EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

STRATEGY TO COMBAT POACHING, ILLEGAL TRADE AND TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

2017/18-2021/22

EAC SECRETARIAT,
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Strategy to Combat Poaching, Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Wildlife and Wildlife Products

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PREFACE

The East African Community Strategy to Combat Poaching, Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Wildlife and Wildlife Products for the period **2017/2018 - 2021/2022** outlines broad strategic goals of the East African Community as well as the specific targets to be achieved during the period.

This strategy, the first one since the establishment of the East African Community (EAC), has recognized that there is a serious threat to the survival of many wildlife species in East Africa Region as a result of the escalating levels of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products.

Lessons and experiences show that wildlife crime has various inter-related dimensions, and can only be effectively tackled through interventions focusing on supply chain in source, transit and destination countries. This calls for a regional and international collaborative approach.

The Sectoral Council of Ministers for Tourism and Wildlife Management of the EAC appreciate and applaud the good work that has been undertaken by the Organs of the Community in producing this Strategy.

We believe that effective implementation of the Strategy will reduce wildlife crime that robs EAC Partner States and their communities of natural capital and cultural heritage, with serious socio-economic consequences. It undermines the livelihoods of natural resource dependent communities and threatens economies as it damages the health of the ecosystems on which they depend further undermining sustainable economic development. Our respective Governments are fully committed to the implementation of this Strategy.

Hon. Christophe Bazivamo
Deputy Secretary General,
Productive and Social Sectors.
East African Community

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Many people contributed to the development of this Strategy. They include representatives of the relevant agencies and institutions in Partner States in the public and private sectors as well as civil society organisations who provided invaluable information during the process of consultation. While it is not possible to list all of them, we are nonetheless greatly indebted to them.

We appreciate the financial support provided by USAID through the PREPARED Project in formulating and finalisation of this Strategy. The support and cooperation of the Technical Working Group and EAC Secretariat Staff throughout the entire strategy formulation process is very much appreciated. The support provided by the African Wildlife Foundation in printing the Strategy is highly appreciated.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBD: Convention of Biological diversity

CITES: Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna.

CM: Council of Ministers

CMS: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

COP: Conference of Parties

DNA: Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid

EAC: East African Community

EALA: East African Legislative Assembly

FDI: Foreign Direct Investments

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

INTERPOL: The International Criminal Police Organization

LATF: Lusaka Agreement Task Force

LA: Lusaka Agreement on cooperative enforcement operations directed at illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation

MEAs: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

MIKE: Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants

PESTEL: Political, Socio-economic, Technical & Environmental issues

PREPARED: Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development

PS: Partner States

RAPIDS: Real-time Anti-poaching Intelligence Devices

SADC: Southern African Development Cooperation

SCTWM: Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

TRAFFIC: Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network

UAVs: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

UN: United Nations

UNEP: United Nations Environmental Programme

USD: United States Dollar

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional inter-governmental organization established under Article 2 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community that entered into force in July 2000.

The East African Community (EAC) has recognized that there is a serious threat to the survival of many wildlife species in East Africa because of the escalating levels of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products. In particular, there has been a dramatic escalation in the rate of poaching of wildlife species including keystone species such as elephants and rhinoceros within the region in recent years. Incidences of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking of other fauna and flora have also been on the increase. More so, poaching activities have evolved from individual poachers or adhoc gangs to increasing recurrences of attacks by well-resourced and organized groups including transnational criminal networks.

In addition, personnel responsible for the protection and wellbeing of wildlife resources such as rangers and other law enforcement agents are being killed or injured in line of duty. This threatens economic development, wellbeing and security of Partner States and their people. On average, tourism which is largely based on wildlife and nature contributes 7.5% to 10% of GDP of the economy of the EAC Partner States and accounts for a significant proportion of the employment in the region. Loss of these economic benefits coupled with insecurity and lawlessness associated with wildlife trafficking significantly affect East Africa regional development if not addressed decisively.

The Strategy provides a background, rationale and a situational analysis of the Regional Issues as a basis for the strategic direction of this Strategy. The strategy identifies key issues and proposes the following objectives to address wildlife crime:- Strengthening governance through policy harmonization and law enforcement capacity development, strengthening law enforcement, establishment and support of regional inter-agency mechanisms and streamlining cross-border and regional cooperation, increasing capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods, promoting research and development; and raising public awareness. Additionally, the strategy provides an implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework to track performance and measure success.

The implementation of the Strategy is estimated to cost US$ 562,375,000 in the next five years. It is anticipated that innovative ways of tapping non-conventional sources of resources including Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and private Investments will be explored to mobilise resources necessary for effective implementation of the strategy. The Strategy will be implemented through EAC implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and will undergo a midterm review and end of implementation period evaluation.

CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The East African Community is home to abundant and diverse species of fauna and flora. The region is inhabited by some of the biggest populations of charismatic mega fauna including the elephant, rhinoceros, lion, chimpanzee, mountain gorilla, wildebeest and various species of antelopes, birds, butterflies, reptiles, fish and a variety of flora. The region is a sanctuary of unparalleled natural wonders characterized by transboundary ecosystems and cross-border protected areas and profound waterways, extraordinary scenic landscapes and productive aquatic systems. These ecosystems cut across national boundaries that do not necessarily reflect political borders which calls for collaborative efforts in conservation and management.

This richness and diversity is facing serious threats from escalating levels of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products. Illegal wildlife trade has reached alarming levels globally, threatening extinction of populations of commercially valuable species[1].

These illegal activities rob the EAC Partner States and communities of their natural capital and cultural heritage, with serious socio-economic and security consequences. It undermines the livelihoods of natural resource dependent communities and threatens economies as it damages the health of the ecosystems they depend on, which further undermines sustainable economic development.

Wildlife crime has become a serious threat to the security, political stability, economy, natural resources and cultural heritage in the region following in the footsteps of other transnational crimes such as terrorism, trafficking in human beings, drugs and in counterfeit items. Thus, the extent of the response required to address this threat effectively is often beyond the sole remit of environmental or wildlife law enforcement agencies, or even of one country or region alone. Operation efforts beyond national borders and across range, transit and destination States in support of a collective global response to fight such crimes are pertinent.

Poaching and illegal trade of wildlife are run by well-organized, well-armed and well-equipped transnational networks of criminals. The criminal gangs are largely assisted by

1 *Wittemyer, G., Northrup, J.M., Blanc, J., Douglas-Hamilton, I., Omondi, P. and Burnham, K.P. (2014). Illegal killing for ivory drives global decline in African elephants. Pnas, 36 (111): 3117–13121*

local communities and corrupt officials that exploit porous borders and weak institutions to profit from trading in poached wildlife. The proliferation of firearms, ineffective law enforcement including weak judicial system and the perception that most of East African countries have weak enforcement capacity has pushed this illegal business to unprecedented heights. The proceeds from trafficking are in some cases used to support other criminal activities and has been linked to armed groups engaged in internal and cross border conflicts. Rangers and others dedicated to protecting wildlife are being killed or injured in significant numbers leaving behind orphans and destitute families. If these threats are not addressed comprehensively, there is increasing risk that some of our keystone species may decline to extinction.

If this problem is not addressed, the region is bound to lose not only the critically important biodiversity but also the tourism and livelihoods dependent on wildlife biodiversity. On average, tourism contributes 7.5% to 10% of GDP of the economy of the EAC Partner States and accounts for a significant proportion of the employment in the region. Loss of these economic benefits coupled with insecurity and lawlessness associated with wildlife trafficking are bound to significantly affect East Africa regional development.

It is against this background that the East African Community (EAC)has developed a Regional Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade. The strategy provides an effective program of support to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking in the region through a multi-pronged approach that includes: (i) strengthening governance through policy harmonization and law enforcement capacity development including investing in capacity building to strengthen law enforcement, establishment and support of regional inter-agency mechanisms and streamlining cross-border and regional cooperation through better coordination, (ii) increasing capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradication of poverty and (iii) raising awareness in supply, transit and destination countries to help change attitudes towards wildlife crime and building international support.

1.2. Rationale for the strategy

African States adopted in September 1994 the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora with aim of reducing and ultimately eliminating illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.

The African Elephant Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana in 2013 adopted fourteen (14) urgent measures to address the upsurge in poaching of the African elephant and illegal ivory trade.

The London Conference Declaration 2014 and the Arusha Deceleration on Regional Conservation and Combating Wildlife/ Environmental Crime (2014) further emphasized the need to step up efforts aimed at combating poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.

Wildlife crime seriously undermines attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly poverty alleviation (SDG1), sustainable economic development (SDG8), sustainable consumption and production (SDG12), climate change mitigation (SDG13), conservation of underground biodiversity (SDG14), conservation of terrestrial ecosystems

(SGD15), peace, security and good governance (SGD16); and global partnerships (SDG17).

Article 114 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, states that "Partner States agree to take concerted measures to foster cooperation in the joint and efficient management and sustainable utilization of natural resources within the Community for mutual benefit of the Partner States." Article 116 further provides that "Partner States undertake to develop a collective and coordinated policy for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife and other tourist sites in the Community and particularly 116(c) provides that "Partner States shall coordinate efforts in controlling and monitoring encroachment and poaching activities".

The 4th EAC Development Strategy (2011-2015) also calls for a collective and coordinated approach for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resource within the Region. On the same line, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Resolution on poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products urge Partner States to strengthen protection measures in the field through improved patrols, joint cross border operations, surveillance and sharing of intelligence information and call EAC Secretariat to expedite development of the strategy to strengthen coordination and regional collaboration in the fight against poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products.

In view of the foregoing, the 27th Meeting of the Council of Ministers through decision CM/DEC/25 directed the Secretariat to develop a Regional Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Trends and Drivers of Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking

2.1.1 Trends

Globally, environmental related crimes are estimated by the United Nations to cost US$ 213 billion per year with US$ 23 billion (10.8%) attributed to wildlife trafficking alone. The price of ivory for instance has increased from US$ 5 per kg in 1989 to a wholesale price of US$ 2,100 per kg in China in 2014. Between 2009 and 2014, about 170 tons of ivory were trafficked accounting for death of about 229,729 elephants. The scale and scope of the problem continue to grow at an alarming rate, certainly reversing decades of conservation gains.

While more than 1.3 million elephants roamed Africa in 1979, today the population is estimated to be as low as 419,000[1]. Scientific studies indicate that the trend of elephant poaching in Africa is worrying with 21,477 elephants poached in 2010, while 39,692 elephants in 2011 and 38,828 elephants in 2012. Escalating poaching rates now poses a direct threat to the survival of Africa elephant populations as killing rates exceed birth rates, raising fears of virtual extinction in the next decade.

The current level of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking has not been seen since the 1980's, when a wave of poaching spread across Africa prompting the adoption of a ban on international commercial trade in ivory in 1989 under the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). During the past decade, the proportion of illegally killed elephants in Africa has climbed from 25% to between 60-70 per cent[2]. According to CITES-ETIS figures, the illegal ivory trade has grown three-fold since 1998. The surge was especially pronounced since the period 2011-13, with record levels of ivory totaling 116 tonnes seized during this time.

According UNEP, CITES, IUCN and TRAFFIC report, East Africa has experienced a three-fold increase in reported illegally killed elephants in MIKE sites with 7 per cent of the elephant population living in MIKE sites in East Africa being illegally killed in 2011. According to the report, between 2009 and 2011, Kenya and Tanzania accounted for 16 out of 34 large scale ivory seizures (weighing 500kg or more) recorded worldwide, amounting to 35 tonnes. Between 2009 and 2013, out of 76 large seizures of ivory, two-

1 *Environmental Investigation Agency (2014). Vanishing Point Criminality, Corruption and the Devastation of Tanzania's Elephants, London, United Kingdom.*

2 *UNEP, CITES, IUCN, TRAFFIC (2013). Elephants in the Dust – The African Elephant Crisis.A Rapid Response Assessment.United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal. www.grida.no*

thirds occurred in Asia but mostly originating from East Africa, indicating the porous nature of East Africa's ports.

Results from application to continental data indicated illegal killing levels were unsustainable for the species between 2010 and 2012, peaking to 8% in 2011 which extrapolates to 40,000 elephants illegally killed and a probable species reduction of 3% that year. (Wittermyer et al., 2014).

Evidence from scientific studies indicate that 5,645 elephants were poached in 2010; 10,631 elephants in 2011 and 8,515 elephants in 2012 in East Africa. Poaching being illegal, several incidences may have gone unreported. In 2013 and 2014, Kenya lost 59 and 22 rhinos respectively through poaching. Rhino horn sold on the streets of major Asian cities was in 2013 more valuable than gold or platinum, with traders asking for about $65,000 per kg of rhino horn[3].

According to INTERPOL (2013), global large-scale ivory seizures reached record levels, and many of these seizures occurred in East Africa, or on transit in Asia with an East African origin. Eighteen large-scale seizures (over 500 kilograms) accounted for 41.6 tonnes of illicit ivory seized in 2013[4]. These seizures represent increases over previous years, mirroring heightened rates of elephant poaching in the region.

The East Africa Community is losing other species of fauna and flora including sandal-wood, prunus, chameleons, snakes, pangolins, beetles, butterflies and birds to illegal wildlife trade. Subsistence poaching and associated bush meat trade is equally a major contributor to wildlife related biodiversity loss. Ostriches, dikdik, zebras, impalas, bongo, roan antelope, hippopotamuses, Uganda kob, warthog, cane rats, wildebeest, eland, giraffe and buffalo are just some of the species facing extreme pressures within the Community. The exact scale and magnitude of this problem is largely un-detailed due to the secretive nature of the activities because of being illegal.

The escalating trend of poaching and wildlife trafficking is exacerbated by corruption, increasing population and demand for more land and wildlife resources for food, medicine and trade; increased demand, limited enforcement capacity, lack of sufficient penal and financial deterrents, porous borders and increasing sophistication of the criminal syndicates involved in the illegal trade.

2.1.2 Drivers

2.1.2.1 The Destination

The demand for illegally obtained wildlife and related products appears to vary according to regions and cultures. In Asia, the demand is driven by the need for specific animal parts to practice traditional Asian medicine and as symbols of wealth. This is responsible for the spiraling loss of rhinos, elephants, pangolins among others. Southeast Asia's demand is due in part to the region's economic boom and resulting affluence. Europe's and North America's demand for illegal wildlife includes a wide variety of products, such as luxury fashion items, tourist souvenirs purchased abroad, and exotic pets, as well as traditional medicines and wildlife meats for human consumption. Africa's demand for poached wildlife is driven primarily by economic gain and subsistence including food security.

Indeed, elephant poaching in Africa and in particular East and Southern Africa has

3 *http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/11/us-kenya-rhinos-idUSKBN0FG1K920140711*

4 *INTERPOL (2014).Elephant Poaching and Ivory Trafficking in East Africa: Assessment for an Effective Law Enforcement Response, INTERPOL Secretariat, Lyon, France.*

increased sharply in the recent years due to growing commercial demand for ivory in Asian markets. The largest market is China due to its booming economy. Between 2004 and 2008, for example, China's GDP per capita increased from USD1,500.00 to USD3,250.00, propelling demand for ivory products as status symbols among the middle and upper classes. While China constitutes the major illegal market for ivory, East African Region, which has seen an increase in elephant poaching, is a major conduit in the illegal ivory trade.

2.1.2.2 Source and Transit

According to Wittermyer et al. (2014) the overharvest of wildlife for human consumption is currently the second leading driver of global biodiversity decline and local extinction of species. Overharvesting diminishes species occurrence and density and affects food webs and ecological processes extensively. The repercussions of this harvest when driven by illegal commercial trade are not only ecological in nature, but raise human health and socioeconomic concerns with broad implications for national and international policy and security. Illegal harvest for commercial trade has recently surged to become a major threat to some of the world's most endangered and charismatic species.

The East African Community is confronted by two problems namely increased poaching and its role as a prominent transit of illicit wildlife and wildlife products to international markets. The challenges include inadequate capacity and collaboration to deliver effective law enforcement within and among different law enforcement agencies, such as Wildlife Division, Customs, Police, Judiciary, and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau. In addition, there is limited capacity to detect contrabands along transit routes.

There is however, a changing trend, with 80% of seizures now occurring in the region. Out of a total of 18 large scale seizures totaling 41 tonnes in 2013, 80% occurred in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. CITES still categorizes these three East African countries as areas of high concern for being either sources and or transit countries for wildlife trafficking with particular reference to illegal trade in ivory.

2.2 Pestle Analysis of the Regional Issues

The situation prevailing in EAC Partner States provides a basis for analyzing the regional challenges in the political, socio-economic, technology, security and environmental issues.

2.2.1. Political and Legal Issues

There are various ongoing initiatives, declarations, and existing commitments at national, regional and international levels that address the core issue of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. There is political goodwill and commitment demonstrated through existing policies and legislation that promote good governance and wildlife conservation. In addition, Partner States are contracting parties to various Regional and international Instruments on wildlife conservation and management. Furthermore, all Partner States have established various specialized institutions to manage wildlife resources.

Nonetheless, there is lack of harmonized policy and legal frameworks that address wildlife conservation at national and regional level; Inadequate deterrent penalties for wildlife crimes, limited law enforcement capacity, inadequate appreciation of consequences of biodiversity loss among the

judiciary, other law enforcement agencies and the general public. Furthermore, budgetary allocations for wildlife conservation continues to be insufficient.

2.2.2 Socio-economic issues.

The long-term survival of wildlife populations and the success of interventions to combat wildlife crime significantly depend on the local communities who live with wildlife populations. Where wildlife populations offer people economic and social value, locals are likely to be motivated to support and engage in efforts to combat and manage poaching and illicit trade. But where local people do not play a role in wildlife management and where it generates fewer benefits and or significant costs, the local people normally abets illegal use.

The local people are not only involved in subsistence poaching but also may be used by criminal syndicates involved in commercial poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Unfortunately, depletion of wildlife species robs the local people of wildlife dependent livelihoods and eventually exacerbates poverty.

There is limited awareness about the negative impacts of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking especially among the judiciary, customs, other law enforcement agencies and communities. This hinders the effective implementation of policies, legislations and plans. In addition, there is limited capacity within the region on sustainable utilization of wildlife through economic enterprise based production systems. Furthermore, the communities are not well mainstreamed in wildlife conservation and their participation is still inadequate.

Poverty within the region is drawing the local people to be used in poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking by the rich cartels who profit from the illicit trade. This coupled with corruption is abetting the escalation of the problem in the region. The short term gains by a few unscrupulous people exacerbates biodiversity loss resulting in loss of income, employment and general livelihoods associated with sustainable wildlife utilization including tourism. This in the long run keeps partner states and their people in a vicious cycle of poverty further threatening wildlife conservation efforts.

High population growth rates within the region puts more pressure on wildlife habitats resulting in human wildlife conflicts. Competing land uses escalates crop raiding, livestock predation, human injuries, poaching of wildlife and encroachment on designated wildlife habitats. The human wildlife conflicts breeds resentment of wildlife by the local people and hence abetment of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.

Limited resource envelope at national and regional levels continue to hamper efforts to develop adequate capacity to combat poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. Limited financial resources inhibit recruitment, skilling, deployment and remuneration of law enforcement personnel.

2.2.3 Technology

There is increasing sophistication and organization of cartels involved in poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking sometimes outpacing the levels of organization and technology of wildlife management and law enforcement personnel. There is inadequate skills and use of cutting-edge high-tech technologies including military intelligence and combat tools and techniques to counter the increasing sophistication of criminal gangs involved in poaching, illegal wildlife trade and

trafficking.

Appropriate equipment can multiply counter-poaching efforts without requiring large numbers of rangers or risking their lives. Tools like acoustic traps, mobile communication technology, use of un-manned aerial vehicles (UAVs), mikrokopters, radio frequency identification tags, encrypted data digital networks, camera traps, DNA testing, radio collars, scanners, digital satellite imagery and geo-referencing, real-time anti-poaching intelligence devices (RAPIDs), night vision and rapid mobility deployment capability; and appropriate field gears are some of the current needs of the region.

2.2.4 Security Issues

There is inadequate coordination of national and regional law enforcement efforts resulting in disjointed operations within Partner States as well as across Partner States. Intelligence gathering capacity as well as timely sharing of the intelligence amongst actors at national and regional levels remain a challenge.

Unmanned points of entry and exit and limited capacity to detect contraband coupled with corruption tendencies offers a conducive environment for wildlife traffickers and other offenders to cross borders undetected. Organized transnational gangs involved in poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking contribute to proliferation of small arms and other contraband thereby threatening national and regional peace and security. In addition, poaching associated illegal wildlife trade and trafficking leads to killing not only of animals but law enforcement personnel at times. Proceeds from this illicit trade have been reported to fund civil wars in the region. Armed rebels and militias are sometimes part of criminal gangs involved in poaching, wildlife trade and trafficking.

The prevailing peace and security in the region provides an opportunity to establish effective law enforcement mechanisms to combat poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking and should be consolidated. Breakdown of peace and security comes along with breakdown of law and order and hence poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking flourishes in absence of peace and security. In addition, influx of refugees associated with breakdown of peace and security places more pressure on wildlife habitats further escalating human wildlife conflicts.

2.2.5 Environmental Issues

East Africa region is endowed with abundance and diversity of wildlife resources capable of generating significant sustainable livelihoods and national economic returns especially through tourism. Poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking puts pressure to these resources further compounding impacts of climate change on species populations. In addition, there is already pressure on wildlife habitats arising from high rates of populations growth and demand for more land resulting in encroachment and fragmentation of wildlife habitats, destruction of water catchments and loss of migratory corridors and buffer zones. There is need to improve coordination between bodies responsible for wildlife conservation and management with those responsible for other sectors at national, regional and international levels.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION

3.1 Strategic Goal

The overall goal of this strategy is "to combat poaching, illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products for sustainable management and conservation of wildlife resources in the East African Community"

3.2 Strategic Objectives

Partner States undertake to achieve the following strategic objectives:- (i) to strengthen policy and legislative frameworks to improve their effectiveness; (ii) develop and enhance law enforcement capacity; (iii) strengthen regional and international collaboration; (iv) increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods; (v) promote research and development in the fight against wildlife crime; and (vi) promote education and public awareness about wildlife crime.

3.2.1 Policy and Legislation Issues

There exists wildlife conservation policies and legislation at national levels. However, these policies and legislations, are inadequate and not in harmony across sectors. Furthermore, some policies and legislation across Partner States are not in harmony. In addition, the existing regional policies and legislations are inadequate to address poaching, illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

3.2.1.1 Strategic Objective

To strengthen policy and legislation framework to improve their effectiveness in combating poaching, illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products

3.2.1.2 Strategic Actions

- Partner States shall review and where necessary formulate effective national and regional wildlife policies and legislations;
- Partner States shall harmonize national and regional policies and legislations across sectors;
- Partner States shall put in place deterrent penalties and sanctions; and
- The policies and legislations relating to wildlife conservation shall be disseminated in a manner and form that is easy to understand.

3.2.2 Law Enforcement Capacity Development Issues

While there is reasonable enforcement capacity among Partner States, the evolving nature of wildlife crime demands continuous capacity development to outpace the organized gangs.

3.2.2.1 Strategic Objective

To develop and where applicable enhance law enforcement capacity to effectively address poaching, illegal trade in wildlife and trafficking in wildlife product.

3.2.2.2 Strategic Actions

- Partner States shall recruit appropriate personnel for law enforcement including intelligence and customs; prosecutors, judiciary and wildlife management as a whole;
- Law enforcement personnel, judiciary and wildlife managers in general shall be continuously trained to impart requisite and appropriate skills;
- Law enforcement and wildlife management personnel shall be provided with appropriate tools, equipment, field operational gears and appropriate technology;
- Partner States shall commensurately remunerate and incentivize personnel involved in wildlife management, law enforcement personnel including customs and the judiciary;
- Partner States shall ensure that appropriate law enforcement including intelligence and customs; and wildlife management generally are deployed in strategic locations;
- Wildlife management, law enforcement and judiciary institutional capacity shall be strengthened to improve governance and administration of justice;
- Partner States shall establish inter-agency communication, command and control mechanism to improve coordination and effectiveness of operations at national level especially among Rangers, Police, Customs, Army and the intelligence services.
- Partner States shall establish and where applicable improve intelligence and evidence gathering capacity to aid successful prevention and or prosecution of wildlife offenders;
- Partner States undertake to prosecute and impose deterrent penalties and sanctions on offenders involved in corrupt or fraudulent conduct that abets poaching, illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife products; and
- Partner States shall integrate local communities in law enforcement and monitoring networks.

3.2.3 Regional and International Collaboration Issues

The transnational nature of wildlife crime can best be addressed through regional and international collaboration. There are mechanisms for regional and international collaboration; however, these need to be strengthened to make them more effective and responsive to the challenges at hand.

3.2.3.1 Strategic Objective

To strengthen regional and international collaboration efforts in combating poaching, illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife products.

3.2.3.2 Strategic Actions

- Partner States shall establish and operationalize effective regional coordination mechanisms including designating focal point institutions and personnel;
- Partner States shall conduct concurrent and joint cross-border planning and operations;
- Partner States shall share intelligence information aimed at achieving timely and coordinated enforcement operations;
- The Community shall enlist support from International Organizations and other partners including United Nations Security Council, Interpol, Lusaka Agreement Taskforce, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), COMESA, SADC , IGAD, International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and other relevant multilateral institutions and initiatives aimed at eliminating market and demand for illicit wildlife products;
- Partner States shall collaboratively register, mark and secure all stockpile of ivory, rhino horn and other specimens in order to guarantee protection and ensure traceability of these products;
- Partner States shall establish a center of excellence as well as develop national capacity for forensic and genetics laboratory capability for species identification and individual fingerprinting to aid traceability of contraband and facilitate prosecution of offenders;
- Partner States shall as much as possible collaboratively and harmoniously participate in negotiation, accession and implementation of international agreements relevant in combating poaching and wildlife trafficking including CITES, CMS, CBD, Nagoya Protocol and other related multilateral efforts.
- East African Community shall consider to accede as a bloc to international MEAs that are critical for combating poaching illegal wildlife trade and trafficking including CITES, CMS, CBD and Nagoya Protocol; and
- Undertake diplomatic engagement of partners including Governments in origin, transit and destination countries to enlist support for combating wildlife crime

3.2.4 Community Livelihood Issues

To date, most attention in fighting wildlife crime has been focused on strengthening law enforcement and criminal justice system; and demand and consumption reduction strategies, leaving community engagement inadequately addressed. While community engagement interventions including revenue

sharing, regulated resource access and participatory collaborations have been tried among EAC partner states, there is need to direct further efforts towards ensuring that communities have adequate livelihood options.

3.2.4 .1 Strategic Objective

To increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods;

3.2.4.2 Key actions

- Increase the participation of local communities in the planning and management of wildlife resources.
- Support sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities adjacent to wildlife conservation areas;
- Support sustainable utilization of wildlife resources by the local people;
- Promote wildlife based revenue and other benefits sharing schemes with the local people;
- Mitigate human wildlife conflicts in order to reduce the cost of living with wildlife;
- Promote conservation of wildlife outside protected areas including promotion of private wildlife farming; and
- Establish compensation and or consolation schemes to offset the cost of wildlife induced damage to humans and property.

3.2.5 Wildlife Crime Research Issues

Wildlife crime like other crimes takes place covertly and as such, designing responses to hidden factors and drivers can be a daunting task. There is currently limited scientific information on market chains of these crimes. This limits appropriate designing of interventions.

3.2.5.1 Strategic Objective

To promote research and development in the fight against wildlife crimes.

3.2.5.2 Strategic Actions

- Partner States shall support studies and research on poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking including assessment of source, transit and demand countries of wildlife products and associated driving factors;
- Partner States shall undertake inventory and valuation of wildlife resources to better manage and demonstrate economic value for wildlife;
- Partner States shall improve regional information gathering and sharing for poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking including maintenance of a regional biodiversity observatory ;
- The Community shall develop a DNA Data Bank of wildlife species of the region; and
- Partner States shall develop research institutional capacity and design and implement regional research programs.

3.2.6 Education and Public Awareness Issues

Appreciation and understanding of conservation issues including benefits and challenges provides a starting point for stakeholder engagement. While continuous education and awareness initiatives have been on for long, population dynamism and evolving nature of society requires continuous engagement.

3.2.6.1 Strategic Objective

To promote education and public awareness about wildlife crime.

3.2.6.2 Strategic Actions

- Partner States shall mobilize and sensitize stakeholders including law enforcement personnel, judiciary, customs, policy makers, civil society, local communities about the value of wildlife and the dangers of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking;
- Partner States shall mainstream wildlife conservation in education curricula at national and regional level;
- Partner States shall create awareness on biodiversity conservation and the consequences of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking;
- Partner States shall create public awareness among the local communities on basic behavior of wildlife to mitigate conflicts; and
- Partner States shall accredit a regional center of excellence for conservation education and public awareness.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 Institutional Arrangement

The Strategy will be implemented by EAC Secretariat and Partner States in partnership and collaboration with other relevant stakeholders including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and development partners.

Given the global nature of wildlife trafficking, the EAC will seek to engage other regional organizations and partners involved in the fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking. A detailed implementation plan is annexed to this Strategy.

4.2 Resource mobilization

The EAC Secretariat and Partner States shall mobilize resources for implementation of this Strategy to combat poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.

The Partner States undertake to prioritize resource allocation for wildlife conservation issues in national and EAC Secretariat budgets.

The EAC Secretariat and Partner States shall develop and implement innovative fundraising mechanisms including mobilization of development partners to attract funding necessary for implementation of this Strategy.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The EAC Secretariat shall be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this strategy in collaboration with the Partner States. The EAC Secretariat and Partner States will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of this Regional Strategy in accordance with the established M&E procedures of the Community.

The Strategy will be implemented through annual action plans and will undergo midterm review. Final evaluation will be done at the end of the implementation period.

Monitoring and evaluation of the national programs, projects and activities shall be a responsibility of Partner States. The Partner States shall ensure that timely information on progress is collected, collated and shared with the EAC Secretariat and other key stakeholders to measure progress of implementation of this Strategy.

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX: STRATEGY TO COMBAT POACHING, ILLEGAL TRADE AND TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Strengthen Policy and Legislation framework to improve effectiveness	Formulate enabling policies at regional and national level	Review and harmonize existing National Policies	Enabling harmonized National Policies in place	PS																					1,000
		Formulate and adopt a model regional policy on wildlife management	Model regional policy in place	PS and EAC Secretariat																					500
	Put in place effective deterrent wildlife legislations	Review and update existing PS laws	Effective laws in place	PS																					1,000
		Enact new legislations where necessary																							
	Harmonize Policies and Legislations internally and regionally	Finalize and adopt a regional protocol on tourism and wildlife management	EAC protocol on tourism and wildlife management in place	PS and EAC Secretariat																					500
		Review and update National Policies and Legislations	Number of harmonized Policies and Legislations	PS and EAC Secretariat																					500
Develop and enhance law enforcement capacity	Recruit appropriate numbers of wildlife experts/ law enforcement officers	Undertake human resource and institutional capacity needs assessment	Capacity needs assessment Report in place	PS and EAC Secretariat																					600
		Recruit appropriate staff (Intelligence, Prosecutors, Rangers, Wardens, etc)	No. of personnel recruited per sq. km of conservation areas	PS																					6,500
			Recruitment Reports	PS																					

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Train and impart the appropriate skills to the target staff	Review and update existing training curricula to incorporate current and emerging anti-poaching techniques	Up-to-date training curricula in place	PS and EAC Secretariat																					600
		Undertake continuous training and skilling including exchange programmes	Number of courses conducted	PS and EAC Secretariat																					11,000
			Number of personnel trained and or exchanged	PS and EAC Secretariat																					
	Strategic deployment of personnel to optimize efficiency	Undertake strategic deployments in Conservation Areas, Borders and other strategic locations	Number of units and personnel deployed strategically and Deployment Reports	PS																					2,500
	Equip personnel with appropriate tools and technology to deliver efficiently	Undertake equipment and technology needs assessment	Equipment and technology needs assessment report	PS and EAC Secretariat																					600
		Procure appropriate equipment and field gear e.g. Communication, telemetry, ICT, Remote sensing and GIS equipment, modern field gear, arms and ammunition, vehicles etc.)	Number and type of equipment procured and deployed	PS and EAC Secretariat																					100,000

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Improve personnel motivation, working conditions and discipline	Regularly review and timely provide commensurate remuneration	Level of morale of personnel	PS																					180,000
		Provide requisite enabling infrastructure to personnel	Number of housing units	PS																					75,000
			Availability of medical, education and other social infrastructure	PS																					
		Undertake insurance of personnel	Number of personnel insured	PS																					15,000
		Decisively discipline staff involved in wildlife crime	Number of staff disciplined	PS																					2,500
	Improve coordination, control, communication and command of enforcement operations	Conduct inter-agency enforcement planning and operations at National and regional Level (eg Police, Customs, Rangers, Army etc)	Inter-Agency MoUs in place	PS																					2,000
			Joint Operational Plans and commands in place	PS																					
			Number of joint operations undertaken	PS																					
		Conduct cross border enforcement planning and operations	Bilateral and Multilateral enforcement MoUs	PS and EAC Secretariat																					5,600
			Joint Operational Plans in place	PS and EAC Secretariat																					
			Number of joint operations undertaken	PS and EAC Secretariat																					

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Improve wildlife crime prosecution capacity	Accredit and or establish a center of excellence in forensic labaratory services in the region	In region forensic Labaratory services center of excellence in place	PS and EAC Secretariat																					8,000
		Profile wildlife criminals	Database of wildlife criminals in place	PS																					100
		Operationalize wildlife crime intelligence systems	Functional intelligence systems in place	PS																					750
		Register, mark and regularly inspect ivory stockpile and other high value wildlife products in the Partner States	Stock registers and inspection reports	PS and EAC Secretariat																					600
		Undertake prosecution of all cases of wildlife crime	Number of cases successfully prosecuted	PS																					1,000
	Integrate local communities in law enforcement and monitoring networks	Create community based wildlife crime intelligence and enforcement networks	Number of wildlife crime intelligence and enforcement networks created	PS																					375
Strengthen Regional and International collaboration	Establish and implement an effective regional coordination mechanism.	Develop guidelines for carrying out cross border operations.	Regional coordination guidelines in place	PS&EAC Secretariat																					0
		Share intelligence information and best practices among Partner States	Joint intelligence reports. Number of good practices shared	PS&EAC Secretariat																					0

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
		Accede EAC membership to CITES, CMS and LA	Number of MEAs acceded to by EAC	EAC Secretariat																					300
		Conduct regular regional meetings on wildlife crime	Number of meetings conducted	PS&EAC Secretariat																					350
	Enlist support from international organizations and other partners in eliminating market/demand for wildlife products	Engage INTERPOL, SADC, COMESA, IUCN, IGAD, LATF to assist in combating wildlife crime	MoUs in place between EAC and INTERPOL, IUCN, SADC, COMESA, IGAD, LATF	EAC Secretariat and PS																					300
		Engage Partner States missions abroad to get support from their respective countries of accreditation	Number of foreign countries supporting the region in the fight against wildlife crime	EAC Secretariat and PS																					0
		Engage foreign missions in the region to request support from their respective States	Number of foreign countries supporting the region in the fight against wildlife crime	EAC Secretariat and PS																					500
Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods	Increase the participation of local communities in the planning and management of wildlife resources	Support creation and or strengthen Community Wildlife Committees	Number of functional Community Wildlife Committees	PS																					5,000
		Make community participation in planning and wildlife management a legal requirement	Policies and laws integrating local communities in wildlife management	PS																					0

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Support sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities adjacent to wildlife conservation areas	Develop and implement community livelihoods enhancement projects	Number of projects developed and implemented	PS and EAC Secretariat																					80,000
	Support sustainable utilization of wildlife resources by the local people	Provide for sustainable wildlife resource access by the local people in policies and laws	Policies and laws that permit regulated access	PS and EAC Secretariat																					0
		Develop and implement community resource use zone management plans for all conservation areas	Number of community resource use zone management plans developed and implemented	PS and EAC Secretariat																					300
	Promote wildlife based revenue sharing schemes with the local people	Create and or strengthen wildlife based revenue sharing schemes with the local people	Number of functional wildlife based revenue sharing schemes	PS																					600
	Mitigate human wildlife conflicts in order to reduce the cost of living with wildlife	Establish mechanisms including barriers around conservation areas to prevent animals from invading communities	Number of mechanisms and distance covered	PS																					15,000
		Establish compensation/consolation schemes for wildlife induced damage	Number of functional compensation/ consolation schemes in place	PS																					600

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
		Raise awareness on basic wild animal behaviours	Number of awareness raising materials developed; Number people reached	PS and EAC Secretariat																					300
	Promote conservation of wildlife outside protected areas	Create awareness about opportunities for private wildlife farming	Number of awareness raising materials developed; Number people reached	PS and EAC Secretariat																					300
		Train wildlife farmers in wildlife management	Number of farmers trained	PS and EAC Secretariat																					600
Promote Research and Development in the fight against wildlife crime	Establish and support programmes on sustainable wildlife management	Conduct institutional capacity needs assessment	Institutional capacity needs assessment Report	EAC Secretariat and PS																					600
		Undertake capacity building for human and physical infrastructure	Human and physical infrastructure in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					6,000
	Develop a national accounting system for sound wildlife management	Conduct valuation of wildlife (economic and non-economic)	Number of species and ecosystems valued	EAC Secretariat and PS																					5,000
	Improve regional wildlife management information gathering and sharing	Design an integrated wildlife information management system	Functional integrated information system in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					100
		Develop protocols for information sharing	Information sharing protocols in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					50

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
		Acquire modern wildlife information gathering equipment and technologies eg Remote sensing and GIS	Number of equipment and technologies acquired	EAC Secretariat and PS																					5,000
	Develop DNA Data Bank of wildlife species of the region	Engage consultant to design the DNA banking system	DNA banking system in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					500
		Develop protocols for depository and retrieval of data	Depository and retrieval protocols in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					50
		Develop requisite infrastructure to operationalize the bank	Functional DNA bank in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					5,000
	Identify source, transit and demand countries of wildlife products and associated driving factors	Undertake research on the value chains of wildlife products	Research reports in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					800
Promote Education and Public Awareness about wildlife crime	Mobilization and Sensitization of key stakeholders (Judiciary, customs and other law enforcers, Policy makers, Civil society, Communities) .	Develop and implement a mobilization and awareness plan and tailored programs for different stakeholders	Mobilization and awareness plan in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					350
			Number of programs designed	EAC Secretariat and PS																					
		Develop education and public awareness materials for different stakeholders	Number and different types of materials developed	EAC Secretariat and PS																					2,500

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
		Accredit a regional center of excellence for conservation education and public awareness in the region	a functional Regional center of excellence for conservation education and awareness in place	EAC Secretariat and PS																					500
		Conduct education and awareness: workshops, seminars, meetings, wildlife clubs, barazas etc)	Number of education and awareness initiatives conducted	EAC Secretariat and PS																					12,500
			Number of stakeholders reached	EAC Secretariat and PS																					
	Mainstream wildlife conservation in Policies, Plans, Programmes and Curricula	Undertake mainstreaming of wildlife conservation issues in Policies, Plans, Programmes and Curricula	Number of Policies, plans, Programmes and Curricula mainstreamed	EAC Secretariat and PS																					0
	Create awareness on dangers of wildlife crime in Source, Transit and Demand Countries	Undertake concerted diplomatic engagements and campaigns in source, transit and demand countries	Number of countries reached	EAC Secretariat and PS																					750
Mobilize resources to combat wildlife crime	Prioritize wildlife conservation issues in partner States and Secretariat budgets	Allocate more funds in regional and national budgets to fight wildlife crime	Percentage of unfunded priorities	PS&EAC Secretariat																					0
	Mobilize development partners to support the fight against wildlife crime	Develop and market bankable project proposals	Number of proposals developed and funded	PS&EAC Secretariat																					300

Objective	Strategic action	Activity	Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe (Yrs)																				Estimated Cost (US$ '000)
					2017/18				2018/19				2019/20				2020/21				2021/22				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Develop innovative fund-raising mechanisms	Develop and implement innovative fundraising mechanism	Amount of funds raised	PS&EAC Secretariat																					2,000
		Engage development partners during the EAC Tourism and Wildlife Week																							
																									562,375

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