

MEETING REPORT

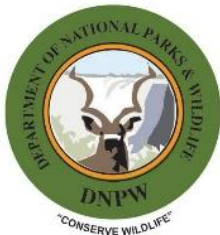


4th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FORENSICS NETWORK

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

26-27 NOVEMBER 2019

Supported by:



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report describes the proceedings of **the 4th annual meeting** of the African Wildlife Forensics Network (AWFN). The meeting was hosted by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), Zambia, and held at the Avani Victoria Falls Resort in Livingstone, on 26-27 November 2019.
2. The meeting was attended by **52 participants from 17 countries** and included government and non-governmental stakeholders from both Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation (WCSI) and Wildlife Laboratory Analysis (WLA) communities.
3. The **overall aims** of the meeting were to:
 - maintain and expand the existing network of laboratory and crime scene practitioners,
 - introduce new technologies and practices in the field of WLA and WCSI,
 - provide specialist training in certain areas of wildlife law enforcement,
 - 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.
4. 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.
5. Thirteen participants attended additional **training on court testimony procedures**. The training was held at the Avani Victoria Falls Resort in Livingstone on 28th November 2019.
6. Draft versions of a **Vision, Mission and Objectives** for the AWFN were proposed and discussed. Short and medium-term goals agreed in the previous 2018 and 2019 meetings were evaluated and updated in each of the focal areas.
7. A number of activities designed to contribute to the achievement of these goals were agreed and incorporated into the ongoing **AWFN workplan**.
8. Two offers to host the next **AWFN meeting in 2020** were received from Namibia and Tanzania.