

## LION ALLIANCE FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH MEETING



**DATE: 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**VENUE: VOLCANOES ECO-LODGE, KYAMBURA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarises proceedings of the second Lion Alliance for Queen Elizabeth Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Volcanoes Eco-Lodge, Kyambura. The meeting was intended to generate consensus on priority actions based on the feedback from the working group that was selected to steer the process of identifying priority actions and responsibilities.

### **FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUP AND PRESENTATIONS**

WCS gave a presentation on the outcomes of the working group, identifying the priority actions as ranked by members and proposing lead instructions for each activity. The actions were discussed, reprioritised and agreed upon by members. The top priority activities for immediate action were de-snaring the park, establishing a lion –human conflict response and rescue unit and initiating livelihood interventions respectively. De-snaring ranked top of the priorities due to the detrimental effect of snares on lion populations and costs of conservation. The team also underscored the need to undertake rapid responses in relation to human-lion conflicts in order to reduce both human suffering and the danger to lion populations, thus ranking establishment of a human-lion conflict response and rescue unit second.

The team appreciated the fact that no intervention can be effective without involving communities and helping them out of their problems. As such, community livelihood initiatives ranked third in on list of priorities. Community engagement could range from facilitating communities to develop community-based tourism products to engaging them in conservation activities such as de-sharing of the park or removal of invasive. However, engaging communities in activities inside the park needs

to be done with caution and careful thought to ensure protection and safety of the persons involved.

The tables 1 – 3 below summarise these activities in the order of priority, categorised as short-term, medium-term and long-term activities.

In addition to the above, members were concerned that the prey base was on the decline and that action needed to be taken to reverse the trend. Buffaloes were particularly mentioned as one of the species affected with one member noting that the calving rate seems to have declined drastically in the past few years. Members alluded to the need to conduct research to establish the facts surrounding decline of the prey base in the medium term.

The WCS Country Director presented an analysis of potential lion conflict hotspots based on the snaring intensity map of QENP and lion ranges as mapped using satellite collar technology. This provided a basis to select the areas for intervention. Additionally, Dr Lodwick of Uganda Carnivore Programme made a presentation of his experiences and recommendations for lion conservation in QENP. He recommended affirmative action to save the lion population in Hamkungu, involving community leaders in conservation programmes and working with communities to manage the human population among other recommendations.

## WAY FORWARD

Dr Nampindo informed members that the Lion Recovery Fund and other donors was interested in supporting the initiative and members were encouraged to participate in fundraising for implementation. WCS offered to compile the ideas and generate a concept note. Kriss of Enjojo Lodge volunteered to work with WCS to generate the concept note as well as sale the ideas to donors.

Table 1: Short-term priorities

Activities	Lead implementer	Other contributors	Estimated Budget (US\$)	Remarks
<b>Short term interventions (1-12 Months)</b>				
De-snare the park	UWA	WCS, UCP, Scouts/Communities, Eco-lodge owners	44,616	Direct costs field costs only
Establish a lion-human conflict response and rescue unit and equip it with the necessary tools	UWA	WCS, UCP, LC leadership, development partners	15,000	Direct costs field costs only; without vehicle and telemetry equipment
Initiate livelihood interventions (Community Engagement in tourism activities e.g. community tourism, drama, crafts)	WCS/UWA/UCP	Traditional leaders, Religious leaders, Local Governments, Eco-lodge owners, Tour and travel operators, WCS, UCP, UWA, Communities, Donors/Development partners, Fisheries Department, BMU, MAAIF, Researchers/academia	31,675	Direct costs field costs only
Apply appropriate technologies and methods to prevent depredation and reduce human-lion conflict	WCS, UCP, UWA	Local government, scouts/communities	67,500	for 25 kraals (carnivore proof plus twinkling lights)
Improve livestock management (pasture, breeds, and diseases) mainly in the northern sector and encourage adoption better husbandry practices such as zero grazing and construction of lion-proof kraals	MAAIF/National Animal Genetics Databank, LG, WCS, UWA	WCS, UCP, LG, traditional and cultural leaders, Religious leaders, communities, BMU		
Develop a community education and sensitization program (community exchange visits to other parks in Uganda and outside)	UWA, WCS, UCP	Eco-lodge owners, Tour operators, Researchers, academia		

Work with traditional healers and practitioners to stop killing of lions for medicinal purposes	Traditional and Cultural Leaders, LCs, UCP	WCS, communities, Researchers/academia		
Address the local community leadership crisis	WCS, UCP, UWA	Traditional leaders, Religious leaders, Local Governments, Members of Parliament		
Strengthen law enforcement	UWA	Magistrates courts, High court, Police, UPDF, WCS, Development Partners		

**Table 2: Medium term interventions (1-5 years)**

Activities	Lead implementer	Other contributors	Estimated Budget (US\$)	Remarks
Develop a collaborative multi-sectoral program to address human-carnivore conflicts (key constituencies are fisheries, agriculture, health, education, local governments, tourism, water/wetlands)	WCS, UWA, UCP	UBF, LG, Parliament of Uganda, OPM, NEMA		
Develop innovative ways of increasing park benefits to the frontline communities (e.g. create an education fund to provide scholarships to the girl child, strengthen wildlife clubs in schools - primary, secondary and tertiary institutions)	UWA, WCS, UCP, Eco-lodge owners, Tour operators	Researchers, Local government, communities, Development Partners		
Improve the allocation and utilize of revenue sharing money to address critical community needs	UWA, Members of Parliament from the region	WCS, UCP, LG, traditional and cultural leaders, Religious leaders, communities, BMU		
Diversify tourism packages	UWA, UTB	UCP, LG, Eco-lodge owners, Tour and travel operators		
Restore the prey base (think of reintroductions of appropriate species informed by research)	UWA	WCS, UCP		

### Long-term interventions (5-10 years)

Activities	Lead implementer	Other contributors	Estimated Budget (US\$)	Remarks
Combat illegal wildlife trade	UWA, WCS	Judiciary, communities, NWCCTF		
Remove invasive species	UWA	UCP, WCS, communities, LG		
Remove livestock from the park	UWA, LG	Parliament of Uganda, communities, WCS		
Work closely with ministry of health to tackle human population management	UCP	CTPH, LG, Ministry of Health, NPA, OPM		
Diseases response Unit at site level	UWA, Ministry of Health	OPM, LG, UCP, CTPH, CDC		
Embark on a campaign to reduce use, ban or impose stricter regulations on the use of pesticides such as carbofuran (Furadin) that are abusively used to poison lions	National Drug Authority, UWA	WCS, UCP, MAAIF, UNBS, LG		