



Holly T. Dublin

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

Nairobi - Kenya/IUCN ESARO

Number of members

68



AFRICAN
ELEPHANT
SPECIALIST
GROUP

Mission statement

The mission of the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) is to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephant throughout their range.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Proposal development and funding

i. Funding was secured from the USFWS and the project is well underway in partnership with the University of Washington's Centre for Conservation Biology. We are likely to bring in samples from up to 40 new sites, increasing the existing sample by more than 60%. One of the main goals is to understand the distribution of hybrid populations.

■ Red List

i. A final 2018 Red List assessment of the African elephant, at the continental level. (KSR #2)

■ Research activities

i. Regular meetings have been taking place remotely and work assignments given out to members of the team. We are still looking for funding to host one or more face to face meetings, including a final meeting with reviewers. (KSR #32)

■ Synergy

i. Red List Assessment Coordinator, Dr Kathleen Gobush, appointed.

ii. Four other members were appointed to the RLA Team - Dr George Wittemyer, Dr Dave Balfour, Dr Russell Taylor and Dr Charles Edwards. Dr James Perran Ross appointed to help facilitate the process.

Bolster work at national scales

■ Research activities

i. Samples currently being collected from almost 40 new sites and sent to the University of Washington for analysis. (KSR #12)

Conservation action

■ Documents review

i. Narratives for the African Elephant Status Report 2016 were completed for national, regional and continental level.

■ Research activities

i. Data set (from end 2006 to end 2015) for African Elephant Status Report 2016 was finalised. (KSR #32)

ii. Data (from end 2006 to end 2015) for African Elephant Status Report 2016 was input to the African Elephant Database. (KSR #32)

■ Technical advice

i. Downloadable and print copy of the African Elephant Status Report 2016 completed and launched at CITES COP17 in Johannesburg. (KSR #27)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. Membership finalised and turned over the Global Species Program for input to the new system accessed through the Union Portal.

Policy

■ Technical advice

i. Report to CITES under AfESG mandate from Resolution 10.10 (Rev. COP17). Joint reports to SC66 and SC69. (KSR #27)

African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*),
 Vulnerable, South Africa
 Photos: Kira Mileham



Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Communication: make African Elephant Status Report 2016 data available on the old website.

Research activities: enhance functionality and performance of the African Elephant Database.

Communications

Communication: create a new AfESG website.

Proposal development and funding: secure US\$ 170,000 for AfESG members meeting.

Scientific meetings: hold AfESG meeting.

Policy

Technical advice: (1) to take decision on one or two species and policy revised; (2) revise African Elephant Action Plan.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (5 activities)
- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Conservation action (4 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)
- Policy (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 12, 27, 32

KSR: Key Species Result