

Our AfESG quadrennium (2021-2025) priority outputs are aligned to the IUCN SSC document: “IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025”.

https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/iucn_species_strategic_plan_2021-2025_summary.pdf

Key component 1 – ASSESS

Better understanding of the status of elephant populations and threats throughout their range

1. Compile, review and synthesize information on African elephant numbers and distribution.
2. Publish the Red List assessments.
3. Participate in the MIKES-ETIS-Technical Advisory Group processes.
4. Identify areas/regions of success and where appropriate conduct a Green List assessment for African elephants.
5. Update AfESG’s position statement on the in situ to ex situ elephant movements.
6. Revise the IUCN Guidelines for the in situ translocation of elephants in line with the IUCN broader conservation translocation guidelines.
7. Develop guidelines/criteria for prioritizing sites for survey support.
8. Continue to determine the genetic identity of taxonomically undefined elephant populations.
9. Fulfil the AfESG’s reporting obligations to CITES.
10. Update guidelines on population survey methods by incorporating newly emerging techniques for savanna and forest elephants.
11. Provide a better understanding of the context and conceptualization of sustainable uses of African elephants through the consumptive and the non-consumptive uses continuum.

Key component 2 – PLAN

Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based African elephant conservation strategies and policies

1. Enhance the functionality and capacity of the AED and form a consortium for its technical and financial support.
2. Re-invigorate the African Elephant Library (AEL), build the capacity to curate historical survey information and investigate gaps.
3. Continue with the provision of technical input into the revisions of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP).
4. Support strategic and action planning processes at national, regional, and continental levels, including assisting with the production of National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs).
5. Update the AfESG guidelines on human-elephant co-existence (HECx) and develop innovative new approaches based on landscape-level spatial planning, known elephant behaviours and community-based conservation approaches.

Key component 3 – ACT

Convene and mobilize more conservation action to improve the status of African elephants

1. Provide technical guidance for the management of African elephants as requested.
2. Advise on the conservation and management of African elephant ranges and critical habitats.

Key component 4 – COMMUNICATE

Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance the impact of AfESG’s mandates

1. Enhance communication within and outside of our membership on key issues about African elephants, through the establishment of a task force for this outcome.
2. Produce an updated Status Report in 2022 for the forest elephant and in 2023 for the savanna elephant for publication.
3. Promote the creation and maintenance of linkages/connectivity between elephant habitats.
4. Promote our international peer-reviewed *Pachyderm* journal, in collaboration with the African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups.
5. Release a statement on the AfESG’s position on the two species issue.

Key component 5 – NETWORK

Enhance and support the AfESG network to deliver on its mission and objectives.

1. Promote and where appropriate establish more collaboration with other relevant IUCN SSC Specialist Groups.
2. Establish relevant working groups and task forces to engage with key issues.
3. Respond to emerging issues and changing priorities.
4. Hold AfESG members' meeting sessions in 2022 and in 2025, and where appropriate or necessary hold brief inter-session online meetings.
5. Develop a community of practitioners through the HECx task force, exchanging information on best practices, successes, and failures, using appropriate tools in different contexts in Africa and in Asia.
6. Create a community of young innovative local people to participate in elephant management and conservation issues.
7. Fundraise for the running of the AfESG secretariat and for more AfESG activities.