



MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE

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DURING A WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE PROTECTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF THE MARA-SERENGETI, AMBOSELI-WEST KILIMANJARO AND TSAVO-
MKOMAZI TRANS-FRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS, ON 29TH AUGUST 2023 AT SUN
AFRICAN HOTEL, NYALI, MOMBASA, KENYA.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you this afternoon for this bilateral meeting that aims to develop an agreement between the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania on the conservation and protection of wildlife in the Maasai Mara-Serengeti, Amboseli-West Kilimanjaro and Tsavo-Mkomazi Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas. This is being achieved under the project **“Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Kenya through an Integrated Approach (IWT-Kenya)”**.

I take this opportunity to welcome the representatives from the United Republic of Tanzania to Kenya. Karibu sana Kenya ndugu zangu. I request you to take time to explore our beautiful coastline, unique wildlife and breathtaking landscapes.

I do convey profound gratitude to the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) for accepting to take the lead in this process and to the delivery of this important project component.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The three (3) conservation areas play a critical role in our wildlife conservation between the two sister countries. They not only act as a source of revenue but also act as value of transboundary conservation including ecological benefits alongside enhanced socio-economic resilience and strengthened political relation to the two countries. Their conservation and protection will go along way in meeting the needs of the present generation as well as catering for the needs of the future generations.

The conservation of these three (3) important landscapes is our collective responsibility. We therefore, need to foster community engagement in wildlife conservation in a dynamic transboundary biodiversity area as a strategy for long-term ecosystem management. As you are aware, the Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas stretches across Kenya and Tanzania, this means that there is need for an adaptive, integrated approach to overcome various challenges. The initiative will ensure the streamlining of cross-border anti-poaching operations and wildlife law enforcement interventions to improve standards of living for all of the people depending on the landscape.

A well-managed wildlife resource and ecosystem in Kenya and Tanzania allows communities living with wildlife to benefit by adapting wildlife-based economies for sustainable development. Coupled with improved anti-poaching initiatives and sustainable natural resource management, safeguarding wildlife and wild habitats has a great potential to uplift livelihoods of communities, across the two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appeal to this team gathered here today to utilize this opportunity to deliberate on the issues affecting communities in the landscapes and look for solutions. This opportunity provides us a chance to explore all the challenges and solutions and find a way to harmonize our concerns in the industry.

I would also like to pass my sincere gratitude to the men and women who are involved in the day-to-day protection and conservation of our wildlife in the transboundary context. You are doing a commendable job indeed! The Government recognizes your efforts in containing the trans-boundary illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking of wildlife.

It is my expectation that this workshop will leverage on each other's abilities' and draw a roadmap to the future of conservation in the three (3) landscapes.

As I conclude, allow me to thank you all for taking time to convene here today. I also urge you to engage productively in the plenary discussions in order to enrich the process. I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank You Very Much!