



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**  
**FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY**

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**Ref No: FMENV/FOR/4015/I/53**

**6<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

**The Secretary General CITES,**  
International Environment House  
Chemins des Anemones  
CH-1219 Chateline-Geneva  
Switzerland.

**ATTENTION:** Johannes Stahl

Your Excellency,

**SUBMISSION ON NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS (NIAPs) PROGRESS REPORT,**  
**NIGERIA NATIONAL REPORT AND PROPOSAL FOR COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE**  
**PROGRAMME FOR NIGERIA**

I am directed to forward herewith the following documents on the above subject matter to your office:

- A. Nigeria National Ivory Action Plan Progress Report (NIAPs).
- B. Nigeria proposed assistance need under Compliance Assistance Programme
- C. Nigeria National Report

- 2. The Above documents are attached for your necessary action and to acknowledge receipt, please.
- 3. Please, accept the assurance of my minister's highest regards and best wishes.

**Hajara U. Sami**

for: Honourable Minister of Environment

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



**PREPARED**

**By**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

**(DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY)**

**SUBMITTED TO**

**THE CITES SECRETARIAT**

**2022**

## 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

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.

Based on the recommendations of SC65, Nigeria developed a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) to eradicate the illegal ivory trade in the country. The Action Plan developed in 2016 was found to be adequate while it consists of five sections which include 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 25 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 and were submitted to the Standing Committee 69th and 70th meetings respectively.

So far, the following progress, inter alia, has been made in the implementation of the NIAP of Nigeria found to be adequate in 2016:

- One of the important achievements made during the NIAPs implementation period is on legislation, the review of Endangered National Wildlife Species Protection Act: The Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic amended and signed into law, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The act has adequate provisions to regulate international trade in wildlife crime within the borders of Nigeria and is supported by suitable subsidiary legislation and all other regulation with very stringent penalties. Nigeria is in the process of harmonizing the various existing laws particularly the State and the Federal Laws which would be subsequently followed by a review.
- The staff of various National Law Enforcement Agencies responsible for the investigation of wildlife crime were trained in the preparation of case files for court, Judicial procedures, and giving of evidence in court, about 12 cases have been penalized through payment penalties and 22 abandoned seizures were also recorded
- Another important achievement was inter-agency cooperation among the relevant National Law Enforcement Agencies including the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), the Nigeria Police Force, National Environmental Standards and Regulation Agency (NESREA), INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) for Nigeria, National Parks Service (NPS), Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Nigeria Immigration Service, a leading NGOs (Nigeria Conservation Foundation).
- Another milestone is the presentation of NIAP to potential stakeholders against the backdrop of their criticality in its development and implementation.

- Strategic sensitization and awareness have been carried out amongst the general population on the dangers of the illegal wildlife trade and on the importance of protecting and conserving our wildlife resources. The approach entailed the display of posters at our International Airports and Sea ports displaying prohibited wildlife specimens including ivory and penalties/ fines for defaulting.
- Priority elephant sites have been established in such locations as eg Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-River and Okomu National parks, Omo Wildlife Sanctuary, Idanre, and Andoni.
- In Yankari Game Reserve no carcass of the elephant was recorded from 2016 to 2020. The Game Reserve is being managed by the Bauchi State Government and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with the support of MIKE. Ranger-based Monitoring (SMART) is also being implemented in Yankari Game Reserve and Cross River National Park. The communities around these sites are working with the Game rangers to protect these elephants.
- Workshops/ training organized with the Ministry of Justice, Interpol, Nigeria Quarantine Services, NESREA, Custom and NGOs, e.g. NCF, to develop recommendations on wildlife law and how to apply the law and implementation of the workshop's recommendations (for example specialized prosecutors appointed in each of the Federal, State and Legislation training session organized for the judiciary, police in different enforcement institutions and trained personnel on enforcement targeting wildlife crime and the understanding of the fines.
- Inventory of stocks of ivory seized and updated, including updating the date the items were confiscated, sources of the ivory, and a comprehensive list of stocks of ivory held at NESREA and by other agencies. Government services were documented which will further be digitalized and arranged scientifically for proper monitoring and easy access to data funded by EPI
- Printing of flyers and distribution to the passengers, airlines, Customs, and other relevant stakeholders
- Provision of equipment for identification of ivory and wildlife specimens (IVORY KITS) in Nigeria borders which include the borders with Chad, the Republic of Benin, Cameroon, and Niger. Customs officers were trained in the use of the equipment for effective identification of wildlife specimens to increase levels of detection of illegal wildlife specimens and taking of fingerprints courtesy of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
- Involvement of local communities in Yankari Game reserve, Cross River National Park, and Omo Forest Reserve in law enforcement activities through local intelligence gathering in key elephant sites
- Training of rangers to implement SMART at Yankari Game Reserve and Cross-River National Park.

The report of the Elephant Trade System (ETIS) is the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Party (CoP 18 Geneva, August 2019) identified Nigeria as a 'Category A Party' due to the country's role as a source and transit country of illegally traded ivory. The Standing Committee at its 71<sup>st</sup> meeting (SC71, Geneva, August 2019), requested Nigeria to revise and update its NIAP in accordance with step 2 of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*. According to the Committee's recommendation, Nigeria submitted a revised and updated NIAP which was found adequate in May 2020. Part B highlights the progress made on the revised and updated NIAP with different milestones.

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

- The NIAP has a total of 19 key/priority actions. The following table presents the implementation progress of these actions and Part C provides detailed information on it with the Nigeria assessment.

Pillar	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
<b>A. Legislation and regulations</b>			A1. Strengthen different wildlife legislation in Federal and States for harmonization			
			A2. Reviewed National Wildlife Legislation and compare penalties frameworks with neighboring countries			
<b>B. National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration</b>		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	B10. Step up law Enforcement efforts outside protected areas		

			<p>B3. Strengthen the forensic Capacity by training wildlife staff in the handling of forensic evidence from the 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</p>			
			<p>B4: Strengthened wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at international airports, sea ports, exit points, and transit routes.</p>			
			<p>B6: Develop and implement a detailed and concrete anti-poaching strategy (including timely and benchmark) for Yankari Game Reserve, Cross-Rivers National</p>			

			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 and illegal shipments of wildlife specimens, and initiate an investigation to prosecute offenders	B7. Ranger-Based Monitoring. (SMART) implemented in all priority elephant sites.			
		B8. Improve status and capacity building of patrol staff in key priority elephant sites.	B9. Involve local communities in law enforcement activities through local intelligence gathering in key elephant sites.			

		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.	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			
			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			
<b>C. International and regional enforcement collaboration</b>				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.		
<b>D. Outreach, public awareness, and education</b>			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			
<b>Reporting</b>		E1. Regular report to ETIS and to the CITES				

## PART C: DETAILED EVALUATION OF ACTIONS

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>	On-track	<p><b>M1/M2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ON January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the meeting was held between UNODC and EIA/ANI on legal analysis of Laws and Regulations on IWT.</li> <li>16<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, UNODC returned the legal analysis with comments on how to harmonize the legal analysis and National strategy to avoid duplication of activities.</li> <li>After iterated meetings among all the relevant stakeholders (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting sponsored by UNODC) to update the legal analysis which was later sent to a consultant on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021.</li> <li>At this meeting, Lagos was identified as one of the states to review wildlife laws because of the Epe market and Lekki ivory market. Bauchi, Ogun, Cross-River, and Kano were also identified.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EIA/ANI had a meeting with the commission of Environment of Ogun State on the State wildlife legislation review.</li> <li>On the 5<sup>th</sup> 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. The analysis of the legal framework was commissioned by EIA/ANI and informed many of the action points in the National strategy. Indeed, the legal analysis is acknowledged as reference material in the draft National Strategy. The legal analysis report was launched by the Honourable Minister of Environment represented by the Chief Executive Officer, NESREA</li> </ul> <p><b>M3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. Meetings on validation of the Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) and National Strategy were held.</li> <li>Three meetings were held in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. The first was to validate the RRG, the second was to validate the National strategy, and the third meeting was the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter National CITES stakeholders meeting.</li> <li>The National Strategy document was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and implementation is to follow immediately.</li> </ul>
<b>A2. Review National Wildlife Legislation and</b>	I: Compared Endangered Species Act fines/penalties	On-track	<b>M1:</b>

<p><b>compare penalties frameworks with neighboring countries and other available resources.</b></p>	<p>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 enough to serve as a deterrent (fines and prison sentence) meet or where needed exceed regional standards, and are aligned with the CITES Convention</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations of the legislative analysis carried out by 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.</li> <li>Desktop review of penalties in the Endangered Species Act 2016 was concluded in the First Quarter Stakeholders meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 that the penalties are stringent enough to serve as a deterrent for illegal activities but still subjected to review. Selected examples of OFFENCES AND PENALTIES, FORFEITURES, FEES, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) It shall be an offence under this Act for any person(s) to conduct international trade in specimens of endangered species of wild fauna and flora in violation of the present Convention and this Act.</li> <li>(2) Any person who, in contravention of the provisions of this Act, hunts, captures, possesses, trades or otherwise deals in a specimen of wild fauna and or flora without the appropriate permits shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) in respect of a specimen under the First Schedule, the penalty is a fine of five hundred-thousand-naira (N500,000) 1220\$ or five (5) years imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment;</li> <li>(b) in respect of a specimen under the Second Schedule, the penalty is a fine of three hundred-thousand-naira (N300,000) 730\$ or three (3) years imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment;</li> <li>(c) in respect of a specimen under the Third Schedule, to a fine of one hundred- and fifty-thousand-naira (N150,000) 370\$ or eighteen (18) months imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Penalties/fines extracted from the approved ESA Act 2016 were printed and distributed to Customs, NESREA, and Judiciary by the Ministry of Environment.</li> </ol>
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			<p><b>M2: 06/2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Copies of Ghana, Cameroon, and Benin Republic legislation fines and penalties were compared with Nigeria legislation fines and penalties at the Committee of Seizures meeting on July 2021. Based on the assessment, shows 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's. Other countries for comparison are still on track.</li> </ul>
<b>National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration</b>			
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	Substantially achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter stakeholder meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with the theme of strengthening Nigeria's response to the trafficking of wildlife and forest products. At this meeting, using data base program call i247 handed by INTERPOL was introduced to key agencies to enhance the implementation of appropriate wildlife crime and investigation procedures. The platform was shared through INTERPOL.</li> <li>FMENV and Born Free USA in collaboration with USAID organized a virtual meeting to train the trainer training on the</li> </ul>

			<p>implementation of CITES for customs authorities at Reiz Continental Hotel Abuja from 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020. 12 custom personnel were trained in intelligence and investigation procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.</li> <li>• In 2021, NCS officially partnered with some NGOs to assist with intelligence gathering and investigation procedures to combat illegal wildlife trade enforcement. The result is the mixed wildlife product seizures recorded, and these are currently prosecuted. All IWT interceptions from 2021 are in court for prosecution with investigation from phone analysis and DNA to support other crime scene evidence.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Over 50 officers have been trained between 2021 and now by 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</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIA/ANI in collaboration with UNODC held a meeting with judges on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and for investigators and prosecutors (22-24 February 2022) from NESREA, NPS, Customs, FIU, and EFCC which aimed at raising awareness of wildlife trafficking in Nigeria and encourage multi-agency dialogue, including preliminary discussion about the establishment of a multiagency taskforce to combat illegal wildlife trade.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) has provided a number of tactical intelligence to NESREA, EFCC, NCS, to support wildlife crime investigations in Nigeria.</li> </ul>
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	On-track	M1/M2/M3/M4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NESREA organized a successful town hall meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 with the community leader in cooperation with NCS and FDF, they were highly 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In February 2019, a letter was dispatched by the Federal Ministry of Environment to the Lagos State Government on the need for urgent closure of Lekki Ivory Market being the hub of ivory trade in the State.</li> <li>• Letters were sent on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to Lagos, Kano, Rivers, and Cross Rivers State Governors as well as the Minister of Federal Capital Territory requesting their support in the Federal Government's fight against the illegal trafficking of wildlife products to on the need to close down the ivory domestic market in Lagos state especially Lekki Market which finally led (NESREA) the move through the office of the Hon. Minister of Environment for the closure of the popular Epe market. Courtesy visit to the governor of Lagos State on track.</li> <li>• NFIU received a number of spontaneous disclosures from international NGOs on illegal wildlife cartel operating in Nigeria. This disclosure formed part of intelligence that has been disseminated to EFCC for more detailed investigations and prosecution.</li> <li>• 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 with 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.</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCS in partnership with the aforementioned NGOs (WCS, EIA, ANI, WJC) has engaged undercover agents to monitor some of these high-risk areas</li> </ul>
<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>	On-track	<p>M1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> 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.</li> <li>Development and distribution of Identification Guide on Nigeria's Endangered Species to Enforcement Agencies by NCF as a medium of identification.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
B 4. Strengthened wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at international	I: Law enforcement activities are strategically	On Track	M1/M2/M3

airports, sea ports, exit points, and transit routes.	targeted in control of wildlife crime at the exit point		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the stakeholder meeting for year 2021. Wildlife crime enforcement and detection of wildlife contraband at major exit route was discussed by NCS.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
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	Substantially achieved	<p>M1/M2/M3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After iterated meetings among all the relevant stakeholders (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• NESREA and FDF officers are fully trained on the SOP (Sponsored by EPI). Seized and confiscated items are properly documented using Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)</li> <li>• Inventorization of CITES items at the NESREA holding facilities in Abuja and Lagos. The exercise was carried out under the coordination of the 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).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 the Customs.</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused Conservation set up a Specialised Wildlife Crime Office and equipped the storeroom for seized items at airport and sea borders in Lagos- Apapa and MMA International Airport</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• The Custom is processing some confiscated specimens to be handed over to NESREA for proper documentation using SOP.</li> <li>• 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 sea ports. At the gate of the sea port, 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
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	I: Concrete antipoaching strategy established and implemented at elephant priority sites and corridor	On track	M1/M2/M3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

specific capacity requirement.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The anti-poaching strategy developed, 24 hours monitoring by anti-poachers on illegal poachers, over 50 personnel were employed and equipped for effective monitoring, especially in Yankari Game Reserve, Okomu National Park, and other parks</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Routine anti-poaching patrols/surveillance in areas designated as National Parks across the country</li> <li>• The NPS is a party to the development of the National Elephant Action Plan</li> <li>• Potential elephant corridors identified in NEAP, facilitated by WCS/EPI</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
B7. Ranger-Based Monitoring (SMART) is implemented in all priority elephant sites.	More numbers of elephant sites with SMART	On track	M1/M2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
B8. Improve status and capacity building of patrol	I: Number of rangers trained each	Substantially achieved	M1

staff in key priority elephant sites.	year across key sites		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using a specialist ranger training company (Conservation Outcome), WCS trained 60 rangers in Yankari GR and 60 rangers in CRNP.</li> <li>• Regular patrol team with scheduled hours established in Yankari GR, Omo Forest Reserve, and CRNP.</li> <li>• 40 personnel drawn from all the unit Parks and Park Headquarters were trained on weapon handling and unarmed combat techniques from 5<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.</li> <li>• 20 personnel drawn from the unit Parks and Park Headquarters underwent a refresher course for Armorer and Provost Marshal (VIP Protection) between 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020.</li> <li>• 40 officers of the NPS were exposed to refresher training on Paramilitary regimentation from 14<sup>th</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019.</li> <li>• 21-day refresher training course for 30 Park Rangers in Cross River National Park by WCS in collaboration with NPS from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.</li> <li>• 150 Officers of the NPS trained on weapon handling to build their capacities in effective anti-poaching techniques and law enforcement from 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022</li> <li>• Staff can handle weapons effectively for anti-poaching patrol and law enforcement in all the unit parks and park headquarters.</li> <li>• A well-trained Ranger Force protecting the key elephant sites (No elephant poaching reported).</li> </ul>
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	On-Track	M1/M2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of 18 elephant guardians was established around the Yankari game Reserve by WCS</li> <li>• Community scout engagement in Yankari GR and Cross River National Park</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly progress report sent via email to CITES MA on the activities in Yankari Game Reserve where WCS is the coordinator.</li> <li>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 and Biopama</li> <li>Engagement of vigilante and other local groups within the SZCs to complement the activities of Ranger Force within and around the elephant sites.</li> </ul>
B10. Step up law enforcement efforts outside protected areas	I: Law enforcement strengthens outside the protected areas	Partial progress	<p>M1/M2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
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	<p>M1/M2/M3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The corruption Risk Assessment workshop for the Forestry sector was held in Abuja on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021 which was organized by UNODC through the support of the German Government and funded by the European Union.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Corruption risk mitigation strategies for wildlife crime were designed. Forestry Department is encouraged to liaise with ICPC to establish an Anti-corruption unit</li> </ul>

			<p>(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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• NESREA and Customs officers have been trained to develop a Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) for operation of the agency</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 specimens, improved implementation on how to foster collaborations.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WCO is currently building the capacity of the NCS Risk Management unit, to be able to use a risk-based management approach to strengthen CITES control</li> <li>Scanners have been delivered to Onne port, Apapa, and Tincan ports. Officers of NCS are currently undergoing training on the operations.</li> </ul>
B13. Gather information on major routes for illegal trafficking of ivory and pangolin specimens, any role players identified, and conduct analyses of available data to map out organized crime groups operating in Nigeria	I: Available data on different ivory and pangolin trafficking routes and the role players identified are analyzed and used to identify, investigate the individual and companies involved	On-track	M1/M2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCS in partnership with some NGOs and some research students is currently on this.</li> <li>WCO is working with NCS on drafting and signing MOU to foster international cooperation, particularly with identified countries of destination, source, and transit of these illegal trades in Ivory and other wildlife specimens.</li> <li>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 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.</li> <li>A serious investigation into the illicit proceeds related to wildlife crime is ongoing and has so far identified individuals and entities involved in IWT. They'll be charged to court for prosecution upon the conclusion of the investigation.</li> <li>Three seizures were made by NCS between July 2021 and February 2022</li> </ul>

<b>INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION</b>			
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	Partial progress	M1/M2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>INTERPOL has strong regional collaboration with Cameroon</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach, Public Awareness, and Education</b>			
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	On-track	M1/M2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Sensitization Workshop for Judges and Law Enforcement Officers was carried out from 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 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 to contribute to the fight against wildlife crime.</li> <li>A virtual training of six Judges and seven prosecutors on wildlife law enforcement and wildlife crime intelligence and investigation procedures was done on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 hosted by the Ghana Forestry Commission and Nigeria Wildlife and CITES Management division of the Federal Department of Forestry in</li> </ul>

			<p>Reiz Continental Hotel Abuja sponsored by Born Free USA in collaboration with USAID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>EIA/ANI has developed a special Victim Impact of Assessment Statement (SVIS) for elephants and pangolins and this has been included in the draft RRG which is yet to be printed. The SVIS provides law enforcement authorities with reliable scientific data about wildlife species encountered in wildlife crime cases. The goal is to enable prosecutors to present their cases more effectively and persuasively in court and help judges to make better sentencing decisions that reflect the seriousness of wildlife crime.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EIA, ANI, and UNODC recently organized a roundtable on the law and practice around wildlife trafficking for judges, prosecutors, and investigation between 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 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 Judge's 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.</li> <li>Police and other relevant security agencies are trained on all environmental matters including forestry and wildlife crime. Police training manual developed</li> </ul>
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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	On-track	M1/M2/M3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NESREA staff had paramilitary training with uniformed personnel. This has considerably facilitated enforcement by NPS.</li> <li>Training of about 80 border officers including wildlife protected areas managers have new skills and wildlife protection and also wildlife investigations and prosecutions in February 2020.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Development of training manuals through the working partnership with UNODC in September 2021. A two weeks training was organized for 21 NESREA officers and other relevant agencies on Wildlife Crime Investigation, Intelligence Gathering, and enforcement.</li> <li>WCS organized a training workshop to raise levels of awareness of the illegal trade for 30 customs officers in Yola in March 2022</li> </ul>
<b>REPORTING</b>			
E1. Regular report to (Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS))	I. Correct ETIS template is	Substantially achieved	M1/M2

	used and all ivory and elephant product seizures reported to ETIS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interception and Seizures of ivories are being reported regularly to the CITES Secretariat through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ETIS: ETIS forms were filled based on the seizures and sent to Secretariat (Traffic) for documentation. The reporting of seized and confiscation wildlife specimens to TRAFFIC through ETIS</li> <li>Quarterly reporting of wildlife cases via ECO-MESSAGE form to INTERPOL, Annual illegal report for 2020 and 2021 submitted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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</li> </ul>
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## Annex

### Pictorial illustrations



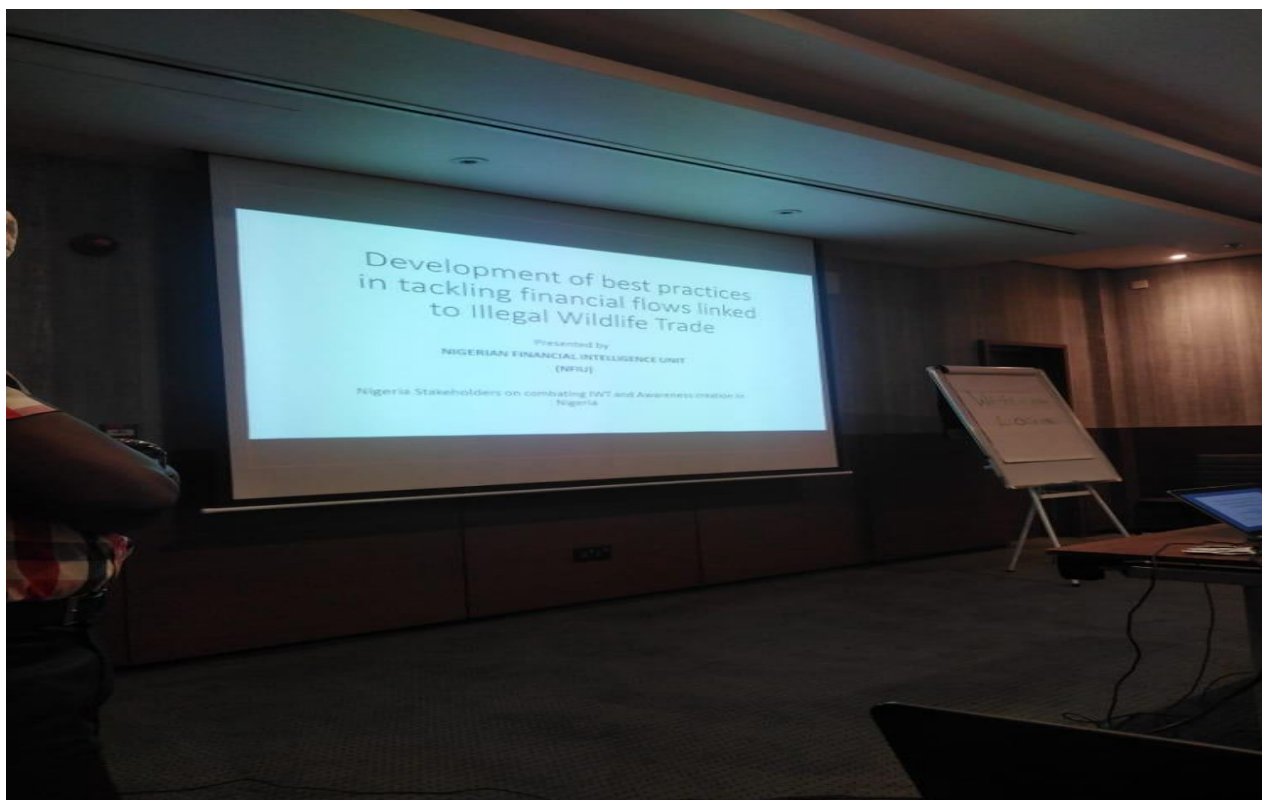
**A cross section of participants at a CITES training for Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcement agents, this training was organized Federal Ministry of Environment and Bornfree USA in collaboration with USAID held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at Reiz Cintinental Hotel, Central Business District Abuja.**



**A group photograph of Officers from the Nigeria Customs Service at a virtual train the trainer training on the implementation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora held at Reiz Continetal Hotel, Central Business District, Abuja from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**



**A cross-section of participants National CITES Stakeholders' Meeting On Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade Held At The Envoy Hotel, Diplomatic Drive, Abuja, Nigeria On The 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**



**Lecture's PowerPoint presentation at Second Quarter National Stakeholder's Meeting On Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade Held On 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 At The Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja.**



R-L: Mr. T.D. John (CITES Focal Point and Head of Wildlife Management), Mr. Rasak Adekola (Overseeing Head, Forestry), the Country Director UNODC), Honourable Minister of State, An invited Guest, and Ms. Folusho Ajayi at a High validation meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at Frasier Suits, Abuja.



L-R: Honourable Minister of State, Honourable Minister of Environment, Nigeria Country Representative for UNODC at the Launching of National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022-2026



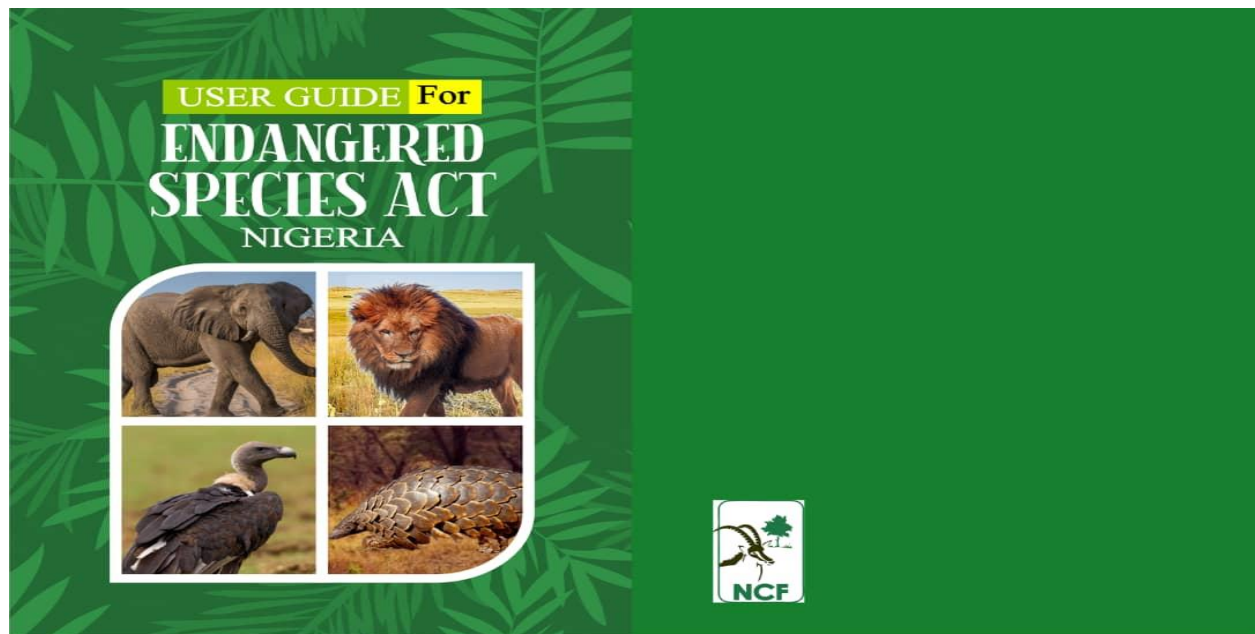
Bornfree USA training team came to Nigeria for 3 day training on establishment of Wildlife Taskforce to combat illegal wildlife trade. We have developed the TORs and ready for the inaugural meeting in May, 2022.



PHOTO OF THE SIGNBOARD FOR NCS SPECIAL WILDLIFE OFFICE. Creating awareness.



PHOTOS FROM SOME CAPACITY BUILDING/TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON IWT & CITES FOR OFFICERS OF NCS



Development and distribution of Identification Guide on Nigeria's Endangered Species to Enforcement Agencies

