8th July 2016

ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE
AT THE SPECIAL SADC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL DR SERETSE KHAMA Ian Kham

BY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
Water and Energy Crisis in the Region were successfully
on Poverty Eradication and Food Security, as well as
2. I am pleased to inform this gathering that two workshops

a host of challenges currently affecting our region.
committed to convening a series of workshops to respond to
Chairmanship of our Regional body in August last year, I
you would recall, following my assumption of the
valued as it will ensure the success of this Workshop. As
Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). Your presence here is highly
city of Gaborone, and to this particular workshop on the
I.

Distinguished Guests;

• Heads of Civil Society Organizations;

• International Cooperating Partners;

• States;

• Senior Government Officials from SADC Member

and International Organizations;

• Your Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions;

• Deputies;

• The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr. Tax and Your

• Honourable Ministers from SADC Member States;
Job creation. Therefore decimating our wildlife will not
wildlife based. Tourism, is a major contributor to GDP and
trade in wildlife. Many SACDC Member States tourism is
national and international levels to combat the illegal
put in place some necessary measures and sanctions at
the globe. Consequently, there is an imperative need to
harmful effects on environments and ecosystems across
of illegal trade in wildlife. This scourge has significant
Wildlife" is appropriate in view of the growing incidences
Strategy: Towards Eliminating Illegal Trade In
SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP)

4. The theme for this workshop, "Implementation of the

Anti-Poaching Strategy.

African Development Community Law Enforcement and
Workshop will help in operationalising the Southern
wildlife. I am therefore hopeful that the outcome of this
measures to curb the disturbing trend of illegal trade in
need to dialogue and thus come up with some remedial
3. The convening of this workshop was necessitated by the

respectively.

conducted during the months of May and June,
international peace and security.

2. Illegal trade in wildlife is no longer limited to conservation decisions.

faced with possible extinction should we fail to act
agreed with me that several of our iconic species will be
solutions to illegal trade in wildlife. I hope you will all
resolutely and collectively work together to find lasting

5. It is disheartening to note that illegal trade in wildlife
only lead to a loss of a natural resource but also cause

6. It is my conviction that as SADC we have an obligation to
produced the desired outcome.
sustainable livelihoods and economic development.

and determined, strengthened law enforcement, and facilitated
illegal wildlife products; ensure effective legal frameworks
a Progress Report, stressed the need to rid the market of
of the Kasane Statement. The Statement, which is in fact

10. The Kasane Conference culminated in endorsement

Declaration.
implementing actions agreed as part of the London
Conference was to, inter alia, review status of
March 2015 in Kasane. The primary aim of this
hosted the second Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in

9. Subsequent to the London Conference, Government

communities affected by Illegal Wildlife Trade.
supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods for
system, reducing demand for illegal wildlife products, and
on strengthening law enforcement and the criminal justice
trade. The resulting London Declaration, focused primarily
on iconic species from the threat of poaching and illegal
where global leaders resolved to improve the conservation
8. To this end, the United Kingdom Government hosted the
and meet the demand for commodities such as ivory, rhino horn, scales, and their derivatives. The elephants, rhinos, pangolins are continuously killed in large numbers to meet rising international demand. Killing elephants, as well as illegal trade of wildlife products, you will cross border initiatives that could address illegal wildlife trafficking is therefore providing us with an invaluable opportunity to agree on actions and effective and rhinos. This gathering therefore provides us with an opportunity to address illegal ivory, and rhino horn in particular, especially those highly sought after species, particularly elephants.

12. As SADC countries, we house the largest population of these highly sought after species, particularly elephants. In this regard, these efforts, indications are that tangible progress in tackling illegal trafficking in wildlife. Notwithstanding all adopted resolution 69/34 in July 2015, which aims at strengthening action against the illegal trade in wildlife. In addition, the United Nations General Assembly furthermore strengthened action against the illegal trade in wildlife. In addition, the United Nations General Assembly reviewing progress on the Kasama Statement and to international conference in November 2016, aimed at Vietnam kindly offered to host a third high-level international conference, the Government of
Conservation and Law Enforcement which deals
16. Article 9 of the SADC Protocol on Wildlife
dedicated Judicial systems to deal with wildlife crime.
this is an opportune time to consider putting in place
assets which accrue from illegal wildlife trade. Perhaps
Corruption which fuels wildlife crime and to seize the
empower our law enforcement agencies to eliminate
front line poachers and traffickers. We also have to
15. Efforts can no longer be directed only at stopping
sector and the civil society.
agents, customs, the Judiciary, prosecutors, private
Coordinated approach involving all our law enforcement
14. It is increasingly becoming apparent that our efforts
to eradicate transboundary wildlife crime requires a
more stringent in recent years.
benefit from the proceeds of wildlife crime have become
appreciation that penalties for those who poach and
13. While incidences of poaching and illegal trade in
sADC Member States are committing funds to combat the
Wildlife are on the increase, I note with satisfaction that
Strategy include:

The Strategic Programme Areas enumerated in the
by SADC member states to eradicate illegal wildlife trade,
consultative approach, and represents the collective desire
18. The SADC LEAP Strategy was developed through a

in the right direction.

ministers in March 2016, heralds an important first step
approval of the SADC LEAP strategy by the SADC Council
the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The
collective ability to implement workable actions to counter
any doubt, proved to be a challenge and hinders our
strategy to address wildlife crime which has been agreed
strategically. The lack of such a strategy has, without
since 1999, there is no formal implementation
Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement has been

17. It is worth noting that whilst the Court agreed

resources to enforce wildlife legislation.

member states to allocate sufficient financial and human
sustainable use of wildlife resources. It further urges
enforce legislation governing the conservation and
calls on states parties to take the necessary measures to
specifically with cooperation in wildlife law enforcement,
20. There were recommendations for Botswana to host the (WENSA) region.

Wildlife Enforcement Network for the Southern African cooperation in this area through the formation of a happy to note that work has already begun to strengthen Member States to combat illegal wildlife trade. I am Coordination Unit (WCMCU), to coordinate the response of establishment of a Wildlife Crime Prevention and established within the LEAP Strategy. This entails the attention to one of the key actions that has been action:

19. Let me also take this opportunity to draw your

Improvement and strengthening of field protection.
Sustainable trade and use of natural resources;
Integration of people and nature;
Minimization of wildlife crime and illegal trade;
Enhancement of legislation and judicial processes;
Participating country in relation to wildlife law and to commence a needs assessment in each focal points, establish national level WENSA committees, the provisional secretariat for WENSA, nominate national enforcement capacity.
to thank them for their invaluable support over the years. In addition, I must add and also take this moment to express my gratitude to those of you who are present here today, to engage with the necessary resources to implement these actions.

Member States to work together to develop a resource mobilization strategy which will be used to leverage the actions which need to be taken. I therefore urge all SADC LEAP Strategy represents only a first step in the right direction. The implementation plan clearly identifies the action. I would like to propose that since the two initiatives remain being reviewed to assist SADC since February this year, I you that this resulted in an experienced technical adviser assistance to establish WENSA. I am pleased to inform that some of whom are present here today, to engage with the 23.
Thank you for your attention.

Forward to your concrete outcomes.

open. Finally, I wish you fruitful deliberations and look
Ministerial Workshop on Illicit Trade in Wildlife officially

25. Let me conclude my remarks by deducing this special
environment.

24. I am hopeful that this Workshop will come up with
actionable outcomes that will be presented to the Summit
in August that will help our SADC region to safeguard its