



Kasane Conference On

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# The Illegal Wildlife Trade

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25th March 2015

**STATEMENT**

## **KASANE CONFERENCE ON THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

- (i) We, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations\*, gathered in Kasane on 25 March 2015, recognising the detrimental economic, security, social, and environmental implications of the illegal trade in wildlife, make the following political commitment and call upon the international community to act together to bring this to an end.
- (ii) In doing so the Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations which adopted the London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade reaffirm our determination to implement the commitments made in that Declaration. We welcome the important action already being taken by Governments and others in implementing the actions decided at the London Conference.
- (iii) We welcome the action taken by Governments to implement their obligations and commitments under international agreements, including under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- (iv) We also welcome the convening of a number of other high-level events and the commitments to combat the illegal wildlife trade made at them. The London Conference and these events have generated significant momentum at international, regional and national level to enhance efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade more effectively, to raise the profile of illegal wildlife trade and to secure political support for these efforts.
- (v) The need for decisive and urgent action to tackle the trafficking of endangered fauna and flora remains greater than ever. Despite efforts to date for many species, the illegal trade, and the poaching which fuels it, is an ongoing and growing problem. To this end we, the Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations which adopted the London Declaration and are represented in Kasane, recognise the progress made since the London Conference and welcome those Governments that are newly participating in the Kasane Conference. All participants commit to provide the political leadership and practical support needed to find a lasting solution to the illegal wildlife trade and decide to take the following actions.

### **ACTIONS**

#### **A. ERADICATING THE MARKET FOR ILLEGAL WILDLIFE PRODUCTS**

In the London Conference Declaration, it was recognised that the illegal wildlife trade can only be effectively tackled if we eradicate both the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products wherever in the world this occurs. To this end we, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations gathered in Kasane on 25 March 2015 commit ourselves, and call upon the international community, to take the following action, to:

1. **Strengthen our partnerships with business and others, and through regional collaboration agreements as appropriate, to reduce the demand and supply sides for illegal wildlife products.** Noting, for example, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Statement welcoming cooperative activities such as the APEC Capacity Building Workshop on Reduction of Demand for Illegally Traded Wildlife held in Hanoi in October 2014; we encourage similar regional and multilateral partnerships to share expertise and knowledge. We welcome action at both national and regional levels to tighten existing international controls on the import and export of illegal wildlife products, particularly ivory.
2. **Conduct and/or support research to improve understanding of market drivers, including monitoring the effectiveness of demand reduction strategies and collating a portfolio of demand reduction good practice.** This research should contribute to the evidence and tools needed by Governments and others to strengthen action to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products.
3. **Strengthen, and if necessary establish, partnerships among source, transit and destination countries to combat the illegal wildlife trade along its entire chain.**

#### **B. ENSURING EFFECTIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND DETERRENTS**

In the London Conference Declaration, countries committed themselves and called upon the international community to address the illegal wildlife trade by adopting or amending legislation, as necessary, to ensure that criminal offences such as poaching and wildlife trafficking are serious crimes, within the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We recognised that to curb the illegal wildlife trade it is important to ensure that the criminals involved, in particular those ‘kingpins’ who control the trade, are prosecuted and penalised to provide an effective deterrent. To this end we, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations gathered in Kasane on 25 March 2015 reaffirm our zero tolerance towards corruption and we commit ourselves, and call upon the international community, to take the following action, to:

4. **Review and amend national legislation as necessary and appropriate so that offences connected to the illegal wildlife trade are treated as "predicate offences", as defined in the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, for the purposes of domestic money laundering offences, and are actionable under domestic proceeds of crime legislation.** We will adopt, as far as possible, measures authorising both investigations and prosecutions to enable the confiscation of proceeds of crime derived from illegal wildlife trade offences, to ensure that criminals involved in the illegal wildlife trade do not benefit from the proceeds of their crimes. We will pursue serious and organised criminal networks involved in the illegal wildlife trade. With regard to the detection of money laundering and other financial crime in connection with the illegal wildlife trade, we will work with the Financial Action Task Force, its FATF-Style Regional Bodies, and other multilateral organisations dealing with law enforcement and financial crimes, including asset recovery networks, to put the issue of financial crime related to the illegal wildlife trade on their agendas.

5. **Ensure that relevant prosecutors, judges, Financial Intelligence Units, and authorities engaged in law enforcement, have the resources, knowledge and capacity effectively to investigate and prosecute financial crimes associated with wildlife crime.** We will increase international and regional cooperation to ensure an enhanced focus on financial crime investigations and prosecutions for wildlife crime.

### **C. STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT**

In the London Conference Declaration, it was acknowledged that successfully tackling the illegal wildlife trade demands a strong and co-ordinated enforcement response, at the site, community, national and international levels, and in source, transit and destination countries, using the fullest capacity of institutions and available tools and techniques. To this end we, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations gathered in Kasane on 25 March 2015, commit ourselves, and call upon the international community, to take the following action, to:

6. **Strengthen the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to ensure that ICCWC takes a leading role in providing coordinated global support to the law enforcement community, including enhancing enforcement capacities at national, regional and international levels.** Working with other organisations as appropriate, ICCWC should promote increased sharing of best practice and lessons learned, facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence, and foster cooperation, including, among others, through regional wildlife enforcement networks.
7. **Support the strengthening and, if necessary, the establishment of regional wildlife enforcement networks,** by working to secure political will and resources to develop and enable them to become fully operational, and by ICCWC taking a leading role in promoting cooperation across the network of regional wildlife enforcement networks.
8. **Engage with the transport industry within our countries to raise awareness of the role they can play. We welcome the creation of an international Task Force on the transport industry and the illegal wildlife trade,** and support the development and implementation of industry-wide protocols and/or guidelines by the logistics and transportation sector on strengthening due diligence and other measures to eliminate the illegal trade in wildlife. We look forward to further consultation in due course on the emerging findings of the Task Force.
9. **Support existing, and, if necessary, the establishment of new, global and regional networks of prosecutors responsible for prosecuting offences involving organised crime as it relates to the illegal wildlife trade** to raise awareness and further strengthen the investigation and prosecution of illegal wildlife trade by fostering international and regional cooperation amongst these prosecutors.

### **D. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

In the London Conference Declaration, it was acknowledged that the illegal wildlife trade is a major barrier to sustainable, inclusive and balanced economic development. The illegal

wildlife trade damages ecosystems, undermines good governance and the rule of law, threatens security, and reduces current and future revenue from economic activities such as wildlife-based tourism and sustainable utilisation. Sustainable livelihoods are most likely to be secured with the engagement of relevant community groups and the appropriate retention of benefits from wildlife for local people. The active engagement of local people is also key to effective monitoring and law enforcement. To this end we, the representatives of Governments and Regional Economic Integration Organisations gathered in Kasane on 25 March 2015, commit ourselves and call upon the international community to take the following action, to:

- 10. Promote the retention of benefits from wildlife resources by local people where they have traditional and/or legal rights over these resources.** We will strengthen policy and legislative frameworks needed to achieve this, reinforce the voice of local people as key stakeholders and implement measures which balance the need to tackle the illegal wildlife trade with the needs of communities, including the sustainable use of wildlife.
- 11. Support work done in countries to address the challenges that people, in particular rural populations, can face in living and coexisting with wildlife, with the goal of building conservation constituencies and promoting sustainable development.**
- 12. Establish, facilitate and support information-sharing mechanisms,** within country, regionally, and internationally, designed with, for and targeted at local people and practitioners, to develop knowledge, expertise and best practice in practical experience of involving local people in managing wildlife resources,-and in action to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.
- 13. Support work by countries and intergovernmental organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations, that seeks to identify the situations where, and the mechanisms by which, actions at the local level, including with community groups, can reduce the illegal wildlife trade.**

## **E. THE WAY FORWARD**

- 14. We call upon the UN General Assembly to address effectively the issue of the illegal wildlife trade at its sixty-ninth session. We welcome the efforts of the Group of Friends on “Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking” to develop an ambitious draft General Assembly resolution and encourage them to consult as widely as possible.**
- 15. We welcome the offer of Vietnam to host a third high-level conference in late 2016 to review progress and further strengthen our action. We also welcome the offer of Botswana to host the following conference.**

**\*Appendix A The following countries and Regional Economic Integration Organisations participated in the Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade.**

Republic of Angola  
Commonwealth of Australia  
Republic of Austria  
People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Kingdom of Belgium  
Republic of Botswana  
Republic of Cameroon  
Canada  
People's Republic of China  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
French Republic  
Gabonese Republic  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Republic of Indonesia  
Japan  
Republic of Kenya  
Republic of Malawi  
Republic of Mozambique  
Republic of Namibia  
Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Russian Federation  
Republic of South Africa  
Switzerland  
United Republic of Tanzania  
United Arab Emirates  
Republic of Uganda  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Republic of Zambia  
Republic of Zimbabwe

European Union