



## NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Prepared for the 70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

-----

Party: UGANDA

Reporting period: SINCE COP17 – JUNE 2018

-----

Report prepared by



Focal Point for Uganda for the National Ivory Action Plan

E-mail Contacts: [charles.tumwesigye@ugandawildlife.org](mailto:charles.tumwesigye@ugandawildlife.org)  
[jlutalo@tourism.go.ug](mailto:jlutalo@tourism.go.ug)

## **PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation**

At its 64<sup>th</sup> meeting (SC64), the CITES Standing Committee made recommendations requiring Uganda together with seven other countries mentioned in the ETIS Report to the Conference of Parties (CoP16) to develop and implement a national ivory action plan (NIAP) aimed at reducing illegal trade in ivory with milestones and time frames and report progress on the implementation of the action plans to the CITES Secretariat.

Uganda subsequently developed a national ivory action plan and submitted the same to CITES Secretariat in May 2013. Uganda revised her NIAP in September 2015 following the recommendation of SC66 to the second progress report on the implementation of the NIAP. Uganda has so far submitted four progress reports on the implementation of the national ivory action plan to the CITES Secretariat in September 2013, March 2014, September 2015 and June 2016. This is therefore the fifth (and hopefully the last) progress report for Uganda on the implementation of Uganda's national ivory action plan. The progress report of June 2016 was discussed at SC67. In assisting the Standing Committee to make appropriate decision, the Secretariat made the following observation on Uganda's NIAP progress report to SC67 in Annex 1 of Document SC67 Doc. 13 (page 13):

*Uganda provides ample information in its report to justify progress ratings allocated to its NIAP actions. While timeframes projected in the NIAP foresaw that it be implemented by the end of 2014, Uganda is now able to report it as 'substantially achieved'.*

At SC69, the Standing Committee adopted the following recommendations presented by the Secretariat in Document SC69 Com. 7;

*The Standing Committee:*

*i) commended China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand and Uganda for the measures taken to implement their NIAPs;*

*ii) requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 9 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), and to bring any issues of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee at SC70; and,*

*iii) encouraged China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand and Uganda to submit a report to the Secretariat, 90 days before the deadline for submission of documents to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, on any further measures taken and activities implemented to combat illegal ivory trade, including on any new or further policy developments, so that the Secretariat can make the reports available to the Standing Committee at SC70.*

*The Standing Committee agreed that it will consider at SC70 whether China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand and Uganda should exit the NIAP process, in accordance with Step 5 paragraph d) of the Guidelines.*

It is on the basis of paragraph (iii) above that Uganda wishes to report on further measures taken in the implementation of the national ivory action plan since the last progress report in June 2016 and request for consideration by the Standing Committee to exit the NIAP process.

Uganda wishes to report that there has been very good progress in the implementation of the national ivory action plan for Uganda. All of the actions included in the NIAP as will be shown in the summary of progress and further measures have been substantially achieved.

## **Summary progress since CITES CoP17**

In summary, Uganda has made great strides in the area of legislation by completing the review of the National Wildlife Policy that was approved by Cabinet in 2014. The Wildlife Bill 2017 has been presented in Parliament for the First Reading and sent to the Sectoral Committee of Parliament for processing before the second and third reading as per the Rules of Procedure. A number of Regulations to implement the revised Bill have also been developed and will be approved together with the main Bill when it is presented for passing into Law. A Special Wildlife and Utilities Court has been established by Judiciary to expeditiously handle wildlife crime cases after the declaration by UN General Assembly that wildlife trafficking should be considered a serious crime. The establishment of this special court has improved the conviction rate of wildlife offenders to over 80% from less than 50% before its creation. Capacity has been built for the newly established Intelligence, Investigations and Prosecution Units of Uganda Wildlife Authority with support from various partners including UNODC, Wildlife Conservation Society, African Wildlife Foundation, USAID and many others. Since CoP17, a total of 26 training workshops in various disciplines have been organized and attended by enforcement officers in Uganda to build their capacity to tackle wildlife trafficking and poaching. For the first time, Uganda acquired and deployed permanently sniffer dogs at the national airport and the impact has been great. The sniffer dogs have so far led to important ivory and rhino horn seizures at the airport and other border points. As a result, cases of ivory seizures made in other countries but having originated from Uganda have significantly reduced since 2016 as Uganda has put in place adequate measures to prevent ivory and other wildlife products from being illegally exported through the country.

Coordination and collaboration at national, regional and international level has significantly improved. At national level, a National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force comprised of all enforcement agencies has been created to ensure wildlife crime issues are given the due attention and cases properly investigated and prosecuted. At regional level, Uganda has conducted joint investigations with Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Revenue Authority in transnational cases involving suspects that escape into either country. Similarly good coordination and collaboration has resulted in repatriation of suspects from Uganda to Tanzania to face trial. At International level, Uganda has partnered with the People's Republic of China – the main consumer country for illegally traded wildlife products and organized a joint conference between China and Uganda to discuss areas of cooperation with regard to wildlife conservation and combating illegal wildlife trade between two countries. The conference was held in Uganda in May 2018 and attended by delegation from Chinese CITES Management Authority, Chinese Embassy staff and Chinese Chamber of Commerce a consortium of Chinese Companies working in Uganda. A similar conference is being organized in China later this year. The Chinese Government offered training opportunities to Ugandans in China on wildlife crime management with the first batch of Ugandan enforcement officers going to China in June 2018.

Uganda is happy to report that the level of awareness on wildlife conservation and illegal ivory trade has significantly improved to the extent that it is no longer a concern of enforcement agencies alone but a general concern among citizens. As a result of increased awareness, we have seen increased ivory seizures in Uganda since 2014 compared to years before when most of the ivory seizures associated with Uganda

were made elsewhere than in Uganda. Issues of ivory trade have consistently been raised and discussed on the floor of Parliament and there is great hope that the fight against ivory and other illicit wildlife trade in Uganda has been taken to a very high level with His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda leading the campaign against wildlife trafficking and poaching. Five national dialogues on illegal wildlife trade have since 2015 been held with positive recommendations captured. Uganda has utilized the celebrations of the international world wildlife day to organize national debates, talks and exhibitions to highlight the dangers of wildlife trafficking and the general public is now more aware and cooperating in curbing illegal wildlife trade. As we move forward, Uganda will ensure that these dialogues will continue to be held every year to discuss pertinent issues of wildlife trafficking and any other topical conservation issues. Uganda has entered into collaboration and partnership with an international organization WildAid to run a campaign dubbed "*Poaching Steals From Us All*" that is now in its second year across the country. The campaign involves using prominent leaders and local celebrities to talk about wildlife crime in different messages to their audiences through music, comedy, church sermons as well as bill boards. This campaign and several other measures have significantly changed the game of ivory trafficking in Uganda.

We have also improved on the management of the ivory stockpiles by establishing an electronic stockpile database and also improved the storage and security of the stockpile. With support from Stop Ivory, we have implemented a Stockpile Management System that has also allowed Uganda to make timely annual ivory inventories whose reports have been submitted to the CITES Secretariat since 2016 and in time.

We have continued to collect samples from ivory seizures larger than 500kg for DNA forensic analysis as required in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) and continue to send the samples to the US for DNA analysis to establish the origin of the ivory and results have been shared with both the Secretariat and respective countries picked in the analysis. We have however got challenges in shipping ivory samples to the US as most airlines have strict regulations against carrying elephant products including scientific samples following the new Legislation by US Government in 2016. We look forward to making use of the new forensics laboratory established in the region (Kenya) to undertake such forensic analysis that would also be important in prosecution of offenders.

### **Future outlook**

The acquisition and deployment of sniffer dogs at the national airport and other key border points coupled with the national awareness campaign “*Poaching Steals From Us All*”, the newly established National Wildlife Crime Task Force and the special wildlife court have been a game changer in the fight against illegal ivory trade and other wildlife products in Uganda. Further, the enactment of the Uganda Wildlife Bill, 2017 will provide an enabling environment for combating wildlife crime in Uganda. Uganda has received generous support from donors to support the implementation of the NIAP and we hope this will continue. The East Africa Community regional strategy to combat wildlife crime now in draft form will further provide a regional framework for addressing illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. We shall also continue to systematically build capacity of the judiciary, journalists and other stakeholders in Uganda as part of the wider awareness raising on issues of ivory trade.

**PART B: Summary evaluation of actions (assigned progress ratings)**

CATEGORY/ PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially Achieved	On Track	Partial Progress	Pending completion of other Action	Not Commenced
1. Legislation		1.1 Amendment of the National Wildlife Act.				
		1.2 Develop regulations and guidelines to operationalize the Revised Wildlife Act.				
2. Strengthening Intelligence, Enforcement and Prosecution (National Level)	2.1 Establishment and equipping of intelligence and enforcement unit at UWA.					
	2.2 Deployment of enforcement and intelligence staff at key border points (including Entebbe International Airport).					



CATEGORY/ PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially Achieved	On Track	Partial Progress	Pending completion of other Action	Not Commenced
	2.3 Acquisition and deployment of sniffer dogs at key entry and exit points					
	2.4 Creation of Inter-agency environment task force to combat wildlife and forest crime.					
3. Coordination and collaboration (national and international)	3.1 National collaboration with enforcement agencies (Police, Judiciary, Customs, Civil Aviation, and National Army) enhanced/improved.	3.3 Capacity built for international investigations and collaboration.				
	3.2 Regional Collaboration mechanisms established through Lusaka Agreement Task Force (Coordinated Operation COBRA 3, Operation WORTHY 2, and Operation USALAMA).	3.4 DNA Samples from confiscated ivory collected and sent for forensic analysis.				
4 Awareness Creation	4.1 Inter-Agency awareness seminars and workshops.					

CATEGORY/ PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially Achieved	On Track	Partial Progress	Pending completion of other Action	Not Commenced
	4.2 Awareness raising materials and brochures.					
	4.3 National awareness raising program.					
	4.4 Linkage with development Partners.					
5 Management of ivory stockpile and confiscated ivory.	5.1 Strengthening security of national stockpile.					
	5.2. Development of SoP for stockpile Management.					
	5.3. Annual stock taking and reporting to CITES Secretariat					

## **PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions**

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
<b><i>CATEGORY 1: Legislation</i></b>		
1.1 Complete the revision of the National Wildlife Act to address gaps in legislation	<b>SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A New National Wildlife Policy was approved by Cabinet in March 2014. The Policy provides a framework for wildlife conservation in Uganda.</li> <li>• The Wildlife Amendment Bill (2017) was approved by Cabinet and presented to Parliament by the Minister responsible for Wildlife for First Reading. The Bill was consequently referred to the Sectoral Committee for processing before 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. The Parliamentary Committee is currently receiving views from stakeholders on the Bill and has also received comments from the CITES Secretariat. The Bill is highlighted as a priority for debate and passing into law during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliamentary Session of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda starting in June 2018. The Bill addresses all gaps in combating illegal wildlife trade.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The activity is substantially achieved with the Bill already under debate by Parliament.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Wildlife Policy review was completed and activity therefore fully achieved.</i></li> </ul>
1.2 Formulate guidelines and regulations to operationalize provisions of the amended Uganda Wildlife Act to address specific gaps and issues relating to prosecution and stronger/deterrent penalties for wildlife	<b>SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Orders and Regulations to better incorporate CITES provisions in domestic wildlife legislation as well as other Regulations under the Wildlife Act were developed alongside the Wildlife Bill that is already under debate by Parliament.</li> <li>• The Uganda Wildlife (Powers of Search, Arrest, Possession and Use of Firearms) Regulations, 2015, were completed and gazetted.</li> <li>• Sentencing Guidelines for Magistrates for common wildlife crimes were developed.</li> <li>• Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) for wildlife Prosecutors and Investigators developed with support from UNODC has been completed and launched by the Minister in April 2018.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The activity is substantially achieved. The Regulations to operationalize the Wildlife Act</i></li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
crime offenders		<p><i>have been developed and will be approved together with the new Bill.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>All other Guidelines for wildlife Prosecution, Investigations and Sentencing wildlife offenders have been developed, approved, launched and are in use.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Part of this action is therefore fully achieved while the other is substantially achieved since the guidelines and regulations are already in use.</i></p>
<b>CATEGORY 2: Strengthening Intelligence, Enforcement and Prosecution (National Level)</b>		
2.1 Strengthen the Intelligence Enforcement and prosecution Unit at Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to curb the illegal wildlife trade in the country	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established an intelligence unit at Uganda Wildlife Authority with 80 staff that has been strategically deployed all over the country to curb IWT.</li> <li>Separated Intelligence from Investigations at Uganda Wildlife Authority to efficiently inform prosecution</li> <li>Conducted twenty six different training workshops for various officers involved in enforcement, investigations and prosecutions since 2016 to equip them with skills and knowledge. Some of the trainings have been facilitated by UNODC, while others have been provided and facilitated by various partners in various disciplines. Key among these include; (a) advanced intelligence and investigations, (b) data management and use of web based tools in management of wildlife crime, (c) Human Intelligence and Web Int. for Intelligence staff, (d) Scene of Crime Management, and (e) Management of wildlife and forest crimes for enforcement officers include Wildlife Authority, Police, Customs, INTERPOL and Judiciary (f) Species identification for customs and wildlife enforcement officers for common illegally traded species, and many others.</li> <li>With support from Partners (African Wildlife Foundation and International Fund for Animal Welfare, we have also conducted two judicial and prosecutorial training sessions with magistrates and prosecutors on wildlife crime emphasizing the need for support from the judiciary to fight illegal wildlife trade</li> <li>Procured equipment and tools for the new Intelligence Unit (laptops, cameras, scanners, recorders, i2 intelligence analytical tool for analyzing intelligence data and Celbrite Software for analyzing data stored on mobile devices).</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With support from Wildlife Conservation Society, developed a wildlife crime offenders database that captures data on wildlife offenders including their finger prints for use in prosecution).</li> <li>• The sentencing guidelines, Rapid Reference Guide for wildlife crime Prosecutors and Investigators have all been handy in investigating and prosecuting wildlife cases resulting in over 80% convictions of all wildlife cases prosecuted.</li> <li>• The creation of a special wildlife and utilities court by the Judiciary in 2016 was an important milestone in the efforts to combat wildlife trafficking. The special court is mandated to handle all wildlife crime related cases and has further increased the conviction rate of wildlife offenders and traffickers no longer easily get bail from court as was the case before 2016. The Magistrates at this court have been fully sensitized and now give custodial sentences as opposed to fines for wildlife traffickers that were common in ordinary courts.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This action has been fully achieved. Since the establishment of intelligence in Uganda Wildlife Authority, there has been tremendous progress in the fight to combat wildlife crimes in Uganda. The judiciary in Uganda has now been brought on board through the judicial and prosecutorial training and the special wildlife court. As a result, offenders of wildlife crime (especially ivory traffickers) are now getting bigger punishments from courts unlike before. This is an important output and achievement from the NIAP implementation.</i></li> </ul>
2.2 Deploy wildlife law enforcement staff at key/major entry and exit border points.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife enforcement staff have been permanently deployed at Uganda's International Airport and the result has been increased number of wildlife seizures at Entebbe Airport. Since the deployment of wildlife officers at the International Airport ivory and rhino horn seizures that peaked shortly after deployment in 2014/15 have slowly reduced as traffickers are wary of the officers and many have been arrested and prosecuted.</li> <li>• Deployment at other key exit points is done based on intelligence information but there is good coordination and collaboration with Customs and Immigration in areas where</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>wildlife officials are not deployed. This has been further enhanced by training of over 80 customs officers in wildlife crime detection and CITES in general. The customs officers are now more vigilant in ensuring that illicit wildlife products are not smuggled through Uganda's borders where wildlife enforcement officers are not deployed.</p> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action has been achieved. Since the deployment of UWA staff at Entebbe International Airport, there has been increased seizures of ivory and other wildlife products smuggled through the Airport. It is now almost impossible to export ivory through Entebbe International Airport.</i></li> </ul>
2.3 Explore the possibility of acquiring and deploying sniffer dogs at key transit routes	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda Wildlife Authority has acquired additional six sniffer/detector dogs for detecting ivory, rhino horn and other wildlife products. These are an addition to the two dogs earlier acquired and reported about in the previous report. Of the six new dogs, four were donated by African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) while two were donated by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). A fully fledged Wildlife Canine Unit has been established with modern infrastructure and equipment at Entebbe near the Airport. The Canine Unit is equipped with twelve well trained dog handlers and two vehicles for rapid deployment of the dogs anywhere in the country.</li> <li>There is permanent deployment of at least two dogs at any one time at the Airport but the Canine Unit is mobile and operates throughout the country based on intelligence information. The use of sniffer dogs has so far resulted in seizures of several worked ivory in form of bangles, chop sticks, necklaces and other small objects made of ivory that would have otherwise passed through the airport undetected or mistaken as wood products plus one major seizure containing 12 rhino horns and pangolin scales at the Airport. Sting operations in country based on intelligence and using sniffer dogs have also resulted in several ivory seizures including a major seizure in Kampala in February 2017 during which three ivory kingpins of Western African origin were arrested with 1.3 tons of raw ivory. This case has become one of the high profile ivory smuggling cases in Uganda with many networks in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Mozambique and several Asian countries. The case still in court is gaining a lot of</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>prominence with INTERPOL picking interest and also involves money laundering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several other spot checks on buses and other trucks suspected to be carrying ivory have been undertaken through targeted road blocks since 2016 though most of these have been very successful.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action has been fully achieved. The deployment of sniffer dogs at Entebbe International Airport has been a game changer in the ivory trade chain as the message has been sent across and traffickers now rarely use Entebbe Airport. The training of more handlers and acquisition of more dogs for deployment in other hot spot areas has been a positive step in the right direction. All security forces in Uganda have appreciated the use of dogs in fighting illicit wildlife trade and we are working on a protocol to have a combined dog section with Police for wildlife, narcotics and explosives detection.</i></li> </ul>
2.4 Create a National Task Force on illegal ivory and other wildlife contraband	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An inter-agency wildlife crime coordination task force comprised of Uganda Police, Uganda Revenue Authority (Customs), INTERPOL, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, Financial Intelligence Authority and the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence was recently launched by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. The task force is being coordinated by Uganda Wildlife Authority with promise of support in building its capacity from Organizations and Donors working in Uganda. The Task Force is currently developing its Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures to ensure proper coordination in areas of investigation, intelligence and prosecution of wildlife crime offenders. The Task Force is currently involved in joint investigation of the ivory smuggling case named in 2.3 above.</li> <li>Earlier informal mechanisms between agencies were equally instrumental in planning and executing major operations including Operation WORTHY II, Operation COBRA III and Operation USALAMA that Uganda actively participated in and resulted in several seizures of wildlife products including ivory and rhino horn in addition to narcotics.</li> <li>UNODC has also come on board to support the capacity building of the Task force</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>through the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework in Uganda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have also partnered with IFAW to train officers from various agencies that are members of the Task Force in CITES related issues including identification of species in trade.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action has been fully achieved. there is now better coordination of the enforcement agencies involved in fighting wildlife crime in Uganda. Under the auspices of the Task Force, IFAW organized and facilitated two trainings of customs, wildlife enforcement and police officers in combating wildlife trafficking and general CITES provisions in 2016 and 2017. The two trainings attracted over 100 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo.</i></li> </ul>
<b>CATEGORY 3: Coordination and Collaboration (national and international)</b>		
3.1 Strengthen collaboration with other law enforcement agencies including Customs, Police, the National Army, INTERPOL, and LATF to fight illegal ivory trade and other wildlife related crimes	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An inter-agency wildlife crime coordination task force has already been formed as indicated in 2.4 above incorporating all these agencies at national level and is being coordinated by Uganda Wildlife Authority and supported by a number of Organizations working in Uganda (Wildlife Conservation Society, USAID, and African Wildlife Conservation). The task force is coordinating joint investigations of six ivory trafficking cases to ensure successful prosecution and conviction.</li> <li>At the International Airport, Uganda Wildlife Authority is a member of a Joint Security Team at the Airport to curb illicit trade and other serious crimes.</li> <li>At national level, Uganda Wildlife Authority has been incorporated into the technical committee of the National Security Council to ensure that issues of wildlife trafficking are well addressed as the kingpins are also involved in drug trafficking and a major component of insecurity.</li> <li>Coordination and collaboration of enforcement agencies has led to successful joint operations including Operations COBRA III, WORTHY II and USALAMA in which several wildlife products were seized in addition to the narcotics that were a major</li> </ul>



ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>target of the Operations.</p> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action has been achieved. Since the creation of the task force, there is better coordination of the enforcement agencies involved in fighting wildlife crime in Uganda. Coordination is also helping a lot in achieving successful prosecution and conviction as the traffickers are now being charged with more than one offence due to involvement of the multi-agency in investigations. This means if a wildlife offense may be carrying a lighter sentence on conviction, the other agencies are able to bring in other charges including smuggling, money laundering and others that attract tougher penalties. The testimony for the good coordination and collaboration has been the successful joint planning and execution of three major international Operations (COBRA 3, WORTHY 2 and USALAMA).</i></li> </ul>
3.2 Strengthen regional cooperation and exchange information as a tool to curb ivory syndicate	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong coordination exists between UWA, Police, Customs, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) and Kenya Wildlife Services. Uganda continues to exchange information on wildlife trafficking with neighbouring states and agencies mainly Kenya Wildlife Service, LATF.</li> <li>At regional level, Uganda is undertaking three joint investigations with Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Revenue Authority on ivory seizures made in Kenya and Singapore but having originated from Uganda and with key suspects in both Kenya and Uganda. One conviction in Uganda has so far been realized as a result of this joint investigation and information sharing.</li> <li>Uganda has also coordinated the extradition of two ivory smuggling suspects to Tanzania where they were wanted to face trial. Uganda made the arrests after coordination with Tanzania and handed the suspects over to Tanzania where they are undergoing trial.</li> <li>Under the auspices of Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), the Wildlife Directors Forum in the Eastern Africa Sub region was formed and held its first meeting in Nairobi in February 2016 where a lot of information was shared and mechanisms to collaborate in fighting illegal wildlife trade put in place. The forum meets twice a year to review</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>progress on implementation of agreed actions/strategies and also share any other relevant information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a result of good regional coordination, joint investigations involving Uganda, Kenya and LATF are being conducted in relation to the big ivory seizures in Singapore and Malaysia that have been linked to Uganda and Kenya. Lack of logistics is however hampering the transfer of the consignment from Singapore to Kenya and Uganda as required by court.</li> <li>• Uganda is collaborating with other governments like Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and this has resulted in increased ivory seizures in the countries that are a result of information sharing.</li> <li>• Uganda continues to participate in joint operations aimed at curbing wildlife crime (COBRA III, WORTHY II etc).</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <p><i>This action has been achieved. The creation of Eastern Africa Wildlife Directors' Forum was an important milestone in the fight against illegal ivory trade within the region as there is now better coordination between wildlife agencies within the region. The strong regional collaboration has also resulted in joint investigations, information sharing resulting in arrests of ivory kingpins (e.g. Faisal Mohammed arrested in Tanzania after sharing of information between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania). Several other ivory kingpins have since been arrested in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania and are facing trial in various courts in the three countries.</i></p>
3.3 Establish and maintain capacity at the national level to assist in international and regional investigations	<b>SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uganda has continued to work with other agencies with capacity like UNODC, LATF and INTERPOL to build capacity of our enforcement officers in international investigations.</li> <li>• UNODC has conducted two training sessions in Uganda for wildlife, police and Customs officers in areas of intelligence gathering and international investigations including training in controlled delivery as well as the container control program (CCP)</li> <li>• One training has also been conducted in Uganda for Uganda Wildlife Authority</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>enforcement and intelligence officers supported by US Department of Homeland and Security on data management and use of web based tools in international wildlife investigations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two other trainings on i2 Analyst Notebook for wildlife intelligence staff from Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia was conducted in February 2016 and November 2016 under the auspices of the British High Commission through the Military Attaché to help staff to quickly collate, analyze and visualize massive amounts of information from international criminal gangs and deliver timely and actionable intelligence including sharing across the region.</li> <li>Uganda has continued to benefit from capacity building programs by UNODC through the training and implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework as well the use of the Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) for wildlife prosecutors and investigators.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action has been substantially achieved. Several capacity building programs for enforcement and intelligence officers have been undertaken to improve their capacity in national and regional investigations. More capacity is however still needed.</i></li> </ul>
3.4 Provide samples from confiscated ivory for DNA analysis to ascertain its origin	<b>SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda continues to collect samples from all large seizures of ivory and rhino horns for forensic analysis. Results from the analysis of two large ivory seizures in October and December 2013 were received and shared with CITES Secretariat. Samples have been collected from other seizures including the February 2017 1.3 tons ivory seizure in Kampala and shipped to the US (University of Washington) for DNA analysis. The major challenge is that most Airlines and courier companies are not willing to transport ivory samples following their own strict regulations and measures to curtail ivory trafficking and the new Legislation by the US Government. It has taken us two years to transport ivory samples to the US for forensic DNA analysis. Good news is that we are aware of a new forensic lab that has been commissioned at Kenya Wildlife Service that should be of help to us in the future once it starts conducting forensic analysis for elephant and rhino horn samples. This will reduce the cost of shipment and time to</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>process and receive the results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results from DNA analysis of samples from the 2013 seizures in Uganda have helped us to understand the dynamics of illegal ivory trade and map out the ivory trade routes that have been sealed off. Information from the analysis was also shared with implicated Parties to seal off possible ivory routes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <p><i>This activity has been substantially achieved. All ivory seizures greater than 500kgs have been sampled and samples shipped to the US for forensic analysis as outlined in Resolution Conf.10.10 (Rev. CoP16) despite the challenge with the airlines and couriers refusing to transport ivory samples.</i></p>
<b>CATEGORY 4: Awareness creation</b>		
<p>4.1 Hold inter-agency awareness seminars and workshops with especially law enforcement agencies, judiciary officials and other security agencies on the importance of wildlife and the need to fight illegal killing and trafficking of wildlife</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of seven (7) inter-agency awareness workshops involving Judiciary, Police, Immigration and Customs on wildlife trafficking were held in different regions of Uganda since 2016. The workshops have been instrumental in providing information and creating awareness among these stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime.</li> <li>Since the last progress report in June 2016, two more National Dialogues on Illegal Wildlife Trade involving wildlife practitioners (Tour operators, traders, academicians, politicians, law enforcement agencies and general public) have been held in Uganda in during the celebrations to mark World Wildlife Day in 2017 and 2018 to raise national awareness.</li> <li>A public debate on fighting wildlife crime in Uganda was held on the World Wildlife Day 2016 as part of the national celebrations to mark the World Wildlife Day and this was also used to create the much needed awareness of the need to curb illegal wildlife trade.</li> <li>A wildlife marathon has also been put on the national sports calendar during the week of national events to celebrate World Wildlife Day and the occasion is also used to raise public awareness on wildlife trafficking. Three Wildlife Marathons have been executed in 2016, 2017 and 2018 on a Sunday preceding the WWD each year. The</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>marathon has gained popularity with over 2000 people participating in the 2018 edition up from less than 200 in 2016 when the event was launched.</p> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action though fully achieved is a continuous and ongoing activity. Experience has shown that government workers get transferred and there is therefore need to do inter-agency awareness sensitizations on a continuous basis.</i></li> </ul>
4.2 Produce/procure awareness materials for display	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Partner organizations like IFAW, AWF, WCS, WWF, LATF, UNODC and World Customs Organization (under Project GAPIN), a number of flyers and posters on wildlife trafficking have been produced and displayed in public places including the International Airport (Sample flyers with targeted messages are indicated in the annex to this report).</li> <li>6 Radio and 3 Television talk shows on national and regional broadcasters have been held as part of the campaign against illegal wildlife trade.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <p><i>This action has also been achieved as many people in Uganda are now generally aware about wildlife trafficking due to the awareness materials that have been distributed far and wide. More materials continue to be printed and distributed/displayed in public places to sensitize the general public about the illicit wildlife trade.</i></p>
4.3: Develop and implement a national awareness raising programme focused on the importance of wildlife conservation	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A national awareness program including a calendar of events for wildlife conservation in Uganda has been developed and implemented.</li> <li>Memoranda of Understanding with other organizations like Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, Wildlife Clubs of Uganda, Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) have been signed to support Uganda Wildlife Authority awareness programs targeting ivory and general wildlife trade in Uganda.</li> <li>Uganda has partnered with an international organization WildAid and launched a two year national awareness campaign dubbed “<b>Poaching Steals From Us All</b>”. The campaign has many components and includes using key public figures in Uganda (celebrities, Religious and Cultural leaders) to spearhead campaigns against poaching</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>and wildlife trafficking through their most popular platforms (social media for celebrities, churches and mosques for religious leaders and radios and other cultural events for cultural leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill boards have also been hanged on the road to and from the airport and in major cities highlighting the campaign.</li> <li>• Further awareness has been raised during the annual Inter-Forces Games involving Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Peoples Defense Forces, Uganda Police Force and Uganda Prisons Service where several enforcement officers converge to compete for various games for two weeks.</li> <li>• 6 Radio and 3 Television talk shows on national stations have been held as part of the campaign against illegal wildlife trade.</li> <li>• Uganda marked the World Wildlife Day and used the occasion to raise awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This action has been achieved. Some of the actions are similar and combined with 4.2 above as they are related in terms of what has been done and achieved to date.</i></li> </ul>
4.4 Establish linkage with Development Partners and Donors to raise awareness about wildlife trafficking	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings have been held with US Embassy and UK High Commission to partner in raising awareness about wildlife crime through their Missions in Uganda and there has been positive response.</li> <li>• Uganda has also joined the Giants Club which is an exclusive club for political and business leaders that have committed to provide political, technical and financial muscle to support frontline protection of the African elephant and help implement the African elephant action plan. The Giants Club is coordinated by Space for Giants. In Africa, most of the decisions become very effective when taken at presidential level and joining the Giants Club by HE The President of Uganda has provided a big opportunity for Uganda to raise awareness at international level.</li> <li>• Uganda, on the advice of UNEP-Nairobi, has formally requested Ministry of Finance for support in implementing the National Ivory Action Plan from the GEF-6 Biodiversity</li> </ul>

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>allocation available for Uganda (2014-2018).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Stop Ivory to support the implementation of Uganda's NIAP and other elephant conservation initiatives/projects.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action has been largely achieved but is also a continuous process.</i></li> </ul>
<b>CATEGORY 5: Management of the confiscated ivory including stockpiles</b>		
5.1 Strengthen the security of the confiscated ivory	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new secure ivory strong room was established at Uganda Wildlife Authority in 2015. Ten CCTV cameras have also been installed in strategic locations in and around the strong room to provide additional security and monitoring of activities in and around the ivory strong room.</li> <li>Uganda has received support from Stop Ivory to support the inventory and establish an electronic database for the ivory and other wildlife products stockpiles at Uganda Wildlife Authority and is now developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for the management of wildlife products stockpiles.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This action is largely achieved. New measures as described above have been put in place to strengthen the safety and security of the national ivory stockpile at UWA and a stockpile management protocol has been developed with support from STOP Ivory.</i></li> </ul>
5.2 Develop procedure and implement the structure for record keeping of ivory stockpile	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda formally wrote to CITES Secretariat seeking technical assistance in the management of the national ivory stockpile.</li> <li>Uganda received technical and logistical support from STOP Ivory to assist with development of the procedure for stockpile management. This has been done during the first ever standard inventory of the national ivory stockpile at UWA conducted with support from Stop Ivory and using the system developed by Stop Ivory that was presented as a side event at SC69. Four Tablets, eleven electronic weighing scales were provided by Stop Ivory for exclusive use by UWA in inventorying ivory and other</li> </ul>

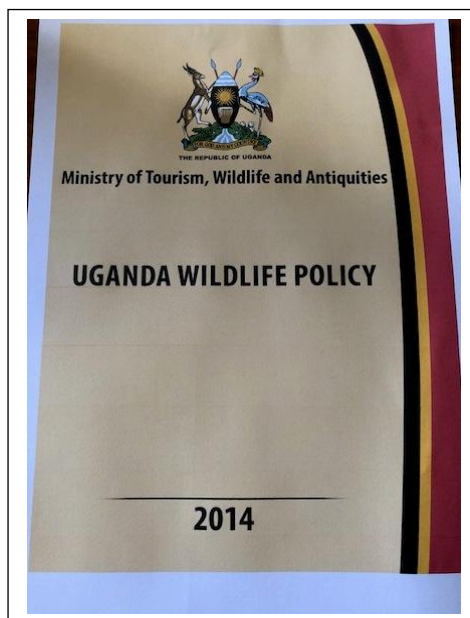
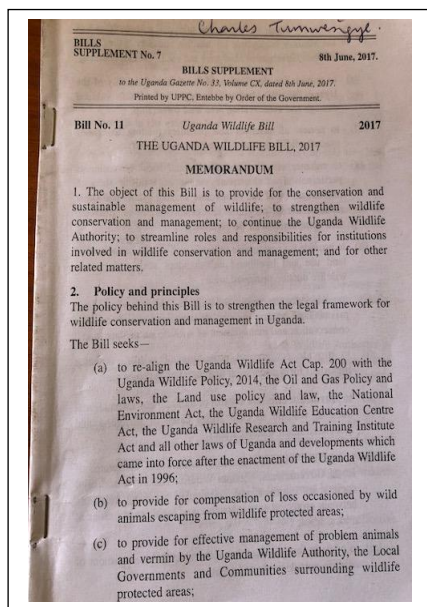
ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i> )
		<p>wildlife stockpiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A database of ivory in the national stockpile at UWA has been created and in use.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This action has been achieved. Uganda is very grateful to Stop Ivory for the continued support in the management of the national ivory stockpile.</i></li> </ul>
5.3 Conduct regular stock taking of the wildlife specimen	<b>ACHIEVED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first ever comprehensive inventory of ivory stockpile at Uganda Wildlife Authority was completed in February 2016 thanks to the support from Stop Ivory. The inventory report was shared with the CITES Secretariat.</li> <li>• Since 2016, Uganda has submitted three annual reports on ivory and other wildlife stockpiles in compliance to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17).</li> <li>• As indicated in 5.2 above, a national ivory stockpile database was created and secured with restricted access through passwords depending on the level of utilization of information. There are staff with access to enter data, only three staff have administrative rights to edit the data while others have only access to view the data but not to enter or edit the information in the database.</li> <li>• Annual stock taking of ivory is now conducted every year for reporting to CITES Secretariat.</li> </ul> <p><i>Progress Summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This action is achieved as outlined above.</i></li> </ul>



## **PART D: ANNEXES**

### **Annex 1 Photographs showing the progress achieved in the implementation of Uganda's NIAP**

#### ***PILLAR 1: Legislation***



***The Front cover pages of The Uganda Wildlife Bill, 2017 (Left) and Uganda Wildlife Policy approved by Cabinet in 2014. The Bill is currently under debate in Parliament and Comments have been received by Parliament from stakeholders including CITES Secretariat. The Policy is already under implementation following approval in 2014.***

**PILLAR 2: Strengthening intelligence and enforcement capacity at National level**

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in collaboration with Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and with logistical support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) organized a five day training workshop for 60 intelligence and enforcement officers as well as customs officials from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda and DR Congo on “Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking during which officials were trained various aspects of ivory and other wildlife trafficking issues, CITES implementation, methods of concealment of smuggled ivory and other wildlife products as well as document verification by Customs officials. Below is a brief pictorial about the training workshop.



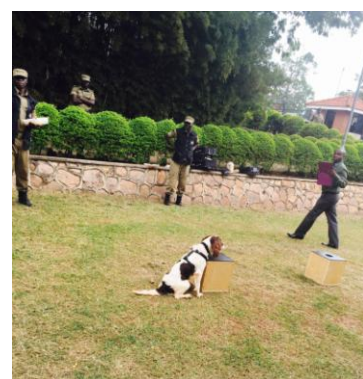
*Participants at the 2016 Prevention of wildlife trafficking training workshop group photo (above) and training session on CITES (below)*



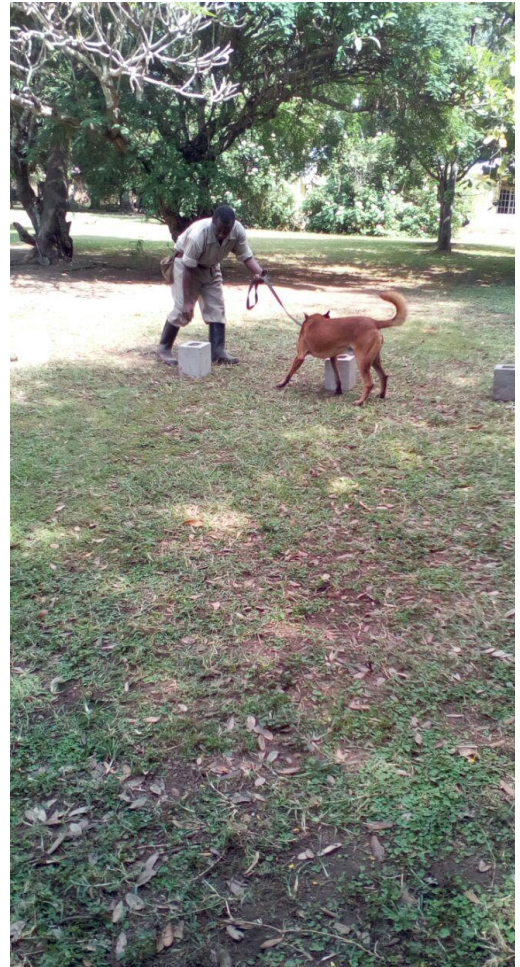
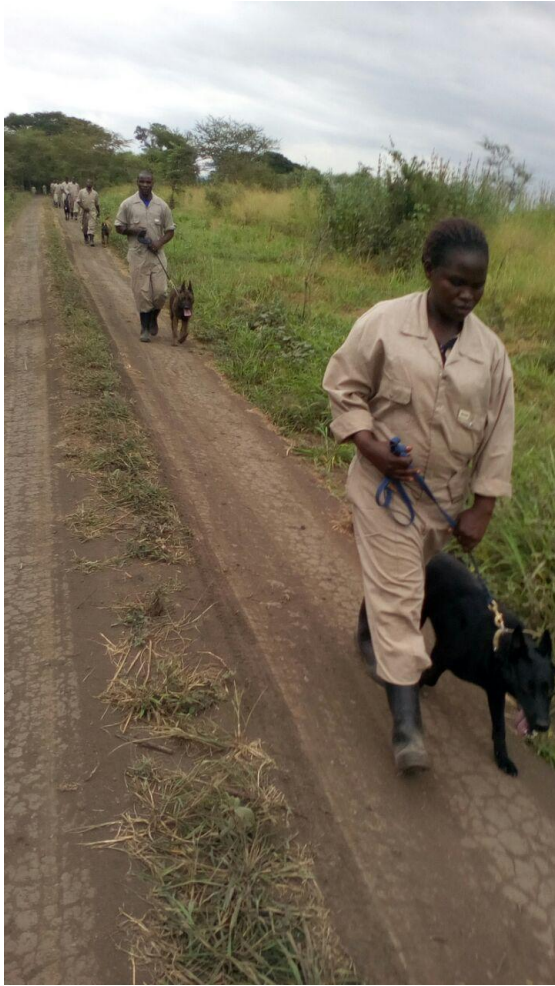




With support from British Peace Support Team (BPST), over 20 staff from Uganda Wildlife Intelligence and enforcement Unit seen in the photo above were trained in Crime Intelligence Analysis to equip them with investigative skills to analyse data and achieve successful prosecution of wildlife trafficking cases.



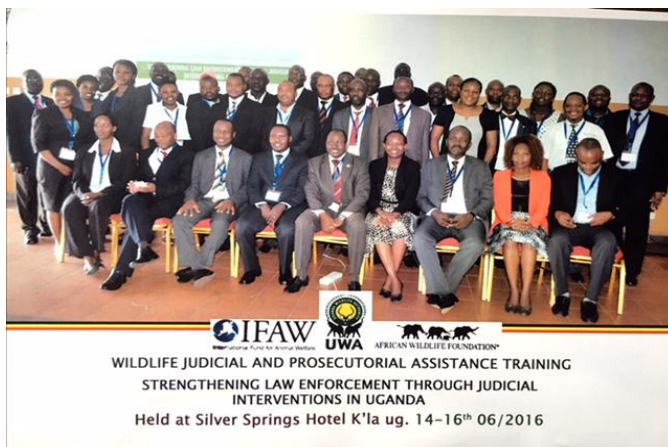
*Photographs above show one of the sniffer dogs acquired undergoing training demonstration on how to sniff ivory. The dogs have already been deployed at Entebbe International Airport*



*Uganda Wildlife Authority staff undergoing dog handlers' training at the African Wildlife Foundation Dog Training Facility in Arusha Tanzania (June 2016).*



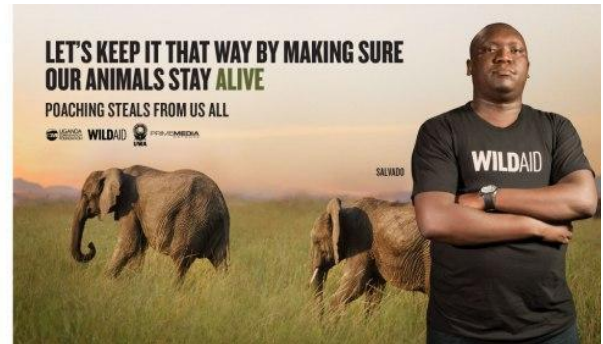
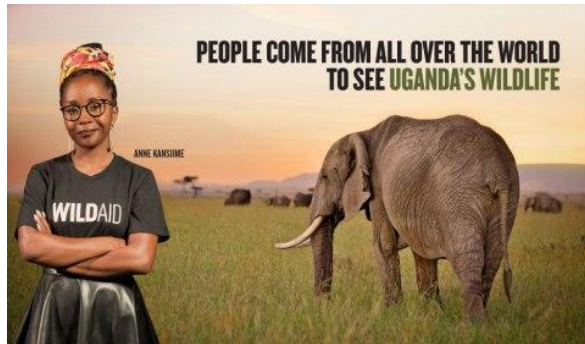
## PILLAR 3 & 4: Inter Agency Coordination and Awareness creation



HE President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda addressing the Giants Club Summit in Kenya in 2016 about Uganda's measures to stop elephant poaching and ivory trafficking

Minister of Wildlife launching the ICCWC Toolkit and RRG for Wildlife Prosecutors and Investigators (April 2018)

**Pillar 4: Poaching Steals From Us All (Uganda – WildAid Awareness Campaign)**



Using local Ugandan celebrities (Musicians, comedians) and the Inter-Religious Council (leaders of Religious Groups) to create awareness about wildlife conservation. This is done through their music shows and church programs as well as billboards in major towns and cities in Uganda



## ***PILLAR 2 & 3: Strengthened enforcement and Coordination/Collaboration***



The most recent (February 2017) ivory seizure in Kampala involving three nationals of Guinea in which 1.3 tons of ivory was seized. Suspects are in court.



*Inter-Agency Coordination and collaboration has resulted in bursting ivory consignments disguised as Shea Butter for export and Communication equipment for repair.*

***PILLAR 5: Management of the confiscated ivory including stockpiles***



*Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) team conducting ivory inventory using the Stop Ivory Stockpile Management System.*