UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

FINAL REPORT TO THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND

Strengthening Law Enforcement against Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade in Uganda

UNEP/SSFA/DELC/2013-EAP-2262-2J05-1141-2201

Submitted by

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Focal Person

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Report Summary

In late 2013, Uganda Wildlife Authority submitted a funding proposal to the African Elephant Fund (AEF) for a project *"Strengthening Law Enforcement against Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade in Uganda"*. The total budget for the project was approximately USD $39,000 (Thirty nine thousand United States Dollars) out of which USD $31,884 was requested from the AEF with the balance to be co-funded by Uganda Wildlife Authority. The Project was approved for funding by the AEF Steering Committee and Uganda received the initial transfer of USD $25,475 from UNEP for the implementation of the Project.

The proposal was premised on the fact that poaching of elephants and the illegal trade in raw ivory and ivory products in Uganda presented an international crisis that continues to escalate. Poaching operations had expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to coordinated slaughter commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates and concerted efforts were required to address the crisis in the short, medium and long term.

The proposal addressed the priority Objective One of the African Elephant Action Plan that aims to reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products. The main goal of this project was to reduce poaching of elephants and illegal ivory trade in Uganda. The project aimed to address the following specific objectives;

1. Increase the effectiveness of tracking and arresting elephant poachers within and outside Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Park.
2. Impart more skills, knowledge and information to the intelligence gathering staff.
3. Acquire modern technology for more effective ivory detection and surveillance activities in national parks.

The key deliverables for the project were;

1. Establishment of a functional canine (sniffer dogs) unit within Uganda Wildlife Authority and its deployment at the International Airport and key hot spot areas to prevent ivory trafficking.
2. Strengthening the professional growth of UWA staff in intelligence, investigations and enforcement to combat poaching and illegal ivory trade through a series of capacity building programs.
3. Provision of equipment and tools including investigative kits to support intelligence and investigations/prosecution against wildlife poaching and illegal trafficking.
4. Acquisition of two environmental drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) for surveillance against poaching in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Parks.

The achievement of the fourth deliverable above became challenging as not much effort was put in establishing the actual cost and specifications of the required drones. There were also challenges with seeking the necessary approvals for acquiring and using drones as the Military expressed initial reservations on their use in Uganda. As a result, Deliverable four was changed to a new deliverable reading;

5. Strengthening the management of the ivory stock pile at Uganda Wildlife Authority.

This change was necessary as Uganda had been asked by the CITES Standing Committee to develop and implement a National Ivory Action Plan as a mechanism for controlling the illegal ivory trafficking through Uganda that had been identified by TRAFFIC in the ETIS analysis for the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES.

Due to administrative challenges affecting the Institution of Uganda Wildlife Authority, there were delays in the project implementation and it was not possible to submit reports in time. It was also not possible to claim for the balance of the funding for this project from UNEP due to the late submission of reports. I wish to report that all the administrative issues have now been addressed but the project time frame has since passed and activities overtaken by events. Uganda Wildlife Authority would not be seeking for the balance of the funds for this project. In

any case UWA received further funding from other donors to implement other aspects of this project.

In terms of outputs, the following has been achieved against the deliverables of this project;

Output 1: Canine Unit

Though the project was expected to deliver two dogs for UWA, a total of eight sniffer dogs have been acquired by UWA to form the canine unit for the institution with twelve dog handlers trained in handling the dogs. The bulk of funding for this has come from other partners notably African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). A canine unit has been established at Entebbe and currently deployed at Entebbe International Airport but with the capabilities to reach out to other spots based on intelligence. As a result, ivory seizures in Uganda have increased significantly between 2015 and 2016 and reduced since 2017 because of the knowledge that Uganda has sniffer dogs.

The initial training for the dogs and dog handlers was conducted by Uganda Police but AWF and WCS provided more specialized training and facilities for the dogs.

Output 2: Professional growth for staff (trainings)

The details of trainings offered to intelligence, investigative and enforcement staff are highlighted in the Annex. These have improved the capacity of Uganda Wildlife Authority to address poaching and wildlife trafficking through improved intelligence, investigations and prosecution.

Output 3: Equipment

Equipment procured to support investigations and intelligence have been highlighted in Annex to this summary report.

Output 4: Ivory stockpile management

An improved ivory strong room was set up at Uganda Wildlife Authority that is more secure and protocols established for its management. Closed Circuit television (CCTV) monitoring cameras have been introduced at UWA HQ with more cameras including hidden ones in and around the ivory strong room. The improved management of the ivory stockpile has led to improved reporting of the stockpile in accordance with CITES requirements. This has also attracted further support from other partners including Stop Ivory that is helping Uganda to develop Ivory Stockpile Management Standard Operating Procedures.

Uganda regrets the late submission of the final reports for this project and pledges that future projects will be implemented and reported on in a timely manner. Attached are Annexes of the Narrative and Expenditure Reports for this project in accordance with the templates provided by UNEP.

We are grateful to the Steering Committee of the AEF for the continued support.

Annex 1 – Final Report

1. **Identification:**

   Partners Name: *UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY*
   Budget line: BAC UNEP/SSFA/DELC/2013-EAP-2262-2J05-1141-2201
   POW 2014-2015 Sub-programme: []
   Expected Accomplishment(s): *Contribute to Objective 1 of the African Elephant Action Plan: Reduce Illegal Killing of Elephants and Illegal Trade in Elephant products. The main outcome of the project was to maintain and expand the elephant distribution and numbers in suitable areas, enhance their security and control illegal ivory trade in Uganda*
   Output(s): *(i) Establishment of a canine section at Uganda Wildlife Authority*
   (ii) Improved capacity of staff in intelligence and investigations to fight illegal killing of elephants and ivory trade.
   Title of the approved PRC project: *Strengthening Law Enforcement against Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade in Uganda*
   SSFA starting date: 01/01/2015
   Reporting period: from 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015

2. **Summary of Status:**
   Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) received a grant from UNEP (UNEP/SSFA/DELC/2013-EAP-2262-2J05-1141-2201) under the African Elephant Fund to the tune of USD $25,475 to implement a project entitled: Strengthening Law Enforcement against Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade in Uganda. This project was initially expected to commence on 1st January 2014 but was delayed and commenced on 1st January 2015 closing on 31st December 2015. The project was also slightly modified to incorporate some activities aimed at implementing the national ivory action plan for Uganda following the recommendations of CITES Standing Committee directing Uganda and seven other Parties to develop and implement national ivory action plans. The Project was developed to contribute to Priority Objective 1 of the African Elephant Action Plan (Reduce Illegal Killing of Elephants and Illegal Trade in Elephant Products) through enhancement of domestic efforts to combat elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade. The main objectives of the project were; (i) Increase the effectiveness of tracking and arresting elephant poachers within and outside the protected areas; (ii) imparting more skills, knowledge and information to the intelligence gathering staff and investigations unit at UWA; and (iii) acquiring modern technology and equipment for more effective ivory detection and surveillance activities including the management of the national ivory stockpile.

   Uganda Wildlife Authority would like to report that a new canine unit comprised of two dogs (have since expanded to 8 with support from other Partners) and 12 staff was established and operational based at Entebbe International Airport but with

capabilities for deployment to other hot spot areas based on intelligence information. A total of 60 staff in intelligence and investigations unit have benefitted from a wide range of training courses to improve their skills and effectiveness in preventing illegal killing of elephants and curtailing wildlife (especially ivory) trafficking in Uganda. Equipment such as CCTV surveillance cameras for the HQ building housing the ivory stockpile, digital cameras and recorders, computers, scanners, smart phones and others were acquired and distributed to various protected areas and UWA HQ to assist staff in executing their duties. Finally, a new ivory strong room was established at UWA and all ivory at UWA properly inventoried in accordance with CITES requirements and an electronic database established to ease the management and monitoring of the national ivory stockpile at UWA.

It was however not possible to implement the intervention on the acquisition and deployment of environmental drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) as this activity was severely under budgeted. The funds for this activity were used to strengthen the security of the ivory strong room at UWA.

3. Activity delivery status

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
Activity 1 – Establishment of a canine (sniffer dogs) unit within UWA	Acquisition of two dogs (springer spaniels) – UWA funds Procurement of Dog ration and medical care Training of UWA staff in dog handling Payment for rent of Uganda Police facilities at the Airport for keeping the dogs Deployment of dogs and staff at the International Airport	- Two springer spaniel dogs Procured and trained by Uganda Police in detecting ivory and rhino horn (six additional dogs have since been acquired with support from other donors to strengthen the UWA Canine Unit). - 5 UWA staff trained in dog	December 2015	Completed and deployment of dogs at the International Airport introduced as a routine activity	The acquisition of two dogs from Uganda Police have greatly improved UWA's monitoring system especially at the Entebbe International Airport. Due to budgetary constraints to construct our own kennels, the two dogs were initially kept with Police and UWA contributed towards the maintenance works of the kennels. This was later in 2016 mitigated as UWA has got further funding support from African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to acquire six more sniffer dogs and have now constructed our own infrastructure for the dogs in Entebbe. The further support from AWF and WCS also included

		handling, care and maintenance for a period of four months (An additional 12 staff have since been trained with support from other donors to strengthen the UWA Canine Unit). - Increased cases of seizures of elephant products (mainly bangles, necklaces and other items) at Entebbe International Airport (4 confiscations from use of sniffer dogs between October and December 2015)			training of additional 12 UWA staff as dog handlers who together with dogs are now permanently deployed at Entebbe International Airport but with capability to operate in other areas based on intelligence information.
Activity 2 – Supporting professional Growth of UWA staff	Training programs for various categories of staff in intelligence, investigations, scene of crime, controlled deliveries, i2 base and i2 note intelligence analyst, sentinel analytical skills for wildlife crimes, data entry and analysis, use of monitoring equipment, wildlife offenders database training including use of finger prints to identify serial offenders in wildlife crime as well as training in ivory identification and CITES in general.	A total of 6 training courses were organized for staff benefitting a total of 60 staff in intelligence, investigations and law enforcement patrols in the topics mentioned in previous column.	February 2015 – December 2015	Completed but more trainings continue to be organized by UWA in various disciplines	Training and capacity building for staff is a continuous process as different staff get transferred, others retire or are dismissed for corruption and other indiscipline cases. To mitigate this, UWA will continue to work with other Partners including INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO who may have funding for specific training programs for staff. Generally UWA's capacity to address wildlife trafficking has greatly improved through the various trainings supported by funding from AEF and other donors.
Activity 3 – Provision of equipment and tools to support intelligence and	Procurement of equipment and tools. Installation and end user support Training and maintenance of equipment	1 laptop computer 4 digital cameras 8 digital recorders 10 smart phones/tablets	March – December 2015	Completed	The equipment has improved the performance of the intelligence and investigations Units of UWA. Installation of CCT Cameras around the UWA HQ building including the ivory strong room

investigations work			8 CCT cameras			has greatly enhanced the security and surveillance against stockpile theft.
Activity 4 – Management of the ivory stockpile at UWA	Involved modification of one of the stores at UWA into a strong ivory room and equipping it with strong door, locks and closed circuit transmission cameras Inventory of the ivory stockpile and development of the ivory stockpile database Training of the staff in data entry and maintenance of the ivory stockpile database		A new ivory strong room for safety and security of ivory established at UWA. New database developed for management of the ivory stockpile 2 electronic weighing scales and 4 tablets acquired	Oct – December 2015	Completed	

4. **List of attached documents**
   1. *Pictorial representation of some of the training programs organized using AEF*
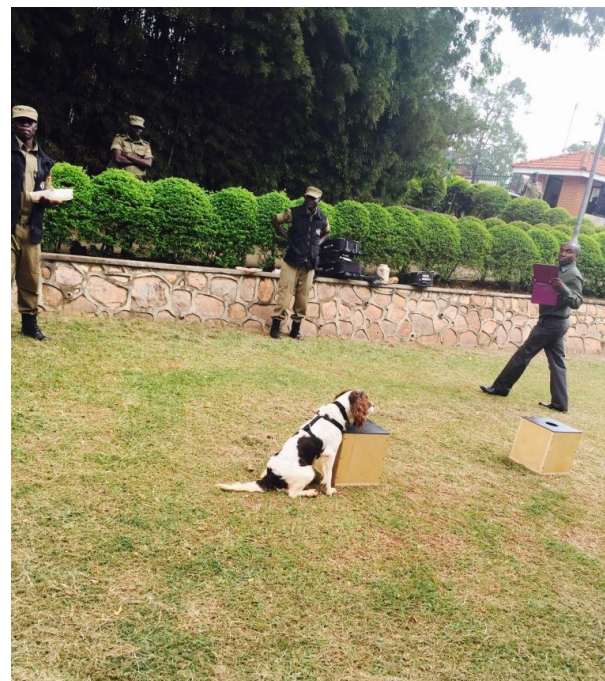   2. *Training report for canine unit staff*

Signature:

Date: 23rd June 2016
Name and title of signing officer: Charles Tumwesigye
                                        Deputy Director Conservation, Uganda Wildlife Authority /Project Focal Person
PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF SOME OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING (TRAINING) PROGRAMS

Participants at the 2015 Prevention of wildlife trafficking training workshop group photo (left) and training session on CITES and species identification (right).

Photographs above show one of the sniffer dogs acquired undergoing training demonstration on how to sniff ivory. The dogs have already been deployed at Entebbe International Airport

Annex 2 – Final Expenditure Reports

Partners Name: UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY
Budget line: BAC UNEP/SSFA/DELC/2013-EAP-2262-2J05-1141-2201
POW 2014-2015 Sub-programme: [*please complete*]
Expected Accomplishment(s): *Contribute to Objective 1 of the African Elephant Action Plan: Reduce Illegal Killing of Elephants and Illegal Trade in Elephant products. The main outcome of the project was to maintain and expand the elephant distribution and numbers in suitable areas, enhance their security and control illegal ivory trade in Uganda*
Output(s): *(i) Establishment of a canine section at Uganda Wildlife Authority*
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Title of the approved PRC project: *Strengthening Law Enforcement against Elephant Poaching and Illegal Ivory Trade in Uganda*
SSFA starting date: 01/01/2015
Reporting period: from 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
Cumulative amount already transferred from UNEP to the Partner as of this reporting date: USD 25,475

Activity	Original Budget (USD)	Expenditures in (2014) (USD) *past year* (if SSFA goes over two calendar years)	Expenditures incurred in (2015) (USD) *this year*	Total Expenditures (USD)	Comments *(if the expenditures were different from what was originally planned, please provide a short explanation)*
Activity 1. Establishing a canine (sniffer dogs) unit within UWA					
Training of dog handlers (used budget for housing units for dogs)	4,668		11,666	11,666	Budget was initially for construction of housing for dogs but we used Police kennels. Instead we needed to pay for training of 5 dog handlers for four months that was not budgeted for hence the variance in cost.
Dog food, maintenance and medical care	3,936		1,900	1,900	As dogs were staying with police dogs, UWA was making a contribution towards upkeep and maintenance of the dogs and facilities.
Sub-total	**8,604**		**13,566**	**13,566**	
Activity 2. Supporting professional Growth of UWA staff					
Training in intelligence and counter intelligence skills and other jointly funded trainings with other stakeholders in various disciplines	1,200		1,200	1,200	UWA spent over USD 30,000 in the trainings but most of these were jointly sponsored with Partners like IFAW, AWF, UNODC. UNEP funding was mainly for top up to cater for costs to staff not met by the other partners. This was limited to what was in the budget.

Sub-total	**1,200**		**1,200**	**1,200**	
Activity 3. Provision of equipment and tools (investigative kits) to support intelligence					
Laptop computer	2,000		1,467	1,467	Some saving was made on the equipment as we got more equipment from other partners as well. This saving was however used as top up to renovate the ivory strong room and establish a system for management of the ivory stockpile at UWA (Activity 4).
8 Digital cameras,	6,400		3200	3200	
8 Voice recorders	640		480	480	
8 smart phones/tablets,					
2 extra cameras for CCTV			600	600	
Sub-total	**9,040**		**5,747**	**5,747**	
Activity 4. Management of the ivory stockpile at UWA					**Activity modified from the original activity of acquiring environmental drones as the budget was far below the actual cost.**
Renovation and equipping the ivory strong and establishing a system (database) for the management of the ivory stockpile -	13,000		5,000	5,000	The 5,000 was only top up of funds from other UWA sources. The total cost of renovation and equipping the ivory strong room was in excess of USD 25,000 but UWA had a deficit of USD 5,000 that was picked from the UNEP funds after failing to procure the drones.
Sub-total	**13,000**		**5,000**	**5,000**	
Total Cost	**31,844**		**25,513**	**25,513**	
Received from UNEP	**25,475**		**25,513**	**25,513**	

Signature of a duly Authorized officer:

Name :   Charles Tumwesigye
Position : Deputy Director Conservation
Date: 23rd June 2016