African Elephant
Threats & Challenges, Status and Planning

Dr. Holly T. Dublin, Chair
IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group
6 April 2016
IUCN: A Membership Union

Our **vision** is a just world that values and conserves nature. Our **members** guide the IUCN Programme every 4 years at the WCC.

**MEMBERS**
- 1,329 members from 173 countries
- States, Gov’t agencies, NGOs
- Vote and participate in IUCN direction

**COMMISSIONS**
- 11,000+ voluntary experts serving in six thematic groups
- Species Survival Comm=largest group of the six

**SECRETARIAT**
- 1,000 staff worldwide in over 60 offices
- Regional office in Nairobi for East & Southern Africa
- HQ in Gland, Switzerland

---

Our **vision** is a just world that values and conserves nature.
Our **members** guide the IUCN Programme every 4 years at the WCC.
Species Survival Commission

• Largest of the six Commissions
• 10,000+ members
• 100+ Specialist Groups
• Taxonomic and thematic groups

The Red List

• provides snapshots of the risk of extinction for nearly 80,000 species
Our **mission** is to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephants throughout their range.

**Objective 1:** Compile and synthesize data

**Objective 2:** Provide technical advice

**Objective 3:** Promote conservation activities

**Objective 4:** Build capacity through members’ exchanges
AfESG Knowledge Products

Pachyderm
Journal of the African elephant, African rhino and Asian rhino SGs

African Elephant Library on Zotero
over 7,000 references

AfESG Website
www.iucn.org/african_elephant
- HEC DSS & other resources
- Strategic planning guidance
- Statements on Captivity
- Reports to CITES

African Elephant Database
www.elephantdatabase.org
AfESG Technical Advice

- EU – “Larger than elephants”: Extensive inputs for the design of an strategic approach to Wildlife Conservation in Africa
- Asked to consult on Chad, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Uganda planning processes
- Upcoming national planning endeavors: Liberia, Mozambique, Congo, Angola, Tanzania
- Additional bilateral requests (UNODC, UNEP, etc.)
What are the threats and challenges for Africa’s elephants?
Unsustainable

PIKE for Africa: 2003-2015

Estimated PIKE

14606 carcasses

MONITORING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS
Other Regions

- **West Africa**: 482 carcasses
  - 2003: 0.0
  - 2005: 0.0
  - 2007: 0.8
  - 2009: 0.6
  - 2011: 0.4
  - 2013: 0.2
  - 2015: 0.0

- **Central Africa**: 2812 carcasses
  - 2003: 0.0
  - 2005: 0.4
  - 2007: 0.6
  - 2009: 0.8
  - 2011: 1.0
  - 2013: 0.4
  - 2015: 0.2

- **Southern Africa**: 4430 carcasses
  - 2003: 0.0
  - 2005: 0.2
  - 2007: 0.4
  - 2009: 0.6
  - 2011: 0.8
  - 2013: 0.6
  - 2015: 0.4
Unsustainable

6882 carcasses

Eastern Africa

Estimated PIKE

MONITORING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS
Transaction Index
Compounding Impacts of Development & Demography

- Rapid agricultural expansion and the growth of agribusiness
- Increasing impact of extractive industries
- Infrastructure development
- Other development activities
- Climate change
- Growing human populations
- Rapid urbanisation
Everyone has plans for Africa

Current Use of Arable Land (2003)
Estimated Potential of Equivalent Rainfed Arable Land

Thousands of Hectares of Arable Land

- Northern Africa
- Southern Africa
- Western Africa
- Central Africa
- East Africa
- Western Indian Ocean Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Current Use</th>
<th>Estimated Potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Africa</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Africa</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Africa</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Climate Change

MAMJ Observed + Projected 1975 to 2025 Precipitation Change

- < -150 mm
- < -100 mm
- < -50 mm
- ± 50 mm
- < +50 mm
- Lakes

MAMJ Observed + Projected 1975 to 2025 Temperature Change

- <+0.5°C
- <+0.7°C
- <+0.9°C
- ± +1.1°C
- <+1.3°C
- Lakes

El Niño in 2015-2016

FAO. Early action and response for agriculture, food security and nutrition. 2015
Compounding Impacts of Development & Demographics

Contributing to habitat loss and fragmentation

Contributing to increased human-elephant conflict
# Growing Need to Engage Local Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Elephant Summit (2013)</td>
<td>Engage communities living with elephants as active partners in their conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London Declaration (2014)</td>
<td>Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty. Work with, and include local communities in, establishing monitoring and law enforcement networks in areas surrounding wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasane Declaration (2015)</td>
<td>Promote the retention of benefits from wildlife resources by local people where they have traditional and/or legal rights over these resources. We will strengthen policy and legislative frameworks needed to achieve this, reinforce the voice of local people as key stakeholders and implement measures which balance the need to tackle the illegal wildlife trade with the needs of communities, including the sustainable use of wildlife.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Growing Policy Momentum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brazzaville Declaration (2015)</th>
<th>Recognize the rights and increase the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the planning, management and use of wildlife through sustainable use and alternative livelihoods and strengthen their ability to combat wildlife crime.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UN GA adopted Resolution 69/314 on Tackling Illicit Trafficking In Wildlife (2015)</strong></td>
<td>Strongly encourages Member States to support the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illicit trafficking in wildlife and its adverse impacts, with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife and wilderness; ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable Development Goal 15 (2015)</strong></td>
<td>...in Target 15.7 to end IWT and in Target 15.c which emphasises the need to do this through “increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Managing Elephants

- Confluence of pressures
- Necessity to plan for possible scenarios given these dynamics
- Policies and management actions at multiple scales to avoid worst case scenarios
How do we approach the challenges and threats?
African Elephant Action Plan

- AfESG served as the technical consultant to the CITES Secretariat in facilitating meetings & developing the drafts with range States
- Plan negotiated for years, approved in 2010
  - consensus document among Range States
  - framework for future strategies and action plans across the range States
  - eight objectives supported by key strategies and actions
  - supported by a funding mechanism, the African Elephant Fund, governed by a Steering Committee
- AEF Steering Committee has two range State members from each region and UNEP, CITES, and donor representatives
History of Strategic Planning for Species

• National plans and even regional plans and MOUs preceded AEAP and can still inform future planning
• IUCN recommended guidelines based on multiple species but particularly AfESG’s work with elephants
Range State Planning

Recently, more national planning is being linked to the AEAP, the AEF, and funding mechanisms such as the EPI.

**East Africa**

- Tanzania Elephant Management Plan, 2010-2015 & upcoming
- Ethiopian Elephant Action Plan, 2015-2025

**Central Africa**

* Cameroon (2011)* Chad (2015) * Gabon (upcoming)
* Congo (upcoming)
Range State Planning

**West Africa**


**Southern Africa**

Southern Africa Regional Elephant Conservation and Management Strategy (2005)
* Zimbabwe (2016) * Angola (upcoming) * Malawi (upcoming)
National Ivory Action Plans

- Can complement other national planning processes
- Most recent reporting was at CITES SC66

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parties of primary concern</th>
<th>Parties of secondary concern</th>
<th>Parties of importance to watch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Angola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Laos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Informing Range State Planning

The most successful plans:

• are informed by a current situational analysis that considers local and global dynamics as well as likely future scenarios

• use available data to inform actions and set measurable goals

• align with other plans, initiatives, etc. where appropriate rather than recreating the wheel

• integrate multiple stakeholders into the design and monitoring processes
How do we know if our strategies are successful?
Monitoring Performance

• African Elephant Action Plan: Objective 5 (Strengthen range States’ knowledge on African elephant management)
• Urgent Measure 5: “to support evidence-based decision-making”
• London Declaration XXIV: “further assessment” of “progress”
• CITES Dec. 14.78 --> likely to be enshrined in Res Conf 10.10 at COP17
CITES Reporting Mandate

• Decision 14.78

• Report on the entire ivory value chain with MIKE and ETIS, including “submit[ing] any new and relevant information on the conservation status of elephants, and on pertinent conservation actions and management strategies”

• Recommended for inclusion in Resolution Conf. 10.10 after reporting at CITES SC66 in January
African Elephant Database

• Spatially-enabled website, www.elephantdatabase.org


• Shows aggregated summary estimates for countries, regions, and the continent as well as individual survey results

• Over 47,000 visitors since online debut in 2012

• New website to be launched with AESR 2016
Continental Data through 2013

- Estimates from Surveys:
  - 2006: ~550K
  - 2013: ~470K

- Informed Guesses:
  - 2006: ~40K
  - 2013: ~60K
Sub-Regional Data through 2013

- Central
- Eastern
- Southern
- West

Estimates from Surveys
Informed Guesses
Vulcan Partnership

• MOU that enables access to results from extensive surveying initiative
• Technical support and guidance from Seattle on our PostgreSQL database and website
• Valued partner in the production of the African Elephant Status Report 2016
• Commitment to aid in launching the AESR at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Sept 2016)
Extensive Updates from the GEC

The AESR 2016 will also include:
- 2015 Namibian data
- additional forest survey
- informed guesses for more Central and West African countries.
African Elephant Status Report

• Updates to range and estimates in progress for publication in AESR 2016
• 75+ new surveys entered for 25+ countries
• Expert-led, web-enabled review process addresses reasons for change from previous data
• New display of data clarifies numbers
• Creation of tables, maps, and text for each range State, four regions, and the continent
Concluding thoughts
Successful National Strategies

The most successful strategies and plans have a realistic implementation plan and a monitoring system in place.

- **Implementation Plan**: guides action month to month, year to year
- **Monitoring System**: requires 15-20% of budget for ongoing monitoring activities
This Mid-Term Strategy Review

• Happening at a critical point in implementation, given dynamic Kenyan landscape
• First step toward monitoring success of the Strategy
• 2015 Elephant Research Conference was separate event--not structured around monitoring the progress of the Strategy
• 2016 preparation for the mid-term review happened within an information vacuum--required deeper insight from KWS to complete matrix of actions and indicators
• Must capitalize on the expertise of committed stakeholders
• Key that momentum be maintained through reporting against indicators and related decisions and actions
THANK YOU TO:

- KWS for the opportunity to present
- MIKE and ETIS for continued collaboration and the ability to present their data
- to Vulcan and the AfESG members contributing to the production of the African Elephant Status Report 2016
- to all our donors

Dr. Holly Dublin: holly.dublin@iucn.org
Any inquiries or questions: afesg@iucn.org