



# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND



*Photo Credit: Daryl Balfour/wildphotossafaris.com*

## 2016 Interim Donors Report

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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While there are some early signs of hope for the future of Africa's elephants, they are still facing a crisis. The high price of ivory continues to attract the attention of organized crime syndicates, inciting corruption and poaching that are driving declines in elephant populations across large swathes of Africa.

The Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) is dedicated to ending this crisis. The ECF supports projects across Africa and in ivory consuming countries which aim to stop the killing of elephants, prevent the trafficking, and put an end to the buying of ivory. Funding is given with minimal bureaucracy and no administrative deductions to allow donors to have maximum impact, and for partners to act quickly and effectively. The Elephant Crisis Fund team—experts from Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network—provide strategic guidance, technical backing, and coordination with a growing alliance of organizations working together to end the crisis.

This report covers critical projects supported by the ECF between January and June 2016. It summarizes the situation, strategies, successes, and failures in anti-poaching, anti-trafficking, and demand reduction, followed by two stories highlighting specific places where ECF funding is at work. A full list of projects supported by the ECF to date is presented in maps and as an appendix.

The recent history of Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) exemplifies the challenge currently facing frontline elephant protection. African Parks Network, the ECF partner which manages Garamba, is fighting a war with a fraction of the resources an actual army would use. Currently they are losing both elephants and rangers at a shocking rate, but buoyed by new intelligence, technologies, and donor support, they are determined to keep this iconic wildlife area secure.

Organized crime syndicates and ivory traffickers have become more powerful and sophisticated, and the ECF and its partners have responded in kind. This year the ECF has focused on creating collaborative partnerships to capture and convict those who profit most from killing elephants. This report details the importance of the undercover investigations, vetted anti-corruption units, and courtroom monitoring to put criminals behind bars.

Positive steps have been made towards ending the demand for ivory that is driving poaching and trafficking. The U.S. government has enacted its pledge to close down trade at a federal level, and five states have also passed legislation. In support of China's pledge to stop the trade, ECF partners have been working with the public and government to pave the way for a ban in China, while also building projects to stamp out the border trade emerging in neighboring countries.

To date the ECF has supported over 100 project grants and 39 grantees, each vetted for their efficiency and impact. With your continued generosity and commitment, the best ideas and most urgent actions to end the ivory crisis will receive the support they need so that Africa remains wild with elephants.

## SEVEN KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

**One Goal.** The Elephant Crisis Fund's only goal is to end the ivory crisis. Once the crisis is over and all funds allocated, the fund will be wound up.

**100%.** 100% of funds raised go to the partners in the field, in line with Wildlife Conservation Network's philosophy. Even bank transfer fees are paid separately from your donation, ensuring every cent of every dollar for elephants goes to elephants.

**Ideas, Not Institutions.** The ECF seeks out the best and most urgent ideas to address the ivory crisis, regardless of who presents them. No single organization can solve this colossal problem, so we seek to support the highest potential proposals no matter whether they come from large-scale international institutions or small, deeply embedded field operations.

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

**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 pleased to report that the Elephant Crisis Fund has surpassed its original goal of raising \$5M by the end of 2015 and has raised over \$8M since its launch in May 2013. With poaching, trafficking, and demand for ivory still at crisis levels, we have stepped up with a new goal to raise a total of \$15M by May 2018.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, a total of \$6.8M has been allocated towards the most urgent and innovative elephant conservation projects and \$1.4M has either been tentatively allocated or remains unrestricted in order to be available for urgent funding needs. There remains a pipeline of critical projects under development and Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network continue their mission to raise further support to ensure the funding of these crucial actions.

## PROJECTS

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Below is a brief summary of our activities and results to date in 2016 in anti-poaching, anti-trafficking, and demand reduction—the three pillars of the ECF’s investment portfolio to end the ivory crisis. A full list of anti-poaching and demand reduction projects is provided in the Appendix, together with a summary of anti-trafficking projects.

### Anti-Poaching

In the first half of 2016 the ECF’s anti-poaching support has continued to focus on essential “boots on the ground” and “eyes in the sky” patrols for threatened elephant populations and has further invested in technology that has made these patrols smarter and more effective.

Traditional anti-poaching staples such as ranger training and equipment have been supported by the ECF where an urgent need or funding gap has been identified. For example, from January to June 2016, ECF partners have invested in ground forces that have removed 7,256 snares in Conkouati-Douli (Congo) and patrolled 2,175 miles in Nouabale Ndoki (Congo). Eco-guards in Nouabale Ndoki (Congo) made 21 arrests and established informer networks, intelligence gathering teams and tactics, and developed a rapid response unit there. Further, 74 rangers and eco-guards were trained in Congo and South Sudan, as well as 50 governmental paramilitary agents in Mali.

Elephants roam over vast areas that can be difficult for ground patrols to monitor and protect. Aerial support therefore remains a critical element in safeguarding Africa’s protected areas, and has been an investment strategy for the Elephant Crisis Fund in four countries. The 294 hours/22,010 miles of aerial patrols over Tsavo National Parks in Kenya has been particularly critical to defending some of the most iconic elephants in Africa—the “Great Tuskers.” Aerial surveillance over Tsavo provided operational backup to the Kenya Wildlife Service who made 31 subsequent arrests. Helicopters are especially essential for moving rangers to key outposts and areas of conflict when conditions prevent use of airstrips. The ECF has funded helicopter deployment in Garamba (DRC) as well as operations in Liwonde (Malawi), where use of a helicopter enabled aerial cover and ranger deployment into swamps inaccessible by ground vehicles.

*Photo Credit: Richard Moller*



Aerial surveillance of some of the world’s last “Great Tuskers” in Tsavo National Park, Kenya.



Ground forces must communicate and coordinate patrols to intercept poachers and traffickers despite the distances. The ECF has enabled the installation of new digital radio networks in places like Niassa and Mali to create good communications channels while also enabling ranger positions to be tracked.

These tried and true investments of ground and aerial patrols have been strengthened by the use of new tracking technology. In northern Kenya, crisis-level poaching has been turned around thanks in part to the use of real-time tracking of elephants by Save the Elephants. Tracking data is fed into a regional operations center that oversees security where it can then guide the deployment of ranger patrols, greatly improving the efficiency of protection. Simply put, the data allows fewer rangers to protect more elephants.

“Because of the Elephant Crisis Fund, we've had a plane, fuel, and manpower to conduct more than 110,000 miles of aerial reconnaissance routes across the vast Tsavo National Parks, allowing a bird's eye view to direct anti-poaching teams more swiftly. With the ECF's help, we've seen elephant poaching plummet by more than half.”  
-Richard Moller  
CEO of the Tsavo Trust

The ECF is supporting elephant tracking projects to assist security in a total of five countries. Tracking technology is being developed by Vulcan, supported by Paul

*Photo Credit: Matthew Rice*



Digital radio network being installed in Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique.

Allen, into a state-of-the-art system that allows managers of protected areas to not only track and locate animals, vehicles, ground patrols, and aircraft, but to do so in relation to security incidents, informer tip-offs, and intelligence reports. By integrating this information into a single database and visualization system, managers will be able to respond to security incidents faster and more effectively, making more of Africa safer for more elephants and other wildlife.

## Anti-Trafficking

After an elephant loses its life to a poacher, the criminal acts continue as the ivory is moved and shipped from the field to point of sale. The ECF supports local partner organizations that are dismantling these trafficking networks across the continent. Thanks to the ability to deliver fast and flexible funding, sometimes for covert operations, the Elephant Crisis Fund is able to facilitate our partners' rapid response to new evidence or movements along trafficking routes and get funds to where they are needed in time to make a difference.

ECF grantees have identified major trafficking highways along which ivory moves through Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, and Tanzania. Despite Kenya being a continental leader in anti-poaching efforts and conservation policy (burning 105 tons of ivory in April 2016) it faces enormous challenges from an anti-trafficking perspective. The port in Mombasa continues to be the single largest exit point for

ivory on the continent with only limited law enforcement action taken against key suspects so far. In western Africa, the ivory from large numbers of elephants being killed in Gabon and Congo is funneling into Cameroon along two distinct ivory highways.

We use up-to-date intelligence from our partners to identify “trafficking black holes”, where substantial amounts of ivory are known to be passing, but where law enforcement is absent or ineffective. Once identified, we support organizations working together—sometimes across borders—to prosecute traffickers and corrupt officials. The ECF is actively building a strategy for the threats coming from Cameroon, Mozambique, and Kenya.

To stem the flow of ivory along trafficking routes, the ECF offers financial support and strategic and technical guidance in three main areas: conducting intelligence gathering and law enforcement, monitoring court cases involving traffickers to increase the number of successful prosecutions, and conducting cross-border work to close in on regional trafficking networks.

The ability to investigate the criminal syndicates trafficking ivory has been improved by the strengthening of intelligence networks. ECF-supported partners have used DNA analysis to identify the origin of ivory from seizures in order to track down trafficking syndicates operating in Africa. We’ve also supported the creation of a trans-national database of over 600 traffickers in southern Africa, which resulted in identifying half a dozen high-level suspects that are responsible for the majority of trafficking in the region. In the past six months, one unit has arrested 54 criminals involved in ivory trafficking and recovered more than 880 lbs. of illicit ivory. Through ECF funding, our partners have launched a major trafficking investigation in Uganda, arresting corrupt army personnel and have kept an alleged senior trafficker in Kenya in prison.

Anti-trafficking work conducted by dedicated and innovative Elephant Crisis Fund grantees has also been bolstered by important collaborations. The ECF is funding several organizations that have started working with U.S. law enforcement officers focused on East Africa. Other partner organizations have begun collaborating with each other directly in the exchange of relevant intelligence across borders—such as the cooperation between regional East and southern African partners. ECF grantees are learning from each other’s best practices in data gathering and analysis, investigative techniques, and courtroom monitoring—all to close in and clamp down on these insidious trafficking networks.

ECF support to the expansion of courtroom monitoring has been particularly compelling, as it both ensures the most vicious criminals are prosecuted to the fullest

Photo Credit: WildlifeDirect



Feisal Ali Mohammed is the biggest alleged ivory trafficker yet to be prosecuted in Kenya, and the case against him is a key test of the nation’s reformed wildlife laws. ECF is supporting WildlifeDirect to help achieve justice.

extent of the law, and heads off corruption in the prosecution and judicial processes. ECF has supported the ground-breaking tactics of WildlifeDirect to monitor critical

wildlife crime trials in Kenya and we are supporting similar approaches in Malawi and Zambia, helping to strengthen the prosecution of traffickers and ensuring that wildlife crime is taken seriously.

Perhaps indicative of the value of the Elephant Crisis Fund is the request by the government of Gabon for a strategic partnership with the ECF to support intelligence work. An agreement was signed jointly by Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network. Gabon is home to not only the largest remaining populations of African forest elephants, but to a

government whose leadership is committed to tackling environmental crimes. The ECF is now embarking on support for major investigations into ivory poaching and trafficking in Gabon and across its borders into neighboring countries.

## Demand Reduction

The ECF continues to make investments to reduce public demand for ivory and curtail its availability by working with national governments to make ivory trade illegal. In September 2015 China and the U.S. made a joint pledge to end their domestic ivory trades. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enacted President Obama's executive order banning ivory on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and five states have now passed state legislation, China has yet to announce an implementation plan. Resistance to banning the ivory trade in China from the State Forestry Administration (SFA) remains, partly due to pressure from the ivory carving and trading industries. In China, the ECF continues to support the Natural Resources Defense Council to develop an effective policy-driven path towards ending the trade in the country.

In the meanwhile there has been a dramatic escalation of ivory markets in countries bordering China—raising early concerns of displacement of the market to neighbors. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Hong Kong are all seeing increases. In the case of Hong Kong an estimated 90% of buyers are from mainland China. ECF consultants, Vigne and Martin, have conducted research in Vietnam that establishes it as one of the biggest ivory markets in the world, a trade that has increased faster than anywhere else in Asia. They report all of the ivory on sale in Vietnam was fresh and from Africa. There is almost a complete absence of law enforcement there. These informative investigations are unveiling a new frontline for demand reduction efforts.

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*The grants from the ECF have essentially established a specialist police unit as an effective wildlife law enforcement entity in Malawi and they, in turn, have gone on and profiled the most serious wildlife criminals in our country. This now means that specific operations and cases can be built against these few, but very significant criminals; men who have indirectly killed hundreds and probably thousands of elephants in our region.*

**- Jonathan Vaughan**  
**Executive Director, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust**

Hong Kong's legislature voted to ban the ivory trade in December 2015, and in June 2016 the Hong Kong government announced a 5-year implementation plan.

The ECF has continued its investment in mass media campaigns that inform the public about the impacts of buying ivory and inform opinion towards eliminating the ivory trade. WildAid's ground-breaking approach, funded in previous years, continues to leverage large media value from their celebrity-led campaigns. Powerful Public Service Announcements (PSAs) by WildAid and the International Fund for Animal Welfare—both ECF grantees—are currently running in subways, trains, buses, and airports in over 40 cities encompassing 28 provinces, representing 80% of China's urban population.

*Photo Credit: STE: Storm Stanley*



105 tons of ivory go up in smoke in Nairobi, Kenya, on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. By far the largest ivory destruction in history, the burn marked Kenya's determination that ivory should no longer be treated as a commodity.



## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

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### Garamba: Battle for the Heart of Africa

A war for wildlife is being fought in the heart of Africa. Garamba National Park and its three adjacent reserves form a rich ecosystem at the northeastern edge of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its savannahs, grasslands, woodlands, and swamps hold the largest concentration of elephants remaining in the region. But this paradise is in the center of a powerful storm of violence. The Lords Resistance Army, heavily armed bandits from South Sudan, and local poachers are all preying on the park for ivory and bushmeat.

The fight for elephants in Garamba is now in full swing. African Parks Network (APN), which took over management of the park in 2005, in partnership with the Congolese government, is now engaged in a front-line military situation, with rangers facing substantial casualties.

Garamba has a nine-month wet season, during which much of the protected area is inaccessible by vehicles, making effective patrol deployment, medical evacuations, and tactical intervention almost impossible without helicopter support. In January 2015 the Howard G Buffet Foundation donated a B3 helicopter to counter the rebel militias flooding into the park, but when poaching surged in March 2015

African Parks did not have the funds to respond with increased helicopter assistance. The ECF injected \$200,000 to buy fuel for the helicopter to increase anti-poaching efforts in logistically challenging areas for a six-month period. The results were encouraging; poachers were confronted twelve times during the first three months of operations. Two poachers were arrested and converted into informants, gathering crucial intelligence on the routes poachers use to get into the park. Unfortunately, later in 2015 a ranger team came under heavy fire from poachers on the western boundary of the park; despite a helicopter rescue mission that managed to sling six rangers to safety, four were killed in the fight.

This crisis in Garamba was met within 32 hours with additional funding by the Elephant Crisis Fund. We rapidly delivered emergency funding to bring in additional ranger forces and replacement aerial support, while APN ensured the well-being of injured rangers together with heartfelt condolences and financial support to the families of the fallen.

*Photo Credit: African Parks/Jean Labuschagne*



Garamba's B3 helicopter allows patrol deployment during the nine-month wet season. ECF funding has allowed increased action to meet the poaching threat.

Rangers and elephants are still being lost at an unacceptable rate in Garamba, with 114 elephants and four rangers killed in 2015 alone. Despite heavy investment from

*Photo Credit: African Parks/Jean Labuschagne*



Logistical and infrastructural support, medivacs, and the recovery of arrested persons and confiscated goods took up 36% of the helicopter hours in Garamba between April, May, and June 2015.

the ECF, in April 2016 another three rangers lost their lives and the park manager was severely wounded in a firefight. The ECF awaited a decision from APN on whether to abandon Garamba or hold the line.

African Parks decided to stay, but need more support if they are to succeed. A military-style response to the poaching in Garamba is needed, but conservation organizations do not have the resources or training to wage war as if they were conventional armed forces. The ECF is therefore committed to helping APN professionalize its ranger forces,

develop intelligence networks to enable them to focus enforcement where it is needed most, and conduct increased aerial surveillance to detect poachers and save Garamba's natural treasures.

## **North Luangwa: Taking on the Traffickers**

In the early 1970s Zambia was home to one of Africa's largest elephant herds, estimated in excess of 100,000 in the Luangwa Valley alone. Two decades later the national elephant herd was reduced to 20,000, half of which remained in the Luangwa Valley.

Between 2008 to 2016, elephant poaching in North Luangwa increased ten-fold. East of the Luangwa Valley, traffickers on the Malawi border began feeding ivory through to Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. One particular town, Lundazi, was identified as the base for ivory traffickers operating along several ivory highways, including the Lilongwe route.

The Elephant Crisis Fund supported the creation of the Investigation and Intelligence Unit (IIU) based in Lundazi with the goal of disrupting the smuggling route to Malawi. We began by providing support for one year of operational funding and the purchase of a vehicle for undercover operations. A senior investigation officer was transferred in to head the operation.

The investigations and undercover work funded by the ECF immediately led to the identification of high value suspects. Cases were built, and to date seven poachers and traffickers have been arrested, including notorious ivory traders and long-time targets Peter Banda and Uwine Uteka. All seven have been successfully prosecuted and sentenced to five years hard labor. Additionally, two village game scouts who were tasked with protecting the park, were found transporting ivory to Lundazi and were arrested. They were also given a sentence of five years hard labor, sending strong signals to those involved in the corruption that plagues anti-trafficking work.

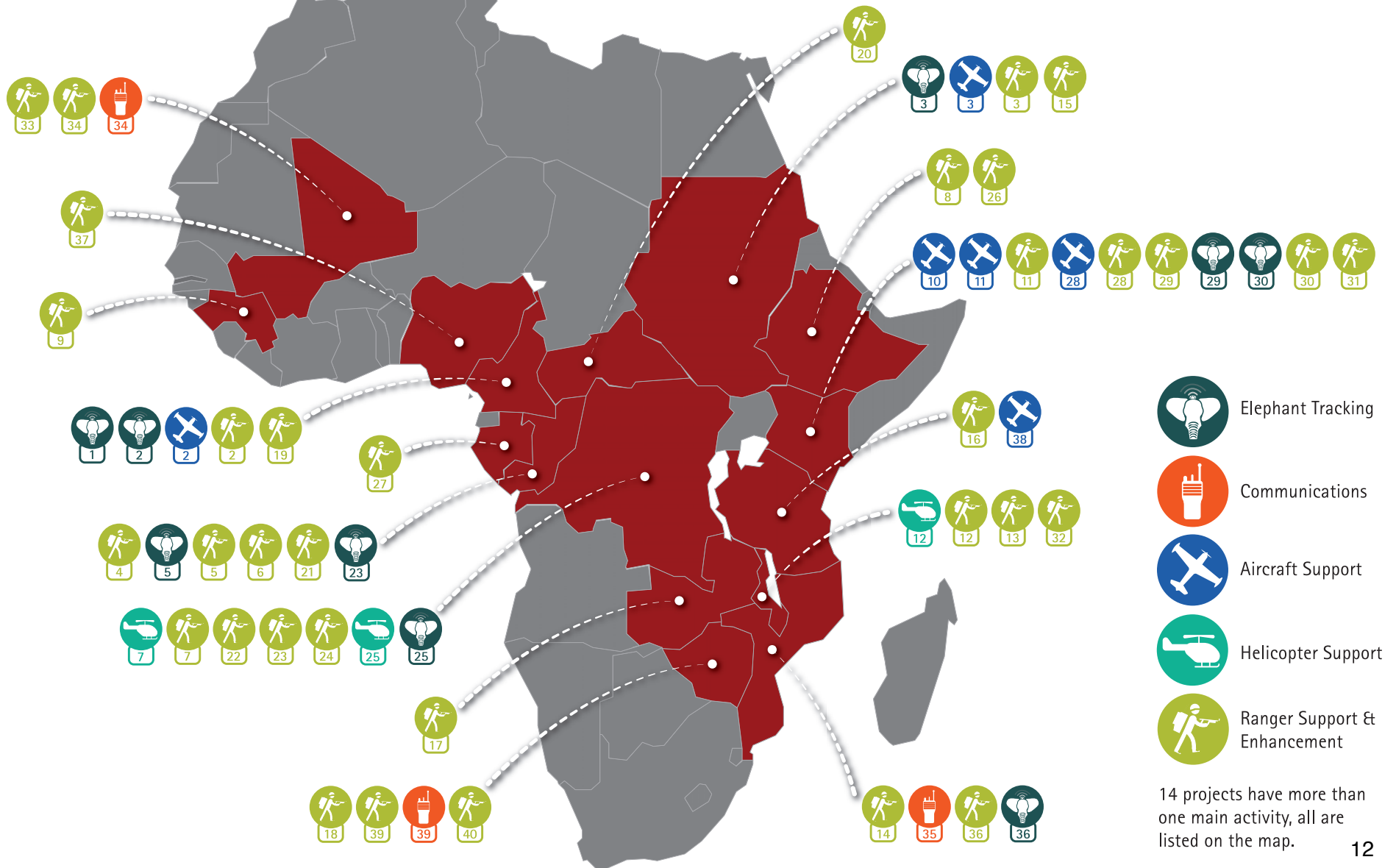
The efforts of the Investigation and Intelligence Unit appear to be paying off. In 2015, 26 elephants were lost to poaching in the Musalangu Game Management Area that borders North Luangwa reserve. In the first six months of 2016 only two elephants have been lost.

Illustrating the catalytic nature and mission of the Elephant Crisis Fund, these investments, and the proven success of the IIU model in North Luangwa, have directly resulted in new and larger funds flowing for these efforts in the borderlands of northern and eastern Zambia through the WildCat Foundation.

# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

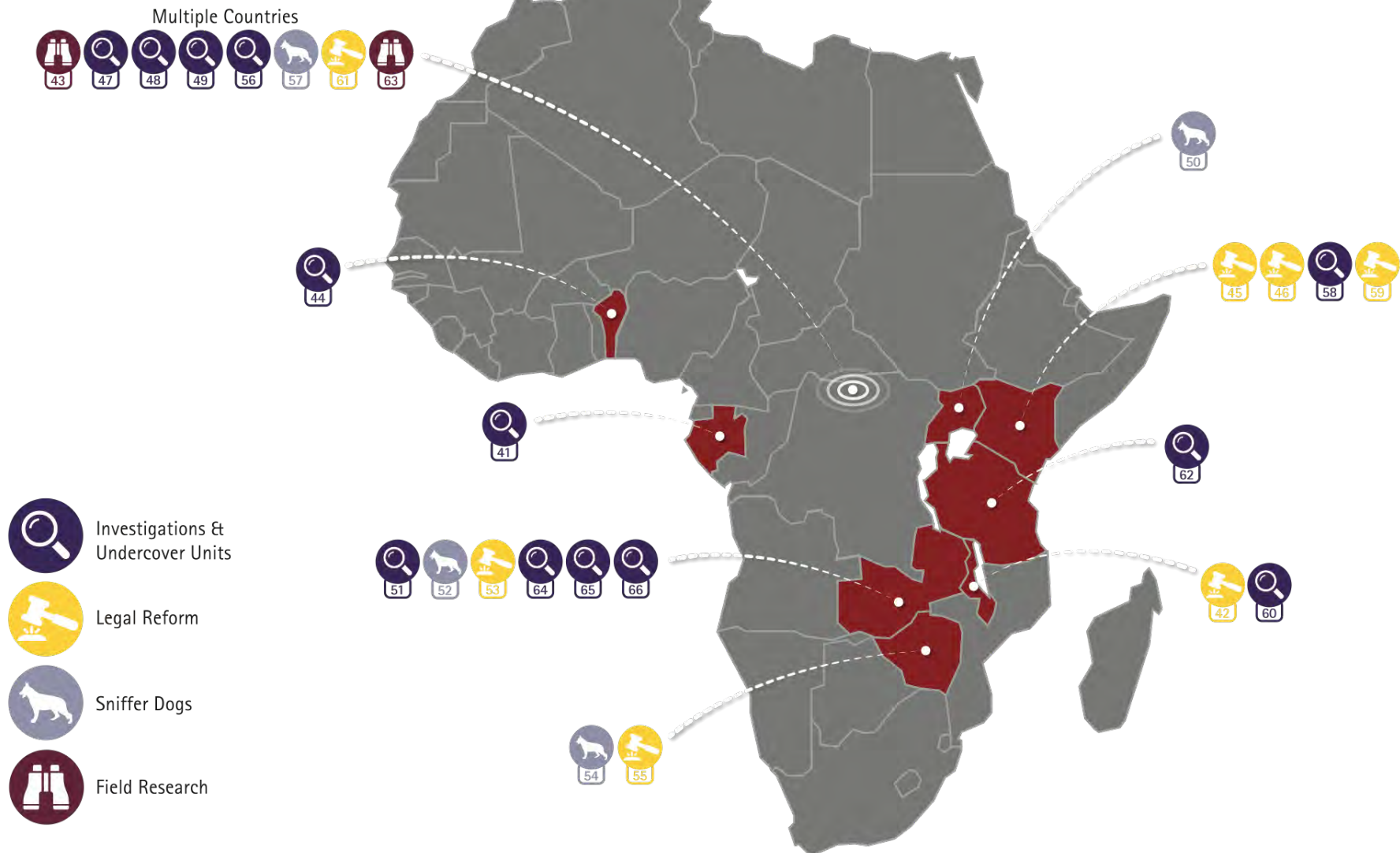
## ANTI-POACHING PROJECTS

May 2013 - June 2016





# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECTS May 2013 - June 2016



# ELEPHANT CRISIS FUND

## DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS

May 2013 - June 2016



# APPENDIX

What follows is a list of ECF projects supported since its inception. While some have been completed and the results are clear, others have only recently begun. Within the categories of anti-poaching, anti-trafficking, and demand reduction, projects are sorted first by phase (approved, ongoing, or completed) and then by country (alphabetical). Project numbers relate to the project maps. Some projects have been excluded from this list for reasons of confidentiality. Implementing partners are listed.

## ANTI-POACHING PROJECTS

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**1 Protecting Bouba Ndjida's Elephants (Cameroon):** Northern Cameroon holds some of the most important elephant populations remaining in the Central Africa savannah region. In 2008 Bouba Ndjida National Park and surrounding hunting areas were estimated to support some 600 elephants. In 2012 horsemen carrying military grade weapons from Sudan or Eastern Chad massacred hundreds of elephants in the park for their ivory, and 2015 estimates suggest little more than 100 remain. This project will directly fund the deployment of 15 tracking collars amongst five different groups, enabling real-time monitoring of elephant movement. This data combined with aerial support will help provide invaluable information to law enforcement teams operating on the ground.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).* **APPROVED.**

**2 Securing the Elephants of Mbam Djerem National Park (Cameroon):** Located in the center of Cameroon, the Mbam Djerem National Park is the second largest protected area in Cameroon. Poaching pressure there remains high, with poachers using the movement of refugees from the Central African Republic as cover. The ECF is funding the deployment of 10 tracking collars to monitor real-time elephant movement and is partially funding aerial patrols and anti-poaching operations as part of a wider integrated law enforcement program.

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

**3 Strengthening Elephant Security Across South Sudan (South Sudan):** At least 500 elephants have been killed in South Sudan since fighting began in 2013, according to the nation's wildlife service. Although a tentative peace agreement has been reached, the poaching situation remains dire and ivory trafficking continues to increase, with weak environmental regulations and demobilized soldiers looting the country's natural resources. The ECF grant will directly support the acquisition of 10 collars, aid field operations, and establish an investigations team. This will support an existing national elephant monitoring program and help reinforce wildlife trafficking efforts in South Sudan.

*Implementing Partners: South Sudan National Wildlife Service/Wildlife Conservation Society.* **APPROVED.**

**4 Dismantling Poaching Networks in Nouabale Ndoki National Park – Phase 2 (Congo):** This project aims to increase the effectiveness of anti-poaching operations through improved intelligence gathering, improved targeting of law enforcement patrols, and enhanced legal follow up. In January 2016 the park launched a Wildlife Crime Unit and the Rapid Response Unit of specialized eco-guards was reinforced and supplied with a Toyota Land Cruiser. The law enforcement control room has been upgraded, this serves as the hub for collating information and communication between law enforcement and the Rapid Response Unit.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. ONGOING.*

**5 Odzala Kokoua National Park Elephant Collaring Operation (Congo):** Odzala National Park in Congo holds one of the largest remaining forest elephant populations in Africa. With the construction of a new highway on its eastern border and human settlement increasing around its boundaries, its elephants are increasingly vulnerable to poaching. This project has deployed 10 elephant tracking collars to aid patrol planning and assist in the creation of a strategy to protect them. Odzala is a formal test site for the Domain Awareness System designed by Vulcan.

*Implementing Partner: African Parks. ONGOING.*

**6 Elephant Protection in Conkouati-Douli National Park – Phase 2 (Congo):** Continuing from a previous project, ECF supported a comprehensive evaluation of all existing eco-guards in the park as part of a plan to remove corrupt guards. A new elephant protection strategy was implemented based on a rotation of mobile patrols of 12 days each by four teams, and fixed patrols every seven days at the Yankia and Youbi posts.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. ONGOING.*

**7 Operating the Garamba Helicopter (DRC):** ECF has provided funding for six months to ensure that the helicopter based in Garamba National Park is able to be fully utilized for anti-poaching efforts. Arrests, confiscations, and confrontations with poachers have all increased but the situation remains dire in the park. Garamba has a nine-month wet season, during which much of the protected area is inaccessible by vehicle, making effective patrol deployment, medical evacuations, and tactical intervention almost impossible without this helicopter support.

*Implementing Partner: African Parks. ONGOING.*

**8 Securing the Elephants of Babile – Phase 2 (Ethiopia):** It has been estimated that Ethiopia's elephants have suffered a dramatic 80% decline in the last three decades, under pressure from the ever expanding human population. The Babile Elephant Sanctuary remains one of the largest protected areas in the country. Currently 32 scouts are deployed in Babile. ECF is funding their training and the salary for a conservation officer to increase active law enforcement in the sanctuary.

*Implementing Partner: Born Free. ONGOING.*

**9 Elephant Conservation in Ziama (Guinea):** ECF supported a year of law enforcement and elephant monitoring patrols with fuel, rations, a vehicle, and equipment. The project allowed the Ziama forest guards to operate for the first time since 2013. These patrols established a regular, effective patrol system in Ziama where previously there was almost no law enforcement activity. Relationships have developed between the forest guards and communities, helping develop informer networks and a supportive community. As a result of these relationships, longer term support has been leveraged for the reserve.

*Implementing Partner: Flora and Fauna International. COMPLETE.*



**10 Kasigau Wildlife Corridor Aerial Support (Kenya):** The Kasigau corridor links the parks of Tsavo East and West in Kenya, and has seen some of the highest poaching in Kenya in recent years. ECF support enables a gyrocopter to patrol the corridor a minimum of 60 hours a month to identify illegal activities such as poaching, illegal charcoal burning, trespassing, illegal livestock grazing, and logging.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Works. ONGOING.*

**11 Tsavo Air Wing 2016-2018 (Kenya):** Tsavo is home to some of the last “Great Tuskers” in Africa. ECF supports aircraft running costs for anti-poaching aerial support and elephant monitoring in Tsavo, as well as ground unit running costs for the Tsavo Trust who are focused on keeping these iconic animals safe. Since January 2016, 294 hours of aerial surveillance, covering a total of 22,010 miles, has been conducted. Kenya Wildlife Service has made 31 arrests with operational backup from Tsavo Trust.

*Implementing Partner: Tsavo Trust. ONGOING.*

**12 Aerial Support Liwonde National Park (Malawi):** Liwonde’s wet season renders many areas of the park inaccessible to patrols for six months a year. The provision of a helicopter has allowed intensive ranger deployment for a total of 1,149 patrols (45 long patrols, 139 short patrols, 101 rhino tracking patrols, and 12 river patrols) resulting in 31 arrests. ECF funding will allow the continuation of air patrols until July 2016.

*Implementing Partner: African Parks Network. ONGOING.*

**13 Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves Anti-Poaching Work – Phase 2 (Malawi):** In 2015 Malawi’s National Elephant Action Plan indicated that elephant populations in Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest reserves were increasing. To allow this to continue, the Wildlife Action Group began to pursue a multi-faced approach, through sensitizing local communities to issues of elephant poaching, increasing law enforcement, and monitoring the courts of Malawi. This project is holistic in its activities and supports other ongoing projects in Malawi such as investigations and courtroom monitoring.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Action Group. ONGOING.*

**14 Gorongosa Elephant Monitoring (Mozambique):** The Gorongosa Restoration Project is a comprehensive, long term initiative aimed at restoring the 1,570 sq. mile Gorongosa National Park to its pre-war state. Elephant Voices employs an evidence-based approach to research and protect the Gorongosa elephant population. ECF support has helped purchase a Toyota Land Cruiser for the park and will continue to help intensify monitoring of the elephant population, build capacity amongst Mozambican/Gorongosa staff and rangers, and integrate law enforcement personnel.

*Implementing Partner: Elephant Voices. ONGOING.*

**15 Elephant Conservation in Western South Sudan (South Sudan):** Conflict, weak governance, and a failing economy exposes forest elephants in western South Sudan to poaching and has enabled an illicit logging trade, threatening their habitat. Conservation here is largely a blank canvas; recently discovered, these are the first known forest elephants in South Sudan and they are at great risk. This project focuses on the immediate priority to protect elephants and their habitat by strengthening the anti-poaching presence in the game reserves and surrounding forest areas, and by supplying ranger training.

*Implementing Partner: Flora and Fauna International. ONGOING.*

**16 Expanding Protection in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor (Tanzania):** A vast area of the Nalika Wildlife Management Area found outside the Southern border of the Selous Game Reserve receives no protection from the Ruvuma Elephant Project despite its location within the heaviest elephant poaching area in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor. This project will increase much needed anti-poaching coverage in the area by developing a semi-permanent tented scout camp and an airstrip.

*Implementing Partners: PAMS Foundation/Nalika Wildlife Management Area. ONGOING.*

**17 Kafue Conservation Project Support to Zambia Wildlife Authority, Kafue National Park (Zambia):** ECF continues to support the Busangu anti-poaching unit with equipment and operating expenses they can use to fight back against Congolese who enter the park to exchange ivory for AK47s, motorbikes, and other goods. Following undercover investigations, a Congolese kingpin named Musolo, was apprehended with ivory and an AK47. His interrogation resulted in further arrests and recoveries of ivory.

*Implementing Partner: Game Rangers International. ONGOING.*

**18 Mana Pools Nyakasikana Patrol Base (Zimbabwe):** ECF has provided funding to complete development of a strategically positioned ranger base in Nyakasikana, Mana Pools National Park with basic living, housing, sanitation, and training facilities. The base will enhance park rangers' morale and enable them to more effectively react to poaching incursions throughout the Lower Zambezi Valley.

*Implementing Partners: Tashinga Initiative Trust Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. ONGOING.*

**19 Protecting the Forest Elephants' Stronghold (Cameroon):** Boumba Bek and Nki National Parks are rich in biodiversity, with significant populations of forest elephants that are 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. COMPLETE.*

**20 Protecting Dzanga Sangha (Central African Republic):** Following an invasion by rebels who began killing elephants in the World Heritage Site of Dzanga Bai, rapid deployment of ECF support helped mobilize an independent security team, train local eco-guards, and deploy surveillance equipment. Thanks to this rapid and effective intervention the poaching crisis was cut short before the situation escalated further.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE.*

**21 Dismantling Poaching Networks in Nouabale Ndoki National Park (Congo):**

The forests in Nouabale Ndoki Park in northern Democratic Republic of Congo hold an important refuge for forest elephants. Funding from the ECF established an elite rapid-response mobile ranger unit, informant and intelligence networks, and a law enforcement advisor to protect those forests. Fifty-seven eco-guards were trained and evaluated and between May and June of 2016, 53 patrols were conducted covering a total of 2,175 miles and 21 arrests were made of which 13 cases have been transferred to court. A truck containing 20 tusks was also intercepted. Although the driver fled, a warrant is out for his arrest and his case will be followed closely.

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

**22 Elephant Anti-Poaching in the TL2 Landscape (DRC):** In the northern sector of the landscape, the ECF provided rations, logistics, and communications for both army and wildlife guard patrols during a funding hiatus from August through October 2014. This allowed anti-poaching patrols to continue operating there. In the southern sector of the landscape, ECF support allowed TL2 staff to strengthen relations with security services and surrounding provincial authorities. ECF emergency funding helped maintain anti-poaching patrols and develop political support to protect one of DRC's last remaining major elephant populations. Poaching has significantly reduced since February 2013 after heavy poaching from 2010-2012.

*Implementing Partner: Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation. COMPLETE.*

**23 Elephant Protection in Conkouati-Douli National Park (Congo):** Conkouati National Park is the most biodiverse park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and holds one of the few forest elephant populations that have increased in recent years. ECF support maintained a team of 48 eco-guards in the park from March 2015 to March 2016. Areas of greatest vulnerability were identified by the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) system and patrol coverage increased from 27% to 43% there. No elephant carcasses were encountered but 7,256 snares were removed during this period.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE.*

**24 Support the Protection of Elephants in Okapi Wildlife Reserve (DRC):** This project supported the patrol costs incurred by increasing the number of government rangers and partnering with the National Army to better control elephant poaching and reduce habitat destruction throughout the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. Between December 2015 and March 2016, new rangers participated in 195 multi-day patrols (an increase of over 100 patrol days per month) and have moved into areas that have not been patrolled for over two years. Two soldiers and two rangers were killed in the line of duty while on patrol during this period.

*Implementing Partner: Okapi Conservation Project. COMPLETE.*

**25 Virunga Elephant Tracking (DRC):** In July 2015 Save the Elephants and Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo used Africa Parks' helicopter to deploy 15 tracking collars to track, analyze, and integrate real-time elephant movement into Virunga's security system. The data obtained has helped make security deployment more effective; no tracked elephants have been lost in the first year since this security system was put in place.

*Implementing Partner: Save the Elephants. COMPLETE.*

**26 Securing the Elephants of Babile (Ethiopia) - Phase 1:** In 2012, Babile's elephants were estimated at 324 individuals, a year later 100 had been lost to poaching. This population not only faces poaching pressure but also habitat loss from human encroachment, competition with livestock, and land-use change. The ECF provided Born Free with rapid support to revitalize ranger forces with training, six motorbikes, and other equipment. A new ranger outpost was also constructed.  
*Implementing Partner: Born Free. COMPLETE.*

**27 Securing a Stronghold for Forest Elephants in Ivindo (Gabon):** ECF assisted the Gabonese National Parks service with support to enhance law enforcement operations in Ivindo National Park. Support included park maintenance costs, training, and equipment. As a result, Ivindo took the prize for the team that undertook the most patrolling kilometers per ranger, covering a total of 1,690 miles. A poaching ring was detected in the southern part of the park, and park staff identified an elephant poacher who had killed eight elephants in the Djidji area in the center of the park.  
*Implementing Partner: Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN). COMPLETE.*

**28 Amboseli Air Support (Kenya):** Part of this grant puts diesel in the tanks of Amboseli National Park's anti-poaching vehicles and the rest funds aerial patrols by Big Life Foundation, an organization run in close collaboration with local Kenya Wildlife Service officers. Big Life's airplane aided in the response to a number of incidents, including an elephant trapped in a well. Other incidences included locating local communities chasing elephants with intent to kill, attending meetings of communities who want to develop a wildlife conservancy on their land, and searching for injured elephants.  
*Implementing Partner: Big Life Foundation. COMPLETE.*

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

**30 Tracking Elephants for Protection (Kenya):** With ECF support, 10 elephant tracking collars were positioned on high-risk and wide-ranging elephants to guide ranger deployment as part of a wider project funded by the Nature Conservancy, conducted in partnership with the Northern Rangelands Trust. High levels of collaboration between partners in northern Kenya have seen poaching reduced to pre-crisis levels.  
*Implementing Partners: Save the Elephants with Northern Rangelands Trust. COMPLETE.*

**31 Vehicle Support for Samburu National Reserve (Kenya):** ECF funding provided a vehicle, plus a driver and maintenance costs, to the Samburu County Council. The vehicle is operating in the reserve and surrounding community conservancies, assisting with anti-poaching and community relations.  
*Implementing Partner: Save the Elephants. COMPLETE.*



**32 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 the arrest of a seasoned poacher who was sentenced to four years of hard labor.

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

**33 Emergency Support to the Gourma Elephants - Phase 2 (Mali):** ECF provided emergency funding to sustain anti-poaching efforts for three months to protect the Gourma elephants. The Gourma elephants are a desert-adapted population of African elephants and use the largest range ever recorded (over 12,355 sq. miles) in their quest for food and water. A total of 158 individuals received training in firing live ammunition and in bush maneuvers.

*Implementing Partner: Wild Foundation. COMPLETE.*

**34 Mali Elephant Project (Mali):** In early 2015 a new wave of poaching provoked by the Islamic insurgency hit the iconic desert elephants of Mali. To combat this, the ECF supported an anti-poaching vehicle, radio equipment, and training for 50 foresters (government paramilitary agents). A loan was also extended for the installation of a state-of-the-art encrypted radio communications system while waiting for committed funding from the U.K.'s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

*Implementing Partner: Wild Foundation. COMPLETE.*

**35 Chuilexi Radio System (Mozambique):** ECF supported Flora and Fauna International by establishing a digital VHF radio communications system in Chuilexi Conservancy, a key sector of Niassa National Reserve, one of the last great wilderness areas on the continent. Now there is reliable full radio coverage of Chuilexi Conservancy for anti-poaching operations and management. This radio system is a pivotal weapon in Chuilexi's anti-poaching armory as constant communication can now be maintained and all scout patrols can be tracked.

*Implementing Partner: Flora and Fauna International. COMPLETE.*

**36 Reinforced Patrolling in Niassa (Mozambique):** Initial ECF funding supported increased aerial patrolling and an advanced data collection platform, including the roll out of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrol monitoring system to plan patrols and analyze threats. A five-day training course was run with 10 anti-poaching scouts and two anti-poaching control gate scouts.

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

**37 Yankari Anti-Poaching Support (Nigeria):** The ECF supplied funds for ranger training and two vehicles to protect an imperiled and remote elephant population in Nigeria. An intensive 30-day ranger training course was carried out by Conservation Outcomes—an organization recognized as a provider of some of the best ranger training available on the continent—with 28 out of 46 rangers successfully completing the course. Between January and March 2016, 52 camping patrols were completed covering 3,528 miles. Seventeen people were arrested for various offences and no elephant carcasses were seen.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE.*

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

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE.*

**39 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.

*Implementing Partner: Tashinga Initiative Trust. COMPLETE.*

**40 Improved Road Access for Security in Matusadona (Zimbabwe):** A digger was purchased with ECF funds with the aim of reducing poaching in Matusadona National Park through the improvement of road access. Anti-poaching units now have vehicular access to most of the known approaches to the valley floor and have increased reaction time in response to poaching incidents.

*Implementing Partner: The Zambezi Society. COMPLETE.*

## **ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECTS**

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For the safety and operational security of the implementing organizations we have not included in this public report the details of the anti-trafficking projects (numbers 41-66).

To date, the ECF has supported 26 projects designed to disrupt ivory trafficking networks and increase pressure on the syndicates involved. The 21 different grantees have deployed investigations operatives, undercover units, and sniffer dog teams, as well as conducting legal reform and anti-corruption initiatives.

In total these grantees have received \$1,522,580 towards their operations.

## DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS

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**67 Building the Policy Path: The Need to Increase Staff in China Focused on Regulatory Reform of the Ivory Market (China):** ECF funds went towards the employment of a full-time staff officer in Beijing to advocate for specific steps China may take to reform its current ivory laws and policies.

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

**68 Joint Agency Elephant Ivory U.S. State Ban Effort (U.S.A.):** The ECF supports work towards bans restricting the sale of ivory in several key states in the U.S. In May 2016 the Hawaii State Senate unanimously passed a bill to ban the sale of ivory. This was the culmination of nine months of lobbying, meetings, public events, e-alerts, and research by the implementing coalition of IFAW, WCS, HSUS, and NRDC.

*Implementing Partner: Coalition. ONGOING.*

**69 Changing Demand for Ivory Through Celebrity Outreach (China):** Funding has supported the development of finely-tuned television and cinema spots by stars like Yao Ming, Jackie Chan, David Beckham, Prince William, and Li Bingbing that encourage people to stop buying illegal wildlife parts and products. These media spots have gained widespread publicity and are shifting public opinion and government policy.

*Implementing Partner: WildAid. COMPLETE.*

**70 Evaluation of China's Ivory Trade Policies (China):** ECF funding supported an evaluation of overseas and domestic trade policies for the Chinese CITES management authority and State Forestry Administration. The purpose was to encourage the Chinese government to adopt reforms that would reduce or eliminate the role that China's ivory market is playing in elephant poaching. A final report was completed and delivered to the State Forestry Administration.

*Implementing Agency: Natural Resources Defense Council. COMPLETE.*

**71 Reducing Ivory Demand Through Key Opinion Leaders (China):** Twelve key opinion leaders created Public Service Announcements (PSAs) shown on subways, trains, buses, and airports in over 40 cities encompassing 28 provinces, representing 80% of China. During Chinese New Year these reached 300 million passengers. Pro bono advertising space worth US\$2.7 million per month was provided across Guangzhou airport.

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

**72 Ivory Surveys in China, Vietnam, and Laos (East Asia):** A November 2015 survey funded by the ECF and conducted by Lucy Vigne and Esmond Martin, experts on ivory market research, revealed that the raw, wholesale price of ivory had almost halved to \$1,100 per kilo over the previous 18 months.

*Implementing Partner: Martin and Vigne. COMPLETE.*

**73 Hong Kong Ivory Survey (Hong Kong):** This ECF funded project researched the ivory markets in Hong Kong and Macao producing a comprehensive report. This report, *Hong Kong's Ivory: More Items for Sale Than in Any Other City in the World*,

by consultants Esmond Martin and Lucy Vigne was launched at a simultaneous press conference held in Hong Kong and Nairobi on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

*Implementing Partner: Martin and Vigne. COMPLETE.*

**74 Introducing Li Bingbing to Elephants on Film (Kenya):** Save the Elephants introduced popular Chinese actress, Li Bingbing, a UNEP Environmental Ambassador, to wild elephants on a site visit to Samburu National Reserve in Kenya and educated her on the impacts of buying ivory. Bingbing returned to China an ardent advocate, and her subsequent 'Say No to Ivory' campaign became the fastest growing social media topic in China in four years.

*Implementing Partner: Save the Elephants with UNEP. COMPLETE.*

**75 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 on building local support for strengthened legislation and enforcement.

*Implementing Partner: WildAid. COMPLETE.*

**76 Washington Post Ad for U.S. Ivory Ban (U.S.A.):** ECF funded a full page advertisement in the Washington Post aimed at counteracting opposition to the ivory ban. As a result, 425,000 names were put on a petition and the implementation of the executive order to ban domestic trade followed shortly afterwards.

*Implementing Partner: International Fund for Animal Welfare. COMPLETE.*

**77 96 Elephants: Passing an Ivory Ban in California (U.S.A.):** ECF provided support to a coalition of conservation organizations working to pass a state level ban on ivory sales in California, the second largest ivory market in the U.S. 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". This legislation, named AB 96, was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

*Implementing Partner: Wildlife Conservation Society. COMPLETE.*