

How the AEF Works

The African Elephant Fund (AEF) is the funding mechanism for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP). The Steering Committee of the African Elephant Action Plan will use the criteria outlined below for the purposes of evaluating and selecting which proposals should receive funding from the African Elephant Fund.

Basic Principles for Evaluation and Selection of Project Proposals to the AEF

- 1. Long term conservation benefits:** The project proposal must demonstrate how the expected benefits shall be applied in the long term, i.e. beyond the funding period. This must encompass long-term socio-economic and ecological aspects.
- 2. Sustainability:** The project should demonstrate the ability to sustain activities beyond the project period.
- 3. Transparency:** The proposal should demonstrate stakeholder involvement, for example, communities, that may be affected, other organizations, or NGOs are involved in the project and their respective roles, where relevant or appropriate. For trans-boundary projects, demonstration of other Range States involvement will be required.
- 4. Conservation benefits to elephant population of other Range States (if applicable):** For trans-boundary projects, conservation benefits to the neighboring Range States should be demonstrated and assessed.
- 5. Quality:** The overall quality of the proposal will be assessed. The Steering Committee will review whether all mandatory fields have been completed. Project quality will be further assessed based on the use of project proposal template, the feasibility of proposed activities, the relevance of project partners, clarity of expected outputs and objectives and its relevance to the AEAP objectives.
- 6. Budget:** clarity of budget items and realistic budgets.
- 7. Uniqueness and innovation:** Projects that use a distinctive and novel methodology to address specific objectives of AEAP.
- 8. Replicability:** Projects that can be repeated in other range States.
- 9. Monitoring and Evaluation** The project proposal should demonstrate that project proponent have a clear plan for assessing planned activities. Project proposals should identify clear milestones and indicators of achievements as well as interim technical and financial reporting.
- 10. Other sources of funding:** The Steering Committee will assess the capacity of project proponents to secure other sources of funding (government, NGOs, technical partners).

The Evaluation and Selection Process

Each Proposal shall be allocated a number and evaluated using the following guidelines (to be completed by the Steering Committee):

Scoring:

0: Unsatisfactory

1: Poor

2: Partially satisfactory

3: Satisfactory

4: Very satisfactory

5: Excellent

Proposal Number	Scoring (where applicable)	Comments
Which region does the Proposal fall under (East, Southern, Central, West)?	-	*Not scored on a basis of 0,1,2,3,4,5; Selection is of one or more regions
Is the Proposal submitted by the designated Competent Authority of one or more African elephant range State(s)?	-	*Not scored on a basis of 0,1,2,3,4,5; Selection is YES or No
Which AEAP Priority Objective(s) does the Proposal meet?	-	*Not scored on a basis of 0,1,2,3,4,5; Selection is of one or more of Objectives 1-8
Which AEAP Activity(ies) under the Priority Objective(s) does the Proposal meet?	-	*Not scored on a basis of 0,1,2,3,4,5; Selection is of one or more of Activities of the Objectives 1-8
Does the Proposal demonstrate a clear conservation benefit to elephant populations of range States?	0 1,2,3,4,5	
Does the Proposal demonstrate a clear conservation benefit to elephant populations in another or more range States?	0,1,2,3,4,5	

Does the Steering Committee consider this Proposal to be both urgent and meet AEAP Objectives 1,2 or 3?	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Does the African Elephant Fund have enough money available to fund the Project Proposal in full?	-	*Not scored on a basis of 0,1,2,3,4,5; Selection is YES or No
If not, does the Proposal identify other sources of secured funding?	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Has the AEAP/AEF Proposal Form been completed in full and been submitted by the Competent Authority?	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Sustainability: Will the project be sustainable in the long run (ecological, economical, social)	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Transparency: Stakeholder involvement, communication where relevant relating to the project documentation.	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Quality	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Uniqueness, innovation and replicability	0,1,2,3,4,5	
Good governance: Submitted through competent authority in a timely manner and financial management of the funds to be allocated	0,1,2,3,4,5	

National project total= 35

Trans-boundary= 45

Scoring Threshold

Min.
Max. = 50

=

25

***(Overall selection of the project is subject to available funding per region and proposals received.)**

Discretionary account

To qualify for funding from the Discretionary Account (valued at 30% of donations received by the AEF), proposals must:

1. Address Priority Objectives 1, 2 or 3 as set out in the AEAP; and
2. Require actions to be initiated and completed in no more than 6 months;
3. Include actions relating to:
 - a. Securing small/vulnerable populations that are faced with an immediate threat;
 - b. Criminal investigations;
 - c. Prevent immediate Human-Elephant Conflict;
4. Be replicable in other range States, where possible;
5. Result in a quick win situation for the elephant population involved;
6. Be endorsed by the sub-region as a priority project.

Example: A Proposal may request funding from the Discretionary Account to support the emergency deployment of anti-poaching officers to a remote area where elephant poaching has suddenly escalated (AEAP Objective 1).