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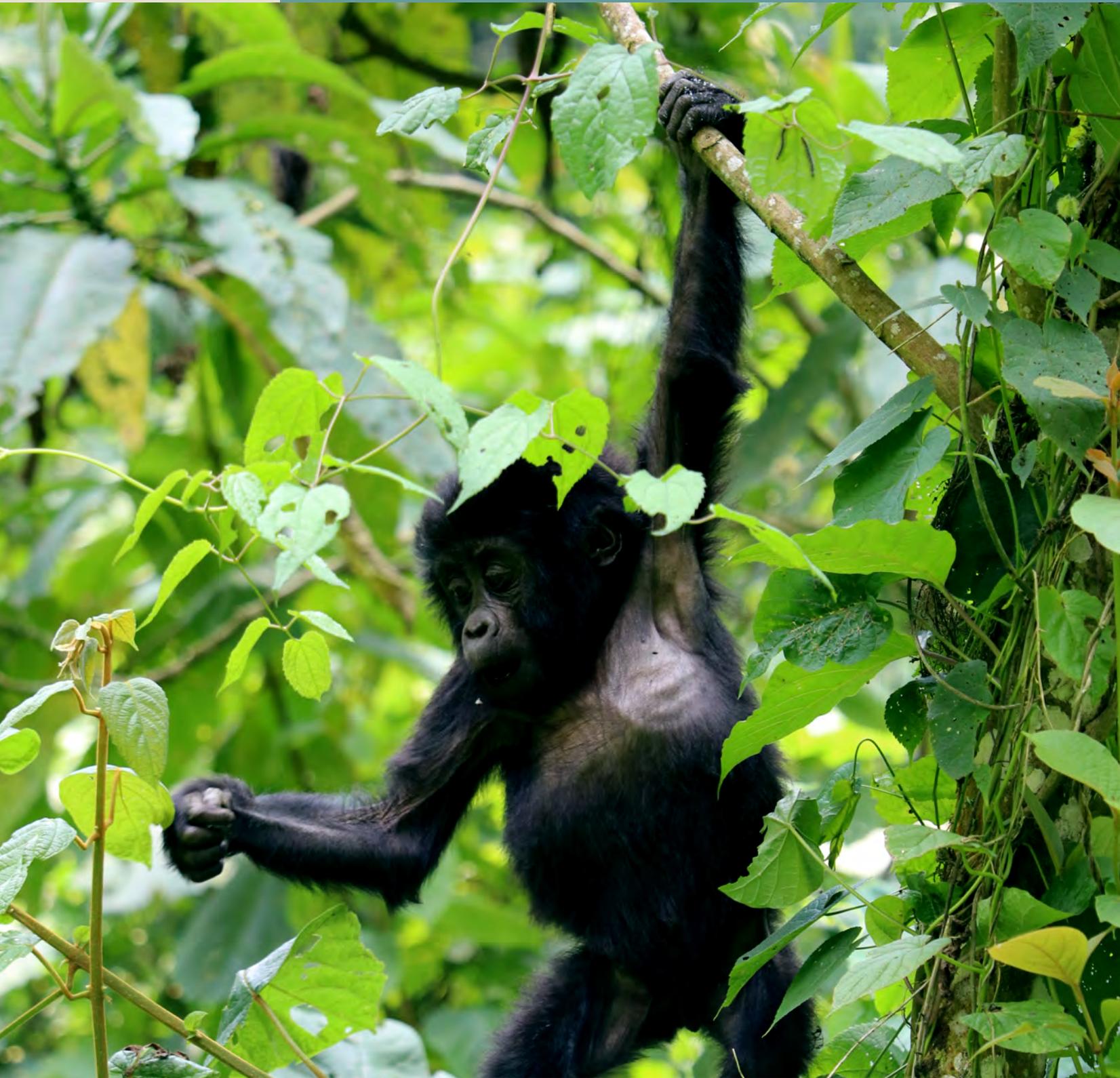
DECEMBER 2019

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIMES

Identifying the needs and priorities of Uganda's judicial and prosecutorial sectors

Compiled by Shivan Kaitesi Kamugisha





TRAFFIC REPORT

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a 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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Grey Crowned Crane in Uganda *Balearica regulorum* © Mark Jordahl



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TRAFFIC would like to thank the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its support to the National Stakeholders' Forum on Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda through the Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting Project (Wildlife TRAPS). Thanks also to WWF for meeting some of the participants costs.

We also thank the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) for hosting and collaborating with TRAFFIC to organise the Forum. Thanks to the Honourable Minister, Professor Ephraim Kamuntu, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Doreen Katusiime and the Commissioner of Wildlife Conservation, Dr. Akankwasah Barirega for their unwavering support.

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TRAFFIC, on behalf of the organisers, would also like to thank the guest of honour, the Director of Public Prosecutions of Uganda, His Lordship Mike Chibita for opening the Forum. Many thanks are extended to the guests from the US Embassy in Uganda, particularly Ambassador Deborah Malac and her colleagues, Anna-Maija Mattila-Litvak, Colleen O'Donnell and Robert Bagyenda.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
Cap	Chapter
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPP	Directorate of Public Prosecutions
EA	East Africa
EAC	East African Community
FIA	Financial Intelligence Agency
FSSD	Forest Sector Support Department
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoU	Government of Uganda
GVL	Greater Virunga Landscape
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IG	Inspectorate of Government
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation
ISO	Internal Security Organisation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance
MOJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NFTPA	National Forestry and Tree Planting Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NRCN	Natural Resource Conservation Network
NWCTF	National Wildlife Crime Task Force
ODPP	Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions
OWODAT	Online Wildlife Offenders Database
PA	Protected Area
PELTS	Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures
QENP	Queen Elizabeth National Park
RRG	Rapid Reference Guide
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
TRAFFIC	The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
TWIX	Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange
UCF	Uganda Conservation Foundation
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPF	Uganda Police Force
US	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
WCO	World Customs Organization
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WILDLIFE TRAPS	Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting Project
WLFC	Global Programme on Wildlife and Forest Crime
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* © Mark Jordahl

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Stakeholders' Forum on Wildlife and Forest Crimes took place from 27th–28th June 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. This Forum was organised by TRAFFIC and the Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN), and hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) with the objective of identifying the needs and priorities of Uganda's judicial and prosecutorial sectors.

The Forum was a result of a consultative meeting organised by TRAFFIC and NRCN on 11th April 2019 in Kampala with the objective of co-ordinating and harmonising national judicial and prosecutorial activities to tackle wildlife crime. The meeting was attended by representatives from various institutions from government, non-government and development partners. These included the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA), Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda's Judiciary, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), National Forest Authority (NFA), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), USAID Uganda, CID/Uganda Police, and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The participants of the consultative meeting proposed a national Forum that would provide an opportunity for key and relevant governmental institutions, partner organisations and donors to understand and harmonise judiciary and prosecution activities at large, identify national priorities and seek commitment for implementation.

The National Forum drew a wide array of participants from different government institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In total, the Forum brought together 40 participants (see Annex I).

The Forum had the following objectives:



Identify the challenges facing effective prosecution and judicial work on wildlife and forest crimes;



Identify priority actions for strengthening judicial and prosecutorial activities; and



To agree on the best way forward to implementing the identified actions.

The first day of the Forum witnessed the opening ceremony with addresses by the Uganda's DPP, His Lordship Mike Chibita, the US Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah Malac, Nick Ahlers, Wildlife TRAPS Project Leader of TRAFFIC and Mr. Stephen Okiror on behalf of Minister Ephraim Kamuntu of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, as well as presentations followed by question and answer sessions. The second day of the Forum was mainly a plenary session which focused on development of an action plan through group discussions on the focus areas previously identified during the consultative meeting. See Annex II for the Forum agenda.

The focus areas of the Forum were

- 1 Policy and legislation**
- 2 Awareness and advocacy**
- 3 Interagency co-ordination and collaboration**
- 4 Capacity development (institutional, personnel, skills and equipment)**
- 6 Regional and international co-operation**

As a way forward, an action plan was developed and a Declaration of commitment on fighting wildlife and forest crimes drafted. The Declaration is attached to this report as Annex III.

OPENING SESSION

The Forum began with the singing of the Uganda national anthem and the East Africa anthem on arrival of the chief guest, Director of Public Prosecutions, His Lordship, Mike Chibita.

This was followed with remarks on the background leading up to the Forum by the chairperson of the steering committee, Madam Daisy Nabasitu. She noted that the National Stakeholders' Forum on Wildlife and Forest Crime was a result of a consultative meeting organised by TRAFFIC and the Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN) in April 2019 with the objective of co-ordinating and harmonising judicial and prosecutorial activities to tackle wildlife and forest crime. She further mentioned that it was out of this consultative meeting that the participants proposed a national Forum as an opportunity for key and relevant governmental institutions, partner organisations and donors, to identify the national priorities in these sectors and seek commitment for implementation.

Opening Remarks

**Head of Legal and Prosecutions, NRCN
Leonard Massa**

Mr. Massa welcomed participants to the Forum and thanked TRAFFIC for spearheading the meeting. He mentioned that one of the major challenges prosecutors faced was delayed case sanctioning due to a lack of expert opinion. He requested the DPP to authorise the sanctioning of files without expert opinion so that cases could go forward.

**Wildlife TRAPS Project Leader, TRAFFIC
Nick Ahlers**

Nick Ahlers described the work of TRAFFIC as a leading expert on finding solutions to reducing unsustainable exploitation and illegal trade of wildlife. He said that TRAFFIC works closely on wildlife trade issues with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). He also said that TRAFFIC's East Africa Office works to address wildlife trade issues in the region, including in Uganda through the USAID-funded Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting project (Wildlife TRAPS) activities that aim to protect global biodiversity from the threat of illegal wildlife trade through strengthening the knowledge base, resolve and co-operation of governments, inter-governmental organisations, the private sector and NGOs in tackling wildlife trafficking between Africa and Asia. He said that Wildlife TRAPS uses targeted assessments, collaborative action planning, and innovative approaches to identify and advance interventions that can break trafficking chains and disrupt organised criminal networks. He stressed that TRAFFIC is committed to fighting wildlife and forest crimes with its mission to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. In closing, he appreciated and called upon support from other development partners and NGOs in the fight against wildlife crime.



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US Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah R Malac

The US Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah R Malac, thanked the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and the Directorate of Public Prosecution for joining USAID, TRAFFIC and NRCN in convening the Forum. She called attention of the participants to the need for more effective partnerships and innovative approaches to tackling the threat from wildlife crime in Uganda. She stated that the US government supports such Forums because of the mutual interest in conserving Uganda's biodiversity, promoting sustainable development and enhancing security by combating wildlife crime. She also said that poaching and illegal trade are contributing to an international conservation crisis and a multi-billion-dollar black-market industry that threatens global security, undermines the rule of law, fuels corruption and hampers economic development, with significant effects on the national interests of the United States, Uganda and other partners around the world. She acknowledged Uganda's key achievements in the fight against wildlife crime such as the establishment of an intelligence unit within the UWA, improved co-ordination at national and international levels, and the development of a revised Wildlife bill which filled important gaps in existing legislation. She went on to say that more work is needed to be done and that the U.S government is committed to partnering with Uganda to combat wildlife crime. She said that the Forum provided an opportunity to convene agencies and harmonise judicial and prosecutorial activities for curbing wildlife crime.

Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Professor Ephraim Kamuntu

Mr. Stephen Okiror spoke on behalf of the Minister, Professor Ephraim Kamuntu, and said the Minister welcomed participants to the Forum. He thanked the chief guest, His Lordship Mike J. Chibita, for gracing the Forum with his presence. He thanked TRAFFIC and USAID for their support towards the realisation of the Forum. He said that, as a Ministry, tackling illegal wildlife trade was a fundamental pillar for conservation and development of wildlife resources in Uganda. He said that the Forum was of paramount importance because wildlife and forest crime cannot be defeated if the prosecution and administration of justice are weak. He said that he looked forward to seeing concrete recommendations from the Forum to strengthen prosecution and administration of justice in Uganda. He called upon the chief guest, His Lordship Mike Chibita to address the participants.

Director of Public Prosecutions, His Lordship Mike J Chibita

The DPP spoke about illegal natural resource exploitation, which is growing at a rate 2–3 times that of the global economy and has become the world's fourth biggest crime sector, valued at USD91–260 billion annually. He also said that in line with the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 of 25th July 2013, Uganda considers illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organised criminal groups, a very serious crime. He mentioned that nature-based tourism in Uganda accounts for USD1.4 billion annually in foreign exchange earnings making the sector the number one foreign exchange earner for Uganda. Destroying this resource base would mean no tourism and hence loss of national revenue, employment and foreign exchange

He mentioned that the Government of Uganda has been developing the capacity to combat these crimes, through capacity building and awareness creation for investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers. The Government has established a dedicated utilities and wildlife court to expedite prosecution of wildlife crimes. The Justice, Law and Order Sector will collaboratively work with stakeholders to develop and implement plans, programmes and strategies to fight wildlife and forest crimes.

He thanked the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, TRAFFIC, USAID, NRCN, WWF and IUCN for organising the Forum.

The opening of the Forum was followed by a group photo session.

Participants at the National Stakeholders' Forum on Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda



FORUM PRESENTATIONS

FORUM OBJECTIVES



Identify the challenges affecting facing prosecution and judicial work on wildlife and forest crimes



Identify priority actions for strengthening judicial and prosecutorial activities; and



To agree on the best way forward to implementing the identified actions.



rhinoceros in Uganda © Marcel Zihlmann

Day One: Thursday, 27th June 2019

The morning session was facilitated by Stephen Okiror, Senior Wildlife Officer MTWA

Wildlife Crime in Uganda: Scope, Efforts and Challenge

Annet Tuheisomwe, Legal Counsel UWA

Ms. Annet Tuheisomwe made the first presentation and described the drivers of wildlife crime such as poverty, concealment and smuggling methods and the impacts of wildlife crime on local livelihoods. She talked about the different categories of people involved in committing and combating wildlife crime.

Common wildlife crimes in Uganda

- Illegal killing (poaching) for meat and trophies
- Unlicensed trade in wildlife and wildlife products
- Unlicensed possession of wildlife as pets, ornaments, trophies
- Illegal importation of wildlife into the country for use as pets or for re-export
- Transit of wildlife/wildlife products from neighbouring countries through Uganda

Methods of smuggling and concealment of wildlife products



Challenges

- Corruption;
- Highly organised criminal networks;
- Policy loopholes

Way forward

- Stakeholder engagement (internal and external) in the fight against wildlife crime;
- Explore the use of technology to counter increasingly sophisticated wildlife crime;
- Sharing of resources (tools and equipment) across agencies; and
- Advocate for political support against wildlife trafficking.

Forest Crime in Uganda: Scope, Efforts and Challenges

Moses Muhumuza, Legal Manager National Forest Authority (NFA)

The second presentation was made by Mr. Moses Muhumuza, Legal Manager at National Forest Authority (NFA) who began by describing the Authority's mandate. He said that NFA was created by the promulgation of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act No.8 of 2003 (NFTPA) as a corporate body responsible for sustainable development and management of Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) and provision of technical support to stakeholders in the forestry sub-sector.

Some of the main challenges he spoke about included:

- Political interference;
- Corruption;
- Increasing pressure on forestry land leading to massive encroachment and increasing demand for forest products;
- Inadequate mechanisms to enforce other legal requirements e.g. National Environment Act, Water Act etc. given that landowners are required to utilise the land in accordance to other laws; forest resources continue to decline;
- Weak national laws e.g. penalties are not punitive enough to deter recurrent violations;
- The law does not sufficiently control the harvesting of timber from private forests; and
- Relationship between NFA and other institutions is weak.

Mr. Muhumuza highlighted some of the ongoing efforts/priority areas that NFA was undertaking actions to counter forest crime which included:

- Continued development and approval of Forest management plans to improve the management of the Central Forest Reserves (already 18 forest area management plans have been approved;)
- Improving co-ordination of forest protection activities including tracking and handling of impounded products with key stakeholders;
- Expansion of partnership arrangements to bring on board other actors with capacity to enhance aspects of CFR management that possibly beyond NFA's institutional capacity;
- NFA has licensed all its lawyers under ODPP to carry out prosecutions;
- Meetings with encroachers, local district leaders, and other stakeholders as a pre-activity to removing encroachers; and
- Ongoing boundary re-opening and marking in selected CFRs.

Way forward

- Training of officers under the judiciary and ODPP on forestry offences and application of the laws;
- Setting up of specialised courts across the country to combat case backlogs;
- Government holds forest reserves in trust for the benefit of all Ugandans. As part of its oversight role, the legislature should ensure that the public respects the trust doctrine in forestry resource management;
- Amendment of the NFTPA and the Regulations thereunder;
- The Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) should facilitate better co-ordination between NFA and the District Forestry Services for improved overall performance;
- Lobby the government to provide supplementary financing for the NFA Wage Bill, forest boundary opening and marking, community tree planting, operationalisation of the forest protection force proposal and national biomass study; and
- Sensitisation of the judiciary on forestry laws and prioritising forestry cases.

The Role of ODPP in Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda: Success Stories, Challenges and Future Outlook

Daisy Nabasitu, Head of Environment Division, Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions

The third presentation was made by Ms. Daisy Nabasitu, with ODPP who said that it was the constitutional mandate of the ODPP to prosecute all criminal cases which included wildlife and forest crime. She further stated that in executing his duties, the Director of Public Prosecutions delegates some of his functions to prosecutors working directly under him and those licensed to carry out prosecutions on behalf of agencies/institutions.

She highlighted some of the following success stories achieved by the ODPP as follows:

- Increasing conviction rates in both wildlife and forest crimes;
- Conducting prosecution-led investigations;
- Continuous capacity building of prosecutors in handling wildlife and forest crime;
- Establishment of an environment division handling wildlife and forest crime;
- Availability of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) under the department of international co-operation of ODPP; and
- Creation of a national database managed by UWA.

She noted that despite the success stories, there were a number of challenges faced in prosecuting wildlife and forest crimes which included:

- Corruption;
- Political interference;
- Failure to establish values of wildlife and forest crime exhibits;
- Lack of training on tracing financial flows related to wildlife and forest crimes, asset recovery and forfeiture;
- Criminal gangs with strong and sophisticated intelligence networks;
- Inadequate co-operation and co-ordination between enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wildlife trafficking cases;
- Policy loopholes (less punitive sentences);
- Insufficient financial and human capital; and
- Investigators not properly trained on crime scene management and case management – consequently evidence challenged in court.

Way forward

- Equipping law enforcers and investigators with the requisite tools;
- Capacity building of law enforcement officers, investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers;
- Encouraging inter-agency co-ordination, co-operation and communication;
- Establishment of a global wildlife crime prosecutors' network;
- Raise awareness on existing bilateral agreements, MoUs and MLA (trans-border crimes) to all those engaged in countering wildlife and forest crime;
- Investigate money laundering (following the money trail) in wildlife and forest crimes; and
- Creation of a one-stop centre for laws and policies on wildlife in Uganda.

The Role of Judiciary in Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda: Success Stories, Challenges and Future Outlook

Her Worship Gladys Kamasanyu, Chief Magistrate

Her worship, Gladys Kamasanyu said that Uganda, like many African countries has long been considered a transit route for illicit wildlife products like ivory. She also said that whereas most wildlife species transiting through Uganda are illegally sourced from other countries, although some products are actually poached within Uganda. She told the Forum that the judiciary were key stakeholders in combating wildlife and forest crimes stemming from the mandate given by the constitution of Uganda in the administration of justice under Article 126.

She said that the judiciary had taken deliberate steps towards ending the impunity of wildlife and forest crimes by establishing Africa's first and only specialised wildlife court (Standards, Utilities and Wildlife Court) at the Chief Magistrate's Court of Kampala at Buganda Road. She also said that the court has an expanded jurisdiction (can circuit and handle cases in other parts of the country).

Success stories

- The establishment of a specialised Wildlife Court which has led to expeditious, efficient, orderly and cost-effective adjudication of wildlife cases at the magistrates' level;
- First tracking of wildlife and forestry cases;
- Increased registrations of wildlife and forest cases;
- More meaningful and deterrent sentences awarded; and
- No backlog in wildlife and forest cases.

Launch of the wildlife court on 26th May 2017 (Left) and Her Worship Gladys Kamasanyu presiding



Challenges

- The specialised Wildlife Court lacks its own court house;
- State interference which hinders judicial independence;
- Community ignorance about wildlife and forest crimes;
- Corruption;
- Lack of exhibit storage facilities;
- Threats to personal security;
- Lack of specialisation at the appellate level which has seen contraband released to accused persons;
- Lack of approved sentencing guidelines; and
- Inadequate training and appreciation of wildlife and forestry crimes and their effect on the economy by judicial officers.

Way forward

- Continuous training of all key stakeholders;
- Engagement with the judiciary administration to bring about stability at the court and consider expanding the court to a High Court Division;
- Sensitisation of communities through court open days, radio talk shows;
- Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks in the fight against wildlife and forestry crimes; and
- Development of standard guidelines for prosecutors and magistrates in wildlife and forestry crimes

The Role of Anti-Corruption Institutions in Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda: Success Stories, Challenges and Future Outlook

Ms. Lisa Mwangale, Inspectorate of Government

Ms. Lisa Mwangale presenting on the role of the Inspectorate of Government (IG) in tackling wildlife and forest crimes in Uganda stated that the Inspectorate is mandated under articles 225 and 226 of the Constitution of Uganda covering anti-corruption and ombudsman of public officers and institutions created by Acts of Parliament and public funds. She also said that the IG's role in tackling wildlife and forest crimes involved carrying out investigations, undertaking prosecutions, asset recovery, public sensitisation and supervising enforcement of the Leadership Code of Conduct.

Challenges

She noted that one of the main challenges faced was the limited jurisdiction over public officials and funds.

Way forward

To tackle the above challenge, she called for strategic partnerships with key players in the wildlife and forest conservation industry in order to combat wildlife and forest crimes in Uganda.

UNODC Support on Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda

Steve Thurlow, Law Enforcement Expert, UNODC

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

Mr. Thurlow described the ICCWC as a partnership between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and that in November 2010, the consortium launched the ICCWC Analytic toolkit to analyse criminal justice responses to a Global Programme on Wildlife and Forest Crime (WLFC). This allows countries to design technical assistance and capacity building based on facts.

Support to Law Enforcement, Prosecution and the Judiciary

Mr. Thurlow stated that UNODC developed Rapid Reference Guides (RRG) for WLFC prosecutors and investigators. He described the guides as simple, synthesised handbooks which compile relevant legislation, standard operating procedures and points to prove. In Uganda, six trainings have taken place throughout the country with over 200 officials trained on the use of the RRG.

UNODC in collaboration with UK-based forensic experts TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network are providing support for the creation of a Portable Enforcement Lab for Testing Seizures (PELTS) at the Uganda Wildlife Authority. They are also providing training and equipment to UWA so that they can be able to extract DNA in-house.

He also noted that UNODC is planning to carry out a two-year programme of training, mentorship and support in co-ordination with the British High Commission, Uganda Conservation Foundation and the UNODC/WCO Control Programme.

Rwenzori Mountain in Uganda

WWF Activities to Support Law Enforcement on Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda

Simon Peter Weredwong, Conservation Programme Manager, WWF

Mr. Weredwong presented WWF's theory of change and called on participants to adopt a Zero Poaching policy which he defined as part of a holistic approach to tackling wildlife crime. He went on to highlight WWF's achievements and challenges towards tackling wildlife crime.

Achievements

- Developed and launched the Zero Poaching strategy for Queen Elizabeth National Park;
- Conducted ranger welfare perception assessments;
- Developed a lion strategy to reduce retaliatory killings;
- Conducted training on the Rapid Reference Guide for judiciary and law enforcement staff done for districts near Queen Elizabeth, Semuliki, Kibaale and Rwenzori National Parks;
- Rehabilitated three reformed poacher groups; and
- Piloted community Information and Communications Technology (ICT) model for forest and wildlife crimes around Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) and Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve.

Challenges

- Lucrative nature of wildlife crime making it a temptation to criminals;
- Instability in neighbouring countries making it difficult to manage certain areas;
- Vast areas covered by protected areas requiring regular monitoring; and
- Donors interested in funding infrastructure yet most of the successful anti-poaching strategies involve technology.

Way forward

- Need for transboundary approach for curbing Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT);
- Broader stakeholder engagement for clear understanding of IWT and reduction strategies; and
- Need for additional capacity, technically and logistical to handle IWT issues.

Rwenzori Mountain in Uganda

WCS Law Enforcement Support on Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda

Geoffrey Mwedde, IWT Project Manager, WCS

Mr. Mwedde described the different interventions that Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is taking to support the combating of wildlife crime. These are summarised as follows:

- Promoting Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration through joint operations and research;
- Implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART);
- Creation of an Online Wildlife Offenders Database (OWODAT);
- Providing support to the National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force (NWCCTF);
- Building capacity (intelligence and investigation) for UWA's Law Enforcement Unit; and
- Providing support to UWA's Canine Unit.

TRAFFIC's Judiciary Strengthening Activities in East Africa

Ms. Linah Clifford, Legal Officer, TRAFFIC

Ms. Clifford mentioned that TRAFFIC's focal countries are Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. She described the judiciary strengthening activities that TRAFFIC is undertaking as

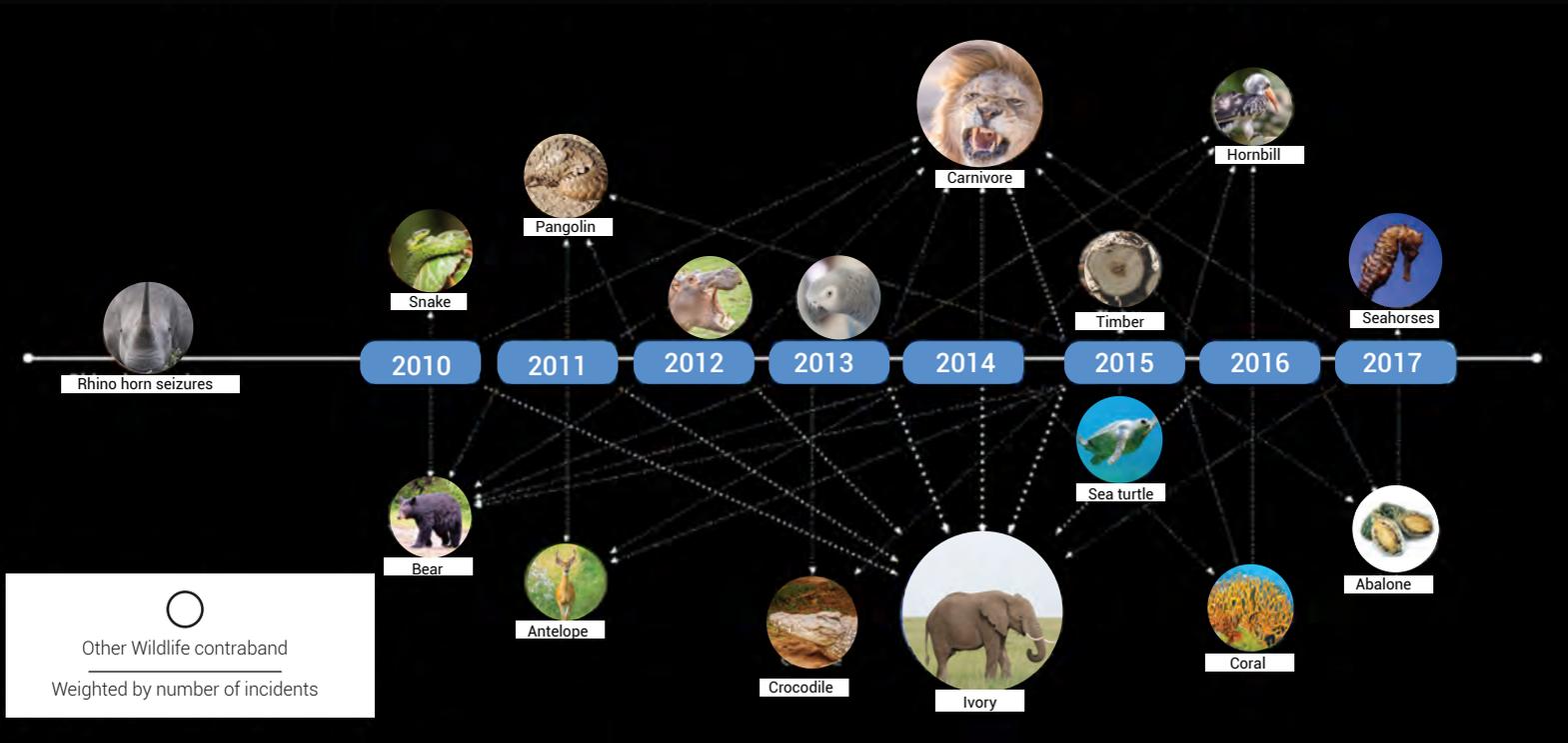
- Prosecutorial assistance trainings in Tanzania supported by GIZ, Wildlife TRAPS and USAID -PROTECT and in collaboration with IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and Tanzania's Judiciary;
- Carried out a National Stakeholder Forum on Wildlife and Forest Crimes aimed at identifying the needs and priorities of Tanzania's Judicial and Prosecutorial Sectors in June 2018;
- In conjunction with Tanzania's Institute of Judicial Administration and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) established an e-course for Tanzania's judicial officers on laws and procedures for combatting illegal wildlife trade.
- Establishing a Permanent Forum and Secretariat for wildlife prosecutors in East Africa to promote co-operation on transnational wildlife crimes, data (investigation and evidence) sharing, bilateral agreements, and Mutual Legal Assistance, updates and harmonisation of relevant laws, procedures and penalties; and
- Establishing a Centre of Excellence for Prosecutors in the fight against wildlife crime, corruption and other related crimes in Africa.

Ms. Clifford described TRAFFIC's internal wildlife trade information database as a central one for collecting, storing, analysing and sharing data internally or through information sharing agreements (ISAs) with other organisations. The information detects patterns and relationships helping answer complex questions. She mentioned some of the different types of entities included in the database, such as incidents, species, location, person and market surveys.

Examples of some of the questions that can be asked during data analysis:

- ❓ Where are the trade hubs and routes?
- ❓ Where are poaching/harvesting hotspots?
- ❓ Which species/commodities are being seized?
- ❓ Are specific concealment methods being used?
- ❓ How are persons connected? What is the structure of a criminal network? (identifying kingpins/gatekeepers)
- ❓ How long are people sent to prison for?

Link analysis: What is being traded alongside rhino horn?



NRCN Support on Tackling Wildlife and Forest Crimes in Uganda

Winnie Namayanje, Prosecutor, NRCN

Ms. Namayanje informed the Forum participants that the DPP appointed six NRCN lawyers as public prosecutors to prosecute wildlife cases. She said that the NRCN has a public private partnership arrangement (through a signed MoU) with the Uganda Wildlife Authority to support their efforts in investigations and prosecution of wildlife cases in Uganda.

She mentioned that the NRCN supports the judiciary and prosecutorial sectors through:

- Organising trainings for prosecutors geared towards improving their prosecutorial skills, knowledge of the law and co-ordination with the investigators;
- Training magistrates on wildlife laws; and
- Facilitating transfer of suspects from upcountry to the wildlife court in Kampala.

Ms. Namayanje highlighted some of the challenges faced which included: corruption, inadequate financial investigations, inadequate co-operation among investigation and prosecution agencies, and lengthy court cases.

Way forward

- Develop a strategy to deal with cross border crime
- Create awareness about wildlife crime

Oribi at Murchison Falls National Park Chobe Gate, Uganda © Jeremy Lwanga

Q&A SESSION



Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda © Random Institute

Questions, comments and responses to the session were as follows:

QUESTIONS	COMMENTS/RESPONSES
In the context of financial investigations, how do different agencies coordinate?	There is no agency in charge of asset recovery in Uganda. The ODPP established a department where financial investigations could be handled. UWA is working together with the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) to forge a way forward in regard to financial investigations. There is an assets recovery unit under the Directorate of Legal Affairs dealing with financial investigations. Financial investigations are limited to public officials and asset recovery is conviction based.
Does UWA evaluate whether the revenue sharing funds are having a positive impact on local communities?	<p>Under section 69(4) of the <i>Uganda Wildlife Act Cap 200 of 2000</i>, UWA is supposed to pay 20% of the park entry fees collected from wildlife protected area to the local government of the area surrounding the wildlife protected area from which the fees were collected. These funds have not been properly managed at the local government level and have failed to trickle down to local people.</p> <p>Under the new revenue sharing guidelines drafted by UWA, districts are required to disburse the money directly to parishes that neighbour a national park, where affected communities are given a chance to select a project of their choice to be implemented by project implementation committees.</p>
What is NFA doing about the rampant deforestation that is affecting wildlife numbers? Is NFA collaborating with UWA to avoid this?	NFA is planting trees and giving licences for tree planting in forest reserves. NFA is also managing some forest areas together with UWA (dual management).
Are the forest reserves surveyed? Why are people getting land titles in forest reserves?	Forests are gazetted under Acts of Parliament. People acquiring land titles in forest reserves is a major challenge which NFA is facing. The prosecution of such cases usually takes a long time just to get one title cancelled. Often titles are not cancelled. At the moment, NFA is doing humane legal evictions.
Is there a plan/strategy by the judiciary to rehabilitate ex-convicts?	The work of the judiciary is to sentence and not to rehabilitate. UWA supports reformed poacher groups and TRAFFIC is working directly with prisons.
Are the laws strong enough to give well deserving punishment to offenders?	Some laws don't provide sufficient penalties with respect to crimes committed however, the recently amended Uganda Wildlife Act provides for harsh penalties.
The judiciary is reporting over 99% convictions, is it because of weak laws which give lenient sentences? Are there repeat offenders?	The high rate of case convictions is due to overwhelming evidence presented. The court has not yet received repeat offenders.
Is there a long-term strategy for the judiciary to decentralise justice to areas where crimes are committed?	Even though the court is based in Kampala, the court will circuit to other areas when the need arises. Other courts still have jurisdiction to handle wildlife crime cases upcountry.
It has been presented that the wildlife court doesn't have a court house, have you approached the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MJCA) to talk about the challenge?	The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has not yet been engaged in regards to a court house.

Day two: 28th June 2019

Day 2 was facilitated by Dr. Akankwasah Barirega, Commissioner of Wildlife Conservation (MTWA). As a recap of day 1, he asked participants to highlight the key issues mentioned in the various presentations made.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KEY ISSUES MENTIONED IN DAY 1

Challenges

- Corruption
- Various capacity building needs
- Weak penalties for offenders
- Weak and contradicting laws
- High organisation of crime networks
- Political interference
- Increasing population pressure
- Prosecution and investigation gaps

Way forward

- Make optimal use of resources
- Better co-ordination among stakeholders
- Intelligence led investigations
- Need for post-trial rehabilitation of ex-convicts
- Need to study market chains of IWT
- Look into avenues of diplomatic privileges for illegal entry of wildlife products
- More effort in financial investigations and asset recovery needed
- Sensitisation of judges on WLFC
- Information sharing among agencies
- Use of advanced technology for investigations
- Need for sentencing guidelines for wildlife crimes
- Security for prosecutors
- Take advantage of the political support

DISCUSSION

After the recap of Day 1, a working group session was established in order to develop an action plan. Participants broke off into three groups and discussed the focal areas in respect to the following questions;

- What needs to be done? – Strategic actions
- How should it be done? – Activities
- Who should do it? – Stakeholder roles
- When will it be done? – Scheduling activities
- What will be the measure of success? – Key Performance

The Action plan is attached to this report as Annex IV.

One of the Forum working groups



ACTION PLAN

Several strategic actions emerged from the group discussions which are summarised below.

FOCAL AREA 1: Policy and Legislation

- Develop guidelines for valuation of natural resources;
- Domestication of international conventions/treaties;
- Harmonisation of relevant laws related to wildlife and forest crimes;
- Harmonisation of institution mandates and streamlining of their roles;
- Develop a national strategy to combat wildlife crime; and
- Mutual legal assistance.

FOCAL AREA 2: Awareness and Advocacy

- Develop a communications strategy for advocacy and awareness;
- Public sensitisation;
- Stakeholder workshops national and international levels;
- Publicity through the media;
- Consultative meetings with stakeholders;
- Periodic surveys; and
- Participate in the different security and committee meetings in the conservation area.

FOCAL AREA 3: Capacity Development (Institutional, Personnel, Skills and Equipment)

- Institutionalise training of judiciary, prosecutors & investigators on wildlife, forestry and associated laws (e.g. money laundering) within institutions;
- Train on exhibit handling and forensics;
- E-course training on forest, wildlife, fisheries and associated laws;
- Training on sentencing guidelines;
- Training on wildlife and forest values;
- Training on pre-court preparation (e.g. witnesses);
- Undertake risk assessment for corruption;
- Shared database on wildlife and other crimes;
- Undertake wildlife crimes court assessment to get a baseline;
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of wildlife, forestry and fisheries crime;

FOCAL AREA 3: Continued...

- Develop and digitise compendium of wildlife and forest laws and regulations;
- Develop and implement Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX) in Uganda; and
- Equip the forensics lab.

FOCAL AREA 4: Inter-Agency Co-ordination and Collaboration

- Fast track the operationalisation of the National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force (NWCCTF);
- Conduct joint law enforcement (operations, investigations);
- Sign MoUs for purposes of information sharing;
- Share resources for capacity building and operations, including identifying and writing proposals to funding partners;
- Establish a national stakeholders' platform/Forum to share information on wildlife and forest crimes;
- Create an online platform to facilitate information sharing;
- Establish a web portal through which the general public can report crime; and
- Sign MoUs between government agencies and CSOs to facilitate information sharing, joint

FOCAL AREA 5: Regional and International Cooperation

- Use the mutual legal assistance framework;
- Harmonisation of laws at regional level, and lobby for CITES listing for endangered species;
- Jointly leverage for support from regional/international existing wildlife enforcement networks and organisations;
- Utilising the Financial Intelligence Units network; and
- Strengthen co-ordination within trading blocks such as EAC, COMESA in combating wildlife crime.

THE DECLARATION

At the end of the Forum, participants deliberated on the draft declaration and approved it. Participants were urged to implement the Action Plan in their respective institutions. It was resolved that another national forum be convened in 2020 to review progress towards implementation of the Action Plan. The declaration is attached as Annex III of this report.

CONCLUSION

Closing Remarks by Nick Ahlers

Mr. Ahlers congratulated the different organisations for their participation in the Forum, which he said had been incredibly helpful and productive. He emphasised the importance of implementing the action plans developed by the participants and reiterated TRAFFIC's commitment to supporting the various organisations

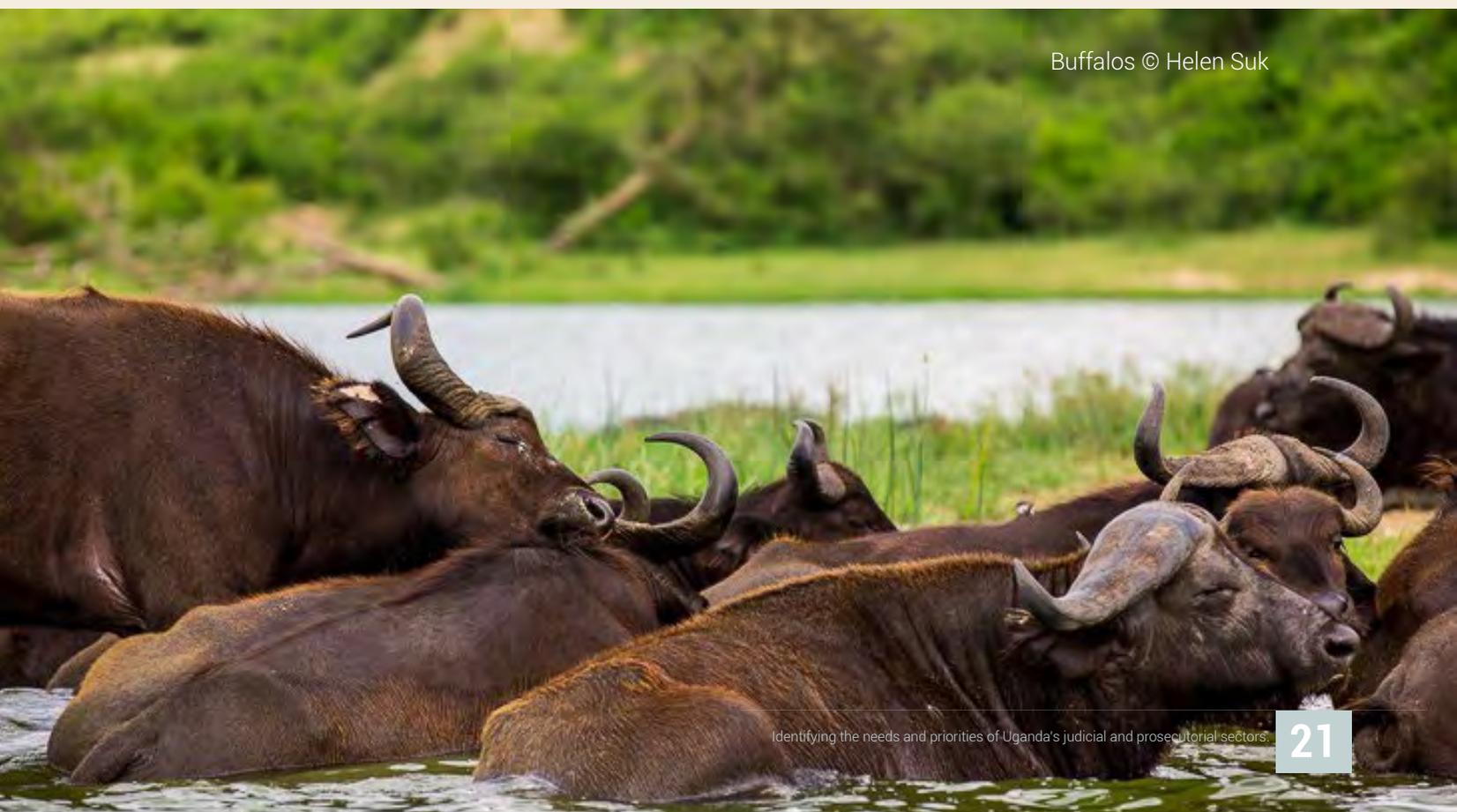
Closing Remarks by the Chairperson Steering Committee, Ms. Daisy Nabasitu

Making her remarks on behalf of the National Forum Steering Committee, Ms. Nabasitu thanked the participants for attending, being active and making fruitful deliberations. She urged members to implement the action plan. She thanked the conveners of the National Forum and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities for organising the function.

Closing Remarks by the Commissioner, MTWA, Dr. Barirega Akankwasah

Speaking on behalf of the MTWA, Dr. Akankwasah expressed his sincere appreciation to all participants who attended the Forum. He said that it demonstrated commitment towards the cause. He expressed his gratitude to the partners that made the Forum possible and the organising committee led by Daisy Nabasitu. He expressed his gratitude to TRAFFIC for actively facilitating and supporting the Forum. He called upon government and conservation partners to support and prioritise implementation of the action plan. He also said that the Ministry was committed and ready to steer implementation of the action plan. He finally declared the National Stakeholders' Forum on Wildlife and Forest Crimes officially closed.

Buffalos © Helen Suk



ANNEXES

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIMES HELD AT PROTEA HOTEL, ENTEBBE ON 27TH AND 28TH JUNE 2019

No.	Name	Organisation	Position
1	Deborah Malac	US State Department	Ambassador
2	Anna-Maija Mattila-Litvak	USAID	USAID Development Outreach and Communications Officer
3	Colleen O'Donnell	USAID	ENR/Biodiversity Specialist
4	Robert Bagyenda	USAID	ENR Project Management Specialist
5	Mike Chibita	ODPP	Director of Public Prosecution
6	Lenard Massa	NRCN	Head of Prosecution
7	Annet Tuheisomwe	UWA	Legal Counsel
8	James Omoding	IUCN	Senior Program Officer
9	Joyce Barbara Abanga	MJCA	Senior State Attorney
10	Shivan Kamugisha	UCF	Project Coordinator
11	Steve Thurlow	UNODC	Law Enforcement Expert
12	Daisy Nabasitu	ODPP	Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions
13	Gladys Kamasanyu	JUDICIARY	Magistrate Grade I
14	Winnie Namayenje	NRCN	Prosecutor
15	Geoffrey Mwedde	WCS	IWT Projects Manager
16	Wilson Francis Magomu	UGANDA PRISON SERVICE	Commissioner
17	Akankwasah Barirega	MTWA	Commissioner/Facilitator
18	Stephen Fred Okiror	MTWA	Senior Wildlife Officer
19	Joward Baluku	MTWA	Wildlife Officer
20	Micheal Mugabe	MTWA	Wildlife Officer
21	Julie Thomson	TRAFFIC	Director East Arica
22	Allen Mgaza	TRAFFIC	Wildlife TRAPS Project Officer
23	Shanny Pelle	TRAFFIC	Finance and Accounting Officer
24	Linah Clifford	TRAFFIC	Legal Officer
25	Zilpa Mpala	TRAFFIC	Administrative Assistant
26	Hassan Kato	Internal Security Organisation (ISO)	Legal Officer
27	Birungi Ruhuma Charles	INTERPOL	Deputy Director Interpol
28	Simon Weredwong	WWF	Conservation Projects manager
29	Cynthia Kavu	AWF	Legal Associate
30	Nick Ahlers	TRAFFIC	Wildlife TRAPS Project Leader
31	Mukasa Lazarus	Financial Intelligence Authority	Manager Operational Analysis
32	Lisa Mwangale	Inspectorate of Government	Director of Special Investigations
33	Joseph Kwesiga	NFA	Legal Officer
34	Moses Muhumuza	NFA	Legal Manager
35	Stephen Echuru	UPF	Criminal Investigations
36	David Dongo	CUSTOMS	Supervisor Customs
37	Brenda Kyomuhendo	MTWA	Wildlife Officer

ANNEX II

AGENDA OF THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME.

26th June 2019, Participants arrive

Day 1 27th June 2019

Formalities		
8:00 – 8:30	Registration of participants	All
8:30 – 8:50	Welcoming participants and Introduction	Facilitator
8:50 – 9:00	Greeting Note	NRCN
9:00 – 9:10	Greeting Note	TRAFFIC's W/TRAPS Project Leader,
9:10 – 9:20	Greeting Note	US Ambassador
9:20 – 9:40	Opening Remarks	Minister MTWA
9:40 – 10:00	Opening speech	His Lordship the DPP
10:00 – 10:30	Group photo and coffee break	All
Setting the scene - Presentations about wildlife crime and efforts towards its elimination		
10:30 – 10:40	Forum Objectives and outcomes	Facilitator
10:40 – 11:10	Wildlife Crime in Uganda: Scope, Efforts and challenges	UWA
11:10- 11:40	Forest Crime in Uganda: Scope, Efforts and challenges	NFA
11:40 – 12:10	The role of ODPP in tackling wildlife and forest crime in Uganda; success stories,	ODPP
12:10 – 12:40	challenges and future outlook	Judiciary
12:40 – 13:00	The role of Judiciary in tackling wildlife and forest crime in Uganda; success	IG
13:10 – 14:00	stories,challenges and future outlook	All
14:00 – 14:30	The role of Anti-corruption Institutions in tackling wildlife and forest crime in Uganda;	UNODC
14:30 – 15:00	success stories, challenges and future outlook	WWF
15:00 – 15:30	Lunch	WCS
15:30 – 16:00	UNODC Activities to support the judiciary and prosecution	TRAFFIC
16:00 – 16:30	WWF Activities to support law enforcement	NRCN
16:30 – 17:00	WCS Activities to support law enforcement	All
17:00	Court case monitoring/Judiciary trainings/Centre of Excellence	Facilitator

Day 2 27th June 2019

Finding Solutions		
08:30 – 08:40	Recap of previous day	Facilitator
08:40 – 09:40	Endorsing the focal areas of work	Facilitator
09:40 – 10:00	Group work: evaluating the baseline, identifying gaps and needs, identifying actions	Group work
10:00 – 10:20	Coffee break	All
10:20 – 11:00	Group work: evaluating the baseline, identifying gaps and needs, identifying actions	Group work
11:00 – 11:40	Group presentations	Groups
11:40 – 13:00	Group work: developing the Action Plan and discussing the Declaration	Facilitator
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	All
The way forward		
14:00 – 15:30	Approving the pre-draft Declaration and the actions/Action Plan	Facilitator
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:00	Wrap up of the meeting	Facilitator
16:00 – 16:15	Closing remarks from USAID	USAID
16:15 – 16:30	Remarks from MTWA	MTWA
16:30 – 16:45	Official Closing	MTWA

ANNEX III

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME¹

DECLARATION

1. We, the representatives of the Uganda Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, conservation partners and international community gathered in Entebbe on 27th and 28th June 2019, recognising the significant scale and detrimental economic, social and environmental consequences of wildlife and forest crime;

A. The scale and consequences of the wildlife and Forest crimes

2. Aware that wildlife and forest crime presents a serious threat to the conservation of biodiversity and impacts on ecosystems and species, disrupts their essential functions, damages and hampers local livelihoods and the sustainable use of the resources, results in loss for local and national economies and is a threat to peace and security;

3. Convinced that wildlife and forest crime is a serious and growing problem involving powerful, organised and transnational networks that undermines good governance, rule of law, economic development, peace and security;

4. Appreciating that law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and the judiciary face extreme challenges in fighting this highly organised and powerful network;

5. Cognizant that strong, incisive, collaborative, co-ordinated interagency and international urgent action is needed to stop wildlife and forest crime;

B. Building on the existing international framework for action

6. Further recognising and acknowledging esteemed efforts and commitment by the Government of the Republic of Uganda in fighting against wildlife and forest crime in the country in collaboration with international and national community including United Nations agencies and international development agencies and reaffirming that these efforts need to be reinforced and strengthened to completely eradicate wildlife and forest crime;

7. Welcoming other national, regional and international community efforts to address and fight illicit trafficking in wildlife (as a component of wildlife crime) and the co-operation between inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations, as well as activities of United Nations agencies and other entities, for the prevention and fight of wildlife crime, including the Paris Declaration of 2013, the London Declaration of 2014, the Kasane Statement of 2015, the Brazzaville Declaration of 2015 and the Hanoi Statement of 2016;

8. Further welcoming the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 of 25th July 2013 on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora, wherein the Council encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organised criminal groups a serious crime;

¹ "Wildlife and forest" refers to all fauna and flora, including animals, birds and fish, as well as timber and non-timber forest products. "Wildlife and forest crime" refers to the taking, trading (supplying, selling or trafficking), importing, exporting, processing, possessing, obtaining and consumption of wild fauna and flora, including timber and other forest products, in contravention of national or international law. Broadly speaking, wildlife and forest crime is the illegal exploitation of the world's wild flora and fauna (UNODC website: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime/overview.html>)

9. Recognising that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption constitute effective tools and an important part of the legal framework for international cooperation in fighting illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

10. Further recognising the important work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), a collaborative effort of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), by inter alia, providing technical assistance to Member States;

11. Taking note of the World Wildlife Crime Report on Trafficking in Protected Species, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2016;

12. Acknowledging the legal framework and the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as the main mechanism for regulating international trade in species of wild fauna and flora;

13. Further welcoming the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution A/71/L.88 on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking, wherein, inter alia, UN Member States are encouraged to harmonise their judicial, legal and administrative regulations to support the exchange of evidence regarding criminal prosecution of illicit trafficking in wildlife, as well as to establish national level inter-agency wildlife crime task forces and facilitate the exchange of evidence between the different government agencies, to the extent consistent with national legislation;

C. Call for action

Hereby agree as follows:

14. To adopt a set of actions in Appendix I annexed to the current declaration to guide the investigation, prosecution and administration of justice aimed at preventing and combating wildlife and forest crime in Uganda;

15. To call upon the support of national, regional and international partner organisations to support the law enforcement, investigations, prosecution and administration of justice to address wildlife and forest crime in Uganda;

D. Way forward

16. Resolve that another national Forum be convened to review progress towards implementation of the action plan in 2020

ANNEX IV

National Action Plan to strengthen prosecution and judicial service in combating wildlife and forest crime in Uganda

FOCAL AREA 1: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Strategic Action	Activity	Key Performance Indicators	Lead Institution	Cost	Period
Empower the primary laws	Amend the laws	The no. of laws amended	All Agencies		8 months
	Enhancing the punitive penalties				12 months
	Develop guidelines for the valuation of natural resources	Recruitment of a valuation committee- MTWA, MWE. Database of the natural resources and their			
	Consultative meetings and lobbying legislators, bench marking Lobby the speaker of parliament on assent of the president.	Gazettelement of the database values			
Domestication of international conventions/treaties provisions example CITES.	Identify the treaties/convections not yet domesticated	No. of treaties/conventions domesticated.	MTWA/MOJCA/ MWE/NFA/UWA		
	Engage the first parliamentary counsel				
Harmonization of conflicting domestic laws	Identify the laws that need harmonization	The laws amended			
	Engage Law Reform Commission				
	Amend the laws				
Harmonize the institutions mandates and streamline their roles	Identify the institutions mandates overlapping	Institutions mandates streamlined.			
	Streamline the roles overlapping				
Developing a national strategy to combat wildlife crime (National Wildlife Crime Taskforce)	Expedite the formation of the strategy	Strategy in place	All Agencies		
Mutual Legal Assistance	Identify technical expertise on MLA	MLA Act in place			
	Lobby for financial assistance in making of the Act	Having bilateral and multilateral agreements in place with the concerned countries			
	Identify focal authorities and office in the concerned countries				

ANNEX IV

National Action Plan to strengthen prosecution and judicial service in combating wildlife and forest crime in Uganda

FOCAL AREA 2: AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY					
Strategic Action	Activity	Key Performance Indicators	Lead Institution	Cost	Period
Advocacy and Awareness	Develop a communication strategy	Strategy in place			
	Sensitise the public	No. of workshops and trainings held			
	Stakeholder workshops national and international levels	No. of workshops and trainings			
	Publicity through the media	Returns of cases reported			
	Consultative meetings with stakeholders	No. of meetings attended			
	Periodic surveys	No. of surveys conducted			
	Participate in the different security and committees meetings in the conservation area				
FOCAL AREA 3: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (INSITUATIONAL, PERSONNEL, SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT)					
Strategic Action	Activity	Key Performance Indicators	Lead Institution	Cost	Period
Strengthening capacity of criminal justice sector in combating IWT	Institutionalize training of judiciary, prosecutors and investigators on wildlife, forestry and associated laws (e.g. money laundering) within institutions	Appropriateness of penalties	ODPP/ TRAFFIC	approx. USD 1600 per person	1 year
		Use of different laws			
		No. of kingpins brought to court			
	training on exhibit handling E-course training on forest, wildlife , fisheries and associated laws	No. of cases thrown out decrease	POLICE/ODPP	USD 75,000	2 years
		No. of people trained	TRAFFIC		
		No. of orgs. enrolled in course	JUDICIARY		
	Training on the sentencing guidelines	Development of the guidelines	UWA/NFA		1 year
		No. of people trained	UWA/NFA		
	Training on wildlife and forest values	No. of people trained	UWA/UNODC/TRACE		1 year
	Training in forensics	No. of people trained	ODPP/UWA		1 year
	Training on pre-court preparation (e.g. witnesses)	No. of people trained	IG/UNODC		1 year
	Undertake risk assessment for corruption	Corruption risks identified	UWA		1 year
	Shared database on wildlife and other crimes	No. of people trained	ODPP/JUDICIARY/IUCN		2 years
	Undertake wildlife crimes court assessment to get baseline	Assessment report produced	JUDICIARY/ ODPP/UWA		1 year
	Develop SOP on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of Wildlife , forestry and fisheries crime	SOP developed	AWF/TRAFFIC		2 years
Develop and digitize compendium	Compendium developed	UWA/TRAFFIC		1 year	
Develop and implement TWIX in Uganda	TWIX implemented	UWA		1 year	
Shared database on wildlife and other crimes	No. of orgs. with access to database	UWA/UNODC/TRACE		Next 3 years	
Equipping the forensics lab	Fully equipped forensic lab				

ANNEX IV

National Action Plan to strengthen prosecution and judicial service in combating wildlife and forest crime in Uganda

FOCAL AREA 4: INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Strategic Action	Activity	Key Performance Indicators	Lead Institution	Cost	Period
Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination (Government Agencies)	Fast tracking the operationalization of the National wildlife crime taskforce (NWCCTF)	Operational NWCCTF	MTWA		3 months
	Conducting joint law enforcement (operations, investigations)	No. of Operation and seizure reports			Quarterly
	Signing MOUs for purposes of Information sharing	No. of MOUs in place	NWCCTF		
	Sharing resources for capacity building and operations, including identifying and writing proposals to funding partners	Budget allocations	MTWA/All Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MIDAS) allocations		
	Establishment of a national stakeholders' platform/Forum to share information on wildlife and forest crimes	Operational national stakeholders' Forum	MTWA		6 months
Building synergies among all key stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime (CSOs, public).	Creation of an online platform to facilitate information sharing	Online platform in place, shared database	MTWA		
	Establishment of a web portal through which the general public can report crime	Web portal in place	UWA		1 year
	Signing MOUs between Government agencies and CSOs to facilitate information sharing, joint investigations	No. of MOUs in place	All Agencies		

FOCAL AREA 5: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Strategic Action	Activity	Key Performance Indicators	Lead Institution	Cost	Period
Strengthening linkages with regional and international bodies/for a/arrangements	Using the mutual legal assistance framework	Signed MOUs	ODPP		
	Harmonization of laws at regional level, and lobby for CITES listing for endangered		All Agencies		
	Jointly leverage on the support from regional/international existing wildlife enforcement networks and organizations (TRAFFIC, UNODC, WWF)		All Agencies		
	Utilizing the Financial Intelligence Units network		FIA		
	Strengthen coordination within trading blocks such as EAC, COMESA, in combating wildlife crime		All Agencies		



TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a 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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