MEETING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FORENSICS NETWORK

Online, via Zoom
12-15 October 2020

Supported by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report describes the proceedings of the 5th annual meeting of the African Wildlife Forensics Network (AWFN). The meeting was held online via Zoom, on 12-15 October 2020.

2. The attendance of the different sessions of the meeting was as follows:
   - 12th October – AWFN main session: attended by 61 people from 17 countries (11 African countries)
   - 13th October – Wildlife Forensics video pitch session: attended by 63 people from 18 countries (13 African countries)
   - 14th October 2020 – Breakout sessions: attended by 57 people

3. Attendants to the meeting included government and non-governmental stakeholders from both Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation (WCSI) and Wildlife Laboratory Analysis (WLA) communities.

4. The overall aims of the meeting were to:
   - maintain and expand the existing network of laboratory and crime scene practitioners,
   - discuss and plan approaches for enhancing wildlife forensic capacity throughout Africa, through practical initiatives that can be implemented regionally,
   - continue to develop the African Wildlife Forensics Network,
   - update members on the activities of the network since the 2019 Livingstone meeting,
   - provide members with a networking opportunity,
   - follow up on the current status of the agreed AWFN work plan, and
   - provide members with a platform for sharing knowledge.

5. A series of presentations and discussions were held either in full plenary or in breakout sessions, with the breakout groups representing the focal areas of WCSI and WLA.

6. The final version of the Vision, Mission and Objectives for the AWFN was presented.

7. A number of activities designed to contribute to the achievement of the network’s objectives were agreed and incorporated into the ongoing AWFN workplan.