

# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND



**2015 Year End Report**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The ivory poaching crisis continues to cause declines in elephant populations across Africa. Driving the killing is a complex, international ivory trade that thrives on poverty, insecurity, organized crime, corruption, and greed. Save the Elephants estimates that at least 200,000 elephants have been killed for their ivory in the last six years. As a result, many populations stand at risk of being wiped out. Without concerted international action, elephants could disappear from much of the wild within a generation.

Individuals, scientists, conservation organizations, and governments are uniting behind a common strategy to stop the killing, stop the trafficking, and stop the demand for ivory. The Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) exists to fuel this coalition.

The ECF is a joint project of Save the Elephants (STE) and the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN). STE has more than half a century of single-minded focus on elephant conservation that is deeply rooted in its on-the-ground work and yet also reaches the uppermost corridors of power. The ECF combines this experience with the efficiency of WCN, which was named the #1 wildlife conservation charity in the US by Charity Navigator. The ECF has only one goal: to end the elephant crisis.

To date, we have supported 38 partner organizations, ranging from tiny field-based outfits with deep local roots to big international operations focused on specific issues in areas that are strategically important for elephants. Together, these partners have completed 37 projects and are in the process of implementing another 35. This report highlights our activities in 2015.

Training ranger forces, improving management, and strengthening the rule of law are all critical elements in ending the crisis by making poaching and trafficking a high-risk proposition. They also bring long-term benefits that will assist wildlife and wild areas beyond the ivory poaching crisis.

September 2015 saw a landmark joint statement by the presidents of both China and the United States, who announced their intent to ban the ivory trade within their respective nations. The value of raw ivory in Beijing had tripled in the four years up to 2014, reaching an average wholesale price of USD 2,100 per kilo. But by November 2015 the price had dropped to USD 1,100, as revealed by ECF-funded ivory researchers Vigne and Martin. The price drop is thought to be a result of the Chinese government's stated intent to close down its domestic ivory trade, growing awareness in China about the impacts of buying ivory, and the slowdown of the Chinese economy.

The fall in the price of ivory is highly significant, but there is still much work to do to ensure that timely and effective domestic bans are put in place in consumer countries. Meanwhile in Africa, there is no indication that the ivory poaching crisis has slackened. Grave threats remain, and time is running out for many elephant populations. The Elephant Crisis Fund remains the most effective way to get highly targeted support to the most urgent projects addressing the killing of elephants, the trafficking of ivory and the demand for tusks that drives the trade.

## SEVEN KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

**One Goal.** The Elephant Crisis Fund's only goal is to end the ivory crisis, not to support its founding organizations. Once the crisis is over and all funds allocated, the fund will be wound up.

**The 100% Model.** The Elephant Crisis Fund knows it is action on the ground that counts. It is supremely collaborative. 100% of funds raised go to the partners in the field, in line with Wildlife Conservation Network's philosophy.

**Data-Driven.** Save the Elephants is at the heart of scientific understanding of the elephants and their situation. With STE's 50 years of experience and contacts across Africa, the fund is able to target strategic priorities with sharp focus.

**Effective.** The ECF supports the best organizations conducting the most urgent, catalytic or strategic elephant conservation projects, no matter their size.

**Pioneering.** The ECF supports conservation innovation, then shares successful concepts with other projects operating in the same realm to accelerate change. Examples include GPS collar technology, ivory DNA analysis, and courtroom accountability efforts.

**Collaborative.** The ECF is focused on ending the ivory poaching crisis through uniting diverse actors into concerted action for wildlife.

**Rapid Response.** Timing matters. Bureaucratic delays to big government grants and small finance gaps can quickly sabotage conservation efforts. The ECF deploys emergency funds within 24 hours and other funds typically within two to four weeks.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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We are proud to report that the Elephant Crisis Fund has surpassed its original goal of \$5M by the end of 2015 and has raised \$7.2M to date since its official launch in May 2014. With elephant populations still in decline, we have stepped up with a new goal to raise a total of \$15M by May 2018, at which point we hope that the crisis will have turned a corner.

A total of \$5.72M has been allocated towards projects at this point. \$1.47M has either been tentatively allocated or remains unrestricted in order to be available for urgent, emergency funding situations.

## PROJECTS

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Below is a brief summary of our activities in the arenas of anti-poaching, anti-trafficking and demand reduction. A full list of projects funded through 2015 is provided in the appendix.

### Anti-Poaching

In 2015, at least 102 new rangers were trained in anti-poaching work—some of these by US Marines and Special Forces—in Cameroon, Gabon, Nigeria, Mali, and Kenya. Collaborations between park rangers and government troops were fostered, bringing national defense forces into play in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mali. Informer networks were developed in many areas to guide operations. Collectively, the projects have made 572 arrests and recovered at least 91 firearms. High-tech elephant tracking systems to support anti-poaching efforts were installed in



*The Gonarezhou National Park Canine Unit with two German Shepherds trained in tracking and detection of firearms, ammunition and ivory.*

four ecosystems, and critical infrastructure upgrades like radio networks and road improvements were undertaken.

Aerial surveillance plays a major role in protecting savannah elephants. Tsavo's last remaining great tusker elephants received aerial protection in 2015, as did the elephants of Niassa in Mozambique. When a new aircraft destined for Ruaha in Tanzania suffered an

engine failure in transit from the US, the ECF bought a replacement in short order. Extra fuel from the ECF kept Garamba's helicopter in the air over DRC to continue its battle against the rebel militias in the park. When it was damaged by heavy machine-gun fire in an attack that killed four security personnel, a temporary replacement was immediately rented to keep momentum and morale going.

### Anti-Trafficking

Collaborations between partners that enhance intelligence and interception efforts are crucial in fighting trafficking networks. We support NGOs that work closely with 'vetted' units within governments. These units have the ability to carry out formal investigations and uncover evidence that leads to convictions, as well as the power to make arrests. Where corruption is pervasive and the highest levels of government are participating in the ivory trade themselves, NGO-led investigations are unlikely to lead to effective action but can still put pressure on governments.

While some ivory trade routes are well-known and the only challenge is to work with local authorities to find and arrest illegal traders, there are other routes which we know from poaching data must exist but have not been documented. We have funded both an Africa-wide route-detection project and finer resolution work to detect and disrupt routes in Tanzania and Zambia. Informer networks are often a critical

element of anti-trafficking operations, as are well-trained officers to follow up on leads. Funding, equipping and training these officers to conduct undercover operations—and to engage in close combat—has been a focus.

Once arrests have been made, prosecutions must be made to stick. Courtroom monitoring programs that effectively deter corruption, developed in Kenya with ECF support, are now in various stages of replication in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

### **Demand Reduction**

The ECF has been working in ivory consumer countries to increase awareness of impacts of buying ivory. We have concentrated on establishing the facts (through studies of ivory price data and the levels of illegal killing of elephants in Africa) and making sure these are understood by the general public, by ivory consumers, and by the highest levels of leadership. In China, the biggest ivory consumer nation, the ECF supported awareness-raising campaigns from celebrities and opinion leaders, legal groundwork, and the creation of policy options for possible future bans.

An ECF-funded survey has now shown that the wholesale price of raw tusks skyrocketed between 2010 and 2014 to USD 2,100 a kilo but appeared to have leveled off by June 2015. By November

2015, a new survey established that the price had nearly halved in the previous 18 months. The price reduction is thought to be a result of the Chinese government's stated intent to close down its domestic ivory trade, growing awareness in China about the impacts of buying ivory and the slowdown of the Chinese economy, together with an anti-corruption drive that has reduced demand for high-status gifts.

This trend gives hope that, if all parties unite, the trade could be brought down to background levels. While encouraged by these positive developments, all of our partners agree that these gains will likely be reversed if the ban is not implemented promptly and effectively. The pressure must be maintained.



*An Ivory Free ad—partially sponsored by the ECF—featuring HRH Duke of Cambridge in the central square of Chongqing (urban pop. 7.5 million).*

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

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### Anti-Poaching: Patrolling an Elephant Frontier

The Ziama Forest sits in Western Africa's Guinea, on the border with Liberia. It holds what is likely the last remaining elephant population in Guinea, with an estimated 200 elephants. Funding from the ECF is assisting Flora & Fauna International (FFI) to pay for anti-poaching patrols and equipment and to set up village-level committees that engage local people in the fight against poaching. The absence of regular patrols or law enforcement for several years prior to ECF funding meant there were no consequences for those carrying out illegal activities and no knowledge of threats or how best to mitigate them. The presence of the Ebola virus in Guinea made it especially difficult for conservation NGOs to access funding for activities such as anti-poaching. ECF funding couldn't have come at a better time.



Here, through the eyes of Faya Nestor Kondiano, a patrol guard in Ziama, is an account of what the ECF support means to the rangers:

Patrols are long and tiring, and often we are caught in powerful rainstorms. Having good equipment, such as raincoats and strong boots, really helps to keep spirits high and everyone focused on our work. During the first few months of patrols we came across many signs of poachers' presence within the forest: 137 wire trap snares and 168 bullet cases. Although it was disappointing to be finding evidence of poachers, carrying out the patrols meant that we were able to remove traps from the forest, and prevent animals, including elephants, from being caught and hurt by them. It also showed us how much activity was going on in the forest when regular law enforcement patrols were not taking place.

During one patrol we discovered a recent elephant carcass within the forest. We felt it likely the poacher would

still be within the local area. Upon returning from the forest, the patrol team carried out investigations with the local community, leading to three individuals being arrested. The individual convicted of killing the elephant was sentenced to 18 months in prison and given a large fine in line with Guinean law.

Thanks to our patrol, which was fully equipped and funded by the Elephant Crisis Fund, there is now one less poacher threatening the elephants in the forest. His arrest also helps to demonstrate our ability to find and prosecute poachers, which will hopefully reduce occurrences of poaching within the forest.

Having a successful anti-poaching patrol system in place will help FFI to secure additional funding to improve livelihoods of local people and reduce the need for people to turn to poaching as a source of income.

### **Taking Out the Kingpins: Anti-Trafficking**

The elephants of the Kafue ecosystem in Zambia—one of the largest protected areas in the world—are under attack. As increasing numbers of people come across the border from the Democratic Republic of Congo, traffickers who want to exchange cheap Chinese goods for ivory enter Zambia. The threat has doubled since this time last year, with almost every patrol now intercepting armed poachers. Nowhere was worse affected than northern Zambia's Busanga Plains.



*Game Rangers International scouts about to set out on patrol in Kafue, Zambia.*

With ECF support, Game Rangers International established the Busanga anti-poaching unit and trained its members in close combat and undercover operations. Their top priority: apprehend a Congolese ivory dealer named Musolo. Working in collaboration with the Office of the President, Immigration, Police, and the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) Special Anti-Poaching Unit, the team conducted a series of night raids in search of the kingpin.

After a daring undercover sting operation, Musolo was apprehended, complete with ivory and an AK47. While in custody, he spilled the beans on his other contacts, resulting in further ivory recoveries and arrests, including that of another middleman.

Collaborative operations such as this between government law enforcement and private sector investigators are a powerful force in bringing down ivory traffickers. To help catalyze such work, the ECF funds multiple partners—in this case we had also provided an undercover vehicle to the ZAWA Special Investigations Unit.

Musolo currently awaits sentencing at the High Court, which deals only in prison terms of over five years. Such success is still too rare, however. Without well-conducted prosecutions and stiff penalties, arrests are all too often wasted when cases fall apart in court or inadequate sentences are given. In Kenya, WildlifeDirect

has successfully taken on these challenges. The ECF is now working with them to apply their model in both Zambia (with Game Rangers International as local partners) and neighboring Malawi (with the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust).

### **Catalyzing Change in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong's ivory markets were not showing strongly on the conservation radar as an issue for elephants until the ECF funded a report by Esmond Martin and Lucy Vigne, "Hong Kong's Ivory: More Items for Sale than in Any Other City in the World" in July 2015. Ivory prices had more than doubled in four years, partly driven by record numbers of mainland Chinese coming to the territory. The trade showed itself to be a significant loophole in international efforts to end the killing of elephants in Africa.

Bringing ivory bought in Hong Kong back into mainland China is illegal, yet vendors reported that 90 percent of their customers were mainland Chinese. With ivory in Hong Kong priced at just half that found on the other side of the border, shoppers sought it out.

Creating political momentum for change in Hong Kong required a united front by conservationists and rare bipartisan support in a politically divided city. Save the Elephants and WildAid worked with WWF's well-respected Hong Kong office to host a press conference in synchrony with a parallel event in Nairobi. The news made waves in Hong Kong, and soon the report was being waved in the territory's Legislative Council assembly.



*Hong Kong LegCo member Charles Mok speaks during the motion on the ivory bill brandishing the ECF-funded report on Hong Kong's ivory trade.*

By December, the Legislative Council had tabled a full motion debate on the subject. A colorful display of cross-party unity ensued. Legislator Lee Cheuk-yan even wore paper elephant tusks on his face and read his speech in the first person as an elephant. The motion to ban ivory was carried unanimously.

This is only the start of a two- to three-year process of creating a final bill, but the government is now forced to act as fast as it possibly can.

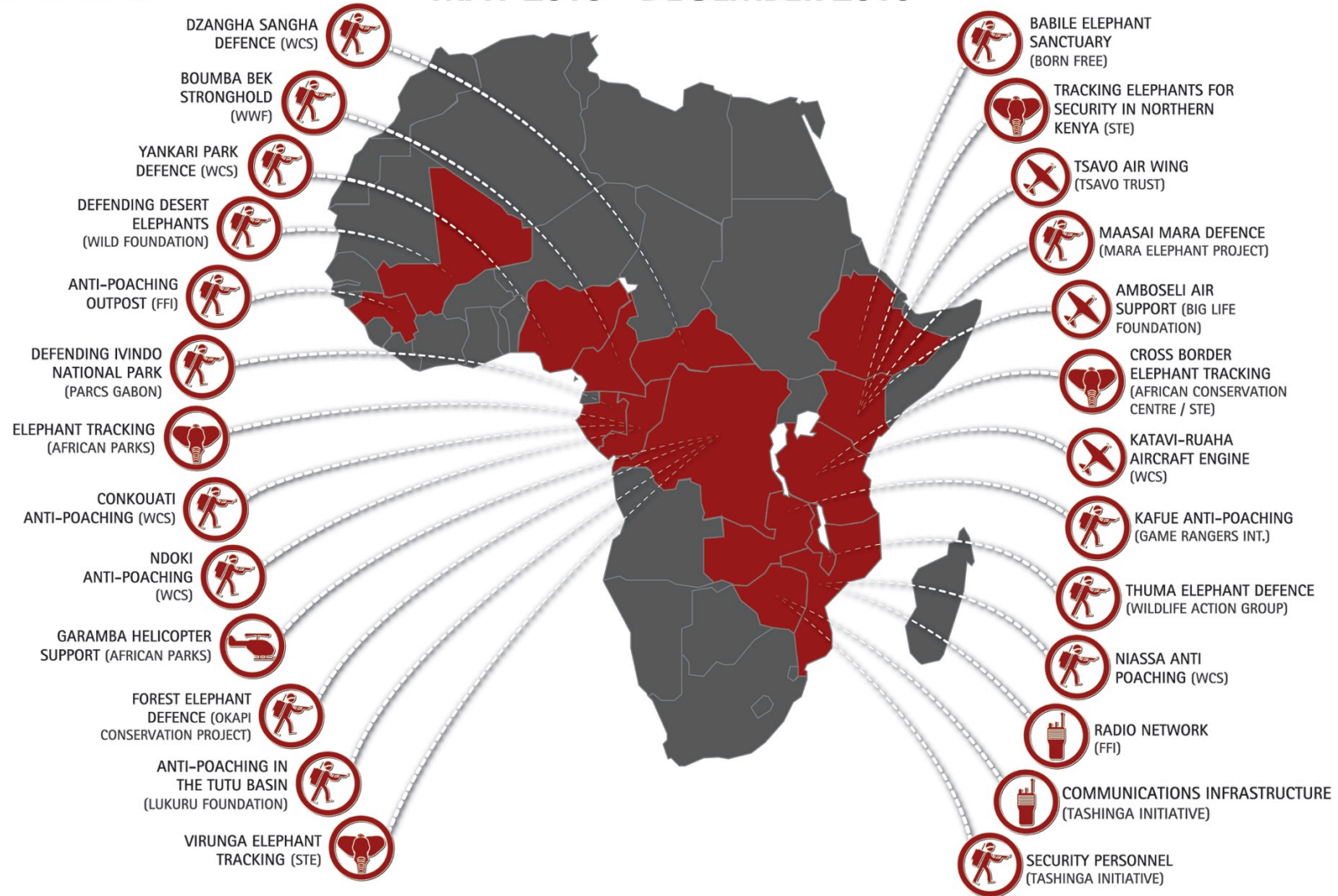




# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

## ANTI-POACHING PROJECTS

- MAY 2013 - DECEMBER 2015 -

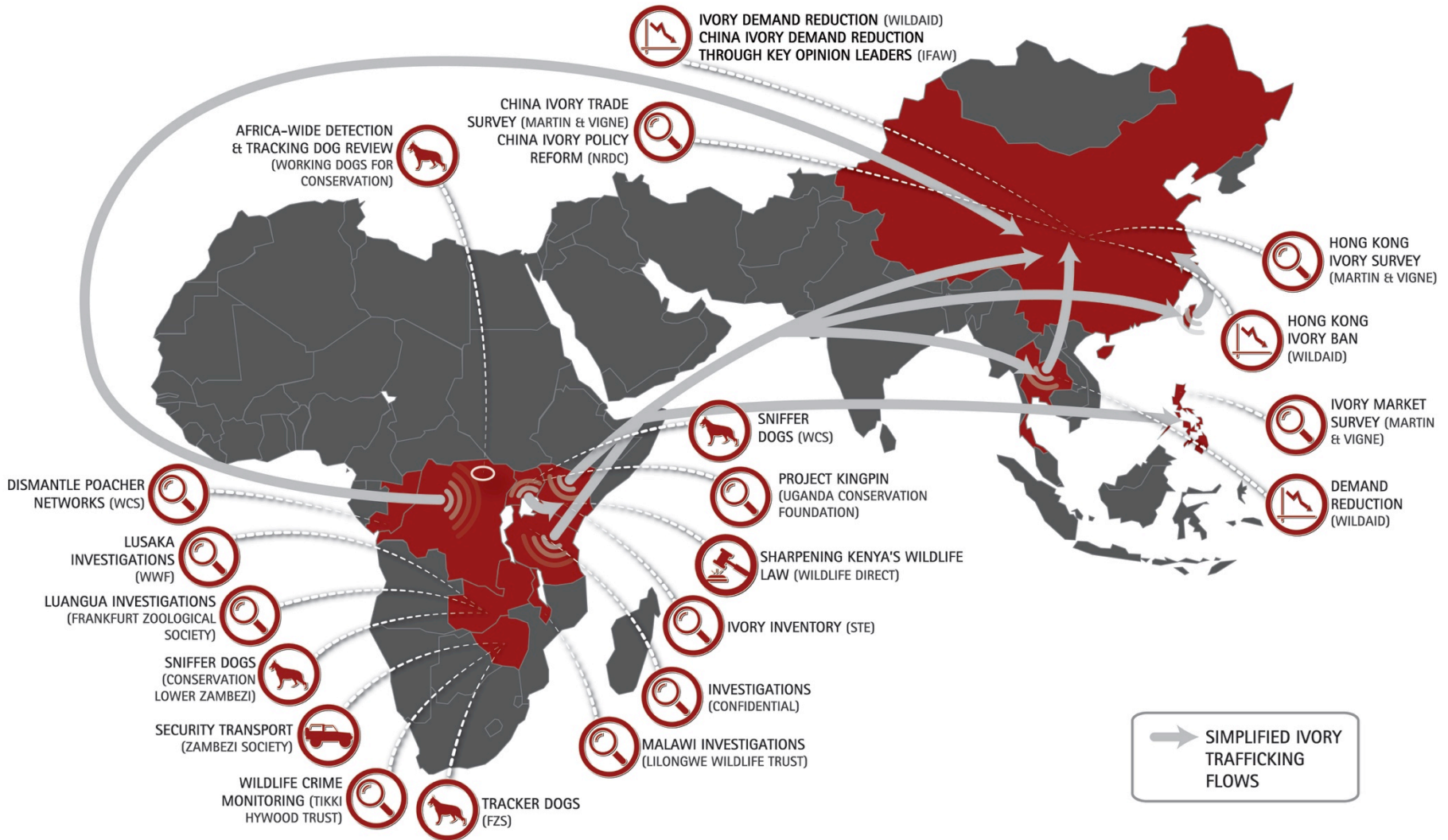




# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING & DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS

- MAY 2013 - DECEMBER 2015 -



# APPENDIX

A list of projects supported since its inception by the ECF follows. While some have been completed and the results are clear, others have only recently begun. Some projects have been excluded from this list for reasons of confidentiality.

## ANTI-POACHING PROJECTS

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**Protecting the Forest Elephants' Stronghold (Cameroon):** Boumba Bek & Nki National Parks are rich in biodiversity, with significant populations of forest elephants targeted by poachers. ECF support of security staff costs and the creation of an informant network has led to 47 arrests, 65 tusks recovered, and 90 poacher hideouts discovered.

*Implementing Partner: World Wildlife Fund. ONGOING*

**Operating the Garamba Helicopter (Democratic Republic of Congo):** ECF has provided funding for six months to ensure that a helicopter based in Garamba National Park is able to be fully utilized for anti-poaching efforts. The situation remains serious but would likely be even worse without the helicopter's patrols.

*Implementing Partner: African Parks. ONGOING*

**Emergency Garamba Support Phase 2 (Democratic Republic of Congo):**

Following a deadly gun battle between poachers and rangers that left the Garamba helicopter damaged, ECF provided emergency support to pay for helicopter repairs, a temporary replacement helicopter, and satellite tracking units for all rangers.

*Implementing Partner: African Parks. ONGOING*

**Protection of Elephants in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of Congo):** The Okapi Wildlife Reserve, which holds one of the few remaining forest elephant populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, urgently needed to support Congolese Army soldiers (FARDC) until the end of 2015 while 50 new wildlife guards were being trained. Implementation has just started.

*Implementing Partner: Okapi Conservation Project. ONGOING*

**Elephant Protection in Conkouati-Douli National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo):** Conkouati National Park holds one of the few forest elephant populations that has increased in recent years, but funding to protect these elephants that came from local oil companies decreased when oil prices fell. This grant provided bridge funding to keep six eco-guards operational. There has been no evidence of new elephant poaching.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. APPROVED*

**Securing a Stronghold for Forest Elephants in Ivindo (Gabon):** ECF assisted the Gabonese National Parks service (ANPN) with support to enhance law enforcement operations in Ivindo National Park, including running costs, training and equipment. A poaching ring was detected in the southern part of the park, and the park staff identified an elephant poacher who had killed eight elephants in the Djidji area in the center of the park. A series of arrests followed.

*Implementing Partner: Gabonese National Parks Agency. ONGOING*

**Kenya-Tanzania Borderland Tracking:** Monitoring data shows a spike in illegal killing in the Loita Hills, an area believed to be an elephant movement corridor between the Maasai Mara ecosystem and Amboseli. This funding provides for the deployment of six tracking collars. Project has not yet started.

*Implementing Partners: African Conservation Centre/STE. APPROVED*

**Mara Elephant Project Rapid Reaction Team (Kenya):** The ECF has funded one of two quick response teams guided by the real-time elephant tracking data provided by Save the Elephants. The team made eight major arrests in 2015, including one ringleader who was convicted to 10 years in jail or a \$200,000 fine—a landmark for wildlife prosecutions in the area.

*Implementing Partner: Mara Elephant Project. ONGOING*

**Tsavo Trust Air Wing (plane, car, intelligence) Year 3 (Kenya):** The ECF pays for fuel and a pilot to fly a Supercub bush aircraft over the vast Tsavo Ecosystem—home to one of the last Great Tusker populations of Africa—and has donated a vehicle to the Kenya Wildlife Service for integrated ground operations. Over the last three years there were 355 arrests made in joint KWS/Tsavo Trust operations.

*Implementing Partner: Tsavo Trust. ONGOING*

**Mali Elephant Project:** In early 2015 a new wave of poaching provoked by the Islamic insurgency hit the iconic desert elephants of Mali. The ECF provided an anti-poaching vehicle, radio equipment and training for 50 forest guards. The Malian army has been deployed and there is a temporary lull, but substantial engagement is needed.

*Implementing Partner: Mali Elephant Project. ONGOING*

**Chulexi Radio System (Mozambique):** The establishment of a new-generation digital VHF radio communications system in a key sector of Niassa National Park will be essential for effective anti-poaching. Equipment has been purchased and installation started, but slow granting of permission for frequencies by the Mozambican government has delayed the process.

*Implementing Partner: Flora & Fauna International. ONGOING*

**Establishment of a Tracker Dog Unit for Gonarezhou NP (Zimbabwe):** Two Alsatians were brought from the Netherlands to Zimbabwe and trained in tracking and sniffing for ivory by a highly experienced trainer who has worked with UK and US armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The use of tracker dogs may allow poachers coming in from Mozambique to be apprehended before they can escape back over the border.

*Implementing Partner: Frankfurt Zoological Society. Status: ONGOING*

**Ruaha Katavi Emergency Aviation Support (Tanzania):** Emergency support was required to procure a replacement engine and to pay for ferry costs when the engine of an aircraft headed for anti-poaching work in Tanzania's Ruaha National Park failed over Malta. The new engine was procured and installed and the aircraft ferried to Nairobi in October 2015.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE*

**Elephant Conservation in Ziama (Upper Guinea):** ECF funds support anti-poaching patrols, equipment, and the establishment of village-level committees to engage local people in the fight against poaching. Three elephant carcasses were found near one village, and the poacher was arrested and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

*Implementing Partner: Flora & Fauna International. ONGOING*

**Kafue Conservation Project Support to Zambia Wildlife Authority, Kafue NP, (Zambia):** ECF has supported the Busangu anti-poaching unit with equipment and operating expenses to fight back against Congolese coming in from the north to exchange goods like AK47s and motorbikes for ivory. Following undercover investigations, a Congolese kingpin, Musolo was apprehended with ivory and an AK47. His interrogation resulted in further arrests and recoveries.

*Implementing Partner: Game Rangers International. ONGOING*

**Protecting Dzangha Sangha (Central African Republic):** Following an invasion by rebels who began killing elephants in the World Heritage Site of Dzangha Bai, rapid deployment of ECF support helped to recapture the world's best-known forest elephant population before the situation escalated further.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE*

**Virunga Elephant Tracking (Democratic Republic of Congo):** Emanuel Demerode, Virunga National Park's warden, is engaged in a life-or-death struggle for the future of this most celebrated of Africa's National Parks. Fewer than 100 elephants are thought to remain. In July 2015, Save the Elephants deployed 15 tracking elephant collars to feed data into the ranger command center.

*Implementing Partner: Save the Elephants. COMPLETE*

**Boosting Security in the Tutu Basin (Democratic Republic of Congo):** The ECF intervention bridged a funding shortfall that would have meant disbanding anti-poaching units and intelligence-gathering efforts. Building on success in the northern area of the project zone, the team is now securing the south, where signs of elephants are being seen for the first time in over a decade.

*Implementing Partner: Fondation Lukuru. COMPLETE*

**Defending the Babile Elephant Population (Ethiopia):** Ethiopia is a friend to elephants in international negotiations, but will only be at the table as long as it has elephants within its borders. The ECF mobilized rapid support to revitalize ranger forces with training, six motorbikes, and other equipment. With a new outpost under construction, morale improved and poaching rates dropped.

*Implementing Partner: Born Free. COMPLETE*

**Amboseli Air Support (Kenya):** With the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) central office in disarray, it is important to support those field officers who are still trying to do their job. Part of this grant puts diesel in the tanks of Amboseli National Park's anti-poaching vehicles (without it they run out in the first few days of the month). The rest funds aerial patrols by Big Life, run in close collaboration with local KWS officers.

*Implementing Partner: Big Life Foundation. COMPLETE*

**Northern Kenya Security Matrix (Kenya):** Through high-tech elephant tracking technology (supported by the ECF) that guides ranger deployment and high levels of collaboration, partners in northern Kenya have seen poaching reduce to a point where births now exceed deaths for the first time since the crisis began.

*Implementing Partner: Save the Elephants with Northern Rangelands Trust.*

**COMPLETE**

**Securing Thuma Forest Reserve (Malawi):** An ECF grant provided funding for 20 anti-poaching scouts, more than doubling the force deployed to secure the elephants in this rugged forest reserve. At least 21 arrests have been made, including of a seasoned poacher who was sentenced to four years' hard labor.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Action Group.* **COMPLETE**

**Reinforced Patrolling in Niassa (Mozambique):** Initial ECF funding supported increased aerial support and an advanced data collection platform to plan scout patrols and analyze threats.

*Implementing Partners: Wildlife Conservation Society with Niassa Carnivore Project.*

**COMPLETE**

**Yankari Anti-Poaching Support (Nigeria)** ECF is providing support to an imperiled and unique elephant population with funds for ranger training and two vehicles. An intensive 30-day ranger training course was carried out by 'Conservation Outcomes,' with 28 out of 46 rangers successfully completing the course.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society.* **COMPLETE**

**Emergency Anti-Poaching Infrastructure (Zimbabwe):** Infrastructure upgrades funded by the ECF included repair and replacement of radio repeaters, solar systems and water pumps at ranger camps in Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks. A front-end loader for improving access roads for anti-poaching teams in Matusadona National Park was purchased, with a goal of improving reaction times.

*Implementing Partners: Tashinga Initiative, Zambezi Society.* **COMPLETE**

## **ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECTS**

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**Enhancing Anti-Poaching and Anti-Trafficking in Major Hotspots (Africa-wide):**

While some ivory trade routes are well known, there are others which we know from poaching data must exist but have not been documented. We have engaged security experts with wide experience across some of the most difficult parts of Africa to investigate some of these possible routes.

*Implementing Partner: Maisha Consulting.* **ONGOING**

**Ongoing Court Monitoring in Kenya (Kenya):** This project sends paralegal consultants to courts when wildlife cases are heard, with 264 cases attended so far. Since the passage of new legislation in 2014, fewer than 30 percent of offenders plead guilty, compared with 70 percent in the past, showing increased concern about tougher sentences. 13 percent of convicted offenders are sent to jail, up from 4 percent previously.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Direct.* **ONGOING**

**Dismantling Ivory Trafficking Networks from Ruaha National Park (Tanzania):**

ECF support has been used for the collection and analysis of intelligence on poaching and trafficking networks. A major poaching base has been located and ivory smuggling routes identified.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. ONGOING*

**Rapid Response Unit Base for ZAWA (Zambia):** A vetted rapid reaction unit of trained enforcement officers is being created to carry out interceptions and arrests, tasks that previously fell to intelligence officers. ECF is supporting the establishment of this unit at a secure base with a vehicle and office. Project just started.

*Implementing Partner: Game Rangers International. ONGOING*

**Chipata Investigations (Zambia):** Vehicles and operating costs, including informer payments for trusted investigations officers, were provided for anti-trafficking work in the key border town of Chipata. The intention is to control the illegal wildlife trade across the border into Malawi. No feedback yet received.

*Implementing Partner: South Luangwa Conservation Society. ONGOING*

**Conservation Detection/Tracking Dog Unit for the Lower Zambezi (Zambia):** To deter the movement of illegal wildlife products in the Lower Zambezi, a mobile sniffer/tracking dog unit will move between trafficking hotspots in the area surrounding the park. USAID is funding the majority of this project, with ECF providing some matching funds. Project just started.

*Implementing Partner: Conservation Lower Zambezi. ONGOING*

**North Luangwa Conservation Project (Zambia):** Vehicles and operating costs, including informer payments for trusted investigations officers, were provided in the key border towns of Mpika and Lundazi. The elephant poaching on the east has continued, but in June 2015 the main gang was apprehended, including the primary Malawian ivory buyer.

*Implementing Partner: North Luangwa Conservation Project. ONGOING*

**Wildlife Crime Monitoring and Prevention (Zimbabwe):** ECF is supporting a review of all information on how ivory cases are handled in Zimbabwean courts with the Tikki Hywood Trust, an organization with a reputation for combatting the illegal trafficking of pangolins in ivory. There is much overlap between the gangs involved in pangolin and ivory trading. Project just started.

*Implementing Partner: Tikki Hywood Trust. ONGOING*

**Reviewing Sniffer Dog Programs (Africa-wide):** Sniffer dogs used to prevent trafficking are expensive and require careful management. To ensure the best value for money on future projects, this review investigated how best to use sniffer dogs in detecting poachers and ivory and disseminated the results.

*Implementing Partner: Working Dogs for Conservation. COMPLETE*

**Noubale Ndoki Anti-Trafficking (Congo):** In February 2015 a major poaching ring was discovered operating between the Nouabale Ndoki park headquarters and a nearby logging settlement. WCS broke up this ring before it became established by developing a 10-man rapid response ranger unit.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE*

**Increasing Penalties for Wildlife Crimes (Kenya):** When this program began, the maximum fine received for ivory possession was \$350. This program has trained magistrates and created a watchdog system in Kenya's courtrooms. A year later, maximum sentences are now life in prison and fines up to \$230,000. Kenya's Chief Justice has thanked Save the Elephants personally for the work.

*Implementing Partner: WildlifeDirect. COMPLETE*

**Identifying Wildlife Crime Routes (Kenya):** A rapid assessment of the movement of wildlife trophies (elephant tusks, cat skins and rhino horns) through Kenya has been undertaken to establish entry, route and exit points of ivory as well as the modus operandi of dealers and cartels.

*Implementing Partner: WildlifeDirect. COMPLETE*

**Operation Acacia (Malawi):** Support to anti-trafficking work in Malawi. Because of the lack of security within some Malawian law-enforcement agencies, the details of this operation have to remain confidential.

*Implementing Partner: Lilongwe Wildlife Trust. COMPLETE*

**Ivory Seizure Analysis (USA):** Dr. Sam Wasser of the University of Washington was a pioneer in profiling the DNA of ivory tusks to understand where seized ivory originated, information that can lead to the demise of smuggling networks. This grant funded Kenya Wildlife Service technicians to visit Seattle to be trained in the technique at Wasser's lab.

*Implementing Partner: Dr Sam Wasser. COMPLETE*

**Lusaka Investigations (Zambia):** Funds were urgently needed for an undercover vehicle, operational costs, and training in urban close quarter combat. In the first two months of ECF support, the Unit made 48 arrests and recovered more than 140 kg of ivory and 9 rifles. Suspects were tried and convicted.

*Implementing Partner: Worldwide Fund for Nature. COMPLETE*

**North Luangwa Investigations (Zambia):** To close down a newly-identified trafficking route between Zambia and Malawi, a coordinated set of anti-trafficking operations was planned. Funds for vehicles and operating costs were provided for trusted investigations officers in the key border towns of Mpika and Lundazi.

*Implementing Partner: Frankfurt Zoological Society. COMPLETE*

## **DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS**

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**Ivory Surveys in China, Vietnam & Laos (East Asia):** A November 2015 survey by Esmond Bradley and Lucy Vigne, the world's experts on the ivory markets, revealed that the raw, wholesale price of ivory had almost halved to \$1,100 per kilo over the previous 18 months. This was a dramatic change from the previous rapid escalation of the price recorded by the same consultants in a previous report.

*Implementing Partner: Independent Consultants. COMPLETE*

**Reducing Ivory Demand through Key Opinion Leaders (China):** Twelve key opinion leaders, including artists, pop stars, actresses, business and religious leaders and media executives agreed to join the 'Give Peace to Elephants – Say NO to Ivory' campaign and have been featured in public service announcements in print and video.

*Implementing Partner: International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). ONGOING*



**Changing Demand for Ivory Through Celebrity Outreach (China):** Finely-tuned television and cinema spots by stars like Yao Ming, Jackie Chan, David Beckham, Prince William and Li Bingbing have gained widespread publicity and are shifting public opinion and government policy.

*Implementing Partner: WildAid. COMPLETE*

**Building the Policy Path: Increasing Staff in China Focused on Regulatory Reform of the Ivory Market (China):** With ECF support, NRDC was able to employ a full-time staff officer in Beijing to advocate for specific steps China may take to reform its current ivory laws and policies. The goal is to reduce the legal market for ivory.

*Implementing Partner: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). ONGOING*

**Partnership Campaign for Elephant Ivory Demand Reduction (Thailand):** WildAid expanded its ivory demand reduction campaigns to Thailand, one of the world's biggest ivory markets. The campaigns focused on persuading Chinese tourists to not buy ivory and building local support for strengthened legislation and enforcement.

*Implementing Partner: WildAid. ONGOING*

**Joint Agency Elephant Ivory US State Ban Effort (USA):** ECF has joined a consortium of conservation organizations including IFAW, the Humane Society of the US, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Natural Resources Defense Council to work towards bans restricting the sale of ivory in several key states. Project just started.

*Implementing Partner: Coalition. ONGOING*

**96 Elephants: Passing an Ivory Ban in California (USA):** California is the second largest ivory market in the US. ECF provided support to a coalition of conservation organizations working to pass a state level ban on ivory sales. In October 2015 a bill was passed which will "prohibit a person from purchasing, selling, offering for sale, possessing with intent to sell, or importing with intent to sell ivory or rhinoceros horn."

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. ONGOING*

**Introducing Li Bingbing to Elephants on Film (Kenya):** Save the Elephants introduced popular Chinese actress Li Bingbing to wild elephants and the impacts of buying ivory. Bingbing returned to China an ardent advocate, and her Say No to Ivory campaign became the fastest-growing social media topic in China in four years.

*Implementing Partner: Save the Elephants. COMPLETE*