



**African Elephant Summit
Gaborone, Botswana
2-4 December 2013**

**Urgent Measures
3 December 2013**

Preamble

The representatives of governments along the illegal ivory value chain and inter-governmental organizations:

RECALLING that the African elephant range States adopted in 2010 the African Elephant Action Plan and the African Elephant Fund and that these mechanisms were commended by the Parties to CITES at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

RECOGNIZING that the conservation of the African Elephant requires a comprehensive approach, as enshrined in the African Elephant Action Plan, emphasizing the challenges of habitat fragmentation and loss, illegal killing and growing human elephant conflict.

NOTING that elephant poaching and the illegal ivory trade are a major concern across Africa and beyond, with serious security, economic, political and ecological ramifications as these crimes increase in frequency and severity and expand into previously secure elephant populations.

AWARE that in some cases, transnational criminal organizations and armed groups are using sophisticated military equipment and tactics to kill elephants and are taking advantage of high-level corruption, or lack of border security, to move ivory across borders and to avoid detection and prosecution.

Further AWARE that corruption can fuel and facilitate illicit ivory trafficking and that a zero-tolerance policy on corruption for all levels and sectors, including investigations and prosecutions, is warranted in this regard.

RECOGNIZING that poaching and illegal ivory trade are serious, often transnational crimes, which significantly impact on wildlife but also on national and international peace, security, social, cultural and political development and the rule of law.

RECOGNIZING that the cross-cutting nature of the problem requires effective collaboration and collective action across all agencies, including law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies, customs, the judiciary and prosecutors, foreign and finance ministries, as well as CITES authorities and natural resource ministries, nationally and internationally.

Further RECOGNIZING that action is required at all points along the illegal ivory value chain, both to conserve African elephants in the field, and to cut off the flow of illegal ivory.

UNDERSTANDING that measures to combat wildlife crime should respect the rights and livelihoods of rural communities and seek to engage them as important stakeholders in these efforts.

RECOGNIZING that sustainable use of natural resources has generated economic benefits that have contributed directly to the conservation of the species, rural development and poverty reduction in a number of countries.

ACKNOWLEDGING the various ongoing initiatives, declarations, and existing commitments at national, regional and international levels.

We, the delegates assembled:

AGREE to safeguard the men and women who risk their lives to protect elephants in the wild and make the necessary human, financial and logistical resources available at the national and regional level to the practical extent possible to address elephant poaching on the African continent and the illegal ivory trade across the world in recognition and support of the African Elephant Action Plan.

URGE all donors to provide resources and support, as appropriate, for the implementation of the urgent measures and to support technical assistance, advisory services, the sharing of best practices and other forms of assistance.

DEDICATE OURSELVES to providing political support at the highest level to ensure the implementation of the following urgent measures in the context of the African Elephant Action Plan within the agreed timeline.

Urgent Measures

Urgent measures, to halt and reverse the trend in illegal killing of elephants and the illegal ivory trade in ivory, are outlined below for implementation or initiation by the end of 2014, although it is understood that the measures will remain relevant beyond 2014.

The measures listed below are considered to be urgent in nature and requiring commitment from the high-level political representatives at the African Elephant Summit.

Urgent Measure 1

Applying a zero tolerance approach, **secure and report on maximum, and therefore deterrent, sentences for wildlife crime** using a combination of existing laws and strengthened regulatory frameworks for investigation, arrest, seizure and prosecution of suspected wildlife criminals; such laws may include, *inter alia*, wildlife, corruption, money laundering, organized crime, fire arms, employment and terrorism laws.

Urgent Measure 2

Form and support **National Interagency Mechanisms** to allow immediate action against anyone implicated in or abetting illegal killing of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory.

Urgent Measure 3

Enhance capacity of law enforcement and wildlife protection agencies at the national level to respond to well-armed, highly-organized poaching syndicates.

Urgent Measure 4

Introduce elephant poaching and the illegal ivory trade as a standing agenda item of **National Security Committees** (or their equivalent) in countries where proceeds from these criminal activities are known or are likely to be used to fuel internal conflict, armed rebellion or external aggression. Include, where possible, the head of the national wildlife agency on the National Security Committee (or its equivalent) in these countries.

Urgent Measure 5

Over the next year, in order to support evidence-based decision-making, pool efforts to **improve the coverage of monitoring of:**

- a) African elephant populations, transmitting data as a matter of urgency to the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, the agreed data repository for elephant population data;
- b) levels of illegal killing, transmitting data as a matter of urgency to CITES MIKE, the agreed monitoring programme; and
- c) levels of illegal trade, transmitting data as a matter of urgency to ETIS, the agreed monitoring programme.

Urgent Measure 6

Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies in range, transit, and consumer states, including through participation in activities of the **CITES Ivory Enforcement Task Force**, and, through the use of controlled deliveries, whenever possible, and other appropriate law enforcement techniques; with support from the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

Urgent Measure 7

States that are signatories to **regional wildlife law enforcement networks** such as the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF); Rhino and Elephant Security Group of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network; the Central African Wildlife Enforcement Network; ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network; and the recently proposed Wildlife Enforcement Network for Southern Africa; recommit their individual support to the objectives of the regional agencies and to meeting their material, financial and human resource commitments.

Urgent Measure 8

Mobilise financial and technical resources from various national and international sources utilizing those mechanisms that best support the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan and these agreed urgent measures at national, regional and continental level.

Urgent Measure 9

Design and carry out national studies and **public awareness programs**, aimed at all sectors, which include information on the ramifications of illegal killing of elephants and the illegal ivory trade on the economy, national security, public safety and the ecosystem services elephants provide.

Urgent Measure 10

Implement efficient measures to register **and secure ivory stockpiles**, including comprehensive marking and inventory of stored ivory, as agreed under CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) .

Urgent Measure 11

Develop and implement strategies to eliminate the illegal trade in ivory and use evidence-based campaigns for supply and demand reduction that use targeted strategies including, where appropriate, government-led approaches, to influence consumer behaviour.

Urgent Measure 12

In African elephant range States, **engage communities living with elephants as active partners in their conservation** by supporting community efforts to advance their rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and wilderness.

Urgent Measure 13

Strengthen existing or implement new legislation to classify wildlife trafficking involving organized criminal groups as a “serious crime” to effectively unlock international law enforcement cooperation provided under the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, including mutual legal assistance, asset seizure and forfeiture, extradition, and other tools to hold criminals accountable for wildlife crime.

Urgent Measure 14

Support the **development of a network of accredited forensic laboratories** able to determine the origin of seized ivory according to internationally standardized protocols for DNA and isotopic analysis that can provide evidence admissible in a court of law.

Implementation

Each country will assess its progress with implementation of these urgent measures and will report on a voluntary basis to appropriate regional and international fora such as, but not limited to:

- further one-off meetings on wildlife crime;
- Meetings of the CITES Standing Committees meetings;
- The next sessions of the IUCN World Conservation Congress;
- Annual African Union Summits;
- Regional economic cooperation fora
- African Elephant Fund Steering Committee
- Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to CITES and CMS
- Meetings of the United Nations General Assembly;
- Meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly.