

**Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa**

**18-20 April 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**DRAFT Summary Report**

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# List of Abbreviations

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

AU African Union

AUC African Union Commission

AWF African Wildlife Foundation

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna

COMIFAC Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (The Central African Forest Commission)

EAC East African Community

GVTC Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration

STC Specialized Technical Committee (of the African Union)

TWIX Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange

WEN Wildlife Enforcement Network

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme/UN Environment

# Opening

The opening statement was made by Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, on behalf of the African Union Commission who gave a background on the progress to date since the adoption of the AU Decision EX.CL/ Dec.832 (XXV), in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014 to present. The Director also thanked the Committee members for their commitment, dedication and the support that the members have been providing to the Commission.

Kenya on behalf of the member countries of the Technical Advisory Committee, commended the Commission on the progress that had been made since the Brazzaville Conference of 2015 and recommended that moving forward, the focus should be placed on the implementation of the strategy. Kenya also emphasized that ultimately the responsibility of implementing the Wildlife Strategy lies in the member States and thus the support should be directed at member states.

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on behalf of the Institutions present at the meeting, stressed the need for aligning the implementation of the strategy with with ongoing processes in the regions and member states. The Secretariat also highlighted major milestones in on-going efforts to reduce illegal trade in wild fauna and flora such as the closure of domestic markets for Ivory by China at the end on 2016.

After the three statements, the agenda in Annex 1 was adopted.

# II. Background and Context

The African Union Commission, TRAFFIC and the CITES Secretariat made presentations with the key highlights as follows.

The Commission gave a summary of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa (hereinafter referred to as “the Strategy”) endorsed at the June 2015 AU Summit of Heads of States and Government through the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.879 (XXVII) and highlighted efforts to date in realising the its seven key strategic Components that include: Political Commitment; Regional and International Cooperation; Enforcement and Compliance; Training and Capacity Development; Awareness and Advocacy; Knowledge, Information and Technology; Governance.

The CITES Secretariat gave a brief background on CITES and its role in ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival; the need for international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. The Secretariat also highlighted key outcomes of the CITES COP 17 including key decisions on the Pangolins, the African Grey Parrot, Lions, Cheetah and the Ivory Action Plans and emphasized the need to take into account relevant CITES COP 17 Resolutions in developing country workplans

TRAFFIC shared experiences on how other regional wildlife strategies could inspire the implementation of the AU Wildlife Strategy. TRAFFIC also highlighted the success factors for Wildlife Enforcement Networks including Political commitment by concerned countries; having an institutional home; a clear governance structure; Strategic planning; and Effective communications mechanism. TRAFFIC also gave insights on ‘The Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange’ (TWIX) an internet tool, managed by TRAFFIC on behalf of the partners.

Following the three presentations and discussions that followed, the Technical Advisory Committee made the following key recommendations:-

* Focus and efforts should shift to the implementation of the continental Strategy,
* Intensify popularization efforts of the strategy to AU Member States,
* Alignment, harmonization and coordination of the Strategy with ongoing efforts at country and regional levels,
* Strategy to support Member States in meeting their obligations and commitments under the CITES Convention,
* Build on existing structures and mechanisms for coordination,
* Involve the Regional Economic Communities BUT take into account that implementation of the Strategy is at the national level.
* Improve data collection, compilation, analysis and sharing,
* Incite high-level political commitment,
* Promote communication, information sharing, and lessons sharing (for example through Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and TWIX),
* Harmonize wildlife crime policies and legislation regionally,
* Promote economic and livelihood opportunities from sustainable management of wildlife,
* Expand benefit sharing from sustainable wildlife harvesting,
* Involve State and non-State agencies need to be involved to counter illegal wildlife trafficking including the Youth, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders
* Enhance local, regional and international cooperation

# III. Coordination mechanism for the Implementation of the Wildlife Strategy

## **3.1 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.

## **3.2 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. The Department would coordinate the Implementation of the Strategy 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.

## **3.3 Experts Group**

It is recommended that an Experts Group be established, for which each AU Member State would identify and appoint at least two focal points 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, that will monitor and review progress.

## **3.4 Technical Advisory Committee**

At the International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in April 2015, an Ad-hoc Technical Committee was formed, which comprised the following members: AUC (Chair), Member States:- Algeria, Angola, Benin, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, Organizations:- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and TRAFFIC.

Since then, the Technical Committee has continued to meet annually and it is proposed that the Committee be formalized and serve as the Technical Advisory Committee for the implementation of the Strategy. The composition could be made up of the same above-mentioned members that constituted the Ad-hoc Committee, and expanded to include representatives from RECs and Regional Institutions; relevant conservation organizations including; African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Birdlife International, COMIFAC, Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC), IUCN, Save the Elephants, WWF and any other regional institutions working in conservation. The Technical Advisory Committee will be chaired by the African Union Commission and will, in close collaboration with DREA, provide technical guidance to the Experts Group Chair and its members on the implementation of the Strategy.

## **3.5 Technical Sub-Committees**

Where necessary, the Technical Committee may establish Technical Sub-Committees focused on specific areas of work related to the implementation of the strategy. These could be on specific components in the strategy (such as enforcement and compliance, or training and capacity building) or other key priorities, such as funding development.

# IV. Terms of Reference for the Expert Group:-

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* Guides the development and rolling out of country-specific actions that deliver on the implementation of the Strategy
* Reviews the state of implementation at the country-level and captures progress and challenges in the report
* Provides a liaison function between the countries and the Commission
* Prepares reports and submits a copy of which is also shared with relevant RECs for their information
* Assists the Coordinator in consolidating country-level reports into an overall pan African Strategy-level report to track progress in implementation
* Develop annual work plan
* Align reporting with other existing international reporting requirements
* Implementation should be in alignment with existing commitments and obligations

# V. Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committee

* Provides technical guidance to the Commission and to the Experts Group on the implementation of the Strategy
* Continuously review and advise on the continental strategy and Action Plan
* Ensure the strategy is being effectively implemented
* Provide technical guidance on specific issues as requested
* Resource mobilization for the implementation of the strategy

# VI. Technical Sub-Committee

Is set up by the Technical Committee on a need basis; Sub-Committee can be thematic, taxonomic or issue-based; Size, composition and duration of the sub-committee term to be determined by Technical Advisory Committee based on the nature of the task

# Annex 1 – Agenda Technical Advisory Committee Meeting 18-20 April 2017

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Agenda** | **Facilitator** |
|  | **DAY 1: 18 APRIL 2017**  ***SETTING THE CONTEXT*** |  |
| *8.30-9.00* | *Arrival and registration* |  |
|  | **Session I : Opening** |  |
| 09h00-09h30 | Welcome remarks | AUC |
| Statement | AUC |
| Statement | MS/REC |
| Adoption of the agenda | AUC |
|  | **Overview** |  |
| 09h30-10h00 | **Presentation 1: African Strategy on Combatting illegal Trade and Illegal Exploitation in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa – Overview, key highlights and updates** | AUC |
| Discussions |  |
| 10h00-10h30 | *Coffee beak and group photo* |  |
| 10h30-11h00 | **Presentation 2. Regional Wildlife Strategy implementation – Overview of synergies and experiences from Asia and Africa** | TRAFFIC |
| Discussions |  |
| 11h00-11h30 | **Presentation 3 :** **Regional Strategy to combat poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products** | East African Community |
| Discussions |  |
| 11h30-12h30 | **Presentation 4: Key outcomes of CITES CoP 17 and Linkages with the AU Strategy, Regional and national strategies** | CITES |
| Discussions |  |
| 12h30-13h30 | *Lunch break* |  |
| 13h30-14h40 | **Presentation 5: Brief updates from MS, RECs and key partners on IWT related actions and synergies with the AU strategy** | MS, Regional institutions, International organizations |
| Discussions |  |
| 14h40- 15h10 | **Presentation 6: Overview of the coordination mechanism for the implementation of the wildlife strategy** |  |
| Discussions |  |
| 15h10-15h20 | *Coffee break* |  |
| 15h20-15h40 | **Report:** Summary report on the presentations and key recommendations | Rapporteurs |
| 15h40-16h00 | Formation of breakout groups, briefing on the group tasks and deliverables | AUC |
|  | Conclusion and end of day 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **DAY 2: 19 April 2017**  **TOWARDS OUTCOMES** |  |
| 09h00 - 09h10 | Recap of Day 1 | Rapporteurs |
|  | Breakout session 1: Review of the draft coordination structure | Group Chair and  Rapporteurs |
| 11h00-11h15 | *Coffee break* |  |
| 11h15-12h30 | Report back | Rapporteurs |
| Discussion |  |
| 12h30-13h30 | *Lunch break* |  |
| 13h30-15h30 | Breakout session 2: ToRs for:  1) Expert Group 2)Technical Committee | Group and Chair  Rapporteurs |
| 15h30-15h40 | *Coffee break* | Rapporteur |
| 15h40-16h40 | Report back | Rapporteur |
|  | Discussions |  |
|  | **DAY 3: 20 April 2017**  **OUTCOMES** |  |
| 09h00-09h15 | Recap of Day 2 | Rapporteur |
| 09h15-11h00 | Validation of:   * Draft Coordination Mechanism, * ToR for the Technical Committee * ToR for Expert Group | AUC |
| 11h00-11h15 | ***Coffee break*** |  |
| 11h15-12h00 | **Presentation 7:**  Monitoring framework for the implementation of the strategy | AUC |
| *Discussion* |  |
| 12h30-13h30 | ***Lunch Break*** |  |
| 13h30-14h30 | **Presentation 8:**  Financing the implementation of the strategy | AUC |
| Discussion |  |
| 14h30-15h00 | Report on key recommendations and way forward | Rapporteurs |
| 15h00-15h10 | Closing remarks |  |

# Annex 2 – Represented Member States and Organizations at the April Session

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Member State/ Partner** |
| 1 | Benin |
| 2 | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| 3 | Niger |
| 4 | Kenya |
| 5 | Senegal |
| 6 | South Africa |
| 7 | Zimbabwe |
| 8 | African Wildlife Foundation |
| 9 | Birdlife International |
| 10 | CITES |
| 11 | COMIFAC |
| 13 | Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration |
| 14 | UNDP |
| 15 | UNEP |
| 16 | Save the Elephants |
| 17 | AUC |

# Annex 3 – Group Photo

