

AFRICAN COMMON STRATEGY ON COMBATTING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD FLORA AND FAUNA

BRAZZAVILLE STRATEGY – 30th APRIL 2015

**Draft strategy developed at the International Conference on
the Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in African Wildlife
Products, Brazzaville, Congo, 27-30 April 2015.**

Note that this document includes updated text only from those sections of the strategy that were considered and discussed during the Brazzaville conference, with a focus on the strategic framework of the strategy, 2015-2024. It is expected that the Brazzaville Draft will be updated by the ad-hoc committee, in support of the AUC, taking on board further discussions from the Brazzaville conference and additional details from the pre-Brazzaville draft strategy, before being submitted for to a consultative process.

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2.1 Scope of strategy

This Strategy guides a common, coordinated responses as well as actions by countries n Africa to combat illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and promotes a strong national, regional and international response towards safeguarding all wild fauna and flora in Africa and complements all other on-going initiatives. The strategy addresses issues relating to source, transit and destinations of illegally traded specimens of wild fauna and flora. In particular, it aims at operationalizing decisions reached at various international fora, and mobilization of funding to support its implementation.

2.2 Overall objective

To prevent, reduce and eventually eliminate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in Africa

2.3 Specific objectives

The Strategy's specific objectives are to:

- (a) Increase political commitment to prevent, combat and eradicate illegal wildlife trade, and to consider IWT as a serious crime;
- (b) Increase capacity, information, advocacy and public awareness;
- (c) Improve governance, integrity and enhance regional, inter-regional cooperation;
- (d) Enhance engagement with consumer states to reduce demand for illegal products of wild fauna and flora;
- (e) Promote economic development and community livelihoods through sustainable use of wild fauna and flora;
- (f) Reduce and prevent eliminate the economic, security and stability impact of wildlife crime;
- (g) Increase the capacity of source and transit states in detecting illegal wild fauna and flora products including in the exit and transit points.

2.4 Strategic components

Component 1: Political Commitment

- 1.1 Increasing commitment by Africa's Governments and international community
- 1.2 Linking the strategy with Africa Vision 2063, post 2015 agenda and SDGs (on safeguarding natural resources and promoting peace and security)
- 1.3 Encourage membership, ratification, domestication and effective implementation of international agreements on wildlife conservation and ending international crime, such as CITES, CBD, CMS, Lusaka Agreement, and the UN Conventions against transnational organised Crimes and Corruption

Component 2: Regional and International Cooperation

- 2.1 Enhancing cooperation amongst source, transit and destination countries
- 2.2 Collective engagement by the region with the transit and demand countries and destination
- 2.3 Providing for the establishment of a regional networking facility to:
 - Enhance cross-border and regional cooperation
 - Exchange and share intelligence between enforcement agencies
- 2.4 Development and implementation of regional and sub-regional law enforcement agreements including reciprocal enforcement agreements
- 2.5 Harmonisation of national legislation at sub-regional and regional levels
- 2.6 Identify and engage with international partners working on addressing IWT
- 2.7 Establish how to create synergies on existing initiatives by international partners

Component 3: Training and Capacity Development

- 3.1 Strengthening capacities of existing institutions in Africa and local communities affected by IWT and dependent on wildlife
- 3.2 Training programmes to local communities on:
 - Best practices in conservation and sustainable use of wildlife habitats, ,
 - The role they could play in combating IWT
 - Alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities adjacent to wildlife habitats
- 3.3 Training and capacity building to existing institutions to train enforcement agencies, including inspectors, customs officers, police and the judiciary on measures at national, regional and inter-regional levels aimed at combating illegal trade in wildlife

Component 4: Enforcement and Compliance

- 4.1 Strengthen enforcement and compliance in illegal wildlife trade
- 4.2 Capacity building of all relevant officials across the enforcement chain to enable them implement measures to combat IWT
- 4.3 Measures to strengthen cross-border and regional co-operation and enforcement
- 4.4 Promote incentives to secure the participation, support and cooperation of local and rural communities in managing willidlife resources
- 4.5 Strengthening institutional and judicial frameworks
- 4.6 Promote the uptake and usage of existing tools provided by ICCWC
- 4.7 Establish inter-agency committees at national levels bringing together enforcement agencies to address IWT,

- 4.8 Promote an increase the use of specialised investigation technical in the investigation of wildlife offences.
- 4.9 Creating a platform for Parliamentarians e.g. through a regional symposium
- 4.10 Strengthen or update legal frameworks to effectively address IWT, including species, ecosystems, strong deterrent penalties appropriate to nature and gravity of the wildlife crime, etc
- 4.11 Implement national legislation to combat money laundering and facilitate asset forfeiture

Component 5: Awareness and Advocacy

- 5.1 Strengthening awareness and advocacy among targeted groups
- 5.2 Provide for the development of communication, education and awareness programmes targeting:
 - Political leaders
 - Policy makers
 - Local communities
 - Civil society
 - Trade and business community

Component 6: Knowledge, Information and Technology

- 6.1 Strengthen knowledge, information and technology by:
- 6.2 Research: linkage between research and decision making
- 6.3 Improved technology on surveillance
- 6.4 Develop databases and observatories on IWT and promote transparency and data sharing, including use of existing ones (INTERPOL, WCO,)
- 6.5 Enhance access to information: science-policy linkages
- 6.6 Strengthening monitoring of IWT
- 6.7 Enhancing the use of forensic technology to combat IWT, e.g. regional forensic labs (Kenya, Gabon, South Africa),

Component 7: Governance

- 7.1 Promoting inclusive governance of wildlife, including strengthening legal frameworks,
- 7.2 Recognising, supporting and providing an enabling environment for communities to be involved in wildlife governance and derive benefits from its conservation and sustainable use.
- 7.3 Implement programmes to prevent and combat on wildlife related corruption and promoting integrity