

Invitation For Comments On The Guidelines For Wildlife Censuses In Kenya And Guidelines For Data And Information Access And Sharing For The Wildlife Sector In Kenya

The Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) is a State Corporation established under Section 50 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act No. 47 of 2013 (*Revised 2018*) (WCMA 2013). Its mandate under Section 51 of the Act is to undertake and coordinate wildlife research and training. The functions are provided for under Section 52 of the Act and include all forms of wildlife research and related emerging issues as well as enhancing capacity in wildlife conservation and management through training. In addition, the institute is also mandated to grant wildlife research permits under Section 59(1) and to establish a comprehensive wildlife data base in collaboration with KWS and other relevant lead agencies and stakeholders under Section 60(1) of the Act.

The Institute has developed the following guidelines:

- 1) **Guidelines for Wildlife Censuses in Kenya:** The objective of the guidelines is to standardize methods and timings of wildlife censuses and thus provide certainty that any changes detected through continuous monitoring are due to factors not attributed to different methodologies and timings by providing guidance to scheduling and the monitoring mechanisms to employ. It is anticipated that the guidelines will promote ease of planning and executing wildlife censuses; guide stakeholders and researchers on the process for conducting wildlife censuses; encourage sharing of wildlife data and information; and support a process that will monitor and review wildlife data and information flow.
- 2) **Guidelines for data and information access and sharing for the wildlife sector in Kenya:** The purpose of the guidelines is to enhance wildlife research governance, improve partnerships and strengthen collaborations among data providers, data and information users as provided by national laws and international obligations. They address the conditions and the manner in which the Institute, various partner agencies and organizations can share data and information for various purposes. They identify different levels of access to data and information and also address challenges of data gaps, duplication of efforts and prioritization of conservation initiatives.

The Board of the Institute and management seeks comments on the two (2) guidelines in order to enrich them.

Comments should be made to research@wrti.go.ke **20th November, 2023.**



**DR. DAVID NDEEREH, HSC
FOR: DIRECTOR/CEO**