National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), Cameroon

At its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, July 2014), the CITES Standing Committee requested countries of “secondary concern” (Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Nigeria) and those “of importance to watch” (Angola, Cambodia and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic) to work together with the CITES Secretariat and its consultants on the drafting and finalization of a national ivory action plan (NIAP) including timeframes and milestones, with the aim of combating the illegal ivory trade. The CITES Secretariat communicated the details of this request to the Parties concerned on 7 August 2014.

As a contribution to the process of drafting of its NIAP, Cameroon received technical assistance from consultants which CITES made available to them. These consultants assisted with the preliminary internal evaluation of Cameroon’s capacity for combating wildlife crime and effectively monitoring the ivory trade and markets for ivory, in line with the five principal thrusts of the fight against crime related to wild species:

- A. Legislation
- B. Legal proceedings
- C. Information-gathering and investigation
- D. National and international cooperation on wildlife crime
- E. Enforcement operations

Following completion of the internal evaluation, a report was sent to us, summarizing the results of the evaluation and the key areas in which Cameroon potentially has, or lacks, capacity to combat wildlife crime and the ivory trade. Recommendations and measures for possible incorporation in Cameroon’s NIAP were also drawn up. Following this report a first draft was prepared and sent to the CITES consultants who added a number of suggestions and comments, which were incorporated into the draft. A second draft was produced and provided to the CITES consultants. Further observations and recommendations were made and incorporated. The document was then sent for internal approval by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife and then for national approval, involving representatives of other concerned government departments and private bodies (NGOS concerned with wildlife conservation).

One important factor to note is that as the NIAP is essentially a short-term plan, the request was made that it should be put into operation by each Party concerned, with the aim of guaranteeing that implementation would have made good progress by the time of the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC 66) planned for January 2016, in line with the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 65th meeting. It was therefore important for the NIAPs to be directed towards very high priority short- and medium-term activities which could be implemented by the national agencies tasked with combating wildlife crime, and also other agencies concerned, using existing resources and without any need for major additional outside assistance. It is from this standpoint that we have endorsed the preparation of Cameroon’s NIAP.
Table 1. Spheres of action proposed as part of the NIAP: Legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thrust</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Body Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: LEGISLATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Actions relating to legislation, as identified by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MININFO) and other agencies concerned</strong></td>
<td>Continuing the process of revision of forest and wildlife legislation, in particular as it relates to penalties, with technical support from relevant institutions and experts</td>
<td>Draft of the revision finalized</td>
<td>Legislation revised and approved</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Studying the possibilities of a subregional harmonization of wildlife legislation, including through discussions at institutional level in appropriate regional fora</td>
<td>Terms of reference of the study prepared</td>
<td>Study launched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Revising Decree No. 0648/MINFOF of 18 December 2006 setting forth the list of animals in protection classes A, B and C</td>
<td>Second reading completed</td>
<td>Draft discussed with stakeholders and their remarks taken into consideration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrust</td>
<td>Priority Actions</td>
<td>Milestones</td>
<td>Body Responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B: LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions relating to legal proceedings, as identified by MINFOF and other agencies concerned</td>
<td>Making the judiciary authorities aware of the gravity of wildlife-related offences</td>
<td>Terms of reference of the seminars drawn up</td>
<td>Identification of MINJUSTICE staff to undergo awareness-raising and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Setting up a data collection system covering the penalties applied for wildlife crime, the success or failure of the legal proceedings having to do with these crimes, and the main reasons for their success or failure</td>
<td>Platform for cooperation with MINJUSTICE set up</td>
<td>Platform operational (MoU signed between MINFOF and MINJUSTICE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organizing training programmes for prosecutors and legal staff covering the fight against poaching and illicit traffic in wildlife products</td>
<td>Training programmes prepared and approved</td>
<td>Terms of reference of the training programmes drawn up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strengthening the handling of disputes by way of missions for follow-up and for collection by court officers of the fines levied</td>
<td>Terms of reference (TOR) of the dispute follow-up missions drawn up and approved</td>
<td>Missions for follow-up and for collection by court officers of the fines levied carried out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Training MINFOF personnel in completing identification forms (ETIS) and techniques for marking ivory</td>
<td>TOR drawn up and approved</td>
<td>Groupings tasked with the training mobilized</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Spheres of action proposed as part of the NIAP: Information-gathering and investigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thrust</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C: INFORMATION-GATHERING AND INVESTIGATION</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions relating to information-gathering and investigation, as identified by MINFOF and other agencies concerned</td>
<td>Drawing up, in cooperation with all relevant national bodies, specific procedures for information-gathering and investigation in the context of the battle against poaching and wildlife trafficking, taking into account the opinions of specialists, and taking the necessary measures for implementing such procedures</td>
<td>By 30 April 2015</td>
<td>By 31 October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designating a focal point in the MINFOF and in the regions where ivory trafficking is a concern and determining the responsibility for developing the capacity for information-gathering and investigation related to wildlife crime in Cameroon</td>
<td>Focal point designated</td>
<td>Development by the focal point of a network for information-gathering and investigation, in cooperation with law enforcement and the river-bank populations</td>
<td>Network operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drafting of a plan to obtain additional financial and technical assistance in the implementation of information-gathering operations and investigations</td>
<td>TOR prepared and approved</td>
<td>Project prepared, approved, and submitted to potential donors</td>
<td>Plan submitted to potential donors and waiting for mobilization of the funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing an independent audit of the systems for storage and management of seized ivory, and identifying the needs</td>
<td>TOR for the consultation prepared and approved</td>
<td>Consultant recruited</td>
<td>Audit completed and recommendation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and opportunities for improving and organizing the system

Marking the government ivory stocks

TOR for the marking of the ivory prepared and approved

Marking completed

Marking completed

Marking completed and follow-up evaluation

MININFO/Partners

Collecting and securing all the seized ivory

Terms of reference of the missions to collect the seized ivory approved

Collection missions completed and ivory secured at the central store in Yaoundé

Collection missions completed and ivory secured at the central store in Yaoundé

Collection missions completed and ivory secured at the central store in Yaoundé

MININFO/MINJUSTICE/MINDEF/Partners

Progressively equipping the services combating wildlife crime with field equipment and vehicles

TOR drawn up for the acquisition of the supplies (uniforms, vehicles, motorcycles, etc.)

TOR approved

Invitation to bid prepared and published

Supplies available

MININFO/Partners

Table 4. Spheres of action proposed as part of the NIAP: National and international cooperation on wildlife crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thrust</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>D: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON WILDLIFE CRIME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions relating to national and international cooperation, as identified by MININFO and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drawing up a national and subregional strategy to improve detection of wildlife smuggling at key points of entry/exit and along the transit routes</td>
<td>Draw up a national and subregional strategy to improve detection of wildlife smuggling at key points of entry/exit and along the transit routes</td>
<td>By 30 April 2015</td>
<td>By 31 October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms of reference for drawing up the national strategy against smuggling prepared</td>
<td>TOR approved and call for bids issued</td>
<td>Study completed and strategy document available</td>
<td>Strategy implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other agencies concerned</td>
<td>Requesting support from MINFI for a budget to improve the equipment and other supplies for detection of wildlife smuggling at strategic locations</td>
<td>A survey of requirements completed</td>
<td>Advocacy to MINFI to obtain subsidies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating and making operational in the targeted regions, regional committees tasked with tracking the illegal ivory trade. (North, Far North, Adamawa, South, East, South-West)</td>
<td>Regional committees for tracking the illegal ivory trade (North, Far North, Adamawa, South, East, Southwest) created</td>
<td>Regional committees for tracking the illegal ivory trade (North, Far North, Adamawa, South, East, Southwest) operational</td>
<td>MINFOF/MINFI MINATD/MINDEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating and making operational at national level a committee tasked with tracking the illegal ivory trade</td>
<td>National committee for tracking the illegal ivory trade created</td>
<td>National committee for tracking the illegal ivory trade operational</td>
<td>MINFOF/MINFI MINATD/MINDEF MINJUSTICE/Customs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producing a report on the implementation of the NIAP for the Standing Committee</td>
<td>Report available</td>
<td>Report available</td>
<td>Report available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5. Spheres of action proposed as part of the NIAP: Enforcement operations

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>E: ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions relating to enforcement, as identified by MINFOF and other agencies concerned</td>
<td>Holding a meeting with governmental and non-governmental partners of MINFOF, experts in the field of enforcement and other stakeholders to identify the urgent measures that can be taken to improve the impact of existing enforcement activities at key sites for the protection of elephants, relative to the resources available</td>
<td>TOR of the meeting prepared and approved</td>
<td>Meeting held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drawing up proposals to obtain additional budgetary, technical and equipment support from partners to strengthen enforcement capacity at key sites</td>
<td>Draft proposals drawn up</td>
<td>Tentative version of the draft proposals approved and submitted to the various partners in conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Setting up a regional cooperation mechanism to establish enforcement in the cross-border areas such as TRIDOM, drawing on the example of what was achieved in the Sangha Trinational</td>
<td>Key partners identified</td>
<td>Coordination with the various stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drawing up a national strategy to increase the effectiveness of the fight against the domestic illegal trade in ivory, stipulating the roles and responsibilities of MINFOF and other concerned bodies, and coordinating the implementation of the strategy</td>
<td>Coordination meeting with the various stakeholders</td>
<td>Adoption and implementation of a national strategy to combat the domestic illegal trade in ivory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Intensify the crackdown operations in the areas where the pressure on elephants is severe and there is a high level of ivory trafficking (Boumba Bek national park, Nki, Lobéké, Dja, Bouba Ndjidda, Bénoué, Faro, Waza)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>F: Communication and awareness-raising</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actions relating to communication and awareness-raising</strong></td>
<td><strong>By 30 April 2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>By 30 April 2016</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding meetings with the local communities on combating poaching</td>
<td>TOR of the meetings prepared and approved</td>
<td>Meeting held</td>
<td>MINFOF/NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding working sessions on wildlife smuggling with personnel from airlines and those working river and land locations</td>
<td>TOR of the workshops/seminars prepared and approved</td>
<td>Workshop/seminar held</td>
<td>MINFOF/NGOs/Customs/Law enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicizing all ivory seizures in the media</td>
<td>Record of offences, litigation and seizures publicized in the media</td>
<td></td>
<td>MINFOF/MINCOM/Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6. **Spheres of action proposed as part of the NIAP: Communication and awareness-raising**
## Table of indicators to monitor the impact of the priority measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thrust of the fight against crime</th>
<th>Indicator(s) proposed</th>
<th>Basic data and means of verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. LEGISLATION</strong></td>
<td>Completion and application of the revision of the forest and wildlife legislation, in particular as it relates to penalties and the list of protected animals</td>
<td>Number of new regulatory provisions implemented for the benefit of conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</strong></td>
<td>Successful conclusion of all of the legal procedures relating to elephant poaching</td>
<td>Number of court decisions handed down in a matter of elephant poaching or possession of pieces of ivory, and level of fines imposed actually collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. INFORMATION-GATHERING AND INVESTIGATION</strong></td>
<td>Reduction in the number of recorded cases of elephant poaching in the major locations (Boumba Bek national park, Nki, Lobéké, Dja, Bouba Ndjidda, Bénoüé, Faro, Waza)</td>
<td>Number of crimes reported and recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME</strong></td>
<td>Cooperation among the different sections in the area of combating illicit exploitation and export of ivory</td>
<td>Number of activities carried out jointly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improvement in monitoring of the activities related to the ivory trade in the major locations (Boumba Bek national park, Nki, Lobéké, Dja, Bouba Ndjidda, Bénoüé, Faro, Waza)</td>
<td>Number of activity reports produced by the committees tasked with tracking the illegal ivory trade and reduction in the pressure on elephants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E. ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td>Reduction in the illegal ivory trade over the entire national territory through actions to discourage poachers and ivory traffickers (Source for verification: Annual activity report of the Brigade National de Contrôle and Cellule Juridique, MINFOF)</td>
<td>Number of cases of illegal trade recorded and number of crackdown operations carried out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F. COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING</strong></td>
<td>Creation and operationalization of coordination groupings and sharing of information on wildlife crime</td>
<td>Number of communal and community committees active, quantity of information distributed through the media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>