

MEETING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AFRICAN
WILDLIFE
FORENSICS
NETWORK



5th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FORENSICS NETWORK

Online, via Zoom

12-15 October 2020

Supported by:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report describes the proceedings of the **5th annual meeting** of the African Wildlife Forensics Network (AWFN). The meeting was held online via Zoom, on 12-15 October 2020.
2. The attendance of the different sessions of the meeting was as follows:
 - 12th October – AWFN main session: attended by 61 people from 17 countries (11 African countries)
 - 13th October – Wildlife Forensics video pitch session: attended by 63 people from 18 countries (13 African countries)
 - 14th October 2020 – Breakout sessions: attended by 57 people
 - 15th October 2020 – Open webinar: attended by 127 people from 33 countries (15 African countries).
3. Attendants to the meeting included government and non-governmental stakeholders from both Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation (WCSI) and Wildlife Laboratory Analysis (WLA) communities.
4. The **overall aims** of the meeting were to:
 - maintain and expand the existing network of laboratory and crime scene practitioners,
 - discuss and plan approaches for enhancing wildlife forensic capacity throughout Africa, through practical initiatives that can be implemented regionally,
 - continue to develop the African Wildlife Forensics Network,
 - update members on the activities of the network since the 2019 Livingstone meeting,
 - provide members with a networking opportunity,
 - follow up on the current status of the agreed AWFN work plan, and
 - provide members with a platform for sharing knowledge.
5. A **series of presentations and discussions** were held either in full plenary or in breakout sessions, with the breakout groups representing the focal areas of WCSI and WLA.
6. The final version of the **Vision, Mission and Objectives** for the AWFN was presented.
7. A number of activities designed to contribute to the achievement of the network's objectives were agreed and incorporated into the ongoing **AWFN workplan**.