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CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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AFRICAN ELEPHANT ACTION PLAN

The attached document has been submitted by the African Elephant Range States: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe\*.

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

## AFRICAN ELEPHANT ACTION PLAN



This African Elephant Action Plan is presented on behalf of all the African elephant range States. Development of this document has been owned and managed by the African elephant range States, and as such represents and seeks to address the real 'situation on the ground' in terms of what actions must be taken in order to effectively conserve elephants in Africa across their range. It is not intended to be an exhaustive analysis of the status of elephant populations and their conservation across Africa, but rather a concise and clear statement of those activities which **MUST** be implemented and most urgently require funding if Africa's elephants throughout their range are to be protected from the multiple and serious threats they face.

**The Authors (African Elephant Range States) are:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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## A. Background

At the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the Parties adopted Decisions 14.75 to 14.79 regarding the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*). These Decisions were developed following extensive dialogue and, ultimately, in recognition of the fact that many of Africa's elephants are under threat and require co-ordinated and immediate action to provide effective protection of remaining elephant populations.

Decisions 14.75 to 14.79 mandated the African elephant range States to, among other things, develop an African Elephant Action Plan and African Elephant Fund.

Decisions 14.75 to 14.79:

### ***Directed to African elephant range States***

14.75 The African elephant range States shall continue their constructive elephant dialogue aiming to develop joint conservation policies and exchange of management experience in order to improve the management of elephant populations.

The African elephant range States through the African elephant dialogue process shall develop an overall *African elephant action plan* for improved elephant management aiming at:

- a) accessing and directing resources, towards strengthening enforcement capacity in African elephant range States to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory;
- b) the implementation of the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory*; and
- c) enhancing capacity building, managing translocations, reducing human-elephant conflicts and enhancing community-conservation programmes and development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range.

The elephant range States will report to the Standing Committee on progress made under this decision with a view to providing the information necessary for the reviews referred to in Decision 14.78.

### ***Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations***

14.76 Parties, trading countries, the ivory carving industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other donors are called upon to contribute significantly to the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the *African elephant action plan* and the programme for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) to ensure their establishment and maintenance.

### ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

14.77 The Standing Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, shall propose for approval at the latest at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties a decision-

making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties.

- 14.78 The Standing Committee shall conduct ongoing comprehensive reviews of the status of the elephant, trade in its specimens and the impact of the legal trade, based on data from MIKE, the Elephant Trade Information System and the implementation of the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory* and the *African elephant action plan* referred to in Decision 14.75.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 14.79 The Secretariat shall establish an African Elephant Fund that will be applied to the implementation of the *African elephant action plan*.

The Secretariat shall establish a steering committee consisting of representatives of the range States and donors to govern the African Elephant Fund and to support and advise African elephant range States on the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Steering Committee shall decide on the organization of the administration of the fund.

The Secretariat shall, as far as possible through MIKE funding, convene an African elephant meeting before 31 July 2008 and at later dates as necessary.

In order to meet the requirements of Decisions 14.75 - 14.79, African elephant range States participated in three meetings; first in Mombasa (June 2008), then in Gigiri (March 2009). The third meeting in Dar es Salaam (June 2009) was comprised of sub-regional range State representatives nominated during the Gigiri meeting (Republic of Congo (Central Africa), Kenya (Eastern Africa), South Africa and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa) and Mali and Nigeria (Western Africa) and United Republic of Tanzania (Host) to further develop the African Elephant Action Plan. Two nominated representatives, Gabon (Central Africa) and Uganda (Eastern Africa), were not able to participate.

These meetings have ensured that this African Elephant Action Plan:

1. Is an accurate reflection of the broad objectives and activities identified as being most urgently required by range States to protect and conserve elephants across Africa.
2. Forms a basis by which range States can submit detailed proposals for funding of prioritized actions to the African Elephant Fund.
3. Represents and incorporates the views of all African elephant range States.
4. Is a consensus document among all African elephant range States.
5. Should serve as a guide for any donor wishing to contribute funding towards the conservation of elephants in Africa.

## **B. Guiding Principles**

Given the diversity of conservation measures required to protect Africa's elephants, and the complexity of the threats facing those elephants, the African elephant range States believe it essential to outline the following Guiding Principles, which establish the framework for the overall purpose and intention of this African Elephant Action Plan:

1. RECALLING that the original intention of the Parties, through the creation of an African Elephant Action Plan, was to develop and prioritise mechanisms by which all elephant populations in Africa would be offered the recognition, protection and support needed to ensure their future survival;
2. RECOGNISING the serious and increasing levels of threat currently facing elephants, including illegal international and domestic trade in ivory, human elephant conflict, habitat loss and fragmentation, illegal killing for ivory and meat, lack of institutional and enforcement capacity and local overabundance;
3. CONVINCED that measures must be taken to prevent any further localised extinction of elephants in any part of their range;
4. RECOGNISING the contribution made by MIKE and ETIS to monitoring illegal killing of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory, and the need to expand these programmes further;
5. FURTHER RECOGNISING that MIKE and ETIS have access to external funding sources until 2011 and that thereafter the programmes will be eligible to benefit from the African Elephant Fund alongside other activities in the Action plan;
6. RECOGNISING the needs of those individuals mandated with protecting elephants;
7. CONVINCED that the most effective way to attract funding for elephant conservation is through a commitment to transparency, accountability, co-ordination, and common purpose by all African elephant range States; and
8. PRESENTING the international donor community with a mechanism for channelling available funds into elephant conservation through a process which has been developed, owned, approved and managed by all the African elephant range States;

The following Vision and Goal have been identified by the African elephant range States in the development of this African Elephant Action Plan:

### **VISION AND GOAL OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT ACTION PLAN**

**Vision:** *To ensure a secure future for African Elephants and their habitats to realize their full potential as a component of land use for the benefit of the human kind*

**Goal:** *To secure and restore where possible sustainable elephant populations throughout their present and potential range in Africa recognising their potential to provide ecological, socio, cultural and economic benefits*

## C. The African Elephant Action Plan

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) is the world's largest terrestrial mammal. It is a species of considerable economic, ecological, cultural and aesthetic value to many people and is arguably the world's most charismatic mega-herbivore. African elephants possess extraordinary intelligence, complex social structures and remarkable abilities to adapt to their surroundings. They play a pivotal role in African ecosystems as unique 'keystone' species and natural habitat engineers, while providing an environmental focus for fundraising, awareness building and stimulating action for broader conservation efforts. Africa's elephants represent strength and power for many cultures on the continent and attract visitors from across the globe.

Sadly, however, the future for African elephants is far from secure. Elephants face a multitude of very serious threats, including illegal killing for ivory and other products, conflict with humans, local overabundance and loss and fragmentation of habitat. The magnitude of these threats, for some elephant populations, is so severe that many predict these populations may be lost entirely. Additionally, those empowered with protecting their country's natural heritage, while determined to conserve their elephants, are often confronted with dire challenges. The numerous threats posed to elephants are therefore of deep concern to all African elephant range States.

Following extensive consultation among all African elephant range States, the following eight (8) priority Objectives, cascaded into various Strategies and Activities, have been recognised and adopted as critical areas of focus for elephant conservation across Africa. Whilst all the Activities in this Action Plan are viewed as extremely important to ensure the long-term survival of wild elephants, the range States, recognising likely funding limitations, have prioritised these Objectives in the order of hierarchy. Therefore, Objective 1 (Reduce Illegal Killing of Elephants and Illegal Trade in Elephant Products) is accorded top priority while Objective 7 (Improved Local Communities Cooperation and Collaboration on African Elephant Conservation) is of least priority. Objective 8 (African Elephant Action Plan is effectively implemented) is an overarching operational objective of the Action Plan.

The range States note in particular the importance of capacity building in order to ensure the activities documented in this African Elephant Action Plan are carried out most effectively, and as such capacity building as a cross-cutting activity has been included as an integral part of all Objectives in this document.

The second stage in this process will be for African elephant range States to submit detailed proposals to the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund, based on the priority Objectives, Strategies and Activities detailed within this document. The Steering Committee will then evaluate and prioritise each proposal according to the amount of funding available and the priority matrix that will be developed by the range States.

Annex I of this document contains indicative budgets for each of the Activities identified. It is key, however, to note that these budgets are **INDICATIVE ONLY** and for the initial period of three (3) years of the Action Plan.

## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 1: REDUCE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS AND ILLEGAL TRADE IN ELEPHANT PRODUCTS**

Between 1979 and 1989 more than 50% of Africa's elephants were poached for their ivory. Many elephant populations have not yet fully recovered from this slaughter, and most will never regain their pre-1979 population levels.

While the listing of African elephants on Appendix I of CITES in 1989 succeeded in reducing the scale of killing, it is clear that poaching and illegal trade continues to pose a very serious threat to many African elephant populations. Indeed, the threat of ivory poaching appears, in some regions, to be increasing. For some countries, particularly those with fragile and vulnerable populations, the scale of illegal poaching for ivory and some instances meet is now so great that there is an immediate threat to the long-term survival of those populations.

All regions of the African continent are affected by poaching and illegal ivory trade - ivory seized from illegal trade has been identified as originating from countries from all four regions, East, West, Central and Southern Africa. A national, regional and international approach to this serious problem is, therefore, essential.

Other than ivory trade and illegal killing, African elephants also face threats from local overabundance, habitat loss and fragmentation and human-elephant conflict

The following have been identified by the African elephant range States as priority Strategies and Activities for combating the threats.

### **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.

**Activity 1.1.2.** Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.

**Activity 1.1.3.** Equip wildlife authority staff on the frontline of enforcement with appropriate tools to carry out their mission as safely and effectively as possible.

**Activity 1.1.4.** Hold meetings between regional forums such as the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, SADC Rhino and Elephant Security Group and international law enforcement agencies, and encourage formation of such initiatives in West and Central Africa to share and exchange law enforcement information and experience.

### **STRATEGY 1.2: Harmonize national policies and laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants within and across range States where possible.**

**Activity 1.2.1.** Undertake assessments to identify gaps and overlaps of different policies and laws of the range States.

**Activity 1.2.2.** Hold meetings amongst range States to discuss outcomes of the assessment and possible harmonization of conflicting policies and laws.



**Activity 1.2.3.** Advocate for review and harmonization of conflicting policies and laws at the highest political level e.g. the African Union and also at the sub-regional level, e.g. ECOWAS, COMIFAC, SADC, EAC.

**STRATEGY 1.3: Strengthen the laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants.**

**Activity 1.3.1.** Review and/or enact national legislation to provide for adequate penalties to deter illegal killing of elephants, and illegal trade in elephant ivory and other elephant products.

**Activity 1.3.2.** Sensitize legislators on the importance of the species to make them enact appropriate laws on conservation and management of the African elephant both at the national, regional and international level.

**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.

**Activity 1.4.2.** Enforce CITES provisions regarding trade on ivory and other elephant products.

**Activity 1.4.3.** Identify origin of seized ivory and determine the pattern of illegal trade routes and networks for ivory smuggling using available DNA analysis and other forensic techniques.

**PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 2: MAINTAIN ELEPHANT HABITATS AND RESTORE CONNECTIVITY**

Across the continent, elephant habitats are becoming increasingly degraded, fragmented and in some cases lost entirely, due to human-induced threats such as agricultural expansion, logging and mining. Such pressures limit the unrestricted movement of elephants and other species within their traditional range, thereby limiting their access to essential food and water resources. There is an urgent need to maintain extensive landscapes for elephants and restore and maintain connectivity wherever possible.

Historically, for the majority of elephant range States, local and national land use planning has been undertaken with limited consideration for wildlife and wildlife habitats. As land pressures continue to grow across the continent, a larger vision with a longer-term planning horizon is needed. Therefore, elephant-friendly policies, which take into account socio-economic development aims and the tenure or other property rights of local communities, are essential.

The following Strategies and priority Activities have been identified by African elephant range States as essential for maintaining and restoring elephant habitat and connectivity:

**STRATEGY 2.1: Ensure connectivity, where possible, between elephant ranges within and among range States.**

**Activity 2.1.1.** Identify and prioritize opportunities for range expansion and creation of corridors within the broader land use planning.

**Activity 2.1.2.** Undertake feasibility studies to determine ways to maintain connectivity between elephant populations within, between and among range States.

**Activity 2.1.3.** Create and / or restore, where possible, the connectivity between areas of elephants within, between and among range States.

**Activity 2.1.4.** Undertake elephant reintroduction and translocation to regions where appropriate and based on IUCN guidelines on introduction and reintroduction.

**Activity 2.1.5.** Identify and rehabilitate migration corridors and dispersal areas for effective protection of the African elephant.

**Activity 2.1.6.** Identify and provide capacity, where appropriate, to ensure connectivity between elephant range States, both within and among range States.

**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 ranges through meetings, workshops and other fora.

**Activity 2.2.2.** Develop joint programs to manage national and transboundary populations and habitats.

**Activity 2.2.3.** Assess and monitor habitat change and fragmentation, with a focus on transboundary populations.

**Activity 2.2.4.** Build appropriate capacity to implement the above.

**STRATEGY 2.3: Promote internal and cross border land use planning within and among elephant range States.**

**Activity 2.3.1.** Conduct cross-sectoral planning exercises to develop land use policies consistent with large, elephant-friendly landscapes (especially those surrounding protected areas) starting from the local community to national levels, and transboundary where this is possible.

**Activity 2.3.2.** Coordinate and prioritize trans-boundary management efforts.

**Activity 2.3.3.** Monitor the movements of elephants across borders to support management

**Activity 2.3.4.** Build appropriate capacity to implement the above.

**STRATEGY 2.4: Ensure adequate maintenance of current elephant habitat within and between elephant range States**

**Activity 2.4.1.** Provide adequate resources for effective management of existing protected areas and dispersal areas.

**Activity 2.4.2.** Improve or maintain good management in existing protecting areas in African elephant range States.

**Activity 2.4.5.** Investigate impacts of climate change on elephant habitat and elephant populations through appropriate research.

**PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 3: REDUCE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT (HEC)**

Elephants can have severe impacts on local livelihoods, such as through crop-raiding and consumption of scarce water sources. Such competition for resources can result in conflict and loss of human life and the lives of domestic stock. As a consequence, many elephants are also killed, both legally and illegally, as a result of both formal and informal actions to control the damage they cause. For some elephant populations, the scale of removal of “problem animals” through such control measures may be negatively impacting the elephant populations concerned and failing to address the underlying causes of the problem.

To date, no permanent, ‘fool-proof’ solutions have been discovered to prevent Human-Elephant Conflict. Therefore, a variety of mitigation tools must be used, and potential solutions must take into consideration the origin and causes as well as the extent of these conflicts.

The following have been identified by all African elephant range States as priority Strategies and Activities for reducing Human-Elephant Conflict:

**STRATEGY 3.1: Apply adaptive management approaches in addressing HEC mitigation, focusing on capacity building of managers and local communities.**

**Activity 3.1.1.** Establish a database using existing and new data on the types, extent, causes and impacts of HEC and mitigation measures for such conflicts.

**Activity 3.1.2.** Research and pilot different mitigation strategies to reduce HEC and develop guidelines accordingly.

**Activity 3.1.3:** Train and equip wildlife officers and local communities to ensure that appropriate HEC management approaches are implemented.

**Activity 3.1.4.** Undertake appropriate land use planning, including harmonization across sectors and among range States.

**Activity 3.1.5.** Evaluate the causes and socio-economic consequences of human-elephant interactions.

**STRATEGY 3.2: Establish participatory processes for mitigation of HEC.**

**Activity 3.2.1.** Compile and disseminate information on HEC mitigation measures.

**Activity 3.2.2.** Develop plans to manage HEC under different scenarios, integrating both local communities and other stakeholders in participatory planning.

**Activity 3.2.3.** Harness traditional/indigenous knowledge and other deterrent methods for HEC, including emerging technologies.

**PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 4: INCREASE AWARENESS ON ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS THAT INCLUDE POLICY MAKERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AMONG OTHER INTEREST GROUPS**

Essential to the success of the African Elephant Action Plan is the need to stimulate the awareness of and involvement of the wider community in African elephant conservation and management principles. Current up-to-date information is often difficult to find, not synthesised, too scientific or not disseminated effectively, therefore making it difficult for people, particularly policy-makers, to fully understand the key issues. There is a need for objective, unbiased and reliable information that can be accessed by all levels of stakeholder - local, regional and international.

The following have been identified by all African elephant range States as priority Strategies and Activities for increasing awareness on elephant conservation and management:

**STRATEGY 4.1: Raise awareness among stakeholders on the conservation of the African elephant.**

**Activity 4.1.1.** Consolidate and disseminate reliable information on the conservation and management of the elephant for the local communities, scientific and political audiences.

**Activity 4.1.2.** Develop and implement awareness programs targeting schools, local communities, policy makers, NGO's, business sectors, etc.

**Activity 4.1.3.** Develop and implement a communication strategy to justify management decisions and actions.

**Activity 4.1.4.** Build appropriate capacity to implement the above.

**STRATEGY 4.2: Use of indigenous/traditional knowledge for the conservation of the African elephant.**

**Activity 4.2.1.** Survey across the four regions and document value systems regarding elephant conservation.

**Activity 4.2.2.** Incorporate relevant traditional beliefs and practices into conservation and management of the African elephant.

**STRATEGY 4.3: Promote information sharing on elephant conservation and management research findings.**

**Activity 4.3.1.** Develop and implement information, education and communication strategies on the conservation of the African elephant

**Activity 4.3.2.** Develop a protocol for information sharing among stakeholders within and between range States.

## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN RANGE STATES KNOWLEDGE ON AFRICAN ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT**

An understanding of elephant populations and their distribution is essential in order to maximise the impact and effectiveness of elephant conservation and management policies and activities. Development of a comprehensive Action Plan for elephant conservation and management will be constrained in the absence of greater understanding of elephant numbers, trends and distribution. It should, however, be recognized that acquiring 'full' knowledge about all aspects of individual elephant populations will often remain unattainable, and that decision-makers should make use of the best available information in combination with adaptive management approaches.

The following have been identified by all African elephant range States as priority Strategies and Activities for improving knowledge and management of elephant populations and their habitats:

**STRATEGY 5.1: Determine and monitor the status of African elephant populations and their habitat within and among elephant range States.**

**Activity 5.1.1.** Conduct population surveys in prioritized areas as identified by the regions.

**Activity 5.1.2.** Conduct inventories for unknown/less known populations to ascertain their biological status and their habitats.

**Activity 5.1.3.** Provide satellite collars to monitor prioritized populations within and amongst range States.

**Activity 5.1.4.** Investigate new and economically viable methods for the study of elephants on the continent.

**Activity 5.1.5.** Continue participating in the MIKE and ETIS programmes.

**STRATEGY 5.2: Develop mechanisms of acquiring and disseminating information within and among elephant range States.**

**Activity 5.2.1.** Maintain and update databases on elephant populations for management purposes.

**Activity 5.2.2.** Coordinate research efforts, compile and disseminate research findings.

**Activity 5.2.3.** Establish fora for exchanging information between and among range States for better monitoring of transboundary movements of elephants.

**PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 6: STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG RANGE STATES**

Many of the issues concerning the conservation and management of elephants are shared by many range States. African countries have progressively strengthened understanding and cooperation within and among elephant range States on numerous social, economic and environmental issues of mutual interest and concern. Regional elephant conservation policies and strategies have been developed for Central, Southern and West Africa; Eastern Africa is in discussion about the development of its own Strategy; whilst a number of transboundary plans and projects have been initiated to facilitate the development by neighbouring elephant range States of joint management activities and protection for the species and their habitats. National elephant action plans, which are often quite compatible with others, exist in a number of range States although some may require updating.

Numerous opportunities exist for regular sharing of information and dialogue among range States at both technical and political levels including, for example, coordination of surveys and anti-poaching activities where elephant populations move across borders. Additionally, those political and economic frameworks which already exist can be used to increase the wider public perception of the importance of elephant conservation issues, and encourage greater cooperation between range States.

The following have been identified by all African elephant range States as priority Strategies and Activities for strengthening cooperation and understanding among range States:

**STRATEGY 6.1: Foster cross-sectoral, cross-border, regional and continental exchanges to integrate the needs of elephant conservation and management into national priorities and agendas**

**Activity 6.1.1.** Conduct technical and policy exchanges of information within and across regions and amongst all levels of stakeholders (local communities to high-level decision makers) by means of training, fora, meetings, mutual technical assistance and study tours.

**Activity 6.1.2.** Facilitate exchanges to promote socio-economic development planning relevant to elephant conservation and management.

**Activity 6.1.3.** Organize inter-state meetings (including of high level decision makers) on the conservation and management of elephants

**Activity 6.1.4.** Establish bilateral or multilateral agreements to support the management of cross-border sites and corridors.

**STRATEGY 6.2: Use existing political, economic and other frameworks to promote cooperation on elephant conservation and management, e.g. AU, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, COMIFAC, and COMESA.**

**Activity 6.2.1.** Advocate the inclusion of elephant conservation in national development agendas.

**Activity 6.2.2.** Use existing political and economic platforms to promote cooperation on elephant conservation and management, eg AU, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and COMIFAC.

**Activity 6.2.3.** Effectively implement provisions in MEAs [CITES, CBD, CMS, etc.] relevant to elephant conservation and management.

## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 7: IMPROVED LOCAL COMMUNITIES COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION ON AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION**

While elephants do have an intrinsic value, recognition must be given to those communities that share land and resources with African elephants, and who are most affected by elephants on a day-to-day basis. It is often the case that these communities suffer the costs of living with elephants (such as loss of food crops), while the benefits (such as revenue from tourism) are largely gained by those living further afield. It is important to recognise and address this imbalance, as the accrual of greater and more tangible benefits at a local level is more likely to translate directly into increased tolerance for elephants by those communities most affected.

The following have been identified by all African elephant range States as priority Strategies and Activities for assessing the costs and benefits to people of elephants:

**STRATEGIES 7.1: Devise/improve and implement sustainable incentive schemes to benefit local communities.**

**Activities 7.1.1.** Identify and assess needs for the full participation of local people to conserve the African elephant.

**Activity 7.1.2.** Conduct studies to assess the costs of living with elephants, i.e the direct and indirect social and economic costs of elephants to humans.

**Activity 7.1.3.** Pilot study on cost-benefit assessment (a comparative study across different regions).

**Activity 7.1.4.** Develop innovative incentive schemes that increase benefits to local communities, while simultaneously reducing costs of living with elephants.

**Activity 7.1.5.** Assess and promote, as appropriate, consumptive and non-consumptive use of elephants and the sharing of benefits accrued with affected communities.

## **OBJECTIVE 8: AFRICAN ELEPHANT ACTION PLAN IS EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED**

This is an overarching operational objective of the African Elephant Action Plan. The African elephant range States are committed to the following procedures for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan.

### **STRATEGY 8.1: Establish a sustainable funding mechanism to implement the African Elephant Action Plan**

**Activity 8.1.1.** Establish a Working Group of the range States to regularly review the Action Plan.

**Activity 8.1.2.** Pooling of resources (voluntary contributions of capacity, space, and funding) from range States to complete the Action Plan.

**Activity 8.1.3.** Prioritize interventions in the African Elephant Action Plan for fund raising and subsequent implementation.

**Activity 8.1.4.** Estimate the cost of activities and seek funding sources

**Activity 8.1.5.** Develop a mechanism to carry forward the plan, ensuring sustainability.

**Activity 8.1.6.** Establish mechanisms for coordination, collection and use (in a sustainable manner) of funds for implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan.

### **STRATEGY 8.2: Develop and implement monitoring indicators.**

**Activity 8.2.1.** Establish clear and measurable targets for each objective and strategy.

**Activity 8.2.2.** Establish institutional arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan and on remedial measures in case of little or no progress.

**Activity 8.2.3.** Implement the actions called for in the African Elephant Action Plan and report on these through a regular transparent reporting mechanism through existing mechanisms eg CITES bi annual reporting

**Activity 8.2.4.** Review and where necessary update the African Elephant Action Plan every three years, to keep abreast with the challenges and dynamics of conserving and managing elephants



**STRATEGY 8.3: Link the African Elephant Action Plan with the African Elephant Fund.**

**Activity 8.3.1.** Develop a format for funding applications to the African Elephant Fund.

**Activity 8.3.2.** Use the African Elephant Action Plan as a fundraising tool to encourage donors to commit funds to the African Elephant Fund.

## **Indicative Budgets for Implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan**

At the Gigiri meeting (March 2009) the Working Group on the development of the African Elephant Action Plan was established with the Terms of Reference being to *inter alia* develop a budget for the Action Plan.

At the meeting of the Working Group in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (June 2009) it was observed that it would be difficult to develop a detailed budget for the Activities identified in the Action Plan considering the varied activities identified and the geographical scope of operationalization of the Action Plan.

It is recalled that, in the Mombasa meeting (June 2008), the IUCN presented to the meeting of the first African elephant meeting an 'Action Plan' which was later renamed a Strategic Framework. The Strategic Framework did not have a budget. It is this Strategic Framework that has been further developed and evolved into the African Elephant Action Plan for implementation in perpetuity and across the African elephant range.

Efforts have been made to provide **indicative** budgets as per the broad Strategic Objectives taking into consideration the prioritization of the objectives and that the priorities are likely to change over time during the lifespan of the Action Plan. This indicative budget is meant, therefore, to simply provide a reference to potential donors and also for use in fundraising towards implementation of the Action Plan for an initial period of three years (2009-2011). Disbursement of the funds once sunk into the Fund will be guided by a developed criteria for allocating funding ceilings that have been categorised into Small Grants (up to USD 50,000) for small activities, Medium Grants (USD 50,000-USD 500,000) for medium term activities and Large Grants (USD 500,000-USD 2,000,000) for large project activities and Very Large Grants (USD 2,000,000-USD 5,000,000). It is envisaged that for the initial period of three years, the Action Plan will require funding of USD 97,350,000 (Full schedule is annexed).

### **LINKING THE ACTION PLAN WITH THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND**

This Action Plan seeks to establish a link with the African Elephant Fund and identifies Strategy 8.3 and Activities 8.3.1-8.32 to that effect.

At Gigiri meeting it was decided that range States elect eight representatives to the Steering Committee of the AEF. The Steering Committee would develop a questionnaire to seek recommendations on the establishment of the AEF and its management.

**Annex 1: Indicative Budget for implementation of African Elephant Action Plan, 2009-2012.**

**Indicative Budget for Implementation of African Elephant Action Plan 2009-2012 in United States Dollar (USD)**

Activity Description	Small Projects	Medium Projects	Large Projects	Very large Projects
	Budget(in '000 USD)	Budget(in '000 USD)	Budget(in '000 USD)	Budget(in '000 USD)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products</b>				
<b>Strategy 1.1 : Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products</b>				
1.1. 1 Assess law enforcement capacity and needs in respective range States	50.00			
1.1.2 Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.				5,000.00
1.1.3 Equip wildlife authority staff on the frontline of enforcement with appropriate tools to carry out their mission as safely and effectively as possible.				5,000.00
1.1.4 Hold meetings between regional forums such as Lusaka Agreement, SADC Rhino and Elephant Security Group, international Law Enforcement Agencies and encourage formation of such initiative in Western Africa to share and exchange law enforcement information and experience		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Strategy 1.2: Harmonize policies and laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephant across range States</b>				
1.2.1 Undertake assessment to identify gaps and overlaps of different policies and laws of the range States		500		
1.2.2 Hold meetings amongst range States to discuss outcome of the assessment and possible harmonization of conflicting policies and laws		500		
1.2.3 Advocate for review and harmonization of conflicting policies and laws at the highest political level eg AU.	50.00			
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Strategy 1.3:Strengthen the laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephant</b>				
1.3.1 Review and/or enact national legislation to provide for adequate penalties to deter illegal killing of elephants, trade in elephant ivory and other elephant products		500.00		
1.3.2:Sensitize legislators on the importance of the species to enable them enact appropriate laws on conservation and management of the African elephant both at the national, regional and international level		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Strategy 1.4:Strengthen the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephant</b>				
1.4.1 Build capacity of judiciary, police and other enforcement agencies to effectively enforce laws both at national and international levels.			2,000.00	
1.4.2 Strongly enforce CITES provisions regarding trade on ivory and other elephants products			2,000.00	
1.4.3 Identify origin of seized ivory and determine the pattern of illegal trade routes and networks for ivory smuggling using DNA analysis and other forensic techniques			2,000.00	

<b>Total Strategy</b>	-	-	<b>6,000.00</b>	-
<b>Objective 2: Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity</b>				
<b>Strategy 2.1: Ensure connectivity, where possible, between elephant ranges within and among range States.</b>				
2.1.1 Identify and prioritize opportunities for range expansion and creation of corridors within the broader land use planning			<b>2,000.00</b>	
2.1.2 Undertake feasibility studies to determine ways to maintain connectivity between elephant populations within, between and among countries			<b>2,000.00</b>	
2.1.3 Create and / or restore, where possible, the connectivity between areas of elephants within, between and among countries				<b>5,000.00</b>
2.1.4 Undertake Elephant reintroduction and translocation to regions where appropriate and based on IUCN guidelines on introduction and reintroduction.				<b>5,000.00</b>
2.1.5 Identify and rehabilitate migration corridors and dispersal areas for effective protection of the African elephant.			<b>2000.00</b>	
2.1.6 Identify the needs and provide capacity where appropriate to implement the strategy			<b>2000.00</b>	
<b>Total Strategy</b>	-	-	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Strategy 2.2: Establish and strengthen bilateral and multilateral support for the management of sites and corridors across borders</b>				
2.2.1 Obtain bilateral and multilateral support for conservation and management of African elephant ranges through meetings, workshops and other fora.			<b>2,000.00</b>	
2.2.2 Develop joint programs to manage national and transboundary populations and habitats,		<b>500.00</b>		
2.2.3 Assess and monitor habitat change and fragmentation, with a focus on transboundary ranges.			<b>2,000.00</b>	
2.2.4 Identify the needs and provide capacity where appropriate to implement the strategy			<b>2,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Strategy</b>	-	<b>500.00</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	-
<b>Strategy 2.3 :Promote cross border land use planning among elephant range States</b>				
2.3.1 Conduct cross-sectoral planning exercises to develop land use policies consistent with large, elephant-friendly landscapes (especially those surrounding protected areas) starting from the local community to national levels, and transboundary wherever possible.			<b>2,000.00</b>	
2.3.2 Coordinate and prioritize trans-boundary management efforts		<b>500.00</b>		
2.3.3 Monitor the movements of elephants across borders to support management			<b>2,000.00</b>	
2.3.4 Identify the needs and provide capacity where appropriate to implement the strategy			<b>2,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Strategy</b>	-	<b>500.00</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	-
<b>Strategy 2.4: Ensure adequate maintenance of current elephant habitat within and between elephant range States</b>				
2.4.1 Provide adequate resources for effective management of existing protected areas and dispersal areas				<b>5,000.00</b>
2.4.2 Improve or maintain good management in existing protecting areas in African elephant range States				<b>5,000.00</b>
2.4.3 Investigate impacts of climate change on elephant habitat and elephant population through appropriate research		<b>500.00</b>		
<b>Total Strategy</b>				

	-	500.00	-	10,000.00
<b>Objective 3: Reduce human-elephant conflict</b>				
<b>Strategy 3.1: Apply adaptive management approaches in addressing HEC mitigation, focusing on capacity building of managers and local communities.</b>				
3.1.1 Establish a database using existing and new data on the types, extent, causes and impacts of HEC and mitigation measures for such conflicts		500.00		
3.1.2 Research and pilot different mitigation strategies to reduce HEC and develop guidelines accordingly			2,000.00	
3.1.3 Train and equip wildlife officers and local communities to ensure that appropriate HEC management approaches are implemented			2,000.00	
3.1.4 Undertake appropriate land use planning, including harmonization across sectors and among range States			2,000.00	
3.1.5 Evaluate the causes and socio-economic consequences of human-elephant interactions		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	-	500.00	6,000.00	-
<b>Strategy 3.2: Establish participatory processes for mitigation of HEC</b>				
3.2.1 Compile and disseminate information on HEC mitigation measures		500.00		
3.2.2 Develop plans to manage HEC under different scenarios, integrating both local communities and other stakeholders in participatory planning.		500.00		
3.2.3 Harness traditional/indigenous knowledge and other deterrent methods for HEC, including emerging technologies	50.00			
<b>Total Strategy</b>	50.00	1,000.00	-	-
<b>Objective 4: Increase awareness on elephant conservation and management of key stakeholders that include policy makers, local communities among other interest groups</b>				
<b>Strategy 4.1: Raise awareness among stakeholders on the conservation of the African elephant</b>				
4.1.1 Consolidate reliable information on the conservation and management of the elephant for the local communities, scientific and political audiences	50.00			
4.1.2 Develop and implement awareness programs targeting schools, local communities, policy makers, NGO's, business sectors, etc			2,000.00	
4.1.3 Develop and implement a communication strategy to justify management decisions and actions		500.00		
4.1.4 Identify the needs and provide capacity where appropriate to implement the strategy		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	50.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	-
<b>Strategy 4.2: Use of indigenous/traditional knowledge for the conservation of the African elephant</b>				
4.2.1 Survey across the region and document value systems regarding elephant conservation			2,000.00	
4.2.2 Incorporate relevant traditional beliefs and practices into conservation and management of the African elephant	50.00			
<b>Total Strategy</b>	50.00	-	2,000.00	-

<b>Strategy 4.3: Promote information sharing on elephant conservation and management research findings</b>				
4.3.1 Develop and implement Information, Education and Communication strategies on the conservation of the African elephant		500.00		
4.3.2 Develop a protocol for information sharing to stakeholders within and among range States	50.00			
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Objective 5: Strengthen range states knowledge on management of African elephant</b>				
<b>Strategy 5.1: Determine and monitor the status of African elephant populations and their habitat within and among elephant range States</b>				
5.1.1 Conduct population surveys in prioritized areas as identified by the respective regions				5,000.00
5.1.2 Conduct inventories for unknown/less known populations to ascertain their biological status and their habitats.				5,000.00
5.1.3 Provide satellite collars to monitor prioritized populations within and amongst range States.			2,000.00	
5.1.4 Investigate new and economically viable methods for the study of elephants on the continent		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Strategy 5.2 Develop mechanisms of acquiring and disseminating information within and among elephant range States</b>				
5.2.1 Maintain and update databases on elephant populations for management purposes	50.00			
5.2.2 Coordinate research efforts, compile and disseminate research findings		500.00		
5.2.3 Establish fora for exchanging information between and among range States for better monitoring of transboundary movements of elephants		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Objective 6: Strengthen cooperation and understanding among range States</b>				
<b>Strategy 6.1 Foster cross-sectoral, cross-border, regional and continental exchanges to integrate the needs of elephant conservation and management into national priorities and agendas</b>				
6.1.1 Conduct technical and policy exchanges of information within and across regions and amongst all levels of stakeholders (local communities to high-level decision makers) by means of training, fora, meetings, mutual technical assistance and study tours.			2,000.00	
6.1.2 Facilitate exchanges to promote socio-economic development planning relevant to elephant conservation and management.		500.00		
6.1.3 Organize inter-state meetings (including of high level decision makers) on the conservation and management of elephants		500.00		
6.1.4 Establish bilateral or multilateral agreements to support the management of cross-border sites and corridors	50.00			
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Strategy 6.2: Use existing political, economic and other frameworks to promote cooperation on elephant conservation and management, eg AU, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC COMIFAC, COMESA.</b>				
6.2.1 Advocate to include elephant conservation in national development agenda	50.00			
6.2.2 Use existing political and economic platforms to promote cooperation on elephant conservation and management, eg AU, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and COMIFAC	50.00			
6.2.3 Effectively implement provisions in MEAs [CITES, CBD, CMS, etc] relevant to Elephant conservation and Management			2,000.00	
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Objective 7: Improved local communities cooperation and collaboration on African elephant conservation</b>				
<b>Strategy 7.1: Devise/improve and implement sustainable incentive schemes to benefit local communities</b>				
7.1.1 Identify and assess needs for the full participation of local people to conserve the African elephant	50.00			
7.1.2 Conduct studies to assess the costs of living with elephants, i.e the direct and indirect social and economic costs of elephants to humans		500.00		
7.1.3 Pilot study on cost-benefit assessment (a comparative study across different regions)		500.00		
7.1.4 Develop innovative incentive schemes that increase benefits to local communities, while simultaneously reducing costs of living with elephants.			2,000.00	
7.1.5 Assess and promote, as appropriate, consumptive and non-consumptive use of elephants and the sharing of benefits accrued with affected communities		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Objective 8: African elephant action plan is effectively Implemented</b>				
<b>Strategy 8.1: Establish a sustainable funding mechanism to implement the plan</b>				
8.1.1 Establish a Working Group of the range States to regularly review the Action Plan.		500.00		
8.1.2 Pooling of resources (voluntary contributions of capacity, space, and funding) from range States to complete the Action Plan.	-	-	-	-
8.1.3 Prioritize interventions in the African elephant action plan for fund raising and subsequent implementation.	-	-	-	-
8.1.4 Develop a mechanism to carry forward the plan, ensuring sustainability.	-	-	-	-
8.1.5 Establish mechanisms for coordination, collection and use (in a sustainable manner) of funds for implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan	-	-	-	-
8.1.6 Identify the needs and provide capacity where appropriate to implement the strategy		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Strategy 8.2: Develop and implement monitoring indicators</b>				
8.2.1 Establish clear and measurable targets for each objective and strategy	-	-	-	-
8.2.2 Establish institutional arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan and on remedial measures in case of little or no progress.	50.00			
8.2.3 Implement the actions called for in the African Elephant Action Plan and report on these through a regular reporting mechanisms or through existing mechanisms	50.00			

8.2.4 Review and where necessary update the African Elephant Action Plan every three years, to keep abreast with the challenges and dynamics of conserving and managing elephants.		500.00		
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Strategy 8.3: Link the African Elephant Action Plan with the African Elephant Fund.</b>				
8.3.1: Develop a format for funding applications to the African Elephant Fund.	50.00			
8.3.2: Use the African Elephant Action Plan as a fundraising tool to encourage donors to commit funds to the African Elephant Fund.	50.00			
<b>Total Strategy</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Subtotal Budget</b>	<b>850.00</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>	<b>44,000.00</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>97,350.00</b>			