Conservation and Management Strategy for the Elephant in Kenya (2012 - 2021)

MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

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Presentation Outline

Presentation of the Review Report

✓ Why the review

✓ Review process - Methodology

✓ Challenges during the review process

✓ Weakness of the strategy

✓ Results of the review

✓ Conclusion

✓ Recommendations

Introduction

- ✓ Review / evaluation is critical to assess the status of implementation of strategy actions

- ✓ Identify strengths / weaknesss / challenges and put in place interventions

- ✓ Many organisations doing different things but are all geared towards the goal of the strategy

Vision

- ✓ A secure future for elephants and their habitats, based on peaceful and beneficial co-existence with people, now and for generations yet to come

Goal

✓ Maintain and expand elephant distribution and numbers in suitable areas, enhance security to elephants, reduce human-elephant conflict and increase value of elephants to people and habitat

Seven Strategic Objectives

1. Protection

2. Population expansion & habitat maintenance

3. Research & monitoring for management

4. Human-elephant conflict

5. Incentives

6. Capacity

7. Coordination and support

Targets : 31

Actions : 138

Indicators : Numerous

Review Report

Why the review

- ✓ The review of the implementation status of the strategy was one of the **key outcomes during the inaugural Elephant conservation conference** held in February 2015.

- ✓ This review, therefore, evaluates the **progress made towards the achievement of the goal & objectives** of the *Conservation and Management Strategy*

Why the review

✓ Using evidence collated from the stakeholders involved in implementation of the strategy, the **evaluation process also examines the impact achieved by the strategy as well as its design, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency & make recommendations for the remaining period of the strategy** that will ensure achievement of the set goal & objectives.

Why the review

✓ Ideally, the strategy is supposed to be reviewed bi-annually – Not the case

✓ This is also critical for **fundraising** to support critical threats that have not been adequately addressed.

✓ To consider **new funding streams** now available through the Elephant Protection Initiative, Disney & other donors.

✓ This review provides an opportunity to **develop funding proposals** for the actions identified as priorities in the revised strategy.

Review process - Methodology

(a) Structured interview with elephant committees i.e. EEC, ETC, EMC & AMC

(b) A questionnaire survey with KWS & NGOs e.g. AWF, WWF, IUCN, STE, TNC, MER, ACC, IFAW, ATE, Elephant Voices, WildlifeDirect, Lewa Conservancy, NRT, Tsavo Elephant Trust, ANAW, etc. - questionnaires were emailed to lead persons

Review process - Methodology

(c) Key informant interviews with field practitioners & stakeholders in 3 sampled KWS Conservation Areas to update the monitoring framework updated & more leading questions for clarity, challenges, mitigation, etc

(d) An interview with the County Government CEC /or CO Lands and Natural Resources & County Compensation Committees.

Review process - Methodology

(e) Desk review of the status of implementation of all ACTIONS in the strategy based on the implementation Framework

Data was then analyzed & a draft evaluation report produced for presentation to the national stakeholders' forum.

Challenges during the review process

- Short time allocated / field visit / large area / many actions in the strategy / many partners

- Poor & inadequate response from some key stakeholders with crucial information on implementation status

- Poor record keeping by KWS & other stakeholders, hence difficult to quantify the implementation status of some actions

Challenges during the review process

- Ranking of the status of implementation of the strategy is rather complicated due to some poorly stated targets which are not SMART - Subjective

- Lack of baseline data to clearly measure the progress of implementation of targets / actions

Weakness of the strategy

- The strategy lacks baseline data that would inform the status of implementation.

- The strategy does not make clear reference to the County governments - custodians of Reserves; CFA's & KFS, the custodians of forests with elephants

Weakness of the strategy

- There is a disconnect between some targets and actions

- Some targets are not SMART

- Some indicators were wrongly formulated

- The strategy lacks a budget hence making it difficult to plan for resources & implement the actions in the strategy.

ANY OTHER WEAKNESS NOT IDENTIFIED???

Results of the review

Results of the review

Implementation Status

Implementation Status	% of Implementation Status of Actions
Completed	5.1
On track	59.5
Slow progress	10.8
Not Started / Off track	24.0
Could not be ranked	0.6

Results of the review – General observations

- All (100%) respondents felt that limited funds to implement the strategy

- Shifting of most resources to anti-poaching efforts at the expense of other actions in the strategy.

- Poor and or lack of coordination in the implementation of the strategy. Majority (76%) of the people interviewed have never seen the elephant strategy while 11% have seen but not read and 13% have seen & read the strategy.

Results of the review – General observations

- Poor data / record keeping - difficult to retrieve some supporting data or information - frequent transfers which & poor handing over during transfers.
- Data base - on elephant numbers, poaching and HEC but forgotten about other crucial data as outlined in the strategy document e.g. education & awareness,

Results of the review – General observations

- The four elephant management committees are inactive - poor coordination & lack of funds especially for the AMC to bring partners together.
- Ranking threats - Poaching, range & habitat loss & fragmentation connectivity, human-elephant conflicts (HEC) remain the biggest threats to elephant conservation.

Ranking of Threats by Conservation area

Cons. Area	Ranking of Threats			
	1	2	3	4
SCA	Range/habitat loss	HEC	Climate change	Livestock
TCA	Infrastructure development / Range/habitat	HEC/livestock	Poaching	Climate change
CCA	Range/habitat loss	HEC	Poaching	
ECA	Poaching	Range/habitat loss	HEC	Livestock
CRCA	Range/habitat loss	Poaching	HEC	Climate change
WCA	Poaching	Range/habitat loss	Climate change	HEC
MCA	Range/habitat loss	Poaching	HEC	
NCA	Poaching	Climate change	Range/habitat	HEC

What has not been implemented

✓ Initiate formal collaboration between <mark>Elephant Area Committees</mark> and SADC elephant and rhino security groups

✓ Establish a trans-border collaboration framework

✓ Develop regional elephant management plan to harmonise cross-border population security and management

What has not been implemented

- ✓ Establish a $10m fund to finance establishment of corridors and buffer zones.

- ✓ Establish the science base for this position

- ✓ Create media resources to explain policy

- ✓ Create training materials & train relevant KWS staff to explain policy; conduct awareness

What has not been implemented

✓ Refine and test methods for improved surveys of forest populations (Mt. Elgon)

✓ Apply standardised improved forest survey method(s) to key forest populations (Mt. Elgon, Mt Kenya, Aberdares, Mau, Marsabit)

✓ Expand MIST to two new areas based on trials

What has not been implemented

- ✓ Refine and test methods for improved surveys of forest populations (Mt. Elgon)
- ✓ Apply standardised improved forest survey method(s) to key forest populations (Mt. Elgon, Mt Kenya, Aberdares, Mau, Marsabit)
- ✓ Expand MIST to two new areas based on trials

What has not been implemented

✓ Carry out research in identified critical enclosed populations to determine model / methods for estimating the persistence through time of plant and animal communities at different elephant densities (identify critical closed ecosystems to conduct research).

What has not been implemented

✓ Initiate / continue research / monitoring in identified sites (e.g. Aberdares, Shimba Hills, Laikipia) to determine the effects of fencing on both habitats & elephant populations (identify sites for research/monitoring).

✓ Conduct research, including experimental application, on techniques and consequences of contraception & translocation on both affected animals & remaining population

What has not been implemented

✓ Establish systematic monitoring of effectiveness of interventions on human-elephant conflict – Bee hive fences by L. King

✓ Monitor & rank effects of elephants on ecosystem structure and function inc. important plant & animal species in all critical habitats, with results feeding back to decision-making framework

What has not been implemented

- ✓ Monitor levels of human encroachment in identified critical corridors (e.g. Isiolo / Imenti, Isiolo / Meru, Oldonyiro / Kipsing)

- ✓ Develop research activity on elephant disease prevalence & impact particularly during stress conditions such as drought

- ✓ Conduct cost-benefit studies on the role of elephants in revenue generation; & land use and livelihoods in elephant landscapes

What has not been implemented

✓ Investigate impacts of climate change on elephant habitat and elephant populations through appropriate research

What is new

- KWS strategic plan, 2012- 2017 (KWS, 2012)

- The numerous sectoral policies & legal frameworks that have been enacted

- Realignment of the elephant strategy with the county policies & laws & development / management plans e.g. County spatial plans & County Integrated Development plans

- New institutions established – KWCA – NGO Alliance - coordination

What is new

- Massive infrastructural development e.g. SGR, Oil and water pipelines

- Agricultural expansion project in Tana Delta (10,000 acres but expanding to 100,000 acres

- Oil and gas discovery in northern Kenya

- Mining e.g. cement in Amboseli

- Forest excision e.g. Mau forest (17,000 acrea)

Challenges facing the implementation of the strategy

- There are no funds allocated specifically for the implementation of the strategy

- Lack of a substantive elephant program coordinator to coordinate the implementation of the strategy

- Inequality in NGOs presence – some regions have no NGOS e.g. Western CA,

- Elephant program - low capacity to coordinate & monitor the implementation of the many actions outlined in the strategy across the 8 regions

- Frequent transfers of personnel on the ground as required by KWS policy results in lack of continuity in data collection and data base maintenance making reporting on quantitative information very difficult.

Recommendations

- ✓ Mobilize financial resources to implement the elephant strategy.

- ✓ Lobby the central government for increased budgetary allocation to KWS.

- ✓ Lobby for support by county governments such as creation of conservation areas & elephant corridors through legislations

Recommendations

✓ Enact wildlife policy 2011 to guide the implementation of the Wildlife Act 2013 & some of the actions within the elephant strategy.

✓ Develop detailed threat based area management strategies such as HEC mitigation strategy, Anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade strategy, Securing wildlife corridors & dispersal areas corridor strategy, Climate change strategy, etc

Recommendation

✓ Review some of the actions & indicators in the strategy & replace outdated strategies or methods used in the elephant strategy e.g. use of MIST, etc with new technologies e.g. Cybertracker, SMART, WILD, Drones, etc, for purposes of easy reporting & evaluation in future. Can MIKE forms go smart?

Recommendation

✓ Coordinated development of departmental annual work plans to properly & systematically implement the elephant strategy for easy monitoring & delivery of actions and or targets.

✓ Strategies to increased benefits to communities living with elephants – e.g. REDD+ ???

Recommendation

✓ Revamp & support the four elephant committees (EEC, ETC, EMC, EAC) to actively engage in the elephant strategy implementation process & timely address arising challenges including constituting the committees.

Recommendation

✓ Strengthen the elephant program - a substantive elephant program coordinator & more support staff to assist in coordinating, monitoring of the implementation of the actions as outlined in the strategy including resource mobilization.

Recommendation

✓ Due to the complexity of the program with many actions supported by different departments & many practitioners and stakeholders (NGOs, development partners, sectoral government departments, Central and County governments, enterpreures, etc, establish an M&E desk in the regions for easy tracking & prompt informed action.

Recommendation

✓ Harmonize conflicting central & county government sectoral laws & policies & enact new laws & policies that will ensure total enforcement for future conservation efforts.

✓ Set up high level inter-ministerial tasks force from relevant ministries & departments whose activities may influence elephant conservation and management.

Recommendation

✓ Engage with development partners on planned projects that may affect elephant conservation for joint planning.

✓ Review and finalize the national status report on wildlife corridors for gazettment by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
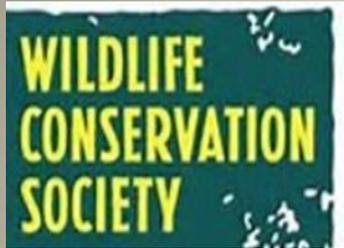
Recommendation

✓ Develop ecosystem management plans for gazettment by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

✓ Support the county spatial plan development process

✓ Revive DEC

Conclusion

- ✓ Emerging threats and challenges may derail the implementation of the strategy

- ✓ So much is happening by different stakeholders that feeds into the implementation of the strategy

- ✓ Stakeholders are critical in implementation of the strategy – over 60%

Donors and Affiliates

Disney

Asante Sana