

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

PARALLEL SESSION B: ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER AND LAND MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION OF AFRICA’S WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Report of the 1st Experts Group Meeting on the Implementation of the African Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade In Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa

I. Introduction

In reference to the Executive Council Decision EX. XXXX and Goal 7 of Agenda 2063 ‘Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities’ which highlights the need to facilitate Member States’ enactment of strict policies to eliminate wildlife poaching and trafficking as well as observe the international convention on trade in endangered species; the sustainable use of trans-boundary (shared) resources including wildlife as a basis for regional cooperation; and reduction of dependence of the population on threatened species and ecosystems, the 1st Experts Group Meeting on the Implementation of the African Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa was held at the African Union Commission Headquarters from 19-21 September 2017. It was attended by representatives from AU Member States, [INSERT LIST], Regional Economic Communities (RECs) [insert list] International, regional and sub-regional institutions working in conservation [insert list]

II. Opening

The Expert Group meeting opened on 19 September 2017 with opening remarks delivered by [to be provided on 19 September 2017]

III. Organizational matters

Election of officers

The following countries were elected to serve on the Bureau for the period 2017–2019

	Sub region	Country	Position
1			Chair
2			Vice chair
3			Vice chair
4			Vice chair
5			Vice chair and Rapporteur

Also at the first meeting [INSER country and name of representative] assumed the Chair of the Experts Group

III. Adoption of the Agenda and programme of work

The Experts Group adopted the following Agenda based on the provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters
 - a. Election of Chair and Bureau
 - b. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. Presentations in plenary
 - a. Overview of the Continental strategy and implementation plan
 - b. Regional Strategies (EAC; ECCAS; ECOWAS; IGAD; SADC)
 - c. Overview on the Working Groups
4. Working sessions:-
 - a. Working Group 1: Implementation plan (priority programmes and activities) for 2018-2020
 - b. Working Group 2: Monitoring and Reporting framework
 - c. Working Group 3: Terms of Reference for the Experts Group
5. Presentation of reports and outcomes from the working sessions
6. Validation of the Experts Group Report
7. Venue and date of the next Experts' Group meeting
8. AoB/ other matters
9. Closure of the meeting

IV. Presentations

The Commission made an opening presentation which provided a background of the development of the wildlife strategy, progress made and key milestones since the adoption of the AU Decision on Conservation of Africa's Wild Fauna and Flora. This was followed by presentations from the Regional Economic Communities ongoing efforts at the RECs levels.

V. Working sessions

Three working groups were formed to deliberate on the draft implementation plan 2018-2020; a monitoring and reporting framework and the terms of reference for the Experts Group

VI. Reports and outcomes of the working sessions

Outcome of the working sessions were presented in plenary by the rapporteurs of the three groups in the following order [insert].

VII. Validation of Experts Group Report

The report of Report of the 1st Experts Group Meeting on the Implementation of the African Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa was validated in plenary. The Terms of Reference for the Experts Group; draft implementation plan 2018-2020; and monitoring and reporting framework are contained in Annex.

VIII. Venue and Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Experts Group would be held on XXX in XXX

IX AoB

[Text to be inserted]

X Closure of the meeting

The Experts Group meeting adjourned at XX pm on Thursday 21 September 2017

ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXPERTS GROUP

The Experts Group consists of at least two focal points from each Member State to represent it in deliberations regarding implementation of the Strategy. One of these focal points could be a representative from the CITES Management Authority of the country concerned, and the other from the most appropriate national agency responsible for wildlife law enforcement. Countries may also wish to nominate representatives outside these two institutions based on their national circumstances. The Experts Group should meet in person at least once a year and the Members of the Experts Group will appoint a Chair on rotational basis at every in-person meeting, and would be tasked with the following:-

1. Guide the development and rolling out of country-specific actions that deliver on the implementation of the Continental Strategy
2. Develop annual priorities based on the Strategy
3. Review the state of implementation (challenges, lessons and recommendations) at the country-level
4. Provide a liaison function between countries and the Commission
5. In collaboration with the Commission, consolidate country-level reports into an overall pan African report
6. Facilitate the development of national strategies, sub-regional and regional strategies
7. Align reporting with other existing international reporting requirements

COORDINATION MECHANISM

Specialized Technical Committee (STC)

Article 14 of the AU Constitutive Act provides for the establishment of Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) across a range of thematic areas. Under article 14, the STCs are responsible for reporting to the Executive Council. The Implementation of the Wildlife Strategy falls under the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment which would provide high level policy guidance to the Experts Group as well as review and consider reports before submission to AU Summit for endorsement. Synergies would also be created with other relevant STCs, mainly the STC on Defense and National Security.

The African Union Commission

The African Union Commission (AUC) through the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), would be the overall Coordinator for the implementation of the Wildlife Strategy at the continental level and would have a focal point who would provide strategic guidance and facilitate the domestication and implementation of the Strategy across the continent. The Terms of Reference for the Focal person would include tasks such as coordinating the annual revision and completion of the Implementation Plan, the organization

of meetings, the establishment of communication mechanisms, resource mobilization and facilitation of the meetings of the experts group and Technical Advisory Committee.

ACTION	COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIONS	PROGRESS MADE SINCE MAY 2015	AGENCIES INVOLVED	OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED	OTHER PARTNERS INVOLVED	TIMEFRAME	EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ OUTCOMES	FUNDING NEEDED	CHALLENGES/NEXT STEPS IDENTIFIED
<p>4. Encourage membership, ratification, domestication and effective implementation of international agreements related to conservation and enforcement such as CITES, Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), CMS, Maputo Convention, Lusaka Agreement, Africa-relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, the African Ministerial Declaration on Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG), and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)</p>									
<p>Component 2: Regional and International Cooperation</p>									

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1. Enhance cooperation amongst source, transit and destination countries									
2. Promote collective engagement by the region with the transit and demand/consumer states									
3. Facilitate and support the establishment of a regional networks to: - Enhance crossborder and regional cooperation; and to Exchange and share information and intelligence between enforcement agencies and the implied judicial sector									
4. Develop and implement regional, sub-regional and bilateral law enforcement agreements including reciprocal enforcement agreements									
5. Harmonise legislations at subregional and regional levels									
6. Identify and engage with international partners working on addressing illegal exploitation and									

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4. Ensure compliance by the private business and trade sector, foster collaborative capacity building of all relevant private sector steps across the trade chain and enhance information sharing with enforcement agencies to enable effective private sector support to combat illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora									
5. Ensure compliance by the banking and finance sector, foster collaborative capacity building of all relevant financial flow steps across the trade chain and enhance information sharing with enforcement agencies to enable an effective combat of illicit financial flows that fuel illegal trade in wild fauna and flora									

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6. Promote incentives to secure the participation, support and cooperation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in managing wildlife resources									
7. Strengthen institutional and judicial frameworks									
8. Promote the uptake and usage of existing tools provided by ICCWC									
9. Establish inter-agency committees at national levels bringing together enforcement agencies to address illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora									
10. Promote and increase the use of specialised techniques and technology in the investigation of wildlife offences									
11. Strengthen or update legal frameworks to effectively address illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora including species, ecosystems, strong									

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deterrent penalties appropriate to nature and gravity of the wildlife crime, etc									
12. Enforce the implementation of national legislations to combat money laundering and facilitate asset forfeiture									
Component 4: Training and Capacity Development									
1. Strengthen capacities of existing institutions in Africa and Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by Illegal exploitation and Illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and dependent on wildlife									
2. Enhance the enrolling, uptake and roll-out of the analytical tools and toolkits provided by the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) by national governments, developed with the aim to enhance the national capacity of the institutions involved in									

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combatting the illegal trade in wild flora and fauna									
3. Ensure participatory development and implementation of training programmes for Indigenous Peoples and local communities on: - (i) Best practices in conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources, (ii) The role they could play in combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna									
4. Alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and local communities living in and adjacent to wildlife habitats									
5. Provide training and capacity building to existing institutions to strengthen the effectiveness of enforcement and criminal justice agencies, including inspectors, customs									

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officers, police and the judiciary on measures at national, regional and interregional levels aimed at combating illegal trade in wildlife									
Component 5: Awareness and Advocacy									
1. Strengthen awareness and advocacy among targeted groups									
2. Provide for the development of communication, education and awareness programmes targeting Political leaders, Policy decision-makers, in Africa and abroad, Indigenous Peoples and Local communities, Civil society, Trade, business and finance community, Decision-makers for resource mobilization									
Component 6: Knowledge, Information and Technology									
1. Improve and link e-research and decision making									

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2. Strengthen research on and monitoring of illegal wildlife trade and improve technology on surveillance									
3. Develop databases, monitoring systems and observatories on illegal wildlife trade and promote transparency and data sharing, including use of existing ones (INTERPOL, WCO, MIKE, ETIS, SYVBAC, and FISH-i Africa, amongst others)									
4. Enhance access to information: science-policy linkages									
5. Enhance the use of forensic technology to combat illegal wildlife trade such as the regional forensic labs in Gabon, Kenya and South Africa									
Component 7: Governance									
1. Promote inclusive governance of wildlife – particularly with Indigenous Peoples and local communities,									

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including strengthening legal frameworks									
2. Recognize, support and provide an enabling environment for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to be involved in wildlife governance and derive benefits from its conservation and sustainable use									
3. Strengthen the ability of Indigenous Peoples and communities to be involved in decision-making surrounding action to combat illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, including use and management of wildlife, and to derive benefits from conserving wildlife									
4. Develop and/or implement programmes to prevent and combat wildlife related corruption and promoting integrity									

