

***THE ARUSHA DECLARATION ON REGIONAL
CONSERVATION AND COMBATING
WILDLIFE/ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME***

THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Introduction

We the undersigned States gathered for a *Regional Summit to Stop Wildlife Crime and Advance Wildlife Conservation* on November 7th and 8th, 2014 in Arusha, Tanzania and presented the Arusha Declaration.

Preamble

CONSIDERING that the region shared by Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia holds an incredible diversity of flora and fauna;

CONSIDERING that this region boasts unparalleled natural wonders, such as the Rift Valley, Mount Kilimanjaro, and Victoria Falls, as well as cross-border protected areas, such as the Selous-Niassa, Serengeti-Mara, Amboseli-Kilimanjaro, Tsavo-Mkomazi, the Virunga-Volcano-Mgahinga-Queen Elizabeth-Rwenzori-Semuliki, and Kidepo transboundary ecosystems, and other vast conservation areas such as the Gorongosa National Park, Limpopo National Park – part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (an initiative involving Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe), Quirimbas, Kafue, North and South Luangwa, Bwindi, Elgon, Ruaha, Kibira, Ruvubu, and others;

CONSIDERING that this region also contains profound waterways and productive aquatic ecosystems, such as the Zambezi River, the Great Lakes of Nyassa/Malawi, Victoria, Tanganyika, and Turkana, the Nile-Semliki and the Rufiji water systems, and the Indian Ocean coastline that connects the great ports of Mombasa, Dar-es Salaam, Zanzibar and Maputo, comprising the most economically active section of the continental east coast;

CONSIDERING that this region is home to some of the biggest populations of charismatic mega fauna –including the elephant, lion, chimpanzee, and Mountain Gorilla – in the world;

THREATS

ACKNOWLEDGING that the above mentioned ecosystems are under threat, facing increasing rates of poaching and illegal trafficking of certain species of fauna and flora, among them elephants, rhinoceros, cheetahs, East African sandalwood, as well as Miombo, Prunus, African Blackwood, and other high-value tree species, which not only devastates and robs our people of our natural heritage, but also handicaps our economies, and undermines the rule of law and regional security;

CONCERNED that the current levels of illegal off-take and trafficking of natural resources, and other threats to shared ecosystems, are unsustainable.

RECOGNIZING that people and States are the best protectors of their own wildlife and ecosystems, through efforts that both combat the illegal off-take and trade of natural resources within our own borders, and collectively call upon transit and consumer nations to cooperate with such efforts;

RECOGNIZING that often our great natural resources, wildlife, and ecosystems follow natural boundaries that do not necessarily reflect political borders, and are not man-made;

RECOGNIZING that our States are Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and some are party to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, among other multilateral environmental agreements; international instruments whose objects are the sustainable environmental management and regulation of trade in wildlife and other natural resources;

UNDERSTANDING that to combat the threat of wildlife and environmental crime effectively, each of our States is committed to collaborating with one another across borders;

KNOWING that the above mentioned region is blessed with abundant biodiversity and natural wealth, we agree on behalf of our respective States to take necessary actions to be good stewards of these lands and natural resources provided to us, so that the future generations of our great countries can enjoy them as much as the past and present;

CONVINCED of the urgency of the situation and the need to take appropriate measures towards combating illegal off-take and trafficking of natural resources and conserving shared ecosystems, we join together to sign a declaration that commits us to work together to safeguard and sustainably develop not only our domestic and national wildlife and natural resources, but also those resources shared within the region as a whole;

A Call to Action

We, the undersigned, have agreed to undertake to the extent practicable and appropriate in keeping with all existing national laws and regional and international obligations to which our Sovereign States subscribe, TO:

- 1) COOPERATE AND COORDINATE in combating illegal off-take and unsustainable utilization of wildlife, timber, fish and other natural resources. We, the undersigned, will reduce the rate of poaching and illegal utilization within our borders, and ensure the recovery of wildlife populations to levels ecologically sustainable and socially acceptable;
- 2) COLLABORATE on combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife, timber, fish, and other natural resources across the region;
- 3) SHARE, DEVELOP AND IMPROVE databases and protocols for intelligence sharing and joint investigations, making use of existing resources, such as the forensics laboratory in Kenya;
- 4) DEVELOP protocols for joint training and patrolling for wildlife and environmental law enforcement where appropriate;
- 5) WORK TOWARDS the strengthening of the Lusaka Agreement and other regional protocols already in place;

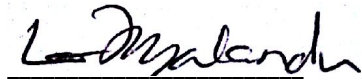
- 6) COORDINATE the harmonization of wildlife and environmental crime enforcement and penalties, with particular reference to elevating appropriate wildlife and environmental crimes to the level of serious crimes; and to work with extradition and mutual legal assistance protocols;
- 7) REQUEST that transit and/or destination countries for illegal wildlife and other natural resource products work with the undersigned States in developing these legal assistance protocols, which include intelligence sharing, joint investigations, and application of existing technologies and resources;
- 8) HARMONIZE AND INTEGRATE, where appropriate, our forest, fish, and wildlife laws and policies for the convenience of enforcement;
- 9) RECOMMEND the formation of Inter-Ministerial Task Forces to coordinate efforts to combat wildlife and environmental crime and advance natural resource conservation within our countries, and appoint liaisons to communicate and collaborate with the Task Forces in the other countries party to the declaration;
- 10)COORDINATE national, regional, and international public awareness campaigns on poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife and other natural resources;
- 11)WORK TOGETHER toward joint policy development and law enforcement to curb illegal and unsustainable fishing along our oceans and lakes;
- 12)REQUEST that our international partners, such as INTERPOL, the United Nations, ICCWC, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), World Customs Organization, CITES, and others harmonize and coordinate their initiatives and continued support to these above stated and other efforts to combat wildlife/environmental crime;
- 13)COLLABORATE on developing sustainable tourism on a local, national, sub-regional, and regional scale;
- 14)EXPLORE mechanisms for local community engagement, land-use and wildlife and natural resource management plans, as well as local community benefit sharing;
- 15)COLLABORATE on the design and management of national and trans-frontier conservation areas for ecosystem management for migratory wildlife and fish species, and for the enhancement of the cultural values of our people;
- 16)COORDINATE censuses and surveys, research, and management of diseases for migratory wildlife
- 17)COLLABORATE on the management of shared ecosystems to conserve shared resources and maximize their mutual benefits;
- 18)COLLABORATE in developing and managing natural resources for the integrity of our ecosystems, and for the benefit of our national citizens and the international community;

19)ENGAGE our regional and global development partners, including multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations, and leaders and innovators from the business community, to utilize all existing and potential resources allocated and committed toward the conservation of our natural resources;

20)NEGOTIATE AND FINALIZE proposed bilateral agreements on the conservation and management of shared ecosystems and cross-border wildlife;

We commit to doing so to the best of our abilities, in true cognizance of our national policies and economic considerations, and in accordance with all other national and regional obligations.

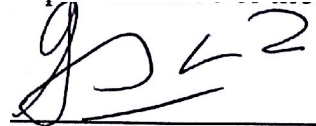
Signatories:



Hon. Lazaro S. Nyalandu
Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism
The United Republic of Tanzania



H.E. Amos Gerson Ndimurwanko
Representative of the Government of the Republic of Burundi



Mr. Gideon N. Gathaara
Conservation Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
The Republic of Kenya



Hon. Kondwani Nankhumwa
Minister for Information, Tourism and Culture
The Republic of Malawi



Fernanda Mourana Matsinha
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
The Republic of Mozambique



Amb. Patrick Mugoya
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities
The Republic of Uganda



Mr. Stephen Mwansa
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Arts
The Government of the Republic of Zambia



Maj. Gen. Phillip Chol
Director General of Wildlife
The Republic of South Sudan