



# STRENGTHENING ANTI-POACHING TECHNIQUES AND COUNTERING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN UGANDA

## PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING REPORT



**DATE: 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2019**

**VENUE: PROTEA HOTEL, KAMPALA**



This activity is funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the UK Government.

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## INTRODUCTION

Strengthening Anti-Poaching Techniques and Countering Wildlife Trafficking (“The Project”) is a three-year project being implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) with funding from the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund UK government. It aims to address critical capacity gaps within the Uganda Wildlife Authority, other security bodies and law enforcement agencies in combating poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. It purposes to enhance cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation among government agencies through the National Wildlife Coordination Task Force (NWCCTF). The project also supports community livelihood and human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation to address the drivers of wildlife crime around Murchison Falls Protected Area (MFPA).

The Inception meeting was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to review the approved project proposal with the aim of clarifying roles of the partners in the implementation and monitoring of the project as well as to identify any changes that needed to be made to the original proposal. The participation of stakeholders was an opportunity to provide input and to discuss operational details and future direction of the three-year project.

The participants included members of the National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force (NWCCTF), stakeholders from other agencies and non-governmental organisations (see participants’ list attached)

The sections that follow give key highlights of the discussions and mutual positions reached with respect to implementation of the project.

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

### Opening Remarks

Mr. Charles Tumwesigye, Deputy Director Field Operations at UWA made the opening remarks on behalf of the Executive Director. He highlighted that government had directed UWA and other law enforcement institutions to ensure that they established measures to address IWT. He appreciated the participants for their involvement in the meeting noting that countering illegal wildlife trade and trafficking was part of the roles of the institutions represented at the meeting. He further appreciated WCS for the long-term partnership with UWA and more so the support to the implementation of IWT interventions. He particularly recognised WCS for the support to the NWCCTF, Canine program at Entebbe International Airport as well as several other



*Mr. Tumwesigye (standing) addressing participants*

programmes supported in protected areas including research, protected area management information system (MIST) and spatial monitoring and reporting tool (SMART). He noted that all these were WCS efforts to support the redress challenges associated with IWT. He encouraged other partners in wildlife conservation to continue supporting these efforts.

## Presentations

The meeting involved presentations made to share UWA's experiences on IWT, past and ongoing WCS strategies and interventions for addressing Illegal wildlife trade in Uganda. Below are summaries of the presentations.

1. The presentation made by Mr. Charles Tumwesigye on Illegal Wildlife Trade nexus: covered, the IWT situation in Uganda, the experience of UWA in addressing IWT crisis and historical perspectives, focusing on Ivory trade and elephant poaching and associated drivers. He also highlighted the relevant legal framework with specific emphasis on CITES, shared about PIKE trends in Africa based on MIKE and ETIS, concealment and smuggling methods used by traffickers, key achievements for Uganda on IWT and suggested ways forward.
2. Dr Simon Nampindo, the WCS Uganda Country Director made a presentation on WCS' engagements in IWT/CWT. Among these were WCS' previous involvements in the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration, support to the Implementation of SMART, the Online Wildlife Offenders' Database, capacity building support to UWA's wildlife crime unit, establishment of UWA's Canine Unit, the current support to the recently established NWCCTF and Engagements with Chinese enterprises, among others.



*Dr S. Nampindo of WCS making his presentation*

3. Mr. Geoffrey Mwedde, the counter Illegal Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Projects Manager at WCS made took participants through the project, highlighting goal, objectives, the problem, approach and activities. He highlighted the responsibilities of stakeholders and also thoroughly elaborated the different aspects of the project's logical framework and the three-year project work plan.

## Highlights from discussions

- The Director Field Operations UWA, implored the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) to make efforts to monitor transactions going through Western Union for any linkage to IWT. The FIA representative pledged FIA's support to counter any risks



associated with illegal financial transactions through any financing institutions and systems in Uganda.

- The failure by some countries to submit data to MIKE and ETIS was identified as one of the major reasons for the gaps in the law or lack of law enforcement. Each CITES member country had an obligation to ensure the regular submission of data.
- It was clarified that while the project countering illegal trade associated with key flagship species, it would address all forms of IWT.
- The need for UWA and the NWCCTF to undertake a capacity needs assessment that would guide capacity building efforts under this project was highlighted.

## KEY OUTPUTS

By the end of the meeting, participants had a clear understanding of the project goals, objectives and scope and implementing partners got better understanding of their roles in the implementation and monitoring of the project. In addition, a few changes to the logframe and activities were proposed to reflect the conform to the current situation.



*Participants at the inception meeting*



*Mr. G. Mwedde (standing) while making his presentation*

# ANNEX 1: ATTENDANCE LIST



## STRENGTHENING ANTI-POACHING TECHNIQUES AND COUNTERING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN UGANDA

VENUE: PROTEA HOTEL, KAMPALA

DATES: 1<sup>ST</sup>- August 2019

REGISTRATION FORM



S/N	NAME	Gender	Institution	Position	Telephone & E-mail	Signature
1	TUMUSHING MARTIN	M	ISO	Head organised crime	072323517/072472817 mhimbaza@gmail.com	
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## REGISTRATION FORMS

### INCEPTION MEETING

"Strengthening Anti-Poaching Techniques and Countering Wildlife Trafficking in Uganda"

DATE: AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019 VENUE: PROTEA HOTEL, KAMPALA TIME: 8:00AM-4:30PM



S/N	NAME	Gender	Organisation and Position	Mobile Tel:	E-mail
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## ANNEX 2: MEETING AGENDA



### “Strengthening Anti-Poaching Techniques and Countering Wildlife Trafficking in Uganda”

#### PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING

**DATE: 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2019**

**VENUE: PROTEA HOTEL, KAMPALA**

#### ROGRAMME

TIME	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
8:30 – 9:00	Registration of participants	All
9:00 – 9:15	Introductions and workshop objectives	WCS
9:15 – 9:25	Welcome remarks	Country Director, WCS Uganda
9:25 – 9:35	Opening remarks	Commissioner Wildlife Conservation
9:35 – 10:05	WCS Engagements in IWT/CWT	Country Director, WCS Uganda
10:05 – 10:20	Reactions	All
10:20 – 10:50	Group photo and coffee break	All
10:50 – 11:20	The illegal wildlife trade nexus	UWA
11:20 – 11:30	Reactions	All
11:30 – 12:30	Project Objectives, activities & outputs	IWT Projects Manager, WCS
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and departure of non-implementing stakeholders	All
13:30 – 16:00	Project logframe, M&E framework and immediate activities	MFCA staff, WCS and Selected NWCCTF Members
16:00 – 16:30	Tea break and departure	All



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