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MEETING REPORT

AFRICAN WILDLIFE FORENSICS NETWORK

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

27-28 NOVEMBER 2018

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Supported by:



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report describes the proceedings and outputs of the 4th meeting of the African Wildlife Forensics Network, hosted by the National Zoological Gardens, South Africa and held at the Leriba Hotel, Pretoria, South Africa, in November 2018.
- The meeting was attended by 40 participants from thirteen countries and included government and non-government stakeholders from both the Wildlife Crime Scene and Wildlife Laboratory Analysis communities.
- The overall aim of the meeting was to discuss and plan approaches for enhancing wildlife forensic capacity throughout Africa, through practical initiatives that can be implemented regionally.
- Discussions were held either in full plenary sessions or divided into breakout groups representing the focal areas of Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation and Wildlife Laboratory Analysis.
- The following medium term goals were agreed in each of the two focal areas:
  - Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation: By the end of 2021 each country shall have implemented a self-sustaining programme of first responder training.
  - Wildlife laboratory analysis: By the end of 2021 each partner lab shall have the capacity to perform and report on wildlife DNA forensic casework under a Quality Management System (QMS) that is compliant with recognised standards.
- A series of activities that will contribute to achieving these goals was agreed and incorporated into a Workplan that will be maintained and updated by the AWFN coordinator.
- The AWFN coordinator post, to be hosted by the National Zoological Gardens, will be recruited in the first half of 2019. The post-holder will be responsible for coordinating future AWFN meetings and the delivery of the Workplan.
- The Zambian Department for National Parks and Wildlife has offered to host the next full meeting of the AWFN in November 2019.