

MEETING REPORT

**AFRICAN
WILDLIFE
FORENSICS
NETWORK**



6th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FORENSICS NETWORK

Online, via Zoom

2-4 November 2021

Supported by:



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report describes the proceedings of the 6th annual meeting of the African Wildlife Forensics Network (AWFN), held online via Zoom, on 2-4 November 2021.
2. 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 2020 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.
3. The attendance of the different sessions of the meeting was as follows:
 - 2nd November 2021
 - AWFN Opening Plenary session: attended by 55 people
 - Wildlife Forensics Networking session: attended by 33 people
 - 3rd November 2021 – Breakout sessions: attended by 53 people
 - 4th November 2021 – AWFN Closing Plenary session: attended by 46 people
4. Attendants to the meeting included government and non-governmental stakeholders from both Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation (WCSI) and Wildlife Laboratory Analysis (WLA) communities.
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 strategic plan of the AWFN was approved.
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.