



'COUNTERING CHEETAH TRAFFICKING FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA PROJECT'

Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Training Series
Second Batch Wildlife Prosecutors and Investigators OJT Inception Workshop Report



26TH - 28TH JUNE 2024, SOMALI REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA.

1. SYNOPSIS

From June 26th to 28th, 2024, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), and Somali Regional State (SRS) Bureau of Environment and Rural Land Administration held an intensive inception training workshop in Jijiga, Ethiopia. Funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), this workshop targeted 10 law enforcement officers from cheetah cub trafficking hotspots to enhance their skills in wildlife crime investigation and prosecution. This cohort is the second group to undergo this rigorous training, following the graduation of 10 officers earlier in 2024.

As the inaugural session of a comprehensive year-long mentorship program, the workshop featured focused presentations, engaging discussions, and hands-on exercises. Participants explored topics such as an introduction to wildlife crime, advanced communication skills, professional standards, and enhanced collaboration and networking. This training equips them with the tools and knowledge to combat wildlife crime effectively. The workshop marks the start of a year-long series, including inception, midterm, and closing workshops, along with on-the-job support from mentors.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop featured 25 participants, comprising 22 males and 3 females. This included 10 trainees, 2 mentors, 3 guests of honor, 3 media representatives, 4 trainers, and 3 organizers. Key stakeholders in wildlife conservation and law enforcement were present, such as the SRS Justice Bureau, Police Commission, Environmental Bureau, Supreme Court, Tourism Bureau, and EWCA.

3. TRAINING CONTENT

The inception workshop unfolded through a dynamic blend of opening remarks, focused presentations, illustrative case scenarios, interactive demonstrations, and engaging group activities designed for team building. Participants also benefited from hands-on practical exercises and in-depth discussions. These elements were structured around the following four comprehensive modules:

3.1 INTRODUCTION TO CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE CRIME

In this module, participants engaged in an in-depth exploration of the rationale behind wildlife conservation, emphasizing its importance and the current state of wildlife crimes in Ethiopia, with a particular focus on the Somali Regional State (SRS). The discussions covered the various challenges encountered in enforcing wildlife laws, the techniques and best practices for species and specimen identification, and the sophisticated methods used to conceal wildlife trafficking.

3.2 COMMUNICATION SKILLS

This module comprehensively addressed multiple facets of communication. Topics included the principles of effective communication, common barriers that hinder clear communication, and the distinctions between verbal and non-verbal communication. Additionally, it explored both oral and written communication techniques. To reinforce these concepts, the module

incorporated practical examples and culminated in an interactive case scenario activity, allowing participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a realistic context.

3.3 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

This module provided valuable insights into several key areas, including prosecution standards of practice, investigation standards of practice, and the ethical considerations in both investigation and prosecution. Additionally, it covered essential aspects of leadership and management. Trainees actively participated in a case scenario activity, enabling them to apply the knowledge and skills they had acquired throughout the module. The discussion sessions further enriched the learning experience, allowing participants to share their experiences and learn from one another.

3.4 COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

The primary objective of this module is to foster a sense of partnership and collaboration among law enforcement agencies operating within the Somali Regional State (SRS) to effectively combat wildlife crimes. Key topics included building strong partnerships, implementing collaborative mechanisms, resolving conflicts, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise. The module was complemented by a case scenario activity, which provided participants with practical experience in working together to address wildlife crimes. This exercise was particularly focused on preventing the trafficking of cheetah cubs from the SRS to destination countries. Through this collaborative approach, participants were better equipped to tackle the complex challenges of wildlife crime.

4 WORKSHOP PLANNING RESOURCES

The OJT second batch inception workshop was meticulously organized, with comprehensive planning documents and resources available in the below links. These resources include the workshop agenda, synopsis, detailed participants' profiles, agenda, case scenarios for practical sessions, and the Investigators and Prosecutors Workbook. Additionally, the OJT workshop module, PowerPoint presentations, feedback form, and pre-post assessment, along with the workshop certificate, are provided to ensure a thorough and effective training experience. All these materials can be accessed through the provided Box links, ensuring transparency and accessibility for all to have this report.

The OJT second batch inception workshop synopsis can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/y5bvn96lgkpttnfh47sp7j8ar1f0d2qr>

The detailed participants' profiles can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/ze5z1k3p3prsx130iweygr9igsojaccx>

The workshop agenda can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/3txsiwz95hqdp6jop86amnitz93mwmz0>

The case scenario for practical sessions can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/laeu33bowpvce461vi1vz10mm22n4clc>

The OJT Investigators and Prosecutors Workbook can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/x7nlhznj9yv0xdevui37bii286wuwegc>

The OJT workshop module can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/bt51auus1d5wqxny30zdv28esdzwwdwr>

The PowerPoint presentations can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/em1ujswlydddky7mj0ks0jzzl6vns5hx>

The OJT workshop feedback form can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/mnx12k9dxuyznlu1104b5kcmzndmfd60>

The workshop pre-post assessment can be found at this link:

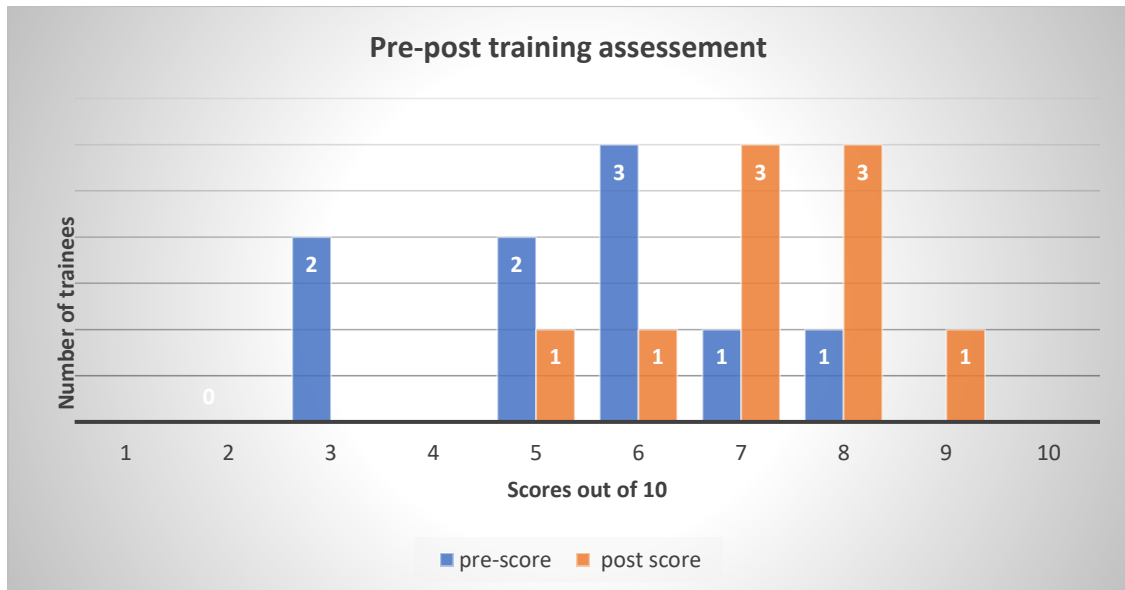
<https://awf.box.com/s/9lv9scds9x4mwrbnjxmrewnr5pk1y4b>

The pre-post workshop certificate can be found at this link:

<https://awf.box.com/s/yys8j6ud7pip00yxqh12y5m8nu56bsjd>

5. PARTICIPANTS' PRE-POST-TRAINING ASSESSMENT

It sounds like the training workshop has been effective for many of the trainees, with improvements in their assessment scores indicating enhanced learning outcomes. Additionally, the trainees who maintained their scores still demonstrated a level of consistency in their knowledge and skills, which is also a positive sign. Below is the summary of the pre-post training scores by the trainees.

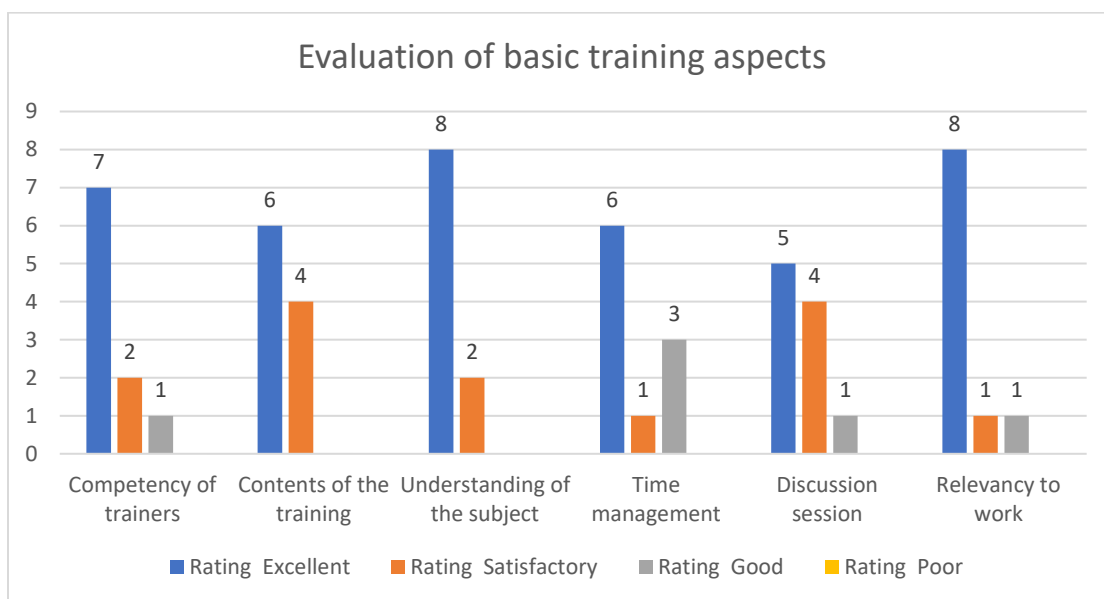


6. PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

Using evaluation forms to gather feedback on the workshop program is an excellent approach. This allows you to gauge the trainees' perceptions of different aspects of the program and identify areas for improvement.

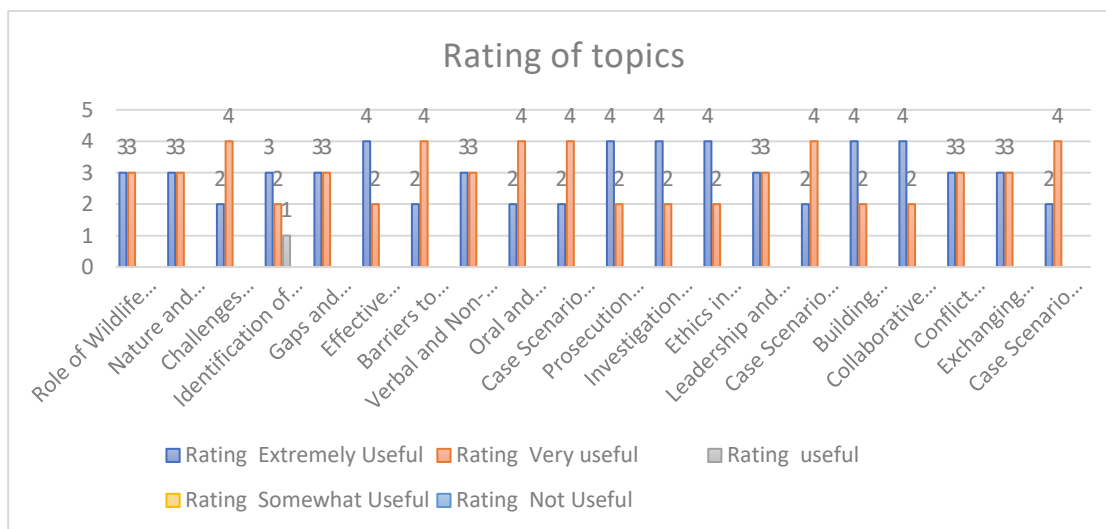
6.1 FEEDBACK ON BASIC ASPECTS OF THE DJT

According to the evaluation, trainees have given the highest rating of "excellent" to the aspects represented in the graph.



6.2 FEEDBACK ON MODULES

Trainees rated most of the topics as being "extremely useful" and "very useful".



6.3 WHAT PARTICIPANTS FOUND MOST IMPORTANT ABOUT THE OJT

- It's great to hear that the trainees rated their learning about the values of wildlife conservation and the understanding of wildlife crime's threats to species and human well-being found the most important. These are crucial topics, and their high ratings suggest that these aspects of the workshop were particularly impactful.

6.4 WHAT TRAINEES LEARNT THAT WAS NEW

- Communication basics including communication barriers.
- Wildlife laws of Ethiopia
- Identification and concealment methods.

6.5 WHAT TRAINEES WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

- Ethiopian wildlife laws and species/species identification

6.6 WHAT CAN BE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO IMPROVE THE TRAINING?

- Aware the community about the value of wildlife and how the crime affects their livelihood.
- Use language translation into Somali language to make sure the message transferred well.

7. MEDIA COVERAGE

The workshop received media coverage and was featured on the June 26, 2024 news program of Somali Region Television which can be found on the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/fkbJqEEuYK6WWWh7q/?mibextid=a6qBZl>

The workshop was also shared with the audience through the official Facebook of the Regional Environmental Protection and rural land administration bureau attached in the below link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/jyxngNp86MaYxkxY/?mibextid=qi2Omg>

It was also shared to the AWF family at Yammer via the link below:

<https://engage.cloud.microsoft/main/threads/eyJfdHlwZSI6IiRocmVhZCIsImkljoiMjg2NjQwMzU5MzQ2MTc2MCJ9>

8. MEETING PHOTOS



Figure 1 – The Director general opening the workshop and introductions by AWF.



Figure 2 - Participants following the sessions workshop introduction sessions.



Figure 2 – Trainees receiving their certificate from the Director General of EWCA



Figure 4 – Group photo of all participants and trainers group phot with the director general of EWCA