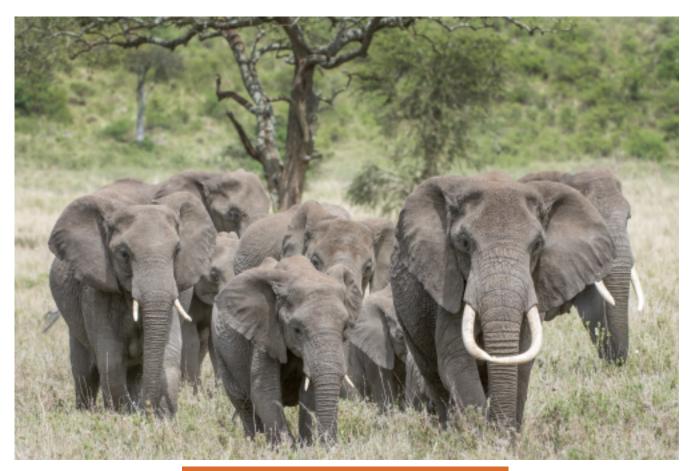# INDIAN CONSTITUTION ASSIGNMENT

TITLE: ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

Advancing Elephant Conservation in Africa

For sixty years, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has remained at the forefront of conservation by working alongside communities, government authorities, and partners to ensure that wildlife and wild lands thrive in   Africa. Protecting elephants and their habitat to maintain Africa's biodiversity and ecological integrity is a   priority that AWF remains committed to as part of its Strategic Vision for 2020 – 2030.

Though the past two years have been challenging due to COVID-19 – which in addition to the loss of human life resulted in the loss of revenue for wildlife authorities due to travel restrictions – AWF has been working hard to ensure conservation successes are maintained and iconic species such as elephants continue to receive protection. Over the past year, AWF continued to work on its three-pronged approach to species conservation: stop the killing, stop the trafficking, and stop the demand for elephants with a focus on the following landscapes:

  • Campo Ma'an, Faro, and Dja Landscapes in Cameroon

- Billi Uele and Lomako Landscapes in the Democratic Republic of Congo
(DRC) • Tsavo Landscape in Kenya
- Mkomazi and Maasai Steppe Landscapes in Tanzania
- Murchison and Kidepo Valley Landscapes in Uganda
- Middle Zambezi and Save Valley Landscapes in Zimbabwe

While Africa's elephant population continues to face various threats such as poaching and habitat loss, human-elephant conflict (HEC) remains an issue that AWF addresses through community projects and ranger and scout capacity building. AWF is very grateful for insert donor's generous support and is pleased to present the 2022 Elephant Conservation Report, which highlights some of AWF's achievements and challenges over the past year.

conflict (HWC). The number of trained and equipped farmers, scouts, and rangers has increased to over 3,500, and AWF has contributed tools such as torches, pressure horns, and fireworks to support .

Access to sustainable water sources continues to be challenging in the Tsavo landscape. AWF previously desilted two water pans – one inside the park and one in a community area and continues to monitor the impacts of the railway in the Tsavo Conservation Area. Underpasses were built under the railway and have been successfully used by the elephants to migrate from one area to another.

Tanzania: Since 2014, the elephant population in Tanzania has increased from approximately 43,000 to 60,000 individuals in 2021. AWF continues to support rangers and scouts with training and provision of equipment in the Mkomazi area while also supporting communities to mitigate HWC in Mkomazi and Maasai Steppe Landscapes. AWF investments to mitigate HWC while providing alternative income sources such as apiaries continue to prove successful to support conservation efforts while providing an additional income for local farmers.

Uganda: The number of elephants in Uganda has continued to increase due to improved law enforcement by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), which has made great efforts to control poaching within the country.   The increase in Uganda's elephant population can also be attributed to the movement of elephants from DRC into Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area due to poaching in Virunga National Park and political instability.

During the past year, AWF has continued the critical work to protect elephants in the Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) and Kidepo Valley National Park, with both elephant populations increasing to 2,726 and 646, respectively. During the past year, 20 community scouts were trained and equipped with skills to address HWC and promote wildlife conservation, and 15 scouts were trained in ecological monitoring in MFNP. The scouts responsible for ecological monitoring were provided with GPS, laptop computers, power banks, and external drives to source data. This will allow UWA to make informed interventions to address HWC. AWF has also implemented a chili program for communities in and around MFNP to mitigate HWC and provide an
additional income source for farmers.

Zimbabwe: AWF's teams on the ground have been working hard to reduce poaching in the Middle Zambezi Valley, which decreased by over 90% during the past year. AWF invested in radios, vehicles, tracking devices, boats, and various tools to improve the ranger's and scouts' work in the area. Rangers are now patrolling from the river, which has enhanced anti-poaching efforts.

Next Steps
- Improve the ecological monitoring in Dja, Cameroon, by installing 35 camera traps and
  conducting reconnaissance missions every three months.

- Strengthen Judicial Authorities to implement wildlife laws and regulations in all landscapes. • Organize training courses to empower wildlife staff to conduct law enforcement and improve monitoring techniques.
- Develop alternative mechanisms to combat HWC in and around Campo Ma'an by advising communities to avoid expanding farms into elephant corridors, establishing fences, planting pepper trees, installing elephant guides in villages, and monitoring elephant movements.

AWF continues to deliver its three counter-wildlife trafficking programs: Canines for Conservation, Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Program, and Wildlife Cybercrime Investigation Program. The programs are active in eight countries: Botswana, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. Ten additional countries have benefitted from the training: Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, and

Zambia. CANINES FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In response to increased trafficking and poaching, AWF established the Canines for Conservation Program (C4CP) in 2014. The program works with national wildlife authorities to develop teams of trained handlers and dogs. The units can detect illegal trafficking of wildlife products and are based at strategic ports and borders and in the field, where they can help track poachers.

Key Achievements

During the last year, the C4CP canine detection teams cumulatively searched 12,794 flights, over five million cargo shipments, and over 52 million pieces of luggage. 41 wildlife operationswere conductedwhich resulted in 41 finds, 78 arrests, and the recovery of 632 kilograms of ivory, 15 kilograms of rhino horn, five live pangolins, and 873 kilograms of pangolin scales. The tracker dog units working in Tanzania responded to 14 poaching incidences that resulted in the arrests of nine suspected poachers and the recovery of assorted poaching tools – arrows, machetes, snares, and knives, and poaching camps.

Botswana: The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) in Botswana has taken an active role in supporting their AWF-trained canine team. This team has been equipped with two new Land Cruisers and pushing toward the finalization and implementation of the Botswana canine unit strategy. The team working out of Gaborone has continued to conduct searches in wildlife trafficking hotspots in the country.

Cameroon: During this past year, AWF was able to mobilize a sniffer dog unit in Cameroon. Working with government authorities, AWF carried out refresher training for the dog handlers. AWF also equipped the canine facility and carried out maintenance works at the facility. Several meetings were held with key stakeholders to introduce the program. AWF is currently working with the government and stakeholders to

finalize the development of Standard Operative Procedures, and the dogs should be deployed at the airport by October 2022.

Ethiopia: AWF remains committed to establishing a C4CP in Ethiopia. However, due to the civil unrest and the lack of necessary approvals from the airport authority, establishing this program was put on hold for the better the past year. Working alongside the Ethiopian Wildlife Authority (EWCA), AWF continued to engage with the airport authority and relevant stakeholders. Earlier in 2022, AWF finally received approvals from the airport authority and the program is now back on course. In the upcoming year, AWF aims to complete the construction of the canine facility at Bole, train the canine handlers, equip the canine program, and deploy detection dogs.

Kenya: AWF provided technical and financial support to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) detection dog teams working out of Nairobi, Mombasa, and Naivasha, which all continue to conduct routine searches at the airports, searches at roadblocks, and intelligence searches where applicable. AWF conducted training for the lead detection handler trainers as a way of building the capacity of the KWS to be able

to grow and sustain the program.

Tanzania: AWF supported the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) detection teams based at Dar es Salaam and Arusha to conduct searches for illegal ivory and wildlife products at the Kilimanjaro International Airport and Julius Nyerere International Airport, respectively. The teams also conducted intelligence-led operations in trafficking hotspots within the country.

AWF has continued to work with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) to support tracker dog units based in Manyara Ranch, Mkomazi National Park, and Serengeti National Park. On May 26th, 2022, AWF joined TANAPA for the official Program launch and the official handover of the Mkomazi Unit (image to right). The event was graced by the TANAPA Conservation Commissioner.

Uganda: The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) detection dog teams working from Entebbe and

Inauguration of the Mkomazi Canine Unit

Karuma continued to conduct searches at the airport and border points in Central and Western Uganda. AWF and UWA have been working together to establish a tracker dog unit to be based in Karuma, Murchison Falls Landscape. In the reporting period, two tracker dogs have been trained, six UWA rangers have been trained as tracker dog handlers, a vehicle for use by the tracker team has been procured, and a driver hired. The dogs will be mobilized in September 2022, and deployment to follow soon after acclimatization.

Next Steps

- Support all existing dog teams to continue conducting searchers and intelligence-led operations. The support also includes the provision of fuel, vehicle maintenance, meal allowance for dog handlers, and equipping the teams.
- Continue supporting and developing dog welfare through the provision of veterinary and clinical care to the dogs, provision of feeds, and upholding the five animal freedoms, which is the cornerstone of AWF's approach to animal welfare in the Canine for Conservation Program.
- Capacitate canine handlers through tailored training under the AWF Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistant Training.
- Establish detection canine units in Ethiopia and support the field operations in existing detection canine units on ten bases in six countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- Support tracker units in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania by improving the technical support to the tracker unit. AWF also hopes to establish a tracker unit in Murchison, which would require training of handlers and tracker dogs and deployment of tracker units.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Key Achievements

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): With the help of camera traps, foot patrols, and rangers, elephants were 'discovered' in Billi-Uele and Lomako areas. AWF and DRC's lead wildlife authority (ICCN) has continued to monitor the 'new' elephant population. In April 2022, AWF facilitated a stakeholder's participatory landscape conservation workshop in Billi-Uele to confirm elephants and their habitats as key conservation targets. The workshop also outlined actions to be implemented to secure species while enhancing co-existence with local people.

Kenya: During the past year, AWF funded and participated in developing Kenya's National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) 2022-2031. This plan is complete and will be launched after the Presidential

elections in August 2022, when the new government is in place. The plan highlights human-elephant conflict as the leading threat/cause of elephant mortality in the country since poaching has primarily been controlled. The severe drought the country is experiencing has also killed at least 70 elephants. To partly mitigate this, AWF will

provide financial support to KWS for water provision in terms of desilting more dams in the Tsavo Conservation Area. AWF is facilitating the transboundary collaboration meetings between Kenya and Tanzania regarding poaching and enhancing habitat connectivity between the two countries.

Tanzania: AWF has supported Maasai Steppe financially and technically from their base in Manyara Ranch. During 2021/22, no elephants were poached on the Ranch. AWF has been contributing by supporting the provision of scouts, rangers, and tracker dogs. In 2022, three ivory trafficking cases were concluded, and culprits were sentenced to 25 – 30 years of prison.

Uganda: As part of AWF's support for the prosecution of illegal wildlife trafficking, five cases of ivory confiscation concluded in 2022, where the culprits were sentenced to 18 – 60 years. The government of Uganda will continue to support AWF's Wildlife Law Enforcement program through 2025.

Next Steps

- Work with the national wildlife agency to renew the Cameroon National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) during the 2023/24 fiscal years.
- Ensure each focal country has a NEAP with a clear approach. AWF will consolidate efforts to enhance effectiveness and ensure that CWT accompanies elephant protection.
- Enhance the Wildlife Law Enforcement Program in Ethiopia, which is considered an "urgent need" country. This will embrace rights-based conservation in Ethiopia, build law enforcement capacity, and enhance inter-agency collaboration.
- Promote decision-makers in focal countries to shape and drive development underpinned by thriving wildlife and wild lands. Efforts will be enhanced to conserve, protect, and restore ecosystems and the services they provide to improve resilience and deliver sustainable development.

Stop the DemanD

For hundreds of years, ivory has been considered a luxurious material and a symbol of power, wealth, and status in some cultures. As the demand for ivory continues to threaten Africa's elephant population, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and many countries are working to ban all international trade with ivory and ivory products.

AWF continues to support the China program to strengthen the Africa-China relationship during the COVID 19 pandemic. The China program has hosted several events and activities over the past year, both physical hybrid and virtual.

Key Achievements

- In August 2021, Hong Kong passed a new law classifying wildlife trafficking as an organized crime. This is an excellent achievement for conservationists since it will give law enforcement more power to fight wildlife tracking.
- The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) and the Chinese Ministry of Environment and Ecology (MME) held a virtual conference in October 2021. They discussed the outcomes of the 15th convention of CBD parties (COP15) and prepared for phase II, which would take place in late April 2022. Due to a COVID-19 outbreak in Kunming, China, the conference regarding phase II has been postponed.
- AWF and Friends of Nature (FON) hosted their 17th joint dialogue in November 2021. The goal is to

create a platform for African-China youth engagement. The dialogue brought over 80 youth representatives from various organizations and Universities together.

- AWF co-hosted two webinars in support of the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) and China's Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC). The webinars were held in December 2021 and April 2022. The goal of the first webinar was to exchange perspectives on barriers and opportunities to financing biodiversity. The second webinar focused on the complementary relationship between biodiversity conservation and climate change.