

**PROGRESS REPORT ON
NIGERIA NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN**



**PREPARED
By
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY)
SUBMITTED TO
THE CITES SECRETARIAT**

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ACRONYMS

ANI: Africa Nature Investors Foundation

EIA: Environmental Investigation Agency

ETIS: Elephant Trade Information System

FDF: Federal Department of Forestry

FMENV: Federal Ministry of Environment

IFAW: International Fund for Animal Welfare

INTERPOL: International Criminal Police Organization

MIKE: Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants

NCF: Nigerian Conservation Foundation

NPS: National Park Services

NIAPs: National Ivory Action Plans

NEAPs: National Elephant Action Plan

NESREA: National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency

NAQS: Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services

NCS: Nigeria Custom Service

NCB; INTERPOL National Central bureau

UNESCO: United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drug and Crime

WCO: World Customs Organization

WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society

PART A: SYNOPSIS OF NIAP IMPLEMENTATION

Nigeria became one of the eleven countries identified as countries of "Secondary Concern" by the CITES Standing Committee at its 65th Meeting (SC65) in Geneva in July 2014 and thereby making a total of eleven countries so designated from available records. The country has been identified as a transit route for the illegal trafficking of wildlife products including elephant ivory. Illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife is a major threat to wildlife resources, particularly those species that have very high market value including elephants which are mainly killed for their ivory.

There are of five sections which are Legislation and Regulations, National Level Enforcement Action, and Inter-agency Collaboration, International and Regional Enforcement Collaboration, Outreach, Public Awareness, and Education as well as Reporting. A total number of 19 key priority actions were developed with each of them involving several activities to be implemented within the milestones. Progress reports on each of the pillars with different activities were made.

PART B: SUMMARY EVALUATION OF ACTIONS (ASSIGNED PROGRESS RATINGS)

The Part B highlights the progress rating which is grouped into six (6) sections: Achieved, substantially achieved, On- track, Partial progress, pending completion of another action and not commence. Out of the 19 priority actions, 8 is achieved, 9 substantially achieved and 2 on track.

Pillar	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
A. Legislation and regulations		A1. Strengthen different wildlife legislation in Federal and States for harmonization				
	A2. Reviewed National Wildlife Legislation and compare penalties frameworks with					

	neighboring countries					
B. National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration	B1. Develop and implement appropriate wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures by strengthening links with other agencies, providing opportunities for interaction	B2. Gather intelligence on domestic illegal ivory markets e.g Lekki market, hotels and crack down on illegal trafficking at these markets.	B3. Strengthen the forensic Capacity by training wildlife staff in the handling of forensic evidence from wildlife crime scenes and on tools for collection. Training will be on forensic evidence of items; methods of identification and materials will be supplied in which police support will be needed in this operation			
	B4: Strengthened wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at international airports, seaports, exit points, and transit routes.	B6: Develop and implement a detailed and concrete anti-poaching strategy (including timely and benchmark) for Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Omo Wildlife Sanctuary, and other priority elephant areas detailing the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved and				

		specific capacity requirement.				
	B5. Strengthen the link and cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies to effectively manage and secure seized and confiscated an illegal shipments of wildlife specimens, and initiate an investigation to prosecute offenders	B7. Ranger-Based Monitoring. (SMART) implemented in all priority elephant sites.				
	B9. Involve local communities in law enforcement activities through local intelligence gathering in key elephant sites.	B8. Improve status and capacity building of patrol staff in key priority elephant sites.				
		B10. Step up law Enforcement efforts outside protected areas	B11.Implementation of anti-corruption measures as anticipated by recommendation on the Application Article XIII in Nigeria as agreed by			

			the Standing Committee at SC 70			
		B12: Capacity building among relevant law enforcement agencies operating at ports of entry and exit to strengthen CITES controls, using a risk-based management approach.				
		B13. Gather information on major routes of illegal trafficking of ivory and pangolin specimens, any role players identified and conducted analyses of available data to map out organized crime groups operating in Nigeria				
C. International and regional enforcement collaboration		C1. Development of trans boundary wildlife enforcement framework with neighboring countries which include the Benin Republic in the West, Chad, and Cameroon in the				

		East, and Niger in the North.				
D. Outreach, public awareness, and education	D1. Increase awareness and capacity of Judiciary and police and other relevant agencies on wildlife crime targeting enforcement and prosecution for better understanding of the current legislation through training and capacity building					
	D2. Hold specialist training on wildlife Crime investigation, intelligence and investigations standards wildlife enforcement for wildlife officers and prosecution officers					
Reporting	E1. Regular report to ETIS and to the CITES					

PART C: DETAILED EVALUATION OF ACTIONS

Part C provides detailed information on it with the Nigeria assessment

ACTION			
PILAR 1: LEGISLATION	INDICATOR	Evaluation	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (AND COMMENTS)
A1. Strengthen different wildlife legislation at Federal and State (Subregion) for harmonization.	<p>Reviewed the existing states legislations for 4 states where National Parks and Games reserves and two states of illegal ivory markets are located and harmonized with the reviewed.</p> <p>The final revised legislation of the states reviewed is in harmonization with the endangered species Act which has fines/penalties deterrent enough for illegal trafficking of ivory and other wildlife specimens.</p>	Substantiall y achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3/M4/M5/M6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After iterated meetings among all the relevant stakeholders (1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarterly meeting sponsored by UNODC) to update the legal analysis which was later sent to a consultant on 13th May 2021. On the 5th of August 2021 legal analysis report which was funded by US Embassy was launched at the roundtable event in Abuja to an audience of high-level senior officials from the key relevant government with the mandate to implement the laws identified. In attendance was Custom, EFCC, Federal Ministry of Environment, NESREA, NFIU, National Judicial Institute, NPS, US and UK Embassy, etc. EIA/ANI are collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV) on law reform and a draft bill has been submitted to the Honourable Minister of Environment Reviewed Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill was developed. The developed Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill was presented to the House of Assembly which has passed first reading by the House of Representative members after Ministry of Justices input in 2023. The bill pulls together and

			resolved the recommendation of the legislative analysis i.e., provision to address domestic ivory trade across the country. Subsequently the bill has passed second reading present by Terseer Ugbor, Benue State House of Representative on 16/05/2024. After its second reading, its moves to the presidency for Mr. President signing.
A2. Review National Wildlife Legislation and compare penalties frameworks with neighboring countries and other available resources.	<p>I: Compared Endangered Species Act fines/penalties with the neighboring country and other relevant resources to ensure that it aligns well with regional standards or exceeds the regional standard and is in line with CITES requirements.</p> <p>Penalties sufficient to serve as a deterrent (fines and prison sentence) meet or where needed exceed regional standards, and are aligned with the CITES Convention</p>	Achieved	<p>M1/M2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations of the legislative analysis carried out by Federal Ministry of Environment, UNODC, ANI and EIA fed into consultations between relevant government agencies (Customs, NESREA, Ministry of Justice, National Parks, Federal Department of Fisheries, Oceanography and Marine Research, etc.) to provide input on the legal framework for the National strategy and also to discuss on the penalties of the amended ESA 2016. Meeting via telephone/Skype were held between the Nigeria head of CITES Management Authority and the CITES Management Authority of Ghana, Cameroon, and the Benin Republic in February 2021 comparing each country's penalties, based on the assessment of the comparison, it shows that Nigeria fines and penalties are stringent enough to tackle illegal wildlife trade, especially on ivories. Also, fines are stringent enough to serve as a deterrent to the culprit. At the Standing Committee (SC77) held in Switzerland, side events was organized by Nigeria with Ghana, Cameroon Benin Republic, Niger and Chad on penalties comparison. Based on the assessment on the neighboring countries penalties, Nigeria's fines and penalties are stringent enough to serve as a deterrent. It was also discovered that Cameroon's fines are more deterrent than Nigeria and The deficiencies noted in the legislative framework have been addressed in the reviewed Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill with more stringent

			<p>penalties which includes sentences that meet UNTOC and UNAC requirements and are aligned with CITES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, the new bill gives the law enforcement agency investigators to look into financial matters to speed court cases of wildlife crime
National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration			
B1. Develop and implement appropriate wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures by strengthening links with other agencies to provide opportunities for interaction	I: Appropriate crime intelligence procedures developed and being implemented to strengthen CITES controls and address wildlife crime	Achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3/M4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the 3rd quarter of the stakeholder meeting for the year 2021, a recommendation on the application of Article XIII in Nigeria as agreed by the SC70 was discussed as part of the agenda of the meeting. NIAPs progress report was discussed through power point presentation and each relevant agency was able to understand each pillar associated with their mandates. The stakeholder meeting was a perfect forum that strengthened links and opportunities for interactions among the agencies. This meeting was sponsored by UNODC which was held in Abuja. Over 50 officers have been trained between 2021 and now by the World Customs Organization specifically on wildlife investigation, intelligence, risk management, and investigation procedure. The training workshop is an ongoing process, and more are being trained. More and more officers have the knowledge of IWT within NCS NCS has established an intelligence network operation in combatting illegal wildlife ivory trafficking with the partnership formed with NGOs like WJC, EIA, FC, and WCS Application of Criminal Information Management System (CRIMS) sister investigative Agency.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) has provided a few tactical intelligences to NESREA, EFCC, NCS, to support wildlife crime investigations in Nigeri • Establishment of Intelligence sharing platform with other sister investigative agencies • On the 17th and 18th of April 2023, EIA and ANI ran two separate courses on open-source intelligence investigation into wildlife trafficking to strengthen the capacity of these agencies to use OSINT to address wildlife trafficking. The training for the NFIU was held on the 17th of April 2023 while the training for the EFCC was held on the 18th of April 2023. Both training held in Abuja, Nigeria. • From 20th – 22nd June 2023, EIA, and ANI in partnership with the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit and Standard Chartered Bank held a workshop titled “Developing Public-Private Partnership Response to the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nigeria.” The event was well attended by officials of key Nigerian banks, the Central Bank of Nigeria as well as officials from the South African Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Taskforce (SAMLIT) and strengthened the bonds of cooperation between the Nigerian financial services sector and agencies with mandate over wildlife trafficking. • The Ministry through the establishment of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Taskforce (WLETF) and National stakeholders’ commitment to combatting wildlife crime in Nigeria has instituted a twenty (20) man Joint National Intelligence Investigation Team as operational of the Directorate of the State Service (DSS) from the law enforcement agencies in the country mandated to undertake organized crime investigation in Nigeria. • The team is also leveraging on the National Control Center for Crime (NCCC-C4i). A crime reporting platform of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), called ‘NPF Recue me’ which is currently on the play-store platform. This can be downloaded from the play-store and used by the citizen to report wildlife crime from any part of the county and the wildlife desk of the Police force will take action
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B2. Gather intelligence on the domestic illegal ivory market e.g., Lekki market, and hotels, and crack down on illegal trafficking at these markets.	I: Targeted operations to address illegal trade in ivory and other endangered wildlife specimens in the identified areas e.g lekki ivory market and others	Substantiall y Achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3/M4/M5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESREA organized a successful town hall meeting on 18th March 2021 with the community leader in cooperation with NCS and FDF on the crackdown of illegal ivory market, sensitized and educated on why they should encourage their members to stop trading on endangered wildlife species as it is not sustainable and for potential health hazards for the consumers. • Carried out interpersonal conservation awareness program at various markets eg Epe and Lekki market • After the meeting with the community leaders, NESREA conducted a public awareness/campaign sensitization at the open Market of Epe, Lagos on the dangers surrounding the unsustainable harvest of wildlife species for sales and consumption. This activity was carried out in 2021. NESREA is planning a courtesy visit to the Governor of Lagos State. • Committee of a task force chaired by NCS and other relevant agencies as members e.g FDF, NESREA, INTERPOL, Police, ICPC, EFCC, etc. established in 2020 during the stakeholders meeting. Part of the recommendations of the committee was regular raiding of Lekki ivory market once in six months. In 2020, NCS was able to make a seizure of 1003kg of pangolin scale and 29.35kg of elephant tusk from Lekki Market. In 2021 and 2022 total of about 2,035kg pangolin scale and 1,046kg, elephant tusks were seized from some of the criminal groups working in and around the lekki market which has impacted positively and reduced the display of ivory specimens also with the hidden once. • The Nigeria Task force (WLETF) was launched on 8th March 2023, the first joint training with Cameroon Tak force members

			<p>on basic intelligence will be held on 14th-18th August 2023. BORN FREE USA will be holding training for patrol personnel at the borders and Airport in Kano and Abuja in September 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and intelligence gathered lead to discovery of various new markets like Onitsha main Market, Alaba Market, Jabi in Abuja, Lekki market etc • Periodic raiding of identified hotspots where illegal wildlife trade occurs, example Art and Craft villages, hotel shops etc • The Lagos, kano, Rivers and Cross rivers state governors were responsive to the letter sent to them. The state enacted taskforce which raid and constantly monitor the wildlife markets. This has drastically reduce their activities. • The Ministry has also recruited and trained confidential information (CI) for regular Intel's of wildlife crime activities in Kano, Lagos and Abuja which was promptly responded to and perpetrators are in currently in custody. • Ivory display in Abuja hotels cracked down and Lagos hotel and also Abuja Culture center crackdown for ivory selling. Quarterly raiding in these areas to ascertain total crack down.
<p>B3. Strengthen the forensic capacity by training wildlife staff in the handling of forensic evidence from the wildlife crime scene and on tools for collection. Training will be on forensic evidence of items; method of identification and materials will be supplied in which police support will be needed in this operation</p>	<p>I: FDF initiated partnership engagement and coordination with existing centers e.g. Lagos State Forensic and DNA Center</p>	<p>On-track</p>	<p>M1/M2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMENV and Born Free USA in collaboration with USAID organized a virtual meeting to train the trainer training on the implementation of CITES for customs authorities at Reiz Continental Hotel Abuja from 13th -19th November 2020. Training on forensic analysis on fingerprint, evidence management, post-detection processes, etc. 9 Officers from customs, 2 from Ministry of Justice, 2 officers from police, and 4 from CITES Management Authority. • Development and distribution of Identification Guide on Nigeria's Endangered Species to Enforcement Agencies by NCF as a medium of identification.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone analysis was carried out by experts using CELLEBRITE while the DNA analysis was done in line with CITES recommendation by Wildlife Genetics Laboratory of the National Parks Agency (ANPN) in Gabon. • NCS has begun training on Wildlife Sampling for two of its officers by ANPN laboratory in GABON and further training would be done very soon. • There has been progressing made in partnership with Gabonese Laboratory for wildlife forensic analysis. Equally, lack of equipment to carry out physical forensic Capacity training.
B 4. Strengthened wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at international airports, seaports, exit points, and transit routes.	I: Law enforcement activities are strategically targeted in control of wildlife crime at the exit point	Achieved	M1/M2/M3/M4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 3rd quarter of the stakeholder meeting for the year 2021. Wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at major exit route was discussed by NCS. • Nigeria Customs Service Special Wildlife Office was established. Based on these establishments operational guidelines and procedures are established for endangered species. With this effort, wildlife crime enforcement and detection at the various major borders would continuously be strengthened. This meeting was sponsored by UNODC which was held in Abuja. • Nigeria Custom Service Special Wildlife office has started training workshops with the WCS, and NCF to build the capacity of customs officers deployed to exit points, particularly high-risk areas. • Scanners have been delivered to Onne port, Apapa, and Tincan ports. Officers of NCS are currently undergoing training in the operations.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scanners in operation at Apapa seaport, Tincan Sea port, Lagos State where major shipment do take place. Port Harcourt seaport has functional scanners at the time of the report Customs officers are well trained at the ports, especially on wildlife species identification through scanners. Through Born Free Sponsorship program, Customs officers and NAQs personnels at the airport and borders (Northern and Southern Borders) were trained on detection and identification of wildlife contraband at the International Airport, Sea port and land borders (transit routes) in February March 2024. This has yielded result, hence the security at the borders have been more tightened.
B5. Strengthen the link and cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies to effectively manage and secure seized and confiscated illegal shipments of wildlife specimens and initiate investigations to prosecute offenders	I: Collaboration and cooperation of law enforcement agencies strengthened	Achieved	M1/M2/M3/M4/M5/M6MM7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After iterated meetings among all the relevant stakeholders (1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarterly meeting sponsored by UNODC) a Seizure Committee was set up. A standard operating procedure for the management of seizures was formulated with the help of EPI. In December 2021, NCF organized a capacity-building workshop on Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade targeted at all stakeholders- Nigeria Police Force, Ministry of Justices, NCS, NESREA, CITES Management Authority, and National Parks Service. The 3-days workshop was held in Abuja and sponsored by partner- US Fish and Wildlife Service, European Union Life Grant. In this training, the issue of handling seized specimens, stockpiles, and destruction of seized and the role of prosecutors in combatting IWT was agreed upon among stakeholders. 45 officers of border control and enforcement agencies now have new skills for combatting IWT. Special Wildlife Crime office of Nigeria Customs Service is further equipped with the investigation. Intelligence, and enforcement skills

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCS and NESREA have strong cooperation with NFIU and EFCC to be able to include the financial investigation into wildlife crime and find more reasons to convict offenders. • Development of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for seized and confiscated CITES items. This entails ivory stockpile and management, a Gold Standard for storeroom management, and live specimens are also being handed over to National Park Service. • NESREA and FDF officers are fully trained in the SOP (Sponsored by EPI). Seized and confiscated items are properly documented using Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) • Inventorization of CITES items at the NESREA holding facilities in Abuja and Lagos. The exercise was carried out under the coordination of CITES MA and other relevant stakeholders in attendance. Inventory has been conducted on all wildlife specimens in the two storerooms and was completed in February 2021 while records were secured in the cloud using the Stockpile Management System (SMS). • An audit of the country's system for the storage and management of confiscated wildlife products (Ivory) has been assessed. Development of training manual. The agency (NESREA) is making use of established parameters contained in the ETIS form and SOP Document on the chain of custody and others. • In October 2021, NESREA and Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) developed an SOP for the management of seized and confiscated wildlife stockpiles. These procedures are already being implemented in the day-to-day activities of the storerooms management, security, and movement of wildlife specimens. • Established contact and intelligence network at the important exit points, especially at Lagos airport and Lagos Tincan and Apapa ports. This has helped in information dissemination among relevant agencies through Customs.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused Conservation set up a Specialized Wildlife Crime Office and equipped the storeroom for seized items at airport and sea borders in Lagos- Apapa and MMA International Airport • The security of confiscated ivory stock has been strengthened through the physical structure. Beginning from 2020, through the EPI, two fortified 40 feet containers serving as storerooms have been installed in the Lagos and Abuja office of the NESREA. Inventory has been conducted on all wildlife specimens in the two storerooms and was completed in February 2021 while records were secured in the cloud using the Stockpile Management System (SMS). • The Custom is processing some confiscated specimens to be handed over to NESREA for proper documentation using SOP. • Regular inspection of all containers for shipment at different points for screening: This procedure entails inspection at the loading points where pre-shipment certificates are issued before leaving for seaports. At the gate of the seaport, there is also an inspection to the last stage at the terminal where Customs officers and other relevant agencies will do the final screening before shipment. • New draft law and capacity building exercise to improve investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime co-hosted by EIA and ANI with UNODC in February 2022. • Inventory of seized and confiscated CITES items at the NESREA Agency Holding facilities. • Facilitate the development of Standard operating procedures on chain of custody of seized and confiscated wildlife specimen. • Officers well trained
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a well-equipped centralized holding facility at the NESREA Agency both at Lagos and Abuja • SOP was developed for management of movement and security of seized and confiscated illegal wildlife products. Regular documentation and inspection are always carried out every 6 months. • Application stockpile management System Officers well trained (SMS), well-fortified holding facilities with 24 hours security and CCTV • Officers well trained on proper destruction technique • Two wildlife criminal cases judgement have just been passed by Nigeria Court
B6. Develop and implement a detailed and concrete anti-poaching strategy (including timely and benchmark) for Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National Park, Okomu National Park, Omo Wildlife Sanctuary and other priority elephant areas detailing the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved and specific capacity requirement.	I: Concrete antipoaching strategy established and implemented at elephant priority sites and corridor	Substantially Achieved	M1/M2/M3/M4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NEAP process facilitated by WCS/EPI has identified 10 elephant sites in Nigeria. The NEAP details the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved as well as priority action needed. NEAP was launched 2024. Systematic patrol across the 10 elephant sites identified and building a brand- new operations/ control room to monitor these patrol. • • Awareness creation among the community stakeholders on fines/penalties that goes with illegal possession of wildlife and wildlife products most especially elephant ivory of African elephant and ivory trade. • WCS has an active schools-based conservation education and awareness program around Yankari Game Reserve and Cross River National Parks. In Cross River State WCS manages an environmental radio entertainment/ education drone program. • The anti-poaching strategy developed, 24 hours monitoring by anti-poachers on illegal poachers, over 50 personnel were

			<p>employed and equipped for effective monitoring, especially in Yankari Game Reserve, Okomu National Park, and other parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrol strategy and camping patrol schedule for a team consisting of 6 – 7 rangers per team were sent out on camping patrol 7 times each week, this strategy has also enabled the Rangers to keep track of the remaining elephants. Camouflage uniforms for the rangers and operation signs on patrols for effective monitoring. • Routine anti-poaching patrols/surveillance in areas designated as National Parks across the country. • The NPS is a party to the development of the National Elephant Action Plan • Potential elephant corridors identified in NEAP, facilitated by WCS/EPI • Conservation education and awareness creation in surrounding support zone communities in areas designated as National Parks across the country (238 conservation clubs established in primary and post primary institutions in support zone communities of the Parks) • The service adopts routine Park surveillance and anti-poaching patrols to enhance the effective protection of fauna and flora in areas designated as National Parks. • In Okomu National Park, well trained rangers conducting systematic patrol across the entire park and building a brand- new operations/ control room to monitor these patrol. • Thirty-eight rangers well trained and graduated which were drawn from communities in the two local government area of the park. Since the start of these patrols, 48 arrest were made. Poaching of elephant for meats and truck which is spiraling out of control have been greatly curtailed.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We conducted a huge participatory field exercise to re-demarcate the boundaries of the two largest enclave settlement living with okomu National Park
B7. Ranger-Based Monitoring (SMART) is implemented in all priority elephant sites.	More numbers of elephant sites with SMART	Substantiall y Achieved	<p>M1/M2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCS produces quarterly and annual SMART-based monitoring reports from Yankari GR, Oban, and Okwangwo (CRNP). There is 8 SMART equipment in Cross River National Park. WCS Nigeria extended its support to the National Park Service in Cross River State. This support included providing park rangers with SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) training. SMART is an innovative technology that aids in monitoring and managing protected areas. By equipping rangers with SMART training, WCS Nigeria aimed to enhance their capabilities in monitoring wildlife populations, detecting and deterring poaching activities, and effectively managing the protected areas in Cross River State Okomu National Park began to systematically collect data on their patrol across the park, on wildlife sightings and illegal activities using software called SMART on handheld devices. Cameras traps were deployed around the Park and obtain picture of Forest elephant and other wildlife species Most of the elephant sites have implemented SMART for the monitoring of wildlife species especially elephant apart from Cross river National Park we have some elephant site eg Omo and Idanre Forest Resrve, Oban and Okwangwo

<p>B8. Improve status and capacity building of patrol staff in key priority elephant sites.</p>	<p>I: Number of rangers trained each year across key sites</p>	<p>Substantiall y achieved</p>	<p>M1/M2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a specialist ranger training company (Conservation Outcome), WCS trained 60 rangers in Yankari GR and 60 rangers in CRNP. • Regular patrol team with scheduled hours established in Yankari GR, Omo Forest Reserve, and CRNP. • 40 personnel drawn from all the unit Parks and Park Headquarters were trained on weapon handling and unarmed combat techniques from 5th -19th February 2020. • 20 personnel drawn from the unit Parks and Park Headquarters underwent a refresher course for Armorer and Provost Marshal (VIP Protection) between 7th and 21st October 2020. • 40 officers of the NPS were exposed to refresher training on Paramilitary regimentation from 14th May and 28th May 2019. • 21-day refresher training course for 30 Park Rangers in Cross River National Park by WCS in collaboration with NPS from 15th February 2022 – to 7th March 2022. • 150 Officers of the NPS trained on weapon handling to build their capacities in effective anti-poaching techniques and law enforcement from 1st - 8th March 2022 • Staff can handle weapons effectively for anti-poaching patrol and law enforcement in all the unit parks and park headquarters. • A well-trained Ranger Force protecting the key elephant sites (No elephant poaching reported). • Thirty-eight rangers well trained and graduated which were drawn from communities in the two local government area of the park. Since the start of these patrols, 48 arrest were made.
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			<p>Poaching of elephant for meats and truck which is spiraling out of control have been greatly curtailed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross River is relatively well protected by the Nigeria Park Service with around 75 rangers based at 17 ranger post located along the park boundary. • WSC currently provide support for ranges in Oban including ranges training, field equipment, patrol allowance and field rations. • The level of patrol of patrol effort in Oban is relatively high with more than 4,000 patrol man days completed per year. • Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park is relatively well protected by the Nigeria National Park Service, with over 70 rangers based at 8 ranger post located along the parks boundary. • Yankari has around 60 rangers. Level of patrol effort are relatively high, with more than 7,000 patrol man days per year.
B9. Involve local communities in law enforcement activities through local intelligence gathering in key elephant sites.	I: Number of arrests made on local intelligence reports	Achieved	<p>M1/M2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of 18 elephant guardians was established around the Yankari game Reserve by WCS • Community scout engagement in Yankari GR and Cross River National Park • Quarterly progress report sent via email to CITES MA on the activities in Yankari Game Reserve where WCS is the coordinator. • Creation of conservation education awareness and provision of alternative livelihood support programs in Support Zone Communities (SZCs) by NPS in collaboration with WCS, NCF, ANI • Engagement of vigilante and other local groups within the SZCs to complement the activities of Ranger Force within and around the elephant sites.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intelligence Sharing and Arrests: WCS Nigeria actively shared critical intelligence information with the Nigeria Customs Service, resulting in a successful operation, and five individuals were arrested. The shared intelligence enabled law enforcement authorities to apprehend individuals with significant amounts of illegal wildlife products. The confiscated items included 219kg of Pangolin Claws, 100kg of Pangolin Scales, and 89kg of Ivory. This accomplishment highlighted the effectiveness of collaborative efforts in tackling IWT.
B10. Step up law enforcement efforts outside protected areas	I: Law enforcement strengthens outside the protected areas	Substantially Achieved	M1/M2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of community leaders and youth through meeting and formation of different groups, in addition to awareness raising/ creation on the importance of conserving the wildlife fauna and flora in their communities. This exercise was carried out in Bauchi and Ogun states by the Federal Department of Forestry. Patrol of areas outside protected areas increased and improved intelligence gathering and database management on illegal activities with the help of NESREA. NESREA in collaboration with Police carry out routine checks' activities once in three months as a control measure. A live specimen was seized and subsequently reintroduced into the wild. Establishment of Demonstration Cottage Apiary in Eight (8) States and training of the Indigenous local people living in the communities hosting and around wildlife protected areas namely Benue, Kogi, Ogun, Taraba, Rivers, Osun, Ogun, Anambra from 2021- 2022. This has helped to create job and economic empowerment for the local people living in the communities around protected areas for alternative livelihood and attitude change toward poaching and wildlife crime. This is sponsored and implemented by Federal Ministry of Environment

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Indigenous local people living in the communities especially the hunters hosting and around wildlife protected areas on Domestication and Multiplication of Grass cutter and Snails as source of animal protein. This training has educated and trained the local people living in the communities around protected areas on Grass cutter and Snail farming as alternative source of animal protein and entrepreneurial income from the sales of the animals to discourage hunting and poaching as wildlife crime. The training is carried out in FCT, Plateau, Taraba, Enugu, Ondo States which was sponsored and implemented by Federal Ministry of Environment from 2021-2022. • Local communities have been strengthened in the decision making process, a local taskforce was established through the villages hunters platform to work with enforcement authority around all elephant sites and National parks • Engagement of youth in communities around elephants sites on the need to conserve our natural heritage and in case any illegal activities is notice, reporting contact is given out for information dissemination. Also rewards are given to such act
B11. Implementation of anti-corruption measures as anticipated by recommendation g) on the application of Article XIII in Nigeria as agreed by the Standing Committee at SC70	Implementation of anti-corruption measures including an anti-bribery policy where illegal trade in wildlife is incorporated	On-track	M1/M2/M3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corruption Risk Assessment workshop for the Forestry sector was held in Abuja on 15th and 16th Dec. 2021 which was organized by UNODC through the support of the German Government and funded by the European Union. • All relevant agencies such as Customs, NESREA, EFCC, ICPC, NFIU were involved. To tackle forest crimes related issues, different risk areas were identified. A strategy to counter corruption link was established. The organizer recommended a corruption prevention committee (CPC) which shall be responsible for upholding policies and procedures on corruption prevention. • Corruption risk mitigation strategies for wildlife crime were designed. Forestry Department is encouraged to liaise with ICPC

			<p>to establish an Anti-corruption unit (ACTU) within the agency. Once established, AUTU representatives will oversee the implementation of the corruption risk mitigation strategy that will be developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESREA is working in partnership with the Nigeria Financial Intelligent Unit (NFIU) in the gathering of evidence on financial transactions/ records of any arrested suspected wildlife offenders to enhance prosecution. • NESREA and NCS with UNODC undertaken the corruption risk assessment carried out by UNODC in 2021 and the recommendation/mitigation plans would certainly form the anti-corruption measures/policies. • NESREA and Customs officers have been trained to develop a Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) for operation of the agency. • Between March and September 2022, UNODC continued to provide support for the finalization of the corruption Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation Strategy for frontline wildlife and Forestry Agencies
B12. Capacity building among relevant law enforcement agencies operating at ports of entry and exit to strengthen CITES controls, using a risk-based management approach.	I: Good risk management practices are in place and risk-based management approach in particular regarding container control is being implemented	Substantially achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3/M4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current inspection/ control system, equipment at Lagos, Abuja, Port-Harcourt International airport, and Lagos Sea ports with a focus on cargoes system and transit luggage inspection. • Three (3) officers each at every exit point and border, Federal Department of Forestry staff were added to Apapa and Tinian Island ports, Lagos and Onne port in Port-Harcourt trained for intelligent identification and thorough inspection of items. • Increased level of detection of illegal/ wildlife specimens resulting from series of meetings with relevant agencies once every six (6) months, especially on detection of illegal/wildlife

			<p>specimens, improved implementation on how to foster collaborations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts from World Customs Organization (WCO) were deployed to Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) for diagnostic/support mission and identification of gaps with appropriate measures put in place with contraband. This has led to recent seizures by NCS • Scanners have been delivered to Onne port, Apapa, and Tincan ports. Officers of NCS are currently undergoing training in the operations. • Scanners in operation at Apapa seaport, Tincan Sea port, Lagos State where major shipment do take place. Port Harcourt seaport has functional scanners at the time of the report • Customs officers are well trained at the ports especially on wildlife species identification through scanners. • Training of the WLETF memebtrs comprising of personnels from law enforcement agencies working at the ports, border entry, this was carried out 2023 and 2024. Risk based management was implemented through the training on Basic Intelligence, Basic investigation and human intelligence training (2024) in Ghana and Nigeria respectively. The training centered on risk-based management approach for effective functioning and control of containers at the port
B13. Gather information on major routes for illegal trafficking of ivory and pangolin specimens, any role players identified, and conduct analyses of	I: Available data on different ivory and pangolin trafficking routes and the role players identified are analyzed and used to identify, investigate the	Substantiall y Achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3/M4/M5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation into illicit proceeds related to wildlife crime indicates the products are sourced mainly from the Central Africa Republic, Cameroun to North East Nigeria particularly Yola, Adamawa, and Maiduguri, Borno State. The syndicate (Role players) are mainly Guineans and Malians resident in Nigeria and

<p>available data to map out organized crime groups operating in Nigeria.</p>	<p>individual and companies involved</p>		<p>some Cameroonians. Recent activities of law enforcement agencies especially NFIU and EFCC have disrupted the trafficking routes and the syndicate might have changed their trade routes to North-East Nigeria through the Republic of Chad because of the focus on Lagos Ports. Role players are mainly Guineans, Cameroonians, and Malians as suppliers with the aid of some Nigerians as Middlemen on the one hand and Southeast Asians mainly Chinese and Vietnamese as end-users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A serious investigation into the illicit proceeds related to wildlife crime has been prosecuted. • Training for Nigeria Customs Service: WCS Nigeria conducted a comprehensive training program for 89 staff members of the Nigeria Customs Service. This training specifically focused on transnational Illegal Wildlife Trafficking along the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor. The aim was to equip customs officials with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify, intercept, and combat wildlife trafficking activities in this critical region. • Training for NESREA Staff: WCS Nigeria organized training sessions for 67 staff members of NESREA. These sessions focused on transnational Illegal Wildlife Trafficking along the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor. By providing NESREA personnel with specialized training, WCS Nigeria aimed to enhance their understanding of wildlife trafficking issues and enable them to address and combat such activities within their jurisdiction effectively. • The LETF has re-visited seizures data collected for re-analyzing and profiling of the traffickers, couple of Intel revealed evidences of past activities of traffickers, financial details. More arrest has been made through this and offenders prosecuted already. • Cases of ivory seizures were re-visited led to new cases re-opened some samples of stockpiles of ivory with NESREA has been taken to laboratory for DNA analysis to ascertain the origin of the ivory and generate intelligence to track down syndicate
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INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION			
C1. Development of trans boundary wildlife enforcement framework with neighboring countries which include the Benin Republic in the West, Chad, and Cameroon in the East, and Niger in the North.	I: Strengthened and workable enforcement framework with the neighboring countries	Substantiall y achieved	M1/M2/M3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nigeria-Cameroon cooperation Framework Agreement on Tans-boundary Ecosystems Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forestry and Wildlife Resources has been developed and signing will soon be done by the two Parties. This MOU would strengthen and establish a workable framework with Cameroon and others identified as a route for illegal wildlife crime. • INTERPOL has strong regional collaboration with Cameroon. • In July 2023 at the 2nd International Conference of Ministers on transboundary, transhuman, protected Areas and Natural Resources held in Cameroon where Chad, Nigeria Niger and Camerron signed an agreement on protected areas against poaching and illegal wildlife trade. This has strengthened the relationship between these countries more. • At CoP19 in Panama November 2022, Nigerian CITES MA, NCS and NESREA hosted an official side event with EIA and ANI on opportunities and challenges to tackling wildlife crime in Nigeria, raising awareness amongst international CITES Parties of gaps in responses and areas for regional and international cooperation. • On the 19th April 2024, Nigeria signed the Cooperation Framework Agreement on Trans-boundary Eco-system Conservation and Sustainable Management between Cameroon and Nigeria. This was achieved due to iterative meetings of consultations between Nigeria and Cameroon. • With the establishment of WLETF of Benin Republic, Cameroon taskforce regional collaboration with Nigeria to combatting illegal crime which was launched 8th March 2023 and the first joint training with Cameroon taskforce held on 14-18th August 2023 has commenced

Outreach, Public Awareness, and Education			
D1. Increase awareness and capacity of Judiciary and police on wildlife crime targeting enforcement and prosecution for better Understanding the current legislation through training and capacity building.	I: Well-trained enforcement officers and prosecutors sufficiently aware and capable to fight against wildlife crime	Achieved	M1/M2/M3/M4/M5/M6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jingles from Nigeria National TV Station (NTA) and WAZOBIA Radio Station discuss and enlighten people on wildlife matters. This media broadcast has been incorporated into all international wildlife-related Days like World Wildlife Day, Elephant Day, Forest Day Pangolin Day etc. The idea is to bring more awareness to people with a deep understanding of the need for conservation. The awareness also focuses on fines for defaulting upon the prosecution. The 3rd National Sensitization Workshop for Judges and Law Enforcement Officers was carried out from 19th – 20th April 2022 where Judges of the Federal High Court were well informed about wildlife matters. Awareness of wildlife crime is still low among Nigeria Judges. The training had resulted in well-trained judges, enforcement officers, and prosecutors who are now informed and capable of contributing to the fight against wildlife crime. A virtual training of six Judges and seven prosecutors on wildlife law enforcement and wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures was done on the 15th and 16th of September 2020 hosted by the Ghana Forestry Commission and Nigeria Wildlife and CITES Management division of the Federal Department of Forestry in Reiz Continental Hotel Abuja sponsored by Born Free USA in collaboration with USAID. Thousands of fliers/Materials by different relevant agencies caption on awareness and sensitization flyers/materials on illegal wildlife trade on ivory and other wildlife specimen distributed by relevant agencies (Custom, NESREA) at entry and exit points (Apapa and Tinca Lagos port, Onne port, Lagos and Abuja airport) and also to exporter associations

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road show organized by FDF in Abuja and Lagos State on World Wildlife Day in collaboration with other relevant agencies on the need for conservation of wildlife fauna and flora. • EIA, ANI, and UNODC recently organized a roundtable on the law and practice around wildlife trafficking for judges, prosecutors, and investigation between 21st-24th February 2022. The focus of the training was to ensure that investigation wildlife officials are familiar with the key legal issues and that investigation of cases is thorough, complete, and results in convictions. This meeting highlighted that many Judges' Awareness of wildlife cases and requires support and further training to handle wildlife crime cases. In addition to judges, participating agencies include NPS, Customs, EFCC, NFIU, NESREA, and the Ministry of Justice. • Training of judges and prosecutors from Federal Ministry of Justice, Customs, EFCC, Nigeria Police on wildlife laws. It was held on 12th-17th June 2022, sponsored by BORN FREE USA, implemented by Federal Ministry of Environment. The training educates judges and prosecutors to win court cases and bring wildlife criminals to justice. • Police and other relevant security agencies are trained on all environmental matters including forestry and wildlife crime. Police training manual developed. • Workshop organized with judges, prosecutors, and investigators of the frontline law enforcement agencies with a mandate for wildlife crime related law enforcement interdictions. The participating judges presented different levels (Court of Appeal, Federal and State High Court. Thirty representatives from seven law enforcement agencies and the federal directorate of public prosecutions of the federal Ministry of Justices participated in the workshop. • Copy of Endangered Species Act given to the judiciary
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judiciary Training: Recognizing the importance of effective prosecution strategies in combating IWT and poaching, WCS Nigeria conducted training programs for judiciary members. These training sessions were designed to enhance the judiciary's understanding of the legal aspects and challenges related to wildlife trafficking. The training emphasized strategies to improve prosecution outcomes, specifically focusing on the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor and the Yankari Game Reserve. • The judiciary has better knowledge on wildlife crimes procedures and law guiding wildlife crime, procedures and laws guiding wildlife crime and judgement proceeding based on the training and they were able to pass judgement on wildlife crime. • Roll up Banners and drop back banners were stationed at Abuja and Lagos international Airport, three sea points Apapa, Tinca and Onie Sea port instead of electronic bill boards.
D2. Hold specialist training on wildlife Crime investigation, intelligence, and investigations standards for wildlife enforcement officers and prosecution officers	I: All wildlife crime cases are investigated, prosecuted, and publicized	Achieved	M1/M2/M3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESREA staff had paramilitary training with uniformed personnel. This has considerably facilitated enforcement by NPS. • Training of about 80 border officers including wildlife protected areas managers have new skills and wildlife protection and wildlife investigations and prosecutions in February 2020.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online training by the Chinese Government 2021 of a total of 20 personnel on CITES Implementation and wildlife Conservation, 10 of these trainees were from CITES Management Authority (Federal Department of Forestry), 5 from NESREA, and five from Nigeria Customs Service. The training also focused on import and export management of endangered species of ivory seizure, and identification. • Development of training manuals through the working partnership with UNODC in September 2021. A two-week training was organized for 21 NESREA officers and other relevant agencies on Wildlife Crime Investigation, Intelligence Gathering, and enforcement. • WCS organized a training workshop to raise levels of awareness of the illegal trade for 30 customs officers in Yola in March 2022 • Four days workshop with judges, prosecutors, and investigators of the frontline law enforcement agencies with a mandate for wildlife crime related law enforcement interdictions. The participating judges presented different levels (Court of Appeal, Federal and State High Court. Thirty representatives from seven law enforcement agencies and the federal directorate of public prosecutions of the federal Ministry of Justices participated in the workshop. • The judiciary has better knowledge on wildlife crimes procedures and law guiding wildlife crime, procedures and laws guiding wildlife crime and judgement proceeding. Below are the recent judgments made by Nigeria courts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, on Wednesday 17TH May, convicted and sentenced two men, John Kanu, and Obinna Eze, to four years imprisonment, for conspiracy and unlawful possession of 839.4kg of Pangolin Scales and 145kg of Elephant Tusks. Both Kanu and Eze were handed the sentence by Justice Nicholas Oweibo, after they pleaded guilty to
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			<p>the charges against them by the Federal Operation Unit, Zone A, of the Nigerian Customs Services, Lagos. Can be found in Daily Trust newspaper on 17th May 2023</p> <p>2. The Federal High Court in Lagos on Wednesday 19th July, 2023 convicted and sentenced four foreigners to six years imprisonment for wildlife trafficking. The convicts are three Vietnamese -Phan Chi, Phan Quan, and Duong Thang, and a Guinean, Mory Berrette. Justice Yelim Bogoro convicted them after they pleaded guilty to an amended four-count after they entered a plea bargain agreement with the Nigerian Customs Service. Can be found in Punch Newspaper on 20th July 2023</p>
REPORTING			
E1. Regular report to (Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS))	I. Correct ETIS template is used, and all ivory and elephant product seizures reported to ETIS	Achieved	<p>M1/M2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interception and Seizures of ivories are being reported regularly to the CITES Secretariat through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ETIS: ETIS forms were filled in based on the seizures and sent to the Secretariat (Traffic) for documentation. The reporting of seized and confiscation wildlife specimens to TRAFFIC through ETIS Quarterly reporting of wildlife cases via ECO-MESSAGE form to INTERPOL, Annual illegal report for 2020 and 2021 submitted. Functional holding facility periodically inspected by relevant authorities detailed data periodically forwarded to CITES Secretariat through ETIS forms and INTERPOL through ECO-MESSAGE Forms. Updated Annual illegal report submitted to CITES Secretariat For illegal trade reports, no CITES permit has been an issue since Nigeria is on suspension either on <i>Pterocarpus erinaceous</i> or any other CITES-listed species.