



Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN) 5th Executive Committee meeting

8-9 December 2022, Nairobi, Republic of Kenya

Introduction

On 8-9 December 2022, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Horn of Africa Wildlife law Enforcement Network (HAWEN) convened the 5th Executive Committee meeting with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The meeting was held after the WEN guidelines self-assessment developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) with the support from the CITES Secretariat and UNODC which took place on 7 December 2022.

The 5th Executive Committee meeting aimed at taking stock of achieved progress, updating the 2018 HAWEN Action Plan according to the results of the assessment, and initiating the expansion of new members from within the Horn of Africa.

Nominated HAWEN focal points from the 7 IGAD Member States (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) attended the meeting. IGAD experts from the Agriculture and Environment division, UN Agencies, and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) were present.

The meeting was supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Crimes that Affect the Environment Programme under the umbrella of activities of the ICCWC with funding from the United States of America.

Below the summary notes of the discussions held by the participants as well as the opportunities for enhancing the fight against wildlife crime in the region.





Recommendations of the 5th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting

1. There shall be a vice-chair who shall be the next Chair alphabetically. In absence of the Chair, the vice-chair shall preside over matters of HAWEN.
2. HAWEN Secretariat should share the updated Action Plan for final review and approval by Member States by 15 January 2023. Comments and approval should be sent by focal points by 1 February 2023.
3. HAWEN Secretariat should share with the members a word template for an annual report on the wildlife crime situation. This report should be submitted in a PDF format by focal points to the HAWEN Secretariat for publication on the HAWEN website by 31 January 2023.
4. HAWEN Secretariat should create a closed access for the focal points on the HAWEN website for sharing non-public documents.
5. The IGAD Secretariat should publish on the HAWEN website web stories to raise more awareness on the wildlife crime situation in the region and on HAWEN when activities are involving HAWEN Member States.
6. If budget allows, additional 5 institutions by Member State should be invited to attend the next HAWEN Executive Committee meeting.
7. IGAD Program Manager should enhance interactions with the African Union. The IGAD Program Manager should also explore the possibility to involve ICCF at the African Union level.
8. The HAWEN Secretariat and the Chair should ensure setting up meetings every quarter of 2023 for strengthening coordination and communication.
9. IGAD Secretariat should liaise with the IGAD legal department regarding the legal tool to be used for dealing with the confiscated live wildlife from cross-border trafficking (including repatriation) in consultation with the Parties.
10. HAWEN partners should share with the HAWEN Secretariat the list of activities in the region that will involve HAWEN and/or its Member States.
11. An excel matrix is required to be developed by the HAWEN Secretariat to ensure alignment, coordination and harmonization of activities in the region.
12. Member States of HAWEN are encouraged to apply to the GEF 8 project. Support to HAWEN can be included at national level by the countries, in a coordinated manner.
13. HAWEN members request IGAD to explore the possibility to include the Government of Eritrea in HAWEN.
14. HAWEN Secretariat will share the meeting report and recommendations by 15 January 2023. Focal points should share with the HAWEN Secretariat email addresses of the heads of the institutions to be copied when sending the report. Presentations should be shared by 16 December 2022.
15. The coordination whatsapp group should include the new HAWEN members.



16. The 6th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting should take place in Q4 2023.

Day 1 – 8 December 2022

The meeting was convened from 8 to 9 December 2022 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya. The meeting started with the handover of the Chairmanship from Mr. Ahmed Mohamud Osman, Director of wildlife department of the Directorate of Environment of Somalia to Ms. Lona Gore, Director for Multilateral Environmental Agreement of South Sudan.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by the representatives from IGAD (Dr. Eshete Dejen), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Ms. Lauren Friedman) and the meeting was officially opened by the Guest of Honor, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Wildlife of the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya, Ms. Sylvia Kihoro.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr Eshete emphasized that HAWEN was created to address the need to develop joint cross-border cooperation and collaboration to fight this crime. As it is recognized by IGAD Member States as the anti-trafficking framework, HAWEN is working to enhance its role for coordinating efforts among different sectors and between actors.

UNODC highlighted that intergovernmental cooperation has proven a potent tool to address wildlife trafficking, where HAWEN has a key role to play.

The meeting was officially opened by the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Wildlife of the Republic of Kenya, Ms, Sylvia Kihoro. She recognized that HAWEN has the possibility to improve intergovernmental cooperation to prevent and combat wildlife crime in the Horn of Africa region and confirmed commitment from the Republic of Kenya to HAWEN.

Review of recommendations from the 4th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting

The meeting started with reviewing the recommendations of the 4th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting and comments were provided as followed:

1. HAWEN Secretariat shared a format of a report to be published on the HAWEN website but Member States did not share the report. An Annual report should be shared in a PDF format and the HAWEN Secretariat should share a word document for inputs to be provided. [recommendation 2]
2. Protocol on custody of live animals to the Executive Committee members was sent for review to the HAWEN Focal points and was translated in French. However, the IGAD legal department informed HAWEN that a less powerful tool should be used. [recommendation 4]
3. IGAD has worked on sensitizing the African Union on wildlife trafficking in the region. The intention was HAWEN to be a pilot for the African Union and scale it up to other RECs. However, the AU is currently under reform and suffers from a lack of manpower. CCF has recommended to reach out to the ICCF to push for a representation for wildlife at the AU.



In the meantime, wildlife conservation roundtables launched by IFAW in Kenya could be replicated at regional level. HAWEN should look at its operational manual. [recommendation 7]

4. HAWEN Secretariat cannot benefit from the regular IGAD budget. Funding can only come from a pool and not from a dedicated budget. [recommendation 8]

5. A closed access on the HAWEN website for non-public documents could be created for HAWEN members to have access to HAWEN documents [recommendation 10].

Country statements

Each country participating in the meeting (except Kenya newly nominated) delivered a country statement which included information on:

- Activities in combating wildlife crime in the country
- Challenges
- Measures taken by the government
- Opportunities for combating wildlife crime

Presentations delivered are shared with report. This report details additional information that was provided during the presentations.

Djibouti

Djibouti is facing issues of illegal fishing of sea turtles and sharks for their fins as well as loss of wildlife due to climate change, wood cutting and human wildlife conflict. In addition, the legal framework is inadequate to combat wildlife crime and there is no national strategy on wildlife management. As part of the efforts of the government to tackle this issue, Djibouti has undertaken the ICCWC Indicator Framework assessment and is working on establishing a national taskforce to combat these forms of crime. Djibouti has not shared its CITES annual report for several years and should liaise with the CITES Secretariat to address this issue [the CITES focal point is sitting at the Ministry of Agriculture].

Ethiopia

Major challenges faced by Ethiopia are detailed in the presentation. The main trafficking routes include: the border between Ethiopia and Somalia, Gambella between Ethiopia and South Sudan (cheetah and lion cubs as well as ivory), Moyale border with Kenya. Issue of stability in the region of Tigray also creates opportunities for traffickers. Bole International Airport has been also identified as a trafficking point and a sniffer dog will be deployed with support from AWF and IFAW with the canine facility being currently built which will be followed by capacity-building trainings. EWCA is in the process to recruiting officers for addressing wildlife trafficking at the hotspots, including with KWS at the Moyale border. An Environmental Crime Unit is being created.



Somalia

Somalia has established the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Challenges highlighted include weak institutional governments, political will, knowledge level, poor funding and widespread poverty. A National Wildlife Crime Coordination Taskforce & Action Plans is being established (but not yet operationalized) with the overall objective of combating wildlife crime in the country and facilitate wildlife conservation. It is still in the process for approval by the government.

South Sudan

Major challenges faced by South Sudan are detailed in the presentation. Sniffer dogs provided by WCS are placed at the airport. Patrols and joint operations are undertaken in the parks. South Sudan participated in the Thunder operation that involved police, customs and immigration.

Sudan

Sudan has several national parks including in unstable areas such as the Darfour. Seizures of tiger and leopard skins were undertaken and is also facing issues of illegal fishing. Local communities need to participate in protection program and scientific research and environmental awareness through local communities need to be undertaken. The legal framework needs also to be revised in line with legal conventions. During the discussions, Ethiopia has highlighted a leopard skin trafficking between Ethiopia and Khartoum, underlining a potential demand/market in Sudan. The opened market in Khartoum was closed already 20 years ago. More exchange of information between Sudan and neighboring countries is needed.

Uganda

Uganda has established a wildlife taskforce. The country informed HAWEN that it will be leaving the LATF considering the financial obligation.

Uganda has regulations to the effect of compensation. 2% of the revenue to the Ministry is supposed to go to the fund to compensate the victims. A Committee has been established to evaluate the claims. Condition for compensation: the event occurs outside of a Protected Area and only when the damage has been caused by a defined list of animals. The report of the occurrence of the event should be done with the small local government unit which takes the complaint to police.

Discussions

Further to the country statements, countries representatives highlighted the following points:

1. Somalia and Ethiopia discussed the issue of origin of the cheetahs seized. Police investigation and DNA testing should be used.
2. Several discussions for implementing MoUs are in discussions: between Ethiopia and Somalia as well as between Djibouti and Ethiopia. For Djibouti, the MoU should be translated in French.



3. IGAD highlighted the example of the coordination platform put in place in Somalia for maritime security where all the federal member states are represented to address issues of maritime security and blue economy. Best practices from this platform could be adapted to the wildlife challenges faced by the country.
4. Metema border between Ethiopia and Sudan has been identified as a trafficking point especially for leopard skin. The CITES Secretariat recommended that authorities of both countries should be alerted of the increasing trafficking going through the border. Bilateral activities could be undertaken to tackle the issue under ICCWC activities or operations such as Thunder.
5. INTERPOL Regional Bureau and RILO WCO could be considered to be invited as observers to the meetings.
6. The CITES Secretariat presented the GEF8 that could be a good opportunity for countries to develop activities at national level. Countries can support HAWEN at national level, under the GEF national projects, in a coordinated manner with the support from the Secretariat.
7. The CMS Secretariat and CCF presented the next phase of the Legal Harmonization project for TFACs following the endorsement of the recommendation at the 4th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting to create an IGAD protocol on transboundary conservation areas. In 2023, CMS will undertake background research on best practices and commence consultations with IGAD stakeholders.
8. Discussions included institutions to be invited to participate in the next HAWEN meetings and activities. Each Member State provided a list of 5 institutions:

Djibouti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPP • Gendarmerie section Environnement • Customs • Ministry of Agriculture - Livestock department • Police
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethiopian federal commission – crime division • Customs commission • Ministry of Justice/Prosecutors • INTERPOL NCB • Intelligence security service (members of the ECU)
Kenya	TBD
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution • Customs • Police – CID • The community living in rural areas : 6 Federal States. Ministry to assign someone from the community • Ministry of fisheries
South Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment - Forestry department



HAWEN

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police – INTERPOL• Customs• Judiciary / prosecution• Community leaders
Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customs (Min of Interior)• Police (min of Interior)• Ministry of Agriculture (fisheries/forestry and livestock)• Prosecution• Authority of Environment, WL and biodiversity
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Environment and Water – forestry support department• Customs• National environment management authority (NEMA)• Police –• Prosecution if resources allow (UWA prosecution unit)



Agenda

7 December 2022: WEN guidelines assessment

09h00 – 09h30	Opening	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC Regional Representative • IGAD Program Management Sustainable Environment Unit, Dr Eshete Dejen • Principal Secretary of the State Department of Wildlife, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage of Kenya, Ms. Silvia Kihoro
09h30 – 10h30	WEN Guidelines Evaluation Matrix presentation	CITES & UNODC
10h30 - 11h00	Health break	
11h00 – 13h00	Completing assessment	CITES & UNODC
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch break	
14h00 – 17h00	Completing assessment	CITES & UNODC

8 December 2022: 5th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting

09h00 – 09h15	Opening remarks	Chair of HAWEN, Director Ahmed Osman
09h15 – 09h30	Election of new Chair of HAWEN	HAWEN focal points
09h30 – 10h30	Review of recommendations of the 4 th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting	HAWEN Secretariat & IGAD
10h30 – 11h00	Health break	
10h30 – 12h30	Country presentations	HAWEN focal points
12h30 – 13h30	Lunch Break	
13h30 – 16h30	Updating Action Plan according to results of the assessment	HAWEN Secretariat
16h30 – 17h00	Approval of new Action Plan	HAWEN focal points

9 December 2022: 5th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting

09h00 – 10h30	Discussion and approval on inclusion of new institutions into HAWEN	IGAD / HAWEN Secretariat
10h30 – 11h00	Health break	



11h00 – 11h30	Presentation on Phase 2 of the CMS Legal harmonization for TFCA	CMS Secretariat
11h30 – 12h00	Closing	IGAD/ UNODC/ CITES
	Lunch	

List of participants

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