AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND

Background

The African Elephant Fund (AEF) is a multi-donor funding mechanism for implementing the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) to ensure a secure future for the African elephant populations and their habitat. The AEAP was adopted in March 2010 at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES Cop15). The revised AEAP was adopted in 2023. The fund implements projects across thirty-eight African elephant range States.

Objectives:

- To reduce human-elephant conflicts
- To maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity
- To reduce the illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade of elephant products

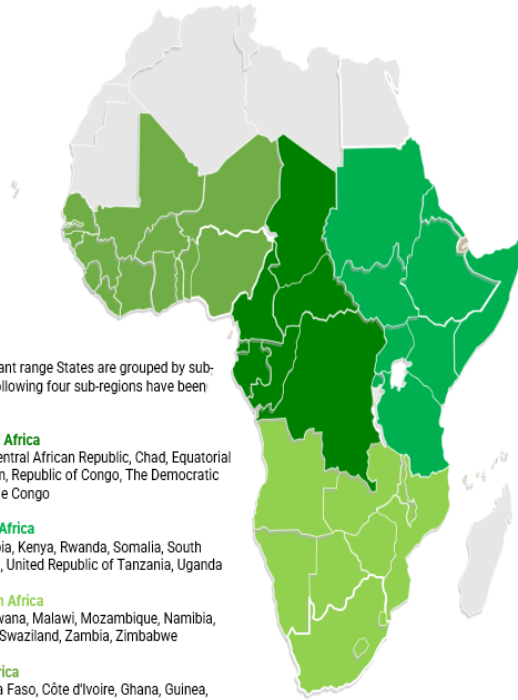## Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- **SDG 15.1** The AEF has increased elephant population and reduced poaching incidences thus halting biodiversity loss.
- **Target 15.3** The AEF has restored and maintained elephant's habitat across range States and thus protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use ecosystem and combating desertification.
- **SDG 1.1** The AEF has improved protection of elephants and reduced human-elephant conflict thus promoting sustainable agriculture and food security.
- **SDG 17.16** The AEF has increased awareness in elephant conservation among policy makers and local communities and thus strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

Contribution towards Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- **Target 4:** AEF projects are geared towards protecting and restoring African elephant populations, and the reduction and management of human-elephant conflicts.
- **Target 5:** The AEF combats the illegal trade of elephant ivory.
- **Target 1:** The AEF advocates for integrated land use planning and management to ensure that elephant habitats and corridors are secured and maintained.
- **Target 14:** The AEF Works with national governments across 38 African elephant range States in the development, strengthening and enforcement of elephant conservation policies and legislations.
- **Target 20 and 21:** The AEF supports capacity building, transboundary cooperation and knowledge creation and exchange among stakeholders including policymakers and local communities on elephant protection and management.

Project results

- Enhancing the capacity of range States to enact and enforce stronger wildlife laws.
- Training and equipping of law enforcement personnel in several range States to conduct effective and efficient anti-poaching missions and in the identification, collecting and handling of wildlife products.
- Conducting aerial census surveys of elephants.
- Building the capacity of local communities to implement appropriate elephant pushback techniques to minimize incidences of crop raiding, and to provide alternative income-generating sources.
- Erection of solar-powered electric fences to reduce human-elephant conflict and protection of elephants.
- Building of beehive fences in many Range States which has improved the welfare of communities through increased household income from honey and better food safety.
- Provision of emergency funding to 18 projects implemented across Africa during the Covid-19 pandemic to support range States in addressing threats to elephants posed by the pandemic.
- Adoption of the African Elephant Action Plan by CMS member states through resolution CMS COP 12.19, and endorsement of the revised African Elephant Action Plan (2023) through amendments to resolution CMS COP 12.19 contained in COP 14 Document 29.4.1.
- Adoption of resolutions 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife and 2/14 on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products by the United Nations.

African elephant range States are grouped by sub-region. The following four sub-regions have been defined:

- **Central Africa**
  Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

- **Eastern Africa**
  Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda

- **Southern Africa**
  Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- **West Africa**
  Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

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