

## Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

1.1 Country:	Kenya, Rwanda, South-Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
1.2 Project Title:	Enhancing cooperation in combating elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade in East Africa.
1.3 Project Location:	LATF Headquarters- Nairobi, Kenya
1.4 Overall Project Cost:	<b>USD 27,698</b>
	AMOUNT Requested from African Elephant Fund: <b>USD 25,828</b>
1.5 Project Duration:	3 months
1.6 Project Proponent:	Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF)
1.7 Name of Project Supervisor:	Mr. Bonaventure EBAYI
1.8 Address of Project Supervisor:	P.O. Box 3533-00506, Nairobi
1.9 Telephone Number:	+254 20 2513345/ 722 204008
1.10 Email:	<a href="mailto:Administrator@lusakaagreement.org">Administrator@lusakaagreement.org</a>
1.11 Fax:	+ 254 20 2331655
1.12 Date proposal submitted:	20th November 2014

### **2.0 Project Summary: (not more than 250 words)**

Inadequate cooperation among most African countries has frustrated effective transboundary compliance with and enforcement of CITES and relevant national laws thereby leading to an escalation of poaching of elephants and associated illegal ivory trade. Illegal ivory trade by organized criminal groups has not only caused reduction in elephant populations in range states but also threatened wildlife-based economies, deprived local communities of benefits that accrue from wildlife-based activities and continues to threaten national and regional security and stability.

The Project is designed to cultivate synergy, dialogue and bolster cooperation among the wildlife institutions to effectively combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade which is soaring into unmanageable levels, with the sub region bearing the biggest brunt of the menace according to current statistics. This will be achieved through convening a Sub-Regional Meeting bringing together Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and their heads of wildlife security in East Africa's elephant range states of Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The project aims at supporting implementation of the Elephant Action Plan and recent commitments by Governments at various fora such as Arusha Regional Summit on combating wildlife/environmental crime (November 2014); and the Gaborone African Elephant Summit that developed urgent measures to curtail illegal ivory trade (Oct 2013).

It is envisaged that the Project will establish a Director's Forum that will promote constructive dialogue and sustain a united front against elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade in the sub-region and beyond.

### **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)**

The project is in line with the Action Plan Priority Objective 1 – Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products; Strategy 1.1. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other products and partly addresses Activity 1.1.4 on holding meetings with regional forums such as LATF to share and exchange law enforcement information and experience.

This Project also falls under Action Plan Priority Objective 2 – Maintain Elephant Habitats and Restore Connectivity, Strategy 2.2 – Establish and strengthen bilateral and multilateral support for the management of sites and corridors across borders; Activity 2.2.1 – Obtain bilateral and multilateral support for conservation and management of African elephant range states through meetings, workshops and other fora and Activity 2.2.2 – Develop joint programs to manage national and transboundary populations and habitats.

### **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 and illegal ivory trade has escalated to unprecedented levels and the three East African countries namely Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are among the eight countries listed as primary source, transit and destinations affected by illegal ivory trade during CITES CoP 16. For example, elephant poaching in Tanzania has reached devastating levels with results of recent census (2013) indicating a marked decline in population in elephant strongholds of two ecosystems Selous-Mikumi and Ruaha-Rungwa i.e. 66% drop from the 2009 population (38,975 elephants) and 36.5% from 2009 population (31,625 elephants) respectively.

Over the past five (5) years (2009 to June 2014), LATF has witnessed worrying trends in illegal trade of elephant ivory especially in East Africa. In the same period, LATF has recorded 90 significant seizure incidents of wild fauna and flora specimens, including 74 (82% of the seizures) of elephant ivory totalling 92,843kg. LATF has also witnessed

increasing sophistication and complex *modus operandi* in poaching and ivory trafficking. Of the total seized ivory recorded, 42%, 30% and 14% originated or was transited through Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda respectively.

These seizures could represent only a fraction of the actual amount of contraband ivory that was smuggled through East African states' borders to overseas illicit markets. The bulk of these seizures were linked to illegal ivory exports to China P.R. and South East Asia countries. Collectively, these seizures illustrate that large numbers of elephants continue to be poached in the region to supply the lucrative illegal ivory markets overseas.

Elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade has caused reduction in elephant populations in range states hence threatening wildlife based economies and depriving local communities of benefits that accrue from wildlife based activities to sustain their livelihoods. Organized criminal groups involved in these illicit activities are also linked to other related serious crimes which threaten national and regional security/stability.

The Project activities are designed to enhance cooperation and build a common understanding of the challenges, formulating and harmonizing execution of concrete measures for addressing the crime chain from elephant poaching to illegal trade in elephant ivory, parts or derivatives in the sub-region. The strategies to be fast tracked require the involvement of Wildlife Directors who are policy and decision makers in their respective countries.

This Project draws from the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) vast experience spanning more than fifteen years in Cooperative enforcement activities towards the fight against wildlife crime and in particular illegal ivory trade in the region. LATF maintains cross border working mechanisms among the states involving wildlife officers mainly operating along the common borders and has in the past convened a successful wildlife director's meeting between Kenya and Tanzania. LATF is the Secretariat and operational arm of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, a multilateral environmental treaty that is open to accession by any African state and which entered into force in 1996 as a concerted response by African governments to the challenges of inter-state co-operation in the fight against cross-border wildlife crime. LATF therefore provides an enabling platform to convene and facilitate this important meeting.

**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.**

## **Problem Statement**

Inadequate cooperation among most African countries has frustrated effective transboundary compliance with and enforcement of CITES, regional protocols and agreements and relevant national laws thereby leading to escalation of poaching of elephants and associated illegal ivory trade. It hampers efforts directed at maintaining and restoring ecosystem integrity, improved human wellbeing and regional stability.

While data on illegal exploitation of elephants suggest that the threats of illegal ivory trade to African elephants are worsening, effective international co-operation in the fight against the vices remains a major challenge that international criminal networks are exploiting. This is further exacerbated by insufficient financial, technical and human capital required for sustainable and transformative governance including resource management and law enforcement to combat illegal resource off-take.

Most of the project countries share ecosystems such as Tsavo/Mkomazi, Masai Mara/Serengeti, Mt. Elgon and Kilimanjaro/Amboseli where elephants freely move across the borders and face numerous challenges of poaching, blockage of migratory corridors and human/wildlife conflict. Criminal gangs also move across the borders for elephant poaching.

In implementing this Project, LATF is seeking funding to convene a two-day regional meeting of Directors responsible for wildlife to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among the five (5) range states in combating elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade. This project is in line with the objectives of the Elephant Action Plan and LATF Strategic Plan.

## **Goal and Objectives of the Project**

**The project goal:** Enhance cooperation in combating elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other parts, products and derivatives in East Africa.

**Project objectives:** the goal will be achieved by fulfilling the following objectives:

- i) To foster dialogue and promote synergy among elephant range states in East Africa;
- ii) To enhance communication and build operational links among wildlife authorities;
- iii) To establish and strengthen bilateral wildlife enforcement mechanisms focusing on elephant protection;
- iv) To establish a wildlife directors forum in East Africa.

## **Activities**

To achieve project objectives, LATF will organize this meeting jointly with the sub-region's range states and oversee the logistics. The specific activities will include:

- i) Develop concept and working documents for the Meeting;
- ii) Invitation of the CEOs/Directors as well as their senior officials responsible for elephant protection in the project range states;
- iii) Booking of meeting venue, facilities and accommodation;
- iv) Procurement of conference materials;

- v) Facilitation of travel for participants to the meeting venue;
- vi) Convening of the Meeting;
- vii) Reporting to the African Elephant Fund.

### **Anticipated benefits/results**

The Directors forum aims at fostering cooperation and supporting the implementation of the Elephant Action Plan and the Lusaka Agreement in line with outcomes of recent international high level conferences on the subject. This forum/meeting is intended to cultivate rapport and a wider appreciation on the current scourge of illegal ivory trade and the cardinal role of the Lusaka Agreement as the only existing practically oriented co-operative enforcement instrument assisting the implementation biodiversity related conventions and agreements at regional level in Africa. It is envisaged that the meeting will lay strong ground for enhancing cross border cooperation and collaboration among range states in addressing elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade and buttressing efforts on transboundary elephant conservation for enhanced socio-economic benefits of the respective states.

The Forum will, therefore, mark an important milestone towards the creation of networks for sustainability of regional environmental cooperation. The meeting is designed to promote co-learning and the shared understanding necessary for the implementation of the Elephant Action Plan and indeed CITES and the Lusaka Agreement.

Specifically the Project will attain the following benefits/results:

- i) Enhanced regional/international co-operation among range states working collaboratively to address elephant poaching and associated illegal ivory trade;
- ii) Increased momentum for regional integration through cooperation of East African countries in elephant conservation;
- iii) Resources mobilized jointly for effective fight against elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade;
- iv) Improved protection and sustainable conservation of elephant populations in the sub-region;
- v) Improved livelihoods of the local communities depending on wildlife based tourism.

### **Anticipated Outputs**

This project's outputs will include, but are not limited to:

- i) 1 x Wildlife Directors Forum established for continued dialogue and shared knowledge on elephant conservation in East Africa.
- ii) 3 x bilateral mechanisms established/formalized (Kenya/Tanzania; Kenya/Uganda and Uganda/South Sudan) on cross border wildlife law enforcement for elephant protection;
- iii) 15 x Senior Wildlife Managers sensitized on the importance of international cooperation in addressing elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade challenges;
- iv) Agreed joint actions for elephant protection in the sub-region in implementing the recent commitments by Governments at various fora such as Arusha Regional Summit

on combating wildlife/environmental crime and the Gaborone African Elephant Summit that developed urgent measures to curtail illegal ivory trade.

iv) Report(s) of the Wildlife Directors meeting, to be submitted to the African Elephant Fund.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Project activities and progress will be monitored by LATF led by its Director Mr. Bonaventure Ebayu with support from Heads of the National Bureaus, the wildlife authorities in participating states. Officials from the African Elephant Fund steering committee will be invited to participate in the meeting.

LATF will continuously monitor the implementation of the resolutions arising out of the meeting to ensure that the intended results are realized. There will also be follow-up meetings convened for the Directors to evaluate the progress in the implementation of the agreed actions and uphold effective elephant conservation in the sub-region.

### **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.**

<b>#</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
i)	Development of concept and working documents for the meeting	January 2015
ii)	Invitation of the CEOs/directors as well as their senior officials responsible for elephant protection in the range states	February 2015
iii)	Booking of meeting venue, facilities and accommodation.	
iv)	Procurement of conference materials	
v)	Facilitation of travel of participants to the meeting venue	March 2015
vi)	Convene the Meeting	
vii)	Preparation and submission of the meeting and financial accountability reports to the African Elephant Fund.	April 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):**

No, there are no matching funds so far contributed to the project.

**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 (average rate in East Africa) for 4 range states (3 pax each)	5,400
ii)	Convene the Wildlife Directors forum/meeting and facilitate accommodation, meals and upkeep for the participants	Food & Accommodation/DSA	13,500
		Conferencing (Hire of meeting venue, lunch & refreshments)	1,980
		Procurement of conference promotion materials (banners)	400
		Hire of conferencing equipment	300
		Facilitators/Moderators consulting fees	1,600
		Local Transport - errands & logistics	1,500
		Telecommunication expenses	300
iii)	Preparation and submission of the meeting and financial reports to the African Elephant Fund.	Assorted printing & stationery	200
<b>Sub-Total Estimated Cost</b>			<b>25,180</b>
<b>Add: Admin/Indirect costs @ 10%</b>			<b>2,518</b>
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>			<b>27,698</b>

Budget details included in Table annexed to this proposal.

*Any other budget lines:*

**7.2 Please specify the proponent's contribution towards the project:**

The proponent will contribute USD 1,870 towards this 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.