



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

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AT

**CITES COP 17 SIDE EVENT
ON
WILDLIFE CRIME: A REVIEW OF EVIDENCE ON DRIVERS AND IMPACTS IN
UGANDA**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 2,
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE,
SOUTH AFRICA**

3rd OCTOBER 2016

Colleagues

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to thank the Republic of South Africa for hosting CITES COP 17 and the organizers of this side event: the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the University of Oxford.

1. Ladies and Gentlemen, as you have observed from the presentations, wildlife crime remains one of our major conservation challenges.
2. This study has been very critical in identifying and establishing the extent of the threat and key drivers of wildlife crime in Uganda.
3. The study has enabled us to develop a comprehensive Wildlife Crime Prevention Action Plan. Our focus now is to finalize and implement the action plan.
4. Distinguished Delegates, you realize that the plan address key threats and drivers of wildlife crime. One of the interesting findings is the link between poverty and wildlife crime. It reveals four major key drivers of wildlife crime: Subsistence Needs, Commercial, Human Wildlife Conflict and Traditional Use
5. The findings on the drivers and impacts of wildlife crime, and the socio-economic profiles and motivations of individuals that participate in wildlife crime, will help us to formulate interventions that are most effective in reducing wildlife crime and contributing towards poverty alleviation.
6. Indeed, the Government of Uganda has a series of laws and policies that provide for the sustainable conservation of wildlife resources involving communities and other partners.
7. Based on the findings of this study, we will strengthen the Revenue Sharing Programs to demonstrate the economic value of wildlife to local communities and ensure good relations with them.
8. Indeed, engaging local people is critical to tackle wildlife crime and this will form the basis for any forthcoming review of our legislation, policies and strategic plans regarding wildlife crime.
9. We will ensure greater collaboration, joint working and knowledge sharing by different government departments and agencies, especially those working in rural development and nature conservation, to make both their efforts more effective.
10. Law enforcement and community conservation programs will be harmonized and well coordinated as a strategy to tackle wildlife crime
11. Training in key aspects of community conservation will be given to our staff and budgets will be allocated on a more equal basis between law enforcement and community conservation. Staff recruitment will prioritize boosting numbers of community conservation staff.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY