



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND PARTNER STATES TO TAKE URGENT CONCERTED ACTION TO END THE ENCROACHMENT AND POACHING OF ELEPHANTS AND OTHER ENDANGERED WILDLIFE ANIMAL SPECIES**

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**By Hon. AbuBakar Ogle and adopted by the Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013**

**AWARE** that the East African Elephant population as well as that of Rhinos, Lions, etc, is gradually declining as a result of indiscriminate poaching for the international demands for their products and if not checked, will lead to their gradual disappearance and therefore, a decline in the economic and heritage value for the EAC Partner States and even beyond the African continent;

**FURTHER AWARE** that the EAC Partner States are, under Article 116 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, obliged to collectively coordinate efforts in controlling and monitoring wildlife encroachment and poaching activities.

**RECALLING** that this Assembly has previously adopted resolutions and enacted the EAC Eco-Tourism Bill in support of wildlife and heritage conservation;

**CONCERNED** that the crisis is unprecedented coupled with escalating international demand for ivory with a highly sophisticated criminal network against a background that the EAC Partner States wildlife authorities are insufficiently funded to carry out their activities and to motivate their staff at all times;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** that investment in wildlife law enforcement in the region is already inadequate for existing threats, and entirely inadequate for dealing with emerging

threats as a result of the increase in, and sophistication of criminal cartels and poaching networks and that the trafficking of ivory in the region could only be occurring with high levels of corruption and impunity which in itself is facilitated by the weak laws in some of the EAC Partner States and neighbouring states in the region;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the EAC region, especially in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, has become a source of illegally trafficked ivory or is a major transiting country for ivory from other countries and represents at least 64% of the total volume of ivory seized around the globe;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** that at the local, regional and global levels, ivory is being exchanged for money, weapons and ammunition that support local and regional conflicts capable of disrupting entire communities and more so their economies and ecosystems which in turn undermines security;

**FURTHER CONCERNED** that the experimental one-off sales of ivory have triggered renewed demand for ivory in some parts of Asia that are fuelling the indiscriminate killing of elephants across Africa and that the demand for ivory in Asia exceeds the supply causing the price of ivory to rise exponentially and thus it is the driving factor in the indiscriminate killing of elephants across Africa;

**RECOGNIZING** that no African elephant range state is immune to the ongoing slaughter of elephants to feed ivory demand in the Far East and that any workable solution to the crisis facing elephants must involve a coordinated effort by the governments of elephant range states, transiting countries and demanding countries;

**NOTING** of the fact that the EAC region has a global responsibility to halt the decline of elephants;

**FURTHER NOTING** that the decline of elephants prior to 1989 was halted through the leadership shown in the East African region calling for a worldwide ban on international trade in ivory;



**FURTHER NOTING** that the global ban of trade in ivory resulted in a decline of demand and recovery of elephant populations across the continent;

**WELCOMING** the creation of the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime involving UNEP, Interpol, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, World Customs Organization, the World Bank, and other efforts of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF); **AND COGNIZANT** that clear targets have been identified and agreed to by local and international agencies which, if implemented effectively, can reverse this trend;

Specifically we recognize the:

- Rio 20+ Conference on Sustainable Development;
- International and National Economic and Social Council commitments;
- "Elephants in the Dust" Rapid Response Assessment Recommendations for Action by UNEP, CITES, IUCN and TRAFFIC and note with appreciation the recommendations of the UNEP report;
- CITES African Elephant Action Plan submitted by the African Elephant Range States in 2010; and
- UNEP Global Initiative on Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Timber.

**COMMENDING** The United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda for enacting new legislation with elevated penalties for wildlife crimes in response to the crisis facing elephants;

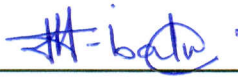
**CONGRATULATING** The United Republic of Tanzania, a party to CITES for withdrawing its proposal to down list the elephant from Appendix 1 for consideration at the sixteenth Conference of the Parties;

**NOW THEREFORE THIS ASSEMBLY** do resolves as follows; That:

1. We affirm our commitment to protecting the wildlife of the region as our sacred duty for this and future generations.

2. We strongly condemn those threatening our wildlife by organizing or engaging in the acts of poaching and illegal dealing in ivory and other wildlife products.
3. The EAC Partner States be strongly urged to collectively recognize elephant poaching and ivory trafficking as a national and regional crisis, and as an economic crime.
4. We strongly urge the EAC Partner states to enact harmonised and comprehensive legislation to recognize all wildlife crimes and poaching of other endangered species as a felony punishable by imprisonment.
5. The EAC Partner States scale up engagement with regional and global enforcement agencies in order to crack down on key cartels and continue to use the services provided by LATF, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) comprising UNODC, CITES, Interpol, WCO, World Bank and Caucus Foundation (ICCF).
6. The EAC Partner States do cooperate to identify wildlife crime hotspots and conduct coordinated investigations and undertake joint crackdown on corruption and any corrupt tendencies that abet poaching of elephants for their ivory.
7. The EAC Partner States do adopt ivory crisis outreach campaigns to educate major stakeholders including customs officials, revenue authorities, police, transporters, judiciary, air and seaports, general public, those with permits, tourists, targeted communities.

**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
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**Alex Obatre**  
**DEPUTY CLERK**

**DATE:** 21 August 2013