

AFRICAN ELEPHANT COALITION DECLARATION
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BAMAKO, MALI
7 FEBRUARY 2008

We, the delegates from Western Africa, Central Africa and Eastern Africa, also representing 14 (fourteen) countries in the African Elephant Coalition Meeting, Bamako, Mali, 6th – 7th February 2008, and also recognizing the support through the delegate from India, for the Asian elephant range states,

Considering the current situation of the African Elephants in the range states and the CITES CoP decisions particularly CoP14 decision 14.75,

Considering the declaration of the Accra meeting August 22nd – 24th 2006 of delegates from Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa (Malawi),

Whereas the African elephant populations are listed in appendix I of CITES apart from South Africa , Botswana , Zimbabwe and Namibia populations,

Having noted with serious concerns the plight of African elephant, the delegates have herein declared to create a coalition bearing the name “**African Elephant Coalition**”. Further, as the first coalition task, it has developed strategies and actions for the implementation of CoP14 decisions

Therefore, this document has been developed through a workshop Bamako , Mali 6-7th February 2008 as a declaration by 14 (fourteen) African countries that have common interest in pursuing elephant conservation. It is also an outcome of an informal coalition of 21 African countries that during CITES CoP14, The

Hague, The Netherlands, June 2007 supported Kenya-Mali proposal on 20 year moratorium on international ivory trade and of a meeting held in the African room at the CoP14 which declared to maintain the coalition,

Thus

1. This declaration establishes the African Elephant Coalition (AEC) as a coalition of African countries that pursue elephant conservation. It will function as a collaborative body of representatives of State agencies that are the CITES MA in the respective countries and conservation non-governmental organizations.
2. The purpose, mission and vision of the coalition are embodied in the follows statement:

“The coalition will strive to have a viable and healthy elephant population free of threats from International ivory trade. Parties to the coalition will also develop an elephant action plan that will encompass national and regional elephant strategies that promote non consumptive use of elephants through development of ecotourism for the benefit of local communities”.

3. The public announcement and work of the coalition began in June, 2007 with the initial meetings during the CITES CoP14 at The Hague , The Netherlands.
4. Administratively, the coalition will have a Chair and Co-chair at ministerial level and regional representatives to coordinate their respective regions. For the first three years, the coalition will be headquartered in Bamako and chaired by Mali and co-chaired by Kenya . Thus, the initial member

designated as Chair is the Minister of Environment and Sanitation of Mali. The Chair and the Co-chair respective agencies in charge of elephant conservation and CITES will constitute the Coalition Secretariat. The Regional representative members to coordinate their region for the next four year are (1) Ivory Coast for Western Africa (2) Central African Republic for Central Africa and (3) Rwanda for Eastern Africa .

5. The governance structure is based on the consensus process and facilitator model that entrench equalized dialogue rather than a top-down hierarchical system and every member has equal say in proceedings. All the positions are on voluntary basis.

Chair
Representative/
Coordinator Central African region
Representative/
Coordinator Eastern African region

Representative/
Coordinator Western African region

Co-Chair

6. Specific activities to be undertaken by the coalition will include the following:
 - a. Follow-up on the implementation of CITES CoP14 decisions on elephant conservation and ivory trade and particularly those decisions directed to the parties
 - b. Implementation of decision 14.75, ***Directed to African elephant range States*** (Appendix 1) on resource mobilization, capacity building, development and implementation of action plans

- c. Monitor both legal and illegal trade in ivory
- d. Develop common stand for the next CITES CoP15 and subsequent CoPs based on new developments in ivory trade and elephant conservation and management
- e. Advise the SC members of the regions represented in the coalition

7. Membership at present includes the African countries that are party to CITES, individuals and organizations on the attached membership/signatories, who by appending signatures to this declaration have:

- a. agreed to be part of the coalition, and
- b. accept this declaration.

Membership may change (through withdrawal but not within the first two years from the time of signing for membership), and members will be added as determined by identified needs and coalition interests. Thus, the coalition is open for membership by other African elephant range states as long as the member subscribe to the interests of the coalition.

8. Deliverables will include the following:

- a. Administrative structure to be adopted in the next meeting in June 2008, which includes the relevant statutes. The declaration will be revised by the Coalition Secretariat and approved by the coalition members before being sent to the ministers for final approval.
- b. A website providing access and links to information concerning elephant conservation. This web-site will be operational in six months and be continually updated.
- c. An electronic List-Serve, with central email address, to keep members informed by distributing minutes, announcements of mutual interest and sharing information on each organization ongoing activities relevant to the coalition mission;

- d. A regular and accessible procedure for providing timely, accurate and clear information to coalition members, State decision-makers, and the public through the List-Serve, the Website, and special reports;
 - e. Collection, monitoring and reporting of CITES required measures; and
 - f. The convening of a global Elephant Forum to be held in 2009
9. Schedule for meetings: During the first year (2008) full group meeting is to be held twice (next one proposed in June 2008). A 6 months schedule will continue in the second year, though it is anticipated that full meetings may be once a year. In addition, smaller task groups may meet more often for specific issues.
10. The coalition shall keep informed relevant NGOs, CITES Secretariat and other bodies engaged in elephant conservation. This communication will occur informally, as well as, through regular contacts.
11. Donor funding to support the establishment of the coalition will be available for two to five years through the creation of a coalition account. Beyond that, the coalition and other partners plan to continue to meet the financial needs and to find ways to support the coalition's ongoing elephant conservation activities. The existence of this fund will not affect the rights of the Coalition to access and use the proposed African Elephant Fund

NGO, individuals, corporate and other like minded supporters including governments willing to support:

Number	NGO	Representative	Signature	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

6				

12. Further to the signing by the country representative, within two month a formal letter confirming membership to the coalition will be expected from the respective Ministers, Agencies or their appointed representative. However the secretariat starts its operation on the date of this declaration.

13. The signatories as by 7th February 2008 are as follows

Party Membership

Number	Country	Representative	Signature	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
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STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COP14 DECISIONS

The Coalition has declared the following with regards to the implementation of the CoP14 decisions:

Decision 14.75

A. The Coalition Secretariat to start organizing exchange programs to resource countries to allow proper sharing of experiences between members of the Coalition (entails an identification of resource countries within the Coalition).

B. The Coalition Secretariat is to produce a draft action plan for the Coalition and is to work with relevant experts to produce this draft Action Plan (such as IFAW, SSN, Born Free, etc) in order to submit it to the Coalition for Approval

C. The Coalition, with assistance from the Coalition's Secretariat, is to prepare a response to the letter sent by the CITES Secretariat to the management authorities of the elephant range States proposing that the IUCN/AfESG prepare a draft action plan for discussion at the Nairobi meeting.

D. With regard to the implementation of the Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory, the Coalition is to include in the declaration:

- A request to coalition range States demanding that they implement this action plan
- A request directed to the Secretariat of the Coalition to find funding to help members of the Coalition encountering problems with the implementation of the action plan
- A request directed to members of the Coalition (including the members of the Coalition identified in the Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory) encountering implementation problems asking them to identify their implementation problems.

E. The Coalition to give assistance to Southern Sudan in their implementation of the action plan.

F. With regard to the preparation of a report to Standing Committee:

– One of the three members of Standing Committee (Ghana , DRC or Kenya) will give a report to the Standing Committee on behalf of the Coalition

– [The Coalition is to discuss and decide which part of the report to the Standing Committee will be published ahead of time (in the report submitted to the Committee before the meeting) and which part of the report will be revealed on the floor last minute (need to preserve the need for surprise for some of the work done by the Coalition). The Coalition's response to the Secretariat's letter will for sure be published by the Coalition before the meeting.]

Decision 14.76

A. The Coalition make a recommendation to remove the ivory carving industry from the list of donors to the African Elephant Fund.

B. The Coalition make a recommendation that MIKE be removed from the list of recipients of the African Elephant Fund.

C. The coalition to review the terms of reference and purpose for MIKE, including issues relating to funding.

Decision 14.77 & 14.78

A. Coalition reaffirms that the review should not be limited to MIKE and ETIS only but should include all items listed under 14.75

Decision 14.79

A. Coalition makes a strong recommendation to the Secretariat, requesting suggested guidelines and terms of reference for the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee.

B. After receiving these guidelines, the members of the coalition review and provide feedback and recommendations to the Secretariat.

Appendix 1

Elephant conservation

13.26 (Rev.CoP14) The Conference of the Parties adopted the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory* attached as Annex 2 to these Decisions.

Directed to African elephant range States

14.75 The African elephant range States shall continue their constructive elephant dialogue aiming to develop joint conservation policies and exchange of management experience in order to improve the management of elephant populations.

The African elephant range States through the African elephant dialogue process shall develop an overall *African elephant action plan* for improved elephant management aiming at:

a) accessing and directing resources, towards

strengthening enforcement capacity in African elephant range States to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory;

- b) the implementation of the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory*; and
- c) enhancing capacity building, managing translocations, reducing human-elephant conflicts and enhancing community-conservation programmes and development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range.

The elephant range States will report to the Standing Committee on progress made under this decision with a view to providing the information necessary for the reviews referred to in Decision 14.78.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

14.76 Parties, trading countries, the ivory carving industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other donors are called upon to contribute significantly to the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the *African elephant action plan* and the programme for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) to ensure their establishment and maintenance.

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.77 The Standing Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, shall propose for approval at the latest at the 16th meeting of the

Conference of the Parties a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties.

- 14.78 The Standing Committee shall conduct ongoing comprehensive reviews of the status of the elephant, trade in its specimens and the impact of the legal trade, based on data from MIKE, the Elephant Trade Information System and the implementation of the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory* and the *African elephant action plan* referred to in Decision 14.75.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.79 The Secretariat shall establish an African Elephant Fund that will be applied to the implementation of the *African elephant action plan*.

The Secretariat shall establish a steering committee consisting of representatives of the range States and donors to govern the African Elephant Fund and to support and advise African elephant range States on the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Steering Committee shall decide on the organization of the administration of the fund.

The Secretariat shall, as far as possible through MIKE funding, convene an African elephant meeting before 31 July 2008 and at later dates as necessary.