

REPORT

**The 6th Horn of Africa Wildlife law Enforcement Network
(HAWEN) Executive Committee Meeting
4th-5th June 2024, at Golden Tulip Hotel
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



June, 2024



Introduction

The 6th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting convened on 4th-5th June, 2024, at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its primary aim was to assess the advancement of the recommendations made during the 5th Executive Committee meeting and share updates on the progress achieved so far. The meeting received financial support from IGAD. The meeting was attended by IGAD/ HAWEN member states, the IGAD Secretariat, EU Delegations from South Sudan and Addis Ababa, UNODC, APN, CMS, CCF, IFAW, Legal Atlas, and the Regional Environment Office at the US Embassy in Addis Ababa. (List attached)

Opening Session

Col. Lona Lanurit Darius, the chair of HAWEN, made welcoming remarks. She welcomed all participants to the 6th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting to Addis Ababa Ethiopia. She highlighted that HAWEN's goal is to foster cross-border collaboration in combating wildlife crime in the IGAD region. However, the HAWEN secretariat hasn't started fully functioning because of issues with funding. She also noted that the failure to implement the 5th HAWEN EC recommendations associated with funding challenges. She underlined that member states need to intensify their efforts to activate the HAWEN secretariat to ensure effective cross-border collaboration in the region. Finally, she thanked the government of Ethiopia for hosting the meeting and IGAD for funding it. She concluded her remarks by expressing hope for a fruitful and productive meeting.

Dr. Eshete Dagne, Program Manager for the Sustainable Environment Protection Unit at the IGAD Secretariat also made remarks on behalf of the IGAD Secretariat. He highlighted the impacts of wildlife crimes on biodiversity in the region, by citing few examples including illegal fishing. He also noted that HAWEN was primarily established to address such challenges and recognized it as a collaboration platform by member states. He expressed concerns about HAWEN's lack of support from member state contributions and funding challenges. He further expressed the difficulty for HAWEN in obtaining funding from IGAD due to lack of having a clear modality between them. He emphasized that establishing a clear framework for the relationship of HAWEN with IGAD is a top priority. He thus urged member states to engage in discussions on this matter and propose feasible recommendations. Finally, he concluded his remark by expressing gratitude to the government of Ethiopia for hosting the meeting and the EU for financing it.



Mr. Daniel Assefa, made official opening remarks on behalf of the Director General of EWCA. He underscored the rich biodiversity of the Horn of Africa and highlighted the various threats it faces. He explained that if the region uses its biodiversity in a sustainable way, it could bring ecological, economic, scientific, and social benefits to the region. He further explained that wildlife trafficking is emerged as a significant challenge, by citing cheetah trafficking as an illustrative example. He also stated that fighting illegal trade is not only conservation issue, but also health, economic, and peace and security issue. He informed the meeting that a strong regional cooperation is crucial to address this challenge. He also mentioned the importance of harmonized wildlife laws, real-time information sharing, and joint investigations to address the issue comprehensively. Finally, he expressed gratitude to all partners for the continued technical and financial support, specifically acknowledged IGAD for organizing this important meeting. He concluded his remarks by expressing his optimism and hopes for productive deliberations during the meeting. He then officially declared the meeting open.

Following the official opening, Col. Lona, the chair of HAWEN briefly introduced the agendas of the meeting to participants. (Agenda attached)

Election of a new chair

The first agenda discussed during the meeting was election of a new chair for the HAWEN, as stated in the IGAD/HAWEN protocol. However, Dr. Eshete from IGAD brought up concerns regarding a significant challenge faced by HAWEN, which is related to funding. He highlighted the urgency of addressing the funding issue for HAWEN first to make it operational. He also noted that formalizing the relationship between HAWEN and IGAD could potentially lead to increased support, cooperation, and possibly access resources from IGAD. He also suggested to bypass the election of a new chair for the current year and consider it as a transition period for HAWEN.

The member states engaged in discussions on the proposal put forward by Dr. Eshete. After discussion, the member states, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan, unanimously supported the proposal with no any objection, and they decided to bypass the election of a new chair for the current year. Instead, they agreed that the current chair would continue in their role until the following year. This decision was made in light of prioritizing more immediate challenges such as formalizing the relationship of HAWEN with IGAD and addressing funding issues. Uganda's absence noted.



The Status of implementation of the recommendations from the 5TH HAWEN EC

Ms. Iman Mohammed, Program Assistant of HAWEN from IGAD, presented updates on the implementation of the recommendations of the 5th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting. Col. Lona Lanurit Darius, the chair of HAWEN, highlighted that the recommendations remained unfulfilled mainly due to funding constraints. Other member states also expressed similar sentiments during the discussions. Dr. Eshete also explained that lack of having dedicated expert for the HAWEN activities was another key challenge. He further explained that IGAD occasionally relied on African Union experts for support, which proved insufficient. The way forward was discussed, emphasizing the clear reasons for the lack of achievement. Member states proposed that the secretariat should have dedicated experts and fully operational. Also, member states should updates and implement its action plan. Enhancing partnerships to secure sufficient funding for HAWEN activities was also emphasized.

Member States presentation

Member states presented updates on the implementation of HAWEN activities within their jurisdiction, particularly focusing on challenges, successful practices and recommendations to activate HAWEN.

Ethiopia

Mr. Daniel Assefa, Head of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Desk in EWCA, presented Ethiopia's efforts in implementing the HAWEN action plan during the meeting. He highlighted Ethiopia's rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems, which include numerous wildlife protected areas. Despite these assets, Ethiopia faces significant challenges in wildlife conservation, including wildlife trafficking along border areas. He illustrated this issue by providing a concrete example, specifically highlighting the illegal trade in cheetahs. He also outlined the major smuggling routes used to traffic wildlife. He mentioned Ethiopia's efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, along with some achieved results. Sudan inquired clarification on leopard skin trafficking, while UNODC sought information on wildlife crime prosecution and penalties in Ethiopia. Representative of IGAD peace and security questioned how can we cooperate to addresses trafficking along the porous border. Mr. Daniel briefly reacted to all questions raised. Legal Atlas commented the presentation and acknowledged the training provided to law enforcement officers in training centers. CMS queried about presence of illegal killing of wildlife for local consumption, to which Mr. Daniel confirmed exist.



Djibouti

Mr. Rayaleh Hassen, Senior expert from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Djibouti, presented Djibouti's efforts in biodiversity conservation, focusing on legislative frameworks and ongoing interventions to combat wildlife trafficking. He highlighted participation in training workshops on the TWIX platform facilitated by TRAFFIC international. Recommendations included activating the HAWEN secretariat, reinforcing national legislation, establishing cross-border cooperation agreements, and conducting national assessments on illegal wildlife trafficking. Effort of the wildlife sector to arrest traffickers was questioned by a participant. In response to this inquiries, Mr. Hassen stated efforts made to coordinate with IGAD and other agencies for apprehending and prosecuting traffickers. Regarding collaboration with Ethiopia and Kenya, he mentioned presence of ongoing bilateral initiatives and future cooperation plans.

Kenya

Mr. Eric Mwenda, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Service at the State Department for Wildlife, offered an overview of Kenya's wildlife conservation efforts. He highlighted policy instruments, protected areas along boundaries, and community involvement in wildlife protection. Mr. Mwenda enumerated endangered species and migratory routes, and discussed government priorities and challenges such as human-wildlife conflict and compensation claims. He also presented key achievements of the wildlife sector of Kenya. During the session, a participant inquired about sustainable water provision for wildlife, to which Mr. Mwenda suggested digging water pans as a climate change adaptation measure. Another participant supported the idea of providing water for wildlife under certain circumstances. Legal Atlas queried about Kenya's wildlife crime database, to which Mr. Mwenda confirmed exists.

Sudan

Colonel Anwar Hamad, Ministry of Interior Wildlife Conservation Forces, provided an overview of Sudan's biodiversity, ecosystems, and protected areas, along with legal instruments and ongoing interventions in wildlife conservation. He mentioned a project funded by the GEF trust fund and capacity-building efforts on CITES. Recommendations of Sudan included joint cross-border law enforcement, establishing trans-boundary conservation areas, and effective mechanism for mobilizing resource for HAWEN. During the Q&A, IGAD inquired about the impact of civil war on wildlife, to which Colonel Anwar responded that Sudan's control mechanisms against trafficking strong. Legal Atlas asked about data on wildlife incidences, prosecution, and penalties. CMS questioned whether the IGAD biodiversity protocol adequately addresses their concerns, to which Colenal Anwar responded briefly.



South Sudan

Col. Lona Lanurit Darius, provided an overview of her country's rich biodiversity, protected areas, and institutional framework, highlighting challenges such as poaching, logging, insufficient funding, climate change, and weak law enforcement. Current interventions included reviewing wildlife acts and operational projects, with collaboration possibilities discussed, including establishing a platform for information sharing among law enforcement agencies. South Sudan's recommendations included operationalizing the HAWEN secretariat, support from NGOs, and leveraging the Boma Gambella trans boundary area. During the Q&A, Somalia inquired about poaching rates, UNODC asked about consultancy profiles for national assessments, and the trend of wildlife trafficking in South Sudan. In response to these inquiries, she stated various law enforcement efforts made to lower poaching rates and emphasized the importance of national assessments.

Partners' presentation

UNODC

Mr. Giovanni Broussard, Regional Coordinator for Africa, Environment team, briefly presented about the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and its role in combating wildlife crimes, including support in prevention, investigation, and prosecution, along with initiatives such as forensic capability building and development of anti-corruption tools. UNODC also engage in reviewing laws and recently supported operation SAMA organized by customs. UNODC's role in strengthening HAWEN was discussed, including facilitating secretariat activities and supporting Executive Committee meetings. Recommendations by UNODC included expanding HAWEN's scope beyond wildlife authorities, focusing on regional activities, and securing fund for the secretariat. Best practices from Asia and South America were noted, emphasizing the need for clear goals, strong national structures, and active regional and international operations. During the Q&A, a participant asked about support to container control program, to which Mr. Giovanni reacted briefly.

CMS

Ms. Clara Nobble, Head, Terrestrial Species Unit, presented on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), explaining its establishment and purpose to conserve migratory species globally. With approximately 10,000 species migrating due to seasonal habitat changes, CMS has 133 parties worldwide. CMS works by categorizing species into Appendices I and II and have agreements like AEWA, some of which are legally binding and others are not. She also mentioned that CMS engages in some projects across the IGAD region, with EU-funded initiatives, including harmonizing wildlife legislation, big cat conservation and analyzing national wildlife and related laws.



IFAW

Mr. James Isiche, Africa Director, IFAW provided an overview of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, explaining its establishment and current interventions focusing on landscape conservation, marine conservation, wildlife crime, community engagement, and international policy. He further explained IFAW's involvement in wildlife rescue, response to disasters and demand reduction, particularly in China. IFAW's role in strengthening HAWEN was emphasized, mentioning support since its establishment. He also highlighted on need for forming coalition of NGO's to streamline efforts and resource mobilization. He further explained IFAW is also engaged in specific projects, such as countering cheetah trafficking in the Horn of Africa. Recommendations by IFAW included increasing HAWEN secretariat capacity, member state commitment to HAWEN, branding and visibility, engagement with partners, and fundraising efforts.

Legal Atlas

Mr. Maria Pascual, Director of legal atlas, briefly presented about Legal Atlas, providing background on the organization and its establishment. She explained that Legal Atlas focuses on legal intelligence, particularly addressing outdated and poorly harmonized wildlife legislation in various countries. Current interventions include analyzing wildlife offenses in Ethiopia and Somalia, conducted in collaboration with CCF. Legal Atlas's role includes legal instrument development and legal gap analysis. Recommendations by legal Atlas to strengthen HAWEN include improving country wildlife legislation. She said this enhancement is crucial for bolstering efforts to combat wildlife crime effectively within the region.

CCF

The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) established with the aim of cheetah protection and research, community conservation, and cross-border cooperation. **They've** been pivotal in HAWEN's development since 2017, aiding in meetings, funding TWIX platform expansion, and collaborating on legal harmonization projects. Potential areas of collaborations include Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), capacity building, and policy frameworks. CCF's recommendation for HAWEN's strengthening includes a fully functional Secretariat to enhance network building, partner coordination, information sharing (including TWIX), and a Training Materials Library.



Regional Environmental Office from the US EMBASSY Addis Ababa

Ms. Fernando Johanna, Regional Environmental Officer from the US Embassy in Addis Ababa, delivered a short message at the meeting. She expressed appreciation for the invitation extended from IGAD to the United States. She also reaffirmed their ongoing support and partnership with the HAWEN initiative, recognizing the significance of HAWEN as a best regional platform. Finally, she thanked member states for their dedication and commitment to the initiative.

IGAD and its legal instruments

Ms. Caroline Wambui, the AG Legal Advisor at IGAD, provided insights into IGAD and its legal instruments, stressing the importance of understanding IGAD's establishment and the need for addressing funding challenges and protocol effectiveness before strengthening initiatives like HAWEN. She highlighted the significance of legal instruments in establishing and operating initiatives within IGAD, using the Migration Protocol as an example. She emphasized the need to follow the proper protocol validation process for initiatives, noting that only three out of fifteen protocols are actively enforced. She underscored the role of partnerships, particularly with NGOs. Dr. Eshete and Mr. Edwin commented on Carolina's presentation, by emphasizing the need to modify the HAWEN protocol for operationalizing the network within the IGAD's framework, potentially through organizational restructuring.

Group work

During the meeting, participants were divided into two groups to discuss on key points regarding HAWEN and propose recommendations. Here are the summarized points:

1. Regarding strengthening the HAWEN Secretariat:
 - Participants proposed various options, including:
 - Increasing funding for the secretariat to enhance its capacity.
 - Ensuring comprehensive stakeholder involvement to optimize functionality.
 - HAWEN should pass through a rigorous validation process to become active initiative, following protocols similar to active IGAD programs.
 - Modifying the HAWEN protocol to integrate it effectively into IGAD's organizational structure.

- Exploring potential adjustments to the organization's structure to align with IGAD's framework, HAWEN located either under Agriculture and Environment or Peace and security Divisions.
- Long term option, HAWEN to be an independent initiative.

2. Regarding Partners Engagement Modalities:

- Participants discussed engagement modalities such as:
 - Establishing partnerships with both donor and non-donor entities to mobilize resources effectively.
 - Recognizing the crucial role of NGOs in resource mobilization and engaging them strategically.
 - Harmonizing infrastructure projects to encompass all member states and potentially non-IGAD countries through memorandum of understanding.

3. Regarding HAWEN Operationalization Options for Visibility and Sustainability:

- Suggestions included:
 - Increasing HAWEN's visibility within IGAD's environment and biodiversity programs.
 - Aligning HAWEN's operationalization process with successful IGAD initiatives.
 - Exploring structural adjustments within HAWEN to ensure its effective integration and recognition within IGAD's organizational framework.



Group 1



Group 2



Conclusion and way forward

In conclusion, Member states recommended that making HAWEN operational should be a top priority. This emphasizes the importance of ensuring that HAWEN is effectively set up and functioning to carry out its mandate, especially in combating wildlife trafficking and related challenges across the Horn of Africa region. By prioritizing operationalization, Member states underscored the need for concrete actions and strategic efforts to strengthen HAWEN's capacity, operational framework, and collaborative mechanisms within the region. To strengthen HAWEN and ensure its sustainability and visibility within the IGAD framework, the following actions were proposed at the meeting.

Recommendations of the 6th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting:

- Formalize the relationship between HAWEN and IGAD.
- Explore potential adjustments to the organization's structure to align HAWEN with IGAD's framework.
- Establish strong partnerships with donor and non-donor entities for effective resource mobilization.
- Recognize the crucial role of NGOs in resource mobilization and engage them strategically.
- Focus HAWEN's efforts more on regional activities rather than national ones.
- Encourage partners to continue supporting the HAWEN initiative to ensure effective resource protection in the region.

By implementing the recommendations stated above, HAWEN can enhance its effectiveness, sustainability, and visibility within the IGAD framework, ultimately contributing to more robust wildlife enforcement efforts across the Horn of Africa region.

The end



Annex

■ Agenda for the 6th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting

Agenda

4 June 2024: the 6 th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting		
09:00-09:15	Opening remarks	Chair of HAWEN, South Sudan
09:15-09:30	Election of new Chair of HAWEN	HAWEN focal points
09:30-10:30	Review of recommendations of the 5 th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting	Chair of HAWEN and HAWEN Secretariat
10:30-11:00	Health break	
10:30-12:30	Country presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Djibouti - Ethiopia - Kenya - Somalia - South Sudan - Sudan - Uganda 	HAWEN Focal Points/ Executive Committee Members
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00	Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNODC - CMS - CCF - IFAW - TRAFFIC - Legal Atlas - US Embassy 	Representatives
15:00-16:30	Discussion	
16:30-17:00	Health break/ End of day 1	
5th June 2024: 6 th HAWEN Executive Committee meeting		
09:00-10:30	Presentation of HAWEN Action Plan	Current HAWEN Chair
10: 30-11:00	Health break	
11:00-13:00	Group Discussion	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-15:00		
15:00-16:00	Group Presentation & Way forward	
16:00-17:00	Health Break and Closing of the meeting	



■ List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

HAWEN 6th Executive Committee Meeting June 4-5, 2024 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Djibouti

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
1.	Hassan Moussa Rayaleh	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	moussarayale@gmail.com		3-6 June
2.	Abdi-fatah Abdillahi Doubad	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	Abdifatah093@hotmail.com		3-6 June

Ethiopia

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
3.	Kumara Wakjira Gemed (Guest of Honor)	Director General of EWCA Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority	kumewak@yahoo.com		3rd June for the Opening
4.	Daniel Assefa Zinabu	Head of Wildlife Law Enforcement Desk ECWA	zdanielassefa@gmail.com		3-6 June
5.	Fitsum Girma	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Transboundary rivers and resources Department	fitsum.girma@mfa.gov.et	+251 99 188 2655	3-6 June
6.	Dr Fanuel Kebede	Lead Researcher, Wildlife Ecologist, EWCA	Fanuel.kebede@gmail.com		3-6 June
7.	Zerihun Mengesha	Ethiopian Environmental Authority	zerihun.mengesha@epa.gov.et		3-6 June

Kenya

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
8.	Eric Mwenda	Assistant Director Wildlife Service State Department for Wildlife Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife	ericmwenda40@gmail.com		3-6 June
9.	Martha Wangeci	Foreign Service Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Diaspora Affairs	hornafrica2019@gmail.com wmartha116@gmail.com		3-6 June

Somalia

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
10.	Mahad Mohamed	Foreign Service Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mogadishu	Mahadshooli@gmail.com		4-6 June

South Sudan

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
11.	Col Lona Lanurit	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and	Lonagore2005@gmail.com		3-6



	Darius	Tourism / Director	com	HAWEN	June
12.	Akuot Asunta Nyang	Ministry of Foreign Affairs IGAD focal Person	asunta.michelle.am28@gmail.com		3-6 June

Sudan

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
13.	Major General Esamaldin Gabir Haggat Talib	Ministry of Interior -Wildlife Conservation Forces	wildlife_sudan33@yahoo.com		3-6 June
14.	Col. Anwar Hamad Jawed	Ministry of Interior -Wildlife Conservation Forces	anwar71.ah@gmail.com		3-6 June

Uganda

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
	Julius Innocent Quinoscars	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Service Officer	innocentquino@gmail.com cc: juliusjkivuna@gmail.com		Could not participate
	Mag. John Okot Emitchell	Uganda Wildlife Authority Head of Investigations Unit	John.emitchell@wildlife.go.ug		Could not participate

Africa Parks Network (APN)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
15.	Martin Rickelton	Regional Operations Manager (Boma/Gambella)	Martin@africanparks.org		3-5 June
16.	Kenze Ndamukenze	Institutional Funding Manager	Naftalih@africanparks.org		3-5 June
17.	Mike Fay	SSD Landscape Coordinator	Mikef@africanparks.org		3-5 June
18.	Naftali Honig	Head of Strategic Research	Naftalih@africanparks.org		3-5 June

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
19.	Clara Nobbe	Head, Terrestrial Species Unit	clara.nobbe@un.org		3-6 June
20.	Amie Figueiredo	Programme Management Officer	amie.figueiredo@un.org		3-6 June

Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
21.	Edwin Brown	Senior Advisor, Illegal Wildlife Trade and Policy	edwin@cheetah.org		5-6 June

Legal Atlas

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
22.	Maria Pascual	Partner & Director	maria.pascual@legal-atlas.net		4-6 June

UNODC (Nairobi)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
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No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
23.	Giovanni Broussard	Regional Coordinator for Africa, Environment Team	giovanni.broussard@un.org		4 June

USA Embassy Addis Ababa

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
24.	Yeneneh Teka	Regional Environment Specialist Regional Environment Office for East Africa	tekayl@state.gov		4 June
25.	Fernando, Johanna L	Regional Environment Officer	fernandojl@state.gov		4 June

IFAW (Nairobi)

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
26.	James Isiche	Africa Director, IFAW	jisiche@ifaw.org		4 and 6 June
27.	Fetene Buta	IFAW	fbuta@ifaw.org		4-6 June

EU Delegations

No.	Name	Institution/Position	Email	Tel	Participation
25.	Gabriel O. LEONTE	Head of Cooperation, EUD South Sudan	Gabriel-octavian.leonte@eeas.europa.eu		3-4 June
26.	Mershe Argaw	EUD Ethiopia	Mersha.ARGAW@eeas.europa.eu		3 June

IGAD Secretariat

No.	Name	Position	Email	Tel	Participation
27.	Dr Eshete Dejen	Program Manager, Sustainable Environment Protection	Eshete.dejen@igad.int		3-6 June
28.	Caroline Wambui	Ag Legal Advisor	Caroline.wambui@igad.int		3-6 June
29.	Nejat Abdulrahman	Senior Security analyst ISSP Addis Ababa	Nejat.abdulrahman@igad.int		3-6 June
30.	Yosef Habte	Project Accountant, Blue Economy	Yosef.habte@igad.int		3-6 June
31.	Iman Mohamoud	Program Assistant, HAWEN	Iman.dirir@igad.int		3-6 June
32.	Tegeste Shimelis	Program Assistant, Agriculture and Environment Division	Tegeste.shimelis@igad.int		3-6 June
33.	Getu Gudisa	Project Accountant	Getu.gudisa@igad.int		3-6 June
34.	Sougal Omar	Communication Officer	Sougal.omar@igad.int		3-6 June

Rapporteur

35.	Daniel Pawlos	Rapporteur, Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority	danielewca@gmail.com		3-6 June
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