



## 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: Ghana**

**1.2: Project title: Enhancing community collaboration and law enforcement capacity for effective management of human elephant conflict (HEC) and protection of Digya elephants**

**1.3: Project location: Digya National Park**

**1.4: Overall project cost (USD): 66,000.00**

Amount Requested from African Elephant Fund (USD): **50,000.00**

Co-funding source and amount (Wildlife Division & Beneficiaries) in USD: **16,000.00**

**1.5: Project duration: 6 Months**

**1.6: Project proponent: Wildlife Division (FC), Digya National Park**

**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: ERIC ATTA-KUSI, (PARK MANAGER, DIGYA NATIONAL PARK, WILDLIFE DIVISION OF FORESTRY COMMISSION, GHANA.**

**1.8: Address of project supervisor: DIGYA NATIONAL PARK, P.O.BOX 92, ATEBUBU, BONO EAST REGION, GHANA.**

**1.9: Telephone number: +233-208261367**

**1.10: Email: attak319@yahoo.com**

**1.11: Date of submission: JULY 6, 2020**



**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?)

## 2.0: Project summary

The overall aim of the proposed project is to provide Protection for the Digya elephant population and their habitat through increased community collaboration, law enforcement monitoring, enhanced capacity and reduced human elephant conflicts. The project will also introduce various livelihood support programmes such as beekeeping, soap making and improved crop varieties to the beneficiary local communities to help mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID 19.

The Digya Park maintains very important elephant population in the forest-savannah transition vegetation zone of Ghana. Like several other protected areas in Africa, the elephant population in Digya is highly threatened by several factors such as illegal killings, habitat destruction, logging, lack of support from local communities and other key stakeholders. Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) is another major challenge that threatens the conservation of the Bush elephant (*Losodonta Africana Africana*) in the proposed project intervention area.

The Digya Park covers total land mass of 3478.5km<sup>2</sup>. it is located in the middle section of Ghana and bounded by the Volta Lake and other two important river bodies (Sene and Obosom Rivers). Digya has the second largest elephant population after Mole NP. The population is estimated to be around 350 (Kumordzi et al, 2008). Interestingly, it is one of the least studied populations among all PAs in Ghana. Again, the about 80 law enforcement wildlife staffs working in the park lack the requisite capacity in elephant conservation strategies and effective management of HEC. Support from the central government through Ministry of Lands and Forestry for conservation activities in general and law enforcement programmes at the Protected Area level has dwindle due to the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy. This has rippling consequence on elephant conservation activities at the park level due to reduced law enforcement monitoring occasioned by increased hunting pressures from the several 'jobless' returnees from bigger towns and cities highly hit by the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy.

The proposed project is expected to help secure the remaining elephant population, build the capacity of wildlife field staff, reduce HEC, promote local community collaboration and enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of the local people through introduction of several tested crop raiding mitigation methods and livelihood support programmes.

Implementation, monitoring and timely submission of reports on this project will be carried out by the Investigators and Park Management with support from regional and national offices of the Wildlife Division of Ghana.



**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.*

### **3.0 Priority objectives, strategies and activities of the project**

Our proposed project focuses on two main priority areas of the African Elephant Action Plan;

- a) Increase awareness on elephant conservation and management of key stakeholders that include policy makers and local communities among other interest groups.
- b) Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEL)
- c) Improve local community's cooperation and collaboration on elephant conservation

#### **3.1 Specific priority objectives**

- i) Provide protection for Digya elephant population through capacity building and effective law enforcement monitoring
- ii) Harness community support and collaboration for elephant conservation through local community capacity building, education and implementation of livelihood support interventions.
- iii) Reduce Human-elephant Conflict (HEC)

**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)

#### **4.0: Project Rationale**

The elephant population of West Africa has reached critically low numbers with majority of the population thriving under harsh conditions in degraded and highly fragmented habitats. In many countries these populations are primarily restricted to Protected Areas. In Ghana for



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instance, studies have shown that unless urgent action is taken immediately, elephant numbers in the country are likely to decline sharply.

The 2007 IUCN African Elephant Status report lists nine areas in Ghana as having elephant populations. Five of the areas have small populations of less than hundred elephants. Of the remaining four areas, Mole has the largest population (400), followed by Digya National Park with estimated number of 350 (Kumordzi et al, 2008) of which majority are found at the south-western part. Ghana considers elephant conservation as a priority activity and was the first country in West Africa to prepare a National Elephant Conservation Strategy in year 2000. However, the capacity of wildlife staffs in the park and resources available for elephant conservation interventions is currently not enough to ensure adequate protection of the elephant populations in all the protected areas where elephants occur.

In the past years, there have been regular but few and isolated reported human elephant conflict cases around the proposed site. This conflict has however, increased both in frequency and extent, causing problems in social, economic, political, food security and overall biodiversity conservation. It is an evolving and complex challenge, which if not addressed, will have serious consequences on plans and programmes for effective implementation of elephant conservation strategies and collaborative wildlife resource management as a whole.



**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):*

### **Overall objective:**

The overall objective is to enhance law enforcement monitoring capabilities and the management of human elephant conflict in order to minimize their negative impact on local communities and on the continued existence of the elephant population.

### **Specific objectives:**

- 1.0.** Provide protection for Digya elephant population through law enforcement patrols, capacity building, and surveys

The Park currently has 80-man anti-poaching patrol squad. A special taskforce will be formed out of this squad, trained to undertake the following activities;

#### **1.1 Law enforcement patrols**

1.1.1 Train and resource the park's law enforcement staff to effectively patrol in and around the park to combat poaching, encroachments and other illegal activities in the park and its immediate surroundings



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1.1.2 Conduct patrols in and along the park boundaries, especially in areas used by the elephants to protect and secure the elephant population and habitat.

1.1.3 Extend anti-poaching patrols into the Digya-Kogyae migratory corridor which is occasionally used by the Digya population.

### 1.2 Conduct elephant population survey

Population estimates and dynamics in the forest-savannah transition zone of Ghana are poorly known due to visibility challenges which hinder aerial based counts which are a popular method for elephant population estimation in the Savannah habitats. For that matter, the dung decay method will be used along pre-determined transects for determination of the elephant population of the project area. The output from the population study will be useful in the management of elephant population through timely law enforcement deployment when necessary. Information on population structure will be used to update the elephant status database as a mandate of the Wildlife Division of Ghana. Specific activities to be undertaken are as follows;

1.2.1 Develop capacity of 40 Wildlife staffs on protocols for elephant census

1.2.2. Conduct elephant population survey in Digya National Park using dung counts.

1.2.3. Map out the distribution pattern of the elephant population in the study area.

### **Objective 2.0 Community collaboration and support for elephant conservation through local capacity building and livelihood support interventions**

#### **Specific activities:**

2.1 Identify vulnerable fringe communities and form CRMCs to help educate the settlers in areas outside the park with high elephant presence.

2.2. Identify and train informants within areas with high elephant presence and mortality and resource them to report the presence and activities of elephants in their areas to the park authorities to enhance monitoring and protection.

2.3 Identify and build capacity of 100 farmers in communities within high elephant population areas in Beekeeping and grasscutter rearing and support them with start-up logistics.

2.4 Identify and build capacity of 50 women in communities within high elephant population areas in soap making and support them with start-up logistics.

### **Objective 3.0 Reduce Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)**

#### **Specific activities:**



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- 3.1. Identify and map out crop fields prone to elephant raid.
- 3.2. Support vulnerable farmers to reduce post-harvest loss by elephants and other wildlife through construction of storage barns when the crops are getting matured.
- 3.3. Conducting patrols along the affected park boundaries and farms to drive back the marauding elephants into the park.
- 3.4. Train and introduce farmers to simple techniques capable of warding off elephants from crop fields such as pepper ‘bombing’, Beehive-fencing, drumming etc. during peaked raiding times.
- 3.5. Develop and supply 1,200 Conservation Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) documents for schools and communities fringing the park on the benefits of conservation, HEC mitigation procedures and the park’s elephant population.

## 5.1.1: Planning

| Statement of the objectives   | Activities | Timeframe                                 | Anticipated milestones   | Indicators                    | Channels or process<br>Consultation with stakeholders/partners |
|---|------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.Project planning  |            | First month                               |  |                               |  |
| 2.Project implementation  |            | 6 months                                  |  |                               |  |
| 3. project monitoring & evaluation  |            | 5 weeks                                   |  |                               |  |
| <b>Objective 1.0 Provide protection for Digya elephant population through law enforcement, capacity building, monitoring and survey</b> |            |   |  |                               |  |
|   | 1.1.1      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> weeks | Capacity of 80 wildlife staff enhanced                         | Reports, training materials.  |  |
|   | 1.1.2      | 6 months                                  | Average of 18 effective patrol-man days/officer/month achieved | Increased elephant population |  |
|   | 1.1.3      | 3 months                                  | Farms and corridor patrolled at least 10 times                 | Reports,                      |  |
|   | 1.2.1      | 5 days                                    | 40 staff train in elephant census techniques                   | Training manuals, reports     |  |
|   | 1.2.2      | 5 weeks                                   | Current status of Digya elephants known                        | Census reports                |  |
|   | 1.2.3      | Three weeks                               | Distribution of Digya elephants known                          | Reports and maps              |  |
| <b>Objective 2.0 Community collaboration and support for elephant conservation through local capacity building</b>                      |            |   |  |                               |  |



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| and livelihood support interventions               |       |          |   |   |  |
|--|-------|----------|---|---|--|
|  | 2.1.0 | 3 months |   |   |  |
|  | 2.2.0 | 6 months |   |   |  |
|  | 2.3.0 | 1 week   | 100 farmers trained in beekeeping skills and support with 500 hive and other kits | Reports, enhanced livelihoods             |  |
|  | 2.4.0 | 1 week   | 50 women in project area trained in soap making                                   | Pictures during training session, reports |  |
| Objective 3.0 Reduce Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) |       |          |   |   |  |
|  | 3.1.0 | 1 month  | All past raided fields mapped.  | Field reports                             |  |
|  | 3.2.0 | 2 months | 20 storage barns constructed  | Reports, pictures                         |  |
|  | 3.3.0 | 6 months | Cover boundaries farms prone to crop raiding                                      | Patrol Reports                            |  |
|  | 3.4.0 | 3 months |   | Reports                                   |  |
|  | 3.5.0 | 1 month  | 500 posters and other CEPA materials  | Reports                                   |  |

**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)*

### 5.1.3: Implementation: activity plan, timeline

| Activities  | Outputs  | Delivery Date |         |         |         |         |         |
|---|--|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|   |  | Month 1       | Month 2 | Month 3 | Month 4 | Month 5 | Month 6 |
| 1.Project planning  |  |               |         |         |         |         |         |
| 2.Procurement of project equipment  |  |               |         |         |         |         |         |
| <b>3.0. Implementation of project activities</b>                                  |  |               |         |         |         |         |         |
| <b>3.1 Protection of Digya elephants through LE patrols and capacity building</b> |  |               |         |         |         |         |         |
| 3.1.1: Train Digya field staffs in effective LE and elephant protection.          | 80 wildlife staff trained                            |               |         |         |         |         |         |
| 3.1.2 Deploy field staffs to patrol both inside and outside the park              | 3 LE patrol teams dedicated to elephant conservation |               |         |         |         |         |         |
| 3.1.3 Develop capacity of   | 40 wildlife staff                                    |               |         |         |         |         |         |









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

In the long term, the management of Digya National Park intends to sustain the impact of the project by ensuring that the knowledge acquired by wildlife Staffs and the local communities through the various training programs are adequately harnessed. Also, will be encouraged to re-invest part of the benefits derived from the livelihood support interventions to ensure continuity of the project. Activities of the community resource management committees and volunteers for elephant conservation will gradually be incorporated into the park’s annual strategic plans and implemented as such.

**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.**

**Wildlife division (WD) of Ghana**

The wildlife Division of Ghana, through the Forestry Commission receives some support from the Ghana government through the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources for its conservation activities. For that reason, the Park’s Law enforcement staff who will be involved in proposed project will continue to receive their monthly salaries and other allowances from the Forestry Commission.

**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) |
| <b>Activity 1: Law enforcement patrols, capacity building and elephant census</b>                |          |        |                 |                  |            |                             |
| Capacity building for field staff (general)  | 1        | Number | 4,000.00        | 4000.00          | 4000.00    | -                           |
| Field equipment (GPS units (10), Drones sets (3), Tents, Cameras, hypsometer, measuring tape,    | 1        | Number | 6,000.00        | 6,000.00         | 6,000.00   | -                           |
| Field supplies for 80 patrol staffs (e.g. patrols uniform, boots, water bottles, haversacks, GPS | 1        | number | 10,000.00       | 10,000.00        | 5,500.00   | 4,500.00                    |



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|  |              |                        |                 |                  |                  |                  |  |
|--|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| batteries, ration etc.)  |              |                        |                 |                  |                  |                  |  |
| Survey of elephants  | 50           | Man-days               | 50.00           | 2,500.00         | 2,500.00         | -                |  |
| GIS Software/ experts  | 1            | Number                 | 1,000.00        | 1,000.00         | 1,000.00         | -                |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |              |                        |                 | <b>23,500.00</b> | <b>19,000.00</b> | <b>4,500.00</b>  |  |
| <b>Activity 2: Community collaboration and support for elephant conservation.</b>  |              |                        |                 |                  |                  |                  |  |
| Form and inaugurate Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs)   | 5            | Number                 | 1,000           | 5000.00          | 3000.00          | 2,000.00         |  |
| Train 50 farmers in Beekeeping as alternative livelihood support interventions   | 2            | Days                   | 1000.00         | 2,0000.00        | 2,0000.00        | -                |  |
| Support farmers with Beehives and other production tools   | 50           | number                 | 150.00          | 7,500.00         | 5,000.00         | 2,500.00**       |  |
| Identify and train 5 women groups within project area in soap making.  | 2            | Days                   | 1000.00         | 2,000.00         | 2000.00          |                  |  |
| Support 5 local women groups (10 members each) with start-up materials for soap making.  | 50           | number                 | 100.00          | 5,000.00         | 5,000.00         | 0.00             |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |              |                        |                 | <b>21,500.00</b> | <b>17000.00</b>  | <b>4,500.00</b>  |  |
| <b>Activity 3: Reduce Human-Elephant conflicts</b>   |              |                        |                 |                  |                  |                  |  |
| Training on HEC management and techniques for community volunteers (30), farmers (50) and wildlife (39) staffs                                 | <b>2</b>     | <b>Days</b>            | <b>1,000.00</b> | 2,000.00         | 2,000.00         |                  |  |
| Support vulnerable crop farmers to construct crop storage barns.   | <b>20</b>    | <b>units</b>           | <b>250.00</b>   | 5,000.00         | 3,000.0          | 2000.00**        |  |
| Supply Conservation education materials to fringe communities and school children  | <b>1,200</b> | <b>Number</b>          | <b>1.00</b>     | 1,200.00         | 1,200.00         |                  |  |
| Field patrols and data collection in vulnerable crop fields and migratory corridors (ration and GPS batteries for volunteers and patrol staff) | <b>240</b>   | <b>Patrol man-days</b> | <b>20.00</b>    | 4,800.00         | 4,800.00         |                  |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |              |                        |                 | <b>13,000.00</b> | <b>11,000.00</b> | <b>2,000.00</b>  |  |
| <b>Activity 4: Monitoring, evaluation and reports submission</b>   |              |                        |                 |                  |                  |                  |  |
| Fuel for (vehicles, motor bikes), vehicle maintenance, Laptops (2), printing of reports etc.   | 1            | Number                 | 8,000.00        | 8000.00          | 3,000.00         | 5,000.00         |  |
| <b>Sub-total</b>   |              |                        |                 | <b>8,000.00</b>  | <b>3,000.00</b>  | <b>5,000.00</b>  |  |
| <b>Total Cost</b>  |              |                        |                 | <b>66,000.00</b> | <b>50,000.00</b> | <b>16,000.00</b> |  |



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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](mailto:mamadou.kane@un.org) and [dorris.chepkoech@un.org](mailto:dorris.chepkoech@un.org); with a copy to: [unep-africanelephantfund@un.org](mailto: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](http://www.africanelephantfund.org)

2.0: Résumé du projet (justification globale, objectifs du projet, extrants attendus et résultats escomptés maximum 1 page) (*How is this project addressing COVID 19 related challenges that are hampering elephant conservation?*)

## 2.0: Résumé du projet

L'objectif global du projet proposé est de fournir une protection à la population d'éléphants de Digya et à leur habitat grâce à une collaboration communautaire accrue, une surveillance des forces de l'ordre, une capacité accrue et une réduction des conflits avec les éléphants humains. Le projet introduira également divers programmes de soutien aux moyens de subsistance tels que l'apiculture, la fabrication de savon et des variétés de cultures améliorées pour les communautés locales bénéficiaires afin d'aider à atténuer l'impact socio-économique du COVID 19.

Le parc Digya maintient une population d'éléphants très importante dans la zone de végétation de transition forêt-savane du Ghana. Comme plusieurs autres aires protégées en Afrique, la population d'éléphants de Digya est fortement menacée par plusieurs facteurs tels que les tueries illégales, la destruction de l'habitat, l'exploitation forestière, le manque de soutien des communautés locales et d'autres parties prenantes clés. Le conflit des éléphants humains (HEC) est un autre défi majeur pour la conservation des éléphants dans la zone d'intervention du projet proposé.

Le parc Digya couvre une masse terrestre totale de 3478,5 km<sup>2</sup>. Il est situé dans la partie médiane du Ghana et délimité par le lac Volta et deux autres corps fluviaux importants (les fleuves Sene et Obosom). Digya a la deuxième plus grande population d'éléphants après le PN de Mole qui est estimée à environ 350 (Kumordzi et al, 2008). Fait intéressant, il s'agit de



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l'une des populations les moins étudiées de toutes les AP au Ghana. De plus, les quelque 80 membres du personnel de la faune chargés de l'application des lois travaillant dans le parc n'ont pas la capacité requise en matière de stratégies de conservation des éléphants et de gestion efficace des situations HEC. Le soutien du gouvernement central par le biais du ministère des Terres et des Forêts pour les activités de conservation en général et les programmes d'application de la loi au niveau des aires protégées a diminué en raison de l'impact de COVID-19 sur l'économie locale. Cela a des conséquences d'entraînement sur les activités de conservation des éléphants au niveau du parc en raison de la réduction du contrôle de l'application des lois vis-à-vis des pressions accrues de la chasse de la part de plusieurs rapatriés «sans emploi» de grandes villes fortement touchées par l'impact du COVID-19 sur l'économie du pays.

Le projet proposé devrait aider à sécuriser la population d'éléphants restante, à renforcer les capacités du personnel de terrain de la faune, à réduire les HEC, à promouvoir la collaboration des communautés locales et à améliorer le bien-être socio-économique de la population locale grâce à l'introduction de plusieurs méthodes éprouvées d'atténuation des attaques de cultures. et des programmes de soutien aux moyens d'existence.

La mise en œuvre, le suivi et la soumission en temps opportun des rapports sur ce projet seront effectués par les enquêteurs et la gestion du parc avec le soutien des bureaux régionaux et nationaux de la Division de la faune du Ghana.