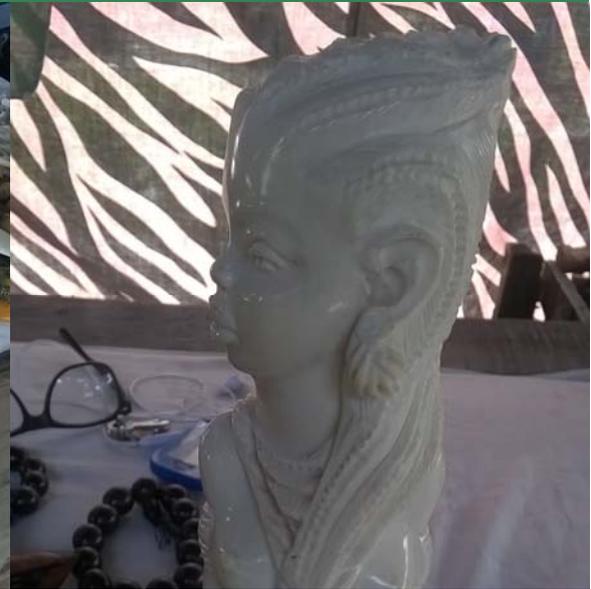**TRAFFIC**
REPORT

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WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS: SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PLANNING TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Support of the Implementation of National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) in Central Africa

Sone NKOKE Christopher, Paulinus NGEH Chiambeng, Nick AHLERS

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Front cover photograph and credit:
Worked ivory in Kinshasa and Group picture of workshop participants, Kinshasa DRC.
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Group picture of workshop participants, Kinshasa, DRC 18-19 November

IUCN

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

With support from the CITES Secretariat

CITES

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Organizers

CITES - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

IUCN - the International Union for the Conservation of Nature helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation, with almost 1,300 government and NGO Members and more than 15,000 volunteer experts in 185 countries.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. TRAFFIC is a strategic alliance of IUCN and WWF.

Donors

USAID - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is responsible for the majority of overseas development assistance from the United States government, including funding for international conservation. USAID works to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing security and prosperity for America and the world.

USAID in partnership with TRAFFIC and IUCN identified the need for information sharing and collaboration among countries implementing national ivory action plans in Central and West Africa, and provided support for the workshop through the Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (**Wildlife-TRAPS**) Project. Implemented by TRAFFIC and IUCN, Wildlife-TRAPS combats wildlife trafficking through analyses and actions designed to secure a transformation in the level of co-operation among the international community of stakeholders impacted by illegal wildlife trade between Africa and Asia.

The German Government provided support to the workshop through the BENGO facility of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development - **BMZ**, and from the **Polifond project**, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ)** on behalf of BMZ and the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety – **BMUB**. The Polifond 'project' combines the expertise and resources of five German federal ministries, international organisations and NGOs to combat poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife products (ivory and rhino-horn) in Africa and Asia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFRICA-TWIX	Africa-Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange
ANPN	*Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* – Gabon (Gabonese National Parks Agency)
BMUB	*Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit* (German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety)
BMZ	*Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung* (German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development)
CAP	Collaborative Action Planning
CAR	Central African Republic
CAWTLEAP	Central African Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Action Plan (of COMIFAC)
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CNT	*Comité national technique sur l'ivoire* (National Technical Committee on Ivory - DRC)
COMIFAC	*Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale* (Central African Forest Commission)
CoP	Conference of the Parties
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECCAS	Economic Commission of Central African States
ETIS	Elephant Trade Information System
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (Germany's Agency for International Technical Co-operation)
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
INTERPOL	International Police Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LAGA	The Last Great Ape Organization (Cameroon)

NCU	National Co-ordination Unit (under PAPECALF)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIAP	National Ivory Action Plan (under CITES)
PALF	*Projet d'Appui à l'Application de la loi sur la Faune Sauvage- Congo* (Wildlife Law Enforcement Project – Congo)
PAPECALF	*Plan d'Action sous Régional des Pays de l'Espace COMIFAC pour le Renforcement de l'Application des Législations Nationales sur la Faune Sauvage* (CAWTLEAP)
PAULAB	*Plan d'Action d'Urgence de Lutte Anti Braconnage en Afrique Centrale* (Urgent Anti-poaching Action Plan in Central Africa) (of ECCAS)
PEXULAB	*Plan d'Extrême Urgence de Lutte Anti Braconnage en Afrique Centrale* (Plan of Extreme Urgency on Anti-poaching in Central Africa) (of ECCAS)
RAPAC	*Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale* (Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa)
SC	Standing Committee (of CITES)
SSC	Species Survival Commission (of IUCN)
TNS	Trinational de la Sangha (a partly protected transboundary area shared between Cameroon, CAR and Congo)
TRIDOM	Trinational Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (a partly protected transboundary area shared between Cameroon, Gabon and Congo)
UNDP	United-Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCO	World Customs Organization
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
Wildlife TRAPS	Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment and Priority Setting
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wildlife Trafficking Response Assessment, and Priority Setting (Wildlife-TRAPS) project, supported by USAID and implemented by TRAFFIC and IUCN, organized a Collaborative Action Planning (CAP) workshop in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 18th and 19th November 2015. The workshop, with active engagement from the CITES Secretariat, was organized under the theme "sub-regional action planning workshop to strengthen regional collaboration to support the implementation of National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) in Central Africa." NIAPs are a practical tool being used by CITES in 19 Parties that are implicated in the illegal trade as a source, transit and/or destination country for ivory. The implementation of NIAPs by a number of countries in Central Africa is currently underway in accordance with recommendations adopted by the CITES Standing Committee in March 2013.

Delegates from all the NIAP implementing countries in Central Africa were present at the workshop: Cameroon, Congo, DRC and Gabon. Representatives from other countries of Central Africa were invited as well, including Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) – both also sources of ivory and implicated in regional ivory trafficking. The delegates all worked with their respective wildlife ministries as national Management Authorities responsible for CITES implementation, NIAP Focal Points, or officials of relevant government wildlife departments. Delegates from Nigeria were also invited but were unable to attend the workshop due to difficulties in obtaining visas. However, Nigeria submitted a document to assist with the development of their NIAP.

Over 40 participants were present at the workshop including government representatives, representatives of inter-governmental organizations including CITES, the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United-Nations Development Programme (UNDP). NGOs present included TRAFFIC as convener and organizer, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) that assisted in the workshop planning and facilitation, Juristrale that participated and also provided logistical support, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Environment Fond Vert. Donors from the United States and Germany were represented by USAID and GIZ, respectively. IUCN/SSC (Species Survival Commission) African Elephant Specialist Group sent its apologies as visa issues prevented the attendance of a representative.

The overall objective of the workshop was to improve the management and conservation of African Elephants through the reduction of poaching and illegal ivory trade through the effective implementation of the NIAPs at the country level, and through strengthened inter-country collaboration.

The approach adopted for the workshop consisted of presentations on various subject areas by invited representatives of the CITES Secretariat and other invited experts, as well as NIAP progress summaries presented by government representatives. Question and answer sessions allowed sharing of information and experience, along with group work on identifying shared technical assistance and funding needs, regional co-operation activities and opportunities for alignment of NIAP implementation through a regional approach, and best practices and successes to exchange with other Parties present.

The expected outputs were the development of a menu of priority actions for enhanced regional collaboration through effective implementation of regional and cross-border activities included in NIAPs, and for enhanced efforts in non-NIAP countries to fight poaching and illegal ivory trade. Furthermore, a list of identified regional technical assistance and funding needs, along with potential sources of funding to address these and support implementation of NIAPs was developed.

The workshop was officially opened by Victor Vundu dia Massamba, the representative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC. Additional speeches at the opening ceremony were given by Diana Putman, Mission Director of USAID in the DRC, Nelly Reliat, of GIZ's Forest and Biodiversity Programme in the DRC, Juan Carlos Vasquez, the Chief of Legal and Policy Affairs of the CITES Secretariat and Roland Melisch, Senior Director for Africa and Europe at TRAFFIC.

After the two days of deliberations the following recommendations were proposed:
- Integrate and fully articulate NIAPs into national conservation strategies and activities covered within national budgets;
- Countries advised to consider using the African Elephant Fund which was endorsed and adopted by CITES;
- Establish platforms for national and regional collaboration to permit discussions and actions across different State agencies beyond those responsible for nature and wildlife conservation, such as administration, finance, defence, and judiciary;
- Build capacity on intelligence gathering techniques. This action was highly recommended due to the lack of progress with investigations;
- Establish functional and effective inter-State operational anti-poaching and anti-trafficking brigades capable of carrying out activities in the different countries with the support of COMIFAC and ECCAS;
- Sensitize the general public and also specific groups through the creation of protocols of accord.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Central African sub-region hosts significant populations of both forest and savannah elephants. Unfortunately, these elephants are continuously facing a multitude of threats, including illegal killing for ivory and other products, conflict with humans, local overabundance and loss and fragmentation of habitat. The magnitude of these threats, for some elephant populations, is so severe that their survival in the wild is in jeopardy[1].

A report prepared for the 65th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Standing Committee (SC65) indicated that over 20,000 African Elephants were poached across the continent in 2013[2] and prior to that another credible estimate suggested that 100,000 elephants were lost to poaching from 2010 through 2012[3]. The SC65 report indicates that 2011 was the worst in recent years for illegal trafficking of ivory[4], but an increase in the number of large-scale seizures of ivory (shipments over 500 kg) in 2013 may signal an even greater surge that year. Because of inadequate enforcement efforts and the fact that demand has been on the rise in certain parts of the world, a number of African countries have seen their elephant populations decimated by poachers. Maisels *et al.* report a 62% decline in Central African forest elephant populations between 2002 and 2011[5]. The decrease in elephant numbers has been acknowledged as a major concern, not only by governments, NGOs and conservationists, but also by indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods are directly affected. Central Africa accounts for a large proportion of the estimated continental range for African Elephants, but knowledge of its current population size is the poorest of four sub-regions. Central African elephants are highly threatened and proper measures and mechanisms must be put in place and implemented effectively to protect remaining populations.

It is in this context that the CITES Parties instituted a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process under the direction of the Standing Committee in 19 out of 22 countries identified with the aim of strengthening controls on the trade in ivory and ivory markets, and helping to combat the illegal trade in ivory. These Parties were identified following an analysis of ivory seizure data held in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) prepared for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CITES (CoP16) in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013 (link: https://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/doc/index.php). The countries most heavily affected by the illegal trade in ivory are the ones that are presently part of the NIAP process, having been categorized as countries of "primary concern" (eight Parties), "secondary concern" (eight Parties) and "importance to watch" (six Parties)[6]. In Central and West Africa, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Gabon and Nigeria are all Parties of "secondary concern" and have been requested to develop NIAPs, while Angola is among the Parties of importance to watch and was asked to develop a NIAP.

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[1] African Elephant Action Plan - CITES CoP. March 2010. CoP15 Inf. 68
[2] https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-42-01_2.pdf, and https://cites.org/eng/mike_figures2014
[3] G. Wittemyer, J. M. Northrup, J. Blanc, I. Douglas-Hamilton, P. Omondi, K. P. Burnham, Illegal killing for ivory drives global decline in African elephants. *Proc.Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 111, 13117–13121 (2014). Medline doi:10.1073/pnas.1403984111
[4] http://www.gadling.com/2013/01/06/illegal-ivory-trade-surged-to-highest-level-ever-in-2011/
[5] F. Maisels, et al. 'Devastating Decline of Forest Elephants in Central Africa.' *PLOS ONE* 8, e59469 (2013). Medline doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0059469
[6] https://www.cites.org/eng/niaps

While NIAPs are delivered nationally, most also include actions for regional and international collaboration and require a regional approach given ivory trafficking and trade dynamics. Countries, including neighbouring States not required to develop NIAPs, likely face shared regional challenges and capacity needs which could most efficiently and effectively be addressed through a regional approach.

This workshop was designed to allow Parties to share their experiences in developing and implementing their NIAPs, discuss their national implementation challenges and technical assistance and funding needs, and identify shared priorities for regional collaboration to strengthen NIAP implementation. Some elephant range States in Central Africa that are presently not part of the NIAP process were also invited as these range States might benefit from experiences of the NIAP countries and their participation in the workshop could strengthen actions taken in these selected neighbouring countries.

The overall objective of the workshop was to improve the management and conservation of African Elephants and reduce poaching and illegal ivory trade through the effective implementation of the NIAPs at the country level, and through strengthened inter-country collaboration. The workshop had the following sub-objectives:

- Facilitate the understanding and implementation of national obligations under CITES such as the implementation of the NIAP.
- Facilitate cross-border collaboration and regional co-operation between NIAP countries in particular, to strengthen their response in the fight against illegal ivory trade in the sub-region
- Enhance shared understanding of NIAP content and implementation for countries concerned, and share lessons learned with other non-NIAP countries in the Central African region.
- Identify shared challenges, technical assistance and funding needs and opportunities to strengthen NIAP implementation.
- Identify opportunities to support NIAP implementation through other regional initiatives that are underway and aligned to NIAPs.
- Enhance the understanding of threats to elephant conservation in Central Africa.

3 OPENING CEREMONY

The workshop commenced with an opening ceremony presided over by Victor Vundu dia Massamba, the representative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Four other speeches were made at the opening ceremony in addition to the official opening speech by Victor Vundu. They included opening remarks from Roland Melisch, TRAFFIC Senior Director for Africa and Europe; Diana Putman, Director of USAID's mission in Kinshasa; Nelly Reliat of GIZ's Programme on Biodiversity and Forests in DRC on behalf of the German Government; and Juan Carlos Vasquez, the Chief of Legal Affairs and Trade Policy of the CITES Secretariat.

Photo 1: Speakers at the opening ceremony from left to right - Diana Putman- USAID, Nelly Reliat, GIZ, Victor Vundu dia Massamba, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Juan Carlos Vasquez, CITES and Roland Melisch, TRAFFIC

The speakers highlighted the plight of elephants which was mainly as a result of organized and heavily armed poaching, and well developed trafficking networks transporting ivory from Central Africa to overseas destinations, especially Asia. The problems encountered in the field, especially by rangers, who often put their lives at risk against poachers, were emphasized.

Actions proposed included the need for collaboration at national and regional levels; capacity building to enhance detection of illegal wildlife products at ports and airports; and investigation of wildlife crimes especially those via innovative methods such as the internet; and financial and technical support to bring criminals to justice and the need to run campaigns to better inform the public. These actions were to be complemented by livelihood enhancement initiatives for indigenous peoples and local communities often tempted by financial incentives to engage in illegal activities.

4 NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP CONTENT

The workshop took place using three mains approaches: presentation sessions, question and answer sessions, and work group sessions. The workshop was facilitated by Alain Ononino of WWF, and Paulinus Ngeh, Sone Nkoke and Cléo Mashini, all from TRAFFIC. The opening ceremony was followed by self-introduction by delegates and an overview of the workshop programme (Annex I).

The programme was developed with four main sessions:

1. Sharing of information on elephants and their threats and root causes in the Central Africa sub-region.
2. Sharing information on other regional conservation mechanisms in the sub-region of relevance to NIAPS.
3. Update on the NIAPs process and feedback on NIAPs reports submitted to the CITES Secretariat by the respective countries with focus on challenges and lessons learnt.
4. Identification of national and sub-regional priorities, mechanism and potential sources of funding as well as recommendations and next steps to foster implementation.

4.1 Elephant Ivory Trade and Root Causes in Central Africa

The threats and root causes to elephants in Central Africa were explored in two presentations entitled "Illegal Trade of Elephant Products in Central Africa" and "Ivory Market Survey in Central Africa" by Paulinus Ngeh and Sone Nkoke, respectively. After a brief overview of the TRAFFIC network and its missions, Paulinus focused his presentation on the threats to elephants using figures on elephant populations and trade to illustrate status and trends. He indicated that elephants were initially distributed all over Africa apart from the Sahara Desert and that today only 37 countries in the continent harbour elephant populations estimated at about half a million with an uneven distribution. He further mentioned that current threats to elephants include: habitat degradation, deforestation, climate change, unsustainable use for income and subsistence, but above all poaching and illegal trade. Figures put forth revealed that the forest elephant population has reduced by 62% between 2002 and 2011 (Maisels *et al.* 2013), and that thousands of African Elephants are killed per year. Some of the more predominant underlying causes identified include rising demand and prices for ivory in Asia, an increase in well-organized and wealthy wildlife trafficking syndicates, an increase in well-armed and better organized poaching operations, bad governance and corruption, inadequate legal tools that are not deterrent and persistent poverty within communities living in and around elephant habitats. He also discussed the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) managed by TRAFFIC on behalf of CITES Parties and the need to capture more information via this mechanism to better understand the trade and enforcement efforts made by the various governments.

Sone Nkoke gave a brief synthesis of ivory market surveys carried out in five Central Africa countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic - CAR, Congo, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo - DRC) during four years (2007, 2009, 2014 and 2015) by TRAFFIC. The purpose of the study was to establish baseline data on aspects of the trade from which to assess future changes and trends. He explained the methodology used for the study which included physical visits to markets, meetings and discussions with stakeholders, informants, undercover investigations, use of pictures and footage, and information from other sources including published literature and reports. A summary of results on Legislation and Policy; Stockpile – Quantity and Management; Retail Outlets and Prices of Worked Ivory; Carving Workshops – number, locations, carvers; Sources of raw ivory and prices and additional information on the profile of buyers and sellers was also presented. The major conclusions from this study include:
- More than 10,000 ivory items observed during the four years.
- Only the ivory market in Kinshasa still had ivory openly for sale in 2015.
- Ivory trade in the region is shifting from an important and open domestic retail trade in worked

ivory to underground transactions and an export trade in raw ivory to foreign markets especially China.

- The price of worked and raw ivory has witnessed a very sharp increase over the years as a result of higher demand in Asia.
- There are well-organized criminal networks spread throughout the region that are pushing high-level ivory trafficking.
- Corruption, low capacity and lack of resources impede effective wildlife law enforcement.
- New cross-cutting initiatives such as the NIAPs are needed for continued monitoring of the evolution of ivory trade dynamics in Central Africa.
- Sub-regional co-operation and collaboration needs to move beyond commitment and political declaration to effective action.

The question and answer session after these two presentations focused on the following:
- The remaining open ivory market in the DRC,
- Transboundary trade,
- Sources of raw ivory in national parks,
- The need for collaboration between the different national and regional agencies responsible for wildlife control and law enforcement,
- Training on ETIS especially in Congo, and,
- Identification and detection techniques for both raw and worked ivory.

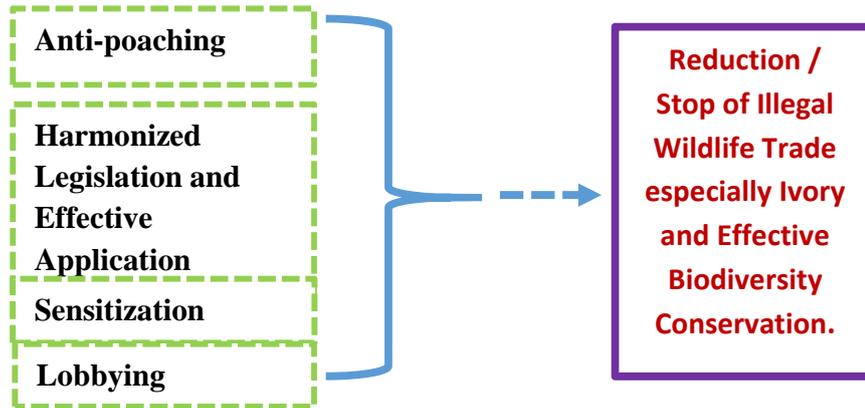## 4.2 The Role of Sub-Regional Bodies – ECCAS and COMIFAC

Two presentations were made under this session on sub-regional bodies. One by Jean-Baptiste Mamang Kanga of the Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS) and the other by Godefroid Ndaukila, the National Focal Point for *Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale* (Central Africa Forests Commission - COMIFAC) in the DRC.

The presentation by Jean-Baptiste Mamang Kanga of the ECCAS focused on their anti-poaching action plan adopted in April 2015 in Brazzaville, and its implications in supporting NIAPs in Central Africa. The mandate for the management of general policies regarding environmental issues and the management of natural resources was attributed to ECCAS in 2007 by the Heads of State of the Central African sub-region. In this context, ECCAS co-ordinates and facilitates sub-regional initiatives through programmes on protected areas and the integration of populations, capacity building, environmental and forestry governance, and anti-poaching activities focusing on flagship species, especially elephants; hence the need to involve ECCAS in the implementation of NIAPs. He indicated that through the adoption of the Plan of Extreme Urgency on Anti-poaching in Central Africa (*Plan d'Extrême Urgence de Lutte Anti Braconnage en Afrique Centrale* - PEXULAB) there is a focus on savannah areas - Northern Cameroon, North-Western CAR and Southern Chad; and the Urgent Anti-poaching Action Plan in Central Africa (*Plan d 'Action d'Urgence de Lutte Anti Braconnage en Afrique Centrale* PAULAB) which covers all countries in Central Africa. The theory of change for this Action Plan is indicated in Figure 1.

ECCAS is focusing not only on anti-poaching activities, but also emphasizes the need to harmonize legislation in the sub-region to ensure effective application of wildlife laws, carry out sensitization exercises

at all levels from the indigenous peoples and local communities to the highest political authorities, as well as lobbying for political and financial support with the assistance of development partners, with the view to reducing or stopping illegal wildlife trade and ensure biodiversity conservation. This theory of change factors well in the NIAPs whereby national laws are adjusted to ensure wildlife crimes result in serious sentences that deter would-be poachers, relevant legislation across countries is harmonized, and transboundary activities are carried out by the countries in Central Africa. Effective communication and technical and financial assistance from development partners are essential. These theory of change elements fall under the different pillars of NIAPs.

Figure 1: Theory of change for PAULAB

Source: ECCAS

The second presentation in this session was delivered by Mr. Godefroid Ndaukila, the DRC National Coordinator for COMIFAC (*Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale-* Central Africa Forests Commission) and focused on the progress made with the implementation of the Central African Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Action Plan (CAWTLEAP) commonly known by its French acronym PAPECALF (*Plan d'Action sous Régional des Pays de l'Espace COMIFAC pour le Renforcement de l'Application des Législations Nationales sur la Faune Sauvage*). He stressed the need to put in place National Co-ordination Units (NCUs) as indicated in the plan and was grateful to the progress in this direction in DRC supported by TRAFFIC and WWF since February 2015.

He indicated that PAPECALF constituted a useful implementation tool of the Convergence Plan of COMIFAC and that it is a result of work conducted by experts in the COMIFAC countries with the support of many development partners, international organizations and civil society. PAPECALF is also seen as a technical orientation tool to reinforce the enforcement of wildlife legislations and regulations. Most importantly, it is used to identify concrete priority measures to be implemented by governments to enforce national wildlife laws in Central Africa to dissuade, prevent and combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade in protected species, such as elephants.
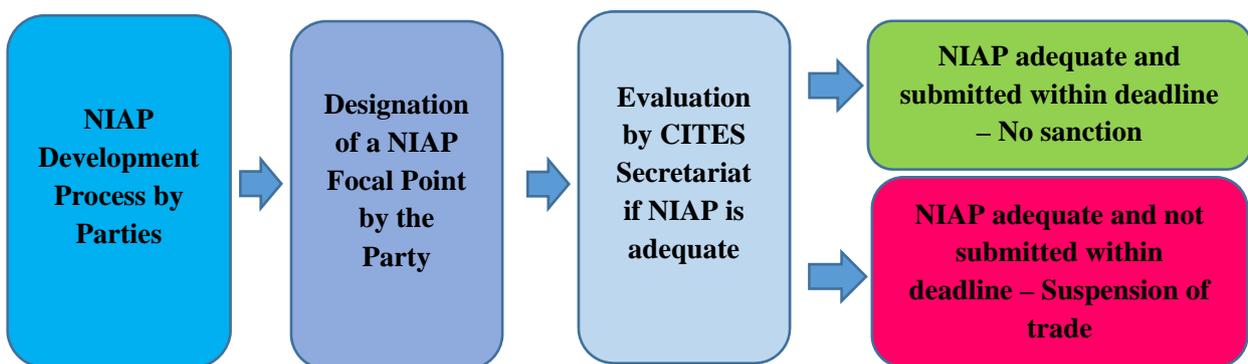
Questions, answers and discussions following both presentations focused on the role of these regional bodies in the co-ordination of national level activities and link with higher political engagements in the implementation of NIAPs in the short to medium term, the harmonization of efforts, and a common conservation strategy in Central Africa in the long term.

4.3 Progress with the Implementation of the National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) in Central Africa

The first presentation under this session was by Guy Debonnet, an expert consultant to the CITES Secretariat who has worked on the elaboration of NIAPs in many countries including those of Central Africa. He introduced the rationale as well as the NIAP process (Figure 2) and some initial findings from reports submitted so far by countries engaged in this process.

He indicated that NIAPs were a CITES tool used to reinforce efforts geared at combatting illegal ivory trade and to demonstrate the key actions undertaken by concerned Parties to engage in NIAP implementation with short term results (12–18 months). He stated that not only source countries were involved in NIAP process, transit and consumer/destination countries are also involved. All NIAP implementing countries in the Central African region are grouped in countries of secondary concern by CITES.

Figure 2: The NIAP process

NIAP Development Process by Parties	→	Designation of a NIAP Focal Point by the Party	→	Evaluation by CITES Secretariat if NIAP is adequate	→	NIAP adequate and submitted within deadline – No sanction
					→	NIAP adequate and not submitted within deadline – Suspension of trade

Source: CITES Secretariat

Mr. Debonnet pointed out that NIAPs are national plans that should not only include the wildlife ministries or departments, but it is also imperative to involve other services and ministries involved in wildlife control and law enforcements such as Customs, law enforcement, judiciary and all other stakeholders. He elaborated on the NIAP process with dates of submission of NIAPs initially slated for 31 October 2014 but extended twice to 12 February 2015 and 12 March 2015 to allow Parties to finish the process.

He also gave an overview of the present state of submission of NIAPs reports from the various countries. Regarding Parties of secondary concern, six NIAPs, submitted by Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Egypt were considered to be adequate. DRC submitted late (6/4/2015) and their trade suspension was lifted (15/4/2015). Nigeria initiated a draft NIAP process prior to the workshop and discussions with CITES were still ongoing at the point of finalizing these proceedings.

The NIAPs pillars include Legislation, Prosecution, Intelligence and Investigations Actions, National and International Wildlife Crime Co-operation, Law Enforcement and Operation Actions, Communication and

Sensitization. Mr. Debonnet stated that based on the first implementation reports submitted by the NIAP countries, it seems that the least progress was observed under the Intelligence and Investigations Actions pillar.

Mr. Debonnet then presented and explained the reporting format highlighting the challenges observed with the reports submitted. These include:
- Reports are a self-evaluation which has limitations.
- Most NIAPS lack quantifiable expected results and have weak impact indicators.
- Reporting categories make the comparison of results more difficult. For example the category "*Difficult*" also means late activity or other problems; "*Unclear*" used when an activity has not started but also when there are obstacles.
- Activities falling under the responsibility of CITES management authorities in the various wildlife ministries, such as the designation of NIAP focal points, are more advanced in implementation than activities under the responsibility of other government services.
- Co-operation with other services such as the Customs and judiciary remains a huge challenge.
- Difficulties in the implementation of regional and transboundary activities.
- Many NIAP countries lack the budget and human resources for proper implementation.

Despite these difficulties, some encouraging aspects were observed:
- NIAPs have created important political momentum in some Parties such as the appointments of focal points or the involvement of special structures in NIAP implementation such as the National Parks Agency *"Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN)"* of Gabon.
- Efforts of co-ordination including the establishment of a Committee on the follow-up of the NIAP,
- Involvement of other state agencies notably the Customs, law enforcement, and judiciary in field investigations and operations targeting ivory poachers and traffickers.
- Efforts to integrate NIAPs with other activities such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) toolkit, national and regional strategies.
- Mobilization of technical and financial assistance.

He highlighted a number of points from the reports and personal experience that required further discussion including at the workshop such as:
- How to reinforce regional co-operation,
- Mobilization of more technical and financial assistance in NIAP implementation,
- How to enhance the impact of NIAPs on reducing poaching and illegal ivory trafficking,
- Exchange of experience: mobilization of political support, mobilizing other state services and developing intelligence,
- Embedding NIAPs in other strategies/activities in the region,
- Delegates to formulate a "message(s)" to other Parties via the CITES Secretariat to be delivered at the 66th Standing Committee of CITES on difficulties encountered, and assistance needed in the NIAP process.

The CITES presentation was followed by country-level presentations on their progress in implementing their NIAPs with a particular focus on gaps and challenges and opportunities for regional collaboration. The main points from the various presentations are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Highlights from the NIAP presentations by Parties

Country	NIAP Introduction	Progress in NIAP Implementation	Difficulties / Challenges	Needs	Regional Co-operation	Future Outlook
Republic of Congo	Vision – significantly reduce by 2025 elephant poaching and ivory trafficking with the objective of professionalizing the fight against poaching and trafficking and the creation of multi-sectorial partnerships	-Inventory of ivory stocks according to CITES specifications -A centralized numerical database for all seized ivory -Incineration of 4,537 kg of seized ivory -Adhesion of Congo to the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) -Creation of a national anti-poaching committee -Investigations and arrest cases in collaboration with PALF-Congo -Participation in national and regional capacity building workshops.	-Low capacity to engage other State organs such as the Customs and police. -Lack of financial resources, materials and field equipment. -No well secured ivory store room	-Capacity building of wildlife officials and other State agents especially the judiciary. -Mobilizing finances	-Participation in the Brazzaville Conference -Participation in UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) workshop to promote the establishment of a regional platform for research, information and experience sharing on wildlife criminality in Brazzaville	-Elaboration of elephant action plan -Elaboration of a national strategy on fighting poaching and trafficking -Operationalization of a national anti-poaching committee -Reinforce national and sub-regional collaboration -Reinforce investigations and control at exit points
Gabon	Vision - By 2020, reduce elephant poaching and ivory trafficking on national territory by 80 per cent. NIAP implemented by the department of wildlife and protected areas in collaboration with ANPN (Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux –National Parks Agency). NGOs and other government ministries including	Of the 32 activities inscribed in the NIAP, 2 have been substantially realized (field operations and the construction of a building to stock and secure ivory); 14 activities are progressing normally; 9 classed as difficult and 7 as less clear. Others are: -Convention signed with the Libreville airport authorities to control luggage; -Protocols signed with some timber companies to survey wildlife; -The revision of national law is in process and will take specific ivory	-Mobilization and engagement of main identified actors nationally and regionally, -Implication and lack of clear roles of other actors, -Adoption of a common working programme, -Mobilization of financial support.	-Capacity need in intelligence and how to mark ivory, finance need to organize meetings and field missions and materials for communication and logistics	Consultative meetings held between the wildlife Ministry, Customs, police and gendarme on the creation of a brigade to also carry out cross-border activities	-Reinforcement of national co-operation, -Inscription of NIAP activities in the 2016 State budget, -Mobilization of financial resources, -Intensify collaboration with ECCAS, -Organize a national workshop with all stakeholders -Carry out an

	Defence, Agriculture, Justice, Interior are all involved.	issues into consideration; -launching of national wildlife inventory				inventory for ivory stocks at court premises.
DRC	Initially suspended, stakeholders mobilized and NIAP submitted, and DRC re-admitted. The vision is to significantly reduce elephant poaching and trafficking in the national territory, and a main objective of intensifying the fight against wildlife criminality with the involvement of all main actors.	Of the 27 activities inscribed in the NIAP, none was classed as being substantially realized; 15 were classed as progressing normally, 9 classed as difficult and 3 as being less clear. Activities carried out include: -2 provincial notices banning hunting, detention and sale of protected animals and parts thereof, including elephant ivory signed in North – Kivu and Oriental provinces. -Some crackdown operations in collaboration with the police, Customs and some local NGOs carried out, 462.5 kg of ivory seized in 2015. -Production of terms of reference for the implementation of the national co-ordination unit; production of some communication support materials such as posters. -Dissemination of the new wildlife law targeting political, administrative, judiciary authorities amongst others.	-Lack of financial resources, materials and logistical means. -Low capacity of personnel. -Country too vast and therefore all areas difficult to access. -Late elaboration of NIAP thereby delaying some activities.	-Training need for NIAP implementation personnel in the implementation process, especially other State organs such as the police and Customs	-Internal co-operation quite strong but needs to be consolidated through National Technical Committee on Ivory (CNT) and National Co-ordination Unit (NCU). -An accord signed between DRC, Congo, Gabon and Angola on the management of Mayombe forest. -Another accord signed with Rwanda and Uganda on the exploitation of Grand Virunga.	-Do an ivory stock inventory nationally. -Formally put in place CNT and NCU. -Intensify collaboration and communication with CITES and other partners.
Cameroon	Vision is to preserve elephants by reducing poaching and illegal trafficking; NIAP	Of the 43 activities identified, 2 were substantially realized, 20 progressing well, 6 classed as difficult and 15 less clear.	-Impact of NIAP in fighting poaching and trafficking not clear. -Implementation seems	-Capacity need in intelligence; financial needs in law enforcement	Participated in workshops on ETIS toolkit to support wildlife law	-Putting in place a platform of collaboration between the wildlife

	submitted in February 2015 and validation process saw the involvement of TRAFFIC, WWF and ZSL technically and financially. Other stakeholders included law and order agencies, Customs and other administrative organs.	-Higher penalties for wildlife crime integrated into a new legislation in process; training in professional schools on wildlife crimes; putting in place of intelligence network with LAGA and ZSL; putting in place a platform of national co-operation; collection and securing of ivory stocks with TRAFFIC and WWF; crackdown operations seizing ivory and follow-up of court cases. Sensitization through the national radio.	to be patchy and not well coordinated. -There is a void on what happens after the 2 years slated by CITES. -Problem of putting in place an ad hoc committee charged with the co-ordination and follow-up of activities pertaining to NIAP	procedures, carry out patrols, equipment for logistics, sensitization and communication activities; and the creation of a NIAP platform for national and regional coverage.	enforcement in Central Africa in Limbe – Cameroon; and sub-regional workshop for enforcement agents at exit points (airports, seaports, terrestrial boundaries) in COMIFAC countries in June 2015 in Douala – Cameroon	Ministry and other sectors. -Looking for finance to push for more activities.

Generally, countries showed some progress in domains such as raising awareness, especially with other national relevant services, and modifying legislation at the national level. However some countries like Cameroon and Gabon are still waiting for the enactment of the revised legislation into law. Progress was also reported in ivory security via the development of improved systems for ivory stockpile management in Gabon and Congo, and capacity enhancement with support from partners such as TRAFFIC. There were more urgent measures and activities to be started such as information sharing mechanisms, the engagement of other State agencies and regional collaboration with many other lagging behind due to lack of resources, collaboration or political will. Discussions after the presentations from the various countries centered on the following:

- Difficulties in implementing NIAPs such as lack of capacity, not enough personnel and need for financial resources and materials or equipment to be used in the field.
- A paucity of activities or measures to combat transboundary poaching and trade effectively.
- Concerning DRC, participants wanted to know why the country does not consider closing the ivory market as a priority and what they think of the role of rebellious groups in poaching and illegal trade.
- Low visibility of NIAP activities in national strategies.

Though not a NIAP implementing country, Chad made a presentation on the state of wildlife conservation in the country indicating elephants to be the most threatened species as a result of poaching and ivory trafficking. Chad has put in place a number of strategies and measures to stop this phenomenon such as establishing a body responsible for wildlife conservation and management, the creation of national parks, use of existing laws and regulations, and many international conventions signed and ratified by Chad and regional agreements such as the one to safeguard the BSB Yamoussa (Sena-Ouara, Chad – Bouba Ndjidda, Cameroon) transboundary complex. Chad is a member of institutions and networks such as RAPAC (*Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale* – Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa, COMIFAC). Other measures include the creation of a special force to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade, but more was needed for improved results, such as the involvement of other services especially military and security forces, partnerships with NGOs and good governance.

Central Africa Republic (CAR), another non-NIAP country, also presented the problems facing elephants and measures in place to mitigate them. Poaching and trafficking featured prominently among the challenges that elephants faced, especially in the northern part of the country under rebel control. Existing measures were considered not adequate, and there is a need for collaboration at the sub-regional level.

Both CAR and Chad expressed their interest in the NIAP process. The two countries indicated they have a sizeable population of elephants facing the same ivory poaching and trafficking issues like the NIAPs implementing countries. As a result they require the same remedial actions when combatting illegal ivory trafficking like the NIAP implementing countries.

Delegates from several other Central and West African countries were invited but unable to attend the workshop due to difficulties in obtaining visas. However, thanks to the invitation with a requirement to send a NIAP progress report, Nigeria submitted a document for review to assist with the development of their NIAP. It is worth noting that Nigeria was the only country that had yet to develop and submit their NIAP to CITES before this workshop.

5 PRIORITY NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ACTIONS IN NIAP IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The working group sessions led to the identification of a number of common priority national actions and gaps; priority sub-regional actions and existing sub-regional mechanisms and tools to support and foster the implementation of NIAPs were identified as well as potential funding sources.

5.1 Menu of Ongoing Common Priority Activities

The first working group session focused on the identification of areas of common interest between the different countries, resulting in a menu of ongoing priority activities, main gaps, principal challenges and list of transboundary activities and countries concerned. The identification of priorities was to enable Parties to focus on areas that require immediate attention. The menu of identified priorities will help countries and supporting partners to targeted limited resources to achieve the most desirable impact in the NIAP process.

A summary of the results of the working Group 1 is presented in Table 2:

Table 2: Common Ongoing Priority Actions Under NIAP in the Different Countries

Common Priority Activities Identified by the NIAP Parties in Central Africa
Legislation and Legal Procedure • Illegal ivory trafficking activities be considered as criminal offences and not simple misdemeanours, with penalties and fines increased, and enshrined in the penal and forestry codes. • A template be designed for preparing and submitting legal complaints to the judiciary. • Ensure the follow-up of court cases and collaborate directly with legal experts such as Magistrates, State Prosecutors and Lawyers. • Build capacity of legal experts on ivory trafficking issues to enable them to address the issue in their various departments. • Put in place a common database of all court cases and analyze appropriately before, during and after court decisions so as to monitor procedure.
Field Operations • Dismantle networks that provide arms and ammunition to poachers. • Reinforce the presence of armed forces in transboundary national parks through additional forces and equipment. • Put in place a brigade to fight ivory trafficking at airports, seaports, markets, jewellery shops, borders, and urban centers.
Detection, Intelligence and Investigations • Build on the use of sniffer dogs and reinforce the unit – personnel, logistics, and dogs. • Operationalize units specialized in investigations and in dismantling networks. • Improve co-operation and exchange of information to detect wildlife contraband internally and at frontiers.
Management and Governance • Inventory and audit ivory stocks (administration, CITES, TRAFFIC etc.), transmit reports to the concerned state departments, NGOs and make them public. • Put in place a unit to address human-elephant conflicts at national and regional levels as proposed by Gabon.
Co-ordination • Put in place national co-ordination units to address wildlife crimes. • Put in place a platform involving all state agencies and coordinate competences. • Intensify exchanges with other countries and develop protocols to address ivory issues.

The common challenges and gaps identified in the different NIAP implementing countries are presented in Table 3:

Table 3: Common Gaps and Challenges in the Implementation of NIAPs and Transboundary Activities

Common Gaps	Implementation Challenges	Transboundary Activities
-Translation of national legislations into CITES requirements specific to ivory trafficking. -Absence of harmonized legislation and absence of coordinated national strategies to combat wildlife criminality. -No effective national inter-agency information exchange system or regionally information exchange system between countries. -No effectively functioning inter-state protocols or operational brigade. -No effectively functioning national inter-agency protocols and coordinated unit. . -Problems of control and collaboration between control and law enforcement agents, wildlife officers, Customs, and police at exit points and borders that are wide and porous. -No reliable system for inventory, audit, storage and safeguard and management of seized ivory. -Insufficient capacity and attention to the mobilization of financial resources.	-Problems of sensitization and communication to the general public about the need of elephant conservation and their role such as providing information about poachers and traffickers. -Synergy with other actors and their implication in concrete actions. -Inscription of NIAPs into national budgets. -Inadequate finance, materials and equipment.	-Although TNS (Trinational de la Sangha) between Cameroon, CAR and Congo, and TRIDOM (Trinational Dja-Odzala-Minkebe) between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, Lake Tele-Lake Tumba between DRC and Congo were mentioned, no clear activity on NIAP was mentioned.

Juan Carlos Vasquez of the CITES Secretariat reiterated the importance of identifying priorities, gaps and regional actions and laid emphasis on collaboration. He also pointed out that the legal situation of ivory trade in some countries was ambiguous. CITES, he said, is an international law which takes precedence over national laws. Therefore any species or parts hereof that appear in Appendix I of CITES is totally banned from commercial trading as is the case with elephant ivory in Central Africa. He also questioned what happened to seized ivory in terms of inventory, and stock security. He concluded by saying that Day 1 provided rich discussions and gave a clear idea on how to take advantage of Day 2, urging Parties to inform the international community of their needs targeting the CITES Standing Committee in January 2016.

5.2 Lessons Learned and Experiences Gained in Implementing NIAPs

The second group session was aimed at sharing experiences in the implementation of NIAPs such as systems, mechanisms, and structures put in place and their effectiveness, in NIAP implementation and lessons learnt and good practices that contributed to the successful implementation of some NIAP activities in the different countries.

There were two groups created for this session: Group 1 was comprised of Cameroon, Gabon, CAR and Chad, and Group 2 was comprised of DRC and Congo, both groups worked on the same questions. The outcomes of the group discussions are summarized and consolidated in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Systems/Mechanisms used for the Implementation of NIAPs and Lessons and Experiences in NIAP Implementation

Systems / Mechanisms put in place to facilitate NIAP implementation
• Designation of NIAP focal points;   • Special organs put in place such as a working group in Gabon, an anti-poaching and anti-trafficking committee put in place in Congo, or a process of instituting special organs such as a national ad hoc committee in Cameroon and a national technical committee in DRC all aimed at addressing problems of poaching and illegal trafficking;   • Operationalization of the Lusaka Accord in DRC and Congo and support from partners such as PALF - Congo.
The Effectiveness of the different mechanism put in place above in NIAP implementation
• The appointment of NIAP focal points, institution of special organs and support from partners have served in raising the collective consciousness of all major stakeholders especially other state agencies such as Customs to appropriate NIAPs and their implementation by carrying out actions aimed at seizing ivory at exit points.   • The designation of focal points in all instances has permitted the assemblage of information and co-ordination of actions of all concerned actors. Putting in place special organs would add more impetus to the actions of the existing focal points. This also permitted contacts with NGOs and other partners for assistance in the domains of capacity building, finance, materials, equipment and direct intervention in the field with regards to some activities such as ivory inventory. In Cameroon, several workshops on NIAP elaboration and activities such as training on ETIS were carried out with TRAFFIC, WWF and ZSL
Lessons learned and good practices
• There was a general agreement that awareness raising on the NIAP process has increased and other government institutions are becoming more involved in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking activities   • Databases have been put in place in some countries such as seized ivory database in Congo and Cameroon.   • Collaboration has been established with many partners in detection methods such as the use of sniffer dogs in Congo, joint investigations and operations and follow-up of court cases.   • The necessity to implicate all actors in information sharing- though a difficult process;   • The formalization of NIAPs in national wildlife conservation strategies.

5.3 Regional NIAP Priority Activities

While NIAPs are delivered nationally, they also include actions for regional and international collaboration and require a regional approach given ivory trade dynamics. Regional NIAP priority activities need to be embedded within regional frameworks. Countries, including neighbouring s
States not required to develop NIAPs, likely face shared regional challenges and capacity needs which could most efficiently and effectively be addressed through a regional approach.

This is why the third working group session looked at the identification of activities, actions and mechanisms required to implement NIAPs at regional level. Based on the common national priority national actions, participants identified a menu of sub-regional priority actions alongside the needs for their effective implementation and structures to facilitate implementation. Results of the third working group session are summarized in Table 5:

Table 5: Priority Regional Actions, Capacity Needs and Most Appropriate System(s) for the Implementation of NIAPs

Actions / Activities	Needs	Proposed Structure(s)
1. Dismantle networks that illegally provide arms and ammunition to poachers, these may be sophisticated or locally produced.	An effective intelligence system and intensify information sharing mechanisms such as direct communication, meetings, workshops etc.	COMIFAC, ECCAS and TRAFFIC
2. Put in place a mixed inter-State anti-poaching and anti-trafficking brigade that could operate in protected areas nationally and across boundaries.	Develop and operationalize accords for joined and mixed brigades	COMIFAC
3. Create sub-regional brigades specialized in combating illegal ivory trafficking within and across frontiers.	Political will and formal accords	COMIFAC, ECCAS
4. Reinforce collaboration and put in place a system of information collection through intelligence and investigations, and information exchange in co-ordination with specialized units such as CITES, ETIS, and INTERPOL.	A functioning information collection and sharing system via existing mechanisms, communication, meetings etc.	COMIFAC, ECCAS, TRAFFIC
5. Train and build capacity in intelligence and ivory detection techniques as well as provision of materials such as hidden cameras, recorders, surveillance equipment etc.	Recruit and build existing capacity through training and participate in organized forums such as workshops	COMIFAC, UNODC, WCO, TRAFFIC and other specialized organizations
6. Creation of sniffer dog units and training of personnel.	Recruit experts and train personnel to manage the unit	COMIFAC and other specialized organizations
7. Create a regional platform to coordinate actions of the national co-ordination units	Engage concerned structures and governments	CITES-MA, AFRICA-TWIX managed by TRAFFIC
8. Sensitize and formalize protocols with transportation companies operating nationally and across borders.	Identify and work with transport companies	COMIFAC

Photo 2: Group 1 – Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, CAR and other participants

Photo 3: Group 2 – Congo, DRC and other participants

6 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ESSENTIAL NEXT STEPS

At the end of the working group sessions and discussions, the following recommendations and next steps were proposed:

- NIAPs should be integrated and articulated into national conservation strategies and activities covered within national budgets thereby ensuring sustainability. Also, work with partners to identify financial sources; some initially identified include the Global Environment Facility (GEF6), donors in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), The African Development Bank, and the Trinational Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM) budget; while continuing to carry out activities financed by partners as currently practiced. The budgets and/or acquired finances will also enable the provision of needed materials, equipment and logistical support.

- Countries are also advised to consider using the African Elephant Fund which was endorsed and adopted by CITES as the preferred mechanism by which to fund any coordinated activity.

- Reinforce collaboration nationally and regionally through the creation of platforms that would permit discussions and actions with different state agencies beyond those responsible for nature conservation, forests and/or wildlife management, such as administration, finance, defense, and judiciary. Nationally, these platforms or national co-ordination units are to be coordinated by wildlife authorities and NIAP focal points while regionally the co-ordination units would be hosted by COMIFAC or ECCAS depending on the activity.

- Building capacity on intelligence gathering techniques was highly recommended due to the lack of progress with investigations. This would permit the dismantling of ivory trafficking networks, and networks that provide arms and ammunition through the setting up of information collection networks and systems for maintaining and sharing of information between countries.

- Put in place functional and effective inter-State operational anti-poaching and anti-trafficking brigades capable of carrying out activities in the different countries. This will require high level political support from COMIFAC and ECCAS, the use of existing mechanisms and integration into other activities such as the ICCWC toolkit, national and regional strategies with operational support from partners such as TRAFFIC, WWF and other NGOs. These measures will facilitate the implementation of transboundary and regional activities

- Sensitize the general public and also specific groups through the creation of protocols of accord with transporters (syndicates, airline, maritime companies etc.) that could also permit the seizure of wildlife products especially ivory and the equipment used in the contraband activities.

ANNEX I

Workshop Programme

Time Period		Activity	Responsable Person(s)
From	**To**		
**Day 1 - Wednesday 18th November: Introduction and NIAPs**
09:00	09:30	• Welcoming of participants	TRAFFIC, CITES Secretariat, and partners
09 :30	10 :00	• Welcoming remarks • Opening speech • Introduction of participants and expectations • Photo session • Presentation of workshop objectives	• Roland Melisch (TRAFFIC) • Juan Carlos Vasquez (CITES) • Diana Putman (USAID), • Nelly Reliat (GIZ), • Victor Vundu dia Massamba (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development- DRC • Moderator • All • TRAFFIC (Cleo Mashini)
10 :00	**10 :15**	**Coffee-Break**	**All**
10 :15	10 :35	• Poaching and illegal Ivory Trade in Central Africa	• Paulinus Ngeh -TRAFFIC
10 :35	10 :55	• Ivory Market Survey in Central Africa	• Sone Nkoke -TRAFFIC
10 :55	11 :15	• Implementation of PAPECALF 2012-2017	• Godefroid Ndaukila
11 :15	11 :30	• Q & A Session	• Moderator
11 :30	11 :45	• CITES Overview of NIAP Process	• Guy Debonnet CITES
11 :45	12 :00	• Q &A Session	• Moderator
12 :00	**13 :00**	**Lunch**	**All**
13:00	13 :20	• NIAP Implementation – Congo • Q & A Session	• Roger Albert Mbete
13 :20	13 :40	• NIAP Implementation – DRC • Q & A Session	• Federick Djengo
13 :40	14 :00	• NIAP Implementation – Gabon • Q & A Session	• Aime Serge Mibambani
14 :00	14 :20	• Elephant Conservation - Chad • Q & A Session	• Djabou Guindja Sakou
14 :20	**14 :40**	**Coffee-Break**	**All**
14 :40	15:00	• Elephant Conservation - CAR • Q & A Session	• Fidele Faragan
15 :00	15 :20	• Group session- identify shared areas of interest	• Moderator/ Groups
15 :20	16 :20	• Report Back from group work	• Moderator/Groups
16 :20	16 :40	• Report Back from group work	• Moderator/Groups

16 :40	17 :00	• Day 1 Wrap up and Overview of Day 2	• Moderator
Day 2 - Thursday 19th November 2015 : Regional collaboration			
09:00	09:30	• Recap of Day 1	• Juan Carlos Vasquez - CITES Secretariat
09:30	10:00	• NIAP Implementation - Cameroon	• Zambo Thierry
10 :00	10 :30	• ECCAS: Agreements reached at the Brazzaville Conference and the implications in NIAP support	• Jean-Baptiste Mamang-Kanga
10:30	**10:45**	**Coffee-Break**	**All**
10:00	11:30	• Working Group Session – Regional best practices and successes and identification of regional technical assistance, capacity building and funding needs for NIAP implementation	• Moderator + TRAFFIC + WWF + CITES
11 :30	12 :00	• Group work report back session	• Moderator + Groups
12:00	**13:00**	**Lunch**	**All**
13:00	14:15	• Working Group Session-Increased cross border and regional collaboration through effective implementation of activities outlined in NIAPs.	• Moderator + TRAFFIC + WWF + CITES
14 :15	14 :45	• Group work report back session	• Moderator
14:45	**15:00**	**Coffee-Break**	**All**
15:00	16 :15	• Restitution of results from group work session and agreement on Menu of Actions	• Moderator + TRAFFIC + WWF + CITES
16 :15	16 :45	• Final Communiqué- Report Outputs	• Moderator / Secretary
16 :45	17 :00	• Closing Address	TRAFFIC and Representative of Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development- DRC
17:00		• **End of Workshop**	• **Moderator**

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network,
is the leading non-governmental organization
working globally on trade in wild animals and
plants in the context of both biodiversity
conservation and sustainable development.

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