

Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

- 1.1 Country: Congo, Cameroun and Central African Republic
- 1.2 Project Title: Strengthening law enforcement capacity to combat elephant poaching and ivory trafficking in Central Africa
- 1.3 Project Location: Ouessou, Congo
- 1.4 Overall Project Cost: USD 39,545
- AMOUNT Requested from African Elephant Fund: USD 34,898
- 1.5 Project Duration: 5 months (March-July 2015)
- 1.6 Project Proponent: Lusaka Agreement Task Force -LATF
- 1.7 Name of Project Supervisor: Bonaventure EBAYI
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- 1.12 Date proposal submitted: 20th November 2014

2.0 Project Summary: (not more than 250 words)

This Proposal is being submitted at the request of Congo, Cameroun and Central African Republic to leverage on LATF's experience and competence in undertaking capacity building programmes and transnational wildlife law enforcement. The Project is designed to support capacity building for wildlife law enforcement personnel whose responsibilities include the fight against elephant poaching in Cameroun, Central African Republic (CAR) and Republic of Congo. Acknowledging the need to address the growing elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory, LATF seeks to mobilize financial resources from the African Elephant Fund (AEF) to support a regional training workshop for wildlife law enforcement officers in the Sangha Trinational Site (TNS) a transboundary conservation ecosystem in the North-western Congo Basin where Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo converge. The objective is to

strengthen law enforcement capacity in the target countries to effectively surmount the increasing challenge of elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade;

LATF in collaboration with the CITES Management Authorities in the three (3) countries will organize and undertake a 5 day specialized training of trainers course for wildlife law enforcement officers in Congo (Brazzaville) involving 25 trainees drawn from Sangha Trinational Site a stronghold for forest elephant and Gorillas. The training will be provided by at least five (5) experienced trainers drawn from LATF, ICCWC Partners and National Agencies (Police, Wildlife Authority, Directorate of Public Prosecution and National Intelligence Service).

3.0 Which Priority Objectives and Activities (there may be more than one) in the African Elephant Action Plan does this project fall under? (For ease of reference, Priority Objectives are attached under Appendix 1)

This Project is in line with Priority Objective 1 of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) which seeks to reduce the illegal killing of African elephants and illegal trade in Elephant products. The project will address Strategy 1.1. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products, Activity 1.1.1. Assess law enforcement capacity and needs in respective range States and 1.1.2. Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.

The Project also is in line with Strategy 1.4 Strengthen the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants, Activity 1.4.1. Build capacity of judiciary, police and other enforcement agencies to effectively enforce laws both at national and international levels.

4.0 Project Rationale – why is this project necessary and urgent? What threats face this elephant population (give, 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, etc.).

Poaching of elephants in the Central African region is reported to be on the increase. The political instability in CAR has exacerbated the problem. According to the 2013 MIKE/ETIS¹ report, the Central African Region has consistently shown high PIKE (Proportion of Illegally killed Elephants) ratios of more than 0.8 indicating that more than 80% of elephants found dead were deemed illegally killed. The poaching levels are higher in the Central African region compared to the Southern and Eastern African regions. Maisels *et al*, (2013)² in a recent modelling exercise estimated that the elephant population across Central Africa declined by more than 60% in the last 10 years.

¹ Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants/ Elephant Trade Information System of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

² Maisels F, Strindberg S, Blake S, Wittemyer G, Hart J, et al. (2013) Devastating Decline of Forest Elephants in Central Africa. PLoS ONE 8(3): e59469. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0059469

With regard to illegal trafficking of ivory, Cameroun and Congo are clustered together with countries of a secondary level of concern in the 2013 MIKE/ETIS report as they repeatedly play important supporting roles in the illicit ivory trade. They represent a mix of source, transit and exit countries and territories for illicit consignments of ivory from Africa. The report recommends that countries in this cluster which includes Cameroun and Congo need to strengthen law enforcement effort as they are occasionally involved in large-scale movements of ivory, and therefore play host to organised crime syndicates. As such ivory trade issues in these countries deserve greater focus at national and transnational levels.

In light of the foregoing, strengthening of law enforcement capacity to combat elephant poaching and trafficking in Cameroun, CAR and Congo especially in the Sangha Trinational Site, a World Heritage Site as well as a key habitat for forest elephants, remain of great importance to reverse the high levels of poaching currently being experienced. If left unattended, the illegal killing of elephants in the Congo Basin region poses threat to their extinction.

5.0 Detailed Proposal – including activities to be carried out, milestones (at least quarterly milestones), timelines, equipment to be purchased, reporting procedures, etc. (not more than 1000 words). It will be helpful in evaluating this Project Proposal if you to divide it into Phases such as Planning; Procurement; Implementation; Evaluation and Reporting

Should include anticipated benefits (including benefits to the conservation and management of elephant populations and communities) and outputs from the project, and how the project will be monitored and evaluated.

JUSTIFICATION

This Capacity Building Project will be implemented by the LATF in collaboration with Wildlife Authorities of the three countries namely Cameroun, CAR and Congo. The Project will focus on the Sangha Trinational Site (TNS) which is a transboundary conservation complex in the North-western Congo Basin where Cameroon, CAR and the Congo meet. TNS encompasses three contiguous national parks, with an area of 746,309 hectares comprising Lobéké National Park in Cameroon, Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in CAR and Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park in Congo. Dzanga-Ndoki National Park comprises two distinct units connected by a buffer zone of 1,787,950 hectares which includes Dzanga-Sanga Forest Reserve in CAR.

TNS is very rich in biodiversity and a key habitat to forest elephants, Western Lowland Gorilla and the Chimpanzee, Nile Crocodile as well as the Goliath Tigerfish.

In recent years, the area has reported a significant decrease in elephants and other large mammal populations, and experts fear that organized groups of

poachers are taking advantage of the current political situation in the Central African Republic to expand their illicit operations in the region.

This project seeks to strengthen law enforcement in the TNS. LATF has in the past successfully conducted a cross border wildlife enforcement mentorship workshop in the TNS which promoted an understanding of the common enforcement challenges in the region and recommended for joint undertakings such as the envisaged training intervention. To this effect, TNS has recently established a comprising officers from the three (3) States that require to be trained or build their capacity to effectively carry out their mandate. In this respect, LATF plans to undertake specialised training of trainers to impart knowledge and skills to wildlife law enforcement officers of the transnational Unit the TNS . The trainees will be drawn from wildlife authorities/transnational units while at least five (5) trainers will be drawn from LATF, ICCWC Partners and National Agencies.

Since 1999, LATF has continued to spearhead cooperative law enforcement activities in Africa focussing on intelligence work, enforcement operations, investigations and capacity development including acquisition of equipment to assist in law enforcement. LATF collaborates with national agencies such as Police, Customs, Wildlife Authorities, Anti-Corruption and Prosecutors in carrying out in-country wildlife law enforcement operations, training and awareness programmes. Other activities include multi-agency awareness workshops on wildlife crime for prosecutors, magistrates and judges.

This Capacity Building Project has been inspired by the urgency to address the escalating poaching of elephants and trafficking in ivory in Central Africa whose devastating effects and those of other related organized crimes are hurting the environment, national economies and rural livelihoods in the three countries. Organized poaching of elephants and illegal ivory trade also threatens regional stability by generating income for organized criminal groups also involved in other crimes, a situation which calls for urgent enhancement of law enforcement capacities in the Central African Region. As is the case in most African countries, the target countries lack requisite skills and equipment, and also face the challenge of inadequate cooperation among law enforcement agencies to effectively fight wildlife crime.

Anticipated Benefits and results:

The project activities outlined below will contribute to disruption of the criminal networks that engage in poaching of elephants and illegal trade in ivory their parts, products and derivatives. The project will achieve the following benefits/results:

- i) At least 25 law enforcement officers drawn from wildlife authorities will directly benefit from the training through enhanced skills, knowledge and awareness on wildlife law enforcement; This core team of trainers will in turn impart the skills learnt to their workmates during subsequent trainings in their respective countries
- ii) Improved performance of enforcement officers in intelligence gathering, enforcement operations and investigations as well as regional

collaboration will go a long way in securing the Elephants in their natural habitats in the Sangha Trinational Ecosystem.

- iii) Reduced poaching will also safeguard the female elephant (matriarch), a prime target by poachers, whose killing leaves the rest of the family members vulnerable to poaching resulting from loss of guidance and breakdown of family structure.
- iv) Improved law enforcement will enhance species reproduction and hence the attainment of optimal sex ratios and age structures leading to viable elephant populations in the long run.

The main output of the project will be skilled enforcement personnel and a strong wildlife enforcement network that can reduce poaching and trafficking in the three countries while cooperating effectively with other affected countries.

Activities

LATF will organize this training jointly with the CITES Management Authorities in Cameroun, CAR and Congo. The training approach will include lectures, practicals, group discussions, experience sharing, presentations and case studies on specialised wildlife criminal investigation/intelligence techniques and international co-operation in fighting illegal wildlife trade. The aim of the training is to impart participants with requisite skills to enable them continue training law enforcement officers in their respective countries. The trainers will be exposed to and provided with training manuals, tools e.g. ICCWC analytic tool kit and techniques such as Controlled deliveries, Anti-money laundering, Risk Profiling and Analysis, Ethics, and Human right standards in law enforcement, and basic anti-corruption techniques to facilitate their training at the incountry level.

The specific activities will include:

- i) Develop Training Program in collaboration with Wildlife Authorities of the Project countries;
- ii) Booking of training venue, facilities and accommodation;
- iii) Procurement and facilitation of travel of participants to the training venue;
- iv) Convene specialized training of trainers workshop for 25 law enforcement personnel for the transnational unit (Congo/Cameroun/CAR) in Brazzaville Congo;
- v) Reporting to the African Elephant Fund.

Monitoring and Evaluation

LATF will carry out overall monitoring and evaluation of the Project to ensure that the objectives of the Project are attained. Implementation of the planned activities will be evaluated by assessing the effects and impacts of capacity building program and by the trainees/participants to determine whether training delivery was in line with their needs and expectations. The

trainees' engagement in subsequent law enforcement operations, their technical reports and feedback will be used as yardsticks for measuring the improvement in performance.

6.0 Project Timeline - outline the timeline for proposed activities within this project. You may find it helpful to relate the timeline to the Phases identified in Section 5.0 above.

#	Activity	Timeline
i)	Develop Training Program in collaboration with Wildlife Authorities of the Project countries	March 2015
ii)	Booking of training venue, facilities and accommodation.	April 2015
iii)	Facilitation of travel of participants and resource persons to the training venue	May 2015
iv)	Convene training of trainers for 25 law enforcement personnel of the TNS unit (Congo/Cameroun/CAR) in Congo	June 2015
v)	Preparation and submission of the meeting and financial accountability reports to the African Elephant Fund.	July 2015

BUDGET

7.0 Has this project received or been pledged any other sources of funding (external)? Give all relevant details (for example, amount, source of funds, timetable, any restrictions):

The Project has not received or been pledged with other sources of funding.

7.1 Please provide a detailed proposed budget for this project (in US\$). You may find it helpful to relate expenditure to the Phases you have set out in Section 5.0

#	Activity	Budget item	Total USD
i)	Procurement and facilitation of travel of participants to the meeting venue	Air travel – tickets for resource pax/trainers : to Brazzaville and locally	3,600
ii)	Convene the specialised training for 25 law enforcement personnel for the Sangha Trinational ecosystem (Congo/Cameroun/CAR) in Ouesso, Congo	Food & Accommodation/DSA	22,500
		Conferencing (Hire of meeting venue, lunch & refreshments)	6,250
		Production of conference materials (banners)	150

		Hire of conferencing equipment	250
		Trainer/resource pax honoraria	1,500
		Local Transport – Bus/boat fares, taxi	1,200
		Telecommunication & media expenses	300
iii)	Preparation and submission of the training and financial reports to the African Elephant Fund.	Assorted printing & stationery	200
Sub-Total – Estimated cost			35,950
Add: Admin/indirect costs @ 10%			3,595
Total Estimated Cost			39,545

Details included in Table annexed to the document:

Any other budget lines:

7.2 Please specify the proponents contribution towards the project

LATF will contribute USD 4,978 to the Project

Please submit the completed proposal, either by:

Email:

Fax:

You should receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal within 14 days. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement, please telephone:

Further details on any of the above details may be requested by the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund.