed a new agreement with the Government of Chad, which gives the organization the mandate to actively manage the Greater Zakouma ecosystem, which will include the periphery of the Park and Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve, thereby encompassing almost the entire elephant movement pattern as seen over the last decade. It thus becomes ever more important to gain an understanding on the factors driving the movements of the elephant herd to better plan for future protection needs as the population increases.

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):

5.1.1: Planning

Statement of the objectives	Activities	Timeframe	Anticipated milestones	Indicators	Channels or process Consultation with stakeholders/partners
Collar and monitor the movement of 10 more elephants within the GZE	A1. Purchase Africa Wildlife Tracking collars in South Africa, deliver to Chad.	T1. November to December 2020 in order to manufacture collars and airfreight to Chad	All collars to be in Zakouma National Park by end-November 2021	All collars are present in the park and have been tested for functionality.	



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	A2. Have collaring operation in January 2021	T2. January 2021- February 2021 depending on availability of Vet.	Arrival of Specialist Vet. Successful collaring of 10 elephants	All elephants successfully collared and all collars transmitting.	
	A.3 Continuous monitoring of elephant collar data	T.3 Ave. 2 year lifespan of a collar	Data driven law enforcement allowing for proactive deployment.	Monthly reporting on elephant movement	

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)

A minimum of 10 GPS collars will be purchased. These collars are manufactured by Africa Wildlife Tracking (AWT) and airfreighted to Chad. The collars are each equipped with an internal GPS and batteries that connect to satellites at the pre-defined intervals. A counterweight is used at the bottom of the collar (under the neck of the elephant) to ensure that the GPS does not slide down to one side.

All collars are guaranteed a lifespan of two years; the collar band will fall off after 2+ years, and the batteries will provide a minimum of 2 years of data when set on hourly readings.

The services of wildlife vet Charlotte Moueix will be engaged to do the collaring. Dr Moueix successfully collared 10 elephants in Zakouma in January 2020 and has extensive wildlife veterinary experience. The required tranquiliser and reversal medications will also need to be purchased.

5.1.3: Implementation: activity plan, timeline

Activities	Outputs	Delivery Date
Activity 1 Purchase Africa Wildlife Tracking collars in South Africa, deliver to Chad.	Collars are purchased and delivered to Chad	November 2020
Activity 2 Have collaring operation in January 2021	A minimum of 10 elephants are collared in January/February 2021	February 2021



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Activity 3. Continuous monitoring of elephant collar data	10 elephants monitored 24/7 in Zakouma control room	February 2021 and onwards
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5.1.4: Monitoring and evaluation measures of the project

(Please explain how the monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted)

Satellite data from the collars allows for precise monitoring and targeted protection through active law enforcement. The information derived will also allow us to study the elephant movements more closely, aiming to predict and anticipate future movement patterns.

The focus will be on the prediction of future movement patterns, in order to adapt the park's management strategy accordingly. Prior to the migration of the elephants into the periphery of Zakouma, the outposts in the migration corridor will need to be restocked for the arrival of patrol teams, who shadow the elephant herd 24/7 to guarantee protection. The availability of this information will also assist African Parks to commence timely sensitization of the relevant communities in the elephants' pathways and also assist with the amelioration of human wildlife conflict.

Indicators of success include:

- A minimum of 40 collared elephants is maintained.
- Zero poaching incidents.
- Human-Wildlife conflicts averted.
- Decrease in crop raiding by park elephants.

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)

Joulien Roumy - Regional Head of Finance
Wesley Marthe – Zakouma Financial Controller

African Parks confirms capacity to comply with all technical and financial reporting requirements.

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

The proposed project reflects an integral part of Zakouma operations. African Parks takes long-term management responsibility for protected areas, including necessary funding for activities presented in the business plan. The plans for Zakouma support the continuation of activities (monitoring of all collared elephant herds, extension of payment of collars satellite fee, anti-poaching aerial surveillance) through other funding sources.



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In 2017, after a mandated governmental review process, the Government of Chad extended AP's management mandate of Zakouma by 10 years. This new mandate also includes management of the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem comprising of Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve and the Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve.

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.

No but please note that African Parks takes responsibility for the overall management and operations of Zakouma and thus creates the enabling environment for these collars to lead to real and sustained impact over time.

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: Purchase Africa Wildlife Tracking collars in South Africa, deliver to Chad.						
Purchase of tracking collars	10	NA	\$1,600	\$16,000	\$16,000	
Shipping fee	NA	NA	\$2000	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Sub-total			\$3,600	\$18,000	\$18,000	
Activity 2: Fit tracking collars in January 2021						
Aircraft support	30	Hours	\$250	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Specialist veterinarian support	10	Daily	\$800	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Veterinarian supplies	NA	NA	\$800	\$800	\$800	
Fuel for ground support	200	Litres	\$1.50	\$300	\$300	
Sub-total			\$1,851.50	\$16,600	\$16,600	
Activity 3: Continuous monitoring of collared elephants						
Monitoring service fee	10	NA	\$770	\$7,700	\$7,700	



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Sub-total			\$770	\$7,700	\$7,700	
Total Cost			\$5,801.30	\$42,300	\$42,300	

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